

# The Voice

Winter Quarter 2008

Volume 3, Issue

## Please Pray:

Please pray for Pastor Dwight Semler of Iron Range Christian Center in Deerwood, MN. Pastor Semler had colon surgery at Abbott Northwestern Hospital on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. He will be at Abbott for approximately 10 days. Dwight is doing well but is in some discomfort. Please pray for his accelerated recovery. Cards may be sent to: Pastor Dwight Semler, 21502 Semler Rd., Deerwood, MN 56444-6209

Rev. Gene Conaway passed away on January 4, 2008 at the age of 81 years. We will miss brother Gene and we pray for his wife Mary. Cards can be sent to Mrs. Mary Conaway, 330 East Burnsville Parkway, Apt. #100, Burnsville, MN

## My Life

My life is but a weaving  
Between my Lord and me.  
I cannot choose the colors,  
He worketh steadily.  
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper,  
And I the underside.  
Not till the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Shall God unroll the canvas  
And explain the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold  
and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.

Author Unknown

# The Great Debate

By now most of us have heard enough of the rhetoric being spewed by our present slate of political candidates. So far it seems to be the same old, same old. There's a lot of verbiage about change and no real solid ideas on what needs to be changed. Nor do they explain how they would change things. Except for one reality—change requires money. Hold on to your wallets.

One thing that is becoming very clear is the change in the American understanding of what a Christian is and who Jesus Christ really is. As a nation we are in really murky water here.

A friend recently wrote in an email, "It will be interesting to watch the religious right dance with the Romney/Christian issue if he should become the Republican candidate."

I'm not here to bad mouth Mitt Romney. On the other hand, we are faced with an issue. Here is a man that is clearly proud of his Mormon roots and heritage and has declared publicly that Jesus Christ is his Savior.

This is an interesting confession since this is not the teaching of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Some years ago Rita and I picked up a Mormon pamphlet while visiting Temple Square in Salt Lake City. The pamphlet is entitled, *What the Mormons think of Christ*.

Unless I am totally wrong the entire writing refutes salvation through the cross, blood, and saving grace of Jesus Christ. On page 22 we read, "Christians speak often of the blood of Christ and it's cleansing power. Much of what is believed and taught on this subject is such utter nonsense and so palpably false that to believe it is to lose one's salvation. For instance, many believe or pretend to believe that if we confess Christ with our lips and avow that we accept Him as our personal savior we are thereby saved. They say His blood, without any other act than mere belief makes us clean." These guys need to read Romans 10:8-13.

More interesting reading comes from a 28 volume set of Mormon sermons called the *Journal of Discourses*. In Journal 7, a



Christ Teaching in the Temple  
(Hoffman 1880)

sermon by Brigham Young entitled *Intelligent, Etc.* contains some very interesting insights into Mormon Doctrine. Young denies the creation account of Genesis and declares, "Mankind is here because they are the offspring of parents who were first brought here from another planet." He continues, "...every man and woman must have the certificate of Joseph Smith, junior, as a passport to their entrance into the mansion where God and Christ are..."

He also has some interesting insights on how some people got the shape of their nose. You can read it for yourself @ [journalofdiscourses.org/Vol\\_07](http://journalofdiscourses.org/Vol_07).

On December 23, 2007 Joel Osteen appeared on FOX News Sunday With Chris Wallace. Wallace asked Joel Osteen:

WALLACE: *And what about Mitt Romney? And I've got to ask you the question, because it is a question whether it*

# The Great Debate, continued

should be or not in this campaign, is a Mormon a true Christian?

OSTEEN: Well, in my mind they are. Mitt Romney has said that he believes in Christ as his Savior, and that's what I believe, so, you know, I'm not the one to judge the little details of it. So I believe they are.

Need I go on? What really is Christianity? Do we need to re-think our theology or repent? In an age of spiritual deception what is our stand? It is clear from Scripture that we must contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, Jude 1:3.

This is not a new phenomena. The Apostle Paul was up against false teaching and diluting of Christianity 30 years after the resurrection of Christ. His weapon of choice in an age filled with Greek phi-

losophy, Jewish denials and Roman gods was one thing—the preaching of truth.

The Apostle knew that the Scripture is God breathed. He also knew that preaching the Word releases the power of the Holy Spirit when preached. Reread II Timothy 3:16 and 4:1-8. This is powerful stuff, folks.

It is evident that Paul believed what Christ said in Matthew 10:22, *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.* Friends, there is an enduring for us just as Christ endured the cross.

Throughout his writings Paul continually helps the reader understand that continuance in the Gospel is what is important. It is not how we start but how we finish that counts.

In the face of cor-

rupt teaching and constant denial the Apostle wrote to the Christians at Corinth in I Corinthians 15:1, *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand...*

Then Paul went on to remind them of the basic truth of the Gospel in verses 3&4:

First, *Christ died* (not Joseph Smith, not Allah—Christ died).

Second...*for our sins* (the purpose of His death—our ransom—He took our place).

Third...*according to the Scriptures* (Fulfilled Prophecy: Psalm 22; 69; Isaiah 53& Zechariah 12-13).

Fourth...*And He was buried* (The reality of an actual death).

Fifth...*and that He rose again* (not brought

back to life in a natural body—but resurrected in a glorified eternal body).

Sixth...*the third day according to the Scriptures* (Fulfilled prophecy again: Psalm 16:9-11; Isaiah 53:10).

Seventh...*And that He was seen of Cephas, then the twelve. After that He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once* (Visible appearances to so many and so large a crowd to be argued—He is the God that reveals Himself).

Friends, in the year 2008 let us contend for the faith. Let us take a stand to preach the truth. Let us not be afraid to face the false teachings of this age and refute it. In the end the truth will win. Remember: *but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.* That's what Jesus the Christ, holder of the keys has promised.

# Credential Renewal

Have you taken a few minutes to renew your credentials with World Bible Way Fellowship for 2008? This would be a great time to renew.

I'm often asked, "Why it is important to be part of a fellowship." My most common answer is this, "Because it's nice to know that you belong to something that is bigger than yourself."

I think back to

Camp Meeting last summer. It was so much fun to listen to other pastors and friends share their calls, visions, hurdles, obstacles and victories.

I know that when one starts remembering names and events someone may be forgotten. If I don't mention your name and you spoke or sang at Camp Meeting please forgive me.

However, who can forget Phil Shaw's very personal message about

*Getting Out of the Boat?* Or, Dr. Larson's message on how to love people into your congregation? How about Jonathan Reine's inspirational singing and testimonies?

Remember Ladonna's violin or Don Kooy's call to Spiritual Gifting? The encouragement of Duane Miller & Roger McDuff?

Yes, we belong to something bigger than our-

selves. If you have not renewed now is the time to do so. The cost of renewal is \$125. If you are unable to pay it all now Dr. Hope and the staff of World Bible Way Fellowship will work with you.

Please contact Dr. Dan Hope, World Bible Way Fellowship P.O. Box 70, Desoto, Texas 75123-0070. For more information you can call the national office at 972.579.1231.

# Ministers' Luncheon



**Dr. L. D. Kramer**

Dr. Kramer invites all the ministers of World Bible Way Fellowship, supporting ministers and ministries of Ministers Network International and interested guests to a fellowship luncheon.

Our luncheon will be held on Monday, February 11, 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Burnsville. The Olive Garden is located at 1451 County Road 42 West. That's just two blocks west of the Burnsville Shopping Center on the south side of County Road 42. Please see map below.

Guest speaker for this luncheon is Pastor Bobby Torralba from Mindanao, Philippines. Bobby has pastored for

over 20 years in the city of Mindanao.

God has given Bobby two great passions: the street children of Mindanao and physical healings that bring people to Christ.

Pastor Bobby started a ministry feeding hungry children. In time God led him to meet not only the physical needs of children but also their educational needs. The city government invited Bobby to start a Christian school. Today he feeds the bodies, minds and spirits of the forgotten.

As Pastor Bobby has been taken to the streets God has shown him the importance of healing the physical body. God has also given Bobby a ministry of bringing healing to the bodies of the sick and afflicted. This in turn leads them to the living Savior who also heals their broken spirits. Bobby has seen many souls saved as they experience the reality of God's healing power.

This luncheon is sure to be a highlight in your winter schedule.

Dr. Kramer has re-

ceived a word from God for 2008 in which he has been assured that many miracles will be done in the lives of



**Pastor Bobby Torralba**

God's people. Pastor Bobby is coming to confirm God's word.

We believe that signs and wonders are not just coming—they are here. Set some time aside on February 11 for a time of fellowship and refreshing.

A complete lunch-

eon menu is available. Each guest will be responsible for their own lunch.

For more information you are welcome to call Karen Priewe at the Rejoice Christian Center office 952.898.7644.



**Pastor Bobby Torralba And Family**

**Olive Garden Restaurant  
1451 County Road 42 W  
Burnsville, MN 55306  
(952) 898-4200**



## The Voice

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# Ministerial Network

I · N · T · E · R · N · A · T · I · O · N · A · L

## Regional Fellowship Rejoice Christian Center 14020 Cty. Rd 5, Burnsville, MN Dr. LD Kramer-President and Host

**Monday**  
**March 10, 2008**  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Schedule**

9:00-Coffee, et.

9:15 Devotions

9:30-10:30  
Session I

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00  
Session II

**12:00 Lunch**  
**Included With**  
**Registration**  
**Fee.**

*Have Great Fellowship!*

Rev. Don Kooy - Facilitator  
Pastor's Friend Ministries

**Theme: *Where Are The Volunteers!***

There has been some concern that the middle class of our great country is being hurt by our economy, and other factors, and may have even moved them from majority to minority.

- What is the effect of these changes on you, your church or ministry and how do you respond?
- Are we polarizing to the extremes on issues, life styles spiritually and commitments?
- We will have an open forum to identify solutions to this new phenomenon. Together, we will continue to support each other as we examine solutions to move forward the ministries God has called us to.

Don has some interesting thoughts on this issue and will challenge us to move forward with the vision God is fulfilling your life.

**Fellowship - Restoration**  
**Encouragement - Honoring**  
**Our Vision**

We see a fellowship of Pastors/Ministers who gladly accept the responsibility to build each other up in Jesus Christ. MNI will be a safe place for encouragement, learning and caring. In an open and honest atmosphere.

**Who Are We**

Ministerial Network International was established in 1998. MNI is an interdenominational fellowship of ministers, missionaries, Christian workers, churches and fellowships with Evangelical, Pentecostal, Charismatic distinctive.

**\$25.00**  
**Registration**  
**Fee**

Call: (952) 898-0404 or 800-384-2321  
e-mail [mnioffice@aol.com](mailto:mnioffice@aol.com) or any questions about this Fellowship/Seminar.

**Rejoice Christian Center**  
**14020 Cty. Rd 5, Burnsville, MN**  
West of 35W on 42 past Burnsville Mall to county road 5. Two blocks north.



**Don Kooy**  
**Ministries**

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