



DID YOU GET YOUR DIRECTORY?

The new church directories are ready to be picked up this morning - be sure to get yours - the one with your name on the back. Gail and I “got our act together” and finished them up the first part of the week.

I thank God that we only have to do a directory for our “local” church. Imagine doing a directory for The Church? To begin with we have,

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41

I wouldn't want to do a directory for 3000 people! It didn't stop there.

And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47b

And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, Acts 5:14

In a few short years the church at Jerusalem had grown to thousands of people. When Paul and the others set out, THE CHURCH grew immensely with people all over that part of the world.

Imagine what it would be like if every Christian church in the world submitted a directory of its membership (today, in electronic form) to some organization and that organization then published a master directory.

Do you know what, such a directory actually exists. Where? No, not on the Internet! You might suppose this immense directory began with the early church,

And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. Philippians 4:3

The Book of Life - the directory of all of the members of the Universal Church, was being compiled in the first century. It did not begin there.

The Psalmist wrote of those who were oppressing God's people,

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous. Psalm 69:28

This massive directory was being compiled way back in Old Testament times. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are in this book. Moses and Joshua and Samuel are in this book. Even people like Rahab the harlot are in it.

Paper books have a way of being where “moth and rust doth corrupt” and hence have a limited lifetime. My experience with the Internet tells me that things are even less permanent when posted there.

It is imperative that this book be preserved for all time. Gail and I have a lot of old family photographs and other items and we are concerned with what to do to keep them in their present condition. Librarians go to great lengths to preserve things.

The Book of Life, however, is in good hands - the hands of the Master Archivist - God Himself. He will continue to add and preserve names till the very end,

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. Revelation 3:5

One day this book will be opened for all to see, *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.* Revelation 20:12

It is my prayer that, when this book is opened, your name will be there with the rest. If you have not assured yourself that your name is there, why not speak with Jim, Daryl or one of the Elders this morning?

Wayne C:\WPDOCS\bible\wwws\www3n17.wpd, ©October 1, 2005 by Wayne E. McMorran

