

Gospel of the Kingdom

Ph. 250-402-6688 No. 220 – Sept., 2006

Email = becook@shaw.ca Web = kingdomgospel.org

DA VINCI CODE: FACT OR FICTION?

Kara Cunningham

Background: *The Da Vinci Code* was released by Doubleday Books in 2003 with much fanfare and promotion. As a result, it debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and has remained on it since, selling millions of copies. The publisher claims that it is the bestselling adult novel of all time within a one-year period. It has created a marketing boom for books related to the novel and it will become a major motion picture.

The Da Vinci Code has been controversial since its release, and many people, both Christian and non-Christian, have been asking what it is about, and if there is any truth to the ideas it promotes. It is a thriller story involving secret societies, conspiracies, the Catholic Church, and a fictional “truth” about Jesus Christ. A summary by the *book’s own author*:

“A renowned Harvard symbologist is summoned to the Louvre Museum to examine a series of cryptic symbols relating to Da Vinci’s artwork. In decrypting the code, he uncovers the key to one of the greatest mysteries of all time . . . and he becomes a hunted man. During the course of the novel it is alleged that the Catholic Church is perpetuating a major, centuries-long conspiracy to hide the “truth” about Jesus Christ from the public, and it or its agents are willing to stop at nothing, including murder, to do so.” (Unquote)

And what does Leonardo da Vinci have to do with the story? Da Vinci is portrayed as a former head of the conspiracy guarding the “truth” about Jesus Christ. The novel says he planted various codes and secret symbols in his work, particularly in his painting of The Last Supper

Multitude of Errors: So what is the problem with *The Da Vinci Code*? Why all the controversy? Although a work of **fiction**, the book claims to be meticulously researched, and it goes to great lengths *to convey the impression that it is based on fact*. It even has a “fact” page at the front of the book underscoring the claim of factuality for particular ideas within the book. As a result, many

readers—both Christian and non-Christian are taking the book’s ideas seriously.

The problem is that many of the ideas that the book promotes are anything but fact. And what are these ideas?

- * Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene.
- * She is to be worshipped as a goddess.
- * Jesus impregnated Mary and the two had a daughter.
- * That daughter gave rise to a prominent family line that is still present in Europe today.
- * The Bible was put together by a pagan Roman emperor.
- * Jesus was viewed as a man and not as God until the fourth century, when he was deified by the Emperor Constantine.
- * The Gospels have been edited to support the claims of later Christians.
- * In the original Gospels, Mary Magdalene, rather than Peter, was directed to establish the Church.
- * There is a secret society known as the Priory of Sion that still worships Mary Magdalene as a goddess and is trying to keep the “truth” alive.
- * The Catholic Church is aware of all this and has been fighting for centuries to keep it suppressed. It often has committed murder to do so.
- * The Catholic Church is willing to and often has assassinated the descendants of Christ to keep His bloodline from growing.

To put it bluntly, here are the major problems with the *Da Vinci Code*: It claims to be based on fact, but it is not; it rewrites and misrepresents Church and history; and it propagates a relativistic, indifferent attitude towards truth and religion.

So error-laden is *The Da Vinci Code* that the educated reader actually applauds those rare occasions where Brown stumbles (despite himself) into the truth. It would take more space than I have to describe the problems with each of Brown’s claims above, indeed, the academic community both Christian and non-Christian have been so alarmed at Brown’s license with the truth that whole essays and books have been written to set the record straight. That being said, I will address two points that cause particular angst. The first is

the idea that Jesus was married to Mary, and the second, that he founded a dynasty whose descendants survive in Europe to this day.

Was Jesus Married? There is no mention in the Gospels, the Gnostic Gospels, or any other source (Jewish Roman, Greek, or Egyptian), of Jesus being married prior to the beginning of His three-year ministry. There is no mention of Jesus being married during His three-year ministry. There is no mention of Jesus being married at the crucifixion. There is no mention of Jesus being married at His burial. There is no mention of Jesus being married at His resurrection. In other words, there is no mention of a wife anywhere.

Aside from this deafening silence regarding a wife, there are theological arguments against Jesus having been married. For example, in I Cor. 9:5, the apostle Paul defends his right to get married, if he so chose to do so: “Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?” Now, if Jesus had been married, surely Paul would have cited Jesus’ marriage as the number one precedent. The fact that he did not mention a wife of Jesus indicates that He was not married.

Some try to argue that since it was expected of every Jewish man to get married, surely Jesus must have followed custom and gotten married. Such an argument is unconvincing. First, a number of major prophets were never married. Second, there were whole communities of Jews that included unmarried men, such as the Essene community at Qumran. Also, Jewish leaders often granted exceptions to the general rule of marriage. It was certainly not an unbending requirement, and hence this general requirement does not constitute proof that Jesus must have been married.

Brown’s novel claims that a key evidence for Jesus getting married is found in the Gnostic *Gospel of Philip*. This document, he claims, indicates that Mary Magdalene was the companion of Jesus, and Brown says that in the Aramaic, “companion” means “spouse.” Hence, Jesus must have been married. Brown also notes that this document indicates that Jesus often kissed Mary on the mouth.

The *Gospel of Philip* nowhere states that Jesus was married. Further, the document dates to about A.D. 275, several hundred years after the canonical Gospels. Therefore, it can hardly be considered a reliable source for information about Jesus. Moreover, this Gospel was written, not in Aramaic, as Brown claims, but in Greek. In fact, the

manuscript for the *Gospel of Philip* is not whole. In fact, the document says that “Jesus kissed her often on the...” and then the manuscript is broken at that point. Brown and others have assumed the missing word must be “mouth,” but it could just as easily be “head” or “cheek” or even “hand.” There is nothing in the context that demands that Jesus kissed Mary on the mouth.

Finally, the *Gospel of Philip* portrays the disciples criticizing Mary because Jesus is said to love her more than all the disciples. However, one must assume that if Jesus really was married, no disciple would criticize Mary. This Gospel provides no hard proof that Jesus was married. Nor do any other “Gospels” discovered from the second century and after, add support to the claim. There is not the slightest sign, in *Nag Hammadi* any more than in the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, of Jesus being married to Mary and having a child with her.

Yet another evidence Dan Brown sets forth for Jesus’ alleged marriage is Leonardo Da Vinci’s painting of *The Last Supper*. To Jesus’ right, we are told, is Mary Magdalene, not John. While it is true that John looks effeminate in *The Last Supper*, this is quite in keeping with other paintings by this homosexual artist. Indeed, even John the Baptist was portrayed in a feminine way by Da Vinci. Note that neither John nor John the Baptist have womanly bodies in these paintings.

Did Jesus Found a Dynasty? There are things Brown claims to be historical which, in fact, are not historical at all. A primary case is the Priory of Sion, an organization that is at the very heart of Brown’s story, and which, if proven to be based on bogus history, undermines the entire infrastructure of his theory. This organization is said to guard the secret of Jesus’ marriage to Mary Magdalene. It is claimed to have been founded in Jerusalem in 1099 by a French King. The organization is believed to be watching over Jesus and Mary’s descendants, and waiting for the perfect time to reveal its secret to the world. Because of constant threat of danger from the Roman Catholic Church, the organization has allegedly hidden its message in literature, paintings, and even architecture such that only learned people can decipher the meanings.

Brown makes this assertion regarding this organization: “The Priory of Sion, a European secret society founded in 1099, is a real organization. In 1975 Paris’s Bibliotheque Nationale discovered parchments known as *Les Dossiers secrets*, identi-

fyng numerous members of the Priory of Sion including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Leonardo da Vinci.” The question is: *Are these parchments reliable?*

Allow me to point out that Brown obtained much of his information on the Priory of Sion from a book entitled *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln. In this book we find a dependence upon the above-mentioned parchments which allegedly prove that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, had a baby named Sarah, and, following Jesus’ death on the cross, Mary relocated to a Jewish community in France. Their descendents were allegedly French royalty.

Here is the big problem with all this. *These parchments are completely bogus.* Historically, in 1953, a Frenchman named Pierre Plantard spent time in jail for fraud. In 1954 he founded a small social club named the Priory of Sion. The purpose of the club was to call for low-income housing in France. The organization dissolved in 1957, but Plantard held on to the name. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Plantard put together a number of bogus documents that “proved” the Jesus-Mary Magdalene theory with French royalty being their descendants. Plantard claimed that he himself was one of the descendants of this couple.

Some time later, a friend of the French president found himself in legal trouble and Plantard ended up being called to testify in the case. While under oath, the judge asked him about these documents about Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and *he admitted he made the whole thing up.* An associate of Plantard’s also conceded that Plantard made the whole thing up. All this has been thoroughly documented in several French books and a BBC special

What all this means for *The Da Vinci Code* is that the Priory of Sion, and the accompanying Jesus-Mary Magdalene theory, is based on *bogus information* with a capital “B”. Hence Dan Brown’s claim that his book is based on historical secret societies is flat wrong..

Major Sources Inspiring the Book: The bibliography for the book includes titles that represent works of New Age speculation that run counter to established history. They focus on alleged secret societies and conspiracy theories. Historians and religious scholars do not take these works seriously. Not one of these writers has credentials from an established and respected academic insti-

tution. None of them are trained or credible scholars. The books represent good marketing, wishful thinking, and revisionist history.

More Errors: Brown’s lack of respect for the truth is etched on every page of his novel. A writer who thinks the Merovingians founded Paris and forgets that the popes once lived in Avignon is hardly a model researcher. And for him to state that the Church burned five million women as witches shows a willful (and malicious) ignorance of the historical record. The latest figures for deaths during the European witch craze are between 30,000 to 50,000 victims. Also, the Templars had *nothing* to do with the cathedrals of their time, which were commissioned by bishops and their canons throughout Europe. They were unlettered men with no arcane knowledge of “sacred geometry” passed down from the pyramid builders. They did not wield tools themselves on their own projects, nor did they found mason’s guilds to build for others.

Conclusion: The greatest problem with *The Da Vinci Code* is that the public keeps forgetting (and is encouraged to forget) that *it is a work of fiction, and the marketers of the book and movie profit from blurring the truth.* The truth is, if Jesus really was married to Mary, if they really had children, and if there really was credible evidence to support this, the credible academic community would be all over this. Professors at Harvard, Oxford, Princeton, etc., and other academic leaders, would, at this very moment, be rewriting university course curriculums and the history of the western world.

The truth is, respected and trained scholars, both Christian and non-Christian, disregard *The Da Vinci Code* for the bogus set of theories it is. Throw it in with Atlantis, the Bermuda Triangle, UFOs and other unsubstantiated but entertaining ideas. No credible scholar from a credible academic institution, either Christian or non-Christian, will stake his reputation on Dan Brown’s “facts.”

The only people seriously promoting Brown’s ideas as truth are those involved with the marketing of the book, movie, or Brown’s next book. *Fiction means “not true,” no matter how much you would like it to be.* This book falls into a genre known as *speculative fiction*. The truth, as usual, is much less sexy, but it is the truth.

(This short essay is a compilation by Kara Cunningham, MA. Please note that this is not en-

tirely original work. I have borrowed from many people and sources in the course of my research).

LOVE NEVER FAILS

Quoting from Andrew Jukes, Restitution of All Things: “Does God tell us to be kind to the widow and the orphan and then Himself ignore multiplied billions who, through the death of a God-arranged fall, have been *widowed* in the loss of their true Husband and Head? Or does He not feel the pain of those *orphaned natures* who **cannot** cry, “*Abba, Father!*”?”

“Does He charge us to forgive seventy times seven times in a day and to go the second mile, while Himself is willing to forgive only in this short span of life during which most *never* hear the name Jesus, and Himself has made no provision for the second mile?

“Does He tell us not to be overcome of evil while Himself is impotent to remove every last vestige of evil, as if Love, after all, does fail?

“Does He tell us to have compassion on the stranger that we might be like Him, and yet Himself has no compassion on those who are yet strangers to His goodness as it is expressed in Christ Jesus?

“Is this God of love so concerned with all His creatures that He makes provision for the oxen or ass fallen into a pit or a ditch but leaves the crowning glory of His creation to groan in the *endless torment* of a much deeper, much more horrible pit? Has He charged us to visit the sick and those in prison and Himself is not willing to visit and even heal those infected with sin’s death-dealing disease, but shuts them up forever in an eternal prison which Himself never visits in mercy?

“What kind of spirit is this God who brings us to Christ, even to Himself? Does He have such compassion for those still living that He sends His own Son to die for them, and yet, He who changeth not will not lift a finger to help them after they depart this short life?

“Are we to believe that He would have us expend our comfort, our fortunes and even our very lives to see that men come to know Him *while living*, but that we are to rejoice with Him over their endless torment if they stop breathing before coming to repentance?

“And what of the billions who have never so much as heard that there be a Savior during this life? Oh, if God is Love, and we know that He is,

how is it that we can be guilty of casting Him in such an awful light? **Love never fails!** We must stop viewing everything from the fall and begin viewing them from God, Himself.”

SONG OF THE BRIDE

Part 40

Elaine Cook

Song of Solomon 6:4, “Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners.”

After a long silence in which the bride has suffered many hardships, at last she hears again the sound of her Beloved’s voice. She feels deeply His tender love when He describes her beauty:

“Tirzah” means “pleasant, well-pleasing.” It was the royal city of the kings of Canaan. In it were idolatry and wickedness along with the proud pomp and grandeur of its kings’ court. When the Hebrews captured it they made it the royal city of the kings of Israel.

How well this portrays the bride of the Lamb! Before the Lord found her, she was filled with idolatry and wickedness. She was black and swarthy with sin and the touch of the world. But when the Lord captured her, she became a city of our God, and she is set upon a hill so she cannot be hid. She is the light of the world!

The King also tells her that she is “*comely as Jerusalem.*” Psalm 48 tells us that in this city the Bride rejoices in the Lord in light and in darkness, in easy things and in hard things, and offers unto Him the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving continually. Jerusalem is said to be “**beautiful in elevation.**” It was not built upon low swamp lands amid the fogs and noxious vapors of the earth. It was upon higher lands where the air was clear and where we may continually climb higher upon the mountains of God.

This is “the city of the great King...God hath made Himself known in her palaces for a refuge” (or high tower). He is the Strong Tower and Rock of Defense to every tempest-tossed soul. Only in Him is there safety and protection. When we stand in union with Him we can successfully rout the enemy of our soul.

Since He has shined into our hearts, He says of us, “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined forth” Psalm 50:2. We are “...the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband” Rev. 21:2. “And he spake with me saying, “...I will show thee the bride, the wife

of the Lamb....and He showed me “*the holy city Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God; having the glory of God; her light was like unto a stone most precious as it were a jasper stone clear as crystal*” Rev. 21:9.

Many believers long to go to “the holy land” and to “walk where Jesus walked.” They don’t realize that “*we are the land that is holy!*” In old testament times, the Lord taught them by **outward things** but since the Lamb of God has come, the things of God have become **inward** because we are His temple and He lives within. All the “action” is taking place inside of us! He is making us a heavenly habitation even while we walk on this earth. Christendom as a whole seems to be looking to *natural Jerusalem* to see the coming of the Lord and to know His holiness through the places where He walked. They even feel that a new temple with animal sacrifices is going to be built, even though the Lamb of God has been slain, and He has declared that **we are now His temple!**

“Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compacted together...” Psalm 122: 3,4. The meaning of the word “compacted” applies very well to the heavenly Jerusalem. It means “to join together by means of fascination: to be charmed and thus bound together; to have fellowship.” It sets forth the harmony, the fellowship, the perfect unity of the **living stones** of the **new** Jerusalem. The love of Christ draws them together and they are made steadfast through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Others who know not the Lord are attracted to the bride and her Beloved as they behold this love and unity among the believers.

I read of a young Christian student in Russia. A young Communist was assigned to go everywhere with her (to report on her movements). She took advantage of his company to share the Lord with him whenever possible. One day some other believers met her at the coffee shop and showed such love and unity that the young man shortly gave his life to the Lord. Then—guess what? someone was assigned to follow *him* around!

It is because she walks in obedience, in love, in worship, seeking to do God’s will at all times, that her Beloved likens her to Tirzah. She is the habitation of the Spirit which God is preparing for Himself.

ONE TAKEN, ANOTHER LEFT

Ray Prinzing

“I tell you, in that night there shall be two in one bed; one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” Luke 17:34-36.

The positive and the negative are both unfolding in this hour. With a positive application we find that though there shall be “two in a bed,” two resting in the same place: same church home, same doctrinal blanket covering them, yet one is taken out, called forth unto Him without the Camp, to bear His reproach, being conformed to His own image, while the other one is left to sleep on yet awhile. Two are grinding at the mill, grinding out the programs and ceremonies of the flesh, when suddenly the eyes of one are opened; they see the emptiness of it all, and are led forth by the Spirit to lay hold of pure reality, and yet the other one is left to grind on in blind obedience to the religious institutional systems. Two are out in the field, laboring hard, and God lays hold of one, sets him aside for spiritual development, while the other is left to toil on building the kingdoms of men.

It appears that the negative application is more literal and natural in fulfillment, while the positive application as presented is a spiritual fulfillment. Of the natural, we read that when the earth is to be reaped, God gathers first the tares (Matt. 13:30), binding them in bundles to be burned. Then He gathers His wheat into His garner.

In the positive, spiritual application, His remnant is now being drawn out first, firstfruits of the new creation order. Thus, there is depth on depth of meaning in the scripture, as the Spirit quickens our understanding. One is taken, the other is left. What is the deciding factor as to who is to be called out, to move into a new realm with God, while the other remains in that spirit of slumber and blindness? Is this not an election of God? A divine choosing according to His grace! O, take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. “Draw me; we will run after Thee.” S. of Sol.. 1:4.

FROM MY PRAYER TIMES

Elaine

1. The Gate of a New Day: “You are standing at the gate of a new day—a day of which you have often spoken and longed after; a day in which you would see the hand of the Lord wax strong on behalf of His people. You will see, at first, **a great contradiction in the earth**. It will appear as if wickedness has prevailed and righteousness has

been trampled under man's feet. (He brought before me Daniel 12:10, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.")

"Look not, My remnant, on the outer destruction that you will behold, for you shall witness the fall of Babylon and with it the structure that calls itself by My Name, yet they have not known Me and have spread their own works and words abroad. This is that which you will see fall to the ground, but you know that My **"back-up" is ready—My True church** who have learned in the wilderness to lean upon their God. These have no agenda of their own, no ambitions of their own. They have only the desire to see Me glorified in the earth, beginning in their earthen vessels. These are ready to step into that gate that is even now opening before them and they shall usher in the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven—all being in obedience to the Lamb.

"Encourage My people not to be fearful when Babylon falls, for it must make way for My new Day and that new thing that I am bringing forth in the earth: even a remnant yielded to Me in love—bondslaves in their hearts, but sons in My sight. Lift up your eyes! Lift up your hearts! These things are nigh at hand."

2. The Virgin Birth: I had been troubled for several days over a brother who informed me that he did not believe in the virgin birth, but believed Joseph was the father of Jesus. He cited the fact that Joseph's genealogy was included in the scripture, in addition to Mary's. As I waited before the Lord, He began to speak to me: **"It was a mingling of bloods, as in the Blood Covenant.** When I was born into this realm of mankind in the flesh, there was a mingling of bloods as was signified in the Blood Covenant that I made with man. (I saw, in the spirit, two people holding their cut wrists together to mingle the blood when they are cutting a covenant which makes them one).

"My Blood, which is Life, mingled with the blood of mankind which is mortal and destined for death. The two came together and a new creation was born, a new creation that was the *only begotten of the Father*.

"I had within My being, the propensity to sin, yet I had the purity of My Father's nature so that I could resist evil and choose righteousness. This I did, by choosing only that which My Father chose, by seeking always to know and to do His will. I

could be tempted by sin, but I chose to choose after My Father's nature that I might rise above sin in the flesh.

"This is the same power I gave to My children when I put My Spirit within them. They now have the power to choose life or death, sin and evil, whereas before receiving My Spirit, they had no power in themselves to choose and to hold to that which is good.

"The blood of man cannot redeem man, for there is no life-giving power in it. If it could, every *good* man could be a Saviour. Only the Blood of Jesus Christ can give life and deliver from sin."

(The truth of the matter is found in Mary's statement of the birth: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" And, God testified that Jesus was "His only begotten son." I ask you: "What kind of a God would you have in Joseph's son? Can mortal man redeem another mortal?")

THE BRETHREN SHARE

1. Pamela Russell (prophecy): "Thus saith the Lord on High, yea, even the mighty God who made both the heavens and the earth. I have stood upon the high mountains and watched the men of this world come against one another like children on a playground. They came once with clubs and stones, then spears and arrows, then with burning oil and cannon, made with all the things I have put upon the earth for man's enrichment. Now he has made fire obsolete and turned to the very substance of his being to destroy himself—the atom.

"All the while each, in his own way and after his own god hath said, "God is on our side." O, foolish man! how deceived thou art. What of My people—where are they? Are they still blind, following after the teaching of man and not after My Word? Can ye not find the end thereof also? Am I not God? Know I not the end even from the beginning? Have I not said unto thee, "Search My Word if ye would have knowledge—if ye would have wisdom; search My Word?"

"Ye see now the leaves upon the fig tree and indeed, summer is nigh—what more signs do ye want? That day is upon thee when all the world shall seek Me and not find Me, for they have cast Me out and called upon false gods to sustain them—gods of wood and stone—gods of finance and sex. How will these hold thee in that hour when I call your name—"Come up; come up?"

"Oh, My people—stand not idle in this dark hour, but come forth and stand in the breach. Call

upon My name and I shall answer thee. Seek Me with thine whole heart and I shall find thee, for ye are not lost, only disillusioned.

“Pray, I say, again I say pray, and hold up those who cannot stand, for having ears they cannot hear and having eyes they see not. But ye have been given a single eye that ye may see Me—yea, that ye may see Jesus Who is the founder and creator of your faith. Blessed be the man who walketh not after his own counsel but who heareth My Word and doeth it, saith the Lord.”

2. Elaine: I recently wrote a five-page “hand-out” called “**Born of Mingled Bloods**” which I felt the Lord gave me to clarify the question of what seed we are of. Feel free to ask for it.

3. Brendon Ward: A dream given by the Lord. I was on the cross. I had nails through my hands and feet. I had a crown of thorns on my head. I was naked and thrust in the side with a spear. My blood was flowing out of my side. A day later, the Lord revealed the interpretation:

* **Nails in feet** – stop walking your way—walk Mine.

* **Nails in hands** – stop doing your works—Do Mine.

* **Crown of thorns** – stop thinking your thoughts – Think Mine.

* **Naked** – stop clothing yourself with your righteousness – clothe yourself with Mine.

* **Spear in the side** – you are poured out as a drink offering for those round about you. Also, stop feeling your feelings, and feel Mine.

Gal. 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

4. Richard and Mary Coder: (We don’t believe in sharing the things people say about us, but this letter brought understanding which should bless each one. Bill and Elaine).

“Thank you again for faithfully fulfilling your ministry of encouragement. As I was meditating about that, the spirit reminded me that when Saul was confronted by the Lord, Jesus said that Saul was persecuting **Him**, not the church or His body. Then the Spirit flipped the concept to the ministry of encouragement instead of the attack on the body of Christ. This means that when you encourage the body of Christ you are encouraging our Lord, who is in the body members. I asked the Lord for an example from scripture.

He gave me Deuteronomy where the people of God were told to encourage Joshua, a type of Christ, who stood before them to cause Israel to inherit the promised land, which I see as the mind of Christ.

I hope you can see what I saw: You two who are in Christ, visibly standing before the people of God, encouraging God’s people to let the mind of Christ reign in them. Deut. 1:38; 3:28. You also encourage us by so faithfully serving our Lord for so many years. How many? (38) We thank you and bless you for that.

5. A Christian Hero: One of the most prominent leaders of China’s underground house-church movement, Zhang Rongliang, has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison after being charged with “illegal border crossing” and other “crimes.” “Brother Z” has already spent 12 years in prison since he was secretly baptized in 1969. He was often tortured during those years. He will spend his 56th birthday in a prison cell.

His first bout in prison came because of his refusal to deny his faith or betray his colleagues. He landed in a labor camp for seven years, but his faith thrived there. He was put in charge of a work team and given unusual freedom to move round the camp’s outskirts. As a result, he planted churches among the rural villagers. Upon his release in 1980, he founded the Chinese for Christ movement—a vast network of churches that grew to an estimated 10 million by 2001. Much of this growth has been linked to miracles. In 1993, about 15,000 people were added to the church when news spread that a local government official was paralyzed for several hours after he tried to stop Zhang and his team from conducting an evangelistic crusade in a sports arena.

“The man pointed to us and told his deputies to arrest us,” Zhang said. “But after that, he could not move and his deputies had to take him to his car even while his arm was still pointing.”

Besides being imprisoned, Zhang suffers from diabetes and his wife is requesting intercession from God’s people.

6. The Cross Room: The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he prayed, “Lord, I can’t go on. My cross is too heavy to bear.” Jesus said, “My son, place your cross inside this room. Then pick out any cross you wish” With relief, the man did so. He saw many crosses, some very large. He chose a tiny one and the Lord said, “That’s the one you just brought in.”

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

1. HE OFFERED FOR US
2. O CAPTIVE DAUGHTER
3. THE CHURCH AGE PASSES
4. GOING ON UNTO PERFECTION
5. SEVEN DAYS OF CREATION
6. ROBBED BY ORTHODOXY
7. PATRIARCHS IN GENESIS
8. JUDGMENT
9. SEEKING HIS REST
10. SHOW ME THY GLORY
11. GOSPEL DELIVERED TO ABRAM
12. POSSESS YOUR INHERITANCE
13. TREASURES OLD AND NEW
14. THE THREE FEASTS
15. BENJAMIN—THE REMNANT SON
16. MELCHISEDEC PRIESTHOOD
17. NEW AGE-COUNTERFEIT FEAST
18. PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER
19. THAT HOLY THING
20. RESURRECTION
21. SCATTERED SHEEP
22. DECOYS
23. BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON-EBY
24. KINSMAN-REDEEMER
25. VISIONS OF SUNDAR SINGH
26. VOICE & LEADING OF GOD
27. PAUL'S KEY TO THE LIBERATED LIFE
28. RULE OF THE KINGDOM
29. THE BLOOD COVENANT
30. THE KEY TO EVERYTHING—GRUBB
31. THE SONG OF THE BRIDE (160 pages)
32. NOT MADE WITH HANDS (202 pages)
33. THE CROSS IN THE HEART OF GOD

CD's, MP3's AND TAPES AVAILABLE

1. MP3 – All of our tapes on the Web + 4 of S. Jones
2. CD & TAPE: THE BENJAMIN REMNANT
3. TAPE: MELCHISEDEC PRIESTHOOD (2)
4. CD & TAPE: TABERNACLE OF DAVID
5. CD & TAPE: THE THREE FEASTS
6. COME INTO THE ARK
7. INTRODUCING THIRD DAY
8. CD & TAPE: THE SABBATH REST
9. CROSSING OVER
10. MARRIAGE OF SOUL & SPIRIT
11. RESURRECTION (3 tapes)
12. INTRODUCING TABERNACLES
13. COMING OF THE LORD
14. CD& TAPES: FEASTS OF THE LORD (5)
15. LAWS OF PARADISE (3)
16. CD & TAPES: NAMES OF GOD (5)
17. KINSMAN-REDEEMER (3)
18. KINGDOM OF GOD
19. THE BEATITUDES
20. ISAAC—THE SPIRIT OF SONSHIP 2)
21. RESTORATION OF ALL—Ted Martin
22. OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY (2)
23. THE BROAD PLACE
24. CD & TAPE: RULE IN THE KINGDOM
25. CD & TAPE: THE BLOOD COVENANT
26. CD & TAPE: FOLLOW JESUS ALL THE WAY
27. A GREAT RECONCILIATION—Terry Miller
27. CD PACKET made in Singapore: BE YE PERFECT, THREE FEASTS, MELCHISEDEC PRIESTHOOD, FEAST OF TABERNACLES –shared in simple terms.

Most of these are also available for download on...

<http://www.kingdomgospel.org/publications.html>

BILL AND ELAINE COOK
P. O. BOX 215
EASTPORT, ID 83826-0215
U. S. A.

OR:
317 – 8 AVE. S.
CRESTON, BC
CANADA V0B 1G3

Printed in Canada