

Mistranslation [01-25-20]

**Yahshua (Jesus) ¹, never said that He would build His “Church.” (Matt 16:15-18)
He said that He would build His “Ekklesia”**

Part 1: General Background on Mistranslations

The religious world has taught that the written Word of God is without error. That is true for the original Word, which seems to no longer be in existence. What we do have are copies made from copies made from copies. These ancient copies are nearly identical for the first five books of the Bible; but for the rest of the Old Covenant, there is some variance between these ancient manuscripts. As we examine the New (Renewed) Covenant, we find though that there is a wide disparity between the ancient manuscripts used as their source. There continues however, ongoing scholarly detective work to determine which manuscripts most accurately match up with the missing originals. That’s a challenge for sure! The ongoing investigation is especially promising since there have been many recent discoveries of ancient scriptural manuscripts of even greater antiquity, written at a time that was closer to the original. Truly, this is the time when hidden things are being revealed! ²

Beyond sorting through the differences between the ancient copies that we do have of scriptural manuscripts, there are additional challenges to birth an accurate translation. First & foremost, it is easy to miss the mark when translating from one language to another. That’s because languages differ in sentence structure, word meanings, cultural understanding, and so on.

So do we throw away our Bibles and give up? No! No! No! But we also do not give up searching out what the original written Word said. This is why the Scriptural studies being done today are zeroing in on what is meant in the original Hebrew-Aramaic language in which they were written. ³

1. “Yahshua” is the correct transliteration of the name of our Messiah in his native language. For the rest of this writing I will use “Yahshua” in place of “Jesus.” We don’t stay ruffled by change, but rather seek more truth, then move on into it. For further study on His name, see our Mistranslation Item 18.

2 Daniel 12:9

3. Miles Jones & Nehemiah Gordon (both of whom are world-renown Hebrew-Aramaic scholars), have uncovered older archaeological finds of the Gospels, in the original Hebrew-Aramaic. They prove that the Greek was not the original language. The Greek copies are all translations from the original Hebrew-Aramaic! This also holds true for many other New Covenant books, if not all of them.

Note that I use the term “Hebrew-Aramaic.” That is because they are both of the earliest Semitic languages (traced to Shem, son of Noah), very nearly identical, and often confused with each other for several reasons. The original Hebrew language was made up of an alphabet of picture symbols, called “pictographs”, “ancient Hebrew”, and “Paleo-Hebrew”. When the Jews were dispersed to Babylon, they adopted the Aramaic block alphabet letters to replace those picture symbols. Hebrew has been written that way every since. To add to the confusion between “Hebrew” & “Aramaic”, the Hebrews spoke Aramaic, as did Yahshua, (Jesus). Biblical Hebrew (the roots of Modern Hebrew), Aramaic, and Phoenician languages all are derived from the ancient Paleo-Hebrew. See the DVD, “The Moses Controversy” by Tim Mahoney for the detailed evidence of this.

Knowing the Hebrew culture is vital as well. Exploring both the Hebrew language & culture are key elements of the growing move to uncover the Hebrew roots of our faith.

As “truth-seekers,” we do not feel threatened by new facts that may alter our current understanding. Instead, we embrace the truth, and thank Yah (our God), that we are in the age where the hidden things in the Word are being revealed. Truths are emerging to be seen in more light so that they can more easily be understood correctly. As we hunger for truth, His Spirit leads us into more truth. We are now more rapidly identifying translation inaccuracies in order to expose the truth. One of the key mistranslations is the word “ekklesia” as “church.”

Part 2: Mistranslation: “Ekklesia” was mistranslated as “Church”

“Ekklesia” is a Greek word.⁴ We know that nearly all English New Covenant translations are made from the Greek manuscripts (or that the translations are versions of other English translations that were made predominantly from the Greek). We’ve just naturally assumed that “ekklesia” meant “church” because Strong’s Concordance shows us that the King James Version’s word for “church” is the translation used for the Greek word, “ekklesia.” This however doesn’t mean that it is a correct translation. In fact, this is a gross mistranslation. Why? Well, the two words have VERY different meanings. Furthermore, these distinctions have the most startling of consequences. Realizing such contradictions alert us to dig deeper to find the real truth.

So what do the two words mean? How do they differ? Does it really matter?
Yes! Indeed, it certainly does matter a great deal!

As we’ll soon discover, it is the difference between being salt that has flavor, or being without taste. It is the difference between being the light shining on a hill, or a lamp that is half-filled. It is the difference between understanding the Great Commission, or being the blind that follows the blind. Since “church” and “ekklesia” have different meanings, (which we’ll soon see), the first step to unravel the mystery of the mistranslation is to investigate if there might be another reference to a different Greek word for “church.”

4. Strong’s word No. 1577, pronounced as *ek-klay-see-ah*, but we note that Strong’s Greek Dictionary shows the second “e” as a “long e”. This means that ekklesia could similarly be pronounced as *ek-klee-see-ah*. As confirmation, we find that the transliteration (the spelling in English to indicate the way it sounds in Greek), is “ekkleesia” in “The Englishman’s Greek Concordance of the New Testament” by George V. Wigram. Since the purpose of a transliteration is to match the sound of the original word, it could equally be spelled in English as “ekkleesia”, “ekklesia”, or “ecclesia.” I prefer to use “ekklesia.”

Part 3: The Real Greek Word for “Church”

When we begin our search with dictionaries,⁵ we find that “church” is “derived from the Middle English word *chirch/kirke*, which is derived from the Old English word *cirice* (and the Old Norse *kirkja*), which is derived from the Germanic *kirika*, which is derived from the Classical Greek *kyriake (oikia)*, which means ‘lord’s hours,’ and *kyriakos* which means ‘belonging to the lord,’ and *kyrios* which means ‘ruler’ and *kyros* which means ‘supreme power.’”⁶ Smith’s Bible Dictionary points out there is also the possible connection to the Latin “circus.” One thing is crystal clear; the word “church” has no connection to the Greek word “ekklesia,” from which it claims to be translated.

Part 4: The Greek-Hebrew-Meanings Connection

The Septuagint Scriptures equates the Greek word “ekklesia” with the Hebrew word “qahal.”⁷ Qahal is used dozens of times in the Old Covenant, and is always correctly translated as “assembly,” “congregation,” and “company.”⁸ So why was ekklesia, its Greek equivalent translated as “church”?

Let’s start with the earliest English translations. William Tyndale is considered to be the father of the British Bible, publishing the first English New Covenant in 1522. He was well qualified to do this, and translated with meticulous accuracy from the original language sources available to him. He translated “ekklesia” consistently and correctly as “assembly” or as “congregation.” Many English translations that followed did the same.⁹

5. Webster’s New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, 1988 lays this out nicely.

6. Quoted from the superb summary research by Dean Briggs, in his eye-opening book, “Ekklesia Rising,” endnote No. 90 found on page 255. This is also confirmed in other dictionaries, such as Noah Webster’s 1828 edition.

7. The Septuagint translation (350 BC) is the earliest known of the Hebrew Old Covenant into Greek.

8. In context, these people were seen as the called out ruling ones for the purpose of bringing the nations into God’s kingdom upon the earth. They were to be agents to transfer the reins of the corrupt governments of man into the rulership of the righteous government of God...from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Light.

9. This included the General Bible, the Bishop’s Bible, and the Geneva Bibles. I obtained this info from Ed Silvoso’s book, “Ekklesia”, page 43 of the 2017 paperback edition.

Part 5: King James Fumbles the Ball

The first notable change from “assembly” to the word “church” came from the King James Version. This is easy to verify, because it was Article No. 3 of his 15 directives for his translation team, (the 47 men that he had assigned to come up with the King James Version). The King James Version was to be the official government-approved Bible. All other English translations were banned for over 40 years. Violation had harsh consequences, especially for publishers. That is why the King James became so popular. It was the only Bible that most people dared to publish, distribute, or own.

The goal of the King James Version was to support the Anglican form of church government that King James had established, (with himself as the head of it.) ¹⁰ The translators were hand-picked to be cooperative with this purpose in mind. Bancroft, the head of the translation team, was known for his persecution of the “Pilgrims,” who were tagged as the “Separatist.” ¹¹

The Separatists met in home congregations, and many moved to Holland, where they were safer, and could stick with the Geneva Bible, whose footnotes pointed to God, and not to a religious head. Before too long, a core group of these Pilgrims left England for New England, where the ekklesia had the religious liberty to establish a new government based on the kingdom of God. There were no copies of the King James Version on the Mayflower. The King James Version was part of the problem that caused the Pilgrims to leave England and seek religious freedom in the new world. ¹²

10. From a fascinating fuller explanation of this event, see: “Ekklesia” by Ed Silvoso, 2017, page 43, also in “Leaving Church, Becoming Ekklesia” by Tim Kurtz, 2017 (inspiring read), page 56, and then in “Ekklesia Rising” by Dean Briggs 2016, on page 240.

If any readers are “King James Only,” please know that I am not intentionally seeking to step on anyone’s toes. I fully understand that if you are open to new truth based on facts, this will be a real shocker. When new truth hits us, we enter the valley of decision; either we seek a change in our thoughts (often not easy & takes time), or we reject the truth, a very dangerous spiritual move, (2Thessalonians 2, zoning in on verses 10 & 11).

11. Called “Separatists” for they separated from the corrupt man-centered Catholic & Anglican church systems. The Anglican religious set-up was the first “daughter” of the Catholic Church. These daughters are called “denominations” today. Their faithless union with the corrupt political powers is evident in their financial bond through the 501(c)3 contracts. See our study on the 501c3.

12. That does not mean that God has not used the King James Version. Because the KJV became the Biblical standard, scholars used it to create many tremendously valuable Biblical reference books, starting with Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance. This paved the way for many others by arranging every word in the Bible alphabetically, showing the verses where it was used, and assigning a number to the Hebrew or Greek word from which it was translated. For more on Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, see our review of it under “Eric’s Library” on our website. In addition to setting the base for handy scriptural research, the KJV has a poetic beauty that is hard to match. In spite of its flaws, it has been used for the birth & growth of many believers.

Part 6: So What is the Meaning of the Word “Church”?

The split of the Separatists ¹³ from the political-religious order of King James became pronounced before they physically separated. Part of this separation was due to the purposeful mistranslation of “ekklesia” as “church,” which upset the Separatists.

Now let’s see what “church” really means. A good place to start is to look up its definition in any standard dictionary. We find that the first definition of “church” is to a building. Most of its other definitions have to do with things relative to this, such as denominations, organizations headed by a pastor, or the gatherings of believers that are found in these edifices under the religious structures & clergy established in them. So entrenched is this idea, that the word “church” commonly brings to mind such images. Believers still define their faith by declaring what church they go to.

Even when we search in Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary (the foundation from which all of the English dictionaries developed), we find in them that the number one definition of “church” is the building, (which is not the definition of “ekklesia”). But there’s more to see. The word “ekklesia” is used about 115 times in the New Covenant, except for three places in Acts 19. ¹⁴ Sadly, in most English translations “ekklesia” is consistently mistranslated as “church(es).” So the error gets passed along & multiplied until it has becoming falsely accepted as truth. If any are wondering, “So what’s the big deal?” please keep reading.

13. As an interesting “rabbit-trail,” I was delighted to discover that my immigrant ancestor’s father, John Ellis (then spelled as “Elys”), was one of the first Separatist. His faith grew in a home group in London. He fled for a time to Holland. It was for religious liberty that he sent his 9-year old son to the new world in 1629 under the care of his sister & brother-in-law. Now, let me share more. She was from Sandwich, England. The boy settled in Sandwich, Massachusetts. Sandwich, England was known as the “City of the Apostles,” and was originally called “Raphinus” in the missing final chapter of Acts, (Chapter 29). There was a home there (as in the other locations where Paul traveled), famous for where the Apostles stayed when they visited the area. This Acts 29 is in the Aleph-Tau Cephher Bible, one of my favorite translations. I did not know all of this at the time that I moved to Fayette, Maine as a young man. Later, I learned that part of Fayette was part of New Sandwich, a subdivision of the first land grant from England for the area. Furthermore, a portion of the land I homesteaded on for 30 years was acquired from a man from Sandwich, Massachusetts, whose ancestors would have known my immigrant ancestor there! This precious piece of land was given to me & my new bride as a wedding present by a fellow believer! I mention all of this not just because of its tie-in with this study, but also as a encouragement to show that Yah directs the steps of the righteous throughout our lives, and all for His Kingdom purposes. This comes from Psalm 37:23-29, part of the entire Psalm prophesied over me by my father when I launched off on my own with his blessing.

14. In the verses 32, 39, & 41, ekklesia is correctly translated as “assembly.” The context confirms this is correct once we learn the meaning of ekklesia. This mob seeking to be the ruling assembly in order to kill Paul, was finally dismissed by the town clerk in verse 35 who exhorted them that there was already a ruling council with greater authority to handle the matter. The mob assembly had to go through the existing ruling council before getting to Paul.

Part 7: “Church” is Not a New Idea with King James

The idea and culture of “church” today really had its roots in Constantine (early 4th century). At that time, Constantine forced the move from home congregations into pagan temples (still our going-to-church format today). The motive was to get believers out of home groups and into a public structure that could be controlled by political-religious rulers. He “Christianized” many pagan practices while compromising basic beliefs of the saints. The heathen welcomed the merger of the believers joining them. Why? They still got to worship their sun-god on the 1st day of the week, eat pork, keep their festivals, ¹⁵ & did not need to be circumcised. From their perspective, they just acquired new members. The challenge came to get the believers to blend into the pagan culture, which included forsaking the Biblical Feasts, which the Apostles had still kept.

The purposeful mistranslation of “ekklesia” as “church” by King James was a continuation of the emphasis of previous political leaders such as Constantine. ¹⁶ To consolidate the control of believers by the political-religious elite, there had to be several other major changes. Antisemitism had to be taught, encouraged, and brutally enforced to separate believers from their Hebrew roots.

There also needed to be a twist in doctrines, in order to separate believers from the true word of Yah. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans was hammered until it became mainstream. ¹⁷ Plus, the effort was made by the church systems to do away with the need to follow pre-apostolic scriptures. This was done by mistranslating “Torah” as “Law,” ¹⁸ then convincing believers that the Law had been done away with, a move toward lawlessness.

The religious system confirms this by pointing out that the sacrifices were fulfilled in Jesus, and we came into a “New” Covenant. These misapplications of truth were used to say that ALL of the Old Covenant was obsolete. We know this to be a glaring contradiction, since the teaching of the apostles are based on the Old Covenant ways of Yahovah.

15. Their winter solstice celebration was relabeled with the Christian tag of “Christmas,” but their spring fertility festival of Easter kept its name, plus its eggs, bunnies, ham, & sunrise service.

16. Contrary to common belief, Constantine never converted to Christianity. He remained a sun-worshiper to the day of his death, as evidence in both history & in archaeology.

17. This is the doctrine that Yah’s people are split between clergy & laity, with the laity to submit to their clergy for spiritual teaching. See our Study No. 3, “A Sobering Exhortation” for more on this.

18. The correct meaning of Torah is “instructions/teachings” of the ways of Yah for man for the purpose of blessing those who walk in those ways. The basis of following Yah’s ways is Yah’s love for man.

So the Church system created doctrines to justify doing away with the things that Yahshua meant to keep, (Matthew 5:17). But Yahshua did emphasize the need to do away with both the religious laws concocted by man, and any pretense that we can please Yah by outward observance of the Torah without a changed heart. ¹⁹ These religious traditions of men and their religious works have always been works of the flesh.

From the big picture, there is good justification for calling the “New Covenant” the “Renewed Covenant.” It is the original Covenant renewed in a most amazing way.²⁰

Once the printing press made Bibles available to read, then more mistranslations were needed to keep the people supporting the religious systems. We now know that there are 60 additions in the book of John alone, done by the “church” leaders. ²¹ These additions alert us because we are repeatedly warned to not add to the Word, (Deuteronomy 4:2 + 12:32, Proverbs 30:6, Matthew 15:1-20 + 23:1-39, Mark 7:1-23, & Revelation 22:18-19). Adding to the Word is muddying the purity of Yah’s ways with man’s way.

19. Hosea 6:6 is just one example of this. I love how this reads in The Living Bible, accomplished by the atoning work at the crucifixion.

20. The “new” covenant is translated as “renewed” in Jeremiah 31:31 by The Scriptures and The Aleph-Tau Cephher Bibles, and for good reason. The Hebrew root word from which the adjective (Strong’s No. 2319), derives is Strong’s No. 2318), means “renew or repair.” That is how it is consistently translated the 10 times that it is used, including Psalm 51:10, “...renew in me a right spirit...” The context of Jeremiah 31:31 is specifically “to make new” in the sense of renew, since he goes on to say that the Torah doesn’t go away, but rather is written in our minds and on our hearts. So the “new” covenant is truly new in the sense that acceptance is not dependent upon outward observance, but inward delight to observe. It is a totally new way to renew the old way. I often write “renewed” covenant to remind us of that. What really went away were the religious traditions of men (which are not part of the Word), that made the word of Yah ineffective. One of these traditions was that we could please Yah through religious works, an outward act rather than by a changed heart from receiving Him. Besides these religious traditions of men, animal sacrifices no longer needed to atone for our sins. Why? Because Yahshua was the perfect sacrifice. How the Old Covenant is manifested in a people through their actions now shines in the example of Yahshua. We are to grow up into the example of the full character of Him to be His Sons to a hurting creation. Yahshua himself said that he did not come to do away with the Torah, but rather to fulfill it, (Matthew 5:17). He is the goal of the Torah. He is what it looks like when lived out as intended. He was the first New Covenant man, with the Word written on His heart, and in His mind. He knew what the Father wanted Him to do, and He wanted to do it, no matter what it cost.

21. Miles Jones details these 60 mistranslations-additions that are found in John. There are several you-tubes where Miles Jones is interviewed by Michael Rood. Miles Jones also explains much in his latest book, “Sons of Zion vs. Sons of Greece, Volume 1.” Volume 1 implies that more is coming due to his new archaeological finds of scrolls in the junk-room of the basement of the Vatican. Perhaps these are the discoveries that Mark Taylor prophesied of in his “All Roads Lead to Rome” prophecy, last line. (See it on our website under “Eric’s Library” or on his site, www.sordrescue.com.)

Part 8: So What is the Meaning of the Word “Ekklesia”?

“Ekklesia” means an assembly or gathering or congregation of those who are called to be a part of it. ²² In the days when the Gospels were written, “ekklesia” was a common Greek word used to denote not just any gathering, but the assembly of “the ruling council.” It was most commonly used in the days of Yahshua (Jesus) under Roman rule to mean what it did originally when the Greeks ruled. For over 400 years its meaning stood firm. To all in the time of Yahshua, ekklesia was understood to be the ruling council arm of the Roman government, the governmental authorities.

“Ekklesia” was much more than being a called-out assembly. It was the governing council that established policies, legislated, elected officials, and even conferred or denied citizenship.

The ekklesia had ruling powers. Now we can see that this is the very reason that Yahshua used this word, and why it riled both the religious and civic leaders! ²³ The ekklesia were the decision-makers for their area. For towns, the town officials are the ekklesia. They are called out (elected), from among the other people to set the standards, make the rules, enforce the execution of those laws, and then judge disputes over them. We see the called out ekklesia (ruling council), in our State & Federal Governments as those in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. These 3-branches of government are patterned after the Word. ²⁴

*“For the LORD [Yahovah] ²⁵ is our JUDGE,
the LORD [Yahovah] is our LAWGIVER,
the LORD [Yahovah] is our KING; and he is our Saviour.”
Isaiah 33:22 George Lamsa Translation*

22. From Strong’s Greek Dictionary, and located there by using the word’s Strong No. 1577.

23. From “Leaving Church Becoming Ekklesia” by Tim Kurtz, 2017 edition, page 58.

24. I have been told that only the USA & Israel have this structure of government. I apologize that I have not had the time to dig into this to verify its truth & source. There is no doubt however that the founding fathers framed the Constitution of the United States based on the Bible.

25. In nearly all English translations the true name of God is not transliterated, but is hidden by replacing it with “the LORD” or “ADONAI” or “the LORD GOD” or “GOD”. This is done to comply with religious tradition and thus sell more copies. Their one saving grace in this purposeful blunder is that they capitalize the substitute word, which at least points out where this is done, nearly 8,000 times. The correct transliteration from the Hebrew of the name of God is “Yahovah,” or “Yah” for short. Yah wants His name to be known, spoken, written, and not to be cloaked in vanity. For a detailed explanation, see our Mistranslation Item No. 17.

Part 9: What are the Implications for being the Ekklesia instead of being the Church?

Yahshua never said that He was going to build His Church! (See Matthew 16:15-18). This is also the first time the word ekklesia is used. The correct summary of the famous passage is that Yahshua would build His called-out citizens to conduct the business of the Kingdom here on earth.

The foundational rock as the basis for building His ruling council, the assembly of called-out ones, is the revelation in them that Yahshua is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, the Promised Seed born of a woman as told to Eve. He is the Head. The ekklesia are the anointed feet of the Messiah who are called to crush the head of the serpent (devil). His feet are part of His Body. Yahshua said that He was coming to build the kingdom, by His Spirit, and the gates of Hades (the powers of darkness), would not overpower the ekklesia. Also the ekklesia were given the keys of the kingdom.²⁶

Once the ekklesia realize that this is the Great Commission, then they can rise up in their calling to manage the affairs of the kingdom. The Great Commission has two aspects. Mark 16:15 lays out the individual mandate to preach the Gospel to all creation. But the corporate mandate is given in Matthew 28:19-20 to “make disciples of all nations.”²⁷ These mandates are to be done by His Spirit, beginning with the local areas, then expanding, to eventually cover the earth.

Prayer is the beginning point. Yahshua’s Spirit within His people begins a networking in both prayer²⁸ and in home groups. We are seeing the explosive growth of both the prayer movement and of home congregations. As the ekklesia wake up to who they are, and move into their calling, we are witnessing the thrilling transformation of the most hopeless areas, even large corrupt cities, into beacons of light.

The networking and growth of home congregations now has a central contact spot. Russ Wagner has spent many years starting home groups in many states.²⁹ For those interested in starting home groups, he recommends first reading 4 books to help clearly understand what “ekklesia” really means.

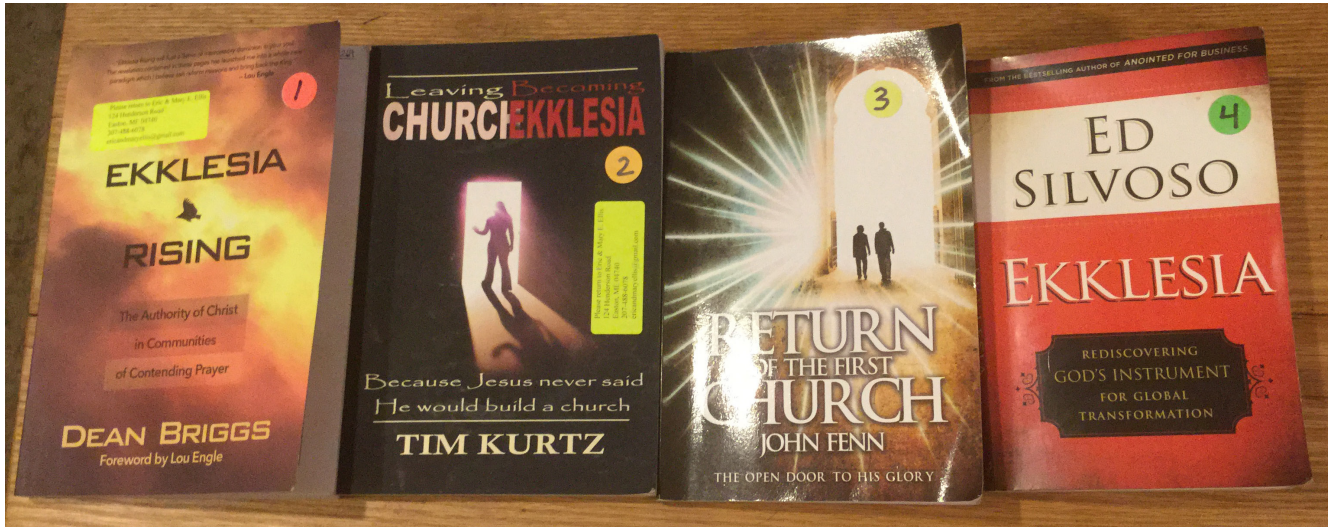
26. The keys were not given to the “Church.” For more on this, read the first half-dozen pages in Chapter 5 of John Fenn’s book, “Return of the First Church.”

27. Integrating the two mandates is the central theme of Ed Silvoso’s book, “Ekklesia.” He summarizes this neatly in the first few pages of Chapter 6, “The Fuller Understanding of the Cross.”

28. On our website there are prayer charts & prayer contacts available at no charge. They are found under “Studies by Eric,” then “Current Events with Spiritual Insights.”

29. His website for home groups is www.homecongregations.org.

Each book is by a different author, and Russ makes no money from their sales. He also provides a 12-video series to provide background for home congregations in sync with true ekklesia. The books can be purchased at your book dealer or online. All of the videos however are provided free. Although it is not essential, Russ recommends reading the 4-books in this order:



Each book was an exciting read, clearly demonstrating what God can do through His people when they move out of the religious institutions and into their calling, as seen so powerfully in home congregations.³⁰ The testimonies are stirring, showing the power & love of Yah moving in a mighty way. This prayer-home congregations movement is a vital part of the last days Great Awakening! It starts with a correct translation of ekklesia as to our true calling to put our faith into action.³¹ Its climax is the approaching resurrection of the Overcomers in the not too distant future.

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30. The four books overlap some key info in unique ways to provide a fuller picture of the ekklesia. I learned so much about the scriptural basis for the ekklesia, and how different it is from the “church structure” that I was so familiar with.

31. The many exciting real-life examples of how this faith has been put into action are seen throughout all four books. It is so important to be aware of this mighty last-days awakening move of God. This move flows in His power and love through His ekklesia. As the ekklesia, we are being knit together in a global network of prayer, prophecy, home congregations, patriotism, Hebrew roots, and other points of His Light.