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## Bunnies and Eggs and Sun Worship

Compiled By Trey Shurley

*Most of the information in this article was adapted from two articles out of Last Generation Magazine; "Easter Unmasked" by Dennis Crews, and "The Origins of Easter" by Lee Lindsey. Sources for other references, as well as many in the Lindsey article are given in the text and at the end.*

"Have you ever wondered what bunnies and eggs have to do with Easter....Brace yourself. It's an amazing story. And it goes back in history a long, long way. From the Bible, and the discovery of ancient historical records, we learn of King Nimrod. This mighty hunter mentioned in Genesis 10:8-10 established the kingdom of Babylon on the plains of Shinar. He was a proud and powerful leader who did not fear or reverence God. Countless recitations of his mighty exploits elevated his status to super-human proportions....Throughout his rapidly expanding society he soon became a god-king.

Nimrod's arrogance was ultimately surpassed only by that of his wife, Semiramis. Notoriously beautiful and cunning beyond imagination, she wielded power with an iron hand. Like Nimrod, Semiramis was deified by the common people. To the superstitious minds of a race who had rejected the true worship of God, Nimrod and Semiramis in their terrible strength and beauty were exalted as the sun and moon in human form.

After Nimrod's death, Semiramis was left with a large dominion and an equally large dilemma. How was she to maintain her hold on the empire? There was but one solution, and she pursued it with diabolical zeal. Nimrod's spirit had ascended into the sun itself, she claimed. With breathtaking eloquence she described his new and elevated role as benefactor and protector of his people. Each morning he would rise, bringing light and life to the land as he traveled across the sky. In the evening he would plunge below the edge of the earth to battle subterranean evil spirits and demons that would otherwise crawl over and annihilate them. At times the battle would be bloody, and the red-streaked sky bore witness to the

fray. Each morning the people were to lay their offerings before the rising sun and worship it as their departed leader and victorious protector.

The plan was only too successful. In their self-imposed isolation from worship of the living God, Nimrod's followers forfeited their knowledge of revealed truth. With but their physical senses to inform them, they readily accepted the preposterous tales of Semiramis. Unwittingly, they became pawns in the sinister plan of Satan, the archdeceiver, as he laid the common foundation for every heresy of paganism. From Revelation 13:6-8 we see that Satan, who, having been cast out of heaven perverted truths about God, and, through Nimrod reapplied them to himself, so that many of the things found in paganism are found to be similar to Bible truth, except that they draw men away from believing the truth. Here's what Revelation 13:6-8 says; "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world".

One Spring a few years following Nimrod's death, the voluptuous Semiramis became pregnant. Calling the scribes of Babylon together, she issued a remarkable press release. Nimrod had impregnated her, she claimed, through the lively rays of the sun. As the offspring of the sun-god, her child would also be a god, and by proxy she would be the "mother of God."

On December 25 Tammuz, the child of the sun-god, was born. His birth was hailed as a great miracle.

Falling during the slowly lengthening days immediately after the winter solstice, it was heralded as the sun's rebirth. December 25 became a yearly festival commemorating the birth of the sun-god's son.

Legend has it that Tammuz, like his alleged father Nimrod, was also a great hunter. Perhaps his greatest conquest was his mythical union with Ishtar, the mother goddess of the moon who embodied all the reproductive energies of nature. Known also as the queen of heaven, Ishtar can be identified in many other cultures as Ashtoreth (Phoenecian), Astarte (Greek and Roman), Eostre (Teutonic), and Eastre (Saxon). Rabbits and eggs were symbols of her life and fertility.

The Ninevites told the story of a great egg falling from heaven and landing unbroken in the river Euphrates. Friendly fish rolled it to the bank and up out of the water where doves incubated it until it hatched, producing the moon goddess. (Does this sound anything like modern egg-rolling contests?) The yearly celebration honoring Ishtar took place around the first full moon after the spring equinox, when all of nature seemed to be bursting with reproductive vitality.

Unfortunately, the youthful Tammuz met an untimely death at the tusk of a wild boar. Here legend overtakes history altogether. Some accounts say that after three days Tammuz miraculously resurrected himself; others say that the grief-stricken Ishtar journeyed far into the netherworld to find him. After many days she succeeded, but during her absence the passion of love ceased as all life on earth languished in mourning. In any case, when the lamenting was over, Tammuz was firmly established as the new god of the sun, and his renown eventually exceeded even Nimrod's.

Every year following Tammuz' tragic death and presumed ascension to the sun, the forty days preceding Ishtar's festival were set aside for fasting and self-affliction to commemorate his suffering and death. (It was the practice of "weeping for Tammuz" that God called an abomination in Ezekiel 8:13,14). At the end of this period of mourning the people would waken early on the first day of the week and travel to the highest hills near their homes. There they would present their offerings of wine, meat and incense and prostrate themselves before the rising sun, exclaiming, "Our lord is risen!" Then would commence the festivities of Ishtar, queen of heaven and goddess of fertility. In preparation for this high celebration the people would make small cakes, inscribed with a + (a pagan fertility symbol), and baked in the sun. The practice of these ancient perversions was so widespread that even the nation of Israel, a people sanctified by worship of the one true God, did not escape their baleful influence. In Jeremiah 7:17-18, the prophet revealed God's clear displeasure at the idolatry of His people. "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods."

It may be unsettling to learn that virtually every religious holiday now observed throughout Christendom<sup>2</sup>

originated in paganism, many hundreds of years before Christ, but ancient history proves it beyond a doubt. The birthday of the sun's child, Tammuz, became Christmas. The season of mourning for Tammuz became Lent. And the resurrection legend of Tammuz conveniently lived on as the resurrection story of Christ. The cakes to the queen of heaven became hot cross buns, while the fertility rites of Ishtar evolved into the celebration of Easter.

How did it happen? After all, we're basically Christians in an enlightened age, aren't we?

The earliest Christians had denied all compromise with false doctrine and had gladly suffered horrible martyrdoms for refusing even to place a pinch of incense at the feet of pagan altars. As time passed it became clear that the blood of the martyrs proved to be the seed of the church. Instead of dying, Christianity was growing!

When Satan failed to destroy the church by violence, he resorted to a new strategy—he would join the church himself, and corrupt it from within. This proved to be a far more successful plan. By the fourth century B.C. the Roman Empire had invested the growing church with its own wealth and a large degree of political power. Ever anxious to assimilate and conquer, she integrated virtually every feature of pagan worship, which were all variations of sun worship, into her own rites.

Not many people are really aware of the history of these things, so should we even be concerned? This question is reasonable, and deserves thoughtful consideration. Interestingly Revelation presents the Earth's final showdown as a conflict between Babylon and God for man's loyalty. Logically, the best place to begin looking for answers is in the Bible itself. God strictly commanded Israel, saying "Take heed to thyself ...that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God" (Deuteronomy 12:30,31).

Why were God's words so strong? Because God was utterly unlike the heathen deities, whom the people regarded as capricious and in need of continual appeasement. God Himself was just, loving, and above all, holy. He required a different, higher kind of worship, based on a holy relationship with His people. The very forms of sun worship and idolatry precluded any kind of relationship between God and His people, and degraded their conceptions of Him. When God asked Israel to make Him a sanctuary He instructed them to set it up so that "The breadth of the court to the front, the east side, shall be fifty cubits" (Exodus 27:13-Amplified). In other words, the front door (the only door into the court) was on the east side. Thus, when entering the Sanctuary of the Lord, all persons physically turned their backs on the sun, and their faces toward the glory of God.

In the reign of Josiah (when he was twenty years of age) he "broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence; the sun-images that were high above them he hewed down; the Asherim, and the graven images, and

the molten images, he broke in pieces, and made dust of them, and strewed it upon the graves of those who sacrificed to them. Josiah burned the bones of the [idolatrous] priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 34:4-5-Amplified).

Sun-images, and Israel's desire to worship the sun god, seemed to be among her greatest temptations. Even though God had given special instruction for setting up the Sanctuary, as mentioned above, notice how the prophet Ezekiel describes Israel's persistent apostasy. "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the Lord, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east" (Ezekiel 18:1C-KJV).

This worship of the rising sun was very common among the heathen. Elijah challenged the apostate priests of his day to a duel between the God of Israel and the pagan god Baal which Israel had adopted. It is interesting to note that Baal was the sun-god or the god of "fire." Thus, Elijah declared, "the God that answereth by fire, let him be God" (1 Kings 18: 24-KJV). The story reveals that Elijah let the Baal worshippers call upon their god first, as he made his appearance, rising up from the east at the "dawn" or "morning." It was Elijah's prayer, at the time of the evening sacrifice, that the true God responded to.

Even in light of these evidences, man has continued to be fascinated by the sun. The Sphinx of Egypt, as an example, faces the rising sun. From Mount Fuji, prayers rise to the sun god. In *The Story of the World's Worship* by Dobbins, we find that "The pilgrims pray to their rising sun while climbing the mountain sides... sometimes one may see several hundreds of Shinto pilgrims in their white robes turning out from their shelters, and joining their chants to the rising sun." We also know that in Rome the mithrists would meet together at dawn to worship the honored god of the sun.

In Ezekiel's vision we find the women of Israel weeping for Tammuz. Who was Tammuz and why were they weeping for him? As was previously mentioned, according to the mysteries of Babylon, when Nimrod (son of Cush) died, his spirit entered the sun. Later, his spirit visited the earth over-shadowing his former wife, who was also his mother. She conceived and gave birth on December 25, to a son she called Tammuz.

According to legend, Tammuz was killed by a wild boar when he was forty years of age. ". . . after Tammuz was slain, he descended into the underworld. But through the weeping of his 'mother,' Ishtar (Easter), he was mystically revived in spring. 'The resurrection of Tammuz through Ishtar's grief was dramatically represented annually in order to insure the success of the crops and the fertility of the people. Each year men and women had to grieve with Ishtar over the death of Tammuz and celebrate the god's return in order to win anew her favor

and her benefits!" When the new vegetation began to come forth, those ancient people believed their 'saviour' had come from the underworld, had ended winter, and caused spring to begin."

This pagan celebration of Easter is strangely preceded by forty days of weeping, fasting, and self-chastisement, so that Tammuz will come forth from his underworld and bless the earth with spring. According to legend, the forty days represent a day for every year that Tammuz lived on earth. This observance of forty days was also a tradition understood in Babylon and among the Phoenicians, the Egyptians, and even the Israelites adopted the doctrines and rites of the annual pagan spring festival..." and weeping for Tammuz.

Hislop asks, "Whence, then, came this observance? The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis or pagan Devil-worshippers of Kurdistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a Lent of forty days was held in spring by the pagan Mexicans, for thus we read in Humboldt, where he gives account of Mexican observances: 'Three days after the vernal equinox. . . began a solemn fast of forty days in honour of the sun.' " 4

"Among the Pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz... To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity (now far sunk in idolatry) in this as in so many other things, to shake hands." 5

"Such is the history of Easter. The popular observances that still attend the period of its celebration amply confirm the testimony of history as to its Babylonian character. The hot cross buns of Good Friday, and the dyed eggs of Pasch or Easter Sunday, figured in the Chaldean rites just as they do now. The 'buns,' known too by that identical name, were used in the worship of the queen of heaven, the goddess Easter, as early as the days of Cecrops, the founder of Athens--that is, 1500 years before the Christian era." 6

Some may say that because the word "Easter" is found in the King James Bible (Acts 12:4) we can celebrate Easter as a Christian holiday. However, the word that is translated "Easter" is pascha, which every scholar will agree is the Greek word for passover. The biblical passover and the pagan Easter are not even closely related. In fact, the Bible condemns the celebration activities that are historically associated with Easter.

As an example, in Egypt the Easter goddess was called Isis. The Greeks knew her as Demeter the great corn mother. The pig was sacrificed to her and was considered by her to be sacred. Those who were too poor to

offer a pig to Demeter could bake a hot cross bun instead. These gifts are still being used today during the spring Easter celebrations, even though both of these gifts are condemned in the following Scriptures.

"Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women

knead the dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven (the moon); and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger!" (Jeremiah 7: 17-18-Amplified).

"I have spread out My hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, after their own thoughts; A people who provoke Me to My face continually, sacrificing [to idols] in gardens and burning incense upon bricks [instead of at God's prescribed altar], Who sit among the graves [trying to talk with the dead], and lodge among the secret places [or caves where familiar spirits were thought to dwell], who eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable and loathsome things is in their vessels" (Isaiah 65: 2-4-Amplified).

"Those who [attempt to] sanctify themselves and cleanse themselves to enter and sacrifice in the idol-gardens, following after [the image of the Syrian god Adad? meaning] one in the midst, eating hog's flesh and the abomination [creeping things] and the mouse, their works and their thoughts shall come to an end together, says the Lord" (Isaiah 66:17-Amplified).

The idol-gardens mentioned above are believed to be the "gardens of Adonis" (Hebrew: Tammuz). "These gardens of Adonis are most naturally interpreted as representatives of Adonis or manifestations of his power; they represented him, true to his original nature, in vegetable form.

And so it is that "The Hindoo fables celebrate their mundane egg as of a golden colour. The people of Japan make their sacred egg to have been brazen. In China, at this hour, dyed or painted eggs are used on sacred festivals, even as in this country.'

We also find that rabbits are revered around the world. Many Asian and Eurasian cultures revere the rabbit (or hare) as a sacred messenger of the Divine; to the Chinese, he is a creature in the moon, pounding rice (the staff of life) in a mortar.

To the followers of Buddhism the rabbit was placed in the moon as a result of his self-sacrifice in offering himself as food. In a second version, the rabbit cooks himself in Indra's fire since he had no food to of-

fer her and the deity placed him in the moon as a reward. To the Egyptians, the hare (as opposed to the rabbit) was known as un, which meant "to open," or "the opener." This was because the hare, unlike his cotton-tailed cousin, is born with his eyes open. "Un" also meant "period" as it was a symbol for both lunar and human cycles.

These traditions undoubtedly spread to the indigenous tribes of Western Europe much as the Indo-European language base developed through encounters between these two groups. This also blended well with Celtic tradition, which viewed the hare as a symbol of fertility and new life, and the Germanic tradition that the hare brought new life each spring.

Even in North America, the Rabbit/Hare is revered. To the Native American peoples, he was the Trickster/Transformer who either plays the Fool or, in other instances, has brought about a benefit for humankind (i.e., the legend of Rabbit bringing fire to the people). The ancient Mayan culture gives Rabbit credit for inventing Mayan writing.

Just as the ancient sacred places and names were blended into the holiday celebration we know as Easter, so too was the Rabbit/Hare molded from an ancient bringer of new life and renewal to the Easter Bunny, [http://www.easter-traditions.com/html/the\\_easter\\_bunny.html](http://www.easter-traditions.com/html/the_easter_bunny.html)

Today Easter is observed by the churches of the West on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or following the spring equinox (March 21). So Easter became a "movable" feast which can occur as early as March 22 or as late as April 25

Christian churches in the East which were closer to the birthplace of the new religion and in which old traditions were strong, observe Easter according to the date of the Passover festival -Easter on the net.

It seems that Easter is far removed from the teaching of the early church fathers who held that the fourteenth day of the moon was when the Jews were to sacrifice the lamb, observing the feast of the Saviour's Passover.<sup>9</sup> When Jesus was here on earth he gave no indication that we should commemorate His life and death with forty days of weeping, fasting, and self-chastisement; hot cross buns, baked ham, rabbits, sunrise services, and the celebration of an Easter Sunday; instead He instituted the Lord's supper, which we commonly call communion, to commemorate His sacrifice for us and His promise to return, and baptism as an individual, personal commitment to die to self, and to allow Christ to live in us by faith.



1. Smith, Man and His God, p. 86.
2. Urlin, Festivals, Holy Days, and Saint's Days, p. 89.
3. Woodrow, Babylon Mystery Religion, p. 147.
4. Hislop, The Two Babylons, pp. 104-105. 5. Ibid. p. 105.
6. Ibid., pp. 107-108.
7. Fraser, The Golden Bough, p. 282
8. Hoslop, The Two Babylons, pp. 108-109.
9. Encyclopaedia Britannica (11 th ed., vol. VIII, pp. 828-829).

# PROPHECY IN THE HEADLINES

By Julie Shurley

*You have probably already heard about the upcoming first annual Ten Commandments Day to be held on Sunday, May 7, 2006. This is a prophetically momentous development. For over a century now, the Christian world has downplayed the Decalogue as being for the Jews only, nailed to the cross and a part of the old covenant which is no longer relevant to the Christian church. Yet, now we see a dramatic shift in the thinking of the Christian leaders of this nation. The upcoming Ten Commandments Day has been endorsed by virtually every prominent religious leader including Dr. James Dobson, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Benny Hinn, Churck Colson, D. James Kennedy and scores of others. Just listen to excerpts from their "Ten Commandments Day Proclamation:"*

**We, the members of the Ten Commandments Commission and supporting people of faith, proclaim Ten Commandments Day on the first Sunday in the month of May, commencing on Sunday, May seventh of 2006.**

**Furthermore, we proclaim Ten Commandments Day to be a day dedicated for the display, awareness, commemoration and celebration of the Decalogue which we know to be the Divine foundation of the Judeo-Christian faith.**

**We are calling on all community and spiritual leaders; churches, synagogues, fellowships, ministries, organization, and all who are concerned about moral values to celebrate the annual Ten Commandments Day by hosting local events in support of the Ten Commandments and what they represent.**

**Finally, we proclaim the need to heal the wounds of history through strategic and practical objectives, proactive love and obedience to the Commandments.**

*The Ten Commandments Commission web site states:*

**Finally, a day in which we can come together and celebrate God's eternal moral law!  
Join us in taking a stand for the Ten Commandments.**

*Notice the statements about obedience to the Commandments; that this is God's ETERNAL moral law!; that it is the FOUNDATION of the Judeo-CHRISTIAN faith! These statements are amazing coming from the evangelicals who have so long relegated the Ten Commandments to the old covenant and to the Jews only!*

"No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon

men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He has made? Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory--that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government?

"Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth.

"Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. ...The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.

"Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called "Christian sabbath," and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. {GC 584-587}

*What should our response be? Without a doubt we can join our support for the Law of God. We have always held it as binding for the Christian. We need to take this opportunity when the awareness of the public is at its height, to give the message about the fourth commandment and about the dangers of legislating obedience to the first four commandments that govern our relationship to God. Amazing Facts has some valuable resources in literature that can be given door to door or as you find an opening*

# Young Disciple Mission to the Philippines

By Gabriel Mizner



Finally the long awaited day arrived! January 23 was the day we would be leaving for the Philippines. Meagan and I flew

out of Oklahoma City at 6:55 AM. This was the beginning of a VERY long day; a total of about 22hrs en route to Manila.

When we arrived in Manila none of our baggage was there! So after an hour wait in the lost baggage line, we finally got things straightened out! The airline was going to deliver us our luggage in a few days. By this time everyone was thoroughly



exhausted! It was about 2am in the morning. That night most of us didn't even get any rest, because we had to be back at the airport at 7pm to fly to the island of Palawan.

We arrived on the island we

would be holding the evangelistic series at about 10pm the 25<sup>th</sup> of January. The island was beautiful! The people were very friendly and excited to see



Americans! After a 10hr bus ride and a one day delay partway on our journey we arrived at El Nido, the village we would call home for the next 3 ½ weeks.

The first week was devoted to training and preparing ourselves for the big task of holding an evangelistic series. There were a total of 18 young people on the trip and 6 staff.

We had four different evangelism groups. The Bible work team



would go out in the community with the local Filipino Bible workers from the SDA church and give Bible studies, they also formed the greeting team for

the evening meetings. The Health Evangelism team assisted the doctors from Puerto Princessa in a 3 day health clinic. And then throughout the time we there they would take Blood pressures and counsel the local people on health. They even held a stop smoking clinic! The DVD Evangelism team gave the evening sermons. There were three of us in the team including myself. The Child Evangelism team was responsible for the whole children's program each evening. From song service to crafts and mini sermons!

Finally the first day of the meetings arrived! We had an excellent turnout with about 175 adults and over 150 children! The next evening the numbers got even bigger about 225 adults and over 200 children!. By the third night we had over 500 people attending the two meetings! Over the next 16 nights we presented the gospel to



these precious souls. At the end of the meetings 145 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ! There were also 6 of us on the mission team that were baptized in the Philippines including myself. It was very rewarding to see these precious people, whom

we had personally worked with for the past 16 nights, give their hearts to Jesus. It was hard to say goodbye to these people we had come to know and love. But all good things must come to an end.

On Sunday we packed up all our stuff and Monday morning we left for a



week retreat. We would go to the Island of Coco Loco and the Underground River at Sabang. The retreat was a special time for us to think back on how God used us on this trip and recommit our lives to his service. The retreat was over all too soon and we back in the states on Feb 28. This mission trip was a tremendous blessing to me, and Lord willing I'd like to go back next year.



## WITNESSING

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is amazing that another month has passed into eternity and the question to be asked is what have we done in sharing the gospel of Christ? We at New Life Mission Church have been going door to door just about every Sabbath for about two hours. We have also adopted a two-mile stretch of highway by our church to keep clean. We wanted citizens of Dover where our church is located to know that we are interested in being a help to the community. I believe my job is not just to find Bible interests to study with but also to do my part in reviving the laity in God's Church to active service as well.

My son and I met a gentleman named George Hughes while we were going door to door one Sabbath. He is 82 years old but his mind is still very bright. He worked for Chevron Oil Company for thirty years. The first time we met we visited for about thirty minutes just discussing end time events and the Second Coming of Jesus. He loves to read, so I promised to bring him a Desire of Ages to read. The next week I delivered it to him and also met his wife La Quita, who is very nice. My son and I went back and visited him this last Sabbath. He said, "I am about half way through with reading the Desire of Ages." He said, "there was a lot to digest in that book. It is the most beautiful book I have read on the life of Christ. It reveals much more detail than the Bible." We are planning on visiting him next week and if he is finished with the Desire of Ages, we plan to leave him another Spirit of Prophecy book to read.

We have two Signs of the Times magazine racks in two different towns. We leave different books and magazines inside the boxes for people to receive free. We get about 2 to 3 cards a month sent in asking for the Great Controversy or Bible studies. Carolyn Reiber sent in a card for her husband asking for the Great Controversy, which I provided. I have gone to visit them a couple of times to see what he thought about the book and to try and build a relationship with them. The other day I visited with them for about one hour. I mostly listened to his beliefs in end times event concerning the mark of the beast, who the beast is and the Second Coming of Christ. Then I shared just a little on 2 Thessalonians 2 and the man of sin. As I was about to leave he said, "I am not worried about any of that, I plan on being raptured away anytime now. I told him I believed in the rapture too but I wanted him to share with me, when and how the rapture was going to take place. He shared the normal response of two in the field, one taken the other left and that it would take place before the time of tribulation. I told them, I would share my understanding of when and how next week when I came by to visit. They were interested in hearing my version. Please pray for them, their names are Stephen and Carolyn Reiber.

My wife and I are greatly encouraged with our studies with Nora as well. Please pray for strength for her to tell her husband that she is going to attend our church on the Sabbath. He is a Catholic and is not to happy that my wife and I are studying with his wife.

May the Lord continue to richly bless you all as you work with Him.  
Brother Gary

Gary Dalrymple is the Bible worker for the  
New Life Mission Church in Dover, OK

## MASC Financial Report



### Cost of June 2005

#### MASC Camp Meeting

Advertising	\$153.78
(printing and postage)	
Insurance	\$100.00
Campers lodging & food	\$1978.78
(paid for by the campers)	
Speakers Expenses	\$3,580.04
(travel and lodging)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>=\$5,812.60</b>

#### Campmeeting funds

Speakers Ex. Prev. Bal.	\$2000.00
Received in 1st Q	\$4071.00
Total	\$6071.00
Speakers' airfares	-\$2336.43
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$3734.57</b>

**Campmeeting Exp. Bal.** \$ 502.30

Previous Balance	\$ 58.51
Received in 4th Quarter	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 58.51
Expense (Oct Bugle)	\$- 55.18
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 3.33</b>

**Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Bugle fund.**

#### Operating Expenses fund

New fund, to be used for website costs and other operating expenses as needed.

Previous Balance	\$ 125.95
Received in 4th Quarter	\$ 80.00
Total	\$ 205.95
Expenses (Web site maint)	\$ - 0.00
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 205.95</b>

**Contributions should be properly marked as to what they are for and mailed to:**



**MASC**  
**Route 2 Box 329AA**  
**Mena, AR 71953**



## A stream gushing from the Rock

India Report by Molly Collins



It has been a busy year for Timothy and Anita Tharasingh at the Green Pastures Home School near Salem, Tamil Nadu state.

Since Brian and wife Tania left to come back to the USA they have been short of teaching staff, so Anita has had to consolidate, and several grades have had to share the same classroom. However, good progress has been made in the children's education, using the Bible and SOP as their base and still able, as yet, to operate without Government restrictions. Praise the Lord!

Anita reports: "Tim is working on his little group of songsters. During the upcoming meetings they plan to sing hymns from the hymn books you sent. ["Time for Singing"--Harvestime Books, TN] These precious books are of more value than silver or gold. Many Adventists are requesting these hymn books. We are wondering if we can bring back some when we come to the US. Seventh-day Adventist hymnals are just not available. Church members do not realize this, but our beautiful hymns will never be sung any more, they have been replaced by other chorus books etc. At Green Pastures many have been blessed by the singing of these hymns. One young man, Abishek, who is from Nepal, sings like a bird and we really want him to be trained. There are others too, who sing like angels and we are much blessed by their heart-felt renditions. Last Sabbath Abishek sang "Be still my Soul" and another time the girls sang "Does Jesus Care?" Both hymns were sung with such sympathy that it brings so much peace in the perplexing time we live in."

A previous report told of the starting of Shalom Old Age Home by an Indian Adventist couple at Yercaud, the property where Tim and Anita had started the school and orphanage for underprivileged children. Unfortunately, Tharasinghs report that these folks were not able to keep their side of the contract for rental so they have vacated the property.


Once again Tim and Anita are wondering what the Lord will have them do with it. Recently they visited there, only to find out that all the wa-

ter in the well had been used up and the watchman gloatingly told them that they could not possibly sell the place with no water in the well, and that they may as well just wait for the rainy season now before doing anything.

BUT, the Lord impressed them that they should put down a bore well, "so," Anita continues, "we prayed and the Lord gave me a promise to trust in His mighty power. The Lord assured me that He would open the rock, and let the waters gush out like a stream, Ps. 105:41. It was a most thrilling experience we had, and to make a long story short, we did get the water, only we did not see it gush out. But the rig owner said that we had struck water, and that we could fill up to 2,000 litres daily, which is more than we are pumping here at the school for our daily needs. The Lord was testing our faith, and so the next day Charles went up to the house, put a rope down, and found out that there was water standing at 200 feet. We had dug down to 500 ft. which meant we had almost 300 feet of standing water. As we pumped the water for the first time using a powerful 2hp engine, the water did gush out and flow like a stream. Despite many negative comments from all and sundry regarding putting a bore, we went ahead trusting in His promise. And as we prayed, the Lord who created the Heaven and the earth and all that in them is, our Creator to do His miracle so His name could be glorified among the heathen, He did it again. Praise the Lord!"

Right now Timothy and Anita with some of the children from the school are in the northern areas of India from whence some of the students come, and are doing outreach work, having meetings and distributing literature. School is out for "year end" break, and the new school year will not commence now until Tim and Anita have visited the USA. They are praying to be able to come about mid-May thru July, pending visa approval. Please pray that this may be possible, and that they may be able to meet many of you in person and share their experiences !

***The Bugle***  
**MASC Newsletter**  
176 Polk 61  
Mena, Arkansas 71953  
479-394-4014



Download **The Bugle** in  
full color on the  
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[www.MidAmericaSisterhood.org](http://www.MidAmericaSisterhood.org)

## **INFORMATION**

### **DATES**

**Next Sisterhood Meeting -  
Wednesday, May 31, 2006**  
Ozone, AR

Starting at 3:30 PM

This is the afternoon Camp Meeting starts

### **Important Note:**

Each church must inform the MASC  
Secretary who will be attending as their  
elected delegates, no later than **May 17.**

### **Deadline for next Newsletter entries:**

June 30, 2006

### **ADDRESSES**

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Julie Shurley  
176 Polk 61, Mena, AR 71953  
479-394-7111  
julieshurley@juno.com

#### **Secretary**

Scott Eakins  
881 Polk 59  
Mena, AR 71953  
479-394-7599

#### **Treasurer and Assistant Secretary**

Everett & Marsha Chadwick  
Route 2 Box 329AA  
Mena, AR 71953  
918-651-3281

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

Joan Swope  
114 Polk 406  
Cove, AR 71953  
870-387-5053

#### **Next MASC meeting Chairman**

Glen Mizner  
P.O. Box 392  
Melbourne, AR 72556  
870-368-4268