

*Restoring Original Christianity—for Today!*®

**Christian Biblical Church of God**

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Fred R. Coulter  
*Minister*

***March-April 2026 Letter***

March 12, 2026

Dear Brethren,

From time to time in God’s Church, disputes arise over specific doctrinal issues. Recently, we have had to deal with a doctrinal difference concerning the Passover—this time involving Tom Fannin, who was an elder with us for a number of years, as well as his father Marlin. A couple of years ago at an elders conference Tom mentioned that he believed that the *day portion* of the Passover Day was a time when *leavened* products could be eaten. Because of Tom’s refusal to accept the Passover Day as the “first day of the unleaveneds,” he has recently decided to leave the CBCG and form his own church—and he *is* teaching the brethren that it’s fine to eat leavened products on the day portion of the Passover Day. We regret that Tom has taken this action.

The New Testament calls the Passover Day the “first day of the unleaveneds” (Matt. 26:17; Mark 14:12)—which shows that a time of being unleavened is not restricted to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. So the Passover Day is a separate unleavened day *in addition to* the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—and thus comes *before* the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (The Passover Day is the 14th day of the first month, running from sunset of the 13th to sunset of the 14th; the 15th day begins at sunset on the 14th and runs through the 15th day.)

The understanding that the Passover Day is indeed the “first day of the unleaveneds” is covered in *The Christian Passover* book—using several scriptures. But what is often overlooked is that there is great meaning in the Passover Day being the “first day of the unleaveneds”—primarily that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ was *the one perfect sacrifice* for the forgiveness of sin. Indeed, everything that took place on that day—including *the use of unleavened bread*—was to establish that His sacrifice was the *only* sacrifice by which we can have forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God. Jesus was spiritually *unleavened*—a vital key to His role as Savior.

The sacrifice of Christ *on the 14th day* of the first month takes away the sin of the world for all time—past, present, and future. It is through Jesus’ supreme sacrifice that we have access to the forgiveness of our sins by the Father. And we must have forgiveness of our sins and reconciliation with God *before* we can begin dealing with our sinfulness—pictured by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Unleavened Bread pictures *getting rid of our sins*—putting sin out of our lives. This requires forgiveness—and thus access to God’s favor—which is not available *until* we have the sacrifice of Christ. Again, only His sacrifice can take away sin. Thus, Passover must come first—and must of necessity be *an unleavened day*, as it permanently deals with sin through Christ.

But this does not mean that the Feast of Unleavened Bread is eight days in itself. It is only seven days. But before the Feast of Unleavened Bread can be fulfilled in our lives, we first need the sacrifice of Christ for the forgiveness of sin—and that only comes with repentance. When we repent, God applies the sacrifice of Christ to our sins. But we must then follow up with what the

Feast of Unleavened Bread truly pictures—which is to get the leaven of sin out of our lives (this is what Paul talks about in Romans 7 and 8).

So I hope we all grasp the importance that God places on the Passover Day and the sacrifice of Christ. Indeed, the Passover Day is a *separate day* from the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We are to keep both: Passover Day as an *unleavened day*—followed by the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

*Note:* I have taught this aspect of the Passover since at least 1980. *The Christian Passover* (1993 First Edition) also covered this teaching (please see the attached four pages). This shows that this teaching regarding Passover Day has been the official teaching of the CBCG for decades.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I have selected Steve Durham and Eduardo Elizondo as replacements for me upon my departure from this life. God has led me in this matter, and I think everyone will see in time that these two men are the correct choices. Both have been faithful to God and His Word and have served the brethren well. Steve has for a number of years conducted the Go-To-Meetings on Friday nights and on the Sabbath, as well as the mid-week Bible study called “Breaking Bread.” He has used his own funds to facilitate these studies. Eduardo heads up the whole Latino CBCG and has translated our studies and articles for the Spanish speaking brethren. He has also headed up the translation of the *Faithful Version* into Spanish for an edition we hope to publish in the near future. Eduardo and Steve are both excellent speakers and know their Bibles.

So, at the advanced age of 91 and a half, I have made this decision so that everything will be well established when the end of my physical life arrives.

Brethren, we all love Tom and Marlin and pray for them. But when one goes against Scripture, it is a serious matter. God says in I Samuel 15:22-23 that if you *disobey* the voice of God or *reject* the word of God, you are in rebellion against God. It is up to us to individually remain faithful to God and faithful to His Word—while genuinely loving God, loving each other, and doing what we can to serve the brethren and preach the Gospel as God opens the doors. We are close to the end; world events show that. We will keep abreast of all the things going on in the world—so that we will be able to correctly identify prophecy as it is being fulfilled.

Thank you for your love, for your faithfulness, and for serving God in the truth. Let’s all prepare diligently for the upcoming Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread—so that we are all before God in love and truth and forgiveness through the sacrifice of Christ and the righteousness of God through His Spirit. Thank you for your prayers and for your understanding. I hope that my next letter will bear good news.

With love in Christ Jesus,

*Fred R. Coulter*

FRC

### *2026 Spring Holy Days*

- *Passover Day*—April 1 (Passover observed on previous evening, March 31)
- *First Day of Unleavened Bread*—April 2
- *Last Day of Unleavened Bread*—April 8

*The Christian Passover* (1993 First Edition), pages 197-200—which demonstrate that this teaching regarding Passover Day has been the official teaching of the CBCG for decades.

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agree with Truth. Therefore, since God has preserved His Truth in His Word, we can find and understand the Truth of God.

### WAS JESUS' LAST MEAL REALLY THE PASSOVER?

Was it the *Passover* that Jesus ate on the eve of His crucifixion, or was it only a pre-Passover meal? Jesus Himself gives us the answer, as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. We will see that there is no question whatsoever that Jesus kept the Passover! Let's begin in Mark 14:12: "And on the first day of the unleaveneds...." This is a literal translation from the Greek. As we learned in Chapter Seventeen, "*the first day of the unleaveneds*" is designating that first day of the year requiring unleavened houses and unleavened bread. That was also the day when the Passover lamb was killed, as commanded by God in Exodus 12.

Let's continue in verse 12: "...when the Passover they killed...." This expression is most revealing because of the intrinsic meaning of the Greek verb. The English word translated *they killed* comes from the Greek verb *ethuon*. The verb root is *thuo*. The verb *ethuon* reflects the following case and action: 3rd person plural--**they**; imperfect--meaning an action not yet completed but taking place *at that very moment--were killing*; active indicative--being done personally at that moment by the subject--**they**. A literal translation of the Greek would be as follows: "AND ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE UNLEAVENEDS, WHEN **THEY WERE KILLING THE PASSOVER....**"

THE ORIGINAL GREEK TEXT SHOWS THAT THE LAMBS WERE BEING KILLED AT THAT VERY MOMENT AS JESUS SENT HIS DISCIPLES INTO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM! THESE LAMBS WERE NOT BEING KILLED BY THE PRIESTS AT THE TEMPLE--THAT WOULD FOLLOW THE NEXT AFTERNOON, FOR THE 14/15 TEMPLE-KILLED PASSOVER.

Who were "*they*"? The word "*they*" in this verse can only refer to those who were killing the Passover lambs at that moment on the 14th. "*They*" could not possibly be referring to the priests at the temple, because the *temple-sacrificed Passover lambs*, were not slain until the next afternoon. The only logical conclusion is that "*they*" refers to those who were killing the Passover lambs at houses or inns, where the domestic Passover of the 14th would be kept. The lambs were being killed at the beginning of the 14th according to the statutes and ordinances of Exodus 12. This was the exact moment that Jesus sent His disciples into Jerusalem--"...when *they* were killing the Passover...."

Properly translated, this verse in the Gospel of Mark has profound meaning! When Mark's account is combined with Luke's account, the impact is even greater! Here are Mark 14:12 and Luke 22:7 combined in a literal translation: "**On the first day of the unleaveneds, in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed, when they were killing the Passover, His disciples asked Him, 'Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?'**"

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What a powerful story these verses are telling us!

There can be no doubt whatsoever as to the time of day these verses are specifying! Apparently, Jesus had not previously instructed His disciples to make arrangements for the Passover. They knew that it would soon be time to eat the Passover, but they did not know where Jesus wanted them to make the necessary preparations. Since the killing of the *domestic Passover lambs* was happening before their very eyes, the disciples asked this urgent question, as the combined verses of Mark 14:12 and Luke 22:7 convey: "**On the first day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory for the Passover to be killed, when they were killing the Passover, His disciples asked Him, 'Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?' "**

Consider for a moment! If you were one of the disciples and could see the *domestic Passover lambs* being killed at that very moment, and you knew that the Passover was at hand, don't you think that you would ask the same question? Of course!

The narrations given in the Gospel accounts clearly show that **the domestic Passover was a common practice!** It is also apparent in these accounts that the disciples were accustomed to keeping the domestic Passover, as indicated by their question, "...*Where do You desire that we should go and prepare the Passover that You may eat?*"

It should not surprise us to learn that the domestic Passover was common at that time. Remember, the temple could not possibly accommodate the vast numbers of people and lambs required for everyone to keep the Passover within the allotted time. It would have taken *several days* for all the lambs to be killed before the altar. The domestic Passover was not only common, but it was of necessity the predominant practice.

When we examine all three Gospel accounts which record Jesus' instructions to His disciples, it is obvious that Jesus kept the domestic 14th Passover. The evidence is overwhelming!

**Matthew's Account:** "Now on the first of the unleaveneds, the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, 'Where do You desire *that* we should prepare for You to **eat the Passover?**' And He said, 'Go into the city unto such a man, and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is near; **I will keep the Passover with My disciples.**' And the disciples did as Jesus directed them, and **they prepared the Passover**" (Matt. 26:17-19, AT).

**Mark's Account:** "And on the first day of the unleaveneds, when they were **killing the Passover**, His disciples said to Him, 'Where do you desire *that* we go, *so* we should prepare that You may **eat the Passover?**' And He sent forth two of His disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water--follow him! And wherever he may enter, say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, Where is the guest-chamber where I may **eat the Passover** with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room

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furnished *and* ready. There prepare for us.' And the disciples went away, and came into the city, and found exactly as He had said to them, and **they prepared the Passover**" (Mark 14:12-16, AT).

**Luke's Account:** "Then came the day of the unleaveneds in which it was obligatory *for the Passover to be killed*. And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare for us **the Passover**, in order that we may eat *it*.' But they said to Him, 'Where do You desire *that* we should prepare?' And He said to them, 'After entering into the city you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into **the house** where he enters. And you shall say to the master of **the house**, The Teacher says, Where is the guest-chamber where I may eat **the Passover** with My disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished. There **prepare the Passover**.' After departing they found *everything* exactly as He had said to them; and **they prepared the Passover**" (Luke 22:7-13, AT).

What did Jesus Himself say in these three Gospel accounts?

Jesus did not tell the disciples that they were going to eat a pre-Passover meal a day earlier, as some have claimed. Jesus specifically told them to prepare **THE PASSOVER**. **IT WAS THE PASSOVER THAT JESUS ATE, NOT SOME OTHER TYPE OF MEAL! THAT IS WHAT JESUS HIMSELF SAID! "I WILL EAT THE PASSOVER WITH MY DISCIPLES!"** JESUS WAS NOT INSTITUTING A NEW PRE-PASSOVER MEAL, KEPT A DAY EARLY--IT WAS SIMPLY THE PASSOVER! THE DISCIPLES DID NOT KNOW OR UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS JESUS' LAST PASSOVER, OR THAT HE WOULD END THE OLD COVENANT WITH THAT PASSOVER, OR THAT HE WOULD INSTITUTE THE NEW COVENANT PASSOVER ON THAT NIGHT BEFORE HE WAS CRUCIFIED!

Furthermore, Jesus did not command Peter and John to go to the temple to sacrifice a Passover lamb. *His command was to follow a CERTAIN MAN TO A CERTAIN HOUSE and PREPARE THE PASSOVER AT THAT HOUSE. THEY WOULD EAT THE PASSOVER THERE. NOTHING COULD BE CLEARER!*

Jesus' own words to His disciples are overwhelming evidence that it was *the Passover*, not a pre-Passover commemorative meal or "Lord's Supper." The context of these Scriptures proves it was the Passover! **THE WORD PASSOVER IS USED 11 TIMES IN THESE THREE ACCOUNTS**. Furthermore, **"THE HOUSE" IS MENTIONED 3 TIMES**. Not once is the temple mentioned, nor is a temple-killed Passover lamb remotely indicated in these accounts. There can be no doubt that Jesus kept the domestic Passover on the 14th day of the 1st month, as commanded in Exodus 12.

In spite of these clear, easy-to-understand Scriptures, **the advocates of a 15th Passover REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS' OWN WORDS. IN THEIR STUDY PAPERS AND DOCTRINAL PRESENTATIONS, THESE DIRECT STATEMENTS OF JESUS ABOUT HIS LAST PASSOVER ARE EITHER IGNORED OR DELIBERATELY LEFT OUT!**

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But ignoring these clear Scriptures cannot change the reality of what the Gospel writers have recorded! Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all plainly state that Jesus and the disciples did indeed eat the Passover.

Jesus' last Passover was not a pre-Passover meal or a special supper. Jesus did not change the Passover day and make it a day earlier, as some advocates of a 15th Passover claim. Such speculations are not true and completely contradict Jesus Christ's clear statements as recorded in the Gospels.

Jesus gave these instructions to Peter and John: "And you shall say to the master of the house, The Teacher says, Where is the guest-chamber where I may eat the Passover with My disciples. And he will show you a large upper room furnished [and ready--Mark 14:15]. There [at that place in that house] **prepare the Passover**" (Luke 22:11-12, AT).

The Gospel accounts do not specify whether the disciples' preparations included the killing of the Passover lamb. It is possible that Peter and John killed the lamb themselves. However, since everything was "furnished and ready," it is more likely that the master of the house had already killed the lamb by the time Peter and John arrived. In that case, they would have begun roasting the lamb and setting out the other foods for the meal, making sure that the unleavened bread and wine were ready. They completed whatever was necessary to prepare *the Passover*. Luke records, "And after departing they found *everything* exactly as He had said to them; and **they prepared the Passover**" (Luke 22:13, AT).

The length of time required for those preparations was determined by the size of the lamb. According to God's commands, the Passover lamb was to be a year old or less (Ex. 12:5), but it could not be younger than eight days old (Lev. 22:27). The older the lamb, the more it would weigh and the longer it would take to roast. Conversely, the smaller the lamb, the more quickly it could be roasted. When we consider the chronology of events on that Passover night, it is clear that Jesus did not have time for a long, extended Passover meal. Since it was only a few hours before Jesus would be arrested, it appears most likely that the lamb for Jesus' last Passover was a very small lamb, not more than a few weeks old, and very possibly it may have been only eight days old--the minimum age for a Passover lamb.

Peter and John completed the necessary preparations, and at the proper time Jesus and the other disciples came to eat the Passover. Since the lamb was probably very small, the Passover meal could have been ready as soon as 7:30 PM. The subsequent events of that night indicate that the Passover meal began early and ended early, perhaps 9-9:30 PM. Luke records Jesus' words as they began the Passover meal: "And when the hour had come, He reclined, and the twelve apostles with Him. And He said to them, 'With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Because I am telling you, that I will not eat of it any more until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God'" (Luke 22:14-16, AT).

In summary, the New Testament clearly reveals that:

- 1) Jesus kept THE PASSOVER, not some other meal

**Letters & Emails from Brethren and Website Visitors**

**Dear Fred Coulter:** Your Feast messages were something else, very informative and educational, and I wish God would cause more people to understand the awesome future He has planned for humans. I still miss being able to attend a Feast site due to being retired—now with loss of hearing and with my wife being a shut-in. We had to curtail even going to Feast sites within 40 miles of our house. With my hearing issues, I find the transcribed sermons better than the video CC. I can use the audio, but I'll miss some of the words spoken. In God we trust.—*JW, Pennsylvania*

**Mr. Coulter:** I thought I understood God's holy days before, but never as I have this year. My eyes have been opened to so many wonderful things about God's holy days. I want to thank you with all my heart for what you have done for me and all God's children. May you continue in good health and God's blessings. Love in Christ and God the Father.—*RD, Ohio*

**Hello Fred:** I hope this email finds you in good health... I'm very grateful for the vast understanding God has given to you, and that you have labored to freely and abundantly share that understanding for all of these years—always giving glory to God.

I've recently been studying the appendices [in the *Faithful Version*] establishing the birth of Christ. Excellent work. Also, the appendix on the "Two Jehovah's" has been a valuable resource, especially in a world with ever increasing false doctrines to defend against. Keep up the great work. With love in God the Father and Jesus Christ.—*PC, NSW Australia*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for God. I love your book *God's Plan for Mankind*. I have read it cover to cover twice. It is so comforting and enlightening. You are a rare gift to all the brethren. May God bless you and may He bless all the brethren by keeping you in good health for years to come. Love, your sister in Christ.—*LS, Colorado*

**Mr. Coulter:** I praise God for sending you to us, to teach us the true meaning of God's Word. You are a beautiful blessing to each one of us. I thank God for bringing you into my life. May you continue in good health and blessings. Love in God the Father and the Son.—*RD, Ohio*

**Dear Fred and Brethren:** Thank you for the prayers for my health during my attack of Covid. Thank God for the healing. It was a rough time but I feel a lot better. Your printed sermons were a blessing for me because I could lay in bed and study. With love in Christ!—*RM, Ohio*

**Dear Fred:** Thanks again for your wonderful sermons for the Fall feasts. Eduardo's sermon was awesome. Thank you.—*TE, Ohio*

**Dear Fred & Staff:** You are amazing! Thank you for all your hard and loving work. I continue to keep the faith and holy days—despite a new boss who doesn't understand! But I feel God is working in this matter. My husband is stubborn, but he is learning. He grew up keeping Sunday. I grew up believing "do to others as I would like to be treated." Stand fast and be a true team player. Working on better positivity—and taking that deep breath before saying anything! I pray for our nation and the Church. God is my Rock! We love you always.—*SC, Florida*

**Dear Fred:** Please send us three copies of the *Love of God* booklet. Thank you so much for all the wonderful Church at Home messages. We feel very privileged to hear them every Sabbath and on the holy days.—*G & PM, Idaho*

**Dear Fred:** With all that is going on in the nation and the world, it is helpful and essential to have the words of God expounded faithfully. Thank you for all you do to keep the true words of God readily available to those desiring the truth.—*RM*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for all your God-inspired sermons at the Feast. It's so wonderful to go over and over what we will experience in the World Tomorrow. We can't get enough of all the ways you bring it all out! We are forever learning and the more we learn the more we strive to learn! Thank you for your godly zeal. Appreciate all you do! With love in Christ!—*RE, Arkansas*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for all your wonderful sermons—especially at the Feast and Last Great Day! I left feeling so inspired and prepared for our reign with Jesus Christ and what He has for us to do! Thank you for allowing God to use you to prepare all of us! Prayers that God will allow you to be with us many more years! Your sister in Jesus Christ.—*name withheld*

**Dear CBCG:** We are so thankful to have Fred in our lives to send us sermons. Hope he will remain healthy. Thanks.—*name withheld*

**Dear Fred and CBCG:** I hope everyone had a rich and sweet Feast! (II Cor. 8:9). One day we will all say, just like old Jackie Gleason in *The Honeyymooners*, “How sweet it is!”—and really mean it. I ask God to bless and protect all His saints and their families every day.

I have not had TV for years and I don't want to get on the Net, but I really appreciate those DVDs! One day the Church will be cut off and out of everything, and it might be good to have a DVD or CD—as faith comes by the hearing. I'm all alone, I can't go to church anywhere. Thank you so much (Dan. 12:3) for all that you do! Love.—*BJ, Kentucky*

**Dear Fred:** I was reading day one of the “One Year Bible,” but out of your “Original Order” Bible, when I came across the video, *How Old is the Earth?* I have heard many sermons over my 71-year life, along with books and articles, commenting on this issue. Yet never was the truth expressed as in your video. Suddenly, I understood the issue in a way that made real sense and brought clarity. Was I being dense about the issue? Maybe God allowed my mind to be clouded. I don't know. But your video on the issue was phenomenal.

In our backward world, with so much deception around this issue, might I suggest that you do this sermon once again. As a member of the WCG since 1964, having wrestled with this issue many times, my guess would be that others had difficulty with this issue as well. And, as it appears the online church attendance is steadily increasing, there may be many others fascinated by this material. Thank you!—*HK, Canada*

**Hello Fred:** What a beautiful year this has been. The Father has done so much in my life. I am so grateful for the study materials I have received and the prayers. I pray this small check gets to you safely. I asked God to enlarge it greatly to help someone else. Love and prayers.—*name withheld*

**Dear Fred:** When I was in the WCG I had a hard time paying tithes because of all the corruption. I knew about the buying gold, artwork, ministers borrowing from the third tithe account, etc. Now it is such a joy knowing it is not going to buildings, etc.—but to spread the Gospel. I give people the beautiful Bible, etc. Blessings to you and your staff! Love, your sister in Christ!—*name withheld*

**To Whom it May Concern:** Thank you for the DVDs and booklets, and especially your Sabbath messages. It is a joy to hear something so concrete. Enclosed is an offering to help in feeding the flock—all who will listen and who want to learn the truth. In Christian love.—*BKD, Missouri*

**Dear Fred:** I thank you for the anointed cloth. Your Bible verses and instruction helped a lot. As of now, I am cancer free!! In His mercy, God has healed me. Thanks be to God!! Right now, I am trying to get my strength back. Each day shows some improvement. The trials we go through are for

our benefit. My trial was no exception. It has truly taught me humility and to love and appreciate my brothers and sisters in God's Church. The CBCG does so much through the literature it sends out freely. No other organization comes this close in preaching God's Word; may those searching for the truth find your work. In sisterly love.—*BM, Texas*

**Dear Fred:** I enjoyed today's sermon from Eduardo and Steve and yourself. Thank you for letting us all be witnesses to the truth. Thank you for sharing what was on your heart. And I personally want to say *thank you* for faithfully protecting and defending the Word of God.

I have grown up in the Church and I am now 60 years old. I have personally benefited from all of the sermons and booklets—and from your faithfully translated version of the Bible. I thank God for everything He has blessed you to do for the brethren.

God bless you, Fred, for being the greatest teacher I've ever had in the study of eternal life. The most profound thing I have learned from you and your sermons is that God the Father and Jesus Christ want a personal relationship with me. Until we all meet in the air on the Sea of Glass, your sister in Christ.—*TD, Mississippi*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for your diligent efforts to provide us with so much helpful materials to better understand the truth of God as preserved in the Bible. The nation and the world are beset with difficulties and challenges. We are so blessed to live in a nation that can still enjoy and benefit from God's Word—which you have done so much to preserve. Sincerely.—*TM, Washington*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for the sermons and the book, *The Love of God*. Thank you for all the prayers. To everyone in the CBCG, thank you.—*name withheld*

**Dear Fred:** Thank you for being faithful to the Word of God, the truth of God, and the plan of God. Thank you for printing the transcript book about the love of God that surpasses human knowledge. Jesus stated that He came as a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Him may not remain in darkness. Thank you for continuing to open the doors of truth so that the light of God's truth can shine into a darkened world.—*RM*

**Dear Fred and CBCG Family:** I want to thank everyone involved in putting the new book I got together, *The Love of God*. The cover is beautiful. I always had the question in my mind as to what love is. This is answering my question. I also want to thank all the elders who do a good job on the sermons. Keep up the hard work because I'm listening. Even though I'm by myself, I know I'm not alone. Your sister sends her love.—*GW, Georgia*