

June
2002

CHRISTADELPHIAN NASU STEERING COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER

NASU PROGRESS

There is a widespread interest in the Unity process. During recent months, brethren have been examining and discussing the NASU proposal. Many meetings have taken place, some with NASU representatives. Many questions have been asked of the NASU Steering Committee, and answers are being given.

The Web Site has been actively accessed. At the present time, there are about 25 hits per day. When it was first activated, it received about four times that number. The Web Site is found at www.NASU.ca.

The Web Site now includes the "Ecclesial Guide", since it is referenced in the NASU proposal. Also, the site includes questions and answers arising from the dialogue with brethren, posted from time to time.

MEETINGS WITH NASU REPRESENTATIVES

NASU representatives are willing to travel to your ecclesia or area for meetings. Some ecclesias or areas have already undertaken such meetings and others are currently being scheduled. Despite careful wording, a printed document can often be misunderstood. The best way to achieve clarity and mutual understanding is by face-to-face discussion. Admittedly, that takes time. Let the NASU Steering Committee know if you wish to organize a meeting in your area.

DAYS OF PRAYER

Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, was observed under the Mosaic Law as a day of prayer, a day of sober reflection and community repentance.

This year, Yom Kippur falls on Monday, September 16.

For unity, we absolutely need the direction and help of our Heavenly Father. The prayers of the brethren everywhere are needed. Some ecclesias currently ask for unity in their Sunday morning services. Some brethren ask for unity daily.

We all should agree to the need for a unity that God can bring.

In consequence, the NASU Steering Committee asks that

we set aside two days for special prayers for unity this year, Sunday, September 15 and Monday, September 16, days which fall on Yom Kippur and the day before. Pray for a unity that glorifies our Heavenly Father.

May we have the prayers of all brethren towards this worthy goal, not just on these days, but throughout the year!

What a blessing we shall have when unity is achieved! There will be rejoicing throughout North America and in the rest of the world. The angels will rejoice!

Pray for unity.

*That ye may with one mind
and one mouth glorify God,
even the Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ. Rom. 15:6*

ONE BROTHER'S PRAYER FOR UNITY

The following is one brother's prayer on behalf of the Christadelphian community in North America.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father:

We seek Your help for the unity of our North American brethren.

We confess our sin. While we did not cause the breach, we have allowed it to continue. We have been isolated from each other. We have been angry. We have not esteemed our brethren.

We have borne the consequences of our division. Brethren have been separated, families split and ecclesias enfeebled. Our preaching to others is hampered – our Lord prayed that we may be one, and that thereby we might be one in You and in him, so that the world may believe that You have sent him. How can we preach effectively to others when they see our division? We are ashamed of our poor witness.

How many of Your little ones has our division caused to stumble? Please forgive and correct us that this offence may not continue to hurt other little ones.

We fear we have allowed the views of brethren to fashion our thoughts more than has Your Word. Have we respected our brethren above Your Word?

When we partake of the bread, which reminds us that we are one bread and one body, we try to forget our division. Do we discern the Lord's body?

We know our separation is not Your will. We know that You want us to be one – one with You and with our Lord, in mutual love and truth, to reflect Your love. We ask for Your help. May we be forgiven.

Direct us therefore, in this effort that seeks for unity. May You guide what we do. Direct us to Truth. Work in all our hearts to see our duty clearly and to do it. Help our brethren who work towards unity. We believe that unity is impossible without Your help. May we understand the Truth of Your Word and learn to speak the Truth in love. Help us to overcome our differences and set aside our prejudices.

We rejoice in the wonder of Your salvation, of Your love and Your forgiveness. We are truly thankful for our Lord. Help us to be unified in Your love, that our Lord's return may find us together. May this be Your will. May this be done for Your Name's sake.

We ask it in Jesus' Name.

Amen

Brethren of the Christadelphian NASU Steering Committee:

Ken Curry; Don Davies; Don Elliott; Doug Finlay; Ian Finlay; Rod Ghent; George Jackson; Ian McPhee; Ron McPhee; Noel Peare; Andrew Pearse; Ron Wayne; William Yake; Paul Zilmer; Colin Badger, Advisor to the Committee.

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