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PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings, ministers and wives,

THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN PAUL II IS A MAJOR TURNING POINT IN WORLD EVENTS!

I will be giving a sermon this Sabbath at headquarters about the significance of this event. We changed our planned edition of the June *Trumpet* in order to devote the issue almost entirely to this subject. We need to set the record straight—and we are the only ones who can do so.

The pope's funeral is the biggest media event in history. Two billion people—one third of the world's population—are watching. The press has been covering the funeral incessantly. Italian TV has been planning it for five years, with full-time staff specifically dedicated to it. The BBC did about the same. In the U.S., even the LIBERALS in the media are calling the pope "holy father" and treating him like a saint. I have been shocked at how shallow their coverage has been.

Two hundred world leaders are attending the funeral. A royal wedding and a British election are adjusting their dates to fit around the funeral and the election of the new pope. This is unprecedented.

The world has never focused on any event so completely. There is no PHYSICAL EXPLANATION for the frenzy we see over the pope's death. SATAN IS STIRRING THE WORLD TO FIXATE ON THAT OFFICE AS NEVER BEFORE.

I BELIEVE THIS WILL PROVE TO BE THE SINGLE GREATEST EVENT TO UNIFY PROTESTANTS WITH THE MOTHER CHURCH.

The way everyone is exalting the office of the pope is paving the way for the next pope to do anything he wants.

Mr. Armstrong made some dynamic statements that we plan to highlight in our publications. This world needs to see that God has been warning us about what is going to happen.

The shallow press talks about John Paul II as if he did nothing but good. Some have praised his "antiwar" views and his condemnation of the two Gulf Wars. They ignore the fact that THE POPE AND GERMANY VIRTUALLY CAUSED THE BALKAN WARS!

He is spoken of as being a "friend of the Jews"—even though he beatified Pope Pius XII (the man one Roman Catholic author called "Hitler's Pope") and knighted an ex-Nazi!

THIS MAN LOOKED LIKE A LAMB, BUT HE SPOKE LIKE A DRAGON.

John Paul II personally selected all but three of the cardinals who will elect the next pope. He was a conservative thinker who made sure that the next pope would share his views. In recent years some Vatican watchers have expressed FEAR that the next pope would shift the church EVEN FURTHER TO THE RIGHT.

THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO SEE HOW JUSTIFIABLE THEIR FEARS WERE.

History shows that it's very dangerous when the wrong man is pope! The Catholic Church has been filled with corrupt and vile popes. And we are about to meet the most corrupt and vile of them all!

We are very close to the end of this age. This event should stir God's people as never before!

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With love, in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Flurry".

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Passover Service Length

The Passover service should not be longer than two hours maximum. Two hours is ample time to conduct the footwashing and cover the most necessary scriptures for an inspiring Passover. The ministry must also consider that many brethren must travel several hours to return home after the service.

WHEN SHOULD ONE TAKE THE SECOND PASSOVER?

God clearly commanded that *all* of the congregation of Israel should partake in the most solemn assembly of the year, on the fourteenth day of the first month, the month of Abib (Exodus 12:6-7; Numbers 28:16). We understand that today, this means every baptized member in God's Church. God takes Passover-attendance very seriously, and commanded that those for whom it was impossible to attend the Passover during the first month of the year, that they keep this ceremony on the fourteenth day of the second month, the month of Zif, as described in Numbers 9:11. Occasionally members in God's Church request to take the second Passover, in lieu of attending on Abib 14 and we need to be sure as shepherds of the flock that they meet the tight constraints on the conditions God considers valid for such postponement.

So that we all speak the same thing, it is fitting to examine when someone is allowed to take the second Passover.

The Second Passover Instituted

"And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day: And those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the Lord in his appointed season among the children of Israel? And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the Lord will command concerning you. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, *If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off*, yet he shall keep the passover unto the Lord. The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of

the passover they shall keep it. BUT THE MAN THAT IS CLEAN, AND IS NOT IN A JOURNEY, AND FORBEARETH TO KEEP THE PASSOVER, EVEN THE SAME SOUL SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM AMONG HIS PEOPLE: because he brought not the offering of the Lord in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin" (Numbers 9:6-13).

The reason not to keep the Passover on the 14th of the first month included only uncleanness or travel into a remote area. What does this mean for us in God's Church today?

First, let's take a look at when one is unclean.

A Law of Love

The book of Leviticus gives us the overview of the causes and purification of ceremonial uncleanness. A person was deemed unclean under particular circumstances when they should quarantine themselves from the congregation. Seven main categories were distinguished:

- 1) Loathsome diseases
(Leviticus 13; 14; 15:2-3, 13-18, 25-33; 22:4).
- 2) Childbirth (Leviticus 12:1-5).
- 3) Contact with the dead
(Leviticus 22:4, 6; Numbers 19:11-21; 31:19; Deuteronomy 21:1-5, 22-23)
- 4) Contact with carcasses of animals
(Leviticus 5:2; 11:8, 22-40)
- 5) Persons or things ceremonially unclean
(Leviticus 5:3; 15:1-24; Numbers 19:22)
- 6) Warfare (Numbers 31:19-24)
- 7) Special laws concerning the Nazarites
(Numbers 6:1-12).

From Colossians 2:14 we know that the ceremonial laws were nailed to the stake, and are no longer required of us. Yet certain principles of love, concern for others, still apply.

Although the *uncleanness* caused by the above causes, is no longer an issue to consider, the principle of separation, *as a token of outgoing concern* for the remainder of the congregation, intended to prevent the spread of (possible) diseases among the congregation, is something God's Church still adheres to (see the Ministerial Training section for more details on the law of quarantine).

For obvious reasons, members with a communicable disease should not attend the Passover, but should quarantine themselves so that they may be well to partake of the second Passover, 30 days later. Also everyone who has been exposed to communicable diseases that carry a significant incubation period, such as chicken pox,

scarlet fever and the like, without ever having suffered the disease themselves (and thus built up an immunity against it), should heed the law of quarantine and not attend Passover.

Travel

Numbers 9:10 also speaks of those who are “in a journey afar off.” The Hebrew word *rachowq* translated “afar off” literally means abroad. This refers to travel into a foreign, gentile country where there was *no opportunity* for a Passover observance. Lacking modern means of transportation, these people were unable to make it back to Israel to attend this most solemn occasion. God stressed how imperative it was for every Israelite to do their utmost to attend Passover on the 14th of Abib.

In today’s society, this latter condition would be rare. Our modern means of transportation allow most of God’s people to attend a place where this solemn occasion is being conducted. In rare situations, it may be permissible for members to keep the Passover on their own, but realizing the deep significance of God’s command everyone of us should endeavor to attend *if at all possible* as well.

The Important Spiritual Significance

In a co-worker letter dated April 22, 1959, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Because of the very important spiritual significance of the Passover, God has provided that those unable to take it on the first date should take it on the second. . . . To miss the Passover means missing much of the real significance of God’s plan, and the other feast days would not be as meaningful as they should. If you did not observe the Days of Unleavened Bread after the first Passover, then you should observe seven days of unleavened bread after the second, or alternate, Passover. This shows the process of putting sin out of our lives. The first and last days of this period of unleavened bread following the second Passover would NOT be Sabbaths, however.”

Cut Off

Only under very special circumstances, *beyond the individual’s control*, were Israelites permitted to take the sec-

ond Passover. Those who did not meet these conditions and yet failed to attend the Passover were to be “cut off” (Numbers 9:13). For us today we know it means we’d have no part with Jesus Christ (John 13:8).

Every biblical reference encourages us to assemble on this occasion. Following the well-known passage in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul wrote, “Wherefore my brethren, *when ye come together to eat* [the Passover], tarry one for another” (verse 33).

Every member of God’s Church ought to take the Passover—either in a congregational setting, or at home. For those for whom it is impossible to attend the first, God saw fit to have a second opportunity be presented 30 days later. This however is not a loophole we should exploit to excuse ourselves from making every effort to attend on Abib 14. Instead, let’s exhort our brethren not to forsake the assembling of ourselves, on the anniversary of the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, especially not “as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE UPDATE

You will soon be receiving Lesson 4 of the Correspondence Course along with Test 1 and the answer key. Remember that ministers do not need to take the test and should *not* submit it for grading.

We will also be sending you an index of subjects covered in lessons 1 through 4 which we hope will be useful to you, especially as it is updated with material of future lessons. Eventually, after all the lessons have been printed, the index will be published as a literature item that will be made available to the ministry and anyone who completes the course.

This paragraph applies *only* to minister’s wives who are separately enrolled under their own name: You *will* need to take the test if you wish to receive your own personal copies of lessons 5 through 8, at the rate of one per month. Please wait until you receive the official test answer sheet to submit your answers for grading. This answer sheet will be mailed to you at the same time that you are scheduled to receive Lesson 4 and Test 1. Answers *cannot* be graded unless they are submitted on this official form.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

The death of Pope John Paul II has everyone in Editorial buzzing. What momentous times we live in!

Our new *Trumpet* website is live, and it is already proving its worth.

Last Thursday during our roundtable meeting, we decided that our feature for this week would be an article our staff wrote on the next pope, which will be printed in the coming *Trumpet* issue. The article began, “Between Parkinson’s disease, flu, and a throat operation, Pope John Paul II’s recent ill health has fueled speculation once again on who will be his successor.” The news had just emerged that the pope was on a feeding tube, so for the Web feature we included that information in the lead.

The next morning, the news was that the pope’s health was rapidly deteriorating. Mr. Gerald Flurry read the feature, and in a meeting he said, “We need to hit this just as hard as we can.” He said the pope’s death would be one of the major turning points in end-time world affairs. We were excited that we would be able to have something pertinent appear on the website so quickly.

Early that afternoon, a report came in that the pope had died. We quickly reworked the lead in the feature yet again and prepared to post it, pending confirmation of the news. The report turned out to be false, but we now had two stories ready to go on a moment’s notice: One where the pope was still clinging to life, the other where he had died. Either way, it didn’t change the purpose of the feature, which was to illuminate the nature of his successor.

Then on the Sabbath, news of his death was confirmed. That evening we posted the feature. Thus, at

theTrumpet.com, our story with his picture next to it was there for all to see. Almost instantly we were receiving e-mails of excitement for having provided “up to the minute” news and analysis on our website.

Never before have we enjoyed the ability to get God’s message out in such a timely way. No doubt God has given us this powerful tool at just the right time, with the tempo of world events increasing rapidly! If this week’s events were any indication, God is going to keep us on our toes more than ever as we labor to give the world “tomorrow’s news today” in support of God’s end-time prophet.

Monday morning Mr. Flurry approved the idea of radically switching gears on our planned June *Trumpet* and dedicating a good part of the issue to this “major turning point” in end-time affairs! Mr. Flurry and Mr. Fraser had both already begun working on articles revolving around the pope’s death. We met with Mr. Flurry and assigned a handful of our other writers to cover related material. Articles were actually due that day (Monday), but because with the May *Trumpet* we moved one month ahead of schedule (skipping our usual break during the bimonthly March–April issue), we can now delay the schedule a week or so without major repercussions—people will still receive the June issue in time. Thus, we will be able to wait to send the issue until we know who the new pope will be—even putting his picture on our June cover and perhaps writing a feature about him.

What momentous times we live in! *Joel Hilliker*

BUSINESS OFFICE

PGR ENCRYPTION INFORMATION

Because many of the ministers have not sent in a public key yet, PGR encryption has been delayed one week.

If you have not yet sent your public key in, please do so as soon as possible. If your public key does not arrive before the next PGR, you will not be able to view it. Headquarters *must have* your key *before* the PGR is sent next week. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Also, as a reminder, the key you send to headquarters should be your public key *only*. It should not include your private key. Finally, please make sure you send your public key *file*, not the actual password you typed in when creating your public key. **The file should be named “[yourname].asc.”**

If you have any questions or problems, please contact Tony Peters at tony@pcog.org.



REGIONAL REPORTS

EASTERN CANADA MARITIMES

There are four provinces that make up the maritime provinces: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The first three where we have members had been without a minister on a regular basis for over two years!

So you can only imagine how excited the brethren were to hear that they would finally have a minister on a regular basis when the decision was made by Mr. Flurry over a year and a half ago to relocate Mr. Ron Hanson and his wife Sherri, originally from Canada herself, to Nova Scotia. There are two congregations in Nova Scotia; one up in Cape Breton, having now only five members and the other congregation is in Pictou, having 11 members. There is one congregation in Newfoundland having now 14 members (two just recently died). Then in New Brunswick, we meet in two different areas, in Miramichi and in Bathurst. We have a total of 22 brethren in New Brunswick.

Mr. Hanson travels every Sabbath to a different congregation which is not atypical for many of God's field ministry. The closest congregation to them is one hour away, Pictou. Cape Breton and Bathurst both are around three and one half hours travel one-way. He attempts to travel to Newfoundland roughly once every six weeks. In the winter, travel to any location can be iffy.

Mr. Armstrong really understood the importance of having a minister attending the congregations on a regular basis. Since the Hansons have been in the maritimes, just since summer of last year, 12 members have left God's Church. It is quite an adjustment from doing your own thing all the time to now having a minister of God to give account to. Despite this recent fall out (and maybe because of it) all of the congregations are

really becoming more like family. It is really exciting, when you can see God's people grab hold of that vision and get excited.

Since establishing watching the *Key of David* program before services every Sabbath in each of the congregations, it has made a big difference in the conversation and the excitement of being a part of this GREAT WORK OF GOD!

The brethren get really inspired when they can see and hear God's end-time prophet speaking to the world, about what is coming! This really generates a charge in the air for God's people and it helps them see what they are a part of! We do pray for great results from the *Key of David* program.

The Hansons have just returned from the Milton, Ont., regional office where they were able to partake of that congregation's annual spring social plus take over the reins of Ottawa, Ont., and Montreal, Que., thus freeing up the David Fraser family to better care for the other four Ontario congregations plus the needs of the regional office. Mr. Hanson will also continue to answer much of the personal correspondence plus deal with many of the prospective members in eastern Canada in Mr. Fraser's area until they are ready to be invited to services.

Though the majority of new visit requests in Canada are from the province of Ontario, we do have some potential growth in the less populated and economically depressed Maritimes. We're just waiting for a couple prospective members to finish reading the required literature before counseling with them. We also have an ex-member in the process of reading the required literature and then Mr. Hanson will counsel with her.

Things do look very promising up here for potential growth in the future. May God bless you with the best spring holy days ever! *Wayne Turgeon and Ron Hanson*



MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

THE LAW OF QUARANTINE

By Ron Fraser

As headquarters and the Edmond congregation seemed particularly susceptible to repetitious viruses and associated bugs this winter, the legitimacy of an ancient law of health was brought to the fore.

There has, historically, been a vast difference between the level of physical health within the Israelitish peoples compared to the Gentile peoples. There is a very simple and profound reason for this. God gave to Israel His *laws of health*. We find these laws especially delineated in Deuteronomy 11-15, 22. They have to do with diet and habits of conduct. Having traveled to numerous Gentile countries and observed the habits, the general appearance, environment and diet of the general populace in these countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America, the difference between them and the Israelitish peoples in the level of general physical health of the people conditional upon their degree of basic hygiene and cleanliness is most apparent.

To be sure, God gave the most pleasant places on earth to the Israelites. Their countries abound in natural resources, equable climate, fertile soils and general economic wealth, compared to the gentile masses. This is the way God willed it to be for the progeny of the one man on Earth, the patriarch Abraham, whom He found willing, like He Himself, to give up His own son for the purpose of the Most High God to prevail.

Study the history of Israel from the time of the exodus out of Egypt when the knowledge of the law, including the physical ordinances, was given to Israel, and you will see how, right down to our time, the thread of knowledge of that law, the statutes, judgments and physical ordinances have permeated Israelitish society ever since. Follow their tracks through Assyrian captivity, exodus from Palestine to the areas of the Black and Caspian Sea across Europe, through Spain, France, the Nordic countries to Britain, her old dominions and North America. Wherever Israel's progeny reside, you will find a general respect for and understanding of God's laws of health.

Hygiene and quarantine have generally been the great preventatives and controllers of epidemics within the nations of Israel. Of course, as the medical, pharmaceutical and hospital industries burgeoned into big

business in the latter half of the 20th century, and as the U.S. and other English-speaking countries opened their doors to masses of Gentile immigrants, this understanding of God's ancient health laws has tended to break down. Work methods and practices developed since the Industrial Revolution have also powerfully impacted one law in particular—the law of *quarantine*.

Before the Industrial Revolution, productive work in Britain was carried out largely in the home or in workshops attached to the home (such as the village smithy) or on the farm. Hours of work were naturally, rather than arbitrarily, dictated by sunrise, sunset, season and weather. There was a more natural time and motion to life, in tune more with God's created earthly environment, than with the artificial environment of shop, office and factory. People sold their wares in open markets on a given day of the week, a practice still extant in village England.

But, came the great Industrial Revolution of the 19th century and greed for profits concentrated workers as factory fodder in the most unhealthy of environments, working to hours set arbitrarily by the overseers who calculated human labor as just one more raw material cost, from which maximum yield should be extracted at minimum cost to profit. In such a situation, hygiene and diet broke down, resistance to sickness diminished in the stale air of the sunless, fetid factory, workshop or office. Quarantine (which meant absence from the work place) except in cases of severe disease (such as cholera, plague etc.) became unfashionable.

Enter the 20th century. Labor movements lobbied for improved worker conditions. These are legislated. Post World War II economies boom. Air conditioning is invented, allowing large work spaces to be more effectively ventilated and permitting temperature control. The worker habits of office, shop, factory are based still on Frederick Taylor's old artificial theory of the specialization of labor, tuned in to control of time and motion, and become even more tuned out from the natural seasonal cycles. In summer we now bounce from air-conditioned house to air-conditioned car to air-conditioned office, shop and factory. In winter we crank up the heat on the reverse cycle air conditioner and trip from the dry

air of artificially heated home to heated car to centrally heated office, shop or factory. Profits drive the business. The business sets the hours and conditions of work. The worker adapts. Thus we have the classic city worker, cut off from farm, orchard, vineyard and stream, fed by the processed wonders of the supermarket, entertained by the artificial intelligence of TV and computer in leisure hours. The couch potato is born. Overweight, undernourished, human bodies permeated by the stale circulating air flowing through the air-conditioned ducts of home, workplace, transit systems and entertainment centers.

Such a system is ripe for exploitation by the modern bug. There are close to 300 influenza bugs currently identified by medical science. Each season sees new bugs mutating from the old. They flood the air in our concentrated, urbanized cities; we breathe them in, we breathe them out. Off they float to traverse through, nest in, and pounce from, untold millions of air conditioning ducts in our artificially created environment. Down we drop like flies.

What can we do to limit the bug-attack on ourselves, our family members, members of our social groups, our co-workers and congregations? RECAPTURE AND OBEY THE LAW OF QUARANTINE!

As soon as you feel the bug bite—get out! *Isolate*

yourself, right out of those environments where you will do most damage by spreading that sickness to others. That is an act of *love!* An act of outgoing, *loving concern* for others! To stay on and work in close communication with fellow workers can often reflect a vanity problem. Oh! Look at me—I'm so sick but I'm soldiering on, right here at my desk, my workbench, my spot on the factory line, just to prove what a valuable, loyal, dedicated worker I am.

Meanwhile, within a week, half the staff go down with the same bug. Wives, husbands, children contract it and we have yet another influenza epidemic on our hands! Profits of the business you work at are temporarily squeezed as productivity drops off. All this will just place a heavier load on the whole workforce, when all are fit and well again, to close the gap of loss of productivity which resulted from your selfish act of refusing to obey the *law* of quarantine!

To keep the camp clean when the Israelites wandered for 40 years in the wilderness, God clearly indicated that the sick should reside outside the camp perimeter (Leviticus 13:46)—away from contact with the general populace. *That law*, the law of *quarantine*, is *still* in action today! It was *not* done away at Christ's sacrifice. *Obey* it, *teach* it and become a *blessing* to yourself, your family and workmates instead of a *curse!*