



April 2, 2005 • Vol. 2, No. 11

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings ministers and wives,

During the ministerial conference of 1994, I discussed new understanding from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah and how they related to our Work today. Much of that revelation was recorded in our booklet *Ezra and Nehemiah: Building God's Temple*. This booklet is a vital tool for God's ministry. We should all review this booklet occasionally to get deeper and deeper lessons from it.

I would like to discuss a few lessons from Nehemiah that were not included in our booklet—lessons I discussed back at that conference that are specifically for you ministers.

When Nehemiah was sent to restore the wall or walls of Jerusalem, he was violently opposed by many enemies. But he was a *fast* worker. He *finished* the wall in 52 days. Think on his example, and you realize that you may not work as hard as you think you do. Nehemiah was somewhat of a workaholic.

Nehemiah 4 talks about how the people had a MIND TO WORK and about the enemies they faced. Here is what these enemies did: "And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come IN THE MIDST AMONG THEM, and slay them, and *cause the work to cease*" (Nehemiah 4:11). There are always adversaries who want to destroy the Work. Here it says they will sneak into the midst of us. It should not shock us that Satan would try to get people to sneak inside this Church.

We must be careful with our phone calls when talking to somebody who is bitter, because quite often they will simply record that and try to use it against us. This has happened in the past. Some have said very negative things about us. Satan will use every means available to hurt us. People in the world are going to try to destroy us. Even now Satan is plotting and planning, trying to find ways to get to us.

We don't want to be foolish about this. Expect attacks. Expect *me* to be attacked in every way. *Expect* this Church to be *attacked* with all kinds of lies—mixed with truth—including slander and everything you can imagine. The accuser of the brethren is *cast down*, and he is going to accuse us as long and as vigorously as he can.

Now, all the favor we need we'll have from God, and He'll take care of it. We don't need to worry about those attacks, but *we have to be wise*.

Now notice Nehemiah 5:1-10. While the land was in a drought, the wealthier Jews were abusing the people and making them pay exorbitant interest—even taking some as slaves. God's own people were doing that to themselves.

Nehemiah took a stand. He was determined to protect God's people.

Something I see once in a while, that we really need to watch, is GOSSIP—*especially* in the ministry. I've seen this happen throughout the years—particularly in the Worldwide, certainly in those last few years: Ministers somehow felt that they had a right to talk about everybody's problems among other ministers.

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I think that sometimes, if we're not careful, we use our ministry to do the same thing. We don't have a right to do that. Let's not put God's people down—*ever*. Don't be critical of God's people. Don't say things *you* wouldn't want said about yourself! You don't want two people to be sitting there talking about *you*, and I don't want somebody sitting there talking about *me*. We should never do that.

Of course, there is a time when two ministers might have to talk about a

problem, but even that is rare. Don't use your ministry as an excuse to abuse people. You are *family!* Gossiping is breaking the law of love. Don't put God's people down; build them up. Talk about their *good* qualities, and if you have to work with their weaknesses, work with them and don't tell anybody. Most of the time, don't even tell your wife. Keep things confidential—realize how important that is. We are God's ministers, and God says we have a responsibility to *protect* God's people.

Another vital lesson for the ministry is found in Nehemiah 6:1-4: "Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and *that* there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *some one* of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner."

Some important leaders in the area said, "You've just got to come and talk to us." And Nehemiah said, "Why should I leave a great work and come talk to you?"

Now, he's talking about priorities, isn't he? He was saying, *Look, I have a work of God to do, and I'm not going to waste my time.* Wasting time is always a temptation. I have to watch myself, even on the phone, or I can waste a lot of time. I don't want to be unsociable or curt, but I don't want to waste time, either. It's easy to get on the phone and keep talking and talking. Is that really necessary? There are so many temptations to get us away from God's Work. Are we into what we should be doing? Are we really doing what's important?

Satan is going to try to get you into something that will waste your time. Sometimes we have some people who are so weak that we spend all our time propping them up and keeping them in the Church, when perhaps they don't *need* to be there. I'm not saying we shouldn't go all out and leave the 99 and go after the 1. But we need discernment **SO WE DON'T LET SATAN JUST WASTE OUR TIME.** He loves to do that, and he's a master at it. But of course we want to love and help God's people if there's any way that we can help them.

We have such a short amount of time to do the Work—perhaps more than Nehemiah's 52 days—but we don't have much time to get the job done. The lion has roared! We need great urgency in this Work! People need to see that urgency in the lives of our ministers and wives, so they can be stirred up more to get ready for what is ahead.

With love, in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Flung". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Potlucks

All ministers should ensure that 100 percent fruit juices (with no sugar added) are served at potlucks rather than sodas or other soft drinks. It is also important that the

ministry work to reduce the number of high fat and sugary snacks (potato chips and highly processed desserts) served at potlucks. We should encourage the eating of raw vegetables and fruits for snacks.

## MEDIA SERVICES

### KEY OF DAVID—TASMANIA TIME IMPROVEMENT

Max Rumler and our TV agent Alan Cornell have been successful in renewing our regional station contracts around Australia including Southern Cross Television in Tasmania. We have changed our time to 6 a.m. Sunday in Tasmania.

### KEY OF DAVID—FIRST QUARTER RESPONSE

While there are a few days remaining in the month of March, here is a sneak preview into some of the first quarter comparisons to last year's TV response for the same period of time. Only two times since the start of the year has the program drawn less than 1,000 responses from the United States and Canada each week. We currently average 1,375 calls per week for each program (from U.S. and Canadian stations). Last year during the same period of time, we averaged 836—a 64% increase!

Obviously one of the biggest reasons for the increased response lies in the increased number of stations carrying the program. In March 2004, we contracted with 13 stations to carry the program. This March, we are on 91 stations!

But response is growing on average with our core stations that we have held for well over a year now. For example, WGN (cable superstation based in Chicago with national U.S. coverage) has generated a 10 percent increase in average response comparing the

first quarters of 2004 to 2005.

By all indications, not only are we adding stations, but each station on average is generating more response. While it is impossible for us to quantify exact levels of increase per station, we can and do examine trends with total response. As a reminder, these figures represent literature requests we receive by telephone only. Hundreds more requests are received each week via e-mail and written requests to headquarters or the Canadian Regional office. International call response data is also collected and added to the statistical analysis we use to measure the effectiveness of each program and each station.

More detail will be added next week after the month of March comes to a close and we complete the analysis for the first quarter of 2005.

### KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

Program Title: "The Cause of Violence"

Airdate: April 3, 2005

Literature Offered: *Human Nature: What Is It?* and *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*

Synopsis: A number of recent murders in the United States have made global headlines. Why is there so much violence? Its cause is human nature, as influenced by Satan. Do you understand how this is possible? This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry discusses the cause of violence.

# BUSINESS OFFICE

## IMPORTANT SECURITY INFORMATION

Because e-mail is not a very secure mode of communication, Mr. Flurry has requested that, beginning next week, the PGR be encrypted. The data will not be viewable without being decrypted first. In effect, it will mean that every minister will now need a password to decrypt the PGR each week.

We will be using free software called PGP to encrypt and decrypt the PGR. Directions for downloading and installing the software are below. *It is important that you read these directions carefully.* Without setting up this software on your computer properly, you will not be able to view the PGR. Please install and set up the software as soon as possible. If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact headquarters and ask for Tony Peters. You may also e-mail him at [tony@pcog.org](mailto:tony@pcog.org).

## How to Download and Install PGP

- 1) You must have an internet connection and administrator right to install the software.
- 2) To start, go to <http://www.pgp.com/downloads/freeware/freeware.html>
- 3) Scroll to the bottom of the page and accept the License Agreement terms (The Church does qualify for using this program because of our charitable non-profit status). Once you accept the agreement click on the download button for the type of operating system you are using. Download the .zip file to your computer and unzip it.
- 4) Once the file is unzipped to a directory click on the directory and start installing PGP by double clicking on the PGP8.exe file.
- 5) You will see a Welcome window—click “Next”. Click “Yes” on the End User License Agreement. Now you will see a “Read Me” window click “Next.” The next window that comes up is the “User Type” make sure you select “No, I’m a New User” and click “next.” The default location will already be set to install the program so click “next.” Now you will see the “Select Components” window—uncheck all the boxes for the additional components in this window because the freeware version we are using doesn’t support them—click “Next”. Finally the “Start Copying Files” window appears, if you have selected everything in this document correctly. Then click “Next” to install! Once it’s installed restart your computer. After you restart the computer you will be asked for a license key—click “Later”—if you ever see this li-

cense window again always click “Later.”

## Configuring Private Key

A PGP private key will allow you to decrypt any encrypted file you receive from headquarters that you are assigned to decrypt. *It is very important that you never share your private key with anyone.* Here is how to create it.

- 1) You will see a welcome window to the “PGP Key Generation Wizard”—click “Next.” Type in your name and email address and click “Next.”
- 2) *Important*—On the following screen you will see the “Passphrase Assignment” window. You need to set a password to protect the private key that you are generating. *Read the instructions*—Do not write your Passphrase down and it should at least be 8 characters long with non-alphabetic characters (i.e. !#\$%^). Do not forget this password because, if you do, you will not be able to decrypt anything you receive from the church. Click “Next” after you have typed in your Passphrase and then “Next” again once your private key has been generated. Congratulations, you now have a private key!
- 3) You will now see a “PGPkeys” window, leave it open and continue to read ...

## Exporting a Public Key

Public keys are what headquarters will use to allow you to decrypt the files sent out. They are created from your Private Keys. Here’s how it works. You create a public key from your private key and export it to a file. You then send the public key to whoever you want to encrypt data to send back to you. The recipient of your public key will use it to allow you to decrypt the data. Below are instructions on how to export a Public Key.

- 1) In the PGPkey window highlight your name and click on the “Keys” menu tab (See Fig. 1).  
Choose “export” and select a location to save your public key. Notice you will see a checkbox for “Including your Private Key”—*do not chose that option*—stick with the defaults (See Fig. 2).
- 2) Once you have exported your public key close the “PGPkeys” window. By doing that you will be prompted to save the new private key you have just created. *Please read the directions.* Save the private key to some form of removable media (i.e. floppy disk or CD) and store it in a *safe location*. This will be a backup for your private key in case your system crashes or you accidentally delete it (See Fig. 3).

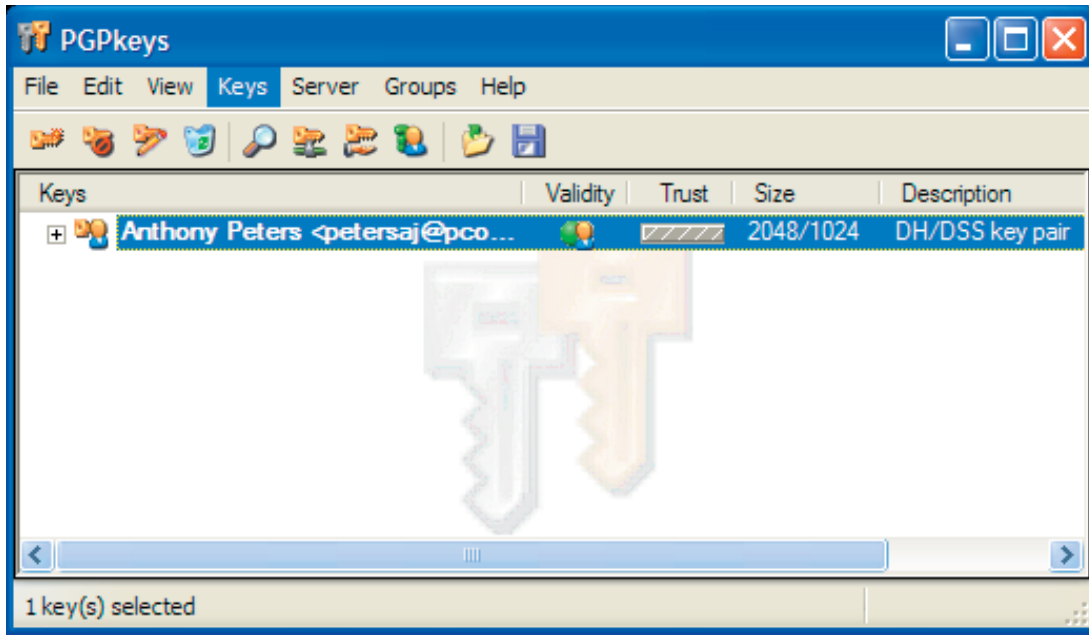


Fig. 1

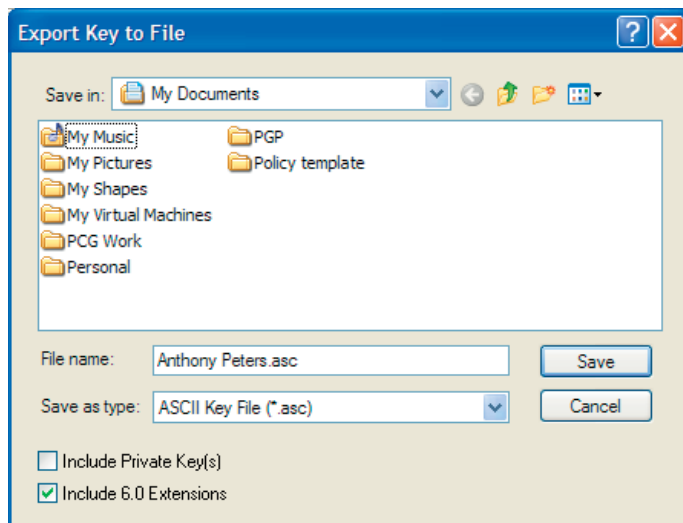


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

3) Now that you have created a public key, email the file to [mbdattolo@pcog.org](mailto:mbdattolo@pcog.org). The key will be in the directory you saved it to in step 1 of this section and should have a .asc extension.

### Decrypting Files

When headquarters sends you encrypted files all you will have to do is double click on the file and you will be prompted for a passphrase, Enter the passphrase you used to create your private key. This will decrypt the file in the same location as the encrypted file. Once the file is decrypted you can use as normal.

### Policy for Saving Files

If you are going to save the file only save the encrypted file and delete the decrypted file once you are done viewing it. You will have to go through the decrypting process every time you want to view the file, but it is much more secure in case your computer is compromised or stolen—all the confidential files will be encrypted.

Thank you for your cooperation. By encrypting the PGR, it ensures that sensitive information remains in the hands of only those God wants to see it. Please remember to send your public key to [mbdattolo@pcog.org](mailto:mbdattolo@pcog.org) as soon as possible, to assure that you do not miss out on the next PGR.

## FESTIVAL DEPARTMENT

We would like to present the following information as potential sermonette topics or local announcements that ministers could make in their local congregations to help Feast planning and registration work more smoothly this year. The bottom line of all this is: most, if not all of the problems we experience are generally caused by brethren who are not carefully reading and following the instructions we provide with the planner. We would like to positively encourage them to take a bit more time in preparing their forms that are sent to headquarters.

We have listed a few topics below that would be very helpful to cover in the next three to four weeks.

### Planner and Registration Forms

- Read Mr. Flurry's letter and all instructions before filling out your forms.
- Read and follow the directions carefully. The format of the Planner and all forms has changed.
- Don't forget to complete both sides of the Transfer/Registration Form.
- Please note that there is one form to be used as a combination Transfer/Registration Form. Please refer to the instructions at the top of the form to know which numbers need to be completed depending on if you are requesting a transfer or are registering to attend your assigned site.
- Only include yourself, your spouse and dependent children on the form. All single adults (age 18 and out of high school) must fill out their own forms, even if they still live with their parents.

### Registration

- Take note of registration deadlines and make it a priority to register on time. The registration deadline this year is May 31. The deadline for ordained members is May 20.
- You must register even if you've been assigned to a specific site.
- You must register even if you're not attending.

### Transfers

- All transfer requests must go through your local minister. If you don't have a local minister, then the request must go through your regional director. Your

local minister or regional director will then forward the transfer request to the Festival Department for approval.

- Remember that your minister is very busy and also travels. You should provide him with your Transfer Form as soon as possible to allow time for him to process the form and get it to headquarters by the deadline.
- The deadline this year is May 20. For ordained members, it's April 13.
- The Edmond location will by VERY LIMITED for transfers this year.

### Hotel Reservations

- It is important that you do not make reservations before May 2, 2005, at 1 p.m., Feast site time.
- Please do not make reservations at more than one hotel.
- Make sure to guarantee your reservation with a credit card. If you do not use a credit card, then you must mail the hotel a personal check or money order in the amount of the first night's room rental.
- Request a written confirmation from the hotel. Please note that the hotel will not mail a confirmation to you unless you have guaranteed your reservation by paying first night's room and tax. Be sure to verify the accuracy of your reservation when you receive the written confirmation. Call the hotel immediately if there is any discrepancy. Be sure to take the confirmation with you to the Feast as it may help resolve a problem should one arise when you check-in.

### Offerings

- Take your pre-printed offering envelopes with you to the Feast.
- Please avoid putting cash in the offerings, if possible.

### Volunteering

- God's Feast requires many hands to run smoothly.
- The more volunteers there are, the less time people will have to work.
- All singles, without children, should volunteer to serve in some capacity unless they are physically unable to do so.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## WESTERN UNITED STATES

Back in December of last year, Charles Wire, a local church elder from Sacramento, created a survey for teenagers. The following is a compilation of results from the Salem, Sacramento, Southern California and Phoenix congregations, comprising 38 teenagers surveyed.

In an effort to better understand the teens' current levels and help raise the ministry's awareness of the needs of our Western Region teens, Darren Verbout, a local church elder serving in the Southern California area, merged the data together to create a broader picture—a picture that can find its way into our future Teen Bible Studies and congregational messages.

We hope this tool can assist all of you as well!

### Survey Results

1. How much time do you spend in daily personal prayer on your knees?  
*Average = 20 minutes*
2. How much time do you spend weekly in prayer with your family?  
*Average = 30 minutes*
3. How much time do you spend in daily personal Bible study?  
*Average = 26 minutes*
4. How much time do you spend weekly in Bible study with your family?  
*Average = 58 minutes*
5. Have you read *Mystery of the Ages*?  
*Yes = 21; No = 17*
6. Have you read *Malachi's Message*?  
*Yes = 14; No = 24*
7. Have you read *The Missing Dimension in Sex*?  
*Yes = 26; No = 12*
8. Do you have your own copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex*?  
*Yes = 26; No = 11*
9. Do you read each issue of *The Trumpet*?  
*Yes = 17; No = 20*
10. Do you read each issue of *Royal Vision*?  
*Yes = 16; No = 22*
11. Do you read each issue of *True Education*?  
*Yes = 27; No = 4*
12. Do you regularly read PCG booklets as headquarters publishes them?  
*Yes = 27; No = 11*
13. Do you take useful notes at Sabbath service?  
*Yes = 37; No = 1*
14. Do you review your notes before the next Sabbath?  
*Yes = 24; No = 14*
15. Can you discuss everything with your parents?  
*Yes = 28; No = 5*
16. Do you frequently discuss personal matters with your parents?  
*Yes = 33; No = 5*
17. Which subjects would you like to hear discussed in these teen Bible studies?
  - Dealing with friends/peers/bullies at school
  - Dealing with stress, anger and depression
  - Divorce
  - Does God exist?—how to make God real to teens
  - Guidelines for health, clothing, music and movies
  - How to get along with parents
  - How to improve character
  - How to take good notes during services
  - Origins of make-up
  - Pagan holidays
  - Prayer—what to pray about, and for how long
  - Principles of dating
  - Proof of the Bible
  - Prophecy and revelation as it applies to teens
  - Summer jobs
  - Teens' involvement in God's Work and in the World
  - Tomorrow
  - Ten Commandments
  - The Seven Laws of Success



## MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

# KEEPING THE NIGHT TO BE MUCH OBSERVED PROPERLY

By Dennis Leap

Some in the PCG have not been keeping the Night to Be Much Observed properly. A few have been wearing casual dress during dinner. Several have planned to keep it with family members attending one of the Laodicean churches. To worship God properly during the Days of Unleavened Bread we must observe this special night according to the traditions established in the Church. Please plan to cover the points discussed in this article in either a message or during local announcements prior to the spring holy days.

God commands that the Church keep the Passover ceremony ONCE EACH YEAR at night (1 Corinthians 11:23). Mr. Armstrong taught the Church that the Passover is the most solemn night of the entire holy day season. It is the night that God's truly converted people convene together to remember Jesus Christ's death and partake of the New Testament Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine.

God also requires that His truly converted people keep another separate night immediately following the Passover. This second night is also of great importance to all of God's people. Keeping only the Passover is not enough! We must observe this second night to properly keep the days of Unleavened Bread!

"Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt. IT IS A NIGHT TO BE MUCH OBSERVED UNTO THE LORD for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of the Lord to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations" (Exodus 12:40-42).

The Passover is to be observed at the beginning, or night portion of the 14th of Abib [or Nisan] (Exodus 12:6; Leviticus 23:5). Exodus 12 records God's command that His people specially observe the night portion or "beginning" of Abib 15—the night immediately following the Passover. For a more detailed discussion about when to observe the Passover, be sure to re-read *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*

### KEEPING A VIGIL TO GOD

Why does God want us to specially observe the night portion of Abib 15? We must understand past history to fully understand this observance. The Night to Be Much Observed commemorates the Israelites walking out of Egypt by night (Deuteronomy 16:16). The ancient Israelites had been held in bitter slavery (Exodus 1:13-14). They groaned for deliverance (Exodus 2:23). God delivered them from Egypt through a series of miraculous plagues, culminating in the death of the firstborn of all Egypt on Passover night.

All the Israelites were miraculously protected from the plague of the firstborn by observing the requirements of the Old Testament Passover ceremony, which included sacrificing a lamb and spreading its blood on their doorposts and lintels (Exodus 12). Experiencing the plague on their firstborn caused the Egyptian leaders to thrust the Israelites out of Egypt. Each Israelite clearly understood that had there not been a Passover night, they would not have been able to leave Egypt on the night of the 15th.

Walking out of Egypt was the most emotional, exhilarating, joyous experience of their wretched lives. God wanted all Israelites, in every "generation" (Exodus 12:42), to experience the same joy the ancient Israelites did. This is why God calls the night of Abib 15 a night to be "MUCH OBSERVED." God wants this night to be the happiest of the year.

Members in God's Church should also celebrate on this night because we too have been delivered from Egypt—spiritually. The Bible shows that Egypt is a type of sin (Hebrews 11:24-27). The way God views it; all men are in slavery in "Egypt." Christ, as "our Passover" (1 Corinthians 5:7), has delivered us from the bitter slavery of sin. Spiritually, we also are able to walk out of Egypt—sin—with great emotion, exhilaration and joy. Because of Christ's sacrifice, God requires that His Church also celebrate this fantastic occasion as a memorial of that night.

Here's how the New International version (NIV) translates Exodus 12:42. "Because the Lord kept vigil THAT NIGHT to bring them out of Egypt, on THIS NIGHT all the Israelites are to KEEP VIGIL TO HONOR the Lord for the generations to come" (Exodus 12:42). The



NIV makes the meaning of this verse much more clear. This translation clearly shows that the Passover and the Night to Be Much Observed are two different nights. God kept a vigil to protect the Israelites' firstborn on the night of the Passover—the 14th of Abib. Therefore the Israelites were to keep a vigil in honor of God on the night of the 15th. The night of Abib 15 is to be a celebration of coming out of Egypt.

This verse also outlines the manner in which we should keep this night. Our celebration is to be a vigil to God. We must ensure that we honor God and Christ's sacrifice in our celebrating.

### DRESS IN SABBATH BEST

The Night to Be Much Observed is actually the beginning of the first holy day. We should dress in our *Sabbath best* for this occasion. Never should the brethren dress casually for this occasion. Men should wear coats and ties and ladies should wear nice dresses. Our children should dress in clothing that they would normally wear to Sabbath services. We need to remember that we are coming before God in this observance. We should follow the Bible principle of dressing properly for certain specific occasions (Matthew 22:11-14).

Traditionally, Mr. Armstrong always taught the Church that on this night we should get together with small groups of two to three families. It has always been preferred that God's people enjoy this evening in a home. These traditions are based on Exodus 12:4. The PCG follows the same traditions established by Mr. Armstrong. However, under certain circumstances, gathering at a nice restaurant is considered appropriate for this night. For example, if Mr. Flurry, a headquarters minister, regional director, or another minister is traveling to a specific area, all members near that area could be invited to observe this night in a restaurant.

If the Night to Be Much Observed gathering takes place at a restaurant, members must be sure that a private room has been secured, away from the public. Loud music, interruptions and people smoking will greatly detract from this evening. A meeting with the restaurant food manager must take place enough in advance to ensure that they will accommodate our specific dietary restrictions. Be clear about unclean meats and what constitutes unleavened products. Please do not hesitate to be very direct with your restaurant personnel. Leave nothing up to assumption.

### THE BEST AFFORDABLE

For most of us who will be keeping the Night to Be Much Observed at home, we should make this eve-

ning's meal very special. Of course, we must be sure to stay within our budgets. Cook and serve the best foods you can afford. Second tithe can certainly be used for the costs of this evening, if doing so will not adversely affect the amount of money you will need to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Have your invited guests bring or provide something for the meal. This will help in sharing the costs of the evening and will allow everyone to feel a part of this important celebration.

Mr. Armstrong always set us the example of using nice dishes, tablecloths, and nice tableware for special occasions. This is the night to do this. Candles and fresh cut flowers will also help make this occasion more special. A wonderful atmosphere goes a long way in making an occasion such as this a very memorable one.

### BE MODERATE

All of us need to be sure we follow moderation in our eating and drinking on the Night to Be Much Observed. We are to rejoice—but not to excess. "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:4-5). As God's Philadelphians, we need to be setting an example for the entire world in our celebrating. The Night to Be Much Observed should be very different than a worldly holiday party. This evening should be very dignified. The host and hostess should take the lead to be sure that the evening is conducted in an upstanding manner.

This is a night for fine but healthy foods. Our meals should be balanced and not contain a lot of rich foods. Too many rich foods can make people ill and sluggish. Remember that the next day there will be double services. We need to be sure we are alert for the spiritual food to come at services.

Drinking alcohol on the Night to Be Much Observed should be done with great care. Alcoholic beverages can either add or detract from our fellowship. God intended for man to produce fermented drinks like wine for our benefit. "And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart" (Psalm 104:15). Using alcohol in moderation will help make us merry on this night. A host should never force alcohol on anyone. In a similar vein, a host should never allow someone to over drink.

We should also be moderate in our fellowship on this evening. Be sure to include singles and widows on your guest list. This is a night to serve God's people, not just entertain friends (Deuteronomy 16:11). PCG members should attend this evening with other PCG members.

In the past some have attended the Night to Be Much Observed with Laodicean groups because their mate attends services with them. This should never be. Would we attend a Passover service with a Laodicean group? No, never! Then why the Night to Be Much Observed? It would be far better for our non-member mates to attend with us if their attitude were right. If a non-member mate could not attend with us in the right attitude then our PCG member should attend the Night to Be Much Observed alone!

Be sure your conversation is appropriate for a holy day. One major characteristic of the Philadelphians is that we know what conversation is pleasing to God on the Sabbaths (Malachi 3:16). We need to consider how God will remember our discussions on this evening. This is a night to discuss spiritual subjects. We need to leave our jobs and day-to-day cares out of our conversations on this night.

We should also be sure to end our fellowship early enough so that our host and hostesses are able to get proper rest and be prepared for the next day's activities.

#### **MAKE THIS NIGHT SPECIAL FOR CHILDREN**

If you have small children, be sure to take some extra time and plan some special things for them. This night should be a celebration for them as well. When my children were small, it was our tradition to buy small gifts for our children to have on this night. We always wrapped them to make the time extra special. If our guests brought children, we arranged for them to bring gifts for their children as well. It is great fun for chil-

dren to open their gifts together.

Be sure your children feel a part in planning your Night to Be Much Observed celebration. Allow your children to take part in meal planning and meal preparation. My wife has always included our daughters in the baking and cooking for the Night to Be Much Observed. As they have grown older, we have also included them in planning what foods to be served at the dinner for this night.

If you have small children, be sure to include others who have small children on your guest list. It is hard for children to get excited about spending an entire evening when the guest list is comprised solely of adults. Our children need friends to share happy occasions with.

#### **BRINGS HAPPINESS**

God wants all of us to be happy. He planned the holy days not only to save us spiritually, but also to make us happy. If we obey God properly by keeping the Night to Be Much Observed, we will be happy. In regards to the spring holy day observances, Christ taught in principle, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

God did plan to sacrifice His own Son so we could share eternal life with Him. God provided for us a solemn Passover. He also provided a second night for us to truly celebrate coming out of the slavery of sin. Because of what God did for us, we owe it to Him to celebrate the Night to Be Much Observed. So let us all do everything we can to make this year's Night to Be Much Observed the best celebration ever. By doing this, we will be giving great honor to God!