

# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

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JOHN 8:32

Sept. 30, 2003

## Church editor concludes Allah is not God of Bible

By Dixon Cartwright

The managing editor of publications for the United Church of God says Islam is not a peaceful religion, and its deity, Allah, is not the same supreme being as the God of the Bible.

Scott Ashley of Arvada, Colo., a writer, an elder of the UCG and managing editor of *The Good News* magazine, said his research of Islam after the events of Sept. 11, 2001, forever altered his view of the religion of Muhammad and his followers, the 1.2 billion Muslims of the world.

In this issue of *THE JOURNAL*, Mr. Ashley publishes his second of a two-part series on Islam, the fastest-growing religion on the planet.

In the first part, which ran in *THE JOURNAL* of April 30, Mr. Ashley asked if Islam had ever been a religion of peace.

He concluded that it had not.

In this issue Mr. Ashley, 48, compares the Koran, Islam's holy book, with the Bible, the Holy Writ of Jews and Christians.

"The facts speak for themselves," Mr. Ashley told *THE JOURNAL*. "If you look at virtually any war taking place right now, you'll find that Islam is a major factor."

"Yes, the Koran teaches that it's best to spread Islam peacefully, but it also advocates the use of force and violence when necessary."

A big part of the problem with Islam is Allah himself, Mr. Ashley says. He noted that many people believe that because the big three religions—Christianity, Judaism and Islam—are monotheistic, their believers all worship the same god.

"But when you look at the roots of

Islam you find that Allah is actually an ancient pagan moon god," said Mr. Ashley.

"Thus you find major differences between Allah and the true God of the Bible."

"I used to believe Islam was a peaceful religion, based on what I had heard, and I also assumed that Allah was just another name for the God of the Bible. But I was wrong."

Mr. Ashley also ventures to interpret a few biblical prophecies in his essay in this issue of *THE JOURNAL*.

For example, what does Daniel 11 portend, specifically pertaining to the Second Coming and the last days?

"Is the current European Union" the anticipated "resurrection of the Roman Empire?" he asks.

"I don't think so," he concludes. "For one thing, it appears to have far too many nations already in it or planning to join it shortly."

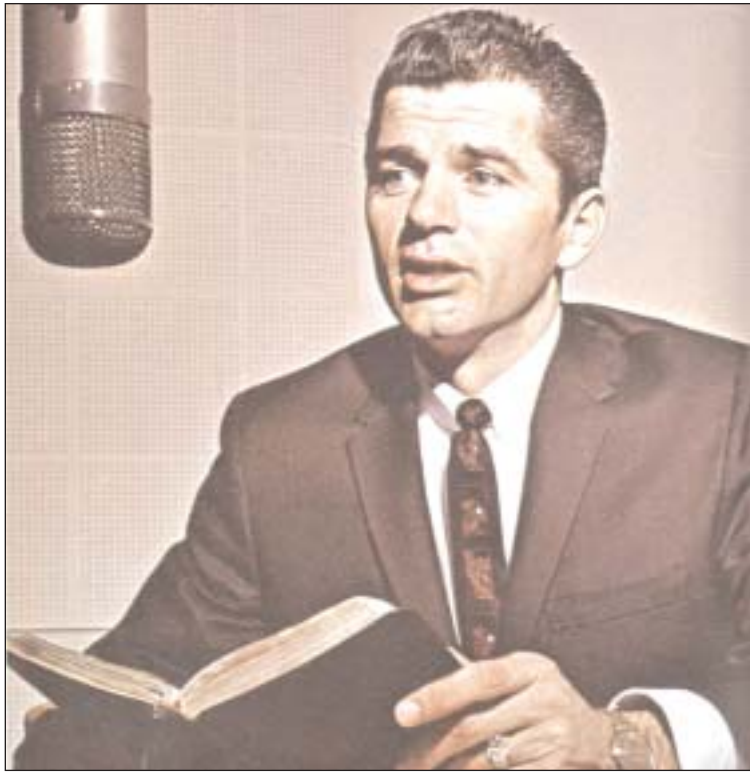
Several Bible prophecies mention Islamic regions and nations in an end-time context, believes Mr. Ashley.

He cites Psalm 83, which he describes as speaking of "an end-time alliance of Muslim nations surrounding Israel and determined to cut it off."

He also tackles the prophecy of Isaiah 13-24, which includes a list of prophetic "burdens" against various peoples, nations and kingdoms.

"These 12 chapters seem to weave in and out between events of Isaiah's day and those of the end time and are immediately followed by several chapters that appear to describe the immediate aftermath of Christ's return."

For Mr. Ashley's latest essay, see page 8.



**ON THE AIR**—Garner Ted Armstrong, about 35 in this photo, records *The World Tomorrow*, the WCG's radio broadcast, c. 1965. Mr. Armstrong died Sept. 15, 2003, at age 73. See related articles on this page and elsewhere in this issue of *THE JOURNAL*. [Photo from *The Envoy*, 1965]

## Garner Ted Armstrong's passing marks end of an era for many in the Churches of God

By Dixon Cartwright

TYLER, Texas—Many Church of God members acknowledged that the passing of Garner Ted Armstrong in September marked the end of an era for COG fellowships and ministries with roots in the Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Armstrong died in a Tyler hospital Sept. 15 of complications from pneumonia.

For two decades, from 1957 to 1978, he was a powerful presence on AM radio, preaching a message of "the wonderful world tomorrow" to millions of listeners over hundreds of radio stations and—beginning in the 1960s—to television viewers as well.

The son of WCG founder Herbert W. Armstrong, Garner Ted, via *The World Tomorrow*, was the first contact thousands of Church of God members had with the Radio/Worldwide Church of God, based in Pasadena, Calif.

He served as an administrator over the college and its founding church, second in rank only to his father.

After a tumultuous separation from his father's church in 1978, the younger Mr. Armstrong was a founder of the Church of God International near Tyler.

After a painful separation from the CGI two decades later, in 1998 he founded the Intercontinental Church of God, also based near Tyler, and the

current incarnation of the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association.

While an evangelist and chief administrator for the Tyler churches, he continued broadcasting, writing and making "personal appearances" to people attracted to his ministry in the United States and other countries.

### Initial statement

Mr. Armstrong's son, Mark, released a statement shortly after his father's death. He wrote:

"It is with a broken heart that I must inform all of you that my precious dad, Garner Ted Armstrong, died today at 1:20 p.m. I know that all of

See **EVANGELIST'S SON**, page 12

## Publisher tells all about advertising in *The Journal*

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Although some readers consider some of the advertisements in *THE JOURNAL* to be controversial, Dixon Cartwright, publisher and editor of this newspaper, credits the paper's advertisers with making possible *THE JOURNAL's* continued publication.

"The advertisers in *THE JOURNAL* have helped us to keep a low subscription price for our readers," said Mr. Cartwright. "Since our beginning, postage rates have risen four times. Yet we have had only one subscription-price increase during our history of almost seven years."

"I firmly believe *THE JOURNAL* could not have continued much past its first year without our advertisers."

According to Mr. Cartwright, some advertisers have learned they have a greater opportunity to have their material published as ads rather than as regular articles.

Further, the material can be published in its entirety if they are willing to pay for space in the paper.

Mr. Cartwright described the difference between the editing process for an article in *THE JOURNAL* and the editing process for an advertisement in *CONNECTIONS*.

"An article submitted to *THE JOUR-*

*NAL* becomes ours, while a paid advertisement stays under the control of the writer," he said.

Following is an interview with Mr. Cartwright to help readers understand the role of advertising in this newspaper and to answer questions contributors may have about submitting advertisements to *THE JOURNAL*.

**Question:** In the center of *THE JOURNAL* is a section called *CONNECTIONS*. What is *CONNECTIONS*?

**Answer:** The full name is *CONNECTIONS: MEMBER TO MEMBER. CONNECTIONS*, as we call it, is the advertising section of *THE JOURNAL*. We did not run ads in the paper when we first published in February 1997. *CONNECTIONS* began a year later, in February 1998.

*CONNECTIONS* began as a separate section, published by Mark Farmer, a Church of God member from Niles, Mich. In our arrangement with Mark, he sold and billed for the ads, and we in Big Sandy typeset them, laid them out and printed them.

Sometime in 1999, I think it was, Mark sold *CONNECTIONS* to *THE JOURNAL's* publishers, who happen to be my wife and me.

**Q:** Who is involved in managing *CONNECTIONS* today?

See **WRITERS HAVE**, page 14

## The Journal invites reports on Feast 2003

BIG SANDY, Texas—Members of Churches of God and other Sabbatarian fellowships are meeting together at several hundred Feast of Tabernacles sites this year, with many observances to begin the evening of Friday, Oct. 10, and continue through Saturday, Oct. 18.

*THE JOURNAL* invites Feastgoers to send in short reports on the brethren and their activities at the Feast as soon as possible after the eight days.

Mail information to Festival Reports, *THE JOURNAL*, P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A. Or E-mail the information to [info@thejournal.org](mailto:info@thejournal.org). Or you may fax it to (903) 636-9097.

Photographs as prints or E-mail attachments are also welcomed.

Because not everyone observes the same calendar to determine the dates of the Feast, please include the beginning date of your observance and specify whether it is the first full day (such as Oct. 11) or the evening before the first full day (such as Oct. 10).

Please include the name of the church or fellowship affiliation, if any, or other sponsor of the site.

Please limit the write-up to 300 words; all reports may be edited for length.

*THE JOURNAL* hopes you have a great Feast of Tabernacles 2003!

## Ladies dedicate meetings to Linda White

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Fifty-five women from as far north as Perry, Mich., and as far west as Carrollton, Texas, came together at a Marriott hotel in Birmingham July 25-27 to share their Christian experiences and make new friends.

The conference, themed "A Woman's Walk With Christ," was especially for Church of God ladies in the southeastern part of the United States and was dedicated to the memory of Linda White, a Carrollton resident who organized several similar conferences in her lifetime.

Opening greetings on Friday night, July 25, were brought by Sondra Beam of Tupelo, Miss.

Mrs. Beam presented a view of the speaking schedule and encouraged the ladies to enjoy meeting new Christian friends and longtime friends in Christ. The ladies

See **COG LADIES**, page 14

- 2 Readers and writers, starting on pages 2, 3 and 5, remember Garner Ted
- 3 Janet Treadway traces her 28-year journey to the '03 Feast of Tabernacles
- 6 AC students were Temple Mount archaeologists in the 1960s and '70s
- 8 UCG publication editor Scott Ashley speculates on Islam's place in prophecy

# Back issues of *The Journal* available as singles or as a set

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—*THE JOURNAL* is running a special sale of back issues of this newspaper.

Regularly \$2 each, back issues are available for a limited time for \$1, announced circulation manager and copublisher Linda Cartwright.

An even better deal, said Mrs. Cartwright, is the entire collection of 79 back issues of *THE JOURNAL*, which began in February 1997.

A complete set is available for \$60 plus \$10 postage and handling.

To order one back issue, send \$2 (\$1 in U.S. funds for the paper, \$1 for postage and handling) to P.O. Box 1020, Big Sandy, Texas 75755, U.S.A.

Mrs. Cartwright said that, for orders of two issues or more, postage and handling are included at no extra charge.

Specify the issue or issues desired by date (for example, February 1997) or issue number (No. 1).

To see an index of all the back issues, visit [www.thejournal.org](http://www.thejournal.org).



## Notes and quotes

### Prayers for Mr. McNair

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Raymond and Eve McNair have reportedly requested prayers on behalf of Mr. McNair, who has been diagnosed with a tumor on his spine. Mr. McNair was an evangelist for many years in the Worldwide Church of God and an early graduate of Ambassador College.

### Commandments on the march

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Alfred Harrell's Christian Leadership Academy is organizing rallies to support the Ten Commandments, announced Theda Horton. The first is planned for Little Rock in October, then other cities including Richmond, Va., and finally Washington, D.C. For more information see [www.CL-academy.org](http://www.CL-academy.org).

### Baptists for the Feast

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—The Auckland Baptist Tabernacle plans to observe the Feast of Tabernacles this year with a "special service," reports Gavin Rumney of Auckland on his Web site, [www.missingdimension.com](http://www.missingdimension.com).

"How come it's okay for Auckland's most prominent Baptist church . . . to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with a special service, and yet it's not okay for Worldwide Church of God members to as much as use that term to describe the events organized around this time of year?" wondered Mr. Rumney.

### Creation cornered

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.—C. Frazier Spencer, who has compiled a book promoting creationism (as opposed to evolution), reports he has a new E-mail address: [fraziernow@wmconnect.com](mailto:fraziernow@wmconnect.com). Or contact him at (317) 859-0391 or 7534 Inverness Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46237, U.S.A. For more information about his book, *Creation Corner*, see "Notes in Quotes" in *THE JOURNAL* of Aug. 31.

### Final prophecy

DAYTON, Ohio—"If you desire to know what will transpire in the near future concerning prophecy, then meticulously read the little book of Revelation 10," advises Kenneth Plummer.

For more about the "secret thunderous message" of Revelation 10, which Mr. Plummer also describes as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery," see his Web site, [www.finalprophecy.com](http://www.finalprophecy.com). Or write Mr. Plummer at 5338 Pollard Way, Dayton, Ohio 45424, U.S.A.

### Teens and young adults to retreat

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Organizer Paula Frazee announces this year's Teen and Young Adult Retreat for the Kansas City area. The camp is meant to provide fellowship and the chance to meet other teens

and young adults who are Church of God members.

The camp, sponsored by the Church of God Kansas City, will begin at noon Sunday, Dec. 28, and run through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at the Salvation Army Camp and Conference Center in Kansas City. The cost will be \$30 per person.

For more information contact Mrs. Frazee at (816) 461-3252, [pjcrim@aol.com](mailto:pjcrim@aol.com) or 3201 N. Union, Independence, Mo. 64050, U.S.A. The application deadline is Dec. 10.

### Global ad campaign

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Warren Zehrung of the Church of the Eternal God announces that the Global Church of God in the United Kingdom, affiliated with the CEG in the United States, has received 1,200 responses to an ad campaign to distribute the booklets *God's Commanded Holy Days* and *Don't Keep Christmas*.

For more church-related information see [www.eternalgod.org](http://www.eternalgod.org).

### The faithful word

BIG SANDY, Texas—Ed and Cindy Burson are resurrecting the newsletter they produced in the '80s, *The Faithful Word*. This time they will publish online, at [www.thefaithfulword.com](http://www.thefaithfulword.com).

"There are many great, gaping, sad, empty holes in what is being taught" in the churches, said Mr. Burson. "We see a dire need in the Church of God today."

Write the Bursons at [ed@thefaithfulword.com](mailto:ed@thefaithfulword.com).

### Mr. Armstrong's 111th

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—July 31 was the 111th anniversary of the birth of Herbert W. Armstrong, announced Geoffrey Neilson.

For a continuing commemoration of Mr. Armstrong's birthday, Mr. Neilson noted the availability of free DVDs and CDs containing audio and video material from Mr. Armstrong's ministry.

"They are ideal for showing at the Feast, as reminders of the worldwide work which Mr. Armstrong and the church era that supported him did," said Mr. Neilson.

For more information write COG CDs, Box 442, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281, U.S.A., or E-mail [cocods@att.net](mailto:cocods@att.net).

### Beyond the book of Acts

PALM BAY, Fla.—A new book, *Beyond Acts: New Perspectives in New Testament History*, by Paul R. Finch, is available at Trafford Publishing. *Beyond Acts* is a serious study of New Testament history that "will open our understanding of New Testament history as never before," said a press release.

Mr. Finch dedicates the book to the memory of Ernest Martin, the founder of Associates for Scriptural Knowledge, Portland, Ore.

For more ordering information see [www.trafford.com/robots/03-0733.html](http://www.trafford.com/robots/03-0733.html).

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For information about ordering back issues of *THE JOURNAL*, see the article at the top of this page.

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