BUILD AN ARK (Continued)

While it is true that covenant community must be built around the local church, it is not true that most churches demonstrate the concept of community to the world. Besides being uninvolved in the lives of their fellow believers and uncommitted to the discipline and government of a true Biblical church, very few Christians are in churches that are effectively reaching out and meeting the needs of their communities with the word of God. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

In our next newsletter, I will continue this article and deal with the vision that God has given us -- WATCHMAN -- for Christian Covenant Community. Please do not misunderstand and think that communal lifestyle is being discussed here, for communism is not Biblical (see Barry's article), and has proven historically to be disastrous, except for the occasional short term situation when literal survival is at stake as it was in Acts 4:32-37. (Families are called, however, to open their homes to others in order to disciple them into the Kingdom of God.) Please also understand that I am not discussing an isolationist "back to the land" mentality, although, as Barry's article points out, agriculture is the basis for a sound and Biblical economy. As a matter of fact, the concept of Christian Covenant Community is so encompassing that it addresses the following areas, among others: Agriculture; education; discipleship; economics; business; politics on the local, state and national levels; strategies that deal with networking covenant communities all over the nation, linking the communities to the city Rebuilders' efforts, and warring against zoning and other bureaucratic nightmares; health services; alternate civil court system; alternative media; technological emphasis; etc.

For too long we have settled for a Sunday morning Christianity that cannot be practically applied to real life beyond our own personal inspiration. God desires for us to experience the fullness of His power, authority and blessing. These things are predicated upon obedience, and cannot be achieved to their fullest outside of a corporate setting, for it is only through our unity in a corporate setting that we can truly implement effective Christian lifestyle. We are to learn to be a part of a body, with Jesus Christ as the head, and with our own small egos and agendas submitted to His Lordship.

Jesus told us the key to converting the world: *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, IF ye have love one to another."* Love in this context is not the fickle and unpredictable emotion for which so many, including Christians, waste their lives in an illusive hunt. It is instead community that is enjoyed as a result of doing what is right to and for one another, with the Word of God as the only and absolute standard of behavior. It is in this environment alone that God is pleased to dwell and deposit His power and authority. It is this environment alone that creates continuity of generations. It is in this environment alone that each individual is challenged and inspired to fulfill his or her own unique and individual destiny in unity with others to manifest the Kingdom of God on the earth. It is in this environment alone that we can effectively build an ark -- an ark established on relationship with other believers -- that will carry us through the coming storm, and will equip us to handle the massive harvest of souls that will result. And it is in this environment alone that we will ever fulfill our mandate as the body of Jesus Christ to demonstrate not only to the world, but to the angelic beings, *"the many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects"* (Amplified Bible). It is in this environment

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BUILD AN ARK (Continued)

alone that we can build a Biblical lifestyle that is consistent with our faith -- a "parallel culture," if you will -- that will give us the opportunity to see the following promise fulfilled: *"But in the last days, it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem ... But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tee; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it"* (Micah 4:1,2 and 4).

WATCHMAN'S HIGH NOTES *mf*

Our time in Oregon is quickly drawing to a close, and as usual we will be saddened to leave our dear friends and the beautiful country and weather as we head south once more. Our time here has been a little more relaxed than usual, but we always seem to have more than enough to keep us busy. Dannie and Anne were able to go on a ride on our beloved horses today. What a miracle! What a treat!

WATCHMAN's first service in Roseburg was on Sunday morning, September 3, at Roseburg Assembly of God. This church was new to us, and we appreciate the pastor's participation in Oregon Citizen's Alliance, and his desire to stay informed on the issues facing the body of Christ. We had a wonderful time that evening at Victory Baptist in Roseburg with a group that always encourages us. Pastor Brad Keadle and his youth pastor make quite a team, and are really building a closely knit and loving church.

Sunday, September 10, found the Byrd family in Corvallis, OR, on Sunday morning with many old friends at Corvallis Sonrise Center for two morning services. Pastor Dick Church and his wife, Marilyn, are very special to us, as are many of his congregation who are on our Prayerteam.

We were especially blessed to have Brother Jimmy Luttrell and his family at all of our services on Sunday, as Jimmy was out of prison on a special release program. Jimmy was a Baptist pastor who was falsely charged with sexually abusing a baby boy 3 years ago. His trial was a kangaroo court, and he was railroaded straight into prison as the media used his Christian convictions to try him in the press and create a climate where it was impossible for him to get a fair trial. There wasn't a shred of evidence to convict Jimmy, and a horrible travesty of justice was perpetrated on this precious couple and their 5 wonderful children. We have visited Jimmy several times in prison in Albany, OR. It was great to be able to fellowship with him in the house of the Lord, and Pastor Dick and his people were so gracious to the Luttrell family.

Jimmy will be out on parole as of October 9. Please be praying with us that the needs of this dear family will be met, and that the Lord will restore the years that the locust and the cankerworm have eaten. I hope our readers are not naive enough to think that this type of thing cannot happen in America. It is happening daily, and will become more pronounced as our anti-Christian government and the unconstitutional bureaucracies that

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