

### **A Message from Pastor Travis Dean**

I have found my children's eating habits interesting, to say the least. As newborns they wanted nothing but Mommy's milk. Then around six months they took an interest in what Mommy and Daddy were eating. So, we started feeding them pureed food. Well, that satisfied them until they were about one year old. At this point their appetites were no longer content with pureed food. They wanted solid food with texture. At each stage there seemed to be a transition period. Their digestive systems were equipped. Their appetites were geared up. But their mechanical abilities were lacking. Abigail tried sucking down pureed food like it was milk. Elijah swallowed peanuts like they were pureed food.

The Bible uses milk and solid food as an analogy in 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (see also Hebrews 5:12-6:3). It compares milk to what we learn in order to become Christians. Solid food is compared to what we learn after we become Christians. For example, milk is like confessing my need of a Savior. Solid food is like learning how to keep the Sabbath.

For many years of my life I seemed to be stuck in a spiritual transition period between "milk" and "solid food". I was craving "solid food", but couldn't figure out how to gain any nourishment from it. My appetite was geared up, but my digestive system was lacking. As I dug into the deeper things of the Bible, I became confused. I now realize that I hadn't spent enough time drinking "milk". I had quickly passed over what I needed to know in order to become a Christian. It took a few rough years, but finally the Lord awakened in me a great desire for "milk". And when I finally took the time to get the "milk" I needed, the gospel of Jesus Christ suddenly satisfied the longing of my soul. Realizing what a Savior I have in Jesus filled my deepest cravings. After a couple years of drinking nothing but this "milk", the Lord began to put a desire in me for "solid food". And this time my digestive system was ready. As I studied the deeper things in the Bible, I gained the nourishment that before was lacking.

I have to say, though, I still have not lost my appetite for spiritual "milk", which, I guess, is ok. Because in Revelation 14:6 the "milk" of the gospel is called the "everlasting gospel", which to me means we'll always be drinking it.