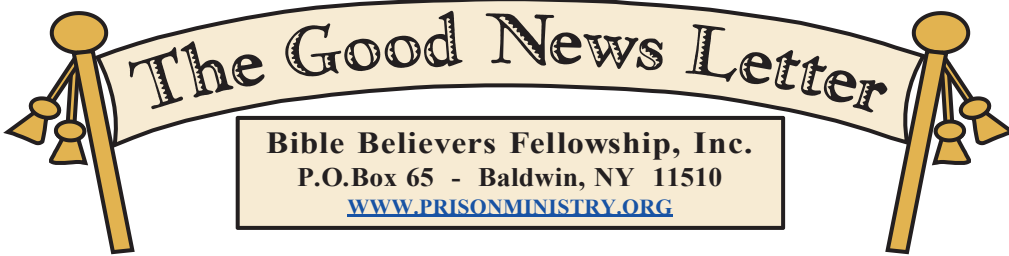




NON-PROFIT



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TAX-EXEMPT

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" MARK 16:15

September 2024

FROM US TO YOU

My, how fast the years go by! We are getting close to the end of Summer already. Here on Long Island, we went from having a rainy Spring to a hot, humid Summer, and now a lot more rain. Still, as Christians, we should count our blessings in the Lord (see Psalm 3:8). Here in the United States, even with all the problems of this current administration, we are living better than people in many countries worldwide. America was built by Christians, on a foundation of the Word of God (Matthew 4:4). Therefore, the blessings that flowed are from our Lord. The Bible says, *"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever"* (Psalms 146:5-6 NIV). We Christians, serve a Jewish Savior, Jesus Christ. You've heard about all the hatred that has been vented toward Israel and Jews recently. The reason why Satan hates the Jews is because it was through the Jews that we have the Bible and our Savior, Jesus Christ (Acts 9:15, 11:18).

The God we serve is a compassionate God to those who love and serve Him. But He is also law-abiding, and He judges those who take advantage of Him and others. God had enough pity for all humanity to let His own Son die for our sins in our place (John 3:16). But He does not exist to serve us, we exist to serve Him! *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life"* (Galatians 6:7-8 NIV). In other words, don't use "Christianity" as an excuse to do evil or help those who do. Do not take or use what belongs to another without permission (Exodus 20:15). God's patience has limits. God doesn't love those who do evil, even if others encourage them to do so. *"Just as it is written: 'Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.' What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For He says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy"* (Romans 9:13-16 NIV).

God sends His blessings on those who prove that they love Him and have enough patience to wait for His mercy. God judges those who push ahead and live according to the selfish deeds of their flesh. Through Christ, we have freedom. The devil wants us to live in bondage because, *"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23 NIV). And *"...the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23 NIV). However, *"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16 NIV). The devil wants to take our freedom and faith from us. Satan and those who serve him, want us all to be in bondage to him through socialized programs and government control. At the present time, we still have a wide variety of food to eat, although China has already purchased a great deal of America's farmland.

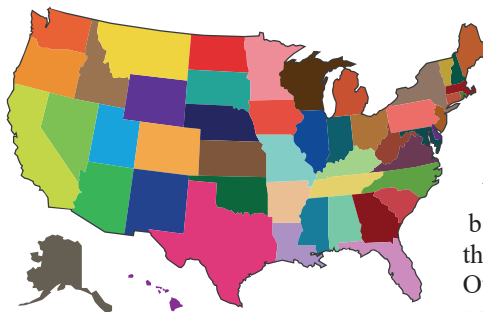
(Coincidentally, it is near many of our military bases.)

We have good medical care in this country, although Democratic Presidential Candidate, Kamala Harris, wants the federal government to have control over it. All of Europe has socialized medicine. Anne was born in England, and she experienced socialized medicine personally. She says she much prefers the American system, with the many choices we have, through insurance. We don't want to lose our privacy and choice of doctors. Medicare should be for those American citizens who need and paid for it. If V.P. Harris becomes president, she has said she wants our country's Medicare program expanded to include illegal aliens. If this occurs, hardworking American citizens will also be made to pay for the aliens free education and protection. The taxes will go much higher! We thank God for this beautiful nation He has given us! We have spacious, magnificent land in this country, from sea to shining sea. However, especially in the last 3 years, as a result of liberals in our government, our cities have become filled with dirt, pornography, used drug needles, and human excrement.

There are also homeless encampments on streets filled with small tents, in areas with a sharp increase in crime. The liberal presidential candidate wants to defund the police. She does not believe that forced entry into this country should be against the law. But it is hurting the citizens who live here. This nation was started by Pilgrims, Puritans, and other Christians, to be a place where they would be free to practice their Christian faith in peace, without persecution. Our founders were willing to let others into this nation, if they respected our laws and didn't interfere with our culture. This election, we must make sure that does not change! Let us keep the blessings God has given to America for those who respect America. *"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you..."* (2 Corinthians 6:17-18 NIV).

America was built on a foundation of Christian faith. And God has blessed this country for it. Sadly, current generations do not have the same faith in Christ and dedication to God that previous generations enjoyed. That's why, with the presidential election coming so soon, we have a choice between the freedom of thought and faith that God gave us, or we can take the liberal route of government control, through socialism or even Communism. We are even told by liberals not to use words that refer to the family unit that God gave us, words like woman, father, and mother. Millions of illegal aliens have been encouraged to come into this country. Many of them do not respect our laws and often despise our faith. The democratic candidate for president wants hardworking Americans, who are barely making ends meet, to be burdened with extra taxes so that aliens will have free healthcare, education, housing, and protection. It is one of Satan's techniques to dilute the country's wealth and Christian heritage. May God help and bless America!

In the Lord's service, *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



God's Commandments

By Anne Kaestner

Some months ago I began studying the Old Testament again as part of my regular Bible study. Genesis is always interesting, and the beginning chapters of Exodus are as well. However, as I continued through Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy one thought came to my mind. "I sure am glad I wasn't a Hebrew who lived in those days." It seemed that the laws of God were overwhelming at that time. There were strict rules concerning every aspect of their lives, what to eat, where to live, what to wear, and a wide array of regulations regarding health problems, animal attacks, marriage, and other matters. Despite all of this, there were many wars regarding neighboring nations, and skirmishes among the people. Those who broke God's laws were often put to death. For example, if a "...bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull must be stoned and the owner also must be put to death" (Exodus 21:29 NIV). And, "while the Israelite's were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.' So the assembly took him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD commanded Moses" (Numbers 15:32-36 NIV).

The law said, if a man marries a woman and discovers she is not a virgin, if "...the charge is true and no proof of the girl's virginity can be found, she shall be brought to the door of her father's house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death..." (Deuteronomy 22:20-21 NIV). God's Old Testament laws seem extremely harsh to us today because these days, we are constantly bombarded with movies, television shows, magazines, and books that promote lawlessness, promiscuity, and disrespect for God. My husband, Eric, and I stopped going to the movie theater about three years after we got married in 1980, but we see the advertisements and promotions for them. Aside from everything I mentioned, filthy language is often the norm rather than the exception lately. And we never watch modern sitcoms or other forms of contemporary entertainment on television, just news, documentaries, and educational shows. Moreover, lots of times, when I am looking for something on the Internet, some sleazy pop-up suddenly appears with a woman dressed in a highly sexual outfit that advertises some computer game I'm not interested in.

I was looking over my husband's shoulder about fifteen years ago when he was at his computer while talking to my Dad on the phone. I think he was talking about something to do with this ministry when all a sudden a vile, disgusting pornographic pop-up appeared on the screen. Eric wasn't paying any attention to the monitor because he was so distracted by the conversation. I saw it first. I was so shocked that I gasped, "Get that off the screen fast! Where did that come from?" I said quickly. Eric was surprised. He got rid of it, and told my Dad what had happened. My Dad said that such a thing happened to him on multiple occasions. I was disgusted to hear that, but Eric said that when pop-ups occur on the computer, there didn't seem to be anything much that could be done about it. However, since then, he may have found a remedy because, to the best of my knowledge, that kind of filthy pop-up has never happened again. My Dad died about eight years ago in his nineties, so I can't ask him. I just checked with Eric, and he said that 15 years ago they didn't have pop-up blockers, but they do today. Praise God!

The point I want to make is that today's society has become so used

to the devil's techniques that we are usually not in shock by them anymore. Human society, with all its helpful technology, has often become so far from the will of God that, if it wasn't for the preaching of the Gospel, we would have no hope. Thank God for that Holy hope of salvation through the suffering and death of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ! Without Him, our only destiny would be hell and the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). Jesus is our only way to escape! One of the problems in the lives of Christians today is that they don't see themselves as God sees them. People always compare themselves to their peers. They think, "It's not so bad that I went to that R rated movie because my friend went to that dirty burlesque show!" That's like saying, "It's not so bad that he sleeps in the gutter because that other guy lives in the septic tank." Two wrongs don't make a right! We are not supposed to compare our sin to worst sin. We are to compare ourselves to Christ (Romans 8:29). All sin is exceedingly abhorrent to God! It makes us slaves to Satan and his demon helpers (fallen angels – Revelation 12:9). And unless our sin is paid for, it leads us to Hell (Matthew 13:49-50, Luke 16:19-29).

Jesus Christ is the only one who was ever perfect and valuable enough to pay for our sin. Even so, most people don't know enough to repent of their sins and accept His redemption. It's a terrible thought,

but Jesus said that most people don't make it to Heaven. He said you must "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it"

(Matthew 7:13-14 NIV). Sadly, most Catholics have been deceived. There is really no such place as Purgatory. It's not in the Bible. Centuries ago, it was a deception of the Catholic Church, designed to make money for the church. Another problem is that whether they are Catholic or Protestant, most church people think that attending church on Sunday makes them righteous, and that they can live a worldly life the rest of the week and still get to Heaven. I've been asked, "What's wrong with this world? It's the

only planet I have to live on." It's the same as asking, "What's wrong with what's worldly?" The answer is that Satan runs this world (see Matthew 4:8-10). Therefore, "do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:15-17 NIV). This world is not part of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:15), which is where believers in Christ want to be.

I remember talking to a Christian man on the phone one time. He worked for a Christian publishing house, and he was all enthusiastic about a professional ball game that would be seen on television. I told him that I'm not interested in that type of thing because I'm a Christian. He seemed surprised at my response, and he asked me what I meant by that. I told him, "I don't think it's wrong if you want to kick a ball around in your garden with your son. But professional sports are different. They are often connected to gambling. And they pay such high salaries to the players that they make idols out of them (1 Corinthians 10:14). Their old baseball cards are worth a fortune. And a lot of men will spend all their weekend in front of the television watching a game and won't spend ten minutes reading their Bible." He replied, "I never thought of it that way." So, "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of



these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Colossians 3:5-10 NIV).

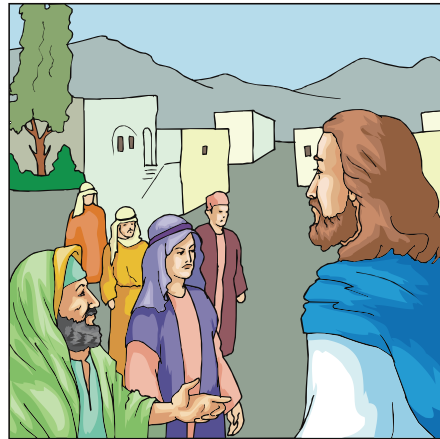
I remember many years ago, the pastor of church we were attending in those days, wanted the congregation to be divided into groups to learn from a Bible Study he had purchased. I didn't like the idea because I didn't agree with the way the book was written. But Eric wanted to go, so we both went. There were things about the Bible Study that bothered me, such as the inference that you can live a proper Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit in you as long as you are Born Again (John 3:3). Yet even John the Baptist spoke about this subject. Like all strong Christians, John had trouble with the religious hypocrites of his day. They bragged that they were righteous with God because they were descendants of Abraham. John replied, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and with fire**. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and **burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire**” (Matthew 3:8-12 NIV. Also, see Act 2:1-4,17,18).

Jesus taught His **disciples** that He would soon be leaving them physically, but He would send them the Holy Spirit to take His place. He called Him, “the Comforter” or “the Counselor” depending on what version of the Bible you use. Jesus said, “...the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **Peace** I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:26-27 NIV. Also, see John 15:26, 16:7). John the Baptist spoke about our relationship with God as being like a fruit tree. However, Jesus said that we are actually more like branches from a vine. Jesus explained this to His **disciples**, “I am the true vine, and My Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in Me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much **fruit**, showing yourselves to be My disciples” (John 15:1-8 NIV).

We all need to be “Born Again” or we are not truly Christians. That means repenting of your sins, changing directions, and living for Christ. However, being Born Again just puts you on the right road to Heaven, it doesn't get you there right away. You still have to walk the “straight and narrow” (Matthew 7:13-14) and live by

faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). The Old Testament helps us to look at it metaphorically. God delivered the Jews from Egyptian slavery (see Exodus 3:1 through 15:10). But that didn't get them to the Promised Land right away. It took forty years for them to reach the Promised Land, and many of them didn't make it. During the trip there God allowed them to be tested (Isaiah 48:10). They had to be worthy to enter the land that God had promised them. During those years, many of them fell into sin and betrayed God, their Deliverer. There were times when they were hungry and they grumbled to Moses, their leader. They were really grumbling against God. Moses was His liaison. Moses prayed and asked God what to do about it and the Lord gave them manna, a type of flaky bread. “The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey” (Exodus 16:31 NIV). They liked it at first. But then they got tired of the manna and started grumbling again. Some of them wanted to return to Egypt, the land of their slavery. They said, “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!” (Numbers 11:5-6 NIV).

Does this remind you about anything regarding some Christians today? They have been Born Again when they repented of their sins, but after a while some of them begin to look at all the worldly things they gave up when they accepted Christ as their Savior. Jesus compared their attitude to Lot's wife when God sent two angels to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. He said “Remember Lot's wife!” (Luke 17:32 NIV). Sodom had become guilty of the vilest sin and, like Gomorrah, God had decided to destroy the city. God's angels helped Lot and his family to escape the destruction, but warned them not to look back. But as Lot and his family escaped the burning city and smelled the fire and sulfur (brimstone) that God rained down on it, Lot's wife couldn't stand it anymore. She lived with a righteous man, her husband, Lot (see 2 Peter 2:7). Nevertheless, she had gotten use to the lifestyle of Sodom. Her friends were probably there. Chances are she liked the dress shops and the fancy food of Sodom. She would miss it and all the events she was accustomed to.



She didn't know what would happen to her and her family now. Their future looked so uncertain. They would have to live totally by faith, and she wasn't used to living that way. So she was curious to see what was happening to what, she considered, the exciting, sinful city she had lived in so long. Therefore, she turned around and looked back sadly. As a result, she immediately died and her body turned into a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26).

These days too many Christians are so used to the material world around them that they don't know how to live by faith. Living by faith means that you are not the one who controls your life. You let God be the driver, and you just trust Him to make the important decisions for your life. When you do that, you don't fight the circumstances. Joseph and Daniel are two examples of men who found themselves in horrible circumstances, but they both trusted God. As a result, Daniel was made a prisoner of war and a eunuch (2 Kings 20:18, Isaiah 39:7, Daniel 1:3 KJV). Therefore, he was never able to marry. But Daniel outlived King Nebuchadnezzar and his grandson, King Belshazzar (Daniel 5:30), and became the third-highest ruler in the kingdom of Babylon (Daniel 5:29). Daniel's influence was instrumental in leading Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful king in the world of his day, to repentance and salvation (Daniel 4:37). Daniel became a prophet of God and was given tremendous prophecy of the future kingdoms of the world, even future events that have not happened yet (Daniel chapters 10 through **(Continued on Page 4)**

God's Commandments *(Continued From Page 3)*

12). In the case of Joseph, he went from being an imprisoned slave (see Psalm 105:16-19) to becoming the second most powerful man in all Egypt and saving his Hebrew brothers, who enslaved him, from starvation. In the end, "...Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them" (Genesis 50:19-21 NIV). Both Daniel and Joseph were two men who trusted God, and He rewarded them.

Let me give you a more contemporary example. This is an example of what **not** to do. It is a true story I heard about years ago on the news. A woman pharmacist was fired from her job because she refused to fill prescriptions that led to early abortions, or miscarriages. She said she was a Christian, and it was against her religion. What should she do? The best thing to do in a situation like that is to pray about it and ask God what to do. Then be patient and wait a little while for His answer. He may have a purpose in it. However, she took the pharmacy to court and sued them. I know that she probably needed the money she had been used to making. However, when a Christian jumps right in to the way of the world, and stops living by faith, they often miss out on whatever special plan God had for their life. God

has already planned a specific way of life for each of us, probably before we were born. It's a course of action we are meant to follow. The apostle Paul compared it to an Olympic race. He wrote to Timothy, a young evangelist, saying, "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure [death]. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8 NIV).

Paul suffered for the Lord (2 Corinthians 11:23-28), as Daniel and Joseph did. But he finished the course of life that God wanted him to take, and we are all blessed by his dedication. He is undoubtedly blessed mightily in Heaven (see 2 Timothy 4:8). Many Christians think that the good works they chose to do will be pleasing to God. And I'm not saying there is anything wrong with good works. But it won't pay for your salvation. Only Jesus Christ can do that! "For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which **God prepared in advance for us to do**" (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV). When we make our own decisions on what action to take when we're in a difficult situation, we miss out on a course so much better than if we walk by faith and patiently wait on the Holy Spirit to lead us (see Galatians 5:25). Jesus has a special message for you strong Christians. I hadn't planned to put it in the article. It just popped up on my computer unexpectedly. "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant

does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and **bear fruit**—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name" (John 15:9-16 NIV).

And this, "This is My command: Love each other. If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of My name, for they do not know the One who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. He who hates Me hates My Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both Me and My Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated Me without reason.' When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me. And you also must testify, for you have been with Me from the beginning" (John 15:17-27 NIV).



Here is my personal testimony with the Lord. My American grandmother, Anna, was a strong Christian and had traveled to England at the time of my birth. She then returned to the United States and spent the next six years praying for my salvation. I believe she said to God, "Save Anne Lord, whatever the cost." The cost for Grandma was terminal lung cancer. When my Dad found out about it, he returned to the United States, but my mother refused to leave her family in England. Grandma had been told she only had six months to two years to live. She kept praying and stayed alive, but was in great pain. After two years of separation, my Dad threatened divorce. Mother finally relented and came back to America, where she had married my Dad in 1948. She brought me with her, along with my younger

sister and little brother. Grandma was very ill and in pain, but she praised God that her grandchildren were finally with her.

The church Grandma had attended, as well as people she knew from the Salvation Army, were frequent visitors to her. My sister and I were invited to attend Grandma's church, Ridgewood Pentecostal. We started out at Release Time, then went to Daily Vacation Bible School, where I was Born Again in 1962, when I was ten years old. It was two years later that I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7), at Pilgrim Camp, the church's summer camp. One day I went upstairs to Grandma's apartment, and she was beaming with more joy than I had ever seen in her. She told me that God had said to her that He was going to give me a big ministry some day! It had taken a long time, but the Lord had finally answered her prayer! Grandma died when I was 12 years old. After I received the Spiritual Baptism, my family moved out to the suburbs and bought a house. I was therefore, taken out of the church that led me to Christ. Eric and I married in 1980, and were water Baptized in the Jordan River in Israel in 1984. In December 1988 we published our first newsletter. We became Incorporated in 1989 and tax-exempt in 1990. Our ministry is so far, still small, but we get letters from prison inmates nationwide and emails from people who see our website worldwide. Praise God!