



Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
Only believers are
“content with such things as ye have”
(Heb. 13:58)
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CALLED FROM THE SHEEPCOTE!

By Cpt. Gordon F. Nelson

“And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.” (1 Sam. 16:11)



The Sheepcote – The Old Ship of Zion Church
Hayward, Calif. – Foothill Blvd. & C St.

Sheep are actually the dumbest animal on the face of the earth. If you put a rod out for the head sheep to jump over, although the rod is later removed, all the sheep that follow will jump at the same spot. They cannot fend for themselves, and for that reason should follow their shepherd. However, every preacher should have experience of “keeping sheep.” By actually dealing with sheep in the sheepfold, you discover even stranger habits of sheep. The shepherd, instead of being their leader, winds up following them for all the trouble they get themselves into. Many well-

intentioned preachers die prematurely simply over the stress of following the sheep.

Oakland pastor winds up in hospital

I know of one Assemblies of God preacher in Oakland who the sheep voted out while he was on his annual vacation. This particular pastor wound up in the hospital. It is an emotional thing that sheep aren't capable of understanding. The preacher believes he is sent by God to preach to this particular people. This Oakland preacher never preached another sermon. *“Touch not mine anointed!”* (1 Ch. 16:22) What does a sheep do? Vote him out! In the hireling system, the sheep will even become the boss! Organizations have this sheepcote (a home, of God [temple] – Strong's 5116) mentality of their pastors that they are obligated to “follow the sheep.” (2 Sam. 7:8) How else is the pastor made worthy of his salary? If he doesn't please the sheep, they won't pay their tithes. Strange, indeed, how money plays such an important part in the worship.

In the sheepcote one finds the reason the pastor follows the sheep. It is because every sheep is given a vote. We establish a democracy where power is delegated to the sheep. With a 51% (mob rule) vote, a pastor must follow their decision. Who then is following whom?

Democracy is the half-way mark

It was the great Apostle Paul who said, *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”* (Gal. 1:10) By invoking this “mob rule” type of government into the church, the pastor’s *“high calling of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 3:14) is reduced to that of a politician, man-pleaser, or a “hireling.” (Jn. 10:12)

The founders of America well recognized the evils of a democracy, hence, gave us a republic. Democracy is the half way mark between a republic and socialism. One day Americans will wake up to a socialistic dictatorship, and will wonder how it could have happened in America. You and I, as this end-time generation, should have at least the common sense to keep the mob rule out of the church! Is that too difficult for you to comprehend? Sheep do not lead the shepherd.

David only had the single experience of “following the sheep” in a sheepcote. He never longed to return to the sheepcote! Even King Saul would pass up sheepcotes to find rest in a cave. *“And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.”* It was in this cave that David *“cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily* (covertly, secretly).” (1 Sam. 24:3-4)

David’s new church: the cave of Adullam; a higher calling than the sheepcote

“David therefore departed thence (to escape King Saul and his men), and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a CAPTAIN over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.” (1 Sam. 22:1-2) Please note, David was not a captain to the high and mighty. (1 Cor. 1:27-29)

In the sheepcote, the pastor has both male and female sheep to attend to. The pastor has compassion for the sheep, hence gets himself involved with whatever the sheep get involved with. *“They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage...they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded.”* (Lk. 17:27-28) Shepherds are the voice of God to this entire generation of lost sheep. They cannot amalgamate with the sheep, but must remain separate in order to help them.

In the cave of Adullam, only men gathered themselves together where a brotherhood was formed, and David became a captain over them. David was “called from the sheepcote.” *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee FROM the sheepcote, FROM following the sheep (mothering their messes), to be ruler over my people, over Israel.”* (2 Sam. 7:8) When David received a higher calling than the tending of sheep, he left. *“And David rose up early in the morning, and LEFT THE SHEEP with a keeper, and took (off), and went.”* (1 Sam. 17:20)

Captain called from both the sheepcote and the cave

What in the world are you talking about, Captain? How could you possibly manage that?

We had two entirely different congregations during the tenure of the Old Ship of Zion Church in Hayward. It was during the rebellious 1960's when God was supernaturally visiting our young people. The USA was experiencing a "Jesus Freak" revival going on across America. I had just graduated as an "Ordained for Eternity" minister of the gospel. I was moved with compassion for these street people who had recently found Christ. I saw these as Jesus did in His day. *"They were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things."* (Mk. 6:34)

I began by teaching young men in homes. In a short time, no single home could possibly house so many people. It was then I began to look for a church. Strangely enough, only young men showed up for our church services who became the charter members of the Old Ship of Zion in Hayward. We rented a building for worship which has since been purchased by the Catholic Church. They own the property today, however, it still remains as a monument in my memory; the glory of God appeared in every service. It is in the midst of His glory that one acquires a deeper understanding of God's Word. This church site in Hayward is to me what the old "Glory Barn" is to the Azusa Street revival initiated in Los Angeles.

I would take the podium, thanking God for every person coming through the front door seeking a pew to sit in. I would then ask them, "Why do you think I would thank God for every spirit coming through that door? It is because by your coming, God is going to give me the name of the spirit you were born with. Hence, knowing who you are, then we will all know what you are about, and how your particular spirit will teach us all about the hidden treasures in God's Word. You'll be witnessing the gift of the discerning of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10) in operation in the church tonight. The Bible plainly teaches, *"For there is NOTHING HID, which shall not BE MANIFESTED; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR."* (Mk. 4:22-23)

What made this church unique is that I had an all-male congregation. The entire church felt like heaven had actually come down to earth in that church. I've never felt or seen the glory of God more impressive in anybody's meetings more than which visited this Church of Zion in Hayward. Folks even testified to seeing angels. This church was truly a brotherhood, and I was their captain.

I was a captain to ex-druggies, to real hardcore sinners, men whose minds were all messed up through our own educational system, worshippers of the sun god, students of astrology, witchcraft. They were surprised to learn that sex outside of marriage was sin.

David becomes a captain

While in the cave of Adullam, David became a captain over *"every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented."* (1 Sam. 22:2) David was not a captain over the self-sufficient, the greedy, the lovers of money, the guys that can read the Bible in the original language (Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic) fluently and understand what they read. He was not a captain over those who possess degrees following their name as long as your forearm, and neither was I. *"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the*

world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.” (1 Cor. 1:26-29)

David took nobodies and turned those men into a fighting machine. David’s three mighties, inspired by David’s life, killed more giants than David. *“And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had; Jashobeam, an Hachmonite, the chief of the captains: he lifted up his spear against three hundred slain by him at one time. And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighties.” (1 Ch. 11:11-12)*

David inspired men to unbelievable feats by his killing of Goliath. After David became king, the three mighties just happened to overhear David say, *“Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that is at the gate!” (1 Ch. 11:17)* That was all the three mighties had to hear, and they endangered their own lives to bring David his wish, a cup of water he refused to drink. David rather repented, *“My God forbid it me, that I should do this thing: shall I drink the blood of these men that have put their lives in jeopardy?” (1 Ch. 11:19)*

The Captain attracts weird people

Thus far, the only mighties this ministry has attracted are folks not interested in fighting giants. They simply want to compare their spirit within them with mine. Spirits are indeed weird, and play their games. I permit them to play. They care nothing about the war.

There was one female student who worked in the Patten household, who quit her job the same day the Kingfish was sentenced from 5-10 years in San Quentin. She became a fast friend of my wife for the sole purpose of comparing her spirit of divination with the spirit that God had placed within me. Unclean spirits seek out those of greater power.

When Christ visited the man in the tombs of Gadara, the unclean spirits within the man began to cry out. *“And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.” (Mk. 5:7)* The demons recognize the power within the Christian. *“Men loved darkness rather than light.” (Jn. 3:19)*

My own son made the remark, “How in the world do you meet such weird people?” It’s because they want to compare what they have with what God gave to me. This is the nature of spirits; they are inquisitive of what is happening in the spirit realm. *“There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.” (1 Cor. 14:10)* The nominal church member is content to go to church, sit and warm a bench for an hour, and go home. Because of religion, he has no inquisitiveness relative to the spirit world at all.

Apostle Paul attracts demon possessed woman

“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel POSSESSED WITH A SPIRIT OF DIVINATION met us, WHICH BROUGHT HER MASTERS MUCH GAIN (monetarily) by soothsaying: the same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days.” (Acts 16:16-18) Every word that

this woman was saying was the truth. How did she know these men were the servants of the most high God?

The Bible says of this woman who had sought out Paul, *“This did she many days,”* crying out, *“These men are the servants of the most high God...But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”* (Acts 16:17-18)

Paul grieved for many days over the woman with spirits. I have grieved for many years over a young man whom I first met when he was 21 years old. I’ll have to admit one thing to you about this gift God has given me. I am as inquisitive to know the name of the spirit controlling them as they are to understand how I know their name. It all came to a climax, over thirty-five years later, when he said to me, “I’m exactly like you!”

Captain amazed at what triggers “gift”

I never know what triggers the gift of discernment. These are spirits talking through the man. Someway, he believes that by following me over a long period of time, he has arrived. He is just like me! It was then I came awake! What have I done? I’ve created another me because I failed the Lord’s command, *“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls (of truth) before swine.”* (Matt. 7:6)

In addition, this Colorado Springs pastor, Ted Haggard, further ignited “the gift” by making a full confession to the charges of a homosexual prostitute over the past three years. We have a new generation that has graduated from our sex-ed classes in our public school system. Homosexuality just has to be the original sin that caused God to put Adam and Eve out of the garden. *“So he drove out the man.”* (Gen. 3:24)



Evangelist admits ‘sexual immorality’

Fired pastor Ted Haggard apologizes to church. ‘I am a deceiver and a liar,’ he says.

Pastor Ted Haggard, who is not a Freemason.

Has the church simply missed something that is vital for its survival? We’ve always suspected that gays would go into the churches and dare preachers to marry them. If the pastor refused, the gays would start a civil rights lawsuit and have the church shut down. From all appearances, it seems there is a much easier way to close the church doors by appealing to the pastor’s weakness of the flesh.

Homosexuality is the forbidden fruit. Once eaten, you are damned. How many gay sex prostitutes lurk in the shadows of your church?

In our modern day culture, when you are a pastor, you have arrived! Pastor Ted Haggard was supposedly called from the sheepcote, but refused to leave his New Life Church, with his 14,000 membership looking to him as a god. He was once president of the National Association of Evangelicals, wielding influence on Capitol Hill. Ted Haggard represents the elite in orthodoxy when it

comes to what is termed Fundamentalism. There is no scripture that says the pastor is the head of the church. In the model church at Antioch (Acts 13:1), they are the least of the elders.

In today's society, practically all politicians are Freemasons and members of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). It may be for insurance purposes to keep the drive-by media off their case that we find ministers of the gospel following this same example. The Mafia calls this action by another name: protection money.

The drive-by mass news media has exploited the story of Ted Haggard, the likes of which the American people haven't seen since Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker. The real hypocrisy of this episode is the treatment these men of the cloth receive who are not Freemasons compared to those that are. Paul Crouch, who is a Freemason, received few lashes for his affair with a homosexual by comparison. Only one newspaper, the Los Angeles Times carried the complete story, September 12, 2004.

All Jim Bakker did wrong was to sell some extra timeshares in his Heritage USA complex. Had Jim Bakker paid the "protection money" and been a Freemason, I'm sure the IRS would have bypassed the incident completely. Freemasons take an oath to protect their fellow lodge members.



Ted Haggard opposing gay sex!

Jimmy Swaggart and his own kingdom

"When the PTL scandal destroyed fellow Assemblies of God minister Jim Bakker, Swaggart publicly denounced Bakker's scandal (not Bakker personally) as 'a cancer on the body of Christ.' Shortly afterward, Swaggart faced his own sex scandal when a private investigator, hired by a rival evangelist Marvin Gorman, documented a series of Swaggart's meetings with prostitutes. (Gorman himself had been fired from the Assemblies of God ministry after Swaggart had reported that Gorman was having an adulterous affair.) In 1987, Swaggart was involved with a prostitute named Debra Murphree in Metairie, Louisiana at the Texas Motel on Airline Highway. Gorman and some associates flattened the tires on Swaggart's car, went to get cameras, and then took photographs of Swaggart exiting the hotel with the prostitute. Gorman confronted Swaggart and told him he would have to come clean. Swaggart said he would but failed to do so.... It was made public knowledge later that the Assemblies of God headquarters had previously known of Swaggart's lifestyle and had counseled him at an earlier time, but took no further action."¹

The irony of all this is a couple of preachers who both minister in Baton Rouge; both are defrocked from the Assemblies of God; both are involved in building their own kingdom here on earth; both follow the IRS tax code rules with a 501(c)(3) non-profit religious incorporation. The tax code creates these man-made kingdoms, "*and my people love to have it so.*" (Jer. 5:31) When will we learn? The house of God should never be treated as private property?

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Swaggart

This type of church is scripturally termed “*lords over God’s heritage.*” (1 Pet. 5:3) It is a family owned incorporation, therefore is run like a business with a President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. “*The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.*” (Mic. 3:11) LaBelle Bebe’s church in Oakland, CA was one of these “*lords over God’s heritage.*”

Captain called from the “lords over God’s heritage”

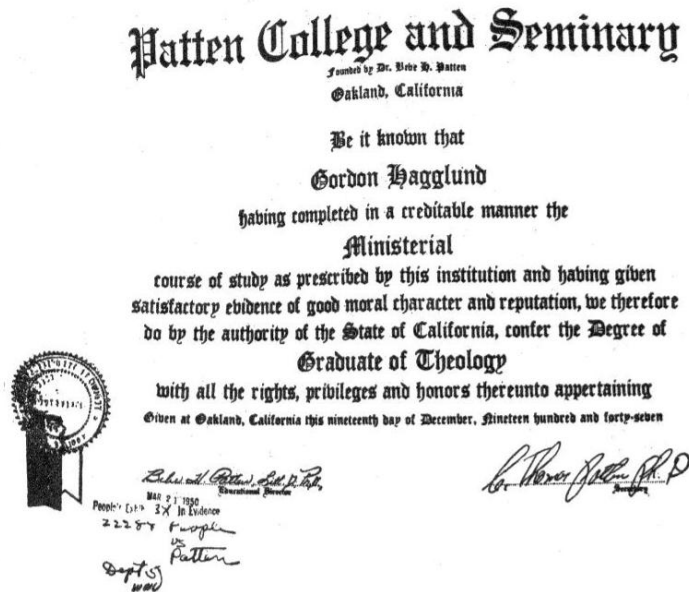
Before television was invented, I had a preview of coming attractions by my attendance for five years at Patten Bible College, being discipled by Dr. Bebe Patten. Without this foundation, I’d be completely deceived by the TBN fruit from their Tree of Knowledge. I’d have happily eaten of the fruit. As babies, we interpret love by our emotions.

In today’s vernacular, the sheepcote is like the days of a hireling. “*As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow* (Heb. – shade), *and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work.*” (Job 7:2) Apostle Paul declared, “*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.*” (Gal. 1:10) A typical pastor today is a servant of men, a hireling, voted into office by the people.

When God called me He said, “I give unto you a ship, and you are the captain. You are to call it The Old Ship of Zion, and it shall have the same government that is aboard a ship.” I became the captain of a church full of young men. What a privilege to invest in their lives. God bathed the entire church with His glory, with the power of God falling at every service. Those were the days of heaven on earth to me. However, I’d never return to another sheepcote!

Captain prays for women to come to his church

But, one day I came to the podium feeling sorry for all those young men having not a single woman in the church. I told my congregation that I was a virgin until I was 27 years old when I married an Assemblies of Godite lay preacher’s daughter. “I know men. They can’t really fool me. But when it comes to women, every young man in this church knows more than I. I know nothing, so we’ll learn together!”



Official Name Change 8/25/66

The church well remembered the prayer of their pastor for women to come to our church. The very next service, one woman showed up and I lost my song director. Dave M. married her! The following service, two beautiful women showed up at the church. They came into the church with one of them barking orders, "I'm going after Randy B., and you see if you can have an affair with the preacher." Virgins do not go to church like this. I found out that the women go to church for more reasons than seeking God. With the entrance of these women, the brotherhood ceased.

God told David, "I have called you from the sheepcote." I can more readily understand the Master who preached to the multitudes in parables. He was never suckered into a sheepcote situation. *"And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."* (Lk. 6:46-48)

Do you know what the rock indicates?

Do you know what the rock indicates? It is the twelve, and not a Mary Magdalene among them! *"And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, and Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others (all women), which ministered unto him of their substance."* (Lk. 8:2-3) Do you think Christ would stoop to the level of asking Judas for a postage stamp from "his bags"? Men are simply tightwads. They freely give what's on their mind, but not what's in their wallet. God help Jesus if He had no women to minister to His needs! God help me if there wasn't a Mary. Jesus calls this brotherhood, The Rock. Someway, I know, it just doesn't seem fair. If women didn't give of their substance, most churches would be closed within the month. Women are emotional, and for that reason enter into true worship.

Jesus said, *"Freely ye have received, freely give."* (Matt. 10:8) This is the principle that guides this ministry. Apostle Paul reiterated the same that *"I may make the gospel of Christ without charge."* (1 Cor. 9:18)

God gives a memorial to women, *"Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, THAT THIS WOMAN hath done, be told for a memorial of her"* (Matt. 26:13), and to all Christian women. What did this woman do? *"There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when the disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?"* This is Jesus' Rock talking! Listen to the twelve as these tightwads speak their wisdom. *"For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor."* (Matt. 26:7-9) Women were the first to the tomb and the last at the cross. Where was Peter, but warming his hands at a strange fire, while denying he ever knew Christ. (Matt. 26:34)

Jesus had to straighten out His own chosen disciples about Mary of Bethany's giving. *"Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial."*

(Matt. 26:10-13) The woman must have known through divine revelation that she was preparing the Son of God for His soon coming death.

The first \$1,000 gift given in my church was from a woman. If all the men in the church give absolutely nothing to keep the doors open, and the women freely give as they receive, whom do you think the hireling's heart will go out to? Is it any wonder that the hireling listens intently to the plea of women? Pastors know which sex butters their bread.

All this duplicity from the pulpit calls for a rethinking of the entire structure of what we term, The Church. Have we in reality built upon the sand? Laodicea (Gk. – people rule), which was neither cold nor hot. *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”* (Rev. 3:16) Is the hot or cold due to the entrance of females into the governmental structure of the church? *“Let the elders that rule.”* (1 Tim. 5:17)

The Rock defined

Based on our knowledge gained from the sheepcote, perhaps we have misunderstood the statement Jesus made about the Rock. Was the Rock in Matthew 16:18 referring to himself, revelation knowledge, or the organization He personally had called together? *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Petros, a little piece of the rock), and upon this rock (petra, the twelve) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

The Lord's prayer recorded in John 17 seems to indicate that this Rock was Christ's legacy to earth as the fruit of His 3 ½ years of ministry to us. *“I pray for them (the twelve): I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they (the twelve) may be one, as we are.”* (Jn. 17:9-11)

The gates of hell will prevail!

The gates of hell will prevail against TBN, Daystar, who are a type of the Tower of Babel being built into the heavens on the sand. *“And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds (of doctrine) blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”* (Matt. 7:26-27)

A Jewish-Gentile remnant will prevail

“And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matt. 7:28-29) They became “astonished at his doctrine,” because Jesus could predict the fall of a house of cards, built upon the sand—a one-man show. Will the church ever wake up? I think not, but I simply pray for the Messianic Jews to be provoked to jealousy to show us the way. Please don't follow the example exemplified by the closing of the age of the Gentiles? Gentile's eyes are being closed, while the eyes of the Jewish people are being opened.