

P | G | R

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

IN THIS ISSUE

Regional Reports.....	3
PGR Article Index 2005.....	4

February 18, 2006 | Vol. 3, No. 7

Greetings, ministers and wives!

We often discuss 95 percent of God's people falling away in this end time. This is perhaps the greatest number ever to fall away in one era. This is a huge "red light" we must be aware of—a signal of how dangerous this knowledge is, and how hard we have to hang on.

How did that happen? Why did that happen?

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:14-17).

Our goal is to see ourselves as God sees us. He sees them much differently than they see themselves. It isn't good enough to see ourselves through our own eyes!

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (verses 18-20). They have shut Christ out!

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (verse 21). They are not overcoming Satan! 95 PERCENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE FAILED BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T OVERCOME THE DEVIL!

What a warning for us!

Look at this powerful example. "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:14-17). This is something the Father had revealed to Peter! He understood it better than the others. There was more depth there.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (verses 18-19). Christ gave this authority only to Peter, of all the disciples. None of the others had this authority. That is quite a responsibility given to Peter!

But notice something shocking that happened in this context:

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (verse 21). None of us would be here today if Christ hadn't suffered and died for us. This was His business—it wasn't for Himself. What does that mean to you? This is our Head—we're to follow His example to the best of our ability!

But how did Peter respond to those statements? "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee" (verse 22). The same Peter—rebuking Christ! How quickly he succumbed to vanity! He acted as if he could somehow save Christ!

Notice how Christ handled this: “But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (verse 23).

This is a very interesting group of scriptures. Christ didn’t even address Peter—He addressed the devil! *Jesus Christ knew the devil!* Christ talked directly to him!

That was probably less than a minute after God the Father had revealed to Peter who Christ really was! Within a minute, God the Father spoke through Peter, and Satan caused Peter to make a terrible statement.

How well Satan must have understood Peter, and known his vanity. Right after Peter was exalted, he knew that was the time to get to him! And he went after him—and he was successful, even with the Son of God right there!

That is an amazing demonstration of how powerful Satan is—and how easily he can cause us to do terrible things!

Consider how serious this example really is! Satan is perched right there beside us, ready to pounce at any time. We are his number-one target!

“Savor” refers to where your mind is—on God, or on the flesh. Satan thinks like men, because men worship him. He is their god! It’s a real battle to think like God and overcome the thinking of the devil!

How do you and I get beyond where Peter was? (Of course, we have the Spirit, and he didn’t; though he had a lot of depth and understanding.) Satan was right there, and able to get his words to Christ through Peter, who had just been told he had the keys of heaven! Satan got to him that effectively—so he can get to us, if we’re not careful. He does, and we have to be very aware of that!

The Apostle Paul makes a strong statement, talking about people who have gotten into sin—even within the Church. “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, *who are taken captive by him at his will*” (2 Timothy 2:26). If you think Satan doesn’t know you, think about this: Sometimes he doesn’t even take you out when he can! A few people can be so weak, Satan knows he can take them out any time. He can sit there and watch someone, knowing he is capable of taking him out “at will”—but he waits until the moment is right! He waits until it will cause the most confusion in other people, or upset people the most. He sits there and calculates for when it will cause the deepest trouble!

Do you know *that* Satan?

He must know all of us very well!

What are you going to do against a power like that if you don’t use the power of God’s Spirit? He is a spirit, and he must be fought with *Spirit!*

Do you think it’s okay to get involved with certain lusts, or things, or people? You think that won’t trip you up? Do you think Satan doesn’t know you have that weakness?

That is why we have to reason with God! (Isaiah 1:18). We are all weak—but we have to know how to fight the devil! We have to know how to prevent him from taking us captive the way he has taken 95 percent of God’s people captive! We can conquer him—and we all should!

Here is how to prevent Satan from reaching us. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross [stake, or burden], and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). We do have trials—but we have to pick them up and go on, if we’re going to avoid Satan’s deception. We have burdens to carry to follow Christ.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” (verse 25). You’re going to have to lose your life, your selfishness, and what you want to do!

Just “lose your life”—that is easy to say, but exceedingly difficult to do! But it is wonderful, inspiring, exciting to do that.

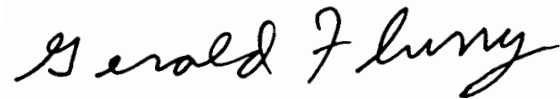
“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (verse 26). Fifty percent of the Laodiceans are going to gain a lot of the world, and lose their eternal lives. What profit is that? The millions of dollars worth of property is very impressive, but it all amounts to nothing if you lose your eternal life! And the other 50 percent are going to have to suffer in ways they don’t want to have to suffer!

There is a tremendous solution to this—very inspiring. But we must first be sobered by these words.

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (verse 27). God really is going to reward *every one of us according to our works!* The people

in God's very elect remnant have evidence of good works, but we must continually keep growing in that. We must never forget the magnificent reward God is going to give us!

With love, in Christ's service,



REGIONAL REPORTS

CANADA

Canada is a great country to cover and manpower is in short supply, so the territories to look after are huge. Like this one: the three provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. It is an area of 3,306,787 square kilometers, which is 33.12 percent of Canada. According to 2002 statistics, about 5.6 million people populate it. Scattered among them are the brethren from the PCC.

We have one baptized member living with her family in the Northwest Territories. The only contact we have is by phone.

Ten baptized members live in Manitoba and are looked after by deacon Frank Froese and his wife, Verna. To visit the brethren in Manitoba we leave our home at 4:30 a.m. and arrive in Winnipeg at 9:15 a.m., where we are picked up at the airport by the Froeses. We drive north to Selkirk to visit Peter Slyker (he is into his 89th year). He is still able to read and keep up with today's news and appreciates his mail from headquarters. After a light lunch—which Mrs. Froese prepares and brings along—we are ready to travel again.

Next stop is St. Pirre-Jolys to visit Mrs. Bugera. She lives in a Seniors Complex but still looks after things herself. She too is in her 89th year. She still can read but sometimes her eyes give her some trouble. She is well informed about the Church and loves her literature from headquarters. Mrs. Bugera has the table always set for a cup of coffee before we move on.

From here we go to Morden where we stay overnight. After we check into the hotel (around 5:30 p.m.) and freshen up a little, we are on our way again to pick up Lilly Janzen and meet with the Schellenberg family for supper. After a few hours of fellowship we get to the hotel for a well-deserved rest. On Sabbath morning after some reading, going over my notes, and our prayer together, we

have breakfast with the Froeses, and at 10 a.m. we leave for Lily Janzen's place. She is able to get the visitors room with a kitchenette for Sabbath Services without charge. Services start at 11 a.m. When the weather is good the brethren from Brandon come up for Sabbath services. That brings the attendance up to 12 adults and two children. The brethren are always happy to see us. We made five visits into Manitoba last year. After services we have a potluck meal, but always with one eye watching the clock so we will not miss our flight. We still have to drive 90 minutes to the airport. So it is not only a long day for us, it is for the Froeses too, because they still have to drive one and a half hours till they are home.

The congregation in Saskatoon has 15 baptized members. The attendance on the Sabbath, if weather permits and the outlying brethren can attend, is 22. The congregation in Regina has four baptized members and the attendance is six. When we visit in Saskatoon and everyone is attending, including the brethren from Regina, we have 30 at services.

Alberta has two churches: Calgary and Edmonton. Calgary has 28 baptized members and the average attendance is 45. The Edmonton church has 39 baptized members and Sabbath attendance is 50. Until the end of June, Edmonton and Calgary had seven combined services. We had to cancel three visits due to bad weather. At present we are counseling one lady for baptism and are in contact with three prospects.

I am closing on a sad note: Since Passover, 10 baptized members in Alberta have left the Church. They were influenced by dissident literature and did not agree with some changes in Church policies. Our hope and prayer is that in the days ahead they will realize their mistake and repent and return to the Philadelphia Church of God. *Gunter Schlote and Wayne Turgeon*

PGR ARTICLE INDEX | 2005

The index below includes everything that was printed in the Personal, Ministerial Training, Church Administration, or For Wider Distribution sections of the PGR in 2005. If you are missing back issues of any of these editions of the PGR, feel free to e-mail pgr@pcog.org for a new copy.

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY	DATE
Amos, Book of	Think of Bad News as God Does	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/24/2005
Armstrong College	Raising the Ruins	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/17/2005
Armstrong, Herbert W.	He Shall Restore All Things	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/13/2005
Armstrong, Herbert W.	Letter from Mr. Armstrong—Feast Messages	Herbert Armstrong	Personal	10/8/2005
Armstrong, Herbert W.	Elijah's Prayer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/3/2005
Baptism	Q&A: Children showing no initiative toward baptism ...		Church Ad.	5/28/2005
Baptism	Effective Baptismal Counseling, Part 1	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	6/25/2005
Baptism	Effective Baptismal Counseling, Part 2	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	7/2/2005
Baptism	Valid Baptismal Counseling	Gerald Flurry	Church Ad.	11/12/2005
Baptism	Required Reading for Baptism		Church Ad.	12/31/2005
Catholic Church	The Death of John Paul II	Gerald Flurry	Personal	4/9/2005
Catholic Church	History of the "Holy" Roman Empire	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/14/2005
Catholic Church	Stoiber's Visit with the Benedict	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/12/2005
Children	Q&A: Are children still "holy" if the parent(s) leave the Church?		Church Ad.	2/12/2005
Churchill	How Churchill Organized His Time	Gerald Flurry	Personal	2/19/2005
Churchill	Churchill the Writer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/12/2005
Clothing	Upholding God's Standard in Dress and Appearance	Stephen and Amy Flurry	Ministerial Training	8/20/2005
Commission	Preach the Gospel	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/24/2005
Counseling	God's Dating Principles—Meeting the Challenges	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	5/28/2005
Counseling	Effective Baptismal Counseling, Part 1	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	6/25/2005
Counseling	Effective Baptismal Counseling, Part 2	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	7/2/2005
Daniel, Book of	A King of Fierce Countenance	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/7/2005
Daniel, Book of	Keeping Satan Out of the Church	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/21/2005
Dating	Q&A: When okay for dating couples to kiss?		Church Ad.	1/29/2005
Dating	God's Dating Principles—Meeting the Challenges	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	5/28/2005

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY	DATE
Ear-Piercing	Church Policy on ear Piercing		Church Ad.	6/11/2005
Elijah	He Shall Restore All Things	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/13/2005
Elijah	Elijah's Prayer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/3/2005
Elijah	Raising the Ruins	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/17/2005
Ezekiel, Book of	Chaos in New Orleans—Pestilence in America	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/10/2005
Faith	The Faith to Build God's House	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/5/2005
Faith	A Work of Faith	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/5/2005
Family	Build God's Family	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/17/2005
Feast of Tabernacles	A Youthful Warning		Church Ad.	4/16/2005
Feast of Tabernacles	Preparing Feast Messages	Stephen Flurry	Church Ad.	8/20/2005
Feast of Tabernacles	Letter from Mr. Armstrong—Feast Messages	Herbert Armstrong	Personal	10/8/2005
Firstfruits	Begotten by the Father of Lights	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/31/2005
Food	Q&A: Food coloring "carmine" from beetles?		Church Ad.	8/20/2005
Germany	Stoiber's Visit with the Benedict	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/12/2005
God's House	The Faith to Build God's House	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/5/2005
Government	God's Government in the PCG	Gerald Flurry	Personal	1/22/2005
Headquarters	Should Our Members Move to Headquarters		Wider Distribution	9/3/2005
Healing	Healing—A Promise of God	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/26/2005
Health	The Law of Quarantine	Ron Fraser	Ministerial Training	4/9/2005
Health	Q&A: Should minister give medical advice to a member?		Church Ad.	6/4/2005
Health	Q&A: Ministers promoting health products		Church Ad.	6/4/2005
Health	Obey the Law of Quarantine	Eric Anderson	Wider Distribution	11/5/2005
History	History of the "Holy" Roman Empire	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/14/2005
Holy Days	Basic Points for Ministers	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/26/2005
Holy Days	Keeping the Night to be Much Observed Properly	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	4/2/2005
Holy Days	Meat in Due Season		Church Ad.	4/16/2005
Holy Days	Service Times on Holy Days		Church Ad.	9/10/2005
Holy Days	Meat in Due Season		Church Ad.	10/1/2005
Hospitality	Build God's Family	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/17/2005
Hurricane Katrina	Chaos in New Orleans—Pestilence in America	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/10/2005
Hurricane Katrina	God's Mercy in Katrina and Rita	Gerald Flurry	Personal	10/1/2005

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY	DATE
INR	International News Report Update	Ron Fraser	Church Ad.	11/19/2005
Isaiah, Book of	Introduction to the Book of Isaiah	Gerald Flurry	Personal	7/2/2005
James, Book of	Family Unity	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/19/2005
James, Book of	Healing—A Promise of God	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/26/2005
James, Book of	Elijah's Prayer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/3/2005
James, Book of	Begotten by the Father of Lights	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/31/2005
Jewelry	Church Policy on Ear Piercing		Church Ad.	6/11/2005
Joy	Build the Members' Joy	Gerald Flurry	Personal	6/4/2005
Laodicea	The Murders in the Living Church of God	Gerald Flurry	Personal	4/16/2005
Laodiceans	Tragedy in the Church of God	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/20/2005
Laodiceans	Contact with Disfellowshipped Family Members	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/10/2005
Leadership	Becoming Better Shepherds	Russell Williams	Ministerial Training	5/7/2005
Leadership	Leadership in God's Church	Stephen Flurry	Ministerial Training	8/6/2005
Listening	Become a Listening Minister	Alex Harrison	Ministerial Training	2/19/2005
Literature	Proof of the Bible Booklet Changes		Church Ad.	6/11/2005
Love	God's Love Inspires	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/28/2005
Marriage	The Marriage Ceremony		Church Ad.	5/21/2005
Maturity	Putting Away Childish Things	Stephen Flurry	Ministerial Training	8/27/2005
Medicine	Q&A: Should minister give medical advice to a member?		Church Ad.	6/4/2005
Medicine	Q&A: Ministers promoting health products		Church Ad.	6/4/2005
Millennium	One Day is as a Thousand Years	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/3/2005
Nehemiah	Lessons from Nehemiah	Gerald Flurry	Personal	4/2/2005
News	An Eye for the News	Ron Fraser	Ministerial Training	10/8/2005
Night to be Much Observed	Keeping the Night to be Much Observed Properly	Dennis Leap	Ministerial Training	4/2/2005
Passover	Passover Service Length		Church Ad.	4/9/2005
Passover	When Should One Take the Second Passover?		Church Ad.	4/9/2005
Peter, Books of	Watch Unto Prayer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	7/30/2005
Peter, Books of	Past and Present Truth	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/6/2005
Peter, Books of	Tragedy in the Church of God	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/20/2005
Peter, Books of	One Day is as a Thousand Years	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/3/2005

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY	DATE
Policies	Potlucks		Church Ad.	4/2/2005
Policies	Passover Service Length		Church Ad.	4/9/2005
Policies	Sexual Misconduct Among Our Young People		Church Ad.	5/21/2005
Policies	Meeting Halls		Church Ad.	6/4/2005
Policies	Church Policy on Ear Piercing		Church Ad.	6/11/2005
Policies	Service Times on Holy Days		Church Ad.	9/10/2005
Policies	CD and Tape Policy		Church Ad.	12/10/2005
Pope, The	The Death of John Paul II	Gerald Flurry	Personal	4/9/2005
Pope, The	Stoiber's Visit with Benedict	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/12/2005
Potlucks	Potlucks		Church Ad.	4/2/2005
Prayer	Watch Unto Prayer	Gerald Flurry	Personal	7/30/2005
Predestination	Q&A: Predestination		Church Ad.	9/17/2005
Prophecy	The Almond Tree	Gerald Flurry	Personal	2/26/2005
Prophecy	Deliver God's Message	Gerald Flurry	Personal	6/25/2005
Prophecy	He Shall Restore All Things	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/13/2005
Prophecy Again	Prophecy Again	Gerald Flurry	Personal	1/29/2005
Prophecy Again	Preach the Gospel	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/24/2005
Quarantine	The Law of Quarantine	Ron Fraser	Ministerial Training	4/9/2005
Quarantine	Obey the Law of Quarantine	Eric Anderson	Wider Distribution	11/5/2005
Religion	God Will Save Most of Humanity	Gerald Flurry	Personal	6/18/2005
Remembrance	Help God's People Remember the Truth	Gerald Flurry	Personal	6/11/2005
Repentance	Introduction to the Book of Isaiah	Gerald Flurry	Personal	7/2/2005
Revelation	Past and Present Truth	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/6/2005
Sabbath	One Day is as a Thousand Years	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/3/2005
Salvation	How Will We Fare Between Now and the Place of Safety?	Gerald Flurry	Personal	8/27/2005
Satan	Keeping Satan Out of the Church	Gerald Flurry	Personal	5/21/2005
Sex	Sexual Misconduct Among Our Young People		Church Ad.	5/21/2005
Shepherds	Becoming Better Shepherds	Russell Williams	Ministerial Training	5/7/2005
Signs of the Times	The Signs of the Times, Part 1	Gerald Flurry	Personal	2/5/2005
Signs of the Times	The Signs of the Times, Part 2	Gerald Flurry	Personal	2/12/2005
Songleading	Basic Points for Ministers	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/26/2005

SUBJECT	TITLE	AUTHOR	CATEGORY	DATE
Speaking	A Lesson to Teach—and Learn From—Our Sermonette Speakers	Joel Hilliker	Ministerial Training	2/5/2005
Speaking	Meat in Due Season		Church Ad.	4/16/2005
Speaking	Preparing Feast Messages	Stephen Flurry	Church Ad.	8/20/2005
Speaking	Meat in Due Season		Church Ad.	10/1/2005
Stoiber, Edmund	Stoiber's Visit with Benedict	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/12/2005
Teenagers	A Youthful Warning		Church Ad.	4/16/2005
Tithing	Q&A: If one loses his job and receives severance pay ...		Church Ad.	3/26/2005
United States	Chaos in New Orleans—Pestilence in America	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/10/2005
Unity	Family Unity	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/19/2005
Unleavened Bread	Q&A: Eat unleavened bread daily?		Church Ad.	4/16/2005
Weather	God's Mercy in Katrina and Rita	Gerald Flurry	Personal	10/1/2005
Women	Basic Points for Ministers	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/26/2005
Work of God, The	Put Your Heart in the Work	Gerald Flurry	Personal	3/19/2005
Work of God, The	Think of Bad News as God Does	Gerald Flurry	Personal	9/24/2005
Work of God, The	A Work of Faith	Gerald Flurry	Personal	11/5/2005
World News	The Death of John Paul II	Gerald Flurry	Personal	4/9/2005
Young Ambassadors	Raising the Ruins	Gerald Flurry	Personal	12/17/2005