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### A Jot From the Editor



Wow... it has been quite a year! Graduating from high school, completing my first college semester, changing majors, and all the while growing in grace! Looking back, I see that my perspective has been forever altered and I have aged in more ways than one can track on a calendar. Looking beyond the failures of last year, I see a year in my life that has taken me, arm in arm with Christ, further than I ever expected to go. I hope that you can say the same – and, by God's grace, this year we will be brought even further into Him.

There is so much on my heart, and through interacting with some of you on Youth Quake's online forums even more has been stirred up. Being the beginning of the year, I think it a great time to focus on some of the basics – the foundational issues.

#### Basic #1 – Reading Our Bibles & Listening to the Tapes



I know, I know – it's simple right? Yes, so simple that many of us hardly ever do it. Let me ask you – would you ever marry someone whom you only saw twice a week? You would be a fool to. A person cannot hope to truly come to know the deep parts of another without interrelating on a consistent basis. Twice a week just could not do it. You could not fall in love just seeing a guy or girl twice a week. If you did, it would be easy to fall out of love.

It is the same with Christ. You cannot develop a meaningful relationship with him on a Sunday/Wednesday schedule. Many times we fall so in love with him, only to become lukewarm a short time later. Why is that? It is because we do not follow it up with getting to know him better, through his Word, on a day-to-day basis.

Now, when we read our Bibles – it is not enough to read right through a chapter, snap it shut, and say, "OK, I've read my chapter for the day. I'm good." Nor is it enough to listen to the tapes with half an ear and no heart. This is not what we would do when spending time with someone whom we are in love with. We hang on every word that flows forth from their lips – we even chew over what they said as we drift off to sleep. Interestingly enough, this brings up meditation.

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## Basic #2 – Meditation

In **Psalms 1:2** we are told to meditate on the words of the Lord. In **Psalms 4:4** we are instructed to “**commune with [our] own heart upon [our] bed, and be still.**”

Not enough could be said for meditation and silent communion in a world that pushes and prods and rushes us from the time we wake to the time we fall prey to slumber. We might not even have anything to do that day, and yet... somehow the spirit of this age has a way of slipping time through our hands. Busy or bored, all Christians need to set aside some “God time” - time just for that romance to take place between the Savior and the Redeemed, the Bride and the Bride Groom.

## Basic #3 - Prayer

We all know what it is, but how many of us really have learned how to do it? How many know how to enter into the presence of the Lord? This is where the previous other two come together. By reading the Bible and listening to the tapes, you come to know what God likes. By meditating, you create an atmosphere in which the Holy Spirit is pleased to dwell. Now, when you go to prayer, the atmosphere is right and you



know just what to say to please the King. This is where the dynamics really start to happen. This is where God comes down and you and He have that special time together.



## Last Thoughts

So those are the basics. They sound so simple, don't they? Yes, but too often we adopt the vision of ourselves walking off into the sunset of the Rapture, linked arm in arm with Christ, on our way to never ending bliss, without first establishing the necessary foundation to make that vision a reality.

Unfortunately, we tend to lose ourselves in these long-term visions, and much like the driver who stares off into the horizon while driving, we find ourselves in life's ditch wondering, “*What happened?*” What happened is that we **failed** to determine our short-term goals before progressing towards our long-term goal.

As Christians, we have got to set the daily goal for ourselves to practice the basics; otherwise we'll find ourselves constantly in life's ditch.

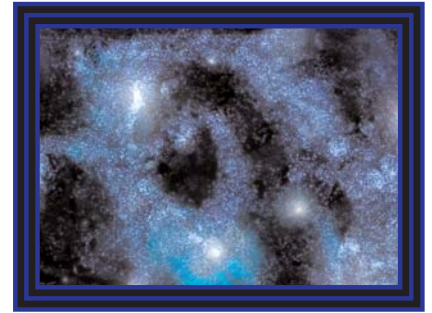
As Christians we have to set up short-term goals for ourselves as well - things that may take a couple of weeks or months. Fasting several days to receive an answer from God on a particular something. Setting

aside a month or two just to submit one “problem area” in our lives to God. You know what I mean. Then, when next year is ushered in, we can go back and mentally check off how far God has brought us. How? Not because we were being better people. Rather, it would be because we consciously devoted our self to a goal, a vision... a **cause**. Now, is that not what we are all looking for - a cause for which to live? Not just a fuzzy-off-in-the-future sort of thing, but something that fills us up with vigor each day we wake - a cause for living on a daily basis.

And maybe, just maybe, if we get our eyes focused on the here and now, like that driver, we won't find ourselves in the ditch so often. God bless you as he takes you into the New Year!

- Josiah Cornett

## God's Bible in the Stars Reveals His Plan for the Bride!



*Some notes prompted by a recent talk given by Dr Guillermo Gonzales, an Astronomy professor at Iowa State University, at Believers' Christian Fellowship in December 2005.*

C.S. Lewis described **Psalm 19** as "one of the greatest lyrics in the world." There King David tells us that God reveals himself to us through two books. One, the Bible, is often called God's special revelation, because it is not available just anywhere, any time. God's other book is nature. David exclaims, "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Incredibly, he goes on to say, "There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun." All who cast their gaze upward can see the heavens "day after day" and "night after night."

In Hebrews, this psalm says the heavens proclaim the glory of El. *El* refers to God generically as a powerful Creator. Then, when the psalm begins to speak of God's other book, his laws and ordinances, it switches to God's personal

name: "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." *Lord* is an English rendering of the Hebrew letters *yhwh*, the name that God revealed to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

This Lord who disclosed his will and his name to the Jews is the same Creator El who is glorified everywhere and always in creation. Nature is a backdrop proclaiming the glory of its Creator on the stage of history where that same God reveals himself personally, first through the Law and the testimony of the prophets, and then through Jesus. Thus it's fitting that the Psalm concludes by addressing God as our Redeemer, foreshadowing our redemption in Jesus Christ. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul says that even those in sin know God because he has made it obvious to them. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

(Romans 1:19-20). Tragically, however, humans, "when they knew God, glorified him not as God," (Romans 1:21). Worse, they "worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator," (Romans 1:25). The late astronomer Carl Sagan exemplified this with sobering precision, proclaiming against all the evidence that "the Cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be." With a callous disregard for the sacredness of Scripture, Sagan corrupts a description of Jesus from **Revelation 1:8**, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

If **Psalm 19** is right, however, the book of nature is proclaiming God's glory even if we are deaf to its voice. Nature is broadcasting God's power and nature, but as Paul explains, many are not tuned to the right frequency.

Carl Sagan offered his ode to atheism in the 1970s. But his claim was really a holdover from the nineteenth century, when most scientists assumed the universe had always existed. This "relieved" them, explained physicist Robert Dicke, "of the

necessity of understanding the origin of matter at any finite time in the past."

However, that idea was challenged when the astronomer Edwin Hubble, in the 1920s, discovered to his surprise



Edwin Hubble

that the light from distant galaxies was "red-shifted." It had stretched during the course of its travels. This suggested that the universe is expanding in every direction. With Hubble's discovery, and later evidence like the "background radiation" left over from the universe's beginning, scientists were suddenly confronted with a universe that had sprung into existence in the finite past. And surely, whatever begins to exist must have a cause outside itself. The universe had re-introduced the question of its origin to an age that was avoiding the question altogether.

This was just the beginning. More recently, growing evidence in astronomy has revealed that many local things have to go just right to build a single habitable planet. You need just the right kind of rocky planet with the right atmosphere. You need lots of liquid water, and for that, you need to be at the right distance from the right kind of star, with the right moon to stabilize the tilt of the planet's axis. You need the right planetary neighbors. You need to be in

the right galaxy, and in the right neighborhood in that galaxy... and so on.

Of course, the universe is a big place, so perhaps all this could happen once, by chance. But these conditions are only part of the story. In the 1960s and '70s, physicists began to notice that the universal constants of physics, such as the forces of gravity and electromagnetism, seemed to be finely tuned for complex life. If these constants were slightly different, we would almost never find a universe compatible with life. Even to astrophysicist and atheist Fred Hoyle, this suggested the work of a "superintellect."

Finally, it turns out that all of these conditions taken together also provide the best overall situation for doing science. In other words, the places where observers like us can exist are the very same places that provide the best overall conditions for observing, including the particular mathematical regularities of the universe itself.

It's true of the laws of physics but also of more mundane things, like the air we breathe. The atmosphere most conducive to life, ours, is also transparent to the light most useful for life, and for discovering the universe both near and far. The most life-friendly region of the galaxy is also the best place to be an astronomer and cosmologist - to see both the

red-hued galaxies and the background radiation that dispelled the illusion of an eternal universe. Or consider those eerie phenomena, perfect solar eclipses. The earth, moon, and sun are all the right size and distance apart to allow for complex life. And thanks to their sizes and distances one from another, the moon just happens to perfectly cover the sun during a solar eclipse. Solar eclipses have proven invaluable to scientists trying to study everything from Einstein's general theory of relativity to the nature of distant stars. This wouldn't be so if the fit were not virtually perfect.

Brother Branham often talked about Einstein's theories. In [Paradox \(64-0206b\)](#), He refers to a tape he had listened to where Einstein was discussing his theories:

"Einstein, the great philosopher said, or the great scientist said, that, "There is only one sensible way to explain the origin of this earth, that was found in Hebrews, the 11th chapter and the 3rd verse, 'By faith we understand God framed the world, out of things that... ' He spoke it into existence.'"

Brother Branham goes on to expand on this concept of the Bible in the stars by asking, rhetorically, "How does it stand in the skies, never gets out of its orbit? How that everything in heaven, and that constellation, if one of those stars would move...



# THE PROACTIVE YOUNG CHRISTIAN

by Brother Paul LaFontaine

## Proverbs 22:3

**A prudent [man] foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.**

"Overcome" means "to recognize the devil at every one of his tricks..... And then..... to overcome you must recognize that the God in you is greater and mightier than he is...?... that the One that's in you has already overcome him, and by His grace you're more than a match for him. Amen. There's real overcoming. (*How Can I Overcome*, 25/8/06M)

I chose the scripture and quote above to use as a foundation for some thoughts on being a "proactive young Christian." It seems like the word proactive is being used a lot more in the last few years in business and other fields. What does it mean? To be proactive means to be anticipatory or to anticipate. It means to realize before hand and to be ahead of time. Not only do we anticipate what is coming, but we prepare for it as best we can. This word is perfect to describe the desire of every overcoming

believer. When we make a mistake, we quickly repent from our hearts and find forgiveness through the Blood of Jesus Christ. But we are growing stronger when we can use the spiritual eyes of the Word and anticipate the "tricks" coming down the road from the enemy. We foresee the evil, we hide and protect ourself behind the defense of the Word, and weaken the affects of the enemy in our life. This is a proactive Christian.

Satan's attack on the young people has never been stronger in the times we live in. The enemy coming in like a flood described in Isaiah 59:19 was certainly meant for our times more than any other. It is not a stream, it is not a trickle - it is a flood. The effects of the floods in the southern states recently are only a natural type of the flood of temptation coming in on the youth today. You will be swept away with it as they were if you don't allow the Holy Spirit in your life to raise a strong standard against it.

I guess the greatest concern I have for the youth today is

how satan can catch a young person unexpected and flood them with temptations and issues they are not totally prepared for yet. Before a youth has a chance in his early teens to have an experience with God, grow in the Word and see God's view of life issues, they are exposed to pressures they can't deal with. He invades our innocence in the most important molding period of our life. This happens mainly through the vehicle of the internet. Don't get me wrong, I believe this has been a useful tool as many other inventions we use. The downside is the reality of a young person moving into a world all to themselves, unaccountable, uncensored, and unprotected, and see and read things that pollute their innocence and draw them away from the protection of the Word, family, the church, and even good Christian friends.

Movies, romance novels, music, and many more things can be used in this way as well. But the internet, chat lines, and blog rings have turned out more



of the enemy's "flood" than anything else. Before you get mad at me, consider this: Recently a 14 year old home schooled girl from Pennsylvania who grew up in a Christian home, left her home with a 16 year old boy she met on Xanga. They just headed out to the wild blue yonder together. The police found them in Chicago. Oh, by the way, before they left, the boy had shot both her parents because they were upset at him for keeping her out late. I know this is an extreme case, but my question is how in the world can you go from a little communication of a stranger on the internet to leaving everything dear to you and watching the murder of your parents? It's simply because she was not prepared and strong enough to see the powerful forces behind this private world she was living in. She could not

"foresee" the coming evil and "hide" herself from it.

There are many more examples I could share, but I only want you to be on alert and sensitized to the tricks placed before us. We cannot just react to situations as they come up; we must be Christian young



people that look ahead for danger in the times we live in. The best advice I can give to you is to first make sure you have the Holy Ghost living inside to give you leadership. Then, hide! What I mean is protect yourself from pressures and temptations forced on you too premature. Stay in the protection God has provided and never have too

much private time alone, except with the Lord of course.

Then lastly, use your young years to learn and build strong scriptural standards designed to meet the modern tactics of the enemy. Satan has gone to extremes, so we must go to extremes in digging and finding all the wonderful defenses in the Word to meet the challenges of this age.

You are God's choice for this age and together we are the generation to prove to Satan that this Eve will not be deceived like the first one was. Christ enables us to be proactive young Christians if we will fully look to Him. God Bless You.

- Bro. Paul LaFontaine

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## ... Continued From Page 4

I know you go out at night and say, "I seen a star shoot." A star don't move. If that star would move, we would move with it. Everything in heaven is so much in harmony, it holds one another together."

But here he brings the focus back to God's final Bible, the one He is writing through the Bride in this day. He asks, "What if mankind could be that way, to hold the church together? That we could all be in harmony with the Word. See? Only one way, let God be His Own interpreter, and we will be. See? God is His interpreter of That."

By looking at nature and especially the heavens, we see the glory that God is expecting to find in His Bride in these last days. Paul declares that God will have a "glorious church". This church will be made up of a Bride, who will believe that God's Word was fulfilled by Brother Branham's ministry and recognize that God is still His own interpreter, bringing to pass all that He has spoken. The same God who placed each star and constellation in its proper position will also place each one of His sons and daughters in such a unity that we can be caught away to shine in His Kingdom for all eternity!



# A WINTER YOUTH

## RETREAT IN REVIEW TREAT

by Peter Murphy

*Winter Youth Retreat was held this from December 26th to the 30th in 2005. It was held in Grass Lake, Michigan.*

There is a vague familiarity about the campgrounds of FaHoLo this year, which for those of you who were wondering, it is an acronym of *Faith-Hope-Love*. It almost feels like home in some regards; the same shining faces year after year, the same counselors yelling lights out to no avail, and even the same wonderful mixture of snow and mud to tramp through.

This year however, the quaint atmosphere was changed just in time for the largest showing in Winter Youth Retreat history. A whopping 275 eager campers (including the staff) piled into the starch white new sanctuary in anticipation of the week ahead. Much to the advantage of everyone involved, as it would have been very difficult to fit so many into the old Chalet building used in the years before.

Yes, even with all of its nuances, the insufficiencies of the Chalet always seemed to satisfy the most demanding of campers. The dim lighting, the cold blast of air every time those late people came in never seemed to diminish a positive experience of winter youth

retreating.

The logistics of the camp were also very well organized. From the clean towels provided every morning, to the direct-to-the-point preaching style of Bro Burly Williams, there was little lacking in terms of accommodations. Furthermore, the only thing that was missing from the daily schedule was a complementary massage, and facial in the morning. It is safe to say that there could not have been a better organized team to put on this week event. The crew of Literal Life Tabernacle really does a complete job in every aspect.

However, it is important to realize that the week of activities is a drop in the bucket compared with the life changing experiences that so many of the campers testify to have happened. For many, the week set aside for re-dedication, direction, and strengthening in their relationship with Jesus Christ will be the highlight of the year 2005 gone by. It is very apropos to name the week a retreat. Not in the sense of of a tactical move after failing to win spiritual battles, but in the sense that the spiritual man needs time to recuperate from daily chaos. The daily spin of cell phones and media is eliminated so that the camper can take a week and focus on their walk with God.

Throughout the weeks services and group sessions, the focus on leadership was applied to the Christians daily life. Ultimately, this leadership is built on an active conversation with God. Conversation in the Bible is a way of life, expressed and lived. One form of this conversation, prayer, is not vain repetition of glib phrases learned from exposure to church (and camp for that matter), but rather a song sung from our need for God. This was the underlying point made to both the mature and the unseasoned. And you noticed this focus being cemented in the night services from the alter and from the conversations heard in the hotel rooms after curfew; that our relationship with God would be expressed as never before.

**Continued  
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## Current Events:

### A Covenant with the Beast

by Brother Ken Hamilton



In the past two articles, we've been discussing the dragon of Revelation 13. Brother Brahnam taught is that this dragon is the USA. He also taught us that this dragon represented the "image of the beast" because he exercised all of the power and authority of the original beast or Rome.

"And here the Bible speaks that the United States (We picked it up in prophecy.) come up like a lamb, freedom of religion, and directly they united those things together, and he spake like a dragon and exercised the same power the dragon had before him. That's the U.S.A. That's right." (QA, IMAGE OF THE BEAST, 05/15/54).

Have you ever wondered what the original beast is doing? Brother Brahnam talked of several things including the "World Council of Churches. However, were you aware that the Pope actually signed a covenant with a known terrorist organization?

"On 15th February, 2000 at the Vatican, the Pope and the leader of the PLO terrorist organization, Yasser Arafat, signed a covenant against the

God and people of Israel and Jerusalem. ... According to this agreement, Jerusalem should be an international city based on international resolutions and an international guarantee." (Source: Voice of the Temple Mount Faithful, Israel)

How do you think God feels about the Pope making such a declaration about Jerusalem? God has always taken a very keen and personal interest in the fate of Jerusalem. He called it the City of David. He said He chose to put His name there (I Kings 11:36). Do you think His name will be honored there if it becomes "an international city based on international resolutions and an international guarantee."?

Do you remember what the religious beliefs of Mr. Arafat are? He is a Muslim. Remember the Crusades? This conflict between the Muslim and Christian faiths has been the source of some of the most bitter hatred the world has ever known. Isn't it curious that these two leaders are now suddenly "friends"?

It also seems quite curious that the Pope visited

Jerusalem on March 26, 2000, one month after signing this agreement. This has only happened one other time in history. It happened in 1962 and during the visit, there was a total eclipse of the moon. As we know, the moon represents the church. The Pope visited the Temple Mount where paradoxically, the third holiest mosque in the Muslim religion now stands upon the remains of the original Temple of Solomon. Take a look at the following quote from the Jerusalem Post dated March 26, 2000:

"East Jerusalem schoolchildren waved Palestinian and Vatican flags as the Pope began a visit to the holy places in the Old City of Jerusalem this morning. Police made no attempt to remove the flags although some large Palestinian flags were taken down from poles. As the pontiff approached the Temple Mount, a hot-air balloon with the Palestinian flag was flown over the area, Israel Radio reported. Earlier, Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini had said there was no intention to try to cause a provocation by flying the Palestinian flag over the Temple Mount."



It is also noteworthy to mention that these life changing services were not exclusive to the younger generation of youth. It was very impressive to see the older youth attend this function without reservation of being thought archaic. In fact, the staff of WYR 2005 took time out of the week schedule to pull the 25+ campers aside and thank them for being supportive of the camp. After all, the real benefit of pulling together young Christians is to learn from the experiences of those who have struggled and overcome.

All in all, the post retreat review is best described by those who attended. And with that, it is the privileged and duty of Youth Quake News to provide their public with a direct and behind the scenes perspective from the members of WYR 2006.



*Jared Meade*

"As a 12 year member of the winter youth retreat alumni, I have been continually blessed over the years as I have witnessed many youth (including myself) who have made the life changing decision to take up the standard of Christ."

*Johnny Slachta*

I would just like to express, that it is an honor and privileged to attend the WYR, and how much of a blessing and inspiration camp has been to my spiritual walk. That's all.

No provocation? Does it seem strange to you that when the man who symbolizes Christianity to the modern world visits the site of the God's original temple that Palestinian flags fly in his honor along with his own flag of the Vatican? What about the six point Star of David, the Israeli flag? You may recall that the Israelis hoisted the Star of David over the Temple Mount when they defeated the Palestinians during the 1967 war representing a fulfillment of prophecy. It was later taken down when international pressure forced them to turn control of that part of the city back over to the Palestinians.

Here's another curious thought: Later in 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in honor of one of the Jewish holy days. This visit so incensed the Palestinians that they began the current intifada or "holy war" that persists today. It has caused the creation of the so-called "roadmap for peace". Now all three religions - Catholicism, Islam, and Christianity - claim to serve the same God. The principle difference is in the recognition of the primary representative of that God. Islam claims that the prophet Mohammed is the representative. Oddly, both Catholicism and Christendom claim Jesus Christ is the representative. Who is the Pope really aligned with?

*"We came,  
we heard,  
we re-thought,  
and wished we hadn't bought  
that 'Stang with our newly acquired  
credit...a lot  
actually*

*oh the joy of camping  
with the worlds elite  
Sign up early next year  
or you might lose your seat!"*