

Are You Just A Baby Huey?
How To Organize Your Own Home Fellowship
Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : November 11, 1998

Last Updated : July 1, 2011

My Personal Vision, Disillusionment With Organized Religion, Glory In The Lord And Not In Ourselves, A Living Faith Will Result In Visible Works, Let Your Light So Shine, Dead And Blind Churches, Dead Church Of Sardis, Let The Dead Bury The Dead, Cliquish Churches, Wolves In Sheep's Clothing, New Wine Must Be Poured Into New Bottles, Abundant Life Materialism And Financial Blessings, The Sins Of The Church Of Laodicea, Start Your Own Church In The Home, Scriptural Basis For Home Fellowships, Baby Huey Cartoon, Are You Just A Baby Huey?, Spiritual Growth Or Stagnation?, Breastfed Babies vs Bottle, Nursing Fathers & Nursing Mothers, Our Goal: Spiritual Growth

In my 1998 article "My Personal Vision And Your Challenge", I endeavor to explain to my readers what motivated me to begin the Endtime Prophecy Net online ministry. As those of you who have already read that article will know, aside from my personal desire to be a shepherd who faithfully feeds his online spiritual flock with the Word of God through the many articles which I have written, it is also my vision, and my hope, that some of you will likewise be motivated, and will be encouraged to do more for the Lord in your own lives. To assist you in accomplishing this goal, I've written a number of articles which delve into such subjects as Christian Discipleship and Early Church organization. These include "The Parable Of The Sower: Salvation And Service", as well as the eight-part series "Where Are The First Century Churches?". This current article will follow that same theme.

At the time that I first authored this article in 1998, I performed the first ever, mailing list purge. One of the reasons for this purge, was to hopefully reduce our numbers to only those members who possess a genuine interest in my writings, as well as a sincere desire to participate in our online fellowship. After conducting that purge, I prepared these interested members for a question which the Lord had laid on my heart to ask them some time earlier. The first step I took towards preparing EDGE mailing list members for this question, was to post the article "My Personal Vision And Your Challenge" directly to the list. After that, we began to discuss such topics as the differences between on-fire churches and fellowships and dead ones, spiritual growth beyond organized religion, witnessing and winning souls for the Lord, and our proper relationship with the world. Having set the stage, I then asked a theoretical question which would lead to my main question; although I didn't tell anyone this at that time.

The theoretical question which I posed to my readers was the following: Assuming that you all lived in the same town, and assuming that one day I came to that town, and began a home fellowship, how many of you would be willing to leave your current church or fellowship in order to join the one which

I had started? As I explained to our mailing list members, this was only being posed as a theoretical question; after all, we all don't live in the same city or town; and unless the Lord shows me otherwise, I don't have any intentions of going to anyone's town in order to begin a fellowship.

As those of you who are members of our online fellowship will already know, similar to myself, we have a number of members who have become quite disappointed with organized religion. Some of them have grown tired of the widespread hypocrisy, the materialistic attitude, the spiritual coldness, the rigid legalism, the obvious lack of doing what the Scriptures teach us to do as bona fide members of Christ's true Church, and most recently, the serious compromise which a growing number of churches have made with the gay and lesbian agenda. Allow me to suggest that you read such articles as "The Gay And Lesbian Agenda: To The Point" and "When Sin Is No Longer A Sin".

Despite the fact that they feel this way towards organized religion, these people have found renewed faith in the Lord, and renewed faith in His Word, via this ministry. They have greatly enjoyed, and have been greatly blessed by our online fellowship. To even share the many positive responses which I have received since this online ministry began eighteen years ago, would require a lot of space; but that is not the main emphasis of this article, and I am not interested in tooting my own horn anyway. Far be it from me. As the Scriptures make perfectly clear, we are only to glory in the Lord. Consider the following verses:

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:27-31, KJV

"Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;"

1 Corinthians 3:21, KJV

"And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"

1 Corinthians 4:6-7, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth . . . Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:17-18, 31, KJV

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

2 Corinthians 4:5, KJV

"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

2 Corinthians 10:17, KJV

"Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me."

2 Corinthians 12:5-6, KJV

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

Galatians 5:26, KJV

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

Galatians 6:14, KJV

"Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

1 Thessalonians 2:6, KJV

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17, KJV

"How much less man, that is a worm? and the son of man, which is a worm?"

Job 25:6, KJV

"But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people."

Psalms 22:6, KJV

To continue, being as some of our EDGE Mailing List members had been with us for over a year at that time -- that is, in 1998 -- I felt that the Lord had been leading me to ask them a very important question, of which the previous question was merely a precursor. In fact, the following comments are really directed to anyone reading this article, who feels disillusioned with their current church or fellowship. When the Lord first presented this idea to me one night, I must admit that I was greatly inspired by the possibilities. Here then is what I presented to our members at that time. I hope that you too will take it to heart, and will give my ideas some consideration.

If you answered "yes" to the previous theoretical question, then you must obviously feel that by joining my fellowship, you would derive more spiritual benefit from it, than from your current church or fellowship. A positive response to my question would also seem to indicate that you must believe in and accept to some undetermined degree, the things which I teach. If that is the case, -- and I can only assume that it is -- then allow me to ask you something: If you are so dissatisfied with your current church or fellowship, to the point that you are even willing to consider joining another one -- albeit, a theoretical one -- what are you still doing

there? Why haven't you done anything to better your personal situation?

If all your current church is doing is merely preaching the same dead message day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year; if your church is full of nothing but spiritually retarded people who don't want to go beyond sitting on their rumps and hearing the weekly sermon, but never really doing anything about it, why are you still there? A church or fellowship that talks about faith, but never really puts their words into action by showing their visible good works, is a dead church; just as the Apostle James informs us in the following verse:

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."
James 2:26, KJV

As we all know, this is the very same message which our Lord Himself proclaimed during His famous Sermon on the Mount. In the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord said in part:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

God wants the world to see our good works; and as I point out in "The Parable Of The Sower: Salvation And Service", "Where Are The First Century Churches?", "Are You A Burning Ember For The Lord" and similar articles, those good works include being faithful witnesses and soul winners for Jesus Christ. It is preaching the Gospel of Salvation in some way, to all who will hear. If you have realized that your church or fellowship is simply going through the motions like the dead Church of Sardis in the Book of Revelation, then why are you even still with them? Do you enjoy being a part of a dead, rotten, putrid corpse? The Lord certainly didn't mince His words when He had the Apostle John write the following to that Church:

"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."
Revelation 3:1, KJV

Similar to what the Lord says regarding the Church of Sardis, perhaps some of today's churches seem to be alive, when they are actually dead corpses which are merely convulsing with a few final twitches. As you may recall, in the Gospels, Jesus said to let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead; and that if the blind lead the blind, they shall both fall into the ditch. Instead of following in their footsteps, what did the Lord say to the man who was interested in following Him? Consider the following verses:

"But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."
Matthew 8:22, KJV

"Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go

thou and preach the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:60, KJV

"And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Luke 6:39, KJV

Notice our Lord's clear response. He said to the man "Follow me . . . go thou and preach the kingdom of God". Did Jesus instruct us to remain with those dead corpses? Obviously not. There have been some people who have honestly and sincerely tried to infuse new life into some of those old dead corpses, but sadly, the majority of them have discovered that their honest attempt to rekindle the spiritual fire in their church or fellowship, has only resulted in harsh resentment from the spiritual overlords, as well as from their flocks, who prefer things just the way they are. In the past, I've been to some of those clique-like churches, so I speak from experience.

Just like the Scribes and the Pharisees of old, such churches have their laws, traditions, doctrines and weekly routine, and they don't want anyone challenging them in any way. Their traditions are sacred to them; and if you're smart, you won't mess with them if you know what is good for you. On the other hand, if you decide to challenge them and dare to cross their red line, don't be surprised if the people you now believe to be sheep, suddenly show their fangs and reveal themselves to actually be wolves in sheep's clothing. The Scriptures reveal that this has been a problem for God's true children for the past two thousand years. Consider the following verses:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

Matthew 7:15, KJV

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

Matthew 10:16, KJV

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

Luke 10:3, KJV

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

Acts 20:29, KJV

As we can learn from the sad example of the Scribes and the Pharisees, and as Jesus explains in the Gospels, it simply is not a wise idea to try to pour new wine -- that is to say new doctrine -- into old bottles, because most religionists just are not able to handle it. Consider Jesus' words:

"Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

Matthew 9:17, KJV

In like manner, if your current church is only interested in the false gospel of the "abundant life", in materialism, in mammon, in "financial blessings" as many of these modern preachers refer to them, in maintaining the status quo, and in making a name for themselves, then it would probably be better for you to leave that church and start a fellowship of your own, if there is truly no hope for change. As some

of you may recall, materialism was in fact the same problem which plagued the Church of Laodicea in Asia Minor during the First Century, and Jesus had some very pointed words to say to those Christians as well, as we see by the following verses that are also found in the Book of Revelation:

"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 3:15-17, KJV

As I explain in the article "Are You A Burning Ember For The Lord?", if your present church or fellowship is spiritually dead, and if you personally are truly a burning ember for the Lord, then my advice to you is that you prayerfully consider starting your own Christian fellowship in your own home. Look for people who share the same love for the Lord and His Word, and who have a burden for lost souls. As the Apostle James advises us, look for other Christians who wish to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, for they are hypocrites who only deceive themselves into thinking that they are genuine Christians:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

James 1:22, KJV

Do it the right way -- that is, the Scriptural way -- as I explain in my series "Where Are The First Century Churches?". Follow the pattern of the First Century Church, and you may be surprised by the results. Leave your current spiritually dead church or fellowship, and start a home church of your own, with people who do want to obey the Scriptures, and who do want to be a real witness for Jesus. As the aforementioned series clearly explains, it was in people's homes where the First Century Christians originally held their fellowships. Allow me to share some of the verses which are included in that series:

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"

Acts 2:46, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,"

Acts 20:20, KJV

"Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."

Romans 16:5, KJV

"The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

1 Corinthians 16:19, KJV

"Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house."

Colossians 4:15, KJV

"And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier,
and to the church in thy house:"

Philemon 1:2, KJV

It is truly amazing the way the Lord will often use things which happen to us in order to teach a valuable lesson. As I have mentioned before, sometimes certain things occur to me which seem insignificant at the time; but then later, lo and behold, they find their way into an article. As it turns out, at the time that I first wrote this article in 1998, I was reminded of a cartoon I used to watch a long time ago when I was a little boy. Maybe some of my American readers who are Baby Boomers will remember it. The main character of this particular cartoon was named Baby Huey.

As you can see by the image that I have included with this article, Baby Huey was an oversized, bungling, slobbering very naïve duckling character, who was dressed in a diaper held together with a large safety pin, had a bonnet on his head, and often had a milk bottle stuck in his mouth. This duckling's problem is that he was always running back to his mother; because every time he would try to fit in with the other ducklings, a hilarious disaster would occur, he would be rejected, and he would end up in tears; at least that is how I remember the cartoon. It has been fifty years, so my memory of Baby Huey may be a bit distorted.

If you would like to download a free copy of the 1950 Baby Huey cartoon "Quack-A-Doodle-Do" which begins with the birth of Baby Huey, try the following URL. At this current time, it is available as a DivX file, Ogg video and as an MPEG4 file:

http://www.archive.org/details/Baby_Huey_Quack-A-Doodle-Do_1950

In short, Baby Huey didn't want to -- or just could not seem to -- grow up. He was naïve, socially awkward and an outcast, while at the same time, very sensitive and well-meaning. Poor Baby Huey just wanted to have fun and fit in, and eventually he actually did. As it turns out, as a result of his size and strength, he was able to protect the other ducklings from the wily fox who was always looking for his next meal, which was often Baby Huey himself.

No doubt some of you have probably already understood why I am sharing this story of Baby Huey with you. Allow me to ask you a question. In a spiritual sense, how many of you are also Baby Hueys? How many of you are way overdue for leaving the nest, but have simply refused to do so? How many of you want to just keep selfishly sucking on that spiritual milk bottle, when it is high time that you not only start eating meat yourselves, but that you start feeding and ministering to others as well? As the following verses make very clear, the Christian walk of faith is supposed to be marked by spiritual growth and maturity of the inner man:

"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

1 Corinthians 13:11, KJV

"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."

1 Corinthians 14:20, KJV

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his

glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;"
Ephesians 3:16, KJV

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."
Colossians 2:6-7, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"
Colossians 3:9-10, KJV

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"
1 Peter 2:2, KJV

"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."
2 Peter 3:17-18, KJV

Please notice Peter's reference to "the sincere milk of the word". What is the purpose of this "milk of the Word"? Is it simply to selfishly enjoy year after year after year? No; it is so "that ye may grow thereby". Imagine a poor mother who is forced to breastfeed her baby year after year after year, because that baby simply refuses to eat anything else. While in some countries a child is nursed until he is about two years old, we all know that to continue nursing beyond that point would be considered quite abnormal.

Sadly, in our fast-paced world today, some babies are only breastfed for a few weeks, or for a few months; and some of them are never breastfed at all. In some cases, this is due to selfishness on the part of the mother, or perhaps due to medical problems, or maybe due to time constraints placed upon the mother by a busy work schedule. It is truly sad that the only thing some babies will ever know, is a chemical liquid placed in their mouths by a rubber nipple attached to a cold hard bottle. The comfort and assurance of warm skin against skin is gone; and the bond which is formed early in life may never be given a chance to develop.

Returning to the idea of a mother who is forced to nurse her child year after year after year due to her child's stubborn refusal to be weaned from the breast, not only would it be a physical drain on any mother just to try to keep up with her child's demands, but it would also no doubt be an eye-opener, an embarrassment, and downright odd to see a six-year-old, or a ten-year-old coming home from school and asking to suck on his mother's breast. Perhaps some of you are laughing, while others are even offended by such a graphic example, but it certainly emphasizes the point, doesn't it? There comes a time when we all need to be weaned from the milk of the Word, and begin to eat the meat of the Word. As with a human baby, a liquid diet alone will not suffice forever.

It might interest you to know that in the Bible, in writing about the return of the Jews, the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah also spoke of "nursing fathers" and "nursing mothers"

who would take care of -- or support -- the Lord's scattered children until the time of their return to Israel. Consider the following verses:

"Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been? Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me."
Isaiah 49:21-23, KJV

In a spiritual sense, those of us who are called to shepherd and feed the Lord's flocks, are likewise nursing fathers and nursing mothers. As the Apostle Peter notes, we are feeding God's children with His spiritual milk, with the pure milk of His Word, so that they may grow by it; and thereby mature into responsible Christians who will also be able to witness to and win others to Christ. In his Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul also wrote about spiritual growth; not only individual spiritual growth, but growth as a body as well. Consider the following verses:

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love . . . But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
Ephesians 4:11-16, 20-24, KJV

Notice some of the terminology that Paul uses here to denote spiritual progress such as "perfect man", "unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ", and "henceforth be no more children". All of these phrases describe spiritual growth, and not spiritual stagnation.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>

Are You Just A Baby Huey?
How To Organize Your Own Home Fellowship
Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : November 11, 1998

Last Updated : July 1, 2011

Milk Of God's Word Or Meat Of God's Word, Spiritual Growth Or Spiritually Retarded Babes?, Profundity Of God And His Word, Baby Huey, Spiritual Misfits And Outcasts, Unsatisfied With Organized Religion, Churches Stuck In A Spiritual Rut, Be Ye Doers Of The Word, One Small Step Powered By The Holy Spirit, A Treasure in Earthen Vessels, The Faith Of Abraham, A Challenge Of Faith, Excuses Regarding Why We Can't Do It, Touching Testimony From My Daughter's Childhood, Take Up The Fellowship Challenge, Bear Fruit For The Lord Or Suffer The Consequences, Withered Fig Tree, Spiritually Dead Lord, Lord Group, A Cartoon Baby Huey Or A Mature Man Or Woman Of God?, Pass Out Tracts And Invite The Sheep Over, Small Beginnings,

As I noted in part one, there comes a time when we need to be weaned from the milk of God's Word, and begin to dine on the meat of God's Word. As with a human baby, a liquid diet alone will not, and should not, satisfy us forever. The Apostle Paul addresses this very same problem when he writes that there are some Disciples who have walked in the faith for so long, that they should be spiritually mature enough to eat spiritual meat, yet sadly, they are more like spiritually retarded children who can still only handle the milk of God's Word. In essence, they are like Baby Huey. Paul even uses the phrase "he is a babe". You will recall that Baby Huey was rather large, yet he was quite naive and had the mind of a child. In the Epistle to the Hebrews we find the following verses:

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit."
Hebrews 5:12-6:3, KJV

Notice that the Apostle Paul again emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth in the life of a Christian with his use of the phrase "let us go on unto perfection". He then tells us exactly what he means by this, and it relates directly to what I stated earlier; that is, that we need to leave behind the milk of the Word -- that is, the basics of our faith -- and move on to the deeper things of God, and full service to the Lord. If you doubt that there are more profound things to be discovered in God's Word, then consider what some of the

writers of the Bible had to say:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

"Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number."

Job 9:10, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33, KJV

You will recall that in part one I noted that due to his huge size and blundering nature, Baby Huey was a social outcast, and quite a misfit. In examining my own life, and in reading some of the email messages that I have received over the past fourteen years, it amazes me how many of us have also felt like misfits and social outcasts at some point in our lives, as a result of our strong faith in God, and our unwillingness to accept anything less than His best for our lives.

It might interest you to know that I've had a number of people write to me who have told me how they have tried this church and that church, or wandered from one Christian organization to another, and yet for some reason, they just don't seem to be able to fit in for very long. Things seem okay for a while, but then they start to notice certain things, such as pastoral abuse of power, doctrines that aren't in agreement with God's Word, cliquish attitudes between church members, questionable financial dealings, marital infidelity, etc.

Like myself, some of these people reached the point where they grew sick and tired of the hypocrisy, and simply didn't want to have anything to do with organized religion anymore; that is to say, with the church system. So they quit going to church, and simply began reading their Bibles in the privacy of their own homes.

For those of you who have experienced this in your lives, let me ask you a question. Have you ever stopped to consider that perhaps the reason why you feel like a misfit, is because God made you feel that way, because maybe He has something else -- that is, something better -- that He wants you to do with your life for Him? Is it possible that similar to the Church of Sardis, or even like the Scribes and the Pharisees of old, you are also trying to cling to an old, decrepit, half-dead religious system, while the Lord has been calling you out to try something new and exciting?

If you have noticed some of these goings on in your church, or if you are involved with a church or a fellowship which is stuck in a spiritual rut, and just keeps on preaching the same things day after day, month after month, and year after year, and just cannot seem to get beyond the basics of our faith as the Apostle Paul states in the previous Scriptures, then perhaps it is time for you to consider leaving.

If you personally believe that you have matured spiritually beyond the level of your current church, then why do you remain with them? If you feel uneasy or dissatisfied in your current location, and if God has placed the conviction upon

your heart that you can be doing more for Him, then why not just get out there and do it? Get out of your rut and obey the Lord. Put faith and action behind your words and beliefs. Don't let it be said of you what Jesus said concerning the Scribes and the Pharisees:

"All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

Matthew 23:3, KJV

As we saw in part one, in his Epistle, James also admonishes us to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only. He advises us to demonstrate our faith by our works, because without works, our faith is just a dead faith. Consider these verses:

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

James 1:22, KJV

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

James 2:26, KJV

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

James 4:17, KJV

So tell me; has the Lord been trying to encourage your faith lately through this ministry, or perhaps through some other way, so that you will begin to do more for Him? Might it be possible that you have been resisting His Will for your life because you are simply afraid to try it? Is your hesitancy due to the fact that you feel that you don't have the faith for it; or maybe because you don't think you have the right skills and talents to do the job? If so, allow me to ask you a simple question: Did the first Apostles have the necessary skills, talents, education and power to do the job?

Based upon what we are told in the Scriptures, I would say that in the flesh, no, they did not. What was required was the power, boldness, wisdom and anointing of the Holy Spirit, as we can see by the following verses:

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Luke 24:49, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

2 Corinthians 4:7, KJV

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5, KJV

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in

power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake."

1 Thessalonians 1:5, KJV

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

Acts 4:13, KJV

If you would like to learn more about this "treasure in earthen vessels" that we possess, please consider reading such articles as "A Treasure in Earthen Vessels - God's Promise of the Spirit".

So if you are feeling like you are not capable or up to the task, take heart, because there is Someone who can empower you from on high to do both His Will and His Work, if you will only trust in Him completely. If you have the faith to just take that first small step of obedience in your life, He will provide you with the faith, power and wisdom to take the next step. You don't have to do the job yourself; He will do it through you. Please consider the following verses:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6, KJV

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21, KJV

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Philippians 4:13, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

Another article which will strengthen and inspire you, and encourage you to step out by faith, is "The Only Credentials You Need!". This article will reveal to you that you are not alone concerning your feelings of inadequacy.

So let me ask you again: Are you just a Baby Huey? Has your current church or fellowship held you back from accomplishing what you know you should be doing for the Lord? Have your own doubts possibly prevented you from taking that leap of faith into the unknown of God's Will for your life? Like Baby Huey, are you simply afraid to leave the comfortable nest of your current church home, even though you realize that you are a misfit and no longer belong there? Do you have the faith of Abraham who ventured out, by faith, into the unknown, just because the Lord commanded him to do so? In the Epistle to the Hebrews, we read the following concerning that Patriarch:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Hebrews 11:8, KJV

These are the questions I would like to ask you today. This is the big challenge that I wish to place before you. Now, I

realize that you must operate according to your own personal faith, but I believe that there are some of you reading this today who are capable of meeting this challenge, even if you don't think that you can. Of course you can't; but He can do it through you if you are willing and able. As I explain in the article "Are You Crucified With Christ?", through your own faith and obedience, you must choose to place yourself upon the Lord's sacrificial altar in lifelong dedication to Him, just as Abraham was likewise willing to sacrifice his own dear son, Isaac, by faith.

No doubt, some of you will react to this challenge by saying to yourselves "Oh, I can't do that! I don't know the Word like you do! I am not ready to be a shepherd yet! I am still too young in the faith! I have never led a fellowship before! How would I even start one?". If that is your response, then allow me to share a little testimony with you. This incident really inspired my heart, and occurred in 1998 when I wrote the original version of this series. At that time, my only daughter was a young girl attending elementary school in the public school system.

Being as updating this portion of the series would be a bit difficult due to the verb tense that I used at that time, I am simply going to quote the original contents -- with a few minor changes for the sake of clarification -- as I wrote it back then:

----- Begin Quote -----

. . . She loves the Lord, and she loves His Word. Because we no longer have a television set in our home -- a typhoon in 1997 destroyed it, which I interpreted as a message from the Lord -- she is not distracted by it; so she spends a lot of her time reading and studying the Word in her KJV Bible, in her Bible story books, as well as by listening to our KJV Bible tapes, by listening to a few programs on the radio, by memorizing new verses often, and by working on articles on her computer. In short, she spends a lot of time immersed in God's Word, and she enjoys every minute of it.

To emphasize this point, consider the fact that all on her own, without any encouragement from me, she decided to make it a personal project to read a few chapters from the Bible before heading off to school in the morning; and she has been very faithful with it. She has already finished the Book of Job, and is currently reading the Book of Proverbs. Furthermore, she has already listened to the entire KJV Bible -- read on tape by Alexander Scourby -- quite a few times. Please bear in mind that we are talking about a girl who is only eight years old.

Physically-speaking, my daughter is a petite little thing. She is normally quite shy and very quiet. She also tends to be very sensitive, and her feelings are easily hurt. Despite these things which might hold her back in the flesh, God has empowered her to be a faithful witness for Him in the devil's very own territory; that is, at the elementary school she now attends. She has already witnessed to some of her friends and teachers, and has passed out a number of Gospel tracts which she folds by herself, and then places in her little "sower's pouch", which she keeps in her schoolbag. Even though she has been reprimanded and scoffed at on a few occasions -- even by one particular teacher who had the audacity to send home a four-page letter of complaint -- she continues to be faithful to the Lord. Today, as I was working on this article, she

shared the following with me:

She has a little friend at school who also appears to be a Christian. I am not certain what denomination or organization her family is affiliated with. At any rate, when my daughter first offered her one of our homemade Salvation tracts, this girl was not very receptive; however, things soon changed after that. You see, this situation was quite upsetting to my daughter, as it is difficult for her to understand why some of the children make fun of her and treat her with disrespect when she is only trying to help them by telling them about the Lord. I believe it may have been around this time that we had a talk about bringing forth fruit with patience. We also prayed that the Lord would work in the life of her little friend, and turn the situation around.

Well, it turned out that the girl took the tract home and read it; including the Salvation prayer on the back. That seems to have made a difference. My daughter now tells me that they are friends; and that the girl has asked her for some of her Gospel tracts on several occasions, so that she can share them with her friends and family. My daughter has been happy to oblige. In fact, today she told me that her friend gave a tract to her grandmother. From what I've been told, her grandmother apparently liked the tract so much, that she gave it to her pastor; and they are now going to print some themselves.

So you see, God can do a lot through those who are yielded to Him, despite their size and age. If God can use these two little girls, who were willing to take a step of faith and obedience in the right direction, just think of what He can do through you if you will let Him. Are you willing to take that first step; or do you prefer to remain a spiritually retarded Baby Huey sucking on the milk bottle?

----- End Quote -----

Just re-reading that testimony after so many years is quite heart-touching for me personally. I hope that you were also touched by it as well. It also reminds me of my article "The Faith Of A Little Child", which you may also want to read.

To reiterate, this is my personal challenge to you: to let go of the old; to forsake the spiritually dead; to forget about the spiritually blind who are not interested in spreading the Light of the Gospel, but who only wish to continue in their same old manmade rut of church tradition; and to let the Lord do a new thing through you. Believe me, I am willing to help you all I can by offering you counsel if and when you require it. Just let me know. Let me remind you again to also read the eight-part series "Where Are The First Century Churches?". It contains a lot of practical information as well.

You don't have to start out with a large group. In fact, you will probably never even grow very big. As I have shared with my readers on previous occasions, this is not about size, or about popularity; it is about obedience and faithfulness to the Lord and to His Word; to put into practice some of the things which you have read in the Scriptures, as well as in my articles. This challenge is an opportunity for you to bear some positive fruit in your life, and to be more of a witness for the Lord. After all, as I have shared before, this is one of the reasons why we are called to be Christians. Coming to Christ just isn't about our Salvation, it also about bearing spiritual fruit and the Salvation of others. Consider what

Jesus told His Disciples in the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

So the question that you need to ask yourself is this: Do you want to be a healthy branch that bears fruit that will remain; or do you want to be an old dead branch which may someday be cast into the fire? This is precisely what the Lord tells us will happen to the unfruitful branches who abide not in the Vine, as we see here:

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit . . . If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

John 15:2, 6, KJV

I am also reminded of another incident that is recorded in the Gospels where the Lord cursed a fig tree -- symbolic of the spiritually dead, fruitless nation of Israel? -- because it no longer bore fruit. Consider the following verses:

"Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."

Matthew 21:18-21, KJV

Stated another way, are you really happy with just being a part of the "Lord, Lord" group; that is, being a part of those spiritually dead religionists who offer the Lord lip service during their weekend routines but who don't manifest their faith through real actions such as witnessing and soul winning, and helping the needy and the oppressed? If you are guilty of the sins of the Lord, Lord group, let me to remind you what Jesus had to say about such people. After all, they even existed in His day, as we see by these verses:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:21-23, KJV

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

Matthew 23:1-3, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Matthew 25:31-46, KJV

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

Luke 6:46, KJV

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

Luke 13:24-30, KJV

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15:7-9, KJV

Again, the choice is really up to you. As I stated before,

while I can offer you advice through my articles, and try to lead you in the right direction, in the end, you must operate according to your own personal faith and conviction, and not according to mine. However, you need to consider if instead of moving from church to church, and from one fellowship to another each time that you become disappointed, you should be starting one of your own.

Instead of just being a cartoon Baby Huey who sucks on the spiritual milk bottle -- which is the only thing that many churches offer these days -- perhaps it is time for you to grow up and become the mature man or woman of God that the Lord wants you to be. You need to move on to the meat! You need to become a mature Christian who not only learns how to feed himself, but who also knows how to feed others as well, through holding your own fellowships at your own home church. You can do it with His help; trust me!

It really isn't that hard to do once you get your feet wet. People invite their friends to their homes all the time for all kinds of worldly reasons, such as playing card games or Scrabble, or watching a video together, or having a birthday party or some other family celebration. Is it really that big of a thing to do something similar for the Lord's honor and glory?

You can begin by inviting a relative or two, or a friend or two, over to your home to study the Bible together. Passing out Gospel tracts is one good way to find God's hungry sheep. As you pass out your tracts, now and then you will encounter a few people who will ask "Well, tell me; where do you meet? Where do you fellowship?". While out of tradition some people will probably expect you to name the church that you attend, wouldn't it be great if you could say, "Well, why don't you come over to my house this weekend? A few of us are getting together, and we'd be glad to have you over. We'll be happy to answer any of your questions if we can. It is an informal setting, so you don't need to wear your Sunday best. Just come as you are, and bring along a Bible if you have one."

If during your fellowship a question comes up, and you don't know the answer to it, maybe you'll find it in one of my many articles. You can avail yourself of our Endtime Prophecy Net online search engine as well, or even send me a quick email. If I am available at the time, I will try to help you answer their question.

The key point is this: If you can get just one or two people interested in getting together with you on a regular basis, that is a beginning. It may be a small beginning, but it is nevertheless a beginning. Furthermore, let's not forget that we are not really interested so much in quantity, as we are in creating a quality fellowship that is comprised of sincere seekers of Biblical truth. If you foolishly opt for quantity, you may end up with serious problems on your hands when some of your visitors turn out to actually be wolves in sheep's clothing, who have simply come to spy out your liberty in Jesus Christ. We will be talking more about this issue in a moment.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
http://www.endtimeprophecy.net

Are You Just A Baby Huey?
How To Organize Your Own Home Fellowship
Part 3

Copyright 1994 - 2011 Endtime Prophecy Net

Published On : November 11, 1998

Last Updated : July 1, 2011

Quality Not Quantity, We Are Called One By One, Come & See, Potluck Dinners, Share All Things, Scheduling A Fellowship, Create A Family Atmosphere, Be Flexible And Quench Not The Spirit, Extended Fellowships & Nap Time For Young Children, Maintain Good Public Relations With Neighbors, Encourage Your Home Fellowship Members To Car Pool, Beware Of Satan's Tactics, Inevitable Persecution From Your Enemies, Benefits Of Persecution, Rotate Your Place Of Fellowship, When Your Home Fellowship Grows Too Large, Divide The Flock, Quality Flocks Not Quantity And Fish And Loaves, Spiritual Maturity And Bearing Spiritual Fruit, Divide Like Amoeba, Advantage Of Division: Less Threat = Less Persecution, Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil, What To Do When You Become System's Scapegoat And Are Falsely Accused And Persecuted, Conclusion

So, as I was saying, small is actually good. Maybe those few people that you invite to your home fellowship will each tell a friend or two who will also become interested, and who will decide to come along the next time. Let's not forget that in the Gospels, while the Lord may have preached to the crowds who sometimes numbered in the thousands, when it came time to actually select His core members, Jesus called His Disciples one by one or two by two. These men were then entrusted with the task of reaching the masses after Jesus returned to His Father in Heaven. As the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy:

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

The news that the Messiah had arrived was initially spread by word of mouth, one by one, or two by two. Then whole groups of people heard the Good News. Then entire towns were flooded with the Gospel. As the means of propagation became even more effective, entire nations heard about the Saving Grace that's found in Jesus Christ. Today, the message of God's Love and Salvation has been spread around the world to all nations by many different means -- including the Internet -- but it all started one by one and two by two, as we see by the following example that is found in the Gospel of John:

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith

unto him, Come and see."

John 1:43-46, KJV

That is exactly what you want to do; you want to say "Come and see! If you are really interested in what we are all about, well, come and see! Come to one of our little home fellowships! You just might like it! It is quite different from a church service, and that may appeal to you."

As your home fellowship begins to grow in size, you may want to consider having what is known as a potluck dinner. This is a custom whereby everyone brings something to eat; after all, if everyone gets inspired, sometimes such fellowships can last for literally hours; and eventually, everyone will become hungry. A potluck dinner becomes even more important when there are children in attendance. Unless they are kept occupied and satisfied, they could serve as a distraction in your fellowship.

If you are not experienced with potluck dinners, the best way to organize it is by asking everyone to volunteer to bring a specific kind of dish. For example, one or two people might agree to bring a meat dish. Others can volunteer to bring a starch, such as rice, potatoes or a noodle dish. Yet others can volunteer to bring vegetables or fruits. You'll likewise need volunteers to bring drinks, and maybe a dessert as well. One advantage of having a potluck dinner is that it eases the financial burden so that it doesn't fall on just the shepherd alone. In fact, as I explain in "Where Are The First Century Churches?", this kind of arrangement is in agreement with the Early Church pattern of sharing all things, as we see by the following verses that are found in the Book of Acts:

And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

Acts 2:44-45, KJV

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

Acts 4:34-35, KJV

As your flock continues to grow, you will find the need to devise a schedule which might include Bible sharing time, a time for song and praise, testimony time, a time given to prayer, and Communion time. You should do whatever uplifts the Lord, draws your flock closer to the Lord and to each other, and inspires them to do more for the Lord in their personal lives. Remember; your overall goal is to feed and to inspire so that in the long run, it will bear more fruit for God's Kingdom.

Please also keep in mind that in contrast to the stiff, cold, regimented, impersonal atmosphere that is so commonly found in many modern churches, it is important that you strive to create a positive, uplifting, friendly, family atmosphere. After all, according to God's Word, we are each a member of the Family of God, as we see by the following verse:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

One thing that you need to realize, is that even if you make the best fellowship schedule possible, things won't always go according to plan. Sometimes specific activities may tend to overrun their allotted time slot. If that happens, please don't worry about it. Go with the flow, and just try to be flexible. Also, remember that Jesus said that where two or three are gathered together in His Name, He is in the midst of them. That means that His Spirit is present, and it is in control of your fellowship; not you. The last thing that you want to try to do is to quench -- that is to say, extinguish or restrict -- the Spirit of God. Consider the following verses:

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20, KJV

"Quench not the Spirit."
1 Thessalonians 5:19, KJV

If your home fellowship drags on longer than you expect, and there are young children present, then it would be wise to consider setting aside a quiet place where they can lay down for a nap while the adult members continue in the fellowship.

If you and your little flock are faithful in your witnessing tasks, eventually, your home fellowship is going to grow in size. One problem which will probably develop sooner or later as a result of this growth, is that some of your neighbors will decide that they don't like the busy traffic -- or the noise -- on the weekends; even though they may have their own stereo at full volume, or the television set turned up loud so that they can hear the football game in the next room. If they are mean enough, and yielded to Satan enough, they might begin to complain to the local authorities about "those crazy Christians next door". You might even be branded a cult, so don't be surprised, and try to anticipate this possibility in advance.

Because of this potential for trouble, it is important that you endeavor to maintain good public relations with all of your neighbors. Let them know that you don't pose any kind of a threat to them. Where it's possible, try to find common ground and common interests with them. If you have children, let your neighbors meet them, so that they can see that you are just a regular family like everyone else. Schedule your home fellowships so that they don't occur too early in the morning, or at an odd hour of the night. In short, do all that you can to erase suspicion, and to live in peace with all of your neighbors. As the Apostle Paul advises us in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
Romans 12:18, KJV

A number of months ago, I recall reading one news article in which neighbors complained about the extra parking spots that were being taken up by home fellowship attendees. One way in which you can alleviate this problem is by encouraging your members to initiate a car pool system. Considering the price of a gallon of gasoline these days, not to mention the issue of Global Warming, encouraging your fellowship members to car pool is a win-win situation for everyone. Money will be saved by the fellowship attendees; there will be less cars on the

street which may possibly satisfy the neighbors; your city authorities may just decide to look the other way; and last but not least, by sharing rides together, your members will get to know each other even better. Another possibility is to simply use the public transit system if one is available in your area.

While I have offered some suggestions regarding how to hold a weekly home fellowship so that it won't arouse the ire of your neighbors, you need to realize that sooner or later, that roaring lion -- the Devil -- is going to growl and will try to put a stop to your home fellowships, regardless of what you do, or don't do. Persecution in one form or another is simply a part of the Christian way of life when we have to live in a world that is increasingly filled with ungodly men. However, you should praise God for it, and remember that you are not the first ones to whom it has happened. As the old saying goes, "If you do it right, the Devil will fight!" Consider the following verses:

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

John 15:20, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

1 Peter 5:8, KJV

If you are interested in learning more about the topic of Christian persecution, I encourage you to read the article "Civil Disobedience And Christian Persecution". For now, let me simply remind you that in some ways, persecution can actually be good for you and the members of your fellowship. Not only will it tighten and strengthen your flock and make them more dependent on the Lord, but persecution will also weed out the weak sheep who are just there for the fishes and the loaves, and who are not really serious in their commitment to you or to the Lord.

So what do you do in the case where the enemy is breathing down your neck? Unless you all just want to hand Satan his victory by giving up, terminating your fellowship and then returning to your former Baby Huey existences, I can offer several possible solutions. The first one is that you simply change the location of your fellowship. As we saw earlier in this series, the First Century Christians fellowshipped from house to house; so perhaps you can just rotate the location of your home fellowship from week to week so that it is not so noticeable. Perhaps your neighbors will be more willing to endure your "strange behavior" if it only occurs once every few weeks.

Another alternative to consider if your home fellowship is simply too large to fit in anyone's home, is that you hold your fellowships in a public place where there are no size limitations; such as at a public park, or at a beach, or at some similar locale. Of course, if you do choose to use a public place to hold your fellowship meetings, you should expect to be harassed by a few hecklers now and then; but this is very minor persecution comparatively-speaking.

In the case of foul weather, if there are enough members in your particular fellowship, perhaps you can even consider sharing the expense, and rent a large hotel room, or some other type of meeting hall for a day. Many organizations do this on a regular basis.

While I have offered the previous suggestions as possible solutions to easing persecution, based upon the Biblical pattern, I would also have to add that if your fellowship grows so large that you begin to have problems with finding a place to accommodate it, then this may be an indication from the Lord that it is time to divide your flock into smaller groups, just like an amoeba.

Allow me to remind you again that unlike many large worldly congregations which may have up to several thousand members, the great majority of whom do not even know each other on a personal level, and many of whom are probably spiritual Baby Hueys, we aren't just supposed to be interested in acquiring large numbers so that we can show off our size, strength and wealth to other denominations down the street. If eventually creating a so-called megachurch is all you are interested in doing, then please don't even start your own home fellowship, because your motives are simply wrong.

To reiterate my earlier comments, as the shepherd of your flock, you should be primarily interested in creating a top quality home fellowship, just as Jesus likewise strove for quality amongst His closest followers. While the Lord did in fact minister to the fishes and loaves crowds who were awed by the miracles which He performed, He no doubt recognized that most of them wouldn't make good full-time Disciples who would someday be willing to lay down their very lives for the sake of the Gospel Message. Thus, He only trained Twelve Men to be His closest Apostles, and then the Seventy as well.

In like manner, as the shepherd of your home fellowship, you should be interested in faithfully feeding your small flock, so that someday they too will grow to spiritual maturity, and will be able to produce spiritual fruit of their own. Just as you had to learn not to be a Baby Huey who sucked on the same milk bottle year after year, they must likewise learn to do the same. They must learn to stand on their own two feet, to feed themselves, and then to win and feed others as well. In other words, they must each eventually learn to shepherd their own home fellowships.

With that last point, we have now come full circle with our lesson. What was once one home fellowship, has now grown in size, so that just like an amoeba, it can divide into two; and that is only the beginning. Through united counsel and prayer, you can all decide together who will participate in each home fellowship. Of course, it is important that you try to divide the flock so that both fellowships have the necessary skills and talents to ensure their survival and continued productivity for the Lord. This begins with the wise selection of the new shepherd(s) who will be able to keep the sheep of the new home fellowship well-fed, and inspired, as they go about their tasks of serving the Lord.

Aside from the spiritual advantages of this amoeba-like division, there is another advantage to maintaining smaller home fellowships. From a secular point of view, the smaller you are, the less threatening you will appear to neighbors and local authorities alike. The less of a threat that you

appear to be, the less persecution you are likely to receive as well; unless -- as I noted earlier -- your neighbors are simply out to get you no matter what. In his first Epistle to the Thessalonian brethren, the Apostle Paul wrote the following:

"Abstain from all appearance of evil."
1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV

While you are obviously not evil, and are not doing anything that is evil, and may in fact be acting like innocent little lambs, nevertheless, you need to keep in mind that both the secular mass media, as well as government authorities, have a propensity for sensationalizing a situation when there is some kind of advantage to gain from doing so, whether it is a political advantage, a financial advantage, a readership or viewership advantage, or something else to be gained from doing so.

If they do decide to use you as their scapegoat, by creating some kind of a controversy around your home fellowship, and if you do become an unwilling target -- whether you like it or not -- how should you react to such a situation? Aside from the fact that you should obviously try to be a witness of your faith and speak the truth, consider what Jesus, the Apostle Peter and the Prophet Isaiah had to say regarding such situations:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."
Matthew 5:38-48, KJV

"Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God."
1 Peter 2:18-20, KJV

"He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."
Isaiah 53:7, KJV

With these thoughts, I will bring this series to a close. I

pray that you have been blessed by it, that you have learned something from it, and most importantly that it will inspire and motivate you take a leap of faith, and endeavor to start your own home fellowship. Please don't be a Baby Huey. Step out from the crowd and shine for Jesus; won't you? I would be thrilled to hear of your success in your new ministry for the Lord. Send me an email if you take the leap. Thanks so much!

Written by the WordWeaver

webmaster@endtimeprophecy.net
<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net>