

Volume 1, Issue 24

July 25, 2009

More than a few of us.

Oh Martin! You've echoed my thoughts exactly. It gets harder every day to go through the motions in this lousy world that hates—or does not even know—God. The only thing that gets me through is the knowledge that it's His world



If only it was all about ME.

and that it is going along exactly as planned. I cling to His sovereignty like a security blanket, the spirit praying for me 'cause I don't even know how to pray in light of the glory to come. I just know it's coming...and I'm waiting and learning as much about Him as He'll give me. Thanks for speaking out what more than a few of us must be feeling and thinking. Grace and peace, —Laura

DEAR LAURA,

I am thanking God a lot these days that He has given me a voice. You are right to rest in His sovereignty. That is such a foundational teaching. Just keep trusting, trusting, trusting Him. Your confidence in Him will be repaid. Yours truly,

Martin

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

A community of believers

It has been pressed upon me to publish a collection of your comments about the *Clanging Gong News*. One could possibly interpret this as an exercise in ego. I wish it was. Whenever I get a compliment about the newsletter, I feel good for about three minutes. Mind you, it's a wonderful three minutes. I believe we are meant to feel good about what God has called us to do. For plumbers, architects, dentists and such, this cozy feeling has actually been documented to last up to several days. The average is 12 hours, although a dryer repairman in Iowa by the name of Alfred Lintbasket actually claimed to be happy his entire life.

The occupation of evangelist is slightly different, however.

To be effective, the evangelist of grace must have no confidence in flesh. He must see the strength and power behind the message as that of Christ and not of himself. This kind of humility is not easy to ask for. I never can quite bring myself to pray: "Dear God, please knock me down a peg or two." No matter. God has proven capable of this without the aid of my prayers.

The main point of this issue (besides being a demonstration that it's not all about me) is to show that we are a community of believers. Many of you feel alone; you have no one to share this good news with. Those you do share it with often give you the leper treatment. Take



It's not all about ME.

heart: you are not alone; you're just spread out. The body of Christ is alive and God-sustained.

Concerning the unity of this body, I think the best verse to illustrate it is Colossians 2:19:

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Dear Martin, I have been enjoying your weekly CGN. It seems to be the only sanity in this world of increasing pain and fear and it helps me to keep my mind on the bigger picture...Christ and the coming eon. —Denise

Thanks, folks. I wish I could tell you that it's all about **ME**—but it's not.



The Clanging Gong News is my church. Thanks!!!—Sheila

Thanks again—a million times over. You changed my life by getting me back into the scriptures. **THE EXCITEMENT IS BACK** —Joe

...community of believers

(Continued from pg. 1)

“Out of Whom the entire body, being supplied and united through the assimilation and ligaments, is growing in the growth of God.”

“Assimilation?” I’m quoting from the Concor-dant Literal New Testament there; most other versions have, “joints and ligaments.” I can understand joints and ligaments, but apparently “joints” is not the right translation.

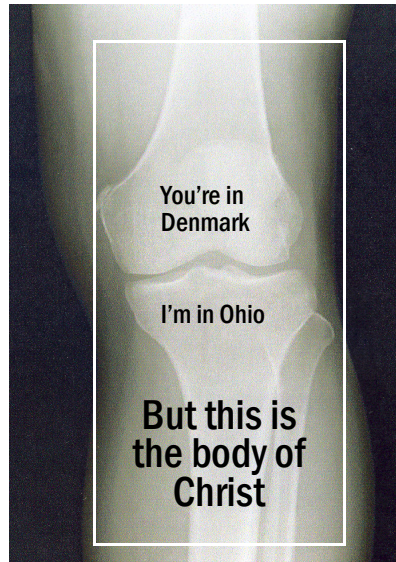
The Greek word translated “assimilation” is *haphē*, whose English element is, TOUCH. When used physiologically—as Paul uses it here—it means, “the result of food coming into contact with the digestive tract.”

There are two things happening to the body of Christ in this passage: they are being supplied and united. The supply comes from assimilation, and the uniting by ligaments. These are figurative ways to describe literal truths. But meditate upon Paul’s analogy and you will see how surely and literally God takes care of us—as a unit.

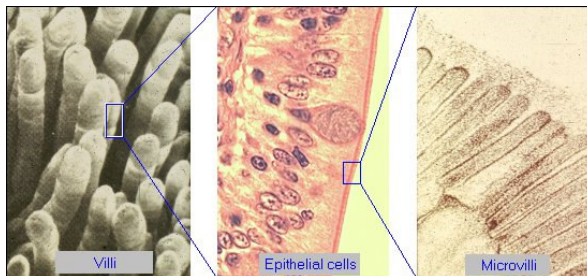
Ligaments (*sundesmos*, in the Greek; English elements: TOGETHER-BOND) are bands of white fibrous tissue that connect bones and hold them together. Think of how snugly the ball of your femur fits into your hip socket; that’s how surely and securely we are united to each other—at least from God’s point of view. (Let’s let it become *our* point of view.) Friends, we are tucked as tightly together as the leg bone is connected to the ankle bone, and the ankle bone is connected to the knee bone. (I may have gotten my anatomy screwed up there in that last example, but you know what I mean.)

So the body is united by the ligaments (see how neatly the femur fits into the tibia across the column), but what about this food coming into contact with the digestive tract? What does that have to do with the body of Christ? Are we one giant large intestine?

Don’t be ridiculous! We are one giant *small* intestine! The large intestine absorbs water from



indigestible food matter, and then—you know what. But the small intestine is where most of the nutrients from ingested food are absorbed. This miracle occurs via little finger-like projections called the microvilli. As soon as these microvilli TOUCH the food, they start sucking nutrients from it and sending it into the bloodstream.



Look how God has aligned these millions of microvilli like soldiers along the intestinal tract. They undulate as a unit, sniffing together for a whiff of nourishment from above. Marvel at what a wall-to-wall ensemble they are, so closely packed that it requires ultra magnification to differentiate the individual fingers. *That’s us!*

The CGN is just one piece of God’s sustenance, but I do thank you for partaking. ■

What a Revelation! LOTS O’ PEOPLE LIKE CLANGING GONG NEWS

Hey Bro!

Just wanted to let you know that my response to the *Gongs* has grown from “Probably a good idea,” to “Stunning!” I think you are really being inspired in this. In fact, you’re one of the few individuals I know of who’s going out with “Herald the word...” the way Paul (God) intended it. No holds barred, using the language of today and with a combination of headlines/visuals to really grab attention. Thanks and congratulations. In fact, I sent off a small appreciation today which, unlike words, might help to pay the power bill. More as and when I can. —Roy, your friend, “Down Under”

Martin,

After reading issue 22, I find myself praying in a massive transfer of holy spirit for love, peace, and realization of our good God and Father, to all, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May everyone with questions, and everyone with answers, be fully satisfied and filled to overflowing with the One Who is true satisfaction, joy, contentment, happiness, and anything else a human could ever possibly need for fulfillment. —Brian, Idaho



It could be all about me, but it’s not!

Dear Martin, After 34 years of searching, guilt, condemnation, disappointment in myself—and after leaving the Protestant churches (yes I did some church hopping in my day looking for the Truth) about 10 years ago, I sat down and prayed: “God is there no one who thinks like me about You? This Christian doctrine is all screwed up, but Lord, I love You and ask You to bring me the Truth.” Within two days, I stumbled across your site. An accident? Hardly. Everything makes sense, everything is clear for the first time. Thank you for the work you do and are doing. Of course, I wish you were back doing your ZenderTalks, but I suspect you are doing just what you are supposed to be doing. Sincerely yours, —Brenda, Florida

Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.

Getting a word in edgewise

Washington, D.C. is an exciting place to visit, what with all the museums and such—especially the American History Museum and Ford's Theater—and that tall monument to George Washington that doesn't look a thing like him.

Well, I was in Washington, D.C. not too long ago, and— **"Martin, I must say that Volume 1, Issue 10 of the CGN was spectacular. It was so well stated that I am going to print it out and give it to my friends. Every time I get upset over the state of this country, I will reread it."** —Bill, Dallas, Texas

Well, thank you, Bill, I appreciate that. I hope your friends are still your friends after you send them that issue. Letters like yours keep me going. I could not write the CGN without this kind of encouragement.

So as I was saying. You would think that in Washington, D.C. of all places, they would respect such traditional American foods as grilled cheese sandwiches and hot dogs. But you can't believe what they charged me at the— **"Martin, thanks for making me laugh with Issue 14. It could not have come at a better time. It's so great to have 'The Gong' waiting on Saturday morning like a comfortable pair of slippers. Great format...keep up the good work!"** —Mary, Colorado

Hi, Mary. I'm glad you wrote. I love putting humor into my writing. In fact, it's hard for me *not* to. I'm glad you feel like the *Gong* is a friend. That's the nicest thing you could have said to me.



So anyway, I was at the Natural History Museum not long ago, and it was lunchtime, so I went into the cafeteria and— **"I've now listened to almost all of your audio material, and Martin, it really has changed my life! Your recordings are so full of godly truth, as well as warmth, humor, anger (in the right places), passion, and humanity."** —David, Auckland, New Zealand

Thanks for saying so, David. Sharing your letter with others will help these folks realize that they're not alone. The body of Christ corporately seeks truth!

So, I look up at the menu board, and— **"You really have your finger on the pulse, Martin. Keep The Gong clanging 'cause we're all waiting for the next one!"** —Susan, St. Louis

Thank you, Susan. Here's the latest "pulse" I wish to pass on to all my readers: "Never go to the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C. hungry! ■"

I don't know what in the world I would do if it was all about me



Thank you, Martin, for your labor in the Word, and for letting us see the faithfulness of God through you. And thank GOD for your gift of communication. I love anything you write and your words help me picture in my mind exactly what you're expressing. Truly you have the gift of communication. You will hear from me again. Your sister in Christ, —Jeannette, Los Angeles

Just want to say thanks for the Issues 19 & 20. I have been trying to detangle the ball of string in my mind due to being taught the doctrines of men in church. I cried out to God for help and He sent you to pull on a very important string that was really stuck in my head. I've been angry over the years at God for not being in control of very much in His universe. But thanks to you, I have seen the light of day. God is in control of everything including evil and now I can sleep at night and not think evil against God anymore. Thanks so much! —Philip, New York