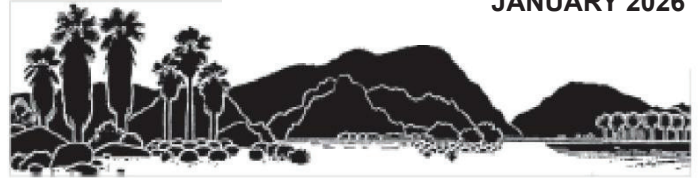


Ralph Woodrow
PO Box 21
Palm Springs, CA 92263-0021

JANUARY 2026



“The LORD’S...compassions fail not. They are NEW every morning”! (Lam. 3:22, 23).

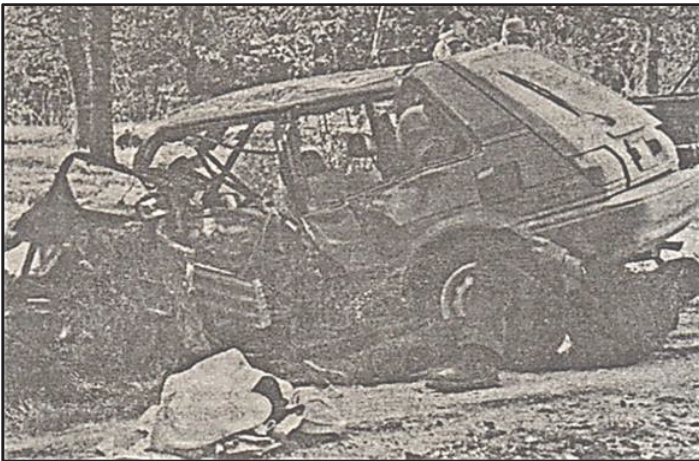
DEAR ONES IN THE FAITH:

Having come into a **New Year**, a number of “new” verses come to mind: a **new** creation, a **new** song, a **new** name, a **new** covenant, a **new** man, a **new** way, a **new** name, **new** Jerusalem, **new** heavens and a **new** earth.

It has now been six years since my wife Arlene passed. I did still have our dog “Buddy,” who was a good friend to me, but he died in May. Both are missed very much, each in their own way.

Some of you have asked about my health. My doctor, a Christian man, says I am “blessed” with good health. My annual physical shows that all tests, lab work, EKG, and cognizance are within the normal range. I do have arthritis in my knees, so am not moving quite as fast as I used to. I am not hiking the Grand Canyon or to the peak of Mount San Jacinto as I did in earlier years!

Many of you know about the tragic death of my son years ago. His name was Ralph K., but often went by the name “Woody.” He was killed in a head-on highway accident, not his fault, when he was 25. He was actually on his way to **church**. The seatbelt he was wearing and the airbag that deployed, were not sufficient to save his life. This newspaper photo shows the wrecked car just before being towed away. This is the first time I have published it.



The young man driving the other car—who was also killed—was a believer. While inserting a Christian music tape into the player in his car, his attention was momentarily diverted so that he veered over across the line into Woody’s car, causing the head-on collision. His girlfriend, who barely survived the accident, later explained these details about how it happened.

The accompanying photo is of Woody and Lisa a few months before they married. When the accident occurred, they had been married only five months—both *so* young and with their lives ahead of them! I told Lisa she was too young to be a “widow.”

Because of some last-minute scheduling, Lisa was not in the car with Woody (who had reason to leave earlier). She was also on her way to the church service, but in a car with her parents, when they came upon the horrid accident.

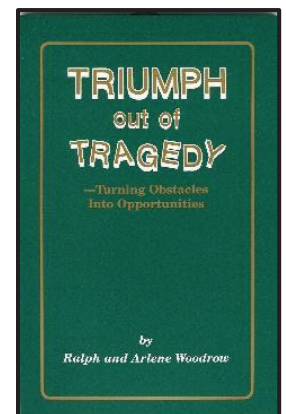
Tragedies like this are difficult to understand. Perhaps this is where the old gospel song comes in: “We’ll Understand it Better By and By.”

We sorrow at the loss of loved ones, “*but* we sorrow not as those who have no hope” (1 Thess. 4:13).



Most of us have experienced tragedies along the way. Jesus Himself was “a man of **sorrows** and acquainted with **grief**.” But He was also “anointed with the oil of **gladness**” (Isa. 53:3; Heb. 1:9). The blessings outweigh the bad!

I am thinking just now of my 144-page book **TRIUMPH OUT OF TRAGEDY**, with the subtitle: *Turning Obstacles into Opportunities*. This faith-based, inspirational book with 75 illustrations, shows that instead of becoming BITTER, we can become BETTER. Without *valleys*, there would be no *mountaintops*. God can turn BAD into BEAUTIFUL in our lives. Though written over a quarter of a century ago, the biblical truths in this book are timeless. You may request a **free** copy as a gift from this ministry.



Three years ago, Greg Albrecht, who heads Plain Truth Ministries, asked me to be on his board. He made it clear this did not require agreement on “everything.” Many within this group were once a part of a legalistic religion that claimed to be the one and

ONLY true church of God. Having come out of this, emphasis is now on Christ. Greg uses the slogan: “Christianity without the religion.” No longer loaded down with fruitless legalism, the message is faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone.

This past month I was honored at a dinner celebration over by Pasadena for my many years in ministry. Greg presented this award to me, a lovely quality clock with these words engraved:

In recognition of your many decades of service as a minister of Christ. You have faithfully followed the Way, and the Truth and the Life. With admiration and appreciation. Plain Truth Ministries.



Over the years, I have held evangelistic meetings in *many* cities and towns. It may be of some general interest to list these (below). I will do this, not to brag, but rather to illustrate opportunities I have had, by the grace of God, to preach the gospel. These opportunities have included churches, conventions, camp meetings, tent revivals, etc.

Some meetings have been onetime speaking engagements, but most have been longer. Some continued three or four weeks. Interactions with many wonderful pastors and people over the years—along with all the travel involved—have provided a learning experience for me.

Because my ministry has never been locked into any one particular denomination, I have gleaned insights I may not have had otherwise—understanding what different Christian groups believe, including where they may differ and why. Fortunately, all Christians *agree* on **far more** than they disagree on.

More important than what “tag” we wear, is that we **love** one another. Jesus said, “By *this* all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another” (John 13:35).

CALIFORNIA: Anaheim, Arlington, Arcadia, Armona, Artesia, Atwater, Bakersfield, Baldwin Park, Banning, Barstow, Bellflower, Bermuda Dunes, Blythe, Boulevard, Brawley, Brea, Cabazon, Calexico, Camarillo, Cathedral City, Cerritos, Chico, Chino, Chowchilla, Colton, Corcoran, Corning, Culver City, Delano, Desert Hot Springs, Dinuba, Dos Palos, East Los Angeles, El Cajon, El Centro, El Monte, El Segundo, Elmira, Escondido, Fair Oaks, Fillmore, Fontana, Fresno, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Gardena, Glen Avon, Glendale, Grass Valley, Hanford, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Highland Park, Home Gardens, Huntington Beach, Huntington Park, Imperial, Indio, Inglewood, La Puente, Lakeport, Lancaster, Lemon Grove, Lodi, Loma Linda, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Los Molinas, Lucerne Valley, Lynwood, Manhattan Beach, Mentone, Merced, Mira Loma, Modesto, Moreno Valley, Monterey Park, Morongo Valley, National City, Newport Beach, Norco, North Long Beach, Oakland, Oak View, Ojai, Olivehurst, Ontario, Orange, Orland, Oxnard, Palmdale, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Panorama City, Paramount, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Pixley, Porterville, Rancho Mirage, Red Bluff, Redding, Redondo Beach, Rincon, Riverside, Rosedale, Rubidoux, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jacinto, San Jose, Sanger, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, Saticoy, Scotts Valley, Seal Beach, Shafter, Sky Valley, Soquel, Spring Valley, Sun City, Sun Valley, Thousand Palms, Three Rivers, Tulare, Turlock, Ukiah, Van Nuys, Venice, Ventura, Victorville, Visalia, Wasco, Weaverville, Westminster, Westmoreland, Willows, Woodcrest, Woodlake, Woodland. **ARIZONA:** Coolidge, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Pinetop, Prescott, Sanders, Tucson, Williams, Yuma. **ARKANSAS:** Dennard, Ft. Smith, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Mountain Home. **COLORADO:** Colorado Springs, Denver, Lakewood, Westcliffe. **DELAWARE:** Clayton, Wilmington. **GEORGIA:** Marietta (Atlanta). **HAWAII:** Camp Timberline, Honolulu, Kahuku. **IDAHO:** Meridian, Boise. **ILLINOIS:** Darien (Chicago). **INDIANA:** Indianapolis. **LOUISIANA:** Baton Rouge, Loranger. **MARYLAND:** Chestertown. **MINNESOTA:** St Paul. **MISSOURI:** Cameron, St. Joseph. **NEBRASKA:** Chappell. **NEVADA:** Elko, Las Vegas. **NEW MEXICO:** Alamogordo. **NEW YORK:** Mt. Sinai, New York City, North Rose. **NORTH CAROLINA:** Salisbury. **OKLAHOMA:** Tulsa, Porter. **OREGON:** Eastside, Jefferson, Junction City, Klamath Falls, Lafayette, Myrtle Point, Portland, The Dalles, Turner. **SOUTH DAKOTA:** Belle Fourche, Rapid City, Spearfish. **TEXAS:** Amarillo, Carrollton, Conroe, Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston, Irving, Lubbock, Midland, New Braunfels, Odessa, Pasadena. **WASHINGTON:** Battleground, Blaine, Longview, Puyallup, Tacoma, Toppenish, White Salmon. **WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee. **CANADA:** Carleton Place, Chatham, Guelph, Kaladar, Langley, Moncton, Ottawa, Perth, Sharbot Lake, Smiths Falls, St. Catharines, Toronto, Vernon, White Rock.

There is no need to make a “god” out of a denomination; but neither should we make a “god” out of *not* being a denomination. There is nothing wrong with a group having a distinctive history, founder, revival, or unique beginning—*except* when these things breed sectarianism. I have gleaned, directly and indirectly, from a number of different ministries, churches, and denominations. I do not say, “I have no need of you!” (cf. 1 Cor. 12:21).

No one denomination or group is perfect, nor can any rightly claim to have *all* the truth. Some that are strong in one area, may be weak in another. Some that are seemingly small and insignificant, may be sharing neglected truth that others overlook or avoid. Some churches excel in helping poor, homeless, and hurting people (cf. Gal. 2:10).

Some churches may not be too deep, theologically speaking, but may be good at reaching families and new converts with the simple gospel message. Others may be so theologically deep, they miss the *flow* of the Holy Spirit.

The body of Christ is made up of individuals who may be different because of age, geography, travel, reading, employment, education, family, friends, heart, and mind. Yet in *diversity* there can be *unity*—when the common focus is that of “looking to **Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2).

Needless division comes when we suppose that only the way **WE** do things is right. Could it be that God has people He loves, people who know Him, who do not attend **OUR** church? Can’t one be our *brother* in Christ, even though he is not an *identical* twin?

We recall the time John said to Jesus, “*We* saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and *we forbade* him because he does not follow with **US**.” Jesus replied: “Do not forbid him, for **he who is not against us is for us**” (Luke 9:49, 50).

Later they would better understand what Jesus meant when He said: “And **other sheep** I have which are not of this fold...they will hear My voice; and there will be **one** flock and **one** shepherd” (John 10:16; Eph. 2:13-19).

Having a desire to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15), I like to share things I have learned along the way. I certainly don’t claim to have the **final** word or the **ultimate** revelation on everything. I am still learning, sorting things out.

In the final analysis, it is not so much **HOW MUCH** we know, but **WHO** we know (Phil. 3:10).

Yours in HIM,

Ralph Woodrow