

# P | G | R

## PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

We know that Satan the devil is very capable of getting inside God's Church. He has done that in this end time—destroying the work and turning 95 percent of the people away from God. Why is he able to do that? How can Satan have such a monstrously high success ratio within God's own Church?

**GOD'S PEOPLE MUST THINK VERY SERIOUSLY ABOUT THIS LIFE-AND-DEATH SUBJECT!**

The Prophet Ezekiel gave us some critical background information about this evil spirit being. This very impressive being was right there with God and the Logos (Ezekiel 28:14). He was one of three archangels listed in the Bible, and was a covering cherub over the throne of God. He could learn how God thought—he could watch how God operated. God trained him for a significant job on Earth, and later in the universe. God wanted to use him in a magnificent way.

Lucifer was called the light bringer. He must have had a lot of the light of God to bring to this Earth. But he became the prince of darkness! Now, Satan is the ugliest, most unhappy, miserable being in the universe. He is totally opposite of God.

That is a shocking and horrifying nightmare! Something went dreadfully wrong. Nothing like that had ever happened in the universe before. What happened?

God continues: "Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created [God created him perfect] till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:15). Lucifer reached a point when he simply would NO LONGER KEEP THE LAW OF GOD!

The first priority of God's law is to *love God*. **LUCIFER STOPPED LOVING GOD**. That is where lawlessness leads. If you are breaking God's law, that is the end result. Satan began traveling down the wrong path, and he didn't stop it—he just kept going. And he stopped loving God.

"Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (verse 17).

Lucifer had beauty and brightness. He became vain and proud about that, and it corrupted his wisdom! Because of that vanity, he became a massive failure. He became absorbed in his own brightness and beauty—which *God Himself* created!

Can we become that vain about beauty? Or about *things*? Can vanity corrupt our wisdom? It certainly can. Oftentimes, human beings get wrapped up in their own beauty or looks or things. We become self-absorbed.

This is an amazing development! God had a plan for this being—but instead of thinking about that **VAST UNIVERSE AND ALL ETERNITY**, Lucifer began to think about *his own beauty*! He became **OBSSESSED** with his own form and shape, which God Himself made and created!

Even though Lucifer was brilliant, you have to say he was also terribly shallow.

Yes, he was a mind-dazzling creation—**YET HE WAS NOTHING LIKE THE LOGOS OR GOD**! He didn't have Revelation chapter one brilliance and brightness! His beauty didn't approach God's own beauty. Still, he grew self-obsessed!

Have you witnessed that happen to human beings? I have even seen members of God's own Church, who possess the Holy Spirit, orient their minds so much on themselves—or their *things* or *some kind of beauty* they like—that **IT IS HAS TAKEN THEM AWAY FROM THE GOD WHO CREATED THEM!**

**GOD CREATED US ALL**—and yes, He did create us with a certain beauty and brightness. But it is madness to get our minds focused on **THAT**, rather than the **FAR MORE** beautiful, far more dazzlingly bright, Creator God!

Consider again the Gospel of John. The Apostle John describes the *Logos* as being so much brighter than

Lucifer ever was—so much more beautiful in form and shape. And yet, when He became a man, what did Jesus Christ focus on? GOD THE FATHER! In verse after verse after verse, Christ said, *This truth originated with my Father—My Father is greater than I—I do nothing but what I see my Father do.* Despite possessing unparalleled beauty and unmatched brightness, Jesus Christ NEVER thought about Himself to the extent that it was unlawful. Study that in John's Gospel—it is one of the most exciting studies you will ever have! What love and what humility that man demonstrated when He was on Earth.

That was the same love and humility He possessed as the *Logos* for eternity! Why couldn't Lucifer have learned from that?

God says in Proverbs 31:30 that beauty is vain. I don't think most people who are beautiful believe that.

A young man may set his sights on a very physically beautiful woman. What is that beauty going to do? God wants us to passionately give our lives to His Work the way Jesus Christ did. Will that woman's beauty help that young man in the Work? I know of no way it would help the work. It hasn't done anything for us here at headquarters that I know of.

God is trying to teach us that there is a DEEPER KIND OF BEAUTY that our young men had better make their priority, or they will get into trouble.

How many times have we seen *spiritual beauty* overlooked in human beings? Even in God's Church, this is a danger, because our people can follow the world's example, where beauty is almost EVERYTHING! Yet God says it is VAIN, if you look at it spiritually.

Lucifer had tremendous beauty, and he got his mind on *that*, of all things. That is stunning to me.

Obviously, a man who is going to get married wants a woman to appeal to him—but he had better beware of the danger there. If his heart is in God's work—if he is giving his whole life to God and this work like Christ did—he had better be careful.

Haven't we all seen a few outstanding gals—who possessed truly dazzling spiritual beauty—overlooked because maybe they didn't have the physical beauty that some other women have? The same can be true the other way, too—men being overlooked for purely *physical* reasons.

We ministers should help God's people understand: Don't focus on *physical* things! That is, in fact, the way Satan was thinking, if you can imagine that. This great created being actually got his mind on *his own beauty!* That took precedence over everything, and it fouled up his mind. He began to corrupt his wisdom and just became obsessed with himself!

Satan is still the god of this world. He has sold this line of reasoning to the world—and that is exactly the way the world thinks. John was doing everything he could to discourage people from thinking that way.

Certainly beauty is a wonderful thing. I'm not against beauty. God created it. But it is still vain. It's not of real value to God, or I suppose He would have made all of us beautiful and handsome.

We must think about this a little more deeply—maybe a lot more deeply than what we have in the past.

LET'S NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH THE CREATION—LET'S FALL IN LOVE WITH THE CREATOR!

What is He like? What is God like, who can create human beings and angels, who can design and manufacture all of that magnificence? Think about GOD! Because THAT IS WHAT WE CAN BECOME—if we can get our minds off ourselves, and quit thinking about our own beauty or something physical that dazzles us, and get our minds on the CREATOR!

It MAKES SENSE to fixate on God—to be dazzled by God. But it isn't logical to a selfish mind.

It's *lawless* to focus on beauty the way Lucifer did. We must anchor our minds in GOD'S LAW. The FIRST COMMANDMENT is, *You shall have no other gods before the true God!*

DON'T PUT ANYTHING AHEAD OF GOD AND HIS BEAUTY—first, His mind, and then the beauty of His form and shape. THAT IS UNPARALLELED AND UNSURPASSED BY ANY OTHER KIND OF BEAUTY.

Think about it: Is beauty in this world more a blessing than a curse? I don't think so. I would say *beauty is more of a curse.* Look where it leads the men and women who have it! Look at the kind of lifestyles it leads them into. It can be very dangerous.

If a man who is committed to and whose passion is God's work marries a woman who is only partially committed to God's Work, what will happen in that marriage? That man will obviously have difficulties and conflicts and serious problems—also some serious regrets.

*Nothing is better than a good marriage, and nothing is worse than a bad marriage.*

Let's make sure that we help our young people put God first and let God direct them to their mates. Let Him do the directing, and then it will be right and good and beautiful and productive.

The irony is, Lucifer was the light-bringer, and had the opportunity to bring light to the whole world, and God wanted to give him *everything*. Instead, he became obsessed with himself. He had the unparalleled honor to be a covering cherub right over the throne of God, watching God do everything. And he must have done such a good job that God sent him to the Earth with a third of the angels to bring light—with the potential to fill the whole *universe* with light and godly beauty. But he turned away from all of that and *toward himself*.

TO GOD, THAT IS LAWLESSNESS OF THE WORST KIND!

Virtually the same story happened with the Laodiceans. How could they turn away from God the Father so easily if they really loved Him? How could they rebel against the One who has given them everything? What's wrong with their thinking? Well—God says they are “rich and increased with goods” (Revelation 3:17). THEY ARE INTO BEAUTY—PHYSICAL BEAUTY. They have exalted their own *physical desires*.

The tragedy is, Jesus Christ was transforming them into THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BRIDE THERE EVER WILL BE THROUGHOUT ALL ETERNITY! The fact that they chose their own kind of physical beauty is INSULTING, LAWLESS, OBSCENE! But we have seen it happen.

Besides God the Father and Jesus Christ, NOTHING WILL EVER BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN CHRIST'S BRIDE! Oh, brethren, God is making His Bride beautiful! We have the opportunity to be part of that! He is building the most gloriously beautiful character in us. Physical beauty and things have *nothing* to do with it.

WE WILL BE THE BRIDE OF JESUS CHRIST FOR ALL ETERNITY. I wonder if that truth still grips us and shakes us and fills us with the kind of zeal that Jesus Christ had!

*Who are* WE to be given an opportunity like this? There will never be another opportunity like it.

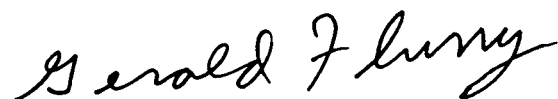
God calls the lowly of the world for a reason: because the rest of the world is so caught up in the physical. God chooses lowly people in order to confound the wise and the beautiful of this world.

But still—we can get wrapped up in ourselves. All we are is just a little speck of dirt on this Earth, and we can become enamored by our own self. When we get excited about OURSELF, WE FORGET ALL ABOUT THE VAST UNIVERSE AND THE FAMILY OF GOD AND EVERYTHING OF VALUE.

John does a marvelous job of helping us get our mind on the Creator, so we don't end up like the god of this world. HE PROVIDES THE SOLUTION TO LUCIFER'S REBELLION! HE GETS US INTO THE THINKING OF GOD HIMSELF.

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*

With love, in Christ's service,



**Correction:** In the last issue of the PGR, we stated that Pianist Chu-Fang Huang's concert was on November 19. The concert is actually Saturday evening, November 18.

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# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Wait! Don't faint! Finally, a report from the North Central Region (NCR). I appreciate the opportunity to share an exciting and productive region with you. Preparing this update has been exciting and refreshing for me and the two associate pastors who provided their input. Hopefully, the local church elders (LCE) serving in the NCR will feel the same way when they see the bigger picture drawn here in the PGR.

The NCR is comprised of nine states and 21 congregations. One of those congregations is Pittsburgh, Pa, (although Pennsylvania is one of Mr. Winters' states). Our smallest congregation, Carbondale, Ill., has 10 people and our largest, Ann Arbor, Mich., has 98. Two other congregations number in the 90s: Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio, and St. Louis, Mo.

A pastor of evangelist rank, two associate pastors of preaching elder rank, four LCES, one ministerial trainee, 15 deacons, and six deaconesses are serving close to 1,000 people in the NCR. The ministerial trainee, Aaron Eagle, attends the largest congregation, Ann Arbor. However, he is exported periodically, and given special assignments for training purposes. I have recently asked him to oversee the program for the deaf at the Feast of Tabernacles. He and his family are very actively preparing for that. He is setting an excellent example and doing a fine job of serving.

Mr. Calvin Culpepper, one of my associate pastor's, is also officially designated as an assistant to the regional director. He is responsible for four states and 10 congregations. He oversees two LCES, Ken Adams and George Witt. Ken Adams serves Akron, Ohio and Marietta, Ohio. George Witt serves Cincinnati/Dayton, Ohio,

and Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Jim Cocomise, the second of my associate pastors, is responsible for three states and eight congregations. He oversees one LCE, Mark Zollner, who serves two congregations, St. Louis and Carbondale.

Mr. John Cocomise, a LCE who answers directly to me, also serves two congregations, Brooklyn, Iowa, and Waconia, Minn.

The program for the blind is administered by the NCR. My wife, Micki, coordinates with Tom Symons, a deacon in Sacramento, Calif., who oversees a crew of "readers." All of Mr. Armstrong's literature and PCG literature is read onto tape. Mr. Symons sends the original tape(s) to my wife. She keeps the original and runs copies of requested tapes to send to 64 of our brethren.

The program for the deaf is also administered by the NCR. Micki coordinates with Carol Adams in obtaining transcripts to send to 13 brethren. Currently, only the *Key of David* program is being transcribed.

We have had three or four spokesman clubs going every year. That has helped a lot, but next year, we will probably have only one club for each of our associate pastors, Calvin Culpepper and Jim Cocomise.

Using our two associate pastors and the leadership that has been developed in the Spokesman Club we are going to re-examine, standardize, and polish up three other region-wide programs. We want to excel in having programs for our young children, our teenagers, and our older brethren and widows.

We will keep you informed of how everything in our region is progressing. Next week, reports from Calvin Culpepper and Jim Cocomise on the Eastern and Western NCR will be published. *Marvin Campbell*