

# United News™

News of the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association

United Church of God  
P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027  
Phone (513) 576-9796, Fax (513) 576-9795

Vol. 7, No. 9  
NOVEMBER 2001

## Good News Circulation Passes Another Milestone

In light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, a totally revamped November/December *Good News* was written and produced, and 50,000 additional copies of this issue were printed. The actual circulation of 399,069 plus these 50,000 copies brought the print run to 449,069. The 50,000 copies will be sent to new subscribers who respond to the major promotional efforts happening before the end of the year.

"Scott Ashley and our team of writers and editors have produced an excellent, very important issue of our flagship magazine that addresses the reasons for what happened, the future of this country and our world, and the ultimate solutions to humankind's suffering," said Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager. "We feel that it is a most timely issue and may well spark further interest in the truth of God's Kingdom among our readers."

An elder who downloaded the issue from the Web site at the end of October wrote, "I printed and read the new *GN* this morning. In my opinion, it far exceeds any issue in our history."

Print promotions for *The Good News* are going into almost six million homes in the United States this year, including card decks, super-

market "take-ones" and a direct-mail effort. We will mail the November/December issue to these new readers as we add them to the file.

This print run exceeds the fiscal year goal, which was to print 425,000 copies by June 2002. "Please pray that God will provide the resources necessary for us to support this level of readership," said Mr. Eddington.

The distribution of the November/December issue includes 230,109 U.S. subscribers, 124,780 U.S. businesses (waiting rooms) and 39,400 U.S. newsstands. There are 42,580 international subscribers and 12,200 international businesses receiving the English magazine. An additional 18,000 copies are being distributed in the Spanish, Italian and German languages.

Reflecting the recent emphasis on adding individual readers, subscribers now make up more than 60 percent of the list, with waiting rooms down to 30 percent. *UN*



Happy Feastgoers sing and fellowship in Tauranga, New Zealand; Mike Hanisko on stage in Ocho Rios, Jamaica (New Zealand photos by Peter Mihalec; Jamaica by Jean Cline and Steve Burke)

## 18,740 Observe Feast With United

At 47 UCG sites around the world, more than 18,000 celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles this year, an 11 percent increase over last year. The largest part of this increase is from the 1,000 members formerly of the Remnant Church of God in Ghana who have joined with United. The increase in attendance for the United

States and Canada was 4.8 percent.

One highlight of the Feast was when Hurricane Iris, headed straight for Jamaica, turned south just before it was going to hit land.

"The reports from all areas express the fact that the sermons were especially good this year," said Les McCullough, president of UCGIA.

Several sites received press coverage, letting the community know about this "annual event held to remind church members of Christ's promise to return to the earth and establish the kingdom of God," as the Panama City, Florida, *News Herald* reported.

See reports from around the world starting on page 6. *UN*

## New Home Office Building Completion Expected in February

After weeks of unfavorable weather, the foundation for the United Church of God home office building was poured September 12. This followed an aborted attempt

that had been stopped by a torrential downpour.

Construction has proceeded rapidly since that time. "It appears likely now that we will be able to

occupy the new building no sooner than early February," said Tom Kirkpatrick, Church treasurer. "Whenever we are able to move in, though, we are all convinced here

that this new facility will be a blessing that will lead to considerable increases in operational efficiencies in this part of the work of the Church." *UN*



A view of the construction site for the new home office taken October 30. Updated photos posted at [www.ucgcincinnati.org](http://www.ucgcincinnati.org) (photo by Peter Eddington)

### IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>The World Has Changed</i> .....	2
<i>President Nomination Process</i> ..	3
<i>Letters</i> .....	3
<i>International News</i> .....	4
<i>United Youth Camps</i> .....	5
<i>Feast 2001 Reports</i> .....	6
<i>Government Within UCGIA</i> ..	16
<i>Reflections on September 11</i> ..	17
<i>Local Church Updates</i> .....	18
<i>Announcements</i> .....	21
<i>News at a Glance</i> .....	23
<i>What's New on the Web?</i> .....	24

Next issue: December 3, 2001

# The World Has Changed Forever

*Since September 11 our world has changed dramatically, and our mission has become more urgent.*

by John A. Jewell

We hope that those of you who were able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles had a productive, spiritually uplifting and enjoyable time. To those unable to attend we trust you managed to gain benefit from your study at home and from tapes mailed to you.

We all returned home, however, to life in a world which, as the press said, "changed forever" on September 11. Indeed, subsequent events are now showing us how much the world has changed.

## Past Terror

I was a young teenager during World War II. My school years included gas mask drills and air raid drills where each day we would file in an orderly fashion to the nearest shelter. Each night I slept inside a steel mesh and steel plate indoor Morrison shelter set up in the dining room, listening to heavy aircraft overhead. In the earlier years of the war, the engines had the distinctive sound of the German Junkers bombers. As the war progressed, there was a different note to the engines as the Allies' Lancasters and Flying Fortresses flew eastwards. Then came a new sound—that of the engines of approaching flying bombs, the V-1 bombs launched by Nazi Germany to kill those who had done nothing except be born British. Following the flying bombs came the supersonic V-2 rockets. My school was destroyed by a V-2 the day before we were due back from school holidays.

We lived with the daily danger of anti-personnel bombs, dropped at night and designed to attract the attention of curious children. Bombs such as the butterfly bomb were of odd structure and looked very unlike a bomb. But touch it and it would explode.

My father served as a Royal Naval Reserve engineer officer on ocean-going tugboats ready to tow back to England any ships of the Russian convoys to Murmansk, or Archangel, that might have been damaged by predatory U-boats. My wife's father served in the Royal Navy and was torpedoed twice in quick succession in the China seas. He was rescued by the Japanese and then imprisoned in a camp in Java. He died in that camp just as the war with Japan was ending. My wife, Tina, born and brought up in Plymouth, was witness to a bomb in her own back garden and to the destruction of the city in virtually 48 hours.

Since the end of World War II many conflicts have brought untold suffering upon the people of this world. My wife and I, in the ministry of God's Church, have served His people in both Northern and Southern Ireland. We lived and worked there for five years from 1982. We became very familiar with the roadblocks, the security and the obscenity of the bombings, the shootings and the knee-cappings (destroying a person's kneecaps with a pistol or bat) by paramilitaries on both sides of the religious divide.

However, over all the years that have passed since the declaration of war in 1939, we have never witnessed such a situation as is facing the world today. Who, in their worst nightmare, could have imagined such an appalling event as the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York? In a few moments all those thousands of people dead, thousands of families bereaved of their loved ones. Sudden death and suffering without even the formality of a declaration of war.

The newspapers said "the world will never be the same again." Indeed it won't be and it isn't! Since the 11th of September, hostilities have opened in Afghanistan against the terrorists and those who give them aid. It is possible that we are now about to witness the death of many thousands of people in that area from starvation, from the rigors of a severe winter or from war.

As I write, the news brings us yet another political assassination, this time an Israeli government cabinet minister. Further terrorist attacks continue in the United States by the use of biological means. Even if this does not result in mass murder of innocent civilians, it may result in a number of deaths and more sorrowing families, generate panic and disrupt government.

## A World Held Captive

Why? The real reason is beyond anything you will read in your newspapers. This world is *not* God's world. It is held captive by a spirit being who was originally known as Lucifer, or light-bringer, but who became Satan, Apollyon or Abaddon. These last two names mean "destroyer."

Satan is intent on destroying you! And not just you, but the whole of mankind, and even the very planet itself. Is this a far-fetched concept in today's world? Even just 10 years ago it would have been! Even 12 months ago, would you have prophesied the way the world is now?

Satan and his demonic cohorts know

they have but little time. They know their ultimate fate! In the meantime they want to wreak as much destruction on the earth as they possibly can. But God will bring their destructive activities to a halt.

## Bringing the Message of Hope

However, right now we are looking into the abyss with the dreadful prospect of witnessing even worse things coming upon this world before the real hope for humanity, Jesus Christ, steps in and sets up the government of God on this earth. The scripture in 2 Timothy 3:13 says that evil men will grow worse and worse as we near



Reuters/Peter Morgan

the end of this age and the return of Jesus Christ. Knowing this truth, we have to maintain faith, direction and our commitment to Jesus Christ, to God the Father and His work. We have to dedicate ourselves, as God makes it possible, to taking the only message of hope that there is for this poor, suffering planet. Let us join in bringing that message of hope to the people of this world.

We cannot remain on the sidelines! There is a battle going on and we are part of it. In World War I there was a famous poster showing General Kitchener pointing at the onlooker. The slogan on that poster read "England needs you!" Today there is another war, another poster with another slogan (metaphorically speaking), which reads, "God's work needs you!" The battle we face is for a people and a planet. The issue truly is one of life or death. God says, "Choose life."

In my October 24 letter to the members, coworkers and friends in the British Isles, on which this article is based, I offered them literature that can help us understand God and His plan and the times we live in: *Who Is God?, Is There Really a Devil?, The Book of Revelation Unveiled and World News & Prophecy*. I also invited them to listen to *The World Tomorrow* radio programs archived on our regional Web site at [www.worldtomorrow.org](http://www.worldtomorrow.org). I let them know about our newest congregation in Tonbridge to the south of London, and welcomed anyone who wishes to worship with us in peace.

We look forward to being of greater service to all those God calls as we seek to serve the Creator God, our heavenly Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. UN

John A. Jewell is a member of the Council of Elders and chief executive officer for UCG—British Isles.

## United News

November 2001

Vol. 7, No. 9

*United News* (ISSN 1088-8020) is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, an International Association, 5405 Dupont Circle, Suite A, Milford, OH 45150. © 2001 United Church of God, an International Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

Editor: Peter W. Eddington

Managing editor: Mike Bennett

Copy editor: Becky Bennett

UCG/IA Council of Elders: Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick, Roy Holladay (chairman), John A. Jewell, Clyde Kilough, Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seiglie, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker, Donald Ward

President: Leslie L. McCullough

Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**Subscriptions:** *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, an International Association, and their co-workers. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News*, United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or to one of the international addresses below.

**Address changes:** POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

### International addresses:

AUSTRALIA: United Church of God—Australia  
GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia  
Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

BAHAMAS: United Church of God, P.O. Box N8873,  
Nassau, Bahamas  
Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles,  
P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England.  
Phone: 020-8386-8467 Fax: 01257-453978

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box  
144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada  
Phone: (416) 231-9379, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (416)  
231-8238

FIJI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji  
Phone: 723-678

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unifié—  
France, B.P. 51254, 45002 Orléans Cedex 1, France

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15  
09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany  
Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637  
E-mail: [info@gutenachrichten.com](mailto:info@gutenachrichten.com)

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita,  
Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy. Phone/Fax:  
0039-035-582140 E-mail: [redazione@labuonanotizia.org](mailto:redazione@labuonanotizia.org)

MAURITIUS: P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius

THE NETHERLANDS: United Church of God of Holland,  
P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22,  
Auckland, 1015, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 4774,  
MCPO, 1287 Makati City, Philippines  
Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Forenade Kyrka, Mailbox 144,  
111 73 Stockholm, Sweden

SOUTHERN AFRICA: United Church of God,  
Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East  
London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-  
1694

SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS: Iglesia de Dios Unida,  
P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.  
Phone: (513) 576-9796

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 127,  
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

### Internet access on your computer:

The United Church of God, an International Association, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address <http://www.ucg.org> gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News*, as well as our booklets. The address <http://www.ucg.ca> accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, <http://www.ucg.org.au> the Australian Web site, <http://www.labuonanotizia.org> the Italian Web site, <http://www.goodnews.org.uk> the British Isles Web site, <http://www.ucg.ph> the Philippines Web site and <http://www.ucgsa.org> the Southern Africa Web site.

# Council Begins Nomination Process for President

“Our process for the Council’s selection of the Church’s next president is moving well,” said a letter from the Council of Elders dated November 1. “The General Conference of Elders put 23 names forward for consideration as nominees. Of that number, nine nominees have indicated that they are willing to serve as president if appointed by the Council.”

In alphabetical order, their names are: Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Matt Fenchel, Roy Holladay, Clyde Kilough, Dennis Luker, Les McCullough, Jim O’Brien and Richard Pinelli.

The list of nominees and their resumes have been submitted to the Council. By November 9 each Council member will nominate a maximum of two people from the list with a written statement supporting each choice. Anyone not nominated at this time will be taken off the list.

## Timeline

According to a timeline decided by the Council August 7, the next steps in the process will be:

November 12: Notify nominees of their selection by Council. Begin reference checks from nominees’ resumes.

November 12 to December 3: Forward reference information to Council as it is received. Submit written questions to the nominees. Solicit the views of the home office staff regarding the candidates and essential characteristics

for fulfilling the role of president.

December 10: Council conducts face-to-face interviews with nominees at Council meeting in Florida. Nominees supply additional list of former employees, superiors, subordinates, associates and peers.

December 17: Begin to seek additional assessments on each nominee from his former employees, superiors, subordinates, associates and peers.

February 28, 2002: Elect new president at Council meeting in Cincinnati.

March-April: Transition time for incoming and outgoing president.

May: Incoming president assumes responsibilities at Annual Meeting of the General Conference of Elders.

## Criteria and Qualifications for the President

In a teleconference September 6, the Council of Elders discussed and standardized a list of criteria and qualifications they were looking for in the president. The Council report of this teleconference is on the UCG Web site at [www.ucg.org/a/council/ce010906.htm](http://www.ucg.org/a/council/ce010906.htm).

The list of criteria and qualifications was compiled from Council member input, organized into four broad categories: character, personal and personality, experience and skills and education.

The list under character included “deeply converted and committed to God and His Church.” It also included

humility, servant leadership, integrity and team builder and player.

The personal and personality section stressed such characteristics as being visionary, respectful and open. It included people skills such as valuing and using all people and their talents, giving credit and encouragement and being approachable.

The experience and skills section included a wide variety of leadership, managerial and specific skills. The education section said, “Demonstrates adequate educational competence.”

The criteria and qualifications list was sent to all members of the General Conference of Elders September 10 soliciting nominations for the position by October 15. Each GCE member was permitted to nominate up to three candidates, with written statements explaining why each one was recommended. The 23 nominees were notified and asked to submit a resume if they were willing to serve.

“Let us seek God’s guidance and direction in this process,” the Council wrote in the November 1 letter. *vn*

## Council Plans December Meetings in Florida

The Council of Elders will meet in Clearwater, Florida, December 5 to 12, with committee meetings December 3 and 4. According to the Council’s November 1 letter, proposed agenda items include:

- Credentialing elders (a large number from Ghana and the former Church of God, a Christian Fellowship).
- Interview of presidential candidates.
- Defining expectations for the president.
- A presentation on counseling homosexuals.
- Recommendations for Ambassador Bible Center.
- Further discussion about establishing a Pastoral Committee.
- Doctrinal issues.
- Changes in the French Association.
- Review of Council reporting.
- Planning for the 2002 and 2003 Annual Meeting of the General Conference of Elders.
- The member assistance program.
- Review of the budget in preparation for the new budget year.
- Setting aside funds for Church buildings.
- An overall Internet strategy using Church resources.

# Letters...

## Correction

The August *United News*, page 9, had the wrong name for the Festival coordinator for Jekyll Island. The correct coordinator was Bob Jones. We regret the error and any difficulty it caused.

## Appreciation for Feast Tapes

Thank you for the eight Feast tapes to help make this a great Feast. Before the Feast my doctor told me I had overstayed my time on this earth (I’m 75) which made me feel overjoyed. I felt like an old used car... But the tapes were a great source of joy and inspiration. UCG knows how to take care of its own. California

I wanted to say thank you for sending the Feast tapes and let you know how very much they are appreciated. I enjoyed being able to be part of the Feast even though I couldn’t be there.

Pennsylvania

## Behind the Scenes at the Fashion Show

I have been eagerly awaiting the inclusion of the “Local Church Updates...Dallas Ladies Make Fashion Fun” by Gay Oren [September, page 12].

You see, I am one of those who attended this fantastic fashion show. I am a friend of this multi-talented article writer. I drove clear from Houston in order to enjoy this and was

not disappointed. Though Gay’s article was fascinating, what people would find more fascinating would be an article on the woman who coordinated this gala fashion show nearly single-handedly. I call her the Proverbs 31 Church Woman, and if you knew her and had been at the fashion show or at any of the other events she has put on, you would see why!

I remember being impressed with her saying that she prayed that God would use their house for the service of God’s people. God has answered her prayers and blessed many of us, even from other areas over the years. She did all of the ministerial conferences up there when they had that church hall—fixing an incredible spread of food... I could be jealous of her for all of her talents...but how can you be jealous of someone who is so nice and makes you think that you are doing her a favor by spending a weekend at her house!

Texas

the August *United News*. The one by Mr. Dick keeps running around in my head, making me double-check everything that comes my way in the media.

Internet

## Zeal and Sense of Urgency

The May 2001 edition of *United News* was extremely encouraging in reporting so many developments and so much growth in areas all over the world... It seems as though Christ is giving the zeal and sense of urgency as God opens up doors...to His Church.

United Kingdom

## New Subscriber

Thanks for the issues of *United News*. I found the articles so interesting. I certainly look forward to receiving my future issues.

Philippines

## Humorous Literature Requests

From time to time readers will request literature with titles that are not exactly what we offer, such as:

*The Bible Study Curse*  
*Clean or Dirty Meats*  
*The House That Jesus Built*

*Heaven Shell*  
*You Can Understand Bible Properly*  
*Viral Christian Magazine*  
And then there was this classic:  
*Transforming Your Lice: The Process of Conversion*

## Blockbuster Articles

Thanks to Mr. [Jerold] Aust and Mr. [Robert] Dick for the blockbuster articles in

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

# International News...

## Caribbean Leadership Training Program Moves Ahead

by Larry W. Bowleg

Fourteen men journeyed to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to participate in the third round of Caribbean Leadership Training the weekend of August 3 to 5. They came from Guyana, Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominica, Jamaica and the Bahamas. Overseeing the session again were Kingsley Mather and Arnold Hampton. The men all arrived safely, some with their families, ready to begin the weekend's activities at the beautiful Embassy Suites.

At the beginning of this third session (CLT 3), Mr. Mather gave a brief introduction entitled "Why Caribbean Leadership Training Seminar?" He stressed the importance of the seminars, encouraging the men to take full advantage of the opportunities which the Church was affording them. After such a motivational presentation, the floor was turned over to Mr. Hampton.

Mr. Hampton began the discussion of presenting a sermonette message, making specific references to CLT 1 and 2. The specific focus for this session was the "small point." It entails speaking on an issue which is limited in scope yet able to keep the congregation's interest for 10 to 12 minutes. Several men delivered "small point" presentations and each message was critiqued by all present. The opening session ended about 8 p.m. after which the men and their families had supper at the hotel.

On Sabbath morning the activities started about 8:30 a.m. as the men received very positive and practical instructions on marriage from Mr. Mather. The message was very beneficial and considered issues from both the male and female perspective. This session was necessary to equip leaders and would be leaders among God's people. Then the floor was opened to Mr. Hampton to introduce the speakers.

Once again, the men sat and listened to various "small point" presentations and critiqued them by way of evaluation sheets. Listening to and critiquing the presentations provided invaluable tools for self-development both in terms of speaking skills and also in gaining insight into differing perspectives on the same subject. After a long morning the group had a break for lunch, then the men and their families attended Sabbath services at the hotel.

Services went well. The only hiccup was having to sing acappella because the tape machine went just a little too quickly for the congregation. Mr. Mather was song leader. The first message was by Clyde Chinian of Guyana who provided an update on the work in Guyana and Brazil. The growth and potential for growth appears tremendous. After brief announcements, Mr. Hampton gave an

inspirational sermon entitled "Carpe Diem." The message was based on the concept of seizing the day and not letting opportunities pass by, similar to the opening message which Mr. Mather gave the evening before.

Immediately following services, the seminar continued with reviews of some additional "small point" presentations. Breaking for the evening at about 7 p.m., some of the men had dinner at a nearby restaurant while others went shopping. After an early night, the men prepared for Sunday, which was to be a full day.

On Sunday, the meetings started once again about 8:30 a.m. The morning began with an interactive discussion about the Sabbath, which was very enjoyable and interesting. It was organized by Mr. Hampton breaking the men up into smaller groups to discuss various Sabbath scriptures and present their discussions to the entire group. Then we dissected arguments (pros and cons) of the various texts. The texts ranged from the establishment of the Sabbath in Genesis 2 to Hebrews 4 where it states that there remains a rest for people of God. This topic also covered controversial scriptures such as Galatians 4, which talks about observing days, months, seasons and years. Later in the morning, a "difficult scripture" presentation was given.

After lunch, the seminar continued with a few more "small point" sermonettes. After the messages, Mr. Mather introduced more administrative matters such as inclusion of



The Caribbean Leadership Training group met for the third time in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, August 3 to 5. Front, left to right: Kingsley Mather, Anthony Philgence, Clyde Chinian, Maxwell Victor, Roderick Turnquest; middle: Larry Bowleg, Harry Grant; back: Anthony Coore, Mark Mackey, Jeff Lockhart, Jeff Weatherhead, Andre Arthur, Leon Morris, Daniel McKinney and Desmond Gilbert (photo by Arnold Hampton)

the youth. In these times where there are many distractions, Mr. Mather pointed out the need to reach out to young people before they become disinterested in the Church. In many Church areas, there are very few young people with whom to interact. Many suggestions were given by those present, and some were assigned the task of presenting a lists of things that can be planned for Caribbean youth.

The group also heard part of a United Kingdom *World Tomorrow* radio program. They discussed the possibilities of testing the radio programs in certain areas. Mr. Mather

led a discussion on other aspects of media in the region. All of the countries that were represented gave brief updates in terms of the *Good News* programs and growth opportunities in the various Church areas. From this point, time was winding down quickly.

In the interest of time, the question and answer period was eliminated, which has traditionally gone well overtime. After the closing remarks and prayer, the men were dismissed from what can be considered another successful CLT seminar. It is safe to say that the men were all inspired to "Carpe Diem!" Seize the day! *UN*

## Projects in Guatemala and El Salvador Show Progress

by Victor Kubik

We want to bring you news about our ongoing work to help our brethren in Guatemala and El Salvador. My wife, Beverly, and I traveled to these two countries from August 17 to 22 to assess what has been done and what yet needs to be fulfilled. We brought with us more white shirts donated by various United congregations, toys to be distributed to children at the Feast of Tabernacles and 37 pairs of eyeglasses.

In Guatemala we were pleased to see progress in our project to make certain that no brethren live on dirt floors. Our goal is to pour 15 floors. Eight are done, with seven to go. The Guatemala Spokesman Club pours one floor each month with materials financed by LifeNets. Another immediate need is to repair eight seriously leaking roofs. Also, one family lives in a

home with cardboard walls and another family of nine lives in one room that is unacceptable. We left \$5,000 for these projects to be completed.

While in Guatemala we attended services in Quetzaltenango with 107 warm and enthusiastic brethren.

Guatemala pastor Saul Langarica along with his wife, Carmen, drove us to El Salvador where we visited with pastor Herbert Cisneros and his wife, Conchita. The Church donated about \$25,000 to rebuild five and repair three badly damaged homes destroyed in the January 13, 2001, earthquake. We were appalled by the devastation in which more than 10,000 people perished.

Elder Jaime Ortiz is overseeing the reconstruction of four of the homes of the families living on the volcano overlooking

San Salvador. Because of the widespread devastation, building materials were in short supply and cement block hadn't been available until then.

We were pleased to see the brethren using the items that came to them on the LifeNets container from Houston that was organized by Belinda McCloud.

Most impressive was the two-chair dental office that is up and working in the garage of the Parada family in San Salvador. Herbert Parada has completed his dental training and two UCG member students are still in dental school. Brethren are already going to the Parada garage clinic for their dental work. Soon it will be moved to a more suitable office facility. Our special thanks to Suzan Johns who obtained this dental office in Central Pennsylvania and had it shipped to the container in Houston.

For more information and photos, see [www.lifeness.org/centralamerica](http://www.lifeness.org/centralamerica). *UN*

Victor Kubik is a member of the Council of Elders and founder of LifeNets humanitarian organization.



The Flores family in Guatemala poured their cement floor with LifeNets aid

# United Youth Camps...

## Heritage: A Week of Challenge and Adventure

Perhaps the best thing to be said for any of United's summer camps is that they make a difference in kids' lives. Judging from the comments received from staff, campers and parents, the weeklong camp at Heritage Reservation in Pennsylvania did make a difference for 218 people.

United's sixth camp at Heritage was held August 12 to 19. The 218 staff and campers enjoyed a week of near perfect weather amidst the beauty of southwest Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands. A two-track program was introduced this year which divided the campers into Challenger and Adventure groups. The older (15- to 18-year-old) campers comprised a Challenger program that included distinct activities geared to challenge them spiritually, mental-

ly and physically. In the orientation session Challenger campers were encouraged (1) to kick up their behavior a notch, (2) to think about others, (3) to look inside themselves and (4) to develop a deeper relationship with God.

These encouragements were accomplished through classes in modesty, sign language, journaling and Christian Living. In addition, a white-water rafting trip on the Youghiohgheny River provided part of the physical challenge. Class 3 rapids provided plenty of thrills and spills for campers and staff during a day on this river.

The younger (12- to 14-year-old) campers took part in an Adventure program that also included an introduction to sign language for the deaf. Heritage has had a deaf camper attend during the past two years and campers have been encouraged to learn this form of communication to help integrate her into the social fabric of the camp.

Adventure campers were taken spelunking into Laurel Caverns, a commercial cave system which has a primitive section where people don helmets with lights and venture into a more rugged experience through sections of the caverns not seen on regular commercial tours. Tight spaces, muddy slides and underground streams were all part of the experience.

Other new programs at Heritage this year included water polo and a wilderness survival skills course. In the wilderness course the basics of map and compass reading were introduced and campers learned techniques of search and rescue in the outdoors. The Adventure group spent time in the Discovery section of the camp where they experienced wall climbing, skeet shooting and tomahawk throwing.

Flag football, softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, riflery and archery were again offered to round out the activity side of the program.

The focal point of each day at camp is

Christian Living class. Topics covered this year by the ministry sought to further focus the campers' relationship with God and their part in the Church. Basic doctrines such as baptism and what happens at death were covered.

Key differences between the sexes were discussed in another class. In the evening, before bedtime each counselor held discussions with their campers on a variety of spiritual matters. The day begins and ends with positive spiritual focus that helps create that special atmosphere called "the Zone."

On Friday evening both Challenger and Adventure groups held separate campfire programs that included a question and answer format Bible study. Questions on basic doctrine, prayer, individual calling and dating out of the Church were among the many subjects covered in these sessions. A group of four ministers conducted each session and took turns answering questions. Young people face many challenges to their faith in today's world. Sessions like these help shape and mold their understanding of biblical truth. The foundation laid by parents in the home is therefore strengthened.

Our children are future members of the Church who will carry on its work. The camp program is designed to help kids make the right choices in their personal lives about God and His calling.

One parent commented on the difference one week at camp can make. "Well, 'the Zone' must really work and be a very special place for these teens. He could not say enough about what a great time he had (and that is a lot as he is not very demonstrative about anything—for him to let me know much about how he feels is a lot). So when I



heard this I was taken off guard. I asked him whether it was the teens, the activities or everything that made the difference.... His response was that it was everything (probably the approach). I would like to keep them in 'the Zone,' I would like to emphasize more of what they were taught—are there resources for the material that was covered? I would like to make sure it is continued in our family as well as at teen Bible study. We need to make sure our teens/children know how important they are to the Church."

Our United camps are about an idea—no matter whether we call it "the Zone" or some other name. It is an idea based on the Kingdom of God and the way of life Christ will restore to this earth upon His second coming. Each year we prove that a community of people who come together with these truths at heart can create a special place where God's way is lived and can be seen by those who choose to see. Summer camps are over for another year, but we hope the spirit and atmosphere live on until we come together again next season.

Darris McNeely

### Winter Camp Applications Being Accepted Until December 1

The camper application deadline for Winter Camp has been extended to December 1. Winter Camp will be held from December 23 to December 27 in southern Wisconsin. There will no conflict with the Cincinnati family weekend so you can attend both if you like.

Activities include cross-country skiing, an elevated toboggan run, snow flag football, broom hockey, volleyball, basketball, Christian Living class, learning new dance steps in dance class and Web page class in the computer lab. Camp offers a good mix between outdoor and indoor activities. Campers will learn about God's way of life in an enjoyable environment.

Campers can download an application, health form and the Code of Honor at [www.ucg.org/youthcamp](http://www.ucg.org/youthcamp). Camper applications are also found in the special *United Youth Camps 2001* magazine sent out in March. For updated information, including applications, visit [www.wintercamp.org](http://www.wintercamp.org). Or call the director, Steve Nutzman, at 608-758-9228 for an application.

Camper tuition is \$170, which includes food, lodging and activities. Campers should be between 10 and 18. There is an extra charge if arriving early. Free transportation will be provided to and from Winter Camp and the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, airport. Contact Gary and Gale Black for any transportation needs at (815) 963-2336 or e-mail [gary\\_black@ucg.org](mailto:gary_black@ucg.org).

Camper check-in is Sunday morning, December 23, and checkout is Thursday, December 27. Staff orientation begins late afternoon on December 22.

Steve Nutzman

### 48 Preteens Pioneer Ironwood

The first North Central Regional Preteen Camp was held at Ironwood Springs Ranch near Rochester, Minnesota, from August 19 to 22. Campers and staff came from six states to attend. There were 48 campers, ranging in age from 5 through 12, and 24 dedicated staff volunteers.

One week before camp we were told by the facility that their cook had quit. We had to find our own cook and staff to order the food, make up the menu and then cook all the meals! Members came to the rescue by volunteering and it all went very smoothly!

This was a great opportunity for the

children to experience a camp atmosphere in a sheltered environment. We began each day with a Christian Living class to help enrich the kids' relationship with God. Throughout the days we all were able to see God in action working through His children.

Other activities included: horseback riding, crafts, field games, swimming, hiking, exploring, obstacle courses, music, camp



fires, sing-alongs and novelty Olympics.

You can see more preteen pictures from camp at: [ucg-calm.org/preteen\\_youth\\_camp.htm](http://ucg-calm.org/preteen_youth_camp.htm).

Steve Myers

# Feast of Tabernacles 2001 Reports...

## Australia

### Hobart, Tasmania

Hobart again boasted a warm and intimate gathering for the Feast, held at the Pines Resort at Seven Mile Beach. With

### Feast of Tabernacles 2001 Attendance Figures

<b>Australia</b>	
Hobart, Tasmania .....	45
Merimbula, New South Wales .....	203
Noosa Heads, Queensland .....	268
<b>Barbados</b> .....	54
<b>Benin</b> .....	17
<b>British Isles</b> .....	178
<b>Cameroon</b> .....	30
<b>Canada</b>	
Kelowna, British Columbia .....	560
Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec .....	367
Regina, Saskatchewan .....	28
St. John's, Newfoundland .....	66
<b>Chile</b> .....	460
<b>Colombia</b> .....	92
<b>El Salvador</b> .....	153
<b>Estonia/Lithuania</b> .....	12
<b>France</b> .....	107
<b>Germany</b> .....	179
<b>Ghana</b> .....	1,000
<b>Guatemala</b> .....	632
<b>Italy</b> .....	498
<b>Jamaica</b> .....	397
<b>Kenya</b> .....	72
<b>Mexico</b> .....	365
<b>New Zealand</b> .....	115
<b>Nigeria</b> .....	83
<b>Peru</b> .....	169
<b>Philippines</b>	
Baguio City .....	139
Davao City .....	229
<b>South Africa</b> .....	219
<b>St. Lucia</b> .....	59
<b>Tonga</b> .....	27
<b>United States</b>	
Bend, Oregon .....	1,185
Branson, Missouri .....	1,338
Breckenridge, Colorado .....	485
Corpus Christi, Texas .....	607
Escondido, California .....	1,001
Gatlinburg, Tennessee .....	1,723
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania .....	705
Jekyll Island, Georgia .....	952
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii .....	305
Panama City Beach, Florida .....	1,606
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin .....	1,307
<b>Zambia</b> .....	86
<b>Zimbabwe</b> .....	29
<b>Shut-ins</b> who received Feast sermon tapes from home office .....	588
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	18,740
<b>Feast Cybercast</b> (est.) .....	375

Note: Highest daily attendance figures. Actual registration at most sites was higher due to daily absenteeism. Cybercast listeners include some shut-ins counted above, so are not added into the total.

45 in attendance, and a few visitors, everyone successfully rose to the challenge issued by Bruce Dean on the first night to not only meet everyone present, but also to have a conversation with each one during the eight days. Visitors from Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth, the seven children ages 3 to 7, plus the whirlwind visit from Gary and Barbara Antion all sparked the enthusiastic spirit of God's people in this somewhat far-flung area.

The Feast-oriented messages were definitely the highlight of the Feast. These were enhanced by special music provided by Lea Evans, Colin Bay and others including the congregation and the little children on several occasions. In addition, two youth lessons were provided for the children. A brunch on the first morning, an indoor barbecue with the Antions and an afternoon boat cruise provided additional opportunities to fellowship.

*Martha McQueen*

### Merimbula, New South Wales

The Sapphire Coast was once again an Australian site for God's Feast. Up to 203 people attended this year. One new visitor commented, "It felt like coming home, and it was beautiful to be with 'people of like mind' again." The Hannaways (Oregon) had a "delightful time" enjoying the scenery and "unusual animals"; the Mohrs (Texas) found the climate "wonderful after the heat of Texas, with beautiful flowers replacing autumn leaves, and the brethren friendly and welcoming, all sharing the same Spirit of God."

Activities began with a progressive dinner for the singles, a highlight that "expanded the stomach—to cope with the rest of the Feast"! Mystery tours, Zone 3 and go-carting won top marks. Two catered lake cruises were filled. Fellowship and food were enjoyed at many get-togethers.

The very best of this wonderful Feast was spiritual—the speaking, music and singing. Sermons and sermonettes were varied and strong, reflecting the urgency



*Merimbula children's choir*

of this time. Gary Antion conducted an ABC Sampler (for about 100 interested students) on Jonah. He commented that he and his wife had enjoyed themselves immensely—everyone was friendly and

took them in as family. He was delighted that young people spoke to him about sermons—and he had pictures of a kangaroo with a joey in her pouch being hand-fed by his wife!

The management of the meeting hall found the group "eager and cooperative." "What a wonderful group!" said the owner of Grevillea Winery. A bus driver told his passengers they'd be "welcome anytime" on his tours.

Feast coordinator Barry Williams found it "refreshing—people worked together, going over and above to fulfill needs, with good interaction and good relationships." The Spirit of God was very evident at Merimbula.

*Mavis Stucci*

### Noosa Heads, Queensland

It was another outstanding Feast in Noosa Heads, with 197 attending the opening night, 268 as the highest attendance and



*Gary Antion in Noosa*

excellent offerings. Feastgoers were pleased with the inspiring messages, pleasant weather, heartfelt special music and wholehearted participation in activities. Of special encouragement was our UCG video on recapturing a sense of urgency.

A Feast highlight was the visit by Council of Elders' member Gary Antion and his wife, Barbara. As well as inspiring messages, he also conducted one-hour ABC sampler Bible studies, one on Obadiah and the other on seven steps to a happier marriage.

Successful activities were a teen and young adult river cruise, a family dance, a seniors' recital and luncheon, talent show and the annual food bank for the less fortunate of the Noosa area.

A number of North American and European visitors along with New Zealanders added to the flavor of fellowship, while breaching whales offshore exemplified the scenic beauty of the coastal area.

*Graemme Marshall*

## Barbados

We changed venues for the Feast this year in Barbados. We met at the Sand Acres/Bougainvillea Beach Resort on the south coast of the island. The facility is



*The group in Barbados and children's choir*

right on the ocean with a stunning and mesmerizing view. This was one of the most relaxing Feasts ever.

Our high attendance was 54, half of whom were from Barbados, with the rest coming from the United States and the Bahamas. The messages were millennial in focus, with repeated encouragement to prepare for that time. With such a small site it was delightful to have special music every day. And the children and teens were able to participate in special Festival classes.

Positive attitudes were the standouts this year, even with a lot of construction on the property and in the area, as well as being deluged a couple of times with rain. A tropical storm, headed for the island, "diverted" to the south.

With our numbers being few, we were able to participate in activities together. It brought us closer together as a family. Our primary activity was attending a dinner-dance and show called "Tropical Spectacular." It was a spectacular evening.

After services on the Last Great Day, the overseas brethren provided snacks for all. There was a discussion about extending the Feast an additional seven days. But there's always next year to return to this tropical setting.

*Arnold J. Hampton*

## Benin

Seventeen people from Benin and neighboring Togo attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Kétou, Benin, in West Africa. Kétou is about 160 kilometers (100 miles) inland from the country's main city,

Cotonou. Services were held with the help of French-language sermon cassettes. The families present worked together to prepare their own festival meals.

We had the visit of Joel Meeker for the Day of Atonement, and he gave us news that many who had been part of the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, are now united with us. This gave us great joy during the Feast. We are very thankful to our Almighty God for giving us these beautiful Feasts.

*Pierre Kloutse and Joel Meeker*

## British Isles

### Isle of Wight

Situated on the Isle of Wight, an English county surrounded by water, Gurnard Pines Holiday Village provided the Church with a new Feast site this year. For the first time in several years, British Isles' brethren were able to stay together in one place. Many, especially the teens and children, appreciated the opportunities for fun and fellowship that this site facilitated. Mild autumn weather allowed most activities to go ahead unhindered.

A total of 170 registered; 111 from the British Isles and 59 from the United States, Canada, Sweden and the Bahamas. The highest attendance was 178, which occurred on the first Holy Day.

Sermons focused—in contrast with recent events in today's world—on the reality of the upcoming millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth and all that this will entail. The presence of a number of elders and other speakers from the United States was much appreciated. Herb Teitgen and Rick Stafford presented Bible studies in addition to sermons.

Social highlights included an island tour and a visit to Osborne House, the favorite residence of Queen Victoria and her family and where she died 100 years ago this year. Evening activities included dances and two very popular quiz nights.

*David Fenney*

## Cameroon

### Beua

This year the brethren from all over Cameroon assembled to celebrate the



*The group on the first day in Cameroon*

Feast of Tabernacles in the city of Beua. This city is located on the flank of Mount Cameroon, an active volcano and one of the highest mountains in Africa, with an altitude of 3,850 meters (about 13,000 feet). Situated in the southwest of the country, Beua was a German then British colonial town, and the capital of eastern Cameroon. Temperatures were pleasantly cool because of the altitude, which also meant there were no mosquitoes. Our only visitor was our pastor Joel Meeker who was present for the first part of the Feast. During that time he gave sermons, and translated the Festival video for us, before leaving for France for the last part of the Feast. During the last half of the Feast we had sermon tapes in French.

On the second day of the Feast our spokesman club held its first ladies' day meeting. This was a very enjoyable and encouraging meeting for all who participated. During the Feast, all attendees were divided into four different kitchen teams, and in turn each team prepared the meals we enjoyed together. The menu was quite varied and included goat broth, braised fish, beef, yam, beans and potatoes.

On Saturday evening there was an animated Bible quiz game which was educational as well as enjoyable. It was a truly beautiful Feast.

*Moïse Mabout*

## Canada

### Kelowna, British Columbia

While the world trembles, God's people can feel remarkably blessed and thankful to a God who has given us the knowledge of His plan through His feast days—who has given us sanctuary. In Kelowna, 560 brethren entered His feast of peace, kept a feast of fat things, of wines on the lees well refined in the beautiful tawny-colored hills of the Okanagan Valley, British Columbia.

Joining Kelowna by cybercast, 28 brethren in Regina, Saskatchewan, enjoyed the whole Feast experience, seeing and hearing the announcements, special music and speakers.

Jean Steeves, food bank coordinator of the Kelowna food bank, gave a very warm and hearty thank you to the Church

for over \$1,250 worth of groceries and \$800 in cash donations.

About 250 brethren enjoyed themselves at Scandia Golf and Games on family day. A seniors' luncheon, teen bowling, young adults' seminar and a two-hour cruise were also well attended.



*Musicians and Mark Mickelson in Kelowna (photos by Jerry Jantzen)*

Over 260 brethren kicked up their heels to the music of the highly acclaimed Shakedown Annie at the family dance. Tim Peabworth of Santa Clara, California, commented on the "incredible participation. We've never seen so many people of all ages have such a great time." The DJs want to retire, but will continue for us!

God's people know there is hope. A broadcaster said about New Yorkers, "They hold hope in their hands." God says to brethren, "You hold hope in your hearts."

Local elder Lorne Davies said, "Your life will never be the same. Hold onto God's hand for all eternity."

*Jean Jantzen*

### Mont-Sainte-Anne, Quebec

For a few people, the Feast of Tabernacles felt as if it began a bit early this year in Quebec. A Bible study was conducted by James Haeffele at the Feast site in beautiful Mont-Sainte-Anne on the Sabbath before the Feast began. Those present were treated to a millennial setting nestled among the hills overlooking the St. Lawrence river. The fall colors formed a brilliant backdrop promising a good start for the Feast.

The thought of coming to Quebec for non-French speaking people can be somewhat intimidating. However, the staff of the convention complex were very warm and welcoming—they almost seemed to be a part of us. The few who could not speak English were lively in their gestures to convey their warmest regards to Church members. In reality there is little difficulty with language in the area. Many of the local people speak English and most

restaurants have menus in both French and English.

A high attendance of 367 was recorded—a slight increase over last year. A smaller site makes it possible to do many things together. For instance, a catered barbecue was scheduled for the noon meal for the Last Great Day. Most chose to partake in this and so enjoyed one last chance to fellowship with old and new friends.

Many commented that the messages were "the best ever." We were treated to the basics and reminded to "recapture the dream" of what the Feast



portrays. The scenario of a little child in the Millennium asking her grandfather questions such as "What's 'rent'?" or "What's 'divorce'?" was very effective. We were inspired by being reminded that we serve a "God of

the impossible." Other messages reflected these themes throughout the Feast from start to finish.

A family dance was well attended. A local disc jockey played a wide variety of music for young and old alike. A whole day was reserved for whale watching. A number of brethren drove two hours north to catch a ship from which they could see whales. An entire evening was set aside for a dinner cruise of Old Quebec City harbor. People enjoyed a gourmet dinner and beautiful sites while those with more energy went below deck for some dancing.

One of the highlights each year in Quebec is the Variety Show. This year the



*Mont-Sainte-Anne choir; Jim Haeffele speaking*

entertainment lasted two hours with Paul Suckling acting as master of ceremonies. The evening got off to a great start with a young lad performing on harmonica. This was followed by vocal, trumpet, saxophone and piano solos. We had duets, group numbers and even a solitary skit. The audience was appreciative and amazed at the array of talent. One of the hotel staff performed a lovely number for us—getting the audi-

ence to sing in French!

Sabbath morning provided the time for our Senior's Brunch. A packed crowd enjoyed a delectable meal while listening to beautiful music provided by Gary Densmore on keyboard and John Bowles on saxophone. After the meal, Paul Suckling talked about the value of our seniors. Earlier in the week, the youth enjoyed a bowling/pizza afternoon. Some young adults took Mr. Suckling up on a challenge. He had a personal record of 45 minutes to run down from the top of Mont-Sainte-Anne. At least four young adults set out to beat this time. Needless to say, the record was—to put it mildly—smashed! Paul Suckling then dutifully bequeathed a generous award upon each victorious participant.

Family Day, for the second year, consisted of a series of games for the whole Church family. Prizes were awarded according to points accumulated and game stations played. At the end of the day, two Toys R Us gift certificates along with a gift basket from the "Bee Museum" were awarded to gleeful recipients.

Members of the Church continue to have an impact on the community. A hotel employee told one of our key staff members how our people were "calm, gentle, polite and patient" and "a pleasure to work with." An employee at another hotel said she couldn't help but tell all of her friends about us because we were so respectful of each other and the establishment and that we talked to one another constantly even though we didn't necessarily know each other before. She was amazed at the family atmosphere, at how well dressed we were when we held services and best of all, she loved seeing ties on the men. To her that was a real sign of respect for God and what we were doing.

At the conclusion of the Feast, one person commented: "Your Feast schedule of events was the best I have seen. I would suggest not changing it." It truly had been a time to "recapture the dream" of the wonderful world tomorrow!

*Linda Wasilkoff*

### St. John's, Newfoundland

The Feast of Tabernacles in St. John's was a tremendous success according to comments from many of those attending. The Feast at Canada's newest Feast site was a very family oriented occasion. Having only 66 in attendance allowed Feastgoers to do many things together, thus promoting family togetherness. The weather was sunny and warm and activities were well attended. By the



*St. John's: The cruise, the kids and Kevin Ford kissing the cod—part of getting "screeched in," that is, becoming an honorary Newfoundlander (photos by Sam Parsons and Jerrit Ekama)*

end of the Feast, bonds had been formed that will last a lifetime. Most of those attending were from the United States, and local brethren were grateful that they came, especially considering the events of previous days, which made some uneasy about traveling.

The sermons were inspiring and uplifting and encouraged all to look forward to the fulfilment of these days in the Kingdom of God. Sermons and sermonettes were given by a number of men from Canada and the United States.

The Feast was held at Best Western Traveller's Inn and the staff had many compliments on the cooperation and friendliness of attendees. They felt we were all part of one big happy family and look forward to seeing us back there again. The person in charge of sales and catering said, "We were all sad next day and missed you so." It was an excellent location, being close to shopping and restaurants.

Some other highlights were: Family Day at Lavrock Centre, where Feastgoers enjoyed the outdoors, as well as food, fun and dancing; a boat tour from picturesque St. John's Harbour; a Canadian Thanksgiving buffet at Hotel Newfoundland; and a fun-filled Variety/Talent Show.

The natural beauty of the St. John's area captivated visitors. Someone said, "How can we pray for you people who live in Paradise already?"

*David Smith*

### Chile

#### Maitencillo

The brethren again were greatly blessed with fine weather and the famous Latin hospitality to make this a memorable

Feast at Maitencillo, Chile, a quiet site on the beach. Highest attendance was 460, and included 25 Bolivians, 26 Argentinians, 7 Brazilians, 12 Americans and the rest, Chileans. There were activities for all ages: a children's party, youth sports activities and dances, a tea for the elderly and visits to a tourist city nearby, Viña del Mar, and to Penguin Island, where penguins live in the wild.

It was very encouraging to see the level of commitment of the young adults in serving the tables and the elderly and providing a fine example for everyone. In fact, of the 10 members baptized during the Feast (three from Bolivia, one from Brazil and six from Chile) seven of them were young adults.

I would like to include a note by Aimee Zahora from Indianapolis, Indiana, that reflects the Feast spirit: "I have never before experienced such a powerful Feast as I did this year. The sermonettes and sermons were not only instructive, but inspiring and relevant. The most memorable part of Chile for me, however, will always be the people.

"The Chilean members are so full of love. I learned a great deal about people during this Feast—about strengths and weaknesses, about genuine needs, about differences in opportunities, etc. I wanted to come to Chile because I knew the people had a reputation for warmth and kindness. However, the degree of warmth and kindness expressed was much more than I ever expected. God, His Way of life, and His blessings are very visible in the Chileans. I'm very grateful to have experienced such a meaningful Feast of Tabernacles, and to have met such loving family members!"

*Mario Seiglie*

### Colombia

#### Santa Marta

The members of the United Church of God from Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia, met in Santa Marta, a city on Colombia's Atlantic coast. In spite of the situation in the country, which is made quite difficult by the growing violence and disorder that surround us, God protected us and made it possible for everyone to get to the Feast site without any delays or problems.

The 92 people attending the Feast watched the video sent from Cincinnati, and heard messages that were beneficial and edifying for God's children. There was a three-hour question and answer session for the young people. It was encouraging to hear the questions they have.

Other activities included an informal talent night with songs and skits in a warm family atmosphere. There was also a spe-

cial children's party, organized by a group of members who worked together with great love and enthusiasm. After the morning service on the Last Great Day, we had the blessing of little children, which was very moving.

We rejoiced to have two people baptized. As always, God demonstrated His love, concern and great goodness for us, providing all the blessings, and making it possible for us to return home safe and sound, and with a firm commitment to continue working, not only so we can keep the Feast again next year, but also to be in God's coming Kingdom!

*Eduardo Hernández*

### El Salvador

#### San Salvador and Costa del Sol

The 2001 Feast of Tabernacles in El Salvador started out with the traditional welcome, at sunset on Monday, October 1, in the El Salvador Journalists' Union building, the place where



*El Salvador (photos by Walter Cisneros)*

the Church usually meets. The pastor, Herbert Cisneros, gave the opening message to members from the United States and from different parts of El Salvador. The welcome message clearly emphasized the happiness, enthusiasm, love and anticipation of all the members for the best Feast, in which God would be our great Host.

Two places had been chosen for each day's meetings, offering many comforts, including excellent locations, size, air conditioning, efficient service, parking and easy access. In both locations a simultaneous Spanish-English interpretation was provided for the visitors from the United States.

The first location was a hotel with a conference room large enough to accommodate 400, located in one of the most exclusive neighborhoods of San Salvador. The Church met in this conference room

for the first two days of the Feast. Then, from Wednesday till Friday, we met in a beautiful hotel on the Costa del Sol, located about 50 miles from San Salvador, on the Pacific coast.

After getting settled in our rooms, we made good use of the facilities offered by the hotel, such as the pool (the delight of both young and old), the ranches, the restaurant and the wonderful warm sea and the beach. At night we enjoyed the beauty of a bonfire on the beach, as well as the tranquility of the area. This tranquility was enhanced by the beautiful view of the stars in the sky, and a comfortable climate without any rain, which transformed this place into a paradise full of blessings. We felt, as the poem says, "far from the noise of the world."

On Thursday morning, relaxed by the environment and feeling very happy, we had the opportunity to hear very encouraging messages. A young couple, Roberto Parada and Barbara Nickels, were married that afternoon on the beach. It was a very special and enjoyable wedding, officiated by Mr. Cisneros, and made all the more pleasant by the music of the Church choir. The wedding took place with the sunset in the background, and multicolored clouds moving across the sky. As the sun disappeared over the horizon, the minister pro-



Roberto Parada and Barbara Nickels were married on the beach in El Salvador

nounced the couple husband and wife.

On Friday morning we had an interactive Bible study, coordinated by our elders, Mr. Cisneros, Mauricio Pinto and Jaime Ortiz. The subject was the love described in 1 Corinthians 13. In the evening we returned to San Salvador, feeling happy and strengthened. A new member was added to the United Church of God during our time at the beach.

The following day we continued with our program, until the end of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. The maximum attendance was 153 people.

As the Feast concluded we felt encouraged, strengthened and convicted in obedience to our God and His Son Jesus Christ. We also grew in our sense of fellowship, happiness and love among the members of the Church. This all motivated us to deeper reflection, and preparation for next year, so we can participate once more in these Holy Days of God.

At the end of the eight days the tears

began to show on our faces, evidence of the joy of the Feast and the sadness of returning to a world that isn't ours.

Was it the best Feast ever? Of course it was the best Feast ever!

*Ricardo Moreno Calderón*

## Estonia

### Tartu

A small Feast of Tabernacles was held for the fifth consecutive year in Tartu, Estonia. Eight people, including two Americans and one Estonian/American, kept the Feast in the conference room at the Pallas Hotel. In accordance with the decision to keep this site small, Eastern Europeans from surrounding countries kept the Feast in other areas.

The theme of the Feast messages was tabernacling in the wilderness, showing that the large tabernacle was a foreshadow of the Church, along with other analogies vital to the coming of God's Kingdom.

On the Last Great Day, advertisements for subscriptions to the English version of the *Good News* magazine were begun on Family Radio. It is our goal in 2002 to offer booklets about the Kingdom of God and the Sabbath, as well as the *Bible Study Course*, which have been translated into the Estonian language.

Helga Magi, a dedicated member of the Tartu congregation, was too ill to attend. Traveling 60 kilometers to her home, I was able to anoint her. She had invited a number of her family members to the occasion. Please pray for Helga's healing, both for her sake and for a testimony about God's power and His way of life to those who witnessed this anointing.

With contributions of handmade items by women in the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation, we were able to continue our support of the Emajõe Kool (school for handicapped children). The gifts were gratefully received by the leaders of the school.

In Tartu, we kept God's commandments for the Feast. We rejoiced and we learned to more deeply respect the Father and Jesus Christ.

*Johnnie Lambert*

## France

### Nouan-le-Fuzelier

Pleasant autumn weather greeted the 107 people who attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful Loire region of France. All Festival attendees lodged and ate meals together at the Ferme de Courcimont, a country vacation village set



Scenes from France: Mr. and Mrs. Giauque in the loudest kiss contest during the talent show; Joel Meeker using slides during sermon about war; the whole group (photos by Joel Meeker and David Updegraff)

in a rural wooded area on a tranquil lake. Services were also held on the site, as well as several Festival activities, including a welcome reception, a talent show and an "au revoir" (until we meet again) reception on the evening of the Last Great Day. Services were held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation provided. Whatever the language, the messages were timely, thought-provoking and encouraging.

Guided coach excursions went to local sites of interest including the famous Renaissance chateaux of Chambord, Chenonceau, Cheverny and Villandry, as well as to several medieval villages, and the historic cities of Bourges and Orleans. A wine tasting at a local vintner was also included in the excursion schedule.

Church members in French Europe and the French West Indies are widely dispersed geographically, so the opportunity to be together with brethren at the Feast, including brethren from other countries, is a great joy, anticipated throughout the year.

*Joel Meeker*

## Germany

### Schluchsee

Beautiful weather enhanced the peaceful, joyous atmosphere as 179 people celebrated God's Feast of Tabernacles in Schluchsee, Germany. Schluchsee is a small village in the Black Forest, located a short distance north of Switzerland.

Services were held in the Kursaal, a nice meeting hall in the City Hall building. Brethren took advantage of the adjacent restaurant serving fine traditional German foods while enjoying the picturesque view of the lake and the Black Forest.

Rejoicing in God's feast days included hymn singing in German, English and Dutch. The wide variety of special music was most inspiring. The services were held in German with simultaneous translation into English for the guests.

The messages included such topics as the importance of God's feast days in His overall plan, the Kingdom of God, our awesome inheritance and what we need to do in order to be there when the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day go into fulfillment.

The activities at the Feast this year started off with a welcome party after the first Holy Day. The youth activity on the following day was go-cart racing, enjoyed by the youth and the not-so-young alike. On Thursday the sunny weather added to the gorgeous scenery along the route as brethren visited and toured the ancient Roman city of Riquewihl, France, where we had the opportunity to learn about the city's history.

The entertaining talent show was a hit again as young and old shared a wide variety of talents on Saturday evening. The annual feast dance was held on Sunday evening with traditional German music



The talent show in Germany (photos by Daniel Miller)

provided by Alois and Franz, the Black Forest duo.

The activities of the Feast concluded with a farewell reception after the Last Great Day, giving the brethren the opportunity to say good-byes as another wonderful and enriching Feast of Tabernacles came to a close. Everyone was encouraged to plan and look forward to returning again on September 20, 2002, to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

*Susan Miller*

## Ghana

There were three sites in Ghana this year (Accra, Takoradi and Kumasi) and the total attendance was approximately 1,000 people. This is the highest attendance for the Feast of Tabernacles in Ghana thus far.

Azariah Maxwell Coffie, pastor in Kumasi, and the Festival coordinator for the Kumasi Feast site, reports that everything went very smoothly and harmoniously at the Feast. The members of the Church in Ghana rejoiced to be all together and to hear sermons on the meaning of the Feast during the eight days of the Festival.

*Joel Meeker*

## Guatemala

### Antigua

Beautiful sunny skies welcomed all of the Feastgoers to Antigua, Guatemala, the ancient capital of Central America. With brethren from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and more than 50 from the United States, the highest attendance was 632.

On the opening night, Saul Langarica presented the theme "The Urgency of These Times" as the theme for the Feast. The sermons kept us interested and



*Guatemalan dancers and friends (photos by Gayle Hoefker)*

hungry for more. We were encouraged to prepare our families and ourselves for the difficult times ahead by developing strong, righteous character.

Not only were the sermons strong and unifying, but also the activities drew everyone together. A ladies' breakfast, a seniors' breakfast, a young peoples' dance, a Spokesman's Club and Ladies' Night and a children's party were all enthusiastically attended. A special trip to Lake Atitlan was arranged for the foreigners. They were able to see one of the largest lakes in Guatemala and the beautiful countryside. This



*The Italian brethren*

year the activities took on a nostalgic feel, as the Langaricas would be moving immediately after the Feast. Many heartfelt expressions of appreciation for their dedication and years of service were made at various events. The most memorable event took place near the end of the Feast. A good-bye song and dance was presented in honor of the Langaricas at the Talent Show. Both longtime Church members and first-time visitors were moved to tears.

Happy times were in abundance as well. Feastgoers were able to celebrate with Jason and Abi Cox as they exchanged wedding vows; and on the Sabbath, 12 men and women made the commitment to God's way of life and were baptized.

The Feast was a time of education, fun, renewal and commitment for the future. We all said our tearful good-byes, but knew that we could make it through another year by using God's Spirit and the knowledge we had learned at the Feast.

*Gayle Hoefker*

## Italy

### Tuscany

The Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Tuscany, Italy, was safely celebrated by 498 enthusiastic brethren from various countries—the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, Singapore, Peru, Chile and, of course, Italy. We were living proof that different languages and nationalities need not be a barrier to getting to know and love one another in Jesus Christ.

We enjoyed heartfelt messages, good food and a special fellowship with one another in brotherly love. God blessed us with excellent weather. The various Feast activities were very enjoyable and the group tours to Florence, Pisa, Lucca and Siena proved to be very educational.

This year the main themes for the Feast were about faith, unity and the sense of urgency every Christian needs to recapture in order to stay spiritually awake and to wait diligently for Christ's second com-

ing to the earth. The Feast video was very inspiring and helpful in focusing on the goal. It was projected twice on two different evenings.

The Holy Day offerings were especially generous and we have experienced firsthand the bounty of God's blessings and hope for the future. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the brethren and deacons and ministers who came to Italy and helped in making this Feast very memorable for all of us.

Five prospective members were baptized and warmly welcomed by the brethren. These new brethren represent approximately a 10 percent increase in our local membership. This is a big increase considering the limited *GN* circulation (just a little more than 5,000 copies.) God's work is being made possible in Italy thanks to the combined help from local donations and tithes, from Holy Day offerings and from the home office's regular subsidy. These efforts are, of course, an encouraging evidence of God's help and blessings by His Spirit in our hearts. May God bless all of our brethren around the world with a similar growth.

The Italian brethren send their love and prayers to all of you and hope to see even more new faces next year here in Italy!

*Carmelo Anastasi*

## Jamaica

### Ocho Rios

Beautiful tropical skies welcomed 361 happy brethren to the island of Jamaica. Nearly everyone was able to make it to Jamaica who had originally planned to attend.

Kingsley Mather, Feast coordinator, arranged for accommodations for most brethren at the Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, a beautiful facility that includes a number of pools, restaurants, shopping and entertainment. This made it easy for fellowship throughout the day.

The Feast started with a sermon from Mike Hanisko on the meaning

of the Feast. There were many inspiring messages including Mr. Mather's on "Preparing for the Royal Wedding," Mr. Hanisko's on



*Kingsley Mather speaking; climbing up Dunn's River Falls; Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, singers during the fun show (photos by Jean Cline and Steve Burke)*

"Removing Hatred Through Forgiveness" and Dave Myers' on "Come Out From Among Her."

Activities included a tour to Dunn's River Falls, Coyaba Botanical Gardens and Wassi Pottery Factory. Family Fun Day on the hotel beach included activities for the whole family. A combined Fun Show with brethren from Church of God, a Christian Fellowship (CGCF) was a great success, featuring lots of local songs and dance.

A unique opportunity to see God's power was presented during the Feast. Hurricane Iris was traveling straight for Jamaica, but turned south just before it was going to hit land. The hotel management did a good job with storm preparations, but Mr. Mather prepared us better by saying: "UCG brethren, you know what to do. Go and do it. Pray without ceasing." We were all very thankful to be spared from the storm. A second tropical storm (Jerry) followed behind, but weakened to a tropical depression after our prayers.

Last Great Day services were combined with members from CGCF, bringing the high attendance of 397. (Because CGCF had already made Feast arrangements, we were not able to meet together until the Last Great Day. After the Feast, both churches will be combined.) The combined brethren enjoyed a very nice family luncheon between services.

Paul Fischer, CGCF elder, gave the afternoon sermonette on unity, followed by Mr. Myers for the final sermon, "A Great Day of Mercy." A wonderful ending to an incredible Feast, both physically and spiritually.

*Mary Burke and Jean Cline*

## Kenya

### Rongo

Seventy-two brethren observed the Feast of Tabernacles in the lush, green area of Rongo, Kenya, near Lake Victoria. Members gathered from throughout Kenya and Tanzania and nine members traveled from the United States.

The members heard inspiring messages concerning the Feast of Tabernacles, such as being pioneers here on earth and heirs to the coming Kingdom of God, characteristics of a good king, how to be a more effective teacher, what it means to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ, faith and five necessities of a good harvest.

The brethren enjoyed positive fellowship, an afternoon of games, a talent show featuring various cultural dances, a trip to Homa Bay on Lake Victoria and a goat roast on the afternoon before the Last Great Day. One of the highlights of the Feast was a trip to Ruma National Park,



Members performing a Kikuyu dance in Kenya; Kenyan and Tanzanian brethren on Lake Victoria during the Feast (photos by Dave Baker)

where many of the brethren saw giraffes, baboons, impala, water-buck and other antelope for the first time.

After the Feast, the Americans had the opportunity to experience the wonder of the unique creatures of Africa by going on safari in the Masai Mara. The members enjoyed lodging and leisurely afternoons overlooking the Mara River teeming with hippos, crocodiles, baboons and exotic birds. Four safari drives provided views of cheetahs, wildebeests, zebras, elephants, lions, warthogs, hyenas, jackals, cape buffalo, gazelles and various antelope. After spending the Sabbath in Nairobi, the safari continued in Amboseli National Park, a renowned game reserve at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

*Renea Apartian*

## Mexico

### San Miguel de Allende

This year the Feast of Tabernacles in Mexico was celebrated in the colonial city of San Miguel de Allende in the beautiful

state of Guanajuato. San Miguel de Allende is located about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Mexico City, the nation's capital. The Mexican brethren (300) were splendid hosts to the visiting brethren. In total 365 enjoyed eight days of food, fun, fiesta and fellowship. This together with spiritually uplifting sermons and family-style activities made for a memorable Feast of Tabernacles 2001.

Daytime temperatures were about 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 Celsius). Nighttime temperatures were 50 to 60 Fahrenheit (10 to 18 Celsius). Days were sunny and bright with the exception of a day of rain in the midst of the Feast.

Feast activities were varied and plentiful. They included a women's breakfast, children's party, two soccer games, a trip to the local hot springs spa, youth dance, Mexican family dance, youth video, Mexican-American dinner, a shopping trip to Dolores Hidalgo and street party.

The street party, which is a traditional activity in San Miguel, called a *Callejoneada* in Spanish, consists of a burro with various drinks for the adults and young children and a group of traveling musicians, which strolls the streets of San Miguel de Allende in the cool of the evening. The *Callejoneada* began at the town square and traveled to the Aristos



hotel where many of the brethren were staying. The party then continued allowing those who could not participate in the walking to enjoy the singing and fellowshiping in the hotel restaurant.

The highlight of the Feast's social activities was the Mexican evening and family dance (*Noche-Mexicana*). The evening began with the Mexican and a few American brethren performing various traditional songs and dances. Then dinner was served, which consisted of quesadillas (a tortilla and cheese dish), enchiladas, tacos, flautas and various drinks, side dishes and desserts. Then the family dance began accompanied by a group of performing musicians. Dancing, eating and fellowshiping continued for many hours and then, to the surprise and enjoyment of all, a group of mariachis arrived to round out the evening. The mariachis were joined by the Mexican

brethren in singing and traditional dancing.

Although there were many social activities, the Feast in San Miguel was also a spiritual success. All of the sermons were delivered in a dynamic and powerful manner and many of the *Norte-americanos* (North Americans) and Mexican brethren commented about the effectiveness of the spiritual meat.

Sermon messages included: "Why I Want the Millennium to Arrive," "The Change of the Nature of the Animals in the Coming Kingdom," "Young People: the Future of the Church and the Coming Kingdom," "The Preparation and the Marriage of the Bride: Maintaining the Vision of the Church," "The Ultimate Salvation of Humanity," "The Three Resurrections and Their Relation to the Last Great Day" and a PowerPoint split-sermon presentation on the book of Revelation. All of these biblical messages together with the fellowship and the beautiful location showed us once again that God still cares and provides for His children.

The Feast of Tabernacles 2001 in San Miguel de Allende was a resounding success due to God's guidance and the blessing He has given His Church.

*Arnold C. Mendez Sr.*

## New Zealand

### Tauranga

Warm spring weather welcomed 115 Feastgoers to the Kiwi Feast site this year. Tauranga and her sister city, Mount Maunganui, lie on the east coast of the North Island, right on the Pacific Ocean. Tauranga was truly an international site with more than half its attendees hailing from Australia, Canada, Great Britain and the United States.

Brethren felt this was a very positive Feast with much fellowshiping at services and late into the evenings at impromptu social gatherings.

More than 20 teens, young adults and young married couples engaged in youth Bible studies, discussions and outdoor activities throughout the Feast. The entire Church



Scenes from the Feast in New Zealand (photos by Peter Mihalec)

attended our annual Feast dinner. Feast messages focused on our incredible millennial future and our spiritual grounding in God's Holy Day plan during these turbulent times.

A new sporting activity for all ages was "blo-karting"—sailing on land in a metal framed cart equipped with rubber tires and a small sail. A treasure hunt, BBQ and games night was arranged by the young adults for the youth. Many traveled to Rotorua to view Maori cultural events, geothermal mud pools and geysers and to ride the luge at an outdoor theme park. Others hiked to the top of Mount Maunganui itself, and surfed or sailed on the ocean. Local vineyards, wineries and scenic walking tracks were also popular attractions.

*Jeff Caudle*

## Nigeria

### Lagos

With four visitors from the United States, the highest attendance for the Feast in Lagos was 83. There is good news and bad news. The good news is that the Feast began with electricity in all of the rooms and occasional running water in some of



Fred Kellers (right) performed nine baptisms in Nigeria. The ladies in the front are Blessing Alade, Ronke Akinbo, Jane Johnny and Tosin Akin-Ogundeji. The men are Peter Aluyi (deacon who assisted), Dotun Ibirogba, David Williams, Harrison Oguma, Caleb Ibekwe, Mayiwa Akin-Ogundeji, O. Akin-Ogundeji (deacon who assisted) and Mr. Kellers (photo by Dare Akinbo)

the rooms. The bad news is that the electricity and water stopped on the second day of the Feast and never returned. However, we had buckets of water from a well with which to bathe and flush and we had bottled water to drink. The bad news is that all the sermons were given by one man, myself. The good news is that I didn't sing special music—that was done by others, and done very well.

The members were able to take an excursion to a museum, but the true highlights of the Feast were the baptisms and the fellowship. Nine people were baptized, eight of them young adults. Four of those baptized have only recently been called and were keeping their first Feast of Tabernacles. Some of the members in Nigeria are somewhat scattered and unable to regularly fellowship, so for God's people in Nigeria, the Feast of Tabernacles truly is the highlight of the year.

*Fred Kellers*

## Peru

### Huanchaco

The 169 people gathered together in Huanchaco to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2001 truly enjoyed a very special Feast this year. We had visitors from the United States, Costa Rica and Chile. For the first time in the 25 years we have celebrated the Feast here in Peru, we had the blessing, much appreciated by the Peruvian brethren, to have live music to accompany the hymns during services. The music was provided by Jim Koller and Julian Weston.

Another highlight of the Feast was a dinner prepared for the elderly. The dinner was cooked and served by the teenagers and young adults of the congregation. The elderly of the Church shed tears of emotion seeing how much God's congregation appreciated them. Entertainment, also provided by the organizers of the dinner, followed the meal. Then our veterans in the faith were invited to share anecdotes and advice with our young people.

We also had our traditional children's party and our family games. The brethren also enjoyed two dances and a talent show.

Messages focused on our being ready for the world to come and practicing now what we will be doing in the future. Also we had sermons on family matters.

*Manuel Quijano*

## Philippines

### Baguio City

Ang Ating Tahanan (Our Home) Girl Scouts of the Philippines Grounds in Baguio City was one of two Feast sites the United Church of God had this year in the Philippines. This was the assigned site for UCG brethren from Central Visayas and the Luzon regions of the Philippines.

The brethren were very grateful to the home office for sending Council of Elders member Clyde Kilough and his wife, Dee, who stayed with us during the first half of



*Baguio City, Philippines (photos by Rafael Uy)*

the Feast. Mr. Kilough gave very inspiring messages that addressed the needs of all Feastgoers, young and old alike. The Festival video was also well appreciated for its timeliness in showing the urgency of the times.

Feastgoers were able to enjoy extended fun, food and fellowship as brethren

were encouraged to eat lunch together at the dining tents that were set up for that purpose.

We were expecting an attendance at services of between 80 and 90 this year, but our expectation was exceeded when attendance went as high as 139 on the sixth day of the Feast! We had to bring in additional chairs to accommodate the increase in Feastgoers attending with us.

Aside from the very inspiring messages, Feastgoers were also treated to an exciting city tour riding on "jeepneys," where brethren were given a chance to go around Baguio to see the famous Mines View Park and the Philippine Military Academy (the West Point of the Philippines).

The different congregations gave their musical and dance presentations for the Festival Show and Family Dance Night, which was highlighted by a vocal duet by Mr. and Mrs. Kilough. Families were also treated to fun and games during the Family Sports Day.

The Feast ended on the Last Great Day with all the brethren feeling spiritually refreshed and strengthened. Another best Feast ever has again ended.

*Rey M. Evasco*

### Davao City

Enjoying God's blessings of peace and harmony, 229 brethren from 12 church areas shared meals and fellowship for eight days at the GSP Regional Training Camp in Davao City during this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

Clyde Kilough (a U.S. pastor and a Council of Elders member) was guest speaker for the Philippine sites this year. Mr. Kilough and his wife, Dee, brought stuff for children and adults as well. The children were also given the opportunity to express their festival concepts by contributing drawings on a very long piece of art paper.

The messages were inspiring and much appreciated, as was the Feast video

on "urgency," which was also the theme for the Davao site. For brethren who cannot understand English well, a simultaneous translation using FM equipment was done in Cebuano (one of the major Philippine dialects).

Also, about 20 former members of the Jerusalem Church of God on Leyte island who recently affiliated with UCG, attended the Feast in Davao, which

was the site closest to them. Coming from the eastern-central part of the Philippines, it took them about 26 hours of travel by land, sea and land again to reach Davao. It was also their first time to observe all eight days of the Feast.

Sunny weather favored daytime activities. Besides three leadership seminars, afternoon social activities included a family sports day and a tour to the Philippine Eagle Center. During the scheduled beach outing coupled with a "fruit festival," everyone had a chance to sample some of the best tropical fruits. Included was the "king of fruits and the fruit for kings"—the durian.

Evening activities included brethren bonding together in lively parlor games, and another evening for a youth and a seniors' social. Friday evening was a Bible study, while Sunday evening was the Variety Show. Here, even foreign guests took the challenge to try the unique Philippine folk dance called "tinikling"—characterized by nimbly dancing between two rhythmically clapping bamboo poles.



*Davao City, Philippines (photos by Raul Villacote and Meryl Lynn Macaraeg)*

Sensing the urgency of our times, some members were inspired to do something positive. One U.S. guest voluntarily contributed an air conditioning unit for the Philippine church office and also funds to help build a local church building. To others this Feast was a turning point in their lives, as in the case of two who committed to baptism during the Feast: Angel Ortega and Monico Enderes, both from the Diatagon, Surigao congregation. While we cannot mention what everyone else has done (God knows), probably all went home with the sense of urgency and resolve planted in their minds and hearts to do their best now—while yearning for that blessed hope and glory in God's Kingdom!

*Edmond D. Macaraeg*

## South Africa

### Uvongo

Up to 199 members and their families celebrated the Feast of



*Camel rides at Family Day, youth outing on the Umzimkulu River, seniors' luncheon and Walker family (photos by Neil Becker)*



Tabernacles at the subtropical, east coast resort of Uvongo, South Africa. Among the visitors from the United States were Mr. and Mrs. Leon Walker; their daughter, Catherine, and son-in-law, Kenton Zleb; and two of their grandchildren, Michelle and Charlene Rothwell. Mr. Walker, our contact for international areas with the Council of Elders, was the guest speaker. We also had several South Africans living abroad come back for the Feast, and some visitors from neighboring countries, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It was a Feast of peace and harmony. One member described what the messages had meant to her: "God has placed a desire for immortality within us. We learnt that we are just 'passing through' this world as pilgrims. Like a silversmith, God is waiting to see His image in us." Tony Levy, hall manager, remarked that there was "great spiritual food from all the speakers. It will keep us going for many months." Jason Webster from Johannesburg commented on the clear messages that often focused on the youth, the good clean fun, the fellowship and the opportunity to reevaluate our direction in life. He, too, was struck by the image of the silversmith, mentioned in the Festival video.

The Family Day at Macdonald's Farm, youth day and the senior citizens' luncheon hosted by the Church were all well received. God blessed us with suitable weather whenever we needed it for a function. A special addition was the dance this year, which was organized by the

Johannesburg members. This was truly a Feast to remember.

*Peter Hawkins*

## St. Lucia

### Rodney Bay

This was the inaugural Feast for UCG on the island of St. Lucia. Brethren came from the United States, Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent and St. Thomas as well as the host country.

We met at the Bay Gardens Hotel which is situated in the tourist resort location of Rodney Bay. As the name implies, Bay Gardens is structured with ornamental plants and flowers on its



*The Feast group in St. Lucia*

grounds—a great setting for the Feast.

Services were conducted in the hotel's beautiful conference center with state-of-the-art equipment. Our high attendance was 59. Brethren were well pleased with the blend of spiritual messages given. Some services were interactive, allowing listeners to participate. Topics were consistent with the Feast and, most importantly, helpful in strengthening faith for our daily lives.

The brethren had the opportunity to participate in three organized activities.

There was a land-and-sea cruise. We divided into two parties taking separate routes to the region of the island called Soufrière by either land or sea. Afterwards the return trips offered switching of routes. The tours took participants to the world-famous and only drive-in volcano, Diamond Waterfalls and Botanical Gardens with a view of the majestic Piton Mountains. Both parties had lunch together at the Still Restaurant. Participants had the opportunity to snorkel and swim during the sea cruise.

On the sixth day of the Feast, brethren had the opportunity to fellowship together on a secluded beach at Marigot Bay, Hurricane Hole. We had lunch together at

the Dr. Dolittle Restaurant and Bar, before engaging in snorkeling, scuba-diving, swimming and card playing. Accessible by ferry, the site is the location where the movie *Dr. Dolittle* was filmed. The intermittent rain did not hinder participants from their choice of activities.

The last occasion for all the brethren to eat and fellowship together in unity was a special buffet luncheon between services on the Last Great Day.

This has indeed been a memorable Feast.

*Anthony Philgence*

## Tonga

Tonga may be an isolated island in the South Pacific, but the 27 brethren attending God's Feast experienced eight days of spiritual nourishment and oneness in a happy family atmosphere.

Festival activities included a dinner at the International Dateline Hotel where everyone enjoyed the evening watching

the "Sopu Youths" perform the Tongan traditional dance. One of the highlights was the picnic and sports day, an afternoon of competitive games which tested everyone's skills in a variety of athletic contests. Children especially enjoyed this day. They were rewarded at the end of each game with candies and balloons.



and balloons.

It was a n o t h e r happy and wonderful Feast for all who attended in



*Children's choir and the whole group in Tonga (photo by Dave Maynard)*

Tonga, including one family from America and a couple from Fiji. In spite of the difficult and dangerous time we live in, God continued to bless us physically and spiritually during the Feast.

*Litia Maynard*

## United States

### Bend, Oregon

Feastgoers here enjoyed beautiful fall scenery and warm weather in the millennial setting of Central Oregon. The High Desert Museum, a 38-mile dinner train ride and a family chuck wagon dinner show were among the most popular attractions. Nearly 200 seniors enjoyed a lively and entertaining "oldie-weds" game, preceded by a sumptuous buffet lunch. Other activities included family day, featuring children's carnival games and a family fun show attended by 552.

Attendance at services was over 1,000 every day, peaking at 1,185 on the first Holy Day (plus a record 58 cybercast connections), far exceeding the registration figure. We also had attendees from other groups and a few people from the community. An article about the Feast appeared in the Bend newspaper on opening night. The Bend Feast Web page had 607 visitors on October 2 and 318 on October 3. Cybercast listeners tuned in from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Philippines and the U.S. military, as well as from all over the United States.

Many commented favorably about the sermons and sermonettes and the festival video. The fine attendance indicates that the messages were well received.

The Bible study presentation on prophecy drew 256. The teen and young adult Bible studies were also well attended.

Holy Day offerings were generous. Cash donations were collected for the LifeNets Manhattan project and 1,400 pounds of food items were donated to the local food bank. Leftover food at the end of the Feast was distributed to needy members.

The spiritual atmosphere was outstanding—happy, relaxed and positive. Fellowship was warm and friendly. The warmth and enthusiasm remained constant throughout the Feast.

All this and much more made the 2001 Feast of Tabernacles in Bend-Redmond a happy, profitable and memorable experience for everyone.

*Larry J. Walker*

### Branson, Missouri

Over 1,300 members and families rejoiced at the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful hills of Branson, Missouri, this year. The messages were the highlight of the Feast. Every message was both inspiring and instructive, and was "devoured" by an audience hungry for spiritual meat. The attendance at the Feast varied very little, attesting to the desire of the members for the messages. Attitudes and cooperation were very



*Mike Blackwell speaking at Branson (photo by Helen Braman)*

inspiring to those involved with the Feast. Several business owners said, "We wish we could have your people here all year long. They are so appreciative and positive about everything."

A first for Branson was a family dance on Wednesday evening. All attending had a wonderful time of dancing and fellowship. The seniors' activity was well attended and those present had a fun time with the entertainment and the "oldie-weds" game. Singles had the opportunity to enjoy a tour, a meal, a Clydesdale-drawn wagon ride and an outdoor drama evening. Once again the Family Day, for about 500 people, was at the Branson USA amusement park, where members were able to fellowship, eat, play miniature golf and ride the rides.

Weather throughout the Feast was spectacular, with one day of rain. All attending Branson departed with a full spiritual Feast under their belt, looking forward to "next year."

*Mike Blackwell*

### Breckenridge, Colorado

Breckenridge was a familiar sight for many who have attended Keystone in past years. However, there is a great deal of construction taking place. It is growing rapidly.

Comments from attendees have been mostly very positive, especially in response



*Les McCullough speaking; the Breckenridge choir (photos by Bill Jahns)*

to the sermons, sermonettes and Festival video. The front desk manager at the Village at Breckenridge made a very com-

plimentary statement about our people and how they are so friendly and cooperative. A waitress in one of the restaurants observed that those she had waited on were genuine and easy to please.

A few of the brethren experienced problems with construction noise near their lodging, or other difficulties, and ended up moving to different quarters. However, most accommodations worked out very well.

The weather was superb. A very light snow fell the afternoon of the Last Great Day and that night, but amounted to less than an inch. Unfortunately, icy roads at the Eisenhower Tunnel caused a semi to jack-knife and resulted in a 12-car pileup that involved at least two of our members' vehicles. Thankfully, there were only minimal injuries, but there was heavy vehicle damage.

The high attendance of 485 came on the weekly Sabbath. The family dance was well-attended, as was a family afternoon of swimming (indoor pool!) and basketball. Teens ice skated and dropped in at Paul and Ronda Luecke's place for pizza.

Larry Neff

### Corpus Christi, Texas

Over 600 people gathered in this picturesque seaside city to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. Sobered by the unexpected deaths of two members and the grown child of a member (all from Texas), Feastgoers greatly appreciated the sermonettes and sermons explaining the wonderful future these festivals depict.

Attendees enjoyed the Gulf coast beach-



Teen pool/beach party; teens provide music for the seniors' luncheon (photos by David Treybig)



es, pleasant weather and the many restaurants featuring fresh fish and traditional Texas barbecue. Teens enjoyed a beach and pool party, plus a dance on Saturday evening, while families enjoyed visiting local attractions on Family Day. On Sunday, October 7, seniors, ministers and their wives enjoyed a luncheon at the Bayfront Convention Center.

The highest attendance was 607 on the weekly Sabbath. In light of recent terrorist activities in the United States and this country's actions against Afghanistan, ministers

contrasted these events with millennial subjects which included how God will work with families, the importance of respecting all people and understanding godly justice. Adding to the spiritual messages, Bible studies were conducted for adults and teens and a seminar was presented for young adults.

David Treybig

### Escondido (San Diego), California

Just over 1,000 brethren enjoyed inspiring sermons, typically warm and sunny weather, well-attended activities and one another's fellowship all week in Escondido, California. Members from as far away as Holland and Africa transferred to Southern California this year for the Feast. The local hotels and county convention officials were very appreciative that our attendance figures were about the same as last year and our members helped the sagging convention/tourism business in this area after the terrorist attacks of September 11. The Feast was a boon to the local economy during these difficult times!

Several of the elders who spoke used the California Center for the Arts Auditorium's state-of-the-art video and audio capability for presentations during their sermons. This added to the effectiveness of the already inspiring messages. The theme in Escondido this year was a sense of urgency in preparing spiritually, emotionally and mentally for the Millennium. The president of the United Church of God, Les McCullough, and his wife, Marion, spent the second half of the Feast in Escondido and added to our theme by giving two inspiring messages.

The special music from all our volunteer singers and musicians was equally outstanding in this wonderful performance venue. The music presentations were very inspiring!

Last year we started a tradition in Escondido of members donating stuffed toy animals to exhibit on stage and then present to our children after services. The menagerie of stuffed toy animals filled the stage! After each child received at least one stuffed toy, we had several large bags left over to give to local charities.

Activities at this year's Feast included a family day at

Felecity Park with over 650 attending. We enjoyed organized games for the children, live entertainment and a BBQ lunch. We also had several special events for our young adults/singles and our teens, including a pool party, a beach party and Family Fun Night.

Many members and families also enjoyed a formal dinner and night at a classical theater, a Hawaiian luau and a seniors' Sabbath brunch. We are already looking forward to and preparing for the Feast next year in Escondido!

Dave Register

### Gatlinburg, Tennessee

The beautiful Smoky Mountains were the backdrop for 1,723 Feastgoers this year in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This was the first year for us to keep the Feast in Gatlinburg, but by most all accounts it proved to be fulfilling in every way for those attending. The weather was spectacular throughout the Feast and smiles abounded both in the hall and outside.

Each year the highlight at the Feast is the spiritual diet. Again this year everyone left with their spiritual tanks full. In light of recent events, this was needed and appreciated by many as was discussed in fellowship before and after services each day.

The many activities also proved successful with three in particular drawing strong numbers: a night at the Dixie Stampede (a dinner theater), family day at Dollywood and a family dance on Saturday night. Other activities involving many folks of different ages included "sleep with the sharks" (a night spent in the aquarium for our elementary-age children), a night of pickin' and grinin' to show off some of the Church's musical talent, a seniors' lunch with games and



Gatlinburg Feast choir (photo by Tim Waddle)

two teen activities. And as always, one of the highlights was the children's choir. It was a real joy to see a stage full of beautiful, smiling, happy children literally shouting out on certain lines to all in the audience.

The Feast this year was hugely successful primarily due to the wonderfully willing service attitudes of those attending. I feel certain that God was well pleased with what He saw in Gatlinburg this year.

Mark Winner

### Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

This was our third year in Gettysburg, and brethren arrived from many parts of the country to celebrate the final two Holy Days of 2001. The Eisenhower Inn and Conference Center welcomed over 600 people to this city laden with history. Our highest attendance was on the first Holy Day as visitors pushed the numbers over 700.

Gettysburg is centrally located to many large cities on the East Coast, so a number of tours took place during the Feast. Two separate trips to Washington, D.C., gave Feastgoers the option of simply touring city monuments or catching a show at Ford Theater. Brethren also toured Baltimore, seeing much of the inner harbor, including a trip

through the Maryland Science Center, and viewing a movie at the five-story IMAX.

Because of the beautiful weather, many of our activities were held outside. The brethren enjoyed family day activities, including everything from playing miniature golf to driving a miniature car. Although



the air was a little nippy for the Last Great Day luncheon, many of the brethren



Gettysburg (photos by Erik Jones)



braved the elements and ate outdoors.

The staff of the sports complex where some of our activities were held stated, "Your church has some of the most polite and generous people we have ever worked with." The generosity and loving attitude of the people of God helped make the Feast in Gettysburg a memorable one.

Todd O. Carey

### Jekyll Island, Georgia

God blessed us once again this year in Jekyll Island with a very wonderful, inspiring, uplifting and peaceful Feast. The weather was great—a little breezy but sunny for the most part with cool, fall temperatures. Jekyll Island continues to be a quiet, peaceful, pastoral setting for the Feast. Our high attendance was 952 on the weekly Sabbath.

The messages were inspiring, encouraging and uplifting. The Feast video was very warmly received. Special music was special. The children's choir did a great job.

Activities that were well attended were a family dance attended by about 400 and a family beach party attended by about 300. The singles toured historic Savannah, Georgia, one afternoon.

We again this year took part in a community service project in which we contributed items to two local charitable organizations in Brunswick, Georgia. One of these helps battered wives and their children. The other takes care of orphaned children. We contributed personal hygiene items, paper and plastic goods plus \$1,657 cash and 320 hamburger patties left over from the beach party. These two organizations deeply appreciate our help each year.

Bob Jones

## Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

The 305 attendees enjoyed an extremely profitable Feast on the Garden Isle of Kauai. They were indeed treated to a spiritual gourmet smorgasbord of God's truths and Word in the sermons and sermonettes. There was a special young adult seminar conducted by Bill Bradford. David Holladay presented a teen Bible study. Bob Fahey conducted a general Bible study for all ages. Joe and Jackie Horchak oversaw the Festival Youth Instruction classes. Mark and Linda Roth coordinated the special music. An on-the-site-all-volunteer choir rose to the challenge of performing musical numbers that were above average in difficulty. The other special musicians rounded out an uplifting musical service to the members.

Feastgoers in Hawaii once again had many opportunities for special physical activities—from teen kayaking, to sailing and fishing trips, to scuba and snorkeling trips, to helicopter tours of the island. Some chose to just lie on the beach and soak in some UV rays. On the Last Great Day members brought all their unopened leftover foodstuffs to the hall to donate them to a special home for women and children on Kauai. We have done this the last three years.

One outstanding thing about the Feast in Hawaii this year was the sense of family. The Thomas, Fahey, Bradford and Roenspies extended families numbered almost 40. The Berendt extend-



Lihue (photos by Bob Nixon and Earl Roemer)

ed family from Canada was somewhere around 14. There were several groups from congregations who traveled together to keep the Feast in Hawaii. All these groups and families added a very special spirit to our Feast.

Once again, God gave us a great Feast!  
Earl L. Roemer

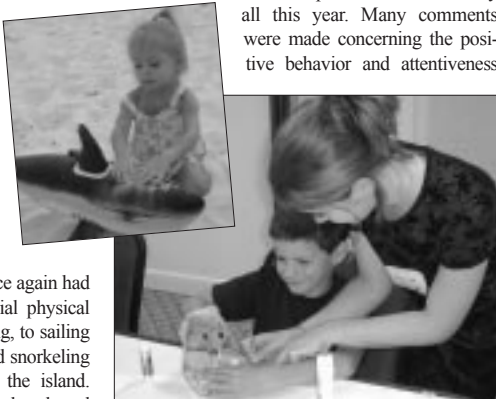
## Panama City Beach, Florida

Sugar-white sands coupled with the emerald-green waters of Panama City Beach, Florida, provided a beautiful backdrop for a very successful Feast of Tabernacles 2001.

The weather was picture perfect, with a little rain during one day of the Feast.

More than 1,600 brethren from 28 states enjoyed the inspiring and meaty messages at the Edgewater Beach Resort Conference Center. The highest attendance was on the weekly Sabbath during the Feast with 1,606. There were many comments concerning the sermons given this year; one man said, "I believe we must be growing."

There was a remarkable cooperative attitude and spirit that was noticed by all this year. Many comments were made concerning the positive behavior and attentiveness



Panama City Beach (photos by Ken Treybig)

during the sermons by everyone, especially our youth. Many of them commented positively on the sermons given.

Several local attractions gave substantial discounts to our people. The management of Gulf World Marine Park commented on what a terrific response they received from the brethren, and said, "They made for a very enthusiastic audience which makes our employees very happy."

Local news coverage focused on the family and the part we will play in the coming Kingdom of God. An article that appeared in the *Panama City News Herald* during the Feast took a very positive spin making such statements as, "The Feast of Tabernacles pictures Jesus after he returns to the earth. After conquering opposition, he restores the earth. Members are celebrating a time of prosperity, imagining that Christ has returned."

Edgewater Beach Resort management referred to our festival as a "class A act" and enjoyed the brethren as the staff too got caught up in a "serving attitude."

The Senior Citizens' Luncheon was once again a tremendous success with 190 in attendance. A teen beach outing, teen dance and a dinner cruise rounded out this year's Feast of Tabernacles activities at Panama City Beach.

Harold Rhodes

## Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Spectacular fall foliage greeted 1,307 brethren from at least 22 states and two Canadian provinces as they attended the Feast of Tabernacles at Wisconsin Dells. Attendance was up this year due to many brethren not transferring to other Feast sites. There was an atmosphere of joy, courtesy and

thankfulness that prevailed at services.

In lieu of an admission price at the family dance, brethren were encouraged to donate food and household items for a local food pantry. The director later wrote in his thank you letter to the Church, "The 1,294 pounds of food you collected on our behalf ensures that many people in our community will have enough quality food for their families."

Uplifting messages included sermons on training to teach, the hope that God gives to youth, major trends to watch for in the Middle East and in America, and the meaning of Tabernacles. Wonderful special music by the teen choir, children's choir, the Myers brothers, Festival Choir and Festival Orchestra added to each service.

Brethren were encouraged to buy stuffed "millennial animals" and put them on the stage during the first half of the Feast. After services on youth day, preteens were invited to pick one animal as a special Feast gift from their extended Feast family. Several hundred youth delighted in their new furry friends. There were several hundred animals left, so they were donated to two area hospitals and to two local police and fire departments. Both hospitals graciously accepted the donations and expressed their appreciation to the brethren. The animals will be used in the emergency room and children's ward.

Activities included a senior citizens' activity, a singles' dinner and discussion, teen aquatic activity and family day activities which included boat rides on the Wisconsin River, go-carts, indoor water park activities and roller-coaster rides.

There was a wonderful spirit of cooperation among the brethren that contributed to a very positive and trouble-free Feast. Many brethren served faithfully in various areas, which is deeply appreciated. We look forward with eager anticipation to the fulfillment of what these Holy Days of God portray.

Steve Nutzman

## Zambia

### Mumbwa

The Feast in Zambia was opened Monday evening with a sermon by Victor Kubik, who was present for the first two days of the Feast. He was followed by Neville



Wisconsin Dells (photo by Joe Jacoby Sr.)

Smith from South Africa who remained until Sabbath afternoon before returning to South Africa. Up to 10 sermonettes and sermons, in addition to question-and-answer Bible studies, were given during the four days to a spiritually hungry gathering. Although no speakers were present for the final three days, the Feast 2001 video was viewed as well as other video sermons sent from the United States.

Highest attendance was 86, including children. The majority of the people are subsistence farmers, but what they lack in material possessions they make up in spiritual ways, eager to hear God's Word and learn of His coming Kingdom.

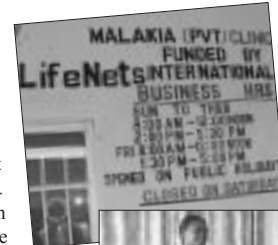
The dwellings were truly "temporary," having been built especially for the Feast from branches and grass cut from the surrounding area. Activities for the children included a dance party, a talent show and a fun day with games and races. Excellent weather conditions added to an already enjoyable, uplifting and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles 2001 at Mumbwa in Zambia.

Neville Smith

## Zimbabwe

### Harare

Up to 29 members and their families



Malakia clinic in Malawi; brethren in Zimbabwe (photo by Victor Kubik)

from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa and the United States attended the Feast in Zimbabwe's capital city of Harare. Although there is still political uncertainty and hyperinflation with prices of basic commodities rising every day, we were able to keep the Feast in a most uplifting united and warm family atmosphere.

We were blessed with messages from Neville Smith from South Africa who served at the site for the first half and Victor Kubik and his wife, Beverly, who served for the last half up to the Last Great Day. Apart from the

timely messages of guidance and encouragement, highlights of the Feast included a braai (barbecue) party at the municipal camping park where most of the brethren stayed, slide shows of church areas and brethren in the United States, Central America and Africa whom the Kubiks had visited and served, and a group visit to a wildlife nature reserve.

Mike Mukarati



Apren Moomba translating for Victor Kubik in Zambia

What is the purpose for the Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of God, an *International Association*? We have the Bible. Isn't that good enough? While it is true the Bible is superior in application to any document UCGIA can formulate, there are certain other rules and guidelines within a corporation that must be laid out to promote unity and order. These are rules that are not specifically covered within the pages of the Bible. However, for us as a Church of God, any document must be based on the overall guiding principles of the Bible. This article is intended to give a brief overview of the reasons for, and the scope of, the two main governing documents of the United Church of God, an *International Association*.

Legally, UCGIA is a nonprofit religious corporation. To operate within the United States, a corporation or company must be established within a state of the United States or Washington D.C. Additionally, California (the state in which the UCGIA is incorporated) has a set of bylaws to which incorporated entities must adhere, unless that corporation establishes its own bylaws. There are certain other mandates established by the California Legislature, which must be incorporated into those bylaws. These bylaws are the rules by which an organization will (and must) operate within the United States. This basic rule of law applies to any state within the United States. Similar rules of governance are required by each United Church of God entity established within any other country around the world. However each country, just as with California, will have certain requirements that must be embodied in that particular set of governing documents, whether referred to as bylaws, a charter, etc.

When the fledgling organization of the United Church of God, an *International Association*, began constructing its governing document, the Transitional Board decided to form that document in two parts. One document, the Constitution, would be the overall rules by which the Church around the world operates, and thus would be the superior document. The other document, the Bylaws, would be the governing rules for UCGIA specifically within the United States.

### The Constitution

The Constitution of UCGIA is the superior document. It contains the Mission Statement and the Fundamental Beliefs—the biblical foundation for which UCGIA exists as an entity. These are overarching principles that link all members of UCGIA together. These principles are on a higher level than the physical man-made laws by which we must operate within the various countries and states in which we reside.

Another item laid out in the Constitution is that “the Church of God” is first and foremost the Body of Christ, the greater body. Reference then is made specifically to “the Church” entity we know of as UCGIA. Under the umbrella of “the Church” are the various entities within the overall organization—national councils, local congregations,

# Government Within UCGIA

*An overview of how United's governing documents and leadership positions work together.*

by Gerald Seelig

the General Conference of Elders, the Council of Elders and the home office and management team. Each is a support function to all the others.

However, it must be noted that, of these administrative functions, only the General Conference of Elders has a further article set aside within the Constitution to discuss its duties, responsibilities, rights and qualifications. One key responsibility of the General Conference of Elders is to appoint a Council of Elders, or board of directors, for the corporation in the United States (further rights to this responsibility are laid out in the Bylaws.) However, this responsibility does not extend outside the United States. For example, this provision does not give the General Conference of Elders the right, or the responsibility, to appoint members to the various national councils (boards of directors) around the world. That appointment provision can only be established by each national council's locally approved bylaws, and only in accordance with the laws of the land.

### The Bylaws

The Bylaws are the operating rules for the United Church of God within the United States (the California Corporation, formally known as United Church of God, an *International Association*). As mentioned previously, bylaws are required for corporations to operate within the United States. If UCGIA had not chosen to adopt its own bylaws, the organization would have to operate under the standard bylaws established by the California Legislature. The Transitional Board of UCGIA recommended, and the General Conference of Elders agreed, to establish our own rules of operation. However, it must be noted that these Bylaws have little or no jurisdiction outside the United States.

The United Church of God, an *International Association*, a California Non-profit Religious Corporation, is a duly formed physical organization established to fulfill the mission of the spiritual entity called “the Church of God.” The State of California mandates certain requirements of the physical organization (the corporation). There are other items in our Bylaws that California allows. (However, to be registered to do business in the other 49 states and Washington D.C., certain other requirements may be mandated in addition to what is required by California. These requirements are generally very minimal.)

### General Conference of Elders

California has provision for, but does not require, a corporation to have “members.”

This is a legal term referring to a physical position within the corporation. (A member of a congregation of “the Church” is a completely separate issue from that described in the Bylaws.) Thus the General Conference of Elders is recognized as voting “members” of UCGIA—similar to stakeholders or stockholders who are voting “members” in a for-profit company. All ordained elders of the United Church of God, an *International Association*, are eligible to be voting members of the corporation. However, any elder may resign his position within the General Conference of Elders. An elder who resigns from the General Conference of Elders, so long as he remains in good standing, is still recognized by UCGIA as a minister of Jesus Christ.

The General Conference of Elders' duties are outlined in the Constitution and further defined within the Bylaws. The chief duties, reserved to the General Conference of Elders only, are the following:

- To approve changes in Church doctrine.
- To appoint members to the Council of Elders.
- To approve any amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Association.
- To approve official relationships with other religious organizations.

Additionally, although the Council of Elders is responsible for producing and adopting the Strategic Plan, Operation Plan and yearly budget for UCGIA, none may go into effect until the General Conference of Elders ratifies (sanctions) these plans and budget.

The General Conference of Elders has general oversight of UCGIA and “the Church.” The Council of Elders is responsible to the General Conference of Elders for the overall operation of UCGIA and “the Church.” The officers and management team of the corporation in the United States are responsible to the Council of Elders for the day-to-day operation of UCGIA.

### Council of Elders

The next administrative function is that of the Council of Elders (board of directors). California requires only one director, who can also be the president. However, many other states require at least three directors to be registered to do business within their borders. California allows the board to consist of several directors, which is how UCGIA chose to structure its board. The General Conference of Elders appoints the Council of Elders and, as such, has oversight over the Council of Elders. However, the overall

responsibility of the corporation, UCGIA, rests with the Council of Elders as defined in the Bylaws.

The Council of Elders is vested with the responsibility, when deemed necessary, for the selection and removal of all officers, agents and employees of the California corporation, as well as approving their salaries. Also, the Council directs and controls the affairs and activities of the corporation, by policy, and is charged with making the rules and regulations toward this end. Additionally, only the Council of Elders can approve the borrowing of money and any other forms of indebtedness for UCGIA.

Unless otherwise established, the Council of Elders has no legal authority outside the entity known as the United Church of God, an *International Association*, a California Non-profit Religious Corporation. National councils may come under the authority of the Council of Elders, but only if the bylaws for that local entity and, especially, the local laws of the land allow for such recognition.

The Council of Elders, for “the Church,” does have specific responsibilities with regard to doctrine and other spiritual matters as defined within the Constitution, the Bylaws and the Rules of Association. Their decisions, with regard to these spiritual issues, apply to “the Church” worldwide, except where the local law of the land may place certain prohibitions, i.e., the approval for a ministerial ordination, or the recognition of ministerial credentials, may require local approval first, then confirmation by the Council of Elders.

### Officers and Management Team

California requires that nonprofit religious corporations have a president or chief executive officer and a secretary. The same person cannot hold both offices. Other officers are allowed, but not mandated. The Bylaws of UCGIA specifically appoint a president, secretary and treasurer. The officers of the corporation do not derive their administration from the Constitution, but from the Bylaws of UCGIA. Only the secretary and treasurer are referred to within the Constitution, but only in reference to attending meetings of the General Conference of Elders. As such, the authority of the officers is limited to, and does not extend beyond, the borders of the United States unless another sovereign state or country allows it—and only if written into that entity's bylaws.

The Council of Elders appoints the officers. As such, the officers are responsible to the Council of Elders for the day-to-day management of the Church with regard to their respective duties as defined within the Bylaws. The president nominates the management team (operation managers), but the Council of Elders gives final approval to the appointments. The president then determines the duties of those operation managers.

### Conclusion

The governing documents of the  
(See “GOVERNMENT,” page 20)

As we all mourn the horrendous terrorist attacks of September 11, some Americans have asked, "Why did God let this happen?" God's people know it is not because God is lacking in love and mercy toward mankind, but let's speculate about the answer to that question.

Let's first ask and partially answer, "What did God *not* allow to happen?" While pointing out some positives, this is not meant to downplay the tragedy. We continue to grieve over the great loss of life, the injuries and pain, the great physical and financial devastation and the emotional trauma. There will be intense suffering, individually and collectively, for a long time to come. Out of compassion we should weep with those who weep.

Before we speculate about why God allowed this, let's be aware that the tragedy could have been much worse. At the time of the attacks, many who worked in the World Trade Center had not arrived at their jobs. While about 22,000 employees worked in each tower, it is estimated that less than 10,000 were in each tower at the time of impact.

Had the jetliners crashed into the lower portion of the twin towers, the buildings would have fallen sooner and many more persons in the buildings and on the ground would have been trapped and killed. The buildings may have toppled like falling trees, destroying many other important buildings. (As it was, several other buildings were severely damaged.) A domino effect of falling buildings could have resulted in the loss of life of hundreds of thousands.

The hijackers of the other two planes may have intended to fly those planes into the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Both houses of Congress were in session, and surprise attacks could have wiped out much of the executive and legislative leadership of the United States.

We don't know the hijacker's original plan for American Airlines (AA) flight 77, but the tragedy at the Pentagon could have been much worse. Had the plane's trajectory been a little higher, it could have hit the inside rings on the opposite side of the Pentagon where the offices of the secretary of defense, joint chiefs of staff and many other high-ranking military officials are located. With one blow, the world's most powerful military could have lost its top leaders. As it was, the plane smashed into a recently remodeled and reinforced section that was not yet fully occupied, saving untold lives.

The fourth plane, United Airlines (UA) flight 93, was delayed 41 minutes in its departure from Logan Airport in Boston. That delay allowed the passengers time to hear about the attacks in New York and to realize the probable reason for their hijacking. As a result, some passengers heroically fought the hijackers, which brought the plane down before it could be used as a bomb to kill more people on the ground.

Thankfully, the number of passengers on the four planes was far less than capacity. AA flight 11 had only 92 people on board, and

# Reflections on September 11, 2001...

*Let's thank God for His mercy and protection!*

by Don Hooser

UA 175 was carrying only 65 people, but those two Boeing 767s each had a capacity of 351. AA 77 had only 64 people on board, and UA 93 was carrying only 45, but those two Boeing 757s each had a capacity of 289. The deaths of 266 people on those planes is tragic, but the number could have been as high as 1,280! And the quick decision by President Bush to order the immediate grounding of all U.S. passenger and cargo planes may very well have prevented more hijackings on the same day.

Obviously terrorist activity hasn't ended. Soon after September 11, the United States was traumatized by the sending of anthrax spores by mail. Our faith and courage will be increasingly tested as to whether we can "walk through the valley of the shadow of death" and "fear no evil" (Psalm 23:4).

Terrorists had their big opportunity for surprise attacks when the United States was lax in security and preparedness. In hindsight, we can imagine many scenarios with much greater destruction and loss of life. We can be thankful not only that they didn't hit the Capitol or White House, but also that they didn't detonate nuclear bombs, blow up nuclear plants, spread massive biological infection or cripple our communications capabilities. The terrorists may have been so determined to humiliate America by attacking symbols that they failed to do more strategic harm.

Similarly, the Japanese failed to accomplish their primary objective when they bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. They wanted to destroy the aircraft carriers, but they were all at sea away from the port at the time. Those carriers were critically important in the ensuing war against Japan. Quite likely, God allowed the Pearl Harbor bombing to awaken America to join the war against Japan and Germany, and at the same time protected the aircraft carriers.

## A Wake-Up Call

Though this heart-breaking attack resulted in the greatest one-day loss of life in the history of the United States, the death and suffering was on a small scale compared to what the Bible prophesies will happen during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. There is no doubt that the world was in need of a shocking taste of what can and will happen if people don't repent of their sins and turn to the one true God. So it makes sense that God was giving the world, and especially the descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim, a warning shot as a wake-up call.

Past terrorist attacks against the United States did little to disturb its citizens, bring

about greater security measures or provoke war on terrorism. God knew it would take this very dramatic attack on the homeland of the United States with great loss of life and destruction of valuable and cherished landmarks to bring about strong reactions. These events have had a monumental visual impact on almost every human being because we live in the age of television that has made virtually everyone a witness of the incredible and shocking sights. The terrorists no doubt wanted that, and it seems logical that God intended that as well.

If there's one good thing about having an enemy, it's the effect of making people pull together. It's inspiring to see how the leaders and citizens of America have been uniting, and how our allies are rallying around us in a common cause. Wouldn't it be wonderful if something would draw God's chosen people together in one great team effort? What is it going to take to bring that about?

We see how suffering is exposing the underlying character of people, and further refining that character. As often happens, hardship has produced heroism. We've witnessed the strong character and continuing growth of our nation's president and other leaders. And it's refreshing to see people turning from trivia to significance, from self-indulgence to sacrifice and from materialism to spirituality, though some of it undoubtedly will be short-lived.

As a result of the attacks, we can think of practical improvements being made in many areas of life. Overall, people are more patriotic and respectful toward religion. Americans are more interested in international news, and there is a dramatic increase in coverage of international news. The entertainment media is saying there will be less glorification of violence. Even though there is more fear because of greater awareness of danger, the massive efforts to beef up homeland security and to root out terrorists is making travel and everyday life significantly safer.

And since the oversight of preaching the gospel to the world continues to be based in the United States, this may mean that God intends for this country to have the freedoms, security and prosperity necessary to effectively do God's work for a while to come. We must make the most of whatever time God gives us.

The job of a prophet was not merely to predict the future. It was to give multiple warnings to the people of the punishment that God was going to inflict if they didn't repent of their sins and to convey God's promises of great blessings if they obeyed God (Leviticus

26; Deuteronomy 28). Today God has the same fairness, mercy and patience in giving ample warnings of things to come. Now the awesome job of being God's watchmen is on the shoulders of God's Church.

## Get Into High Gear With Godly Fear

We in God's Church have great hopes that this tragedy will turn out for much good, in that many people will be more receptive to the preaching of Christ's gospel of the Kingdom of God. And we should pray that all the members of the Church who have become apathetic and spiritually lax will awaken and repent. In fact, all of us should be sobered and mightily stirred up to renewed zeal and dedication. As "Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear" (Hebrews 11:7), we too should get into high gear with godly fear.

Though we look at the war on terrorism as a relatively "just war," we know it will not bring true world peace. Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres recently said, "Peace will not come by good guns, only by good relationships." Peace will break out only after Jesus Christ returns and there is a change in the human heart. The free world wants to stamp out terrorism. God wants to stamp out all sin.

We don't know everything, but we have the peace of mind knowing God is always in control. The terrorists didn't slip by God unnoticed, resulting in God trying to make the best of the situation and bring about some good from it. God is sovereign. He allows Satan to be the secondary cause and instigate destruction when it serves God's purposes, as He did in the case of Job. But God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11). Jesus said, "not one [sparrow] falls to the ground apart from your Father's will" (Matthew 10:29). "If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?" (Amos 3:6).

God caused the United States and Britain to become prosperous and powerful, and to win many wars. The Bible also prophesies their ultimate downfall, and the downfall of all the kingdoms of the world, because of their collective sins. So we look upon the agony of the recent terrorist attacks as a small foretaste and a merciful warning of what is to come. Now God is depending on His Church to point mankind to the Word of God, the right interpretation of world events and our need to submit to our Maker.

We know God has perfect reasons and timing for what He does, whether or not we fully understand them. God is neither too harsh nor too lenient; neither too slow nor too quick.

Why did God allow the terrorist attacks to happen? It was not because He lacks mercy and compassion. It is because of His mercy, compassion and desire to save mankind that He shows us how vulnerable and sinful we are and gives us warnings before coming calamities. *UN*

*Don Hooser is pastor of the Austin, Coleman and Waco, Texas, congregations.*

# Local Church Updates...

## Indianapolis Produces Special Issue of E-Journal After World Trade Center Disaster

The Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne, Indiana, congregations have had a Web site and e-journal underway now for about a year titled: *Longitude*. *Good News* subscribers in their areas have received letters inviting them to subscribe to this electronic journal, in which they receive regular updates from Darris McNeely, the local UCG pastor, on events pertinent to Christians today. Much of the material is pulled from our regular publications, and is able to be reinforced and used again in this way.

With the September 11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in mind, UCG-Indianapolis prepared a special edition of *Longitude* for their e-journal subscribers. Special articles were written by Mr. McNeely, Robin Webber and Melvin Rhodes that address some of the concerns and questions people have during such a crisis, and the hope that mankind ultimately has in the Kingdom of God. (The authors are all United pastors



who are regular editors and contributors of our publication *World News & Prophecy*.) Titles include: "Our Only Real Defense," "What Lies Ahead for U.S. Leadership?," "Why Do People Hate Us So Much?" and "Running Towards the Flame."

*Longitude* can be found at [www.uegindy.org/longitude/ejournal](http://www.uegindy.org/longitude/ejournal).

Peter Eddington

## Dominica Congregation Enjoys Beach Picnic

Eight members of the Roseau, Dominica, congregation, plus 14 other invited friends and family, gathered Sunday, August 26, for an afternoon pic-

nic. Food included fish cakes, roast breadfruit, coconut fruitcake and two varieties of bananas from a member's plantation, as well as other dishes.

The location, Purple Turtle Beach, near Portsmouth (an hour's drive north of Roseau), was a perfect choice—black



Maline Vidal up to bat during beach cricket at Dominica picnic. Inset, Jeff, Alisa and Adrianna Lockhart

sandy beach, lovely warm water and a beautiful view of the nearby mountains.

Everyone had a good time, whether swimming, playing "beach" cricket or hiking up to the local fort! (Even the pesky sand flies and the rain showers didn't interfere with the activities!)

Alisa Lockhart

## Milwaukee Brethren Put on a Jamaican Party

On Sunday, September 9, the brethren of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregation held a Jamaican party. Guests arrived in colorful Jamaican shirts and brought Jamaican dishes.

Even though it rained throughout virtually the entire event, the hosts of the

party, Ray and Francine Fabry, had rigged up canvas tarps to shield the partygoers from getting soaked. But did the rain dampen the partygoers' spirit? By no means! There was even a Jamaican band led by tin pan artist Jessie Kuczynski who attends the Milwaukee congregation with his parents.

There was food galore, from pineapple and cantaloupe to the traditional Jamaican taste treat—jerk chicken. Other members had previously been to Jamaica for the Feast and had brought back the spicy sauce to awaken our taste buds.

When the rains let up briefly, Francine Fabry led us all in a conga dance, accompanied by the tin pan band. Everyone joined the line dance and had a great time. Afterwards the young people participated in the limbo dance. It was discovered that Brett Hanisko had a real knack for this.

The humor of the afternoon culminated with Ray Fabry appearing in long, black dreadlocks alongside his wife, Francine, sporting a flowered dress and a fruit basket on her head. Everyone was laughing and taking photos.

Of course, there was so much food that one could only sample some of the food being offered.

The Jamaican party was a huge success and the Milwaukee brethren look forward to future theme parties at the Fabry house!

Leone Burns

## Akron Reads Literature for Visually Impaired

Back in 1996 the home office sent out a general request for local congregations to help in reading Church literature on audiotape to benefit the visually

impaired. The Akron, Ohio, congregation responded with an offer to help and has continued to serve in the reading program

for nearly five years. The program began in the home of Don and Jo Pavlik (Akron A/V coordinator) using a



Akron volunteers, from left, Don Pavlik, Sandy Ellis, Maria Jones, Dale Harman, Erik Jones, Joe Szymkowiak and Graham Edwards

spare bedroom in their townhouse apartment. Volunteers from the Akron congregation would arrive at the apartment, get a glass of water and begin reading into the Audiotechnica 61 HE voice microphone.

The weekly routine of gathering to read in this small bedroom continued for about a year. After the Feast of 1997 the Pavliks moved to a house that had a basement. The basement was quickly remodeled into a full audio/video studio, which began to be used for the reading program as well as video Bible studies, Web page work, video editing and an occasional sermon delivered in German by John Miller for the European brethren.

As the program has advanced, equipment upgrades led to the current setup. Volunteers use a lapel microphone so that unwanted background noises are not picked up on the tape recording. The technician routes the voice through a 15-band equalizer to eliminate unwanted sound such as the hard "s" and popped "p." From there the voice goes to an audio mixer and onto the audiotape. The technician follows along with the reader, checking for mispronunciations and word errors. Quality equipment makes it easy to go back and replace any mistakes that made their way onto the audiotape.

The faithful volunteers read UCG literature on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Our current crew consists of readers Maria Jones, Dale Harman, Sandy Ellis and Joe Szymkowiak, supported by technicians Graham Edwards, Erik Jones and Don Pavlik. We are very appreciative of all who have had a part in this program over the years.

The Akron crew is currently responsible for reading the *Good News* magazine, *Bible*



Milwaukee brethren go Jamaican September 9 (photo by Leone Burns)

*Study Course, World News and Prophecy, United News* and new booklets as they are produced. While some literature takes only one night to read, other pieces may take up to four nights. Once a piece of literature is completed, it is labeled, packaged and mailed to the home office in Cincinnati to Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager, who coordinates duplication and mailing the tapes to the visually impaired.

The Akron brethren get a great deal of satisfaction knowing they are able to serve the visually impaired and in this manner have a small part in the great work of God.

*Donald Pavlik*

## Friday Night Live Begins Third Year

Friday Night Live, a Bible study using modern technology to enjoy the fruits of God's principles, is beginning its third year serving teens, young adults and those of all ages. Guest speakers have participated all the way from California to New Jersey and from Canada to Italy, serving approximately 120 to 210 listeners from all over. Participants are connected through their computers by cybercast, e-mail, instant messenger and telephone, sharing new perspectives on how God really does love us and how it is reflected over and over within His Word.

Tony Pacelli and his family, of the Lafayette, Indiana, congregation, share Friday nights twice per month interviewing and listening to guest speakers. The format can include a variety of activities: Doing "shout outs," playing music, sharing experiences in the listeners' lives, having a theme night—like favorite T-shirt or hat night and bring a friend night. Listeners ask many questions about God's Word to gain a better



*The Friday Night Live crew*

understanding of how to live, how to apply the Ten Commandments and how to stay focused on God's plan. It's a time when everyone is able to learn and laugh together.

We are also on our second year of Mini-Friday Night Live, focused toward 5 to 12 year olds. This is a half hour before Friday Night Live.

So when Friday comes, please check your calendar for Friday Night Live and come join us all.

The schedule is available on the Web at [cgca.net/teens/friday\\_night\\_live.htm](http://cgca.net/teens/friday_night_live.htm). Bill Jahns is scheduled for November 16, Bruce Dean from Australia on November 23 and Greg Thomas on November 30.

*Tony Pacelli*

## Elder Featured in Business Journal

In September the *Indianapolis Business Journal* featured Mike Grovak, an elder in the Lafayette, Indiana, congregation. Vic Kubik, pastor of the Lafayette and Terre Haute congregations, alerted us to the article and explained that Mr. Grovak is in charge of this project for "the largest freeway construction project in the United States." Below is the full article, reprinted by permission.

### Former Minister in Charge of Controversial I-69 Study Project: Finding the Proper Path

By Anthony Schoettle, IBJ Reporter

Even before the interview, Vince Bernardin knew Mike Grovak was no ordinary job candidate.

Bernardin, principal of Evansville-based engineering consulting firm Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates Inc., was gripped by the resume of a man who graduated in 1974 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's four-year civil engineering program in three years. He also was impressed that Grovak had headed major public transportation divisions in Denver, Chicago and New York.

Then there was the intriguing line showing that Grovak also was an ordained minister, graduating from Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, in 1978 with a theology degree.

Bernardin later learned Grovak turned his back on a lucrative engineering career—taking a \$46,000 annual pay cut—to work full time in ministry from 1988 to 1995.

So it didn't take long for Bernardin to hire Grovak in 1996. It took even less hesitation to make him the Interstate 69 study project manager earlier this year after BLA won the state contract to examine possible interstate routes from Indianapolis to Evansville.

The I-69 job is the largest single project BLA, which also has offices in Indianapolis and West Lafayette, has ever been awarded. The I-69 project is part of a federal project that links highways running from the Canadian to Mexican borders.

"Mike is just an amazing person on a personal and professional level," Bernardin said.

Grovak's diverse background and ability to communicate made him an easy choice for the I-69 project, Bernardin said. Grovak and his team are studying the 18 proposed highway routes from Indianapolis to Evansville.

Grovak hopes to have that list narrowed down within four weeks after his team completes a methodical needs and land use study, which will examine economic impact, travel times and other factors. More in-depth environmental and other studies will still be needed before a final route can be chosen. Indiana Department of Transportation officials hope to have that done by the end of 2002.

"This is not a typical project, and Mike is not a typical highway engineer," Bernardin said. "He doesn't just see things from one perspective."

The I-69 project has been a lightning rod for controversy over the last five years. INDOT officials said Grovak has the right temperament to withstand the maelstrom.

But BLA has its detractors, including those that point out that the firm headed a study on I-69 routes for INDOT in 1996 that the Environmental Protection Agency deemed "seriously deficient."

"I can't say that [1996 study] was totally Bernardin Lochmueller and INDOT's fault," said Andy Knott, Hoosier Environmental Council air and energy policy director. "It was a combination of things, but they were certainly both involved."

Grovak and INDOT get besieged with about 100 e-mails each week about the project. Grovak answers each one in detail, said Lyle Sadler, INDOT's I-69 project manager.

"I have been able to depend on him for open communication and quick responses, and that's been critical to maintain our credibility," Sadler said. "He's just so knowledgeable; he's always able to get an answer to a question. He's a professional in every manner."

BLA submitted an \$8 million bid to handle the first phase of the study to narrow the proposed routes to three to five, and of that amount, \$1 million is dedicated to community outreach and communication.

"This is roughly a 160-mile corridor and it affects a lot of people," Grovak said. "It's important to keep the people abreast of what's happening. It's at the heart of the process."

Knott, of HEC, said the speed of information coming from INDOT and BLA depends on the nature of the inquiry.

"We've been so frustrated at times," Knott said. "There have been some pretty basic pieces of information that aren't coming through."

In fact, Knott said, HEC has gone to court to try to get some of the information from studies funded by INDOT. He said INDOT clearly favors a route through Bloomington, and HEC remains leery of any firm hired by INDOT.

Sadler said his staff and Grovak's team work to answer each inquiry within 24 hours.

Bernardin said Grovak's experience working with some of the nation's biggest transportation departments, including the New York City Transit Authority, gives him a unique perspective in solving problems for a variety of interests.

"I have a background in transportation planning and modeling that's probably a bit unique," Grovak said. "It's helped me develop strong managerial and organizational skills while learning the best way to move people."

Sadler said Grovak also exhibits a sense of calm no matter how controversial the

topic. "He sticks to what he's focused on," Sadler said. "Mr. Grovak has been professional enough to take the hits that come with controversy, and answers all the questions with the facts and data."

But Grovak's background—in addition to giving him insight into economic and environmental issues—also gives him a level of empathy seldom found when dealing with

technical studies, say those who work closely with him.

"Behind any major project, there are very genuine human needs," Grovak said. "This is not just about building a highway. There are a lot of people in southwest Indiana who really treasure the way of life they have, and they're rightly concerned. I'm listening and understand there are real legitimate concerns here."

It was his concern for people, said Grovak, that caused him to walk away from an engineering career after more than 20 years to go to work as a minister for the United Church of God, working primarily in New York with working-class urban dwellers.

"I've not done the things in my life because I don't care about people," Grovak said.

Grovak, who managed a staff of 300 and cut more than \$1 million from his budget at the New York City Transit Authority, said his involvement in the United Church of God showed him not every decision comes down to dollars and cents.

"When it comes to making a decision about a preferred [I-69] route, economics is only part of the picture," Grovak said. "You have to consider the environment and people."

But Grovak stresses that his desire to accommodate as many people as possible doesn't mean he will allow the project to get bogged down in politics.

"Whatever is decided, a lot of people will be pleased and a lot will not be pleased," Grovak said. "But the process must remain impartial and must be totally disconnected from politics."

Grovak has his work cut out for him if he's going to keep any aspect of this project separate from politics, Knott said. "The governor has made his views clear during the last election with regard to taking the route through Bloomington where no road currently exists," he said. "And INDOT works for the governor."

*Reprinted with permission of the Indianapolis Business Journal, IBJ Corp., copyright 2001. It appeared in Vol. 22, No. 27, September 17-23, 2001.*

## Canton Honors Grandparents and Seniors

Grandparents and seniors of the Canton, Ohio, congregation were treated to a



*Mike Grovak*

special brunch in their honor on the Sabbath of September 8 at the Massillon, Ohio, Masonic Hall before the afternoon service. Hosting this most enjoyable event were the teens of the Church.

Brian Hawk, a deacon, was the master of ceremonies, giving opening and closing comments of thanksgiving and appreciation for the fine examples and sacrifices that the grandparents and seniors have made throughout their many years in God's Church. The



Canton, Ohio, teens sing for grandparents and seniors September 8

opening prayer was given by a teen, Peter Ekama.

A delightful brunch buffet consisting of an egg and turkey casserole, stuffed French toast, potatoes and other side dishes was served. Drinks and table service were provided by the Canton teens. After the brunch a thought-provoking question-and-answer session took place in which each teenager asked the older members a question. This generated many profound comments.

A form was distributed for the older guests to write down their piece of wisdom or advice for the teens. These are to be compiled in a booklet for the young people.

The brunch concluded with the young people singing a beautiful song of thanks to the older members with piano accompaniment by Judy Troyer.

Food preparation and decorations were provided by Vicki Ickes, Rhonda Richmond, Peggy Summers, Judy Troyer, Etta Murray, Christy Kovatch and Anita Showers. Special favors and keepsakes were made and handed out by Sherry Thouvenin and her daughters, Natalie and Abigail (the youngest in the congregation).

Milan Chovan

## Teen's Persistence Pays Off

Beth-Erin Springer of the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation had the opportunity to attend the North Carolina Governor's School at Meredith College in Raleigh this past summer. The Governor's

School is a highly selective six-week program geared toward rigorous academic study and in-depth discussions about current issues. Beth-Erin, now in her senior year of high school, felt it would help in her college selection and acceptance next year.

When she initially applied, Beth-Erin was warned that she would have problems being accepted due to missing Saturday classes. As she pursued it further, sure enough, one of the directors told her that if she could not attend Saturday classes, she would not be accepted into Governor's School. Since she knew that religious discrimination was unconstitutional, Beth-Erin wrote a letter to both directors and spoke to one of them on the phone. Her father also spoke to one of the directors, explaining the Church's teaching on the Sabbath. Her prayers and persistence paid off. A few weeks later, one of the directors called and said that missing Saturday classes would not be a problem after all!

It turned out to be a learning experience from beginning to end. After arriving at the school, Beth-Erin had the chance to learn about new concepts in philosophy, biology, chemistry and social science. The group discussions and electives allowed a wide range of exploration of some of the world's religions and philosophies.



Beth-Erin Springer

Beth-Erin says the wealth of information was interesting, but it showed her that the knowledge of the world leaves man confused and without answers to vital questions. The most important lesson she learned from this summer program was not academic, but religious: That God will provide a way according to His will.

David Mills

## Member Featured in University Publication

Philip Aust was recently featured in *The Communicator*, a semiannual periodical published by Illinois State University. Dr. Aust is a second-year assistant professor in the Department of Communication. The department is currently ranked sixth in the nation among communication Masters programs.

Dr. Aust is a 1990 Ambassador University graduate and has a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication from California State University, Fullerton, and a



Philip and Sarah Aust

Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Oklahoma.

He teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in organizational and group communication and research methods at ISU. He has recently been elected to the department's Graduate Faculty Committee, served as the coordinator for the department's Master's Program Curriculum Development Committee and is scheduled to present one of four

studies on communication curriculum at the National Communication Association Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, in November.

Dr. Aust and his wife, Sarah, also a University of Oklahoma graduate, attend church with their little boy, Jordan, in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. They are expecting their second child in January.

Crystal Thomas

## Salt Lake City to Host Skiing and ABC Lectures in December

Attention skiers! Plans are again being made for a ski weekend in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area on December 29, 30 and 31, 2001. This year we will be conducting Bible classes during the weekend along with plenty of skiing. ABC faculty member Ralph Levy will be instructing some of the classes.

Cost for skiers: \$45. This includes one ski pass (at Solitude Ski Resort) and one meal. Ski rental will be extra. Non-skiers: \$10 per person (payment for one meal).

Lectures: There will be four lectures starting at 10 a.m., December 29. A complete schedule will be sent later to those attending. If you don't ski, feel free to come and join us for the ABC mini-sampler.

Housing: Lodging is available at the Cottontree Best Western, 1030 N 400 E, North Salt Lake City, UT, (801) 292-7666. Cost: \$65.20/night (up to four people per room). Some housing is available with brethren locally. Contact Bill Jahns at (801) 943-6786 or by e-mail at bill\_jahns@ucg.org if you need this type of housing.

Fill out the form below and further details will be sent to you.

Bill Jahns

### Salt Lake City Ski Weekend/ABC Lectures December 29-31, 2001

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Attending Only ABC Lectures:  Yes  No

Ski Level:  Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced

Cross-Country Skiing \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$45 per person if skiing, \$10 if not skiing. Make checks out to UCG-SLC.

Return this form to: United Church of God, P.O. Box 933, Sandy, UT 84091

"GOVERNMENT," (Continued from page 16) United Church of God, an *International Association*, are man-made, based upon the requirements of the laws of the land and, we certainly hope, the laws of God. These governing documents are far inferior to the Word of God, the Bible, upon which our purpose for being must be based. We sincerely believe that Jesus Christ gave His inspiration to these documents, although

they are indeed physical and imperfect. We must always keep in mind that the law of God, the Ten Commandments, is holy, perfect and just. When an issue arises that may be controversial, the law is not where the problem lies. The problem lies squarely with us and our attitude and approach to God, Jesus Christ and to each other.

The Constitution, Bylaws and also the Rules of Association mean nothing if we do

not individually submit ourselves to them—but more so, to each other and to Jesus Christ. It is truly a matter of the heart and spirit. We, as an international association, are not joined together by these documents. We are joined together by God's Holy Spirit and only to the degree that we yield ourselves to Him and submit ourselves to each other. To avoid chaos and confusion, the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of Association are simply

meant to give decency and order to our physical organization.

It is our hope that this brief overview of the Constitution and Bylaws of United will enlighten you with regard to the physical governing structure of UCGIA. If this has stimulated your interest in UCGIA's governing documents, they may be viewed on the About United page on our Web site at [www.ucg.org/html/about.htm](http://www.ucg.org/html/about.htm). UN

# Announcements...

## Births

Owen and Susan Davis of Edmonton, Alberta, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Ashley Nicole. Ashley was born May 26, 2001. She weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 inches



Ashley Nicole Davis

long. She is the first grandchild on both sides of the family. Her proud grandparents are Dave and Evelyn Davis of Darwell, Alberta, and Dave and Carolyn Beamish of Rochester, Alberta.

Paul and Tracy (Weiser) Carter of Springfield, Missouri, are thrilled to announce the birth of their third child, Kelsie Nicole. She arrived



Kelsie Nicole Carter

June 7, 2001, weighing 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Big brother Kevin and big sister Karissa think she is wonderful. The proud grandparents are Tim and Sally Gilroy of Moreno Valley, California, and Fred and Beverly Bettes of Granby, Missouri.

Nick and Carla (Hubbell) Easterling of Brewton, Alabama, along with their daughter Charlotte, are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, Jason Nicholas. Jason arrived on January 27, 2000, 15 days after his sister's fifth birthday. He weighed in at a whopping 12 pounds 2 1/4 ounces and was 21 inches long. Charlotte is thoroughly



Jason Nicholas Easterling with big sister Charlotte

enjoying her role as big sister!

The proud grandparents are George and Sheila Hubbell of Baytown, Texas, and Nick and Nella Easterling of Brewton.

Courtney and Chelsea Shaw were delighted to meet their new sister, Cara Nicole, on March 21, 2001.



Cara Nicole Shaw with big sisters Courtney and Chelsea

Cara weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces and measured 21 inches long. The big sisters are great helpers to their parents, Brian and ReNae (Wernli) Shaw. The family attends the Chicago Southwest, Illinois, congregation.

David and Kandy Goodrich of Loleta, California, are more than delighted to announce the birth of their little "princess" Sarah



Sarah Christina Goodrich

Christina. She was born May 16, 2001 (three days after Mother's Day and two days before her dad's birthday). She weighed 9 pounds 13 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Proud brothers are Brian David (15 1/2) and Joshua Nathaniel (10 1/2). Sarah's middle name is after her youngest brother, Christopher Timothy (March 6, 1997 to January 26, 1998) whom she will meet in the resurrection.

Grandparents are Gayle Goodrich of Coalinga, California; Robert Goodrich of Eureka, California; and Ernest and Kathleen Buck of Fortuna, California.

Stephen, Melissa and Brian Taylor of the Eagle Rock, California, congregation are delighted to



Arthur Russell Taylor

announce the arrival of Arthur Russell Taylor on August 30, 2001. Arthur weighed in at 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.

## Engagement

John and Sandra Laing of Macomb, Michigan, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura, to Michael Phelps, son of Floyd and Doris Phelps of Cincinnati, Ohio. A May 26, 2002, wedding is planned in Macomb, Michigan.

## Weddings

Jason and Amy (Zevchak) Ranew are pleased to announce their marriage on May 19, 2001, in Westland, Michigan. Approximately 180 close friends and family attended the beautiful outdoor ceremony, which was performed by Leonard Martin, an elder in the Ann Arbor, Michigan, congregation. Mark Graham, an elder from Cleveland, Ohio, played the piano.

Church members who were part of the wedding party included maid of honor Sarah Zevchak, Melanie Perdue, Lindsey Ranew,

flower girl Marisa Gonzalo, best man Jeff Ranew, Joe Perdue, Brendan Babcock, William Stetter, Sean Yarbrough and David Lloyd.

Jason is the son of Pamela Ranew of Leesburg, Georgia. Amy



Jason and Amy Ranew

is the daughter of Dave and Connie Zevchak of South Lyon, Michigan.

Jason and Amy would like to thank all those in the Ann Arbor congregation who so selflessly and enthusiastically gave of their time and talents to make the day possible. The couple resides in Akron, Ohio.

Richard and Nancy Velting and Fred and Susan Whitlark are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Davina and Michael. They were married in Dallas/Fort



Davina and Michael Whitlark

Worth, Texas, July 29, 2001, by Britton Taylor, pastor of the Fort Worth congregation.

Davina and Michael currently reside in Denton, Texas, where they are finishing their last two college semesters. Michael is pursuing a degree in biochemistry at the University of North Texas, while Davina is pursuing a degree in music therapy at Texas Woman's University.

## Anniversaries

Effie and Behrman Doucet of the Houston North, Texas, congregation, were married 50 years August



Behrman and Effie Doucet

14, 2001. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at the church building on August 19. Their daughter, Mrs. John Perry, and their son, Michael Kent, hosted the event.

Robert and Susan Jorgensen of the Boise, Idaho, congregation, cele-



Susan and Robert Jorgensen

brated their 40th anniversary on September 16, 2001. A special acknowledgement was made by the Boise brethren and Jorgensen children on September 15. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen have six children and six grandchildren.

Margie and Richard Seiver celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2001. Their children gave them a reception in celebration of this event in the beautiful Moody Ballroom at the Hilton Hotel in Houston, Texas. The



Richard and Margie Seiver

Seivers are long-time members in God's Church, having been baptized in 1962. Mr. Seiver has served as an

elder in God's Church since 1968, and they presently attend the Houston South congregation.

Margie and Richard have two daughters, Pam Sutton and Carolyn Grandy; two sons, Mark and David; two daughters-in-law, Kathy (Hyatt) and Helena (Kaplan); and one son-in-law, Scott Grandy. In addition to their four children, they have four grandchildren, Jordan, Vanessa, Kelly and Stephanie.

## Obituaries

Funeral services for John Alexander Trotter, infant son of John A. and Dee Bishop Trotter of Big Sandy, Texas, were held on Wednesday, August 29, 2001, in Gladewater with Roy O. Holladay and Kenneth Giese officiating.



John Alexander Trotter

Born on May 11, 2000, in Dallas, he died on August 25, 2001.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his sister, Katherine Elizabeth "Kate" Trotter of Big Sandy; maternal grandmother, Dolores Bishop of Little Rock, Arkansas; paternal grandparents, L.A. and Helen Trotter of Los Banos, California; maternal great-grandmother, Elva Wilde of Little Rock; aunts, Nancy Trotter Sutton and Lois Ann Shuey, both of Libby, Montana, Beatrice Bishop Chapman of Chicago, Illinois, and Judy Bishop Servidio of Minneapolis, Minnesota; uncle, Clarence Bishop of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and numerous cousins. Pall bearers were David Wilson and Karl Wilson.

In lieu of flowers, tax-deductible contributions may be made to the Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center, P.O. Box 5932, Longview, TX 75608. Windridge specializes in animal therapy for children with disabilities. Utilizing horses, the therapy enhances children's lives educationally and therapeutically.

Marie Tower, 97, of Kennewick, Washington, died July 20, 2001. She lived a long, active life and was able to attend services until shortly before her death. Her husband, Charles, also a member



Marie Tower

of the Church, died in 1995. They had been married 70 years.

Marie faced various trials and hardships in her life. She was married out of high school to Thomas Young, who died after only a few years from meningitis. Their only son, Damon, later died of cancer when he was 51. Still, she had an easy laugh and a pleasant outlook.

In recent years she lived with her granddaughter and family. One interesting memento on the wall of her apartment was her father's discharge papers from the army. He was in the cavalry in Montana at the time of General Custer.

She is survived by two granddaughters, four great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandsons. A memorial service was conducted in Kennewick July 29 by Joe Clarke.

Susie Dye Neat, 83, died August 12, 2001, after a five-year battle with colon cancer. She was baptized in 1967 and attended United in London, Kentucky, when-



Susie Dye Neat

ever she was able to. She was very dedicated to the truth and never wavered in her beliefs. She is survived by her husband, Virgle, of Columbia, Kentucky; two sons, Robert of Lexington, Kentucky, and Ken of Russell Springs, Kentucky; three daughters, Jean Gregory of Brownsburg, Indiana, Linda Keeney of Danville, Indiana, and Gail Phillips of Louisville, Kentucky; 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. One daughter and son-in-law, Allen and Linda Keeney, and one granddaughter, Susan Durnil, attend the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation. One grandson and

wife, Rob and Meredith Keeney, attend the Lafayette, Indiana, congregation. Ray Cowan, an elder in the London congregation, conducted memorial services.

Louise Brewer, 85, of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation, died on April 10, 2001, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Fred Fenner. Her illness and hospital stay was brief, for which we give God much thanks. Graveside services were conducted near her home in Danville, Ohio, by pastor, John Elliott. Louise was a long-time member and is missed by her family and the congregation.

George Latza Zivku, 70, of Bermuda Dunes, California, died on July 14, 2001. Mr. Zivku passed away at home after a long illness. He and his wife, Amalia, were members of the Loma Linda, California, congregation.

He was born in Vladimirovatz, Yugoslavia, May 9, 1931, and immigrated to Canada because of religious persecution. He was baptized into the Church of God and attended services with his family in Hamilton, Ontario. He is survived by his wife, Amalia; son, Timotei Zivku; daughter, Victoria Zivku; and one granddaughter, Ioana. Services were conducted by David Register on July 19, 2001. He was assisted by Roland Clark and Mr. Zivku's son, Timotei.

Norberto Jain, 55, a long-time member, died September 3, 2001, in Negros Occidental, Philippines. Mr. Jain was a good example of faithfulness and generosity. He is survived by his wife, Leonida Sale Jain, and three children: Nyl, 14; Joebert, 13; and Raymond, 11.

Thelma Alberta Hodges, 89, of Heber Springs, Arkansas, died August 30, 2001. She was born February 11, 1912, in St. Louis, Missouri, daughter of Algha Carl and Ethel Claire McCoy Lodwick. She remained a faithful member of the United Church of God, having been baptized July 1, 1967. She served most of those years in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, area and



Thelma Alberta Hodges

moved to Heber Springs in the last few years to be close to her daughter.

Survivors include three sons, Raymond Smith, Gary Smith and Ronald Smith; one daughter, Donna Jones; six sisters; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two husbands, Raymond Smith and Tom Hodges, both of whom were faithful members of God's Church.

Graveside services were conducted in Ellsinore, Missouri, on September 4 by Carl Hoffman.

Henry Syphrett Jr., 53, husband of Tamora Higgins Syphrett, died August 31, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Syphrett attended Houston Tillotson College (having attended Yale, Columbia and Boston University). He also attended Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, and Pasadena, California, graduating in 1972 with degrees in theology and business administration. For the last 28 years he was employed by Silgan Plastics of St. Louis, Missouri. As a local elder he had assisted in the pastorate of congregations in New Orleans, Louisiana; Iowa City, Iowa; and Moline, Illinois, until 1978. His funeral was held in Branchville, South Carolina, on September 7.

Mr. Syphrett is survived by his wife, Tamora; daughter, Kimberly, of Switzerland; son, Byron, of New Britain, Connecticut; son, Derek, of Oakdale, Connecticut; daughter, Melissa, of Quincy, Massachusetts; and son, Chad, of Griswold, Connecticut. Survivors also include Larry J. Rhett of Beaufort, South Carolina; Yvonne Glover of Springfield, Virginia; Floria Smith of St. George, South Carolina; Annie Lavis Heath of Fayetteville, Georgia; Howard Syphrett of Riverdale, Georgia; and Mitchell Syphrett of Reevesville, South Carolina. His family, Tamora, Melissa and Chad, attend the Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation, which meets in Auburn.

Ibukunoluwa Olawale Ibirogbra, 72, of Lagos, Nigeria, died July 23, 2001, at home. He was baptized into the Church of God in the early 1970s. He was for many years a medical consultant and had traveled outside Nigeria in that capacity. On one such trip he visited Ambassador College in Pasadena where he held discussions with Herbert W. Armstrong and some of the college officials. For 10 years he ran a popular radio program in the Yoruba language on the theme "wisdom of the elders," which was aired over Lagos State radio station. Survivors include his wife, F.M. Ibirogbra; five sons,

four daughters and six grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by O. Akin-Ogundeji, a deacon in the Lagos congregation.

Fred Kellers videotaped a message from Mr. Ibirogbra 100 days before his death:

"I am Ibukunoluwa Olawale Ibirogbra. I am seizing this opportunity. This is not the time I travel. There was a time when I was traveling around the world and I have seen you. And I am extremely happy. I must tell you that you are courageous and I doff my hat. We must not under any circumstances sell our everlasting



Ibukunoluwa Olawale Ibirogbra

for anything in this world. I am happy that you show courage as we are showing courage here. We have gone through a lot of things which are truth. It is the truth that still will make us free, it is not any other thing. [I pray] that you can stand. He who stands to the last shall gain everlasting life... Thank you for the gift, wonderful gift, you have given to us. We thank you also for remembering us; we shall be remembering you in our prayers because we are one family. God bless you."

Maggie Davies Aaron passed away July 9, 2001, at Ogden (Utah) Regional Hospital. She married Boris Aaron in October of 1955 and attended church with him quite often. She enjoyed fellowshiping with Church of God brethren and was loved by all in the Salt Lake City congregation. She is survived by her husband; two sons and two daughters; 31 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held July 12 in the Ogden area.

John A. Barbush, 74, died peacefully October 23, 2001, of complications from cancer. He was a coworker of the Church for over 25 years. He and his wife of nearly 55 years, Gwen, pointed their family (and everyone they came in contact with) to God. He was survived by his wife, 10 children, 36 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. (His son, John M. Barbush, is a member in Chicago, Illinois.) He was buried October 26 with military honors.

# News at a Glance...

## Thousands of Booklets Being Printed

In the last two months we've ordered 50,000 copies of the new booklet *Who Is God?* and 30,000 each of *Why Does God Allow Suffering?*, *What Happens After*

Who Is God?, United's 28th booklet, being printed September 20 (photos by Peter Eddington)



*Death?*, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* Next we plan to order reprints of *Making Life Work* and *The Church Jesus Built*.

Scott Ashley

## Good News Newsstand Distribution Nearly Triples

Now 30 congregations in the United States are involved in the *Good News* Newsstand Program. This is almost four times the number involved in January 2001 when just eight congregations participated. From January to October, overall newsstand circulation has nearly tripled, from 13,750 to 39,400 per issue. During that period, brethren have placed 412 acrylic, countertop displays and 106 pedestal displays in stores and shops.

As an example of congregational involvement: In January 2001 David Mills, pastor of the Asheboro, Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina, congregations, asked Randy Crawford, a member of the 50-member Charlotte congregation, if he would help start a newsstand program in the area. Randy began by personally contacting store managers in Wal-Mart, Super K-Mart, Food Lion and other locations and successfully placed pedestal displays which distributed 500 copies per issue at no cost to the Church.

Randy then asked Charlotte members if they would also like to participate in the program. He wrote guidelines on how to

approach store managers, including the importance of asking God in prayer to "open doors" to obtain free locations. Other brethren soon joined in the effort. Now nine members are actively involved in setting up and stocking displays in discount stores, restaurants and other locations in seven cities within their church area. Since January, the

Charlotte newsstand "team" has increased local Good News circulation rapidly. They currently have 13 active locations, with five additional ones to be opened shortly. In less than a year distribution has grown from 500 to 5,000 copies per issue.

If you are interested in beginning newsstand distribution in your area, contact the program manager, John LaBissoniere, at (888) 369-9940 or by e-mail at john\_labissoniere@ucg.org.

John LaBissoniere

## LifeNets Starts Manhattan Project; Receives Press Coverage

In response to the September 11 terrorist attack on New York, LifeNets, a charitable organization founded by Council member Vic Kubik, sent five tons of needed items to lower Manhattan September 21. Aid included goggles and safety glasses, hard hats, respirator masks and bottled water.

Earlier LifeNets had received press coverage. The *Indianapolis Business Journal* featured LifeNets as "Nonprofit of Note." And in the *Indianapolis Star*, unfortunately on September 11, was an article about a 4-year-old girl that LifeNets helped bring over from Moldova to have two life-saving operations.

## ABC Classes on Tape Sent to Tape Libraries

As part of the general member education program, Richard Thompson's Ambassador Bible Center classes on the Gospels have been recorded and were mailed October 30 to each congregation tape library in the United States, with a copy sent to each pastor in the international areas. This very informative, 27-tape package is also available on the ABC section of our Web site in RealPlayer format at [www.ucg.org/abc](http://www.ucg.org/abc).

Two more ABC classes, one presented by Darris McNeely on early Church history, and one by Rachel Quast on eating disorders, will be made available later in the year. This will add to the material already made available last year on alcoholism by Dennis Luker, Glen White and Merna Leisure, also recorded at ABC. Plans are underway to record another class this coming school year, with

the goal of eventually having much of the ABC material available to our membership.

Richard Pinelli

## ABC Presents Samplers; Prepares for 2002

September 8 and 9 St. Paul, Minnesota, was the site of an ABC mini-sampler.

There were over 250 in attendance for Sabbath services, and nearly 190 attended the presentations by Melvin Rhodes and Gary Antion. Mr. Rhodes brought presentations on the topic of "Where Are We Now in Prophecy?" Mr. Antion expounded 2 and 3 John and Jude and the Lutheran religion.

"Mitchell Knapp and Jim Servidio and their congregations did a wonderful job organizing the activity," said Mr. Antion. There were some 50 who were watching and listening in over the cybercast that was aired from the hall.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is next on the schedule for an ABC mini-sampler. The scheduled dates are November 10 and 11. The final mini-sampler for this year will be in the Los Angeles, California, area.

The weeklong Cincinnati ABC Sampler was held August 13 to 17 with 34 attendees. "Many appreciative comments were heard from those who attended," said Mr. Antion. "Ralph Levy and I made new presentations, so the several who were repeat attendees were able to receive new material."

The applications to ABC for 2002 continue to arrive at the home office. At press time, 52 had been accepted, with several



ABC mini-sampler in St. Paul, Minnesota (photo by Roger Bacchus)

more in the admissions process. "December 10 is the deadline for applications, so there is still time to apply for the 2002 ABC program," said Mr. Antion.

## Elder Ordained in Canada

Sixto Yap was ordained a local elder on Atonement. He and his wife, Jocelyn, serve the Toronto, Ontario, congregation. They "were born in the Philippines and served

there in various capacities for a number of years," said Anthony Wasilkoff, operation manager for Canada.

"They moved to Canada to provide better opportunities for their five children and are now pleased to be Canadian citizens. They are great assets to the Toronto congregation."



Sixto and Jocelyn Yap

## Ministerial Transfers Announced

This fiscal year, the following transfers have taken place:

Pastor:	From:	To:
Arthur Suckling	St. Petersburg/Ft. Myers, FL	Non-salaried ministry
David Treybig	Lubbock/Amarillo/Odessa, TX;	St. Petersburg/Ft. Myers, FL
	Las Cruces/Lovington, NM	
Tom Damour	Canton/Champaign/Springfield, IL	Lubbock/Amarillo/Odessa, TX;
		Las Cruces/Lovington, NM
Guy Burke	Oklahoma City, OK	Canton/Champaign/Springfield, IL
	(non-salaried elder)	(associate pastor)

Within the next few months, we will also have the following transfers:

Pastor:	From:	To:
Bill Bradford	Oakland/San Jose, CA	Brisbane/Gold Coast/Bundaberg/Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
Jim Tuck	Phoenix East/Camp Verde/Yuma, AZ	Oakland/San Jose, CA
Mario Seiglie	Chile, Argentina, Bolivia	Garden Grove, CA; Honolulu, HI
John Elliott	Cincinnati East, OH	Phoenix East/Yuma, AZ
Earl Roemer	Honolulu, HI	Boise/Lewiston, ID; Baker City, OR; Montana
Saul Langarica	Guatemala	Chile, Argentina, Bolivia
Graemme Marshall	Brisbane/Gold Coast/Bundaberg, Queensland; Perth, Western Australia, Australia	Ottawa, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec, Canada

# News at a Glance...

## Regional Pastors Meet

Regional pastors will be meeting together with Ministerial Services staff November 11 to 13. Some of the topics to be discussed will be: pastoral evaluations; manpower needs, health situations and relocations; Feast of Tabernacles speaking schedules, Bible study topics and speakers; and progress and development of the leadership training program.

Richard Pinelli

## Youth United Focuses on Sex; Next, Prophecy

Sex, dating and dealing with the opposite sex are the focus of the October-

December issue of *Youth United* e-magazine ([www.youthmagazine.org](http://www.youthmagazine.org)). In a teleconference October 22 the staff discussed ways to let more more people know about the current issue, and planned articles for the next issue with a focus on prophecy in light of the events of September 11. The staff sent an e-mail to everyone who has subscribed to the e-list on the [www.ucgyouth.org](http://www.ucgyouth.org) Web page.

The message sent to the 618 people on the e-list and to elders in United was:

"How well do you understand the opposite sex? How can AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases be avoided? Are you wondering if God will provide a mate for you? More importantly, do you know what God says about these matters? These questions and more are addressed in the latest issue of *Youth*

*United* e-magazine. Be sure to read it on the Internet at <http://www.ucgyouth.org/you>.

"As you teens and young people read the current set of articles, we're already at work on another issue that we think will be especially interesting. With the recent terrorist attacks upon the United States and the subsequent war against terrorism, we are planning a series of articles on the relevance of biblical prophecy to teens.

"Our next 'Question and Answer' feature will include questions young people have about military service and war, end-time prophecy, etc. If you have specific questions, please send them in and we will include as many as possible. To e-mail us a question, simply go to the top of our 'Questions and Answers' page on the Internet and click on the 'Submit a Question' button. We will look forward to receiving your message."

U.S. listeners, with the truth of the Kingdom of God. "I believe these four programs are particularly hard-hitting in their content," said Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager.

More new programs are scheduled to be taped this month. For the program schedule, the station line-up and to hear these titles, visit our Web site at [www.ucg.org/radio](http://www.ucg.org/radio).

## New Employees Hired

With the increasing workload, a 30-hour-a-week and two part-time employees were hired. Lina Reid, a 2001 ABC graduate who volunteered many hours in the mail room, is now working part-time there. Michelle de Campos, also an ABC grad, is working 30-hours with the Web site, which she did part-time during ABC. Donna Surratt is working part-time in the mail processing area.

## Elder Helps Film PBS Special in South Africa

Howard Davis, an elder in Portland, Oregon, and Media and Communications Services employee, left for South Africa Saturday night, October 27, to help film a PBS special for Indianapolis, Indiana, WFYI television, which is paying his expenses. In exchange for his services, UCG and WFYI will jointly own 20 hours of video documenting South Africa today, its culture, the AIDS crisis and social challenges. Mr. Davis will be part of the official U.S. People to People Ambassador Program led by Indiana First Lady Judy O'Bannon. He traveled to Indianapolis from October 22 to 24 and conferred at length with producers at WFYI and with Mrs. O'Bannon at the governor's residence.

In South Africa, André van Belkum spoke in Johannesburg to the 36 Indiana community leaders who are accompanying Mrs. O'Bannon, including Purdue and Indiana University officials, major philanthropists, government leaders and state representatives. The United Church of God will be acknowledged in the credits of the PBS special as a major contributor.

## What's New on the Web?

### On [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org)

- The Gospels class, presented by Richard Thompson at ABC, is available on-line. (Tapes are also being sent to UCG congregations—see page 23.) <http://www.ucg.org/abc/gospels>



- "Preparing the Bride of Christ," a sermon by Council Chairman Roy Holladay, and "Recapturing a Sense of Urgency," which was played during the Feast, are available on the sermon video page: <http://www.ucg.org/RealAud>

- The latest issue of *El Comunicado* is available in HTML format and the November/December issue of *Las Buenas Noticias* is now available in PDF (816K) format on the Spanish literature page: [http://www.ucg.org/html/espa\\_ol.shtml](http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml)

- More sermon transcripts have been added to our deaf/hard of hearing section: "Preaching the Gospel, Preparing a People" by Robin Webber; "The Next Generation" by Ralph Levy; "A Prescription for Such a Time as This" by Donald Ward; "Your Brother's Keeper" by Gary Antion; and "Recapturing a Sense of Urgency" (Feast video). <http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html>

### On [youthmagazine.org](http://youthmagazine.org)

- How well do you understand the opposite sex? How can AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases be avoided? Are you wondering if God will provide a mate for you? More importantly, do you know what God says about these matters? These questions and more are addressed in *Youth United* e-magazine. <http://youthmagazine.org>

### On [vcmagazine.org](http://vcmagazine.org)

- The November *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on: "A Message to Garcia," "Sticks and Stones," gossip, perseverance and September 11. <http://vcmagazine.org>

### Other Helpful Links

<http://www.ucg.org/radio> (*Good News* radio program site. Listen to Real Audio files of the program and see the radio log.)

<http://ucgyouth.org> (youth and young adults Web site)

<http://gnmagazine.org> (*Good News* Web site. Sign up for e-mail notification!)

<http://www.ucg.org/a/locale/multimedia.htm> (Check out the local multimedia efforts by United congregations: *Tomorrow* television by Portland, Oregon; *Good News* television by Beloit, Wisconsin; *World News and Prophecy* radio by Donald Ward; and *The World Tomorrow* on MANX radio on the Isle of Man.)

<http://www.ucg.org/a/news/news.htm> (News page with Council of Elders meeting reports, President's Letters, Home Office Updates, etc.)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact: [webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)

## Web Traffic Up

The month of September was our best month yet for Web site traffic at [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org) and [www.gnmagazine.org](http://www.gnmagazine.org). In addition, it was also our best month on record for booklet and *Good News* subscription requests. No doubt, the events of September 11 sparked additional interest in what the Church offers. It was interesting to note that our Internet advertising using GoTo.com showed a 700 percent increase in traffic and subscription requests the week of the World Trade Center disaster. Upwards of a thousand new *GN* subscribers are added to our files each month as a result of our Web presence.

Peter Eddington

## Four New Radio Programs Completed

Four new radio programs have been edited and duplicated and were distributed to the stations in September. The titles are "The Day of the Lord," "The Church Jesus Built," "Transforming Your Life" and "What Is Truth?" Our program host is Gary Petty, and he is joined on these programs by Roger Foster, Ralph Levy and Howard Davis for discussions of critical areas of importance to

## United News

Periodicals Postage  
paid at Milford, Ohio,  
and at additional mailing offices