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# United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

Vol. 10, No 1

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January 2004

## News At a Glance

### Good News Reaches 50th Issue

"I think you will be particularly interested in the upcoming January/February



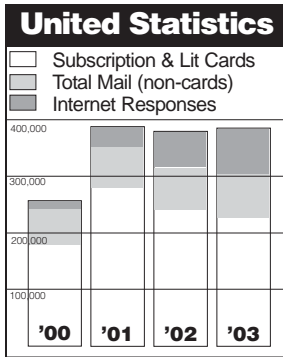
ary *Good News*," wrote Roy Holladay in his Dec. 18 "President's Letter." "This is the 50th issue of *The Good News*—quite a milestone for our short history. The emphasis of this issue is the four horsemen of Revelation 6. On the cover you will find new artwork that we had specially created for our use—now and for future publications."

The artwork was created by Sherwin Schwartzrock, son of Gerald and Ardelle Schwartzrock of the Fargo, North Dakota, congregation, and Jonathan Koelsch.

### 386 Baptized Around the World

In 2003, at least 386 new members were baptized around the world. This compares to 417 reported last year and 296 in 2001. Outside of the United

See "News at a Glance," page 2



## Ambassador Bible Center Begins Fifth Year

by Gary E. Antion

"Catching the Vision" was the theme for this year's orientation for the ABC class of 2004. More than 30 enthusiastic students were introduced to the Ambassador Bible Center program Jan. 4 by Matthew Fenchel, who served as emcee for the afternoon. Gary Antion and Ralph Levy discussed information the students needed to know about student administration and academic affairs, respectively.

The main address was by UCGIA President Roy Holladay. He challenged

the new class to catch the vision of what ABC may be able to do for them. He encouraged the students to gain precious biblical knowledge and to grow spiritually. Additionally, he spoke of the life-time friendships that they will make while at ABC.

Service to others is another area that needs to be "caught" during their ABC journey. Mr. Holladay encouraged the students to focus outward and to ask themselves what they might do for the Church. He said, "Ask not what the Church can do for you, but what you can do for the Church."

The afternoon concluded with fellowship among the students, home office staff and visiting family members. Around 50 home office staff and their family members attended to welcome the students to the area. Specially prepared and served refreshments topped off the afternoon. As has become custom, Terri Eddington and Lisa Fenchel were largely instrumental in organizing the decorations and food service.

We believe the class of 2004 has been given a wonderful beginning of their seven-month study of the Word of God at ABC. **UN**



The fifth year of ABC kicked off with orientation Jan. 4; 35 students are expected each semester for the 2004 year (photo by Gary Antion)

## "National Event" Held in Lexington



Young people at the Winter Family Tournament in Lexington, Kentucky, meet with world-renowned speaker Pam Stenzel, who speaks about sexual abstinence before marriage; right, the All Ambassador Reunion

by Janet Treadway

"If you build it, they will come." The proverbial advice from the movie *A Field of Dreams* certainly proved true for the Cincinnati, Ohio, North and Lexington, Kentucky, congregations, who have been putting on increasingly larger Winter Family Tournaments for the last seven

years. What started out as an idea has grown into what UCGIA President Roy Holladay called "a national event."

An estimated 2,000 people attended the seventh annual Winter Family Tournament in Lexington Dec. 24 to 27. People traveled from all over, including France, Canada

See "Lexington," page 10

## U.S. Regional Pastors Meet

by Richard Pinelli

The U.S. regional pastors met Dec. 14 to 16 at the home office on the heels of Council, Ministerial Services team and Feast coordinators meetings.

Plans for the upcoming budget year in Ministerial Services highlighted the discussions. Topics such as transfers,



Loree and Harold Rhodes receive a plaque and gifts in appreciation of their years of service as regional pastor (photo by Paul Suckling)

## Council of Elders Holds December Meetings

As the final Council session of the 2003 calendar year opened Dec. 4, Council Chairman Clyde Kilough emphasized that, in the week of meetings, much would be accomplished.

Mr. Kilough pointed out that this series of meetings would be characterized by blocks of time that would allow in-depth discussion of matters relating to the work of the Church—such as an analysis of our audience to help our publications be more effective and a related session that would deal with the potential for television as a medium for preaching the gospel.

During the meetings there were also reports from several of the task forces that had been working on projects such as plans for the 2004 General Conference of Elders, Christ-centered servant leadership and retirement planning.

The morning portion of the opening meeting included quarterly reports from the president and home office operations managers.

### Doctrinal Papers and Feast Video

Dec. 5 Jim Franks, chairman of the Doctrine Committee, provided an overview of the status of the study papers that are being written, and led the Council through a final review of two completed papers: "Music in the Bible" and "Voting and Involvement in Politics." These papers are scheduled to be posted to the Church's Web site in January on the doctrinal papers page, www.ucg.org/papers.

Other papers that are in various

See "Council," page 15



Britt Taylor, chairman of the Retirement Task Force, presents their report to the Council of Elders Dec. 9 (photo by Peter Eddington)

retirements and manpower needs were discussed. The group developed topics for one-day regional conferences, focusing on leadership in the Church and how to pass the baton of truth and ministerial experience to the younger generation through mentoring by pastors and elders.

The regional pastors discussed working with those who attended the leader-

See "Regional," page 5

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## News At a Glance

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States, 209 were baptized this year, up from 191 last year. Here are the baptisms reported at press time:

Argentina	.....8
Australia	.....10
Bolivia	.....1
Brazil	.....1
Canada	.....15
Chile	.....16
Colombia	.....4
Costa Rica	.....1
El Salvador	.....13
Fiji	.....1
Germany	.....2
Guatemala	.....6
Indonesia	.....2
Jamaica	.....4
Kenya	.....33
Malawi	.....16
Mexico	.....17
Nigeria	.....12
Peru	.....6
Philippines	.....28
South Africa	.....4
Spain	.....1
St. Kitts	.....1
Tanzania	.....3
Trinidad	.....1
United States	.....177
United Kingdom	.....1
Zambia	.....1
Zimbabwe	.....1

There's a unique story behind each baptism. John Ross Schroeder, *Good News* staff member and elder in England, told about the baptism he performed Dec. 3 in Spain:

"I flew from London Heathrow to central Spain [Dec. 2] for one night. After several hours of counseling, I baptized Mr. Massoud Zojaji (originally from Tehran, Iran, but a resident of Spain for nearly 25 years) the next day in Lake San Juan about 60 kilometers from Madrid.

"I have been in e-mail contact with Massoud for two or three years. He is a house painter and works on his own. Massoud speaks English and is married with four children. Having kept the Sabbath and the annual Holy Days for perhaps two decades on his own, he has sought baptism for some 20 years. But things just didn't come right until recently. Massoud is a very happy man!"

## Elder Ordained

Bruce Rivers was ordained an elder on Dec. 20. He and his wife, Melissa, serve in Elkhart, Indiana.

## More UCG Statistics

Here are more statistics pulled from recent reports:

- 213 congregations in the United States.
- Approximately 121 congregations and 60 Bible study, audio and video groups in nearly 50 other countries.

See "News at a Glance," page 16

# Good Works Program Gathers Momentum

by Tom Kirkpatrick

Recently, the Council of Elders of the United Church of God established the Good Works Program. The purpose of the program is to coordinate the efforts of individual brethren, groups of brethren or congregations to raise funds for the purpose of helping out in cases of special needs in the Church around the world. The purpose of this article is to increase your understanding of the workings of the program.

First, it is important to understand that we include financial assistance to members in the regular budget of the Church. There is thus a considerable amount of subsidy and assistance of various kinds to members and congregations in many nations as part of the regular, planned-for expenditures of the Church. The tithes and offerings received at the home office (including the festival fund, assistance fund and international fund) are allocated in the budget process to help carry out the mission of the Church—to preach the gospel and care for those whom God has called, all around the world.

So, it is not the case that the brethren of the Church are not already engaged in "good works." They are! In many ways, including but certainly not limited to their faithful giving of tithes and offerings. Many of these loving good works are known only to God, which is a wonderful thing (Matthew 6:1-4). That is as it should be.

And even with this new Good Works Program, we want to adhere to Jesus' command not to flaunt or vainly promote our works of compassion. To the degree possible, and in the way that Jesus intended it, our left hand should not know what our right hand is doing, when we do "alms" (compassionate acts of giving and service to others). We simply will post a listing of unbudgeted-for special projects in the various areas of the world, as they arise and are brought to our attention by the individuals who have been assigned the oversight of those areas.

These postings will be located under the "Resources" tab of the [ucg.org](http://ucg.org) Web

site. Each project has a dollar figure associated with it, as requested by the senior pastor. Once the amount received from fund-raisers reaches that total, the money will be sent to the targeted project, and that project will be removed from the Web site. We ask that any contributions to the Good Works Program include a note from those who raised the funds, indicating which project(s) the funds are intended to help with, and also permission to the Good Works Program coordinator to apply any excess of funds received over the budget amount to other projects. Otherwise, the surplus will need to be returned.

### Projects for the Philippines and Ghana

As we go to press, there are currently two postings, and I anticipate that additional ones will be added in the near future. One is a project requested by David Baker, who serves as senior pastor and overseer of the work of the Church in the Philippines. (This was covered in the November 2003 issue of *United News*, page 1.)

The newest project was requested by Melvin Rhodes, who serves as senior pastor and overseer of the work of the Church in Ghana. This project, which totals \$12,000, details two specific needs: a van for Church business and to help scattered members get to services on the Sabbath (especially the elderly and those with young children who must wait for hours like everybody else) and to put a roof on the meeting hall in the village of Agona. There, 60 members gather every Sabbath for services under a tarpaulin "roof" when it rains. At the Feast, Mr. Rhodes reported, the rain got heavy and "we all got wet! So the need for a roof is urgent. Local materials can be used for this project at a minimal cost." More information can be found at [www.ucg.org/goodworks](http://www.ucg.org/goodworks).

### Looking for Fund-Raisers, Not Additional Offerings

I believe that nearly all of our brethren are already doing nearly all they can in

terms of financial offerings—i.e., faithfully giving tithes and generous offerings. The Council was clear in establishing the Good Works Program, and I want to be clear in this article, that we are not asking for, and we do not want the brethren to make additional contributions of tithes and offerings, beyond what they are already giving, to the Good Works Program. Brethren who wish to make financial contributions to "help out in international areas" should realize that the regular, anticipated needs in the international and domestic areas are already budgeted for, and that part of their regular tithes and offerings, including amounts they designate as for the "International Fund," already are used to help out in those areas, through the budget process.

Therefore, we believe it best that the source of contributions to the Good Works Program not be tithes and offerings, but instead should come from the fund-raising efforts of individuals, groups of individuals or congregations who wish to designate some or all of the proceeds from those fund-raisers to the Good Works Program.

We further understand that it is not practical for everyone to dedicate time or energy to fund-raising efforts, over and above the time they already expend in doing all the other myriad of things

that our busy lives seem to demand of us. We wish no one to feel compelled to participate, nor guilty if the circumstances of their lives make it difficult or impossible to do so.

But there are some individuals who have the time, energy and desire to organize and carry out the sort of fund-raisers that can help with this program. The purpose of the program is to provide an organized outlet, within the Church, for them to do so, and to know that they are helping with specific needs of the brethren.

This issue of *United News* includes an accompanying article that details one fund-raiser that is being developed by the Cincinnati East congregation (see article about "Cookbook Fund-Raiser," below). It shows one way for large numbers of people to combine their individually small efforts in a project that can help in big ways. I invite you to read it, and to participate if you can.

Thank you in advance, on behalf of the brethren in all parts of the world who may benefit from the generosity, love, zeal and creative energies of those who are able to help with the Good Works Program! **UN**

*Tom Kirkpatrick is the treasurer of UCGA and was appointed by the Council of Elders to coordinate the Good Works Program.*

## Recipes and Tips Needed for a Church-wide Cookbook Fund-Raiser

by Belinda McCloud

To help with the new UCG Good Works Program, the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation is producing a special cookbook focusing on God's Holy Day plan. We need your help. Yes, you! First, we would like for you to submit your helpful "tips" on how you prepare for the Sabbath, as well as how you make the Sabbath special. Keep it short; one to three sentences is all we have room for.

Secondly, we would like to have your recipes. Do you have a favorite potluck

recipe? How about your favorite Unleavened Bread recipe? Do you have a Night to Be Much Observed special menu that is a wonderful family tradition? Send us the menu and recipes. Do you have a Feast tradition, a tip for making the Feast special or a special recipe you make for the Fall Holy Days? Any type recipe is great! We would like to take as many recipes as we are able and compile them into a good quality, yet affordable, cookbook to share with everyone.

See "Cookbook," page 7

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## News From **Around the World**

# South African National Council Deals With Many Issues

The United Church of God Southern Africa National Council met Nov. 30 at the home of Bill and Cheryl Jahns. A wide variety of topics were discussed.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Neil Becker took the members through the budget for the period from March 1 to Oct. 31, 2003. Approval for the purchase of extra chairs, fans and Passover equipment for Cape Town was given by the council. Approval was granted to Johannesburg to purchase a new VCR.

Stan Botha was asked to recuse himself for the next discussion. The council decided that Mr. Botha would continue to be paid R1.53 per kilometer traveled in serving the Church in Cape Town and in addition he would be provided a monthly allowance for Church duties performed. He thanked the council for this totally unexpected gesture.

**Budget 2003/2004:** Members were requested to study the draft budget for next year before February 2004 when it must receive final approval. It was proposed that the Done inheritance be dedicated to the ministerial retirement gratuity fund. The council approved.

**Office Update:** Neil Becker reported some interesting statistics. *GN* subscribers have increased to 15,048. Responses to advertising in *Your Family* have grown to 848. No media work will be done between now and March 2004. Jorge de Campos will obtain costs for repeated advertisements.

Mr. de Campos has also submitted educational church videos with a cover letter to SATV education department for possible TV coverage.

**Ministerial Training Program:** André van Belkum informed the council

members of a training program in Durban. Mr. de Campos felt that more than this was required. The council decided to ask Bill Jahns to e-mail Richard Pinelli at the home office, explaining Southern Africa's needs, with a follow-up meeting at or after the GCE.

**Translation Into the Zulu Language:** Mr. de Campos led the discussion, suggesting that the council appoint a team to research this possibility. Mr. van Belkum warned that the response may be logistically difficult to handle because the counseling would

be in Zulu. Stan Sitole felt this would not necessarily be the case. The council considered this and decided that an announcement should be made in the Durban congregation asking for any members who could help with translations to come forward.

**Security at and During Services:** Each church area should, especially on Holy Days, ensure that adequate security measures are taken.

**Feedback From New Jerusalem Church:** Bill Jahns informed the council that we are continuing to work with

this group. They are very responsive and have been changing their doctrines as they learn the truth. A training program is envisioned. He said it was a long-term project and costs would be minimal. As it was a ministerial duty within the Johannesburg area, Bill Jahns and Jorge de Campos will continue communicating with them (see article below).

**Financial Assistance to Zambia:** Neil Becker informed the council that R15,000 had been sent, but asked how he should handle it in future. The council

decided it will consider any future requests on merit.

**2004 GCE:** As both Mr. van Belkum and Mr. de Campos would be attending at no cost to the UCGSA, the council decided to approve the budget making provision for Neil Becker to attend.

**Council Transparency:** The council decided that council minutes would be made available to Church members. Non-council members are allowed to sit in, but the council reserves the right to executive sessions.

*Stan Botha*

## New Jerusalem Church in Zion Seeks Instruction From UCG

by Bill Jahns and Barry Strydom

The New Jerusalem Church came into contact with United in South Africa through the maid of a member (Barry Strydom) who started giving them booklets and tapes from the Church. They have an attendance of around 2,500 in South Africa. André van Belkum and Bill Jahns had a meeting with their leader, Thomas Stole, in August of 2002.

They are in the process of changing their name to the New Jerusalem Church of God. They have understood some of the truth and are a biblically based church. However, they did not know about the Sabbath and Holy Days, and they needed instruction in this area. They have progressed to the point where many of them are keeping the Sabbath and some are starting to keep the Holy Days.

We are planning to conduct a leadership training program with them in the

future. They have made a lot of progress over the past year, and we plan to continue to work with this group.

### Truth They Already Knew

- They knew about clean and unclean meats.
- They knew that Christmas was pagan and were not keeping it.
- They knew that Easter was pagan and were not keeping it.
- They were keeping the Passover on the Thursday evening before "Good Friday," so they did not have any knowledge about the correct date, but were keeping the Passover, including the foot washing, as well as taking the symbol of Christ's flesh with unleavened bread.
- They had moved away from the African beliefs in the forefather spirits and forefather worship, and knew what happens when you die—that the dead are asleep until the resurrection.

- They did not believe in an ever-burning hell fire.

- They did not believe in an immortal soul.

- They did not believe in the trinity or that the Holy Spirit is a person.

- They knew about and applied adult baptism by immersion.

- They accept only the Bible as being relevant to their teachings.

- They understand you must keep the law, despite being under grace.

### Truths They Have Learned From UCG

Here is a list of some of the truths that they have received from UCG and are applying as a church:

- After a meeting with their archbishop and his wife, during which the Sabbath was preached to them by André van Belkum, they had a conference of approximately 600 people. During this

conference the Sabbath question was discussed and a decision, with the consent of the people present, was made that they would (gradually) move their church to a Sabbath-keeping church. Today they have a two-hour Sabbath service, and an hour Sunday service, but the people attending the Sunday services are fully informed that these services are to be discontinued.

- They have kept all the Holy Days this year, on the correct dates, and have fasted on Atonement and eaten Unleavened Bread for the seven days. They had two Feast sites: one in Cape Town (approximately 250 attended) and one in Pretoria (approximately 200).

- They now understand that this is not the only day of salvation, but that the billions will have the truth preached to them in the second resurrection.

- They now understand the Kingdom of God and the millennial reign of Christ.

## Canadian National Council Meets in Regina, Saskatchewan

by Linda Wasilkoff

The Canadian National Council met in the "Queen City" of Regina, Saskatchewan, for its Dec. 10 through 14 meetings. A number of brethren who had never before had the opportunity to observe a meeting of the council were able to do so. Some took time off from work to be able to observe the council in action. Their interest, questions and helpful comments were much appreciated.

The meetings began on Wednesday night with the adoption of the previous meeting minutes. Edwin van Pelt gave the Canadian office update, reporting that the income for the year is running slightly above budget. He fielded questions from the council and also from the local Regina members.

Wednesday evening ended with a brainstorming session. Some of the issues brought up for further council discussion were: scholarships for sending deserving youth to summer camps, rules of order, utilizing DVDs instead of video

tapes, leadership training and making the Church more welcoming for new people.

Festival reports got the Thursday meeting started on a positive note. While overall Festival attendance was down due to fewer incoming transfers, the reports were full of positive comments about the spiritual messages received and positive attitudes that were evident at each site.

David Palmer presented the Media Team's vision for advertising during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The plan is to concentrate on three areas: a national advertising campaign, ongoing Internet keyword campaign and a direct mail campaign. With the direct mail campaign, the team hopes to have assistance from local congregations or individuals. In order to accomplish these plans, an increase in the advertising budget was requested.

Robert Berendt updated the council on the work of the Ministerial Services Team. A ministerial conference is being planned for December 2004. The team

is also working on a plan for leadership development in the churches and looking at the feasibility of summer camp for teens. For this year, a possible teen hike is being planned by Mr. Berendt.

The council saw a demonstration on video conferencing. This technology could possibly be used for future council meetings. The Finance Committee will investigate this further to see how cost-effective it might be. The rest of the afternoon was spent in committee meetings.

The Strategic Planning Committee reported on the 2004-2005 Strategic Plan. Glen White, assisted by Carol Livemore, presented the committee's suggestions. The council unanimously approved forwarding the plan to the Canadian National Conference for its ratification in March.

Next on the agenda was the report from the Governance Committee. They presented some updates to existing policies, which will ensure compliance to the privacy laws that will come into effect in January. The council gave

approval for these with the stipulation that our lawyer check them to be sure they are sufficient. In effect, the Church stipulates that names and personal information will not be given to any other corporation. The policy spells out who will be responsible for confidentiality and how the records are protected. The actual office procedures need not be changed much since the Church has always tried to protect personal information and has never sold or given away its mailing list.

The Ethics/Finance Committee presented a Restricted Donations Policy. Canadian federal regulations make restricted donations very difficult to maintain, requiring the setting up of a separate bank account and careful tracking of the funds. After discussion and further edits, this policy was unanimously adopted.

On the Sabbath, two families traveled down from Saskatoon, making a total of 27 people gathering for services. Split sermons were given by David Palmer and Anthony Wasilkoff. Glen White,

pastor of the Regina congregation, gave the announcements and introduced the council and office staff. A beautiful vocal duet was performed by Fern Berendt and Maureen DeLong. In the evening, council members were invited to join with the local members for bowling.

Sunday morning was the time to tackle unfinished business. Three papers were adopted: Guidelines for Council Guests, Procedure of Ordination of Deacons and Deaconesses and the Process to Replace the Operations Manager. The first paper was to give written guidelines to any guests sitting in on the council proceedings. The bylaws already spell out how the chairman would act as interim operations manager if, for some reason, there was a vacancy in the office. The council wanted to be proactive to have a procedure in place so that the chairman wouldn't have to do both jobs for long in case of an emergency.

The last item of business was to fulfill a bylaw requirement to approve the agenda for the National Conference that will meet on March 7, 2004. **UN**

# Early Bookings Encouraged for 2004 Feast in Winchester, England

The beautiful cathedral town of Winchester in southern England will be the site for the 2004 Feast of Tabernacles in the United Kingdom. Winchester is a historically rich city, once the capital of medieval England and the royal seat of King Alfred the Great over 1,100 years ago. This renowned monarch translated parts of the Pentateuch and incorporated into English law many of the laws and statutes enshrined there.

Because of its popularity with local and European visitors, we are encouraging early booking of accommodations to ensure Feastgoers are not disappointed.

Services for the Feast will be held in the appropriately named King Alfred Hall, part of the Victorian-built Guildhall, which can hold over 500 people. It is located in the downtown area of this architecturally beautiful and unspoiled English city. Catered meals are being

planned for Holy Days and the Sabbath. Winchester is a small and well-looked-after city with much of the city center designated a pedestrian area. This makes it easy to enjoy the popular shopping streets. A variety of cafés and restaurants is also close by.



Scenes from the Winchester area (from left): statue of King Alfred; the Guildhall where services will be held; the River Itchen

Accommodations (hotel, bed-and-breakfast and self-catering) and covered parking are available a few minutes walk from the hall.

The Norman-era Winchester Cathed-



dral, over 550 feet long, is a mere five-minute walk from the meeting hall. Queen Mary Tudor was married to Philip II of Spain here 450 years ago. The medieval banqueting hall called King Arthur's Hall, with its famous round table dating to Tudor times, is a 10-minute walk away.

Guided tours of the inner city will be available, including the cathedral, the resting place of famous English novelist Jane Austen and Izaak Walton, author of *The Compleat Angler*. There are also daily tours of Winchester School, probably the oldest continuously running school in England (since 1382).

Popular sites like Salisbury, Stonehenge, Southampton and Portsmouth, home of Nelson's flagship, the *Victory*, and remains of Henry VIII's warship, the *Mary Rose*, are all within short distances by car or bus. Also within striking distance by car or bus are the 3,000-year-old fortress site of Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral, Bath with its Roman baths, Windsor Castle and the New Forest.

Bus tours will be arranged throughout the Feast to a number of the area's main tourist attractions.

Please register with the United Church of God—British Isles Festival Office without delay, seeing that we expect a high response to the opportunity to have the Feast in Winchester. There are good train services from both London Heathrow and Gatwick airports. We look forward to welcoming you as one of our guests!

Peter Hawkins

## 2004 Winchester Brochure and Tourist Information

Helpful information may be found at [www.visitwinchester.co.uk](http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk) and you can request a 2004 visitors guide at the Tourist Information Centre's site [www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk) or by writing to T.I.C., Guildhall, Broadway, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9LJ, United Kingdom. You may phone (+44) 1962 840500, fax (+44) 1962 850348, or e-mail [tourism@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@winchester.gov.uk).

## International News At a Glance

### Philippines News

The Church in the Philippines produces an e-based publication called *United News Philippines* that gives a regular update of the work there. You can find it at [www.ucg.org.ph/unp.htm](http://www.ucg.org.ph/unp.htm).

### Australian Renewal 7 Percent Higher Than Expected

Every two years *Good News* subscribers who have received more than 12 issues are renewed. With a total distribution list of 20,000 for *The Good News* magazine, the Australian Media and Publishing Committee wanted to make sure that all those receiving the magazine wished to continue.

With the July/August issue 3,417 *Good News* subscribers were renewed. Some of these subscribers had been renewed once before two years ago, when the renewal response rate had been slightly over 30 percent.

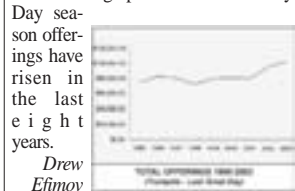
We are very pleased to report that the response to the current renewal has been much higher than the 30 percent response rate expected, and it is currently running at 37.2 percent with a trickle of responses yet to be received.

Such a good response rate means that people want and are reading the magazine and is a very positive sign for future growth. Hopefully many of these people will become students of the *Bible Study Course*.

Ruth Root

### Australian Treasurer Reports

The financial results for the United Church of God—Australia through the end of October 2003 reflect strong Holy Day offerings. The members have been very generous and we received approximately A\$4,600 above what we had planned. The good reports from the Festival areas and joyful attitudes appear to be reflected in the lift for this area of our income. The graph shows how our Holy Day season offerings have risen in the last eight years.



Drew Efimov

### UCG-British Isles Council Meets

The United Church of God—British Isles (UCG-BI) council met Nov. 23 to discuss a number of business items. Jim

Franks, a member of the Council of Elders, and Tom Kirkpatrick, treasurer of UCGIA, were guests. They were on their way home from a trip to Ghana and had been invited to attend by Chairman Bryan Ellams.

After Brian Penheiro recently retired from his position of treasurer of UCG-BI, Barbara Fenney has accepted the position offered to her by the national council.

Among the points discussed during the meeting were:

- Consideration of budget costs of an opaque wrapper for *The Good News* magazine.
- Appointment of an Editorial Review subcommittee at the next meeting.
- Acceptance of the accountant's report for the financial year 2002/3.
- Consideration of two new sites for the 2004 summer camp in Derbyshire and Forest of Dean.
- Consideration of Winchester as a site for the 2004 Feast of Tabernacles.
- Setting the date for the next Annual General Meeting as July 4, 2004.

Chairman Bryan Ellams introduced the plans to set definite objectives for performance evaluations of the national council, chairman, CEO and subcommittees to help in achieving their goals and being effective in these responsibilities.

There was also a work-in-progress report from several subcommittees.

### Firsts in Zambia

Derrick and Cherry Pringle, who manage the small UCG office in Zambia, reported several firsts for 2003 in their area of north central Zambia. They:

- Had their first Passover service.
- Had regular Sabbath meetings in Mululira and Kitwe.
- Purchased a TV to show videos at services.
- Purchased a cassette tape player for the Mululira brethren to use on alternate Sabbaths.

• Had potential members who attended the Feast in Mumbwa.

The Pringles also reported on the literature they sent out in November. *The Good News* was distributed to 740 in Zambia (including subscribers, clinics, libraries and hospitals). Another 260 copies were mailed to neighboring Malawi. They also mailed 294 booklets, 109 *Bible Study Course* lessons and 20 copies of the Bible Reading Program.

### Australia Assists With Zambian Well Project

During the last year, three Australian congregations have run "gold coin" collections to raise funds for digging a well in the Mumbwa region of Zambia. This well will serve four families of members, plus those in the local community who currently walk long distances to obtain water. A similar collection was held at the Noosa Feast site. After the Feast A\$1,650 was sent to LifeNets—South Africa to kick-start this new Mumbwa well project.

## Sample of Available Accommodations

The Winchester Royal, a three-star hotel, is offering us group rates at £52 (\$90) per person per night for a three-course dinner, bed and full breakfast per person sharing. Bed and full breakfast alone is £44 (\$75) per person sharing. Use reference UCG29094.

The Wessex Hotel, a four-star hotel, has group rates £65 (\$110) per person for a three-course dinner, bed and full breakfast per person sharing. Bed and full breakfast alone is £50 (\$85) per person sharing. Use reference UCG Conference.

Bed-and-Breakfast: A selection of B and Bs may be found in the 2004 Tourist Information booklet with prices from £20-40 (\$35-70) per person per night, e.g. Giffard House Hotel.

Self-catering: There is a range of places and prices. It is helpful to have a car. Town or Country is a company that provides serviced property for rental. Phone (+44) 2380 881000 (specify Winchester) or see [www.town-or-country.co.uk](http://www.town-or-country.co.uk).

## Winchester, England Feast 2004 Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of adults \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of children, ages 13-18 years \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of children, ages 13 years and under \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation type you will use: Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ Bed-and-Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_

Self-catering \_\_\_\_\_ Other (state type) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of establishment you are booking (from brochure or Web site): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: UCG-British Isles Feast 2004, PO Box 705, Watford, WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom

Or fax to (+44) 2083 861999, e-mail [info@goodnews.org.uk](mailto:info@goodnews.org.uk).

Additional information will be posted to our Web site [www.ucg.org.uk](http://www.ucg.org.uk).

# Portuguese Work Has Humble Beginnings Serving Scattered Brethren

The fledging Portuguese work, which started in May 2003, has truly had humble beginnings and with God's help we are confident that it will continue growing steadily.

## Keeping the Feast of Tabernacles

The largest group of Portuguese-speaking brethren under the United Church of God umbrella is in Brazil. There 65 brethren attended the Feast in Maloca de Moscou in northern Brazil near Guyana. These included members who spoke the native language of the area as well as English-speakers from Guyana (see the November 2003 *United News*). The Brazilian brethren from central and southern Brazil attended the Feast in Mendoza, Argentina.

João de Carvalho, who lives in Curitiba in the southern part of Brazil, attended the Feast in Maloca de Moscou in northern Brazil near Guyana. He left home right after

bon and one some 150 miles south of Lisbon. There is another member in the Azores. These all kept the Feast at home and are very desirous of being able to attend a Feast in either Portugal or Spain.

Herb Vierra, a United elder in California, heard of a group of Sabbath-keeping people in Portugal through the Legacy Institute (an independent organization that does "good works" to scattered brethren throughout the world). He visited them in August 2003. This group is called the Alliance of the Churches of God Seventh Day of Portugal. They have 350 members in Portugal, and they have been keeping five of the Holy Days for a time. This year they kept Trumpets and Atonement for the first time.

We have been in contact with this group on a semiregular basis. God is working with other groups as we have seen in Ghana, for example. We trust that the Eternal may guide and inspire this interaction and cooperation as He has blessed the interaction with the brethren in Ghana.

## A Little "Home Office"

In a humble attempt to serve these scattered brethren, a small "home office" has been set up at the home of Jorge de Campos, an elder of Portuguese descent serving in Johannesburg, South Africa. He records sermons in Portuguese, approximately once a month, dubs them and mails them to the scattered brethren. On a regular basis he also contacts scattered brethren in Portugal and the Azores by telephone. However, telephone costs and time differences pose a challenge. Internet telephone connections are erratic, and the brethren battle to understand when the connection is via the "Internet to phone" hook-up. Most of these brethren do

not have Internet access. One of them does not even have electricity in his home due to living in a rural area.



Jorge de Campos records a Portuguese sermon in his "home office"; right, Alec Surratt assists with the Portuguese work from the home office in Milford, Ohio



A bimonthly Portuguese newsletter has been initiated titled *Noticias Unidas (United News)* with excerpts of Roy Holladay's president's letters, Clyde Kilough's chairman's letters and home office reports, plus a few articles from *United News*. Jorge also adds a few articles, as appropriate, covering some basic needs that he may identify. Four issues of the *Noticias Unidas* have been published this year.

## Translation Challenges

Translation proves a challenge as the Portuguese are very proud of their language and the Brazilians are likewise proud of their linguistic differences. What may be phonetically correct in mainland Portuguese, may be phonetically incorrect in Brazilian Portuguese and vice versa. The translators and reviewers have had to learn, and are learning, each other's differences. We pray we won't cause any offense to readers when an article has Portuguese Brazilian phonetics, and another may end up with mainland Portuguese phonetics. However it does add extra time to the translation process and translators learn to have care and sensitivity towards each other's differences.

The translation and review process is painfully slow and at the moment we are working through the *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet and the *Heav-*

*en and Hell* booklet. The translators and reviewers are across continents and most have not met each other. Further they have regular jobs and the translation work is voluntary, after hours and after family and Christian duties. We thank the Eternal for the unselfish labor of love of these volunteers.

A Portuguese Web page has been posted on the UCG.org site. As youth material, booklets and *Noticias Unidas* are published, they will appear on the Web site. The Portuguese brethren are thankful for the great support they have received from the staff at the UCG home office to put together the Web site, as well as to format, print and mail the *Noticias Unidas*.

The brethren in Brazil are visited by Saul Langarica, a Spanish-speaking minister in Chile. The brethren in Portugal and Azores do not have a regular minister, and their Christian growth is undoubtedly impacted by that lack.

The Portuguese brethren, like many other brethren across the world, feel very betrayed by those who led them astray and scattered most of them so

gal and Spain do also need a nearby Feast site and regular Christian fellowship. Clearly there is much work to be done. The harvest is plentiful and the need is great.

## A Group in Angola?

God is, however, working greater things that we are not always fully aware of. Such an example is the large group of Portuguese-speaking brethren in Angola (perhaps 3,000 to 5,000) that we have heard have stood up for the truth. We have not been able to contact them yet, but have sent feelers towards them via a number of people. In their case, trust will have to be earned over time. We also don't wish to come across pushy towards them, but merely to be able to serve them, if that is God's will, in His time.

Currently there are a number of Portuguese brethren scattered throughout the world and some are probably getting the English literature without knowing that there is a small effort going on around them in their own mother tongue.

If any of you fall in this category and would like to help, please let the home office know of your kind willingness to help.

Thank you for your prayers for all the scat-



Members in Brazil: Maria and João Carvalho with their children Sabrina and Samuel

Trumpets. His trip included a four-day bus ride to the state of Rondonia, a four-day boat ride to another state called Amazonas; then a 15-hour bus ride to Boa Vista. He did this to save money and to be able to give to the brethren in Northern Brazil. His wife and children went to the Feast in Argentina. João is one of our helpers in the translation and review work.

On the other side of the ocean, in Portugal there are six brethren in Lis-



Brethren in Lisbon, Portugal, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread: standing, Ana Paula Almeida; sitting from the left, Fernanda Pacheco, Maria José and Jaime Campos with their children Sara and David



effectively. Satan's attack was indeed devastating in God's Church throughout the world and throughout the various languages. Due to the language barrier, the problem has been exponentially aggravated, and the Portuguese brethren feel particularly disadvantaged.

They all need more personal and regular contact, but the ones in Portu-

Clarissa de Campos prints, staples and mails the bimonthly Portuguese newsletter *Noticias Unidas (United News)* at the home office in Milford, Ohio (photos by Michelle de Campos)

tered brethren in all languages. *Jorge de Campos*

## "Regional," continued from page 1

ship seminars the past two years as well as working with many leaders in the local congregations.

Quality control in sermons, cybercasting and other areas was also a topic. The group also discussed enhancing the

Feast with a few educational seminars and workshops as the manpower is made available.

Harold Rhodes, the regional pastor of the Southeastern Region, and his wife, Loree, were presented with a plaque and several small gifts to show appreciation for their years of service. Due to a heart

attack, Ministerial Services felt it needed to relieve the extra stress of regional pastoring from Mr. Rhodes, who remains pastor of three congregations and Festival coordinator. Bruce Gore, the pastor in Birmingham and Gadsden, Alabama, and Rome, Georgia, was named to replace him. **UN**

# Ministers Visit Scattered Members in South Pacific

by Leon Walker

In my capacity as one of the two trustees of the United Church of God, New Zealand (UCGNZ) I make an annual trip to New Zealand in order to meet with Art Verschoor, the other trustee, and Jeff Caudle, the pastor. This is necessary in order to review the activities of the Church in the region and to make plans for the future. Furthermore, since UCGNZ has administrative responsibility for the South Pacific, Jeff asked that I accompany him in visiting the members in Fiji, Tonga and Singapore. He felt that my role as a member of the Council of Elders as well as my over 40 years of involvement in the international work of the Church would be helpful to him and the members in the region.

## Deacon to Help in Fiji

My wife and I left Los Angeles, California, at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28, for Nadi, Fiji. We arrived Thursday morning at 5 a.m., "losing" a day by crossing the International Date Line. We were met at the Nadi airport by Jeff Caudle, who had flown from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, to Nadi the night before. We then caught a local flight at 8:45 a.m. for the short trip to Suva, Fiji.

That afternoon Jeff and I had a lengthy conversation with Emori Toloi, one of the members who lives in Suva, regarding the Church in Fiji. The membership of the Church in Fiji is very small. Jeff is only able to take occasional trips to Fiji during the year. The members listen to sermon tapes sent from the home office during the year when Jeff is not able to be present.

Jeff had observed during the past year that one of the main needs was local leadership. Someone needed to be responsible for the orderly conduct of services, handling mail and other administrative duties. Since Emori had been a deacon for many years in the Worldwide Church of God, we discussed with him the leadership vacuum that existed and the need for someone to handle the various administrative duties in Jeff's absence. Emori recognized this need and we all felt it would benefit the Church if his ordination as a deacon were to be accepted by the United Church of God.

Therefore, we officially recognized Emori Toloi as a deacon in UCG and prepared a statement that would be given to the members in Fiji. The statement informed the members that Emori Toloi's status as a deacon was recognized by UCG and that he would be conducting the weekly Sabbath services and performing all other administrative functions of the Church in Fiji, under the direction of Jeff Caudle.

## Visiting Tonga

The next morning, Friday, Jeff, my wife and I departed Suva at 8:30 a.m., arriving in Tonga at 11 a.m. We were met at the airport by Heamasi and Kalela Ta'ufu'ou, the local minister and wife.

We met with the members on the

Sabbath and I gave the sermon. The current membership, apart from Heamasi and his wife, consists of members of the Ha'angana family. Mr. Ha'angana was the previous pastor, who died during our visit to Tonga last year. Also visiting was the Ta'ufu'ous' son who was on vacation from his university studies in New Zealand. The members in Tonga were very grateful for our visit, as very few non-Tongans visit them. As Heamasi mentioned when he introduced me for the sermon, "The Walkers and Jeff Caudle were the last ones to visit us last year

On Monday we got together with Heamasi and Kalela in order to discuss in greater detail issues of concern and importance. We then departed on the 6 p.m. flight, returning to Suva, Fiji, where we spent the night.

## Back Through Fiji

Once again we got together with Emori Toloi and his wife for dinner.



Scenes from visit to Tonga. Upper right, Tongan pastor Heamasi Ta'ufu'ou and his wife Kalela and their son who was on vacation from his studies in New Zealand; right, Reba Walker fellowships with the ladies (photos by Leon Walker)

and the first to visit us this year!" After services we fellowshiped with the members, who had provided an abundance of snacks and fruit for our enjoyment.

The next day the members invited us to an "umu," or barbecue. Some of the vegetables are a bit different from those we are accustomed to, but we enjoyed the opportunity of being able to get to know the members better.



leaving for our flight to Auckland, New Zealand.

## Fellowship and Future Plans for New Zealand

We left Fiji on Thursday at 1 p.m., arriving in Auckland about 5 p.m. We spent the Sabbath in Auckland where I gave the sermon. It was encouraging to see new faces that I had not seen before in the congregation. United in New Zealand is growing steadily, including some returning from WCG.

On Sunday the Caudles hosted a barbecue at their home for all the members, so that we could all get to know one another better. Jeff has been having such activities recently and it has helped a great deal in developing the warmth and friendship among the members. About 25 members were able to attend. The weather was beautiful, the

Our focus was primarily on the future of the Church and especially contingency plans if Jeff is no longer in New Zealand. After lunch on Tuesday we returned to Auckland.

## Potential for Growth in the Singapore Area

On Thursday Reba and I left for Singapore, with a change of planes in Sydney, Australia. Jeff left about two hours after our departure, but arrived in Singapore an hour before us, since he had a nonstop flight. We were met at the airport by Jeff and two of the members. We then went to our hotel and rested the night.

On the Sabbath, we had services with the members, some of whom had traveled from Indonesia and Malaysia. Jeff led services, gave some announcements and I gave the sermon. After services we fellowshiped for a while and then had lunch together in a nearby restaurant. After lunch we returned to our meeting room and I conducted a question-and-answer session. Then the group assembled once again for dinner in the home of one of the members. These occasions enabled us all to get to know one another better as well as providing an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the members who have few opportunities of having personal contact with the ministry of the Church.

The Church is growing slowly in Singapore and other areas in this region of Asia. Jeff has been able to travel there more frequently and the membership is grateful for that. Jeff feels the area has the potential to grow even more in the future.

Reba and I returned home on Monday, via Hong Kong, San Francisco and Dallas. The return home took 32 hours from the time we got up in our hotel in Singapore until we arrived home in Big Sandy, Texas. An annual trip of this nature is helpful to the Council in that it provides input regarding a region that has little direct contact with the leadership of the Church. It also enables members in the region to ask questions and discuss issues of importance and/or concern to them. UN

visited with one of the other members in Suva on Tuesday morning, prior to our departure for Nadi. We departed Suva at 1 p.m. On Wednesday morning we met with a member in Nadi before

food was good and everyone seemed to appreciate the activity.

On Monday Jeff, Reba and I flew to Napier in order to meet with Art Verschoor, one of the trustees of the New Zealand Church trust. We spent the evening and next morning discussing various issues concerning the Church.

# Good News Circulation Around the World

Country/Territory	Eng.	Fren.	Ger.	Ital.	Span.	Total	Country/Territory	Eng.	Fren.	Ger.	Ital.	Span.	Total	Country/Territory	Eng.	Fren.	Ger.	Ital.	Span.	Total
Albania	2					2	Greece	19				1	20	Paraguay					10	10
Algeria	11	2				13	Grenada	11					11	Peru	25				1,350	1,375
Angola	1					1	Guadeloupe	1					1	Philippines	8,745				1	8,746
Anguilla	101					101	Guatemala	22			1,200		1,222	Poland	29		2			31
Antigua & Barbuda	3					3	Guinea	3					3	Portugal	11	1			13	25
Argentina	14			450		464	Guyana	201					201	Qatar	2					2
Armenia	1		1			2	Haiti	4	14				18	Romania	26			1		27
Aruba	3					3	Honduras	7				80	87	Russia	54					54
Australia	18,720	1	3	11	21	18,756	Hong Kong	60				1	61	Rwanda	3	3				6
Austria	3		73			76	Hungary	9		1			10	Samoa	1					1
Bahamas	1,002	1				1,003	Iceland	1					1	Saudi Arabia	41					41
Bahrain	5					5	India	945					945	Serbia-Montenegro	54		1		1	56
Bangladesh	8					8	Indonesia	238	1		1	1	241	Seychelles	4					4
Barbados	2,335					2,335	Iran	153				1	154	Singapore	170					170
Belarus	7					7	Iraq	8					8	Slovak Republic	13					13
Belgium	88	10	3			101	Ireland	49					49	Slovenia	4			1		5
Belize	6			2		8	Isle of Man	79				1	80	Solomon Islands	4					4
Benin	3	4				7	Israel	11				3	14	South Africa	19,990		3	4		19,997
Bermuda	7					7	Italy	71	1	10	5,051	5	5,138	South Korea	7				4	11
Bhutan	1					1	Ivory Coast	1	3				4	Spain	17		1		27	45
Bolivia	9	1		215		225	Jamaica	2,984					2,984	Sri Lanka	33					33
Bosnia-Herzegovina	11					11	Japan	9				3	12	St. Kitts & Nevis	1,011					1,011
Botswana	1					1	Jordan	4					4	St. Lucia	463					463
Brazil	126			1	110	237	Kenya	846					846	St. Vincent & Grenadines	212					212
British Virgin Islands	1					1	Kuwait	21					21	Suriname	2					2
Brunei	4					4	Laos	1					1	Sweden	108				6	114
Burkina Faso	1	3				4	Latvia	5					5	Switzerland	20	2	69	3		94
Bulgaria	8			3	1	12	Lebanon	5					5	Taiwan	3					3
Cameroon	46	12				58	Liberia	1					1	Tanzania	79					79
Canada	15,933	27	2	3	12	15,977	Libya	18			1		19	Thailand	30					30
Cayman Islands	5					5	Lithuania	9		10			19	Togo	5					5
Central African Rep.	2					2	Luxembourg	1		8			9	Tonga	1	7				8
Chile	32			2,838		2,870	Macau	1					1	Trinidad & Tobago	2,292				1	2,293
China	31					31	Macedonia	14					14	Tunisia	1					1
Colombia	9			300		309	Madagascar	2					2	Turkey	17			1		18
Cook Islands	4					4	Malawi	464					464	Turks & Caicos	4					4
Costa Rica	8			65		73	Malaysia	185					185	Uganda	8					8
Croatia	38		1			39	Mali	1					1	Ukraine	26					26
Cuba	2			4		6	Malta	10					10	United Arab Emirates	29					29
Cyprus	5					5	Martinique	1	2				3	United Kingdom	3,742		3	1	3	3,749
Czech Republic	17		1			18	Mauritius	501	3				504	Uruguay	20				20	20
Dem. Rep. of Congo	2					2	Mexico	39			5,000		5,039	United States	324,326	17	32	21	1,300	325,696
Denmark	12	1				13	Moldova	8				6	14	U.S. Virgin Islands	400					400
Dominica	362					362	Morocco	4				1	5	Uzbekistan	2					2
Dominican Republic	4			29		33	Myanmar	43					43	Vanuatu	14					14
Ecuador	3			16		19	Namibia	1		1			1	Venezuela	4				107	111
Egypt	32					32	Nauru	1					1	Vietnam	20					20
El Salvador	10	1		736		747	Netherlands	1,044		3		1	1,048	Zambia	770					770
Eritrea	48					48	Netherlands Antilles	5				1	6	Zimbabwe	1,604					1,604
Estonia	94					94	Nevis	1					1	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>418,409</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>5,109</b>	<b>14,020</b>	<b>441,027</b>
Ethiopia	317					317	New Caledonia	2					2							
Finland	25		1			26	New Zealand	1,516					1,516							
Fiji	200					200	Nicaragua	8				31	39							
France	28	21		1	4	54	Nigeria	2,899					2,899							
French Guiana	4	1				5	Niue Island	3					3							
Gabon	1					1	Norway	21		5		1	27							
Gambia	72					72	Oman	10					10							
Georgia	2					2	Pakistan	122					122							
Germany	59		3,117	4	3	3,183	Panama	1				34	35							
Ghana	1,266					1,266	Papua New Guinea	120					120							

Includes all language editions and versions as of January 2004.  
 Eng.=English; Fren.=French; Ger.=German; Ital.=Italian;  
 Span.=Spanish

## "Cookbook," continued from page 2

Our Church culture is very special and unique. Many of you made extreme sacrifices to be where you are today. We would love to put in writing your wonderful recipes, sage advice and valuable traditions to share with others and pass on to the next generation. Perhaps you will reach into your recipe box and find a treasured recipe from a loved one who has died. Their words of wisdom or their recipes can be passed on for other generations to use and treasure. Just send the recipe, "In memory of . . ."

We want to produce the highest quality book that we can at the most reasonable price, and make it available to

everyone in UCG. All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will go directly to the UCG Good Works Program, and provide critical aid to our dedicated brethren who really need help.

Again, we are raising money to fund life improvement projects that are above and beyond the normal Church budget (see [www.ucg.org/goodworks](http://www.ucg.org/goodworks)).

The cutoff date for submitting your tips and recipes will be **April 1, 2004**. While we are still in the early planning stages and they may be refined somewhat, the categories we are planning to use are: Sabbath preparation tips, making the Sabbath special tips, special Sabbath recipes, your favorite potluck recipe, Unleavened Bread recipes, Night

to Be Much Observed recipes and menus, any special tips, ideas and traditions your family does for the Spring Holy Days and the same for the Fall Holy Days. Since we cannot test the recipes, we would ask that you only send recipes that you have actually made, or others you know have made, and you are confident are tried and true.

### How to Submit Recipes

We suggest that one person in your congregation collect all the recipes and tips. Then that person can send all of them in one envelope. There will be less chance of something getting lost. Please double-check your recipes for accuracy, make sure they are legible,

the ingredient amounts are correct and the oven temperature is included. Please list all ingredients at the top of the recipe. If you want your name and church area in the book, please include that as well.

It would also be helpful to have the name and phone number of the person who collects and sends in the material from each congregation, so that we can contact him or her, in case we have a question. Sending handwritten recipes or photocopies of recipes would be fine. However, if someone has time to type them up and put them on a disk, that would be even better.

If cookbooks are just not your thing, there are many other ways to contribute

to the Good Works Program. Cincinnati East has held three successful garage sales. We loved this project because everyone had something to contribute. A baked goods auction can also be a fun and effective way to raise funds. For more specific fund-raising ideas and information, please contact Belinda McCloud at (513) 722-8740 or e-mail at [belindamccloud@yahoo.com](mailto:belindamccloud@yahoo.com).

Thanks for your support of this project and we look forward to receiving your recipes. We plan to have this book ready before Feast time.

Recipes and tips can be mailed to: United Church of God, Attn: Cincinnati East Cookbook, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027. **UN**



## From the Word

# How to Help an Alcoholic

■ This is the last article in a three-part series on alcoholism from the Focused Education Committee.

by Larry J. Walker and Glen White

In the previous two installments of this series, we have identified and described the symptoms of alcoholism. Alcoholism is so widespread that most of us know someone afflicted with the problem.

What can you do to help someone who has a drinking problem?

### The Barrier of Denial

Unfortunately, a major roadblock stands in the way of help for most sufferers. It is called denial. The difficulty of admitting our problems is intrinsic to human nature (Proverbs 16:2; 21:2). The stigma connected with out-of-control drinking stands in the way for many. No one wants to admit to what he or she is ashamed of.

The dynamics of chemical addiction drive denial far beyond the normal degree of human nature. The desperate craving for alcohol leads the deceitful mind (Jeremiah 17:9) to employ a wide range of “defense mechanisms”—such as rationalization, justification, minimization and blame shifting in order to continue drinking. Laying guilt trips, provoking incidents of anger to justify drinking, lying and many other forms of improper behavior often result. An alcoholic eventually develops a world of illusion that becomes a dangerous mirage of reality.

Somehow this nightmarish world of denial must be invaded and destroyed.

### Don't Be an Enabler

The difficulty is compounded by the

fact that family members, especially the husband or wife of the alcoholic, often allow themselves to get hooked into this bizarre world of denial. Making excuses for missed work becomes commonplace, spawned by fear of loss of job, desire to avoid rejection by friends and family, and misguided concern for the drinking family member. The mate often prolongs the alcoholic's drinking behavior by becoming an “enabler.”

The alcoholic must be allowed to face the consequences of his or her inappropriate behavior. This may involve suffering and sacrifice for other family members. But as long as someone shields drinking behavior, the problems normally will continue and intensify.

It is recommended that the wife or other family members avoid making calls to employers, and let the alcoholic call for himself. If he staggers home, vomits and passes out on the living room floor or front lawn, the natural tendency is to clean him up and put him to bed and then let him have the full force of anger and resentment in the morning. Then his head is pounding with a hangover and he is already ashamed of his behavior the evening before—unless he was in a blackout, in which case he will remember nothing.

If this occurs, allowing him to wake up face down in the residue of the night before can provide a powerful dose of reality. Especially if he wakes up in full sight of his neighbors as they begin their day. An alcoholic usually needs this kind of tough love to help him face the consequences of his drinking problem. The morning after may also be the time to calmly and lovingly encourage him to consider getting help.

### Motivation for Seeking Treatment

But what if the alcoholic still refuses to acknowledge the need for help?

For many years the belief persisted that an alcoholic has to “hit bottom” before seeking treatment. Sooner or later some crisis will force the alcoholic to face up to reality or suffer tragic consequences—loss of family, financial ruin, imprisonment, a horrible car crash or even death.

Must family members sit by helplessly and wait for tragedy to strike? What if you or someone else in the family are at the end of your rope emotionally and feel you cannot take any more? What if you feel you cannot ride out this dizzying spiral to oblivion? Is a better alternative available?

### Dynamics of Intervention

Thankfully, yes. The recommended method is called intervention. Intervention should include prayer—asking God for help and having Him in the forefront of all that is done. Intervention also involves a carefully planned, frank but loving confrontation session by as many family and other meaningful persons as are willing and able to participate. Former U.S. President Gerald Ford's wife, Betty, is a well-known example of successful intervention.

Each participant clearly states facts and feelings about how the drinking pattern has affected his or her life. This information is conveyed after sincerely affirming love and concern to the problem drinker. A combination of support and confrontation is important to let the person know that the others in the room love him or her but cannot and will not continue to tolerate the drinking problem.

Alternatives and consequences should be spelled out. Each person must be prepared to follow through on whatever actions he spells out. No bluffing, no threats. These only hurt credibility and prolong suffering of all concerned.

Before undertaking this course of action, be sure to seek professional help, including your minister. It is advisable to have a trained facilitator lead and monitor the discussion.

The object of intervention is to secure the alcoholic's agreement to



enter a treatment program at the conclusion of the session. Therefore, a plan of action should already be in place so treatment can begin immediately. Treatment should be considered with the same sense of urgency and gravity as a medical emergency such as appendicitis or a heart attack.

### Where to Find Help

Where can you find help? What type of treatment is available? Of course this should be investigated long before the intervention is scheduled so you are ready to proceed quickly with your prepared plan of action.

Besides help from your minister, the yellow pages section of your phone book is a good place to go. Look under “Alcoholism Information and Treatment” to find a list of treatment centers in your area. Some are privately operated. Some are nonprofit, usually supported by government funds. If insurance coverage is available, private centers may be a better option. If not, treatment at a public facility may be available on a “sliding scale” basis, which means the cost is adjusted according to the family income. Doctors and governmental agencies (including emergency 911 service in the United States) can also provide referral information.

### Treatment Options

What is involved in this type of treatment? First, an assessment interview is set up with the patient to determine the

nature and duration of treatment. Detoxification is usually the next procedure, to help remove alcohol from the system and to treat side effects such as withdrawal symptoms. The patient then enters a period of inpatient or outpatient treatment.

Treatment modalities have been standardized in recent years by government regulations and insurance company requirements. Most programs consist of group therapy, individual counseling, lectures and nutritional support.

Family involvement is also critically important, since alcoholism affects the entire family. Participation in treatment also reinforces their love for the alcoholic. Special family group sessions are planned to help families communicate facts and feelings openly and honestly with support from other patients and their families. People help people, and learn about themselves in the process.

### The 12-Step Program

The 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is central to the recovery philosophy of treatment. It was developed years ago by recovering alcoholics who analyzed what they did to attain sobriety.

This program has a longstanding track record of success, so much so that adapted versions are used for many other forms of addictive behavior. The success rate can be attributed to the fact that all 12 steps are in harmony with biblical

## Dos and Don'ts

### Don't

1. Threaten, bribe or preach.
2. Lose your temper.
3. Allow your anxiety to lead you to do what the alcoholic should do for himself/herself.
4. Cover up, make excuses for or hide the alcoholic from consequences of his/her behavior.
5. Hide or throw away bottles of alcohol.
6. Argue or reason with anyone who is drunk.
7. Drink along with a problem drinker.
8. Ride with anyone who insists on driving while intoxicated.
9. Accept guilt for another's behavior.
10. Allow your spiritual life to suffer as result of alcoholism.

### Do

1. Learn all you can about alcoholism.
2. Become familiar with treatment resources in your community.
3. Be honest with the alcoholic.
4. Keep your cool when talking with an alcoholic.
5. Counsel with your pastor and/or doctor about alcohol problems in the family.
6. Attend Alanon, Alateen or other groups that offer support and helpful information.
7. Teach your children about alcoholism.
8. Do all you can to maintain a healthy atmosphere at home.
9. Be patient; alcoholism can pose many challenges.
10. Maintain your faith in God.

## The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

principles. The book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, available from AA, expounds the value of the program to recovering alcoholics.

Treatment centers do not promise to “cure” alcoholism. They offer treatment and a program to follow to maintain sobriety. Gaining and maintaining sobriety is the personal responsibility of each patient. An ongoing “maintenance program” is usually discussed with the patient prior to discharge from inpatient treatment. This involves periodic follow-up group therapy sessions and selection of an AA group to attend at least once a week.

### What Is Alcoholics Anonymous?

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of recovering alcoholics who meet together to help each other maintain sobriety. The only requirement for joining or attending AA is a desire to stop drinking. There is no cost other than optional contributions for refreshments and cost of meeting facilities.

AA is not a religion. It is simply a support group devoted to helping people stop drinking. Similar support groups exist for many other causes, such as losing weight.

Belief that looking to a “Higher Power” is necessary for sobriety is a fundamental tenet of the 12-step program. “God as we understood Him” is another term used in AA to accommodate people of all religious faiths. The more general “Higher Power” is designed for agnostics and atheists as a beginning point for seeking help beyond the individual sufferer. This should present no problems to God’s people. On the contrary, we can appreciate the 12-step program even more because of our understanding of God’s plan.

Two other common objections to AA are the foul language that seems to be common fare for many recovering alcoholics, and the fact that many recovering alcoholics smoke profusely at meetings. Neither of these problems is insurmountable. The key is finding the right AA group. The local AA office can steer you to a nonsmoking AA group. An AA group that meets in a church is not as likely to have smoking or use of foul language, simply because of the location.

Meetings are chaired by AA member volunteers on a rotating basis. They lead an informal discussion geared toward maintaining sobriety. Discussions sometimes center on a theme, such as one of the 12 steps and how it applies.

Alcoholics Anonymous has many booklets, for little or no cost, to help explain the organization in much greater detail than is possible within the scope of this article.

### Focused Education

The Focused Education team is committed to doing what we can to help families suffering from alcoholism. We appreciate your continued prayers for this much-needed program and for those among us who need hope, help and healing. The ABC lectures on alcoholism can be found on the Web at [www.ucg.org/abc/classes/alcoholism.htm](http://www.ucg.org/abc/classes/alcoholism.htm). **UN**

*This article was first published in the Sept. 14, 1998, issue of United News.*

# Adrift No More

■ As a boy I loved to launch little wood chip boats, but I learned I didn’t want to be like them, at the mercy of the whims of the stream.

by Robert Berendt

One of my favorite spring activities as a boy was to get a chip of wood, put a makeshift sail on it made of a toothpick and a little piece of paper—and then let it float down stream. Sometimes we would launch our chip boats onto a mud puddle and let the wind push them around. It seems a lot of boys liked to do that in those days.

You could watch the current take the little boat, twist it to and fro and do pretty much what it wanted to with the makeshift craft. I never knew where it would end up. Sometimes I would follow the boat downstream and rescue it from the many times it would be stranded in an eddy or on a little shore. There seemed something curious to my mind about the control the currents and wind had on the little boat—and the utter helplessness of the boat itself.

Drifting aimlessly has never been appealing to me. I think those experiences with the chips defined a part of my character without me realizing what was happening. I did not want to be a drifter like that little chip was. I did not want destiny to shape my life for me or the whims of others to determine what I could or could not be. I wanted to control my destiny as much as possible.

My need for a definable goal and the means to achieve that goal have always been a subconscious force in my decisions. I learned that one could shoot for the moon and perhaps land on a cloud. The cloud was much higher than the ground everyone trod on. Observing the animals preparing for the winter also helped define the need to look ahead and not just randomly make choices that suited my moods or feelings.

### Wandering in the Wilderness

Psalm 107 carries one of the most profound messages that includes the theme of drifting that I have seen in the Scriptures. In this Psalm we read the description of spiritual life being battered about by strong outside forces. An aimless and purposeless drifting seems to occur spiritually. Verse 2 indicates that the people are those who have been called by God. They are described as people who had been drifting.

All mankind is in this stormy sea, and we can truly say that, try as we might, we cannot get the ship we are on to sail smoothly and peacefully in the direction of happier and better times. There do seem to be periods of time in which mankind is going in the right direction. We note that by progress, strong family life and peace. The duration is short, however, and soon a wind comes up and

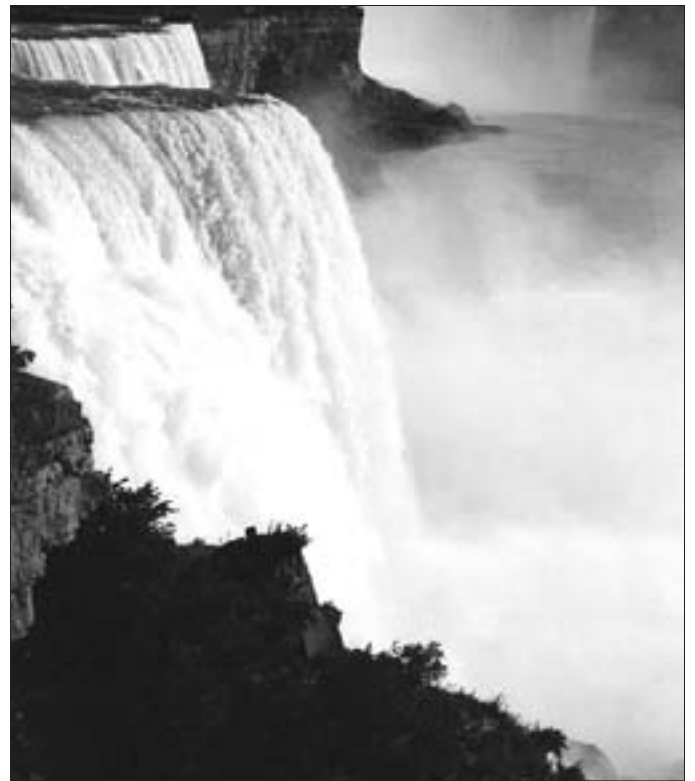
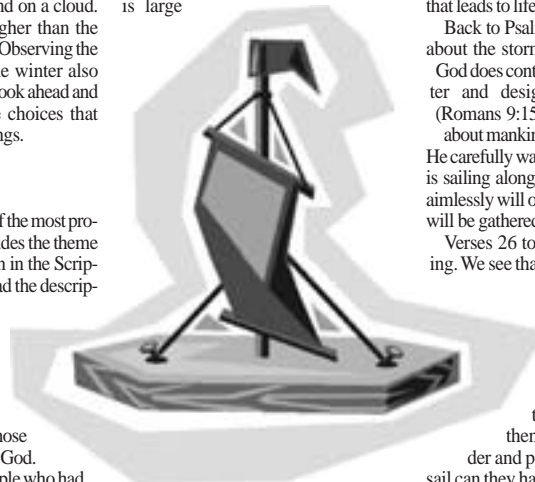
nation after nation finds itself caught up in the swirl of world events that prove to be unsettling and often disastrous.

Verses 6 through 9 describe God guiding and helping this group. However, most of the world is oblivious to the rudder God offers. The only help we could have is rejected and man sinks back into the depths of despair, frustration and anger. We simply do not want someone telling us what to do.

Actually, though, the only question is who is going to tell us what to do. If humans do not follow God, they will follow the only other force that pressures them, and that is the deception of Satan. We may think we are following our own plans and thoughts, but we are subtly guided and misguided by an evil being who is far more intelligent and devious than we humans are. Verses 17 and 18 describe the foolishness of those who abhorred the truth God offers. These draw near to death and think they have found life.

### The Broad Way

Jesus Christ tells us in Matthew 7:13-14 that the way that leads to death is wide and easy to travel. It seems like we are in control. It is like our little chip boat floating down a larger river. The currents do not draw the chip into the rocks or sand—the river is large



*It is like a little piece of wood that is drifting down the river towards Niagara Falls. The current is strong and seems to move the wood along with ease. It is only when it is too late that the ominous roar of the falls strikes fear into the heart.*

to die, but the direction so many choose leads to an early death. A police officer friend of mine once told me that the average lifespan of a teenager who starts to take drugs is about 10 years. Dead before the age of 30. What a tragedy. Jesus said that only the few find the narrower path that leads to life—the path less traveled.

Back to Psalm 107. Verse 25 tells us about the stormy seas and winds that God does control. He is the master potter and designer of our destinies (Romans 9:15-26). God is concerned about mankind and thus we know that He carefully watches each little chip that is sailing along. Those that are drifting aimlessly will one day be rescued. They will be gathered in by their Creator.

Verses 26 to 30 are very encouraging. We see that mankind does wander into all sorts of difficulty when he is at the mercy of the storms. Good sailors know that they must fight against the storms, but even then, only with a good rudder and power from an engine or sail can they have any control. Drifting is a certain recipe for disaster. I love the words of verse 30, “He guides them to their desired haven.”

### Eternity in Our Hearts

God has placed in all humans a hope and desire to live forever. We do not always understand that, but the life of a person is so profoundly different from that of any other creatures that we can only wonder as to how the complex mat-

ters such as thought, learning, hope and fear ever came about.

In Ecclesiastes 3:11 we glimpse this desire when the Bible tells us that God has placed “eternity” in their hearts. That does not mean humans live forever—it is the concept and hope of eternity that is within us all. That is in all likelihood part of the reason that every culture has religious beliefs. They are confused and wrong, but nevertheless all tend to promote the belief in life after death. God offers the gift of eternal life. That is the shore to which He will guide those who yield to His hand.

The last five verses of Psalm 107 tell of the influence of God in our lives. He will not allow the disasters that drive unbelieving mankind to such great distress to destroy His people. He does not take us out of the stormy sea, but He supplies the rudder and the power to guide His people through the storm to a safe harbor.

Sailing stormy seas is what develops skill and strength in a sailor. Calm waters never do. Sailing aimlessly and with a loss of power and rudder is the recipe for disaster and death. Verse 43 states that the wise will observe these things and understand the lovingkindness of God.

Perhaps making a little chip boat that was subject to the whims of the stream or wind was a good thing to do. It taught me the result of aimless drifting and proved the need for guidance. Truth as defined by God is the guide we all need. He promises that if we do observe, if we do seek and if we do knock, He will answer (Matthew 7:8). The Bible is the source of this truth—let’s use it! **UN**

# Lexington Hosts Seventh Annual Winter Family Tournament

“Lexington,” continued from page 1

and Mexico, as well as the distant states of Washington, Florida, New Jersey and California, to name a few. Teens from the United Church of God in Dallas, Texas, did fund-raisers throughout the year to raise money to charter a bus and pay expenses, so they could attend.

ence with a motivating message to the teens and young adults. Parents were also in attendance. Before she was even finished speaking, the young people were so moved by her message that they got up and gave her a standing ovation. Mrs. Stenzel stayed around until 11 p.m. talking with the teens and young adults and answering their questions.



Top two basketball teams; the Treybig family plays volleyball (photos by Gary Antion and Janet Treadway)



One young man, who had never attended church, was corresponding with a teen on the Internet and found out about the event. He was so inspired by it that he bought a bus ticket and traveled over 30 hours from Maine to attend. He attended his very first Sabbath service during the event.

Annette Adames from Central New Jersey traveled 10 hours with her four children. Annette said, “It takes faith to get in the car and travel that distance, alone, with the children.” Her husband does not attend church, so she sees the need to bring her children to the family weekend to be with others teens with the same beliefs. “I also gain great strength from the spiritual things that the Family Tournament provides through the seminars and Sabbath sermon,” she said.

Mr. Holladay gave the main message on the Sabbath. His sermon was on the importance of relationships. “Probably the major reason we came to this weekend is to see other people,” Mr. Holladay said. “Outside of the Feast of Tabernacles and summer camps, this is the greatest opportunity many of our teens and young people have to see their friends, to fellowship, to participate in activities and to hear the Word of God applied.”

Mr. Holladay went on to talk about the importance of building strong, positive relationships with parents, siblings, peers and, most of all, with God. “We all were put on this earth to develop a proper relationship with God and each other so that we might live forever in cooperation, peace and happiness.”

After the Sabbath, Pam Stenzel, a world-renowned speaker on the subject of sexual abstinence, electrified the audi-

Along with the sporting events, which included basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football and Ping-Pong, there were dances, ice skating, swimming, movies for the children and more



than 10 seminars to choose from.

Two new activities were added this year, the Friday night Fireside Chat for the teens and a number of ministers, and the Ambassador College/University/Bible Center Reunion (see article below). The Fireside Chat, “without the fire,” gave young and old alike an opportunity to spend Sabbath evening together, discussing various topics and enjoying pizza and pop.

At the conclusion of the Saturday evening dances, the four-day activity was over for 2003.

Yes, the Cincinnati North and Lexington congregations did build it, and “they” did come. Because of the growth over the years, it has required more congregations, along with many

Clockwise from above left: Roy Holladay gives Sabbath sermon; seminars in Lexington by Arnold Mendez Sr. and Pam Stenzel; Karl Herman dances with his daughters Montana and Kendall (photos by Janet Treadway)

home office staff members, to join in and work together to help build an even greater activity. The seventh annual tournament has come and gone, but the friendships and memories made will last a lifetime. UN

## All Ambassador Reunion Featured at Lexington Weekend

Saturday evening, Dec. 27, 160 Ambassadors and family members gathered at the Griffin Gate Marriott in Lexington, Kentucky, during the Winter Family Tournament. Amid old

Center enjoyed the opportunity to be together and share their experiences, past and present, with one another. There were representatives from each decade from the 1960s to 2000s.

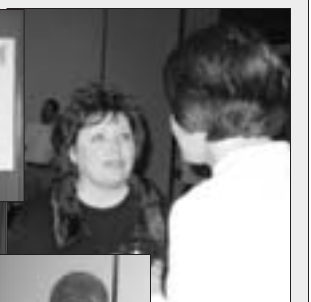
A slide show was developed with pictures taken from *Envoys* and *Pictorials*.



*Envoys*, *Pictorials*, logo sweatshirts and mugs and a brass college logo from the past, former Ambassador students shared food and updates about their lives with one another.

The tables were decorated with purple and gold as the students from Ambassador College, Ambassador University and Ambassador Bible

Scenes from the Ambassador Reunion in Lexington, Kentucky, Dec. 27, when 160 attended (photos by Gary E. Antion)



Plans for the next Ambassador Reunion include notifying those who signed their names and gave an e-mail address of the event in plenty of time to plan for gathering together during the next Winter Family Tournament.

Thank you to all who came and to all those who helped with the organization of this wonderful event.

Gary E. Antion, Event Coordinator

# Treasure Digest

## A Word Fitly Spoken in Time of Grief

A mother's son is murdered in cold blood. A husband loses his beloved wife of two years, just before the Feast. You know both families and want to comfort them, but what can you say in the face of such a terrible loss?

Flowers, cards and food are certainly appreciated, but there is something even more special that only those who knew their loved ones can give. That is the gift of words.

"A word fitly spoken . . ." is especially applicable in a situation like this. Words about memories that you have of their loved one let them know that their loved one was also valuable to you. They let them know that the world is a better place because this person not only lived, but lives on in your mind and heart.

The more specific you can be, the better; but the important thing is to express your feelings in your own words.

An example would be telling the mother how much you enjoyed taking her son to basketball games along with yours and what a credit he was to the church basketball team. You could tell the husband how warm and friendly his wife was when you attended their church congregation and how she always made you feel right at home.

Writing words of comfort is not hard to do, and you can even do it by e-mail for free. Yet doing just that is beyond price to grieving people who themselves are special and need your comfort more than they can express. Don't be surprised if they still thank you for it years later.

Marilyn Braley  
Houston South, Texas, congregation

## Trials—Obstacles or Opportunities?

We all experience trials and changes in our lives. Hurt, pain, frustration, boredom, despair, rejection, failure—no matter what the depth, they all seem to hurt nonetheless. These are negative feelings, as Dr. Julie Stafford says, "that clutter our journey through life instead of complementing the road we choose to travel. It's these negative feelings that cause us to see situations as small or large crises instead of stepping stones to some higher achievement."

Negative feelings can take away the quality of our lives. We have been given a choice in life—we can either create obstacles or we can create opportunities.

Our character is the most important asset in our life—knowing God's truth is a "pearl of great price," a treasured possession. But harboring negative thoughts in our minds can create crippling effects. Each negative thought has an automatic negative reaction, which eventually snowballs into a dangerous destructive path.

We can't always change our current situation. Maybe you have a serious illness or a loved one has died. Perhaps you suffer from a weight problem, money problem or a feeling of neglect and failure. In most cases these situations automatically create negative, down feelings and emotions. But it's up to us as to how long we will allow negative thoughts to attack our minds. The longer they are there, the more we start believing them, and eventually our actions prove our thoughts.

Say, for instance, a close friend breaks up with you. The emotions you experience at that time may include anger, sadness, hurt, pain, perhaps even depression and rejection. These are automatic! But what would happen if you considered the opportunity you have been given through this trial to flip a negative into a positive? Take time to think and pray about what happened and how this affects you. Ask God to clear your clouded vision and heal your pain.

Pray for your friend too. He or she is human as well and also experiences pain. Find something nice to say to this person—perhaps send an e-mail or card. Ask God to help you forgive and love with all your heart. Put a smile on your face and tell yourself that "this too shall pass," and cast all your care upon God (1 Peter 5:7). Eventually your whole attitude will change and you'll be a happier person. Isn't that better than holding on to negativity and maliciously breeding angry thoughts?

No matter what we do, life will constantly throw curve balls at us. We are not able to walk a life totally free from trials, and this can inject the fear that something will happen every step of the way. However, we do have a choice in the way we deal with circumstances and what we allow our mind to dwell upon.

James tells us to count it all joy when we fall into various trials (James 1:2). With the right attitude, trials develop us, building righteous, godly character. We have to learn to endure a trial, stick it out and recognize that it is a growth opportunity. We can ask God to show us the lessons we need to learn while facing each trial head on. What's more, we can search for various opportunities that help us learn to serve others while keeping our minds off ourselves. Find out who's sick or in the hospital, who's depressed or suffering a loss—call them, visit them, send a card. Seeing other people's trials can make ours seem so minor in comparison.

After all, we need trials (Acts 14:22). It is through trials that we will enter the Kingdom of God. We need them for compassion and love towards others. We need them for strength, growth and purification of ourselves, and we need them for praise, honor and devotion towards God (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Take control of the trial. Don't let the trial take control of you, causing bad attitudes and negative thoughts, stumbling blocks and vulnerability. Rather, remember that God will never give you more than you can handle. And He has blessed us with a Helper every step of the way to grant us comfort and peace (John 14:16). God reassures us that "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

So, let's take hold of the hope we have that God is working with us by molding and shaping our character on a daily basis. We can be positive that we are in His loving, merciful hands, encompassed by His unconditional love—He will never let us go. "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

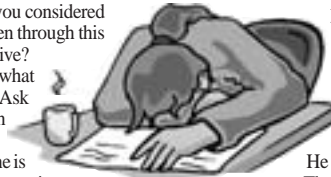
As Mary Stevenson recorded in her famous inspirational poem "Footprints in the Sand," let us keep in mind that God loves us dearly and will walk with us every step of our journey.

"My son, my precious child,  
I love you and I would never leave you.  
During your times of trial and suffering,  
when you see only one set of footprints,  
it was then that I carried you."

Clarissa de Campos  
Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation

## Stir Up the Spirit

In the months between the Feast of Tabernacles and Passover, it can be easy to settle back into comfortable complacency. But complacency is a mortal enemy to Christians.



We're warned over and over again that we are to be about the Master's business and occupy till He comes (Luke 19:13).

The parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25), the letter to the Laodiceans (Revelation 3:14-21), the parable of the thief in the night (Matthew 24:42-44) and Paul's call to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:13) are just a few of the passages that urge us to always be alert and ready. It's so easy to fall asleep at the switch! It's so easy to do only what's easy, comfortable and routine. But if we fall into this trap, we miss out on opportunities to grow and on opportunities to serve God by helping others to grow.

Here are a few suggestions to stir up our spiritual lives:

- Widen your circle of friends in the Church. Extend the right hand of fellowship to a brother or sister who you do not yet know well.
- Give someone the gift of your time, care and concern. Really listen—mouth closed, ears open! Then go home and pray for that person.
- Create opportunities for brethren to spend time together and include people you do not know well.
- Visit another UCG congregation.
- Go out of your way to welcome newcomers and visitors to your congregation.
- Ask your brothers and sisters in the Church what they have learned in the past year.
- Shake up your study habits. Study a new subject or use a new Bible help. Refresh and expand your knowledge of the historical stage on which

the story of the Bible is played out. Read up on the history, cultures or philosophies of first century world.

- Take a fresh look at the UCG Web site. Use the literature library. Download some sermons, doctrinal papers or reprint articles. Exploit the Web site for all it's worth!

- Prepare for the Sabbath and make it a more relaxed day, with fewer emergencies and hassles. Remember the coming Sabbath all week long, so you can be prepared to enjoy it more (Exodus 20:8-9)!

- When you're at Sabbath services, talk about the Bible and the Kingdom of God more and worldly interests less (Isaiah 58:13-14).

- Mount a fresh assault on one of your spiritual weaknesses.

- Take a fresh look at the needs of your congregation and look for opportunities to serve.

Jay Turner  
San Jose, California, congregation

## Summary of the Three Resurrections

The following summary forms the conclusion of the doctrinal paper on "The Resurrections" recently posted to the UCG Web site at [www.ucg.org/papers](http://www.ucg.org/papers). The paper goes through the scriptural basis for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the first resurrection, the second resurrection and the third resurrection, with an appendix on "Lazarus and the Rich Man."

1. The first resurrection is only for the dead in Christ. It is a resurrection to immortality. The wicked are not in this resurrection. Those who never had an opportunity for salvation are not in this resurrection.

2. There is another resurrection to mortal life; therefore, it cannot be the first resurrection. Since God offers His Holy Spirit to them, they will have an opportunity to receive salvation. The wicked cannot be in this resurrection, as God will not be giving His Holy Spirit to them.

3. The only time the wicked can come up in a resurrection is at a separate time. It cannot be in the first resurrection. Nor can it be in the one where God offers salvation to those who never had an opportunity. This resurrection is for the purpose of final judgment on the wicked who will be destroyed along with the earth.

## Be Ready to Give an Answer: Why Do You Make Such a Big Deal About Old Testament Laws?

**How does the Bible describe God's law?** His commandments show us how to love and are not burdensome (1 John 5:3). Paul said that love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:9-10). Christ summarized the whole law as love for God and man (Matthew 22:37-40). Christ also said those seeking eternal life should keep the commandments (Matthew 19:17-19). James called it a royal law and a law of liberty (James 2:8, 12). David loved and meditated on God's law—it gave him wisdom and understanding—it was sweet to him (Psalm 119). Paul called it holy, just and good and spiritual (Romans 7:12, 14). The heart of the New Covenant is that God's laws will be written on our hearts and minds (Hebrews 10:16).

**What happens when we disobey the law?** The Bible calls this sin (1 John 3:4). As obedience brings blessings, disobedience naturally brings curses (Deuteronomy 28). "All unhappiness, misery, anguish and woe have come from transgressing God's law" (*Fundamental Beliefs*, page 12). Sin leads to death and, sadly, we have all sinned (Romans 6:23; 3:23). God hates sin so much that He made the penalty death. But He loves us so much He let His Son pay that awesome penalty for us (John 3:16).

**What about grace?** Yes, we do believe in and deeply appreciate God's grace, which we will consider next month in a study of our fundamental belief on "The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ." Law and grace are both wonderful gifts of God. Law shows us the wretchedness of our putrid evil sins and points us to repentance and forgiveness through God's grace. Grace leads us to utter appreciation for our holy and merciful God and to a deepening desire to be like Him. How? By doing what He says—obeying His law of love in its full spirit and intent.

**For More Information:** *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, "Sin and God's Law"; The Ten Commandments.*



## Local Church Updates

### Marriage Retreat Held in Lakeland; 146 Attend "Recapture Your Love"

Nov. 15 and 16, 146 people convened in Lakeland, Florida, for "Recapture Your Love," a marriage retreat sponsored by the Orlando, St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida, congregations. The Sabbath began with a 10:30 a.m. service in the Lakeland Center. Fred Kellers, pastor of Bowling Green, Kentucky; Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and Nigeria, gave the sermon titled, "Why Marriage?"

After a break for lunch and time to check into the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, seminars began at 3:30 p.m.



Attendees gather in Lakeland, Florida, for "Recapture Your Love," a marriage retreat sponsored by the Orlando, St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida, congregations

Sabbath afternoon in the Lakeland Center.

David Treybig, pastor of St. Petersburg and Tampa, welcomed everyone and presented boxes of chocolates to the couple that had been married the longest, Charles and Betty Oldroyd (52 years), the couple that had been married the shortest, Jacob and Kelly Flynn (two weeks) and the couple that had come the furthest, William and Betty Johnson (San Antonio, Texas).

Mr. Treybig then gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Conflict Resolution," outlining the five most common styles of resolution and biblical principles couples can use to solve their disagreements. The next seminar was "Recapturing Romance" by Fred Kellers. In this presentation, Mr. Kellers gave practical ideas for both husbands and wives on how to keep romance alive. The seminars concluded at 5:30 p.m. and everyone was free to go to dinner and spend time with his or her mate.

On Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., the seminars resumed with Richard Thompson, pastor of Ocala, Jacksonville and Orlando, Florida, presenting, "Ending the Financial Wars." Mr. Thompson explained that some people are savers and some are spenders. Ideally, he said, we need to be a little of both.

Chris Moen, associate pastor of Ocala, Jacksonville and Orlando, gave

the next seminar on "Communication." Mr. Moen covered issues couples often have problems discussing and gave suggestions on how couples can communicate more effectively.

The retreat concluded at noon on Sunday so everyone would have time to return home. Many couples, including the presenters, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to spend time with their mates and to focus on God's instructions regarding marriage.

David Treybig

### A Special Blessing: a Pastor's Memorable Moment

Nothing can be more special than to lay hands on your own grandchild and ask God's blessing on the day of the

ble<sup>s</sup>sing of the little childre<sup>n</sup>.

That is exactly what Jim O'Brien, pastor of the Cincinnati North, Ohio, congregation, was able to do Nov. 1, 2003.

For over 30 years Mr. O'Brien has laid hands on many babies and prayed special

prayers for them, but this was the first time for him to be able to ask God's blessing on his own grandchild.

Madison Brooks O'Brien was born Feb., 22, 2003, to Todd and Julie O'Brien, and she is the first grandchild for Donna and Jim O'Brien. Her other grandparents, Ron and Carol Froedge, are members of United also and live in



Jim O'Brien asks for God's blessing on his first grandchild, Madison Brooks O'Brien, Nov. 1 (photo by Janet Treadway)

Paducah, Kentucky. Madison's great-grandmother, Mildred Stalions, is also a member of United in the Paducah congregation. Madison was the only child, this year, to take part in the ceremony in Cincinnati North.

Janet Treadway

### Columbus Teens Have Inaugural Pizza and Game Night

On Nov. 1, 2003, the Columbus, Ohio, teens held their inaugural pizza and game night at our new church hall. Young people and parents enjoyed an evening of pizza, music, air hockey, Ping Pong and parlor games.

The group will be holding similar



Tristan Ruml plays air hockey, watched by Stephen Jarvis and Marcus Galli

Saturday evening game nights every month throughout the winter. Interactive Bible studies for the teens are conducted earlier on the Sabbath during the first part of services. Teens and parents who would like to visit with us are always welcome.

The teens have also held a planning and suggestion meeting for activities in 2004. Further events will be posted on the local congregation Web site.

M.C. Ruml

### Church Teen Featured in Newspaper as a Player of the Week

Jeremiah Johnson, who attends the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation, was chosen as a player of the week for his high school football team. The local newspaper, *The Delavan Enterprise*, reported Oct. 30 that because the game was on a Thursday night, "Johnson took



Jeremiah Johnson's coach knows he won't play on the Sabbath, but picked him as a player of the week when he could play

the field for a majority of the game, racking up three unassisted tackles and some big hits."

The paper explained, "Because of religious beliefs, Johnson is unable to play games after sunset on Friday nights." The article quoted coach Scott Imrie as saying, "Jeremiah is a very good player . . . I'd love to play him more, but there are some things that are out of my control. It was definitely the best game of his career."

Steve Nutzman, Jeremiah's pastor in the Beloit congregation, said, "Jeremiah believes in the Sabbath day and has set a good example in this regard. The football coach realizes he will not play on the Sabbath and makes accommodations for him to play the Thursday night games. The coach even wants to try to change the football schedule next year so more games are played earlier in the week instead of Friday nights."

### Beloit and Wisconsin Dells Sponsor Fourth Annual Clothing Giveaway

The fourth annual clothing giveaway, sponsored by the Beloit and

women and men, including shoes, coats, hats, toiletries and even some children's toys. Many people who received the free clothing expressed sincere joy at receiving quality clothing for their families.

In order to publicize the event, Church members distributed flyers, wrote up public service announcements for use on radio and television and made phone calls to various agencies in Rockford.

Joe and Jan Jacoby of the Beloit congregation organized the event with the help of dozens of brethren. Over three dozen brethren, including many teens, arrived very early the day of the giveaway to sort and stack clothing, set up tables, and prepare the refreshments. Three local television stations sent video crews to tape the event, and the footage and interviews aired during their Sunday evening newscasts.

Steve Nutzman



Brethren from the Beloit and Wisconsin Dells congregations supplied over 700 people with clothing and other items (photos by Marty Wineinger)

### Prophecy Seminar Held in Oakland

Sabbath, Dec. 6, was special for first-time visitors, guests and members from the Oakland, San Jose and Stockton, California, congregations as a day-long *World News & Prophecy Seminar*, featuring pastors Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes and Robin Webber, was held.

Three weeks earlier, to promote the seminar, Oakland members stuffed 1,500 invitation letters that were sent to *Good News* magazine subscribers in the Oakland and San Jose areas.

The seminar opened with a regular 10:30 a.m. Sabbath service with split-sermons, followed by four lectures in the afternoon. Around 200 people from various parts of Northern California attended the event, coordinated by local pastor, Jim Tuck.

"We probably had over a dozen new



Darris McNeely speaks during *World News & Prophecy Seminar* in Oakland, California (photo by Fred Crow)

people," said Mr. Tuck. "We had people who drove a hundred miles from Santa Rosa to attend. Also, we had a family come up from Salinas, which is quite a distance."

Each speaker gave two presentations. Mr. McNeely spoke on, "The Angel in the Storm" and "America's Culture War: Threat to Homeland Security." He said, "Even though God is still watching over the U.S., it is becoming a post-Christian or even an anti-Christian nation." He also wondered, "Will God's blessing and presence continue through this time of grave danger?"

Mr. Rhodes provided spiritual and global historical perspectives by focusing on the Bible and the English-speaking peoples in his presentations, "The Book That Changed the World" and "America and the Bible." He said, "As Britain's defeat in Singapore signaled its vulnerability, 9/11 was America's Singapore, heralding that even the U.S. can be defeated."

In his first presentation, "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem," Mr. Webber likened the city to the Christian life experience. As God brought Jerusalem from nothing to significance, so He is developing His people. At the conclusion of his second address, "What Does God's Word Say About the Two Witnesses?" he stressed that converted people are to come out of the world and "have faith that God is true to His word."

A luncheon was provided by the Oakland Church members, and refreshments later in the day were served by the San Jose congregation.

The following day the presenters and their wives were able to tour places of interest in Oakland and San Francisco.

*Richard Calenius*

## Lewiston Hosts Family Night

For several weeks leading up to the Sabbath of Dec. 6, members of the Lewiston, Idaho, congregation had been promised an unforgettable evening of family fun. When the date finally arrived, no one walked away disappointed.

The theme for the day was Family,

Food and Fun. Services were held in the afternoon to accommodate a busy evening and guests were in attendance from the Post Falls, Idaho, congregation. The sermonette was given by Mike Iiams from Post Falls, focusing on being thankful for large and small things while we still have them. The sermon was given by Lewiston elder Joe Hasenoehrl, whose theme was loving relationships, family and togetherness. He brought out many good points, including being yourself when with friends, recognizing that we are one body, not trying to make friends into what we want them to be and sharing ourselves with one another.

Following services, members were treated to a build-your-own pizza buffet with all the trimmings. After a delicious dinner, 15 of us split into teams of five for a couple games of Pictionary using large dry-erase boards. During intermission, root beer floats were served, including a 32-ounce float in a



Lewiston family night: (top) Diane Hasenoehrl and Kay Barnett work in the kitchen baking made-to-order pizzas; Ryan Blue, Joe Hasenoehrl (enjoying his root beer float) and John Curtis watch the budding artists during Pictionary (photos by Ben Jorgensen)

glass beer stein presented to Joe Hasenoehrl in appreciation for his efforts in washing the dishes after dinner.

After intermission, another round of Pictionary was played, this one with a twist. To help emphasize the day's theme of family, Ben and Gina Jorgensen decided to inform the congregation of the upcoming arrival of their first child. By drawing a picture of a pregnant woman on the dry-erase board and arrows pointing to herself, Gina was able to get her team to guess that she was the one who was pregnant. The news made everyone very excited.

Family, Food and Fun Nights in Lewiston are planned for the first Sabbath during the winter months, and anyone from surrounding congregations is welcome to attend. Future plans call for a build-your-own taco bar, baked potato bar, word games and a sing-along.

*Gina Jorgensen*

## Teen Wins Best of Show at State Fair

Krystal Nozzle, 13, won a blue ribbon at the district fair for her Lion King cross-stitch. During the Feast her entry went on to win the Best of Show at the

Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock in the junior division, cross-stitchery. When she came back from the Feast, she got a call telling her that her entry had been entered in the state fair and had won.



Krystal Nozzle wins Best of Show with her cross-stitch

Krystal attends services in Little Rock.

*Elizabeth Harris*

## Church Teen Sets Five School Records

Four years of hard work and perseverance paid off for Arielle Falardeau, named Most Valuable Player of the West Lafayette High School track team last spring.

Arielle is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Grovak and attends the United Church of God in Lafayette, Indiana.

Her athletic career as a sprinter and hurdler culminated in her setting an unheard of five school records in her senior year. Because of her achievements, an award was named in her honor. The Arielle Falardeau Sprinter/Hurdler Award will be given to girls who excel in these areas. Known for her faith and religious beliefs, her greatest honor was being asked to offer the



Arielle Falardeau goes on to first place in 100-meter high hurdles

invocation at the annual track banquet.

She was an All Regional Champion, making her number 1 in the 300-meter low hurdles in all schools in a nine-county area. She was seeded eighth in the state finals and was named an Indiana All Star as one of the top three senior hurdlers in Indiana. She won

fifth in the Midwest Meet of Champions in Ohio.

She was one of three seniors at her high school to letter all four years in boys or girls track. She also lettered all four years in swimming. Arielle was offered the chance to run for the women's team at Purdue University where she is a freshman, but she opted to concentrate on academics there.

*Michelle Grovak*

## Alone in a Changing Country

The train rolled into Ceske Budejovice exactly on schedule on an overcast day in November 2003. Irene smiled as I walked into the lobby of the well-worn rail station. For 10 years, Josef and Irene Vylupek have lived in the southern part of the Czech Republic, a country in Eastern Europe slightly smaller than the state of South Carolina. The story of their flight from Czechoslovakia to Austria, Germany, the United States and back home was told in the July 2002 *United News* article "A Reunion Across 5,000 Miles." I am thankful that God provided an opportunity to visit them again.

On the day of my visit, we enjoyed an animated discussion covering many topics, and we reminisced about their early years in the Church in Lubbock, Texas. While the return to the Czech Republic was a return to many things familiar, Irene expressed deep concerns about the future of their country.

Many challenges lie on the horizon for its citizens. The Czech Republic is one of 10 countries scheduled to join the European Union on May 1, 2004. A national referendum was conducted in mid-July 2003, with 77 percent balloting in favor of EU membership. The country will not adopt the euro as their unit of currency until 2007.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the average Czech family has

before it gets better, since the adoption of the euro in surrounding countries seems to be resulting in steady price increases. Nations in similar situations have sometimes turned to widespread protests, demonstrations and even violence.

The populace of the Czech Republic is at this time apathetic toward organized religion. Equal percentages profess Catholicism and atheism (40 percent each), likely reflecting the strong Catholic heritage coupled with recent history under communism. Remaining Czechs are of Protestant, Orthodox or Jewish faiths.

But back to the Vylupeks. Early in 2002, Josef suffered a serious stroke. He spent several months in a hospital before moving to a nursing home, and in the aftermath had considerable difficulty with his blood pressure and heart rhythm. For over one and a half years, Irene daily rode a bus to the nursing home to spend hours with her husband. The climb up the hill from the bus stop



Josef and Irene Vylupek receive a visit in the Czech Republic from David Dobson last November. Josef has since died

to the nursing home was difficult. Irene showed me a newly constructed facility only a few minutes' walk from their apartment where they planned to move Josef, since his health improved in autumn 2003. It was not to be. Four weeks after my visit, Josef succumbed to his health problems and died in mid-December.

Life is peaceful for Irene now, but surrounding conditions are worsening. Please pray that God will continue to provide her with comfort, safety, good health and quality of life. Irene asked that I pass along her thanks to everyone for their prayers as well as for the numerous encouraging letters and cards. She now is the only UCG member in the Czech Republic. Please continue to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

*David Dobson*

## Purdue Graduate

Joel Falardeau, son of Michael and Michelle Grovak of West Lafayette, Indiana, graduated from Purdue University Dec. 21, receiving a bachelor of science degree in aeronautical engineering.

Joel attends the Lafayette congregation. He also attended in Cincinnati, Ohio, when he was a co-op student at General Electric. For most of his college career he was on the President's List, maintaining a 4.0 average. He plans to work in the aircraft industry or go on to get a graduate degree.



Joel Falardeau

# Announcements

## Births

Sam and Shannon Sweat of Dallas, Texas, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Jordan Leanne, on March 21, 2003. Jordan was born



Jordan Leanne Sweat

weighing in at 6 pounds 12 ounces and 19.75 inches long. She is beautiful!

Dave and Debbie (Neff) Magruder of Denver, Colorado, are excited to announce the birth of their second son, Dylan Sloan. Dylan was born on



Dylan Sloan Magruder with big brother Tristan

June 24, 2003, and weighed 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Big brother Tristan is also thrilled about his new little brother. The proud grandparents are Larry and Linda Neff of Denver and Wilson and Martha Magruder of Reston, Virginia.

Michael and Jennifer (Linton) DeSouto of the Colorado Springs,



Zachary Michael DeSouto

Colorado, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their first child. Zachary Michael DeSouto was born June 26, 2003, weighing 8 pounds and was 21 inches long.

## Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Purdy of the Akron, Ohio, congregation are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Anita Caroline, to Kenneth John Miller, of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Plans are being made for a Feb. 8, 2004 wedding in Kent, Ohio.

Correction from last issue: Andrea Shipman and George Allen III are planning a June 6 wedding in Big Sandy, Texas, not Oneonta, Alabama, as previously announced.

## Weddings

John and Merrie Elliott and David Delamater and Cheri Dorsey are pleased to announce the marriage of their children Michelle Marie Elliott and



Scott and Michelle Delamater

Jonathan Scott Delamater. The wedding was performed at the Waterfront at Tempe Lakes in Tempe, Arizona, on Aug. 3, 2003, by John Elliott. Scott and Michelle live in Phoenix, Arizona, and attend the Phoenix East congregation.

Henry and Wanda Ward and Mrs. Genevieve York are pleased to announce



Sue and Frank Dunkle

the marriage of their children Myra Susanna Ward and Frank Edgar Dunkle. Sue and Frank were wed Aug. 3, 2003,

in Erlanger, Kentucky. Frank and Sue now reside in Blacklick, Ohio, and attend the Columbus, Ohio, congregation.

Trish Allen and Wylie Marshall of Houston, Texas, were united in marriage on Dec. 20, 2003. Their immediate families attended the ceremony performed by Ken Giese, pastor of the Houston



Trish and Wylie Marshall

South congregation. The couple met at the 2002 Feast in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

## Anniversaries

Ellis and Pat Stewart celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 17, 2003, during the Feast at Panama City Beach, Florida. Their children, Jim Stewart of Springfield, Illinois, and Liz Russell of Arcadia, California, along with grandson Wesley Russell, hosted a surprise reception. The first Sabbath after the Feast the East Texas congregation honored them with cake and punch.

Ellis and Pat were married in a simple private ceremony in Clayton, New Mexico, witnessed by two friends, one day shy of three months after meeting.

They were baptized at the spring festival in 1956 at Big Sandy, Texas. In August that year they moved from Wichita, Kansas, to Pasadena, California, to be close to the work of the Church. Later, both worked for Ambas-



Pat and Ellis Stewart

sador College. Pat worked for the mailing department and later as secretary for Jack Elliott until the Stewarts' first child was born.

In 1960 Ellis began working full-time for the Church in the printing department. In February 1965 he was asked to move to Big Sandy to set up and run the new Texas campus' printing operation. Ellis and Pat have been in East Texas ever since.

Ellis was ordained a local elder in 1975. He worked for the college until it closed in 1977. He then started his own company, Stewart Printing, which he still operates. Pat helped manage Annie's Tea Room and set up Annie's Gift Shop. She now works in the customer-service department at Strategic Fulfillment Group.

When asked what has made their marriage a success, Ellis said: "I feel what success we've had is because of God's mercy in our lives. Life has many ups and downs, but God called us at an early age in life and showed us the big picture of why we're here on earth. We were not able to see and know each other enough to get married and have all of the problems of life solved in only three months. You have to work out problems as you go along. I feel we took our marriage vows seriously. As with any contract, there is a responsibility on each other's part."

Pat agreed with Ellis and added: "We respect each other's talents and interests. We talk a lot. In other words, we communicate, and we've prayed a lot for patience and wisdom."

Fred and Elsie Taggart of the Fort Worth, Texas, congregation will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 19, 2004.

They were baptized together in September 1966 in Fort Worth and serve in God's Church as deacon and deaconess as well as mom and dad to all.

They have been blessed with five chil-



Fred and Elsie Taggart

dren, Claudette, Freda, Aaron, Jennifer and Robin. Their daughters reside in Fort Worth and their son in Houston, Texas. They also have 15 grandchildren and three great-grandsons. Fred's mother, Sallie Taggart, is living in Conroe, Texas at the age of 98. Elsie's mother, Edna Willis, 89, lives in Fort Worth.

On Jan. 17, 2004, their children invite all that can come to celebrate with them at 7 p.m., at the Orchestra Hall in Fort Worth. Fred and Elsie will renew their vows, performed by Britton Taylor, pastor of Fort Worth. They look forward to seeing many friends and family. Any that can't come but have memories please send a memory card to Fred and Elsie Taggart, 1505 Lincoln Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76106, (817) 626-7030. Sabbath services are at 3 p.m. at Orchestra Hall, 4401 Trail Lake Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109. You can contact Claudette Taggart Brown at (254) 694-6425.

## Obituaries

Jerry Dostal, a longtime member of God's Church, was born in Barron County, Wisconsin, Feb. 9, 1933. He died Nov. 8, 2003, in Greenwood, Indiana, after a short battle with heart disease.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Marge, two daughters, one son, four brothers, two sisters, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Jerry and Marge lived in several states including Indiana, Louisiana and Wisconsin, where they came into the Church. Fourteen years ago they returned to Indiana and have been members in the Indianapolis congregation ever since. Jerry will always be remem-



Jerry Dostal

bered for his quiet concern for those in need and helping wherever he was able.

Gregory K. Fairbanks, age 50, formerly of West Palm Beach, Florida, died Dec. 4, 2003, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

It is very rare in life that one comes in contact with, and is touched by such a true, loving spirit as the West Palm Beach congregation was with Greg. He was such a blessing to each of us individually and collectively as a congregation. Greg came into our lives at a time when we very much needed it as a church and as a family. His brief time with us will always be remembered and he will forever be in our hearts as we continue in our Christian walk.

Greg reminded us, through his example, of the joy of God, His truth and His way of life. There was nothing more important to Greg than his God and his family. We look forward to the resurrection when we will once again see our brother—this time not simply talking about the resurrection and the Kingdom of God, but living it!



Gregory K. Fairbanks

Our prayers go out for Kim, Greg's wife, and his children, Jeffrey, Sarah, Noah, Joseph, Timothy, Adam and the rest of his family members. We know

that God can ease the sorrow they have, and that is our prayer. We all loved Greg, and we all await the day we will see him helping Christ, with all those faithful servants that have gone before him, usher in God's Kingdom.

Lee Steed, 75, a member of the Ashe-



Lee Steed

boro, North Carolina, congregation, died Dec. 7, 2003. He had attended Sabbath services on Dec. 6, but complained of heart pains the next morning, and died a few hours later. The funeral service was conducted by David Mills on Dec. 10.

Lee had started attending church earlier this year; and both he and his wife, Louise, were baptized on July 30. He is survived by his wife of over 51 years, Louise; six children; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Irene M. Tucker, 78, of Mineral Wells, West Virginia, died Oct. 23, 2003, after an extended illness. Her death came peacefully while in a coma. She was a member of the Church of God since April 1968.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Robert B. Tucker, also a member since September 1967; one daughter, Louana Tullis of Puyallup, Washington;

one son, Roger Tucker of Greenwood, West Virginia; a granddaughter, Amy Fricke of Redmond, Washington; a grandson, Scott Tullis of Tacoma, Washington; a grandson, Eric Tucker of Parkersburg, West Virginia; and a granddaughter, Janie Tucker of Parkersburg.



Irene M. Tucker

Henry Burgess, 62, died on Dec. 15, 2003. Henry had a massive stroke around 30 years ago, severely affecting the left side of his body; in more recent years he suffered from diabetes, fluid retention and heart problems. He was baptized in 1977, and has been a faithful member of the Greensboro and Asheville, North Carolina, congregations. He has not been able to attend services for the last five years. Henry is survived by his mother, a sister, three aunts and an uncle.

Vara Lee Madsen, 88, died at her home in Enterprise, Alabama, on Nov. 23, 2003. She was born July 5, 1915, in San Antonio, Texas.

Vara Lee and her husband, Erling, traveled to many places throughout the world. She stayed active until Parkinson's disease completely disabled her. Her positions of employment included

manager of the Special Order Departments at Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya and for the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. She was especially fond of her position as Girl Scout leader for many years in Tehran. After Vara Lee and Erling retired, they enjoyed living in Laurel Hill, Florida. Throughout her years of being disabled and finally bedridden, she never complained and remained cheerful.

Surviving are her husband, Erling, of Enterprise; a daughter and son-in-law, Margie and Billy Tyner, Enterprise; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Richard Coleman, Gulfport, Mississippi, and Owen and Dianne Madsen, Covington, Georgia; three grandchildren: Melanie (and husband, Jeff Szucs), Ashley and Katy; three great-grandchildren: Lauren, Emily and Maren Szucs.

Vera Lee was a member of the United Church of God in Geneva, Alabama.

### "Council," continued from page 1

stages of preparation include:

- "The Nature of God and Christ" will be presented in February.
- The role of women in the Church.
- The calendar and postponements.
- A statement on observing the Sabbath in extreme northern regions.
- The modern identity of ancient Assyria.

In the afternoon, Media and Communications Services operation manager Peter Eddington moderated a critique of the 2003 Feast of Tabernacles video and initiated discussion of plans for 2004.

### Preaching the Gospel; GCE Plans

Dec. 7 was a very full day in which the morning meeting was dedicated to a wide-ranging discussion on the subject of the Church's work of preaching the gospel. Clyde Kilough moderated the morning discussion, which was

designed to continue a theme in previous meetings in which the Council analyzed the Church's efforts to preach the gospel and more effective ways of doing so.

During the afternoon the Council considered a plan proposed by the General Conference 2004 Advisory Task Force.

The Council selected and unanimously approved the conference theme, "Meeting the Challenges of the 21st-Century Church." Keynote speakers will be Lyle Welty and David Baker. Joel Meeker and Alan Hambleton will speak on the Sabbath. Through a series of resolutions, the Council also approved the:

- Meeting planning timeline.
- Budget.
- Promotional activities, additional suggestions, additional budget.
- Sabbath service structure.
- Chairman's reception.
- Format for reports given by international representatives.
- Tribute to deceased elders and wives.
- Welcome to newly ordained or credentialed elders.
- Topics for keynote speakers.

The selection of workshop topics and presenters was remanded back to the task force for final decisions. The task force will work with Richard Pinelli and

the regional pastors in making the final decisions.

Most of the discussion was generated by the task force's recommendation of three distinct interactive Q&A sessions.

Mr. Kilough put forward a resolution to accept the Council Q&A and remand the candidate Q&A and ballot issue Q&A back to the task force if they would choose to come forward with another proposal. The resolution was approved unanimously.

The day concluded with Council consideration of proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

### Broadcast TV; Evangelism Task Force

The main focus of the Dec. 8 morning meeting was an update from Peter Eddington on progress made in the development of the "Broadcast Television Media Strategy." (See "President Outlines Television Plans," below.)

The Council also quickly completed a few details of GCE 2004 planning. Doug Horchak gave a report on the progress of the Evangelism Task Force, including a 17-point outline for the study paper. The task force will strive to complete the study paper and have it ready

## President Outlines Television Plans

Plans are underway (future budgets permitting) to begin building a video studio here at the home office for the taping of television programs and educational videos. Because of the advancements of technology, the cost of setting up such a facility has actually come down significantly over the last 10 to 20 years, which makes it a viable opportunity for the Church. During the next couple of years, we plan to allocate funds for these one-time expenses.

The question then arises: "Where will these programs be shown?" One immediate outlet for our video programs is our Internet Web site. You probably have visited Web sites that offer short (or longer) video programs or taped messages. Once programs are produced, we will be able to place them on our Web site where they can be viewed 24 hours per day, seven days a week. We can also offer short, daily commentaries on critical news items, showing how they relate to the Bible. If the convergence of the Internet and television comes, these programs could also be seen on your TV—but at very little cost to the Church.

Of course, we will also probably continue to use cable-access stations, as we have been doing for the past several years with the *Tomorrow* (produced in Portland, Oregon) and *Good News* (produced in Beloit, Wisconsin) television programs. As funds permit, we will also research the use of commercial television. To take advantage of these opportunities, we need additional high-quality programming. Thus the plan to build a studio and gather a team together to make broadcast-quality television programs that will be another tool to preach the gospel to the world.

Roy Holladay

for Council review by the February 2004 meetings. And there was a brief discussion on procedures for Council committee work. The Council moved into executive session for the afternoon.

### Task Force Reports

Dec. 9's meeting was taken up by reports from two task forces. In the morning, Ken Giese presented the results and recommendations of the Christ-centered Servant Leadership (CSL) Review Task Force. The Council adopted the recommendations of the Review Task Force, including changing the name of the Christ-centered Servant Leadership Task Force to the Godly Leadership Task Force to continue the development of godly leadership material for the Church. The review task force noted that the term "servant leadership" carries baggage due to its misuse by other organizations, but the concept is fundamental and will be maintained and emphasized. The Council asked Jack Hendren, Larry Salyer and Bill Winner to join the task force.

In the afternoon, Britt Taylor provided the Council with an overview of the work of the Retirement Task Force.

The task force's report thoroughly analyzes the current situation and proposes steps that can be taken to structure a retirement program for U.S. ministerial and nonministerial employees. Mr. Holladay urged Council members to

read and study the report and direct questions to himself or directly to Mr. Taylor. At the February 2004 meetings the Council will discuss the retirement issues and at that time Mr. Holladay will seek a proposal so the administration will be able to begin to move forward with some of the elements of the report.

In a shortened final day of meetings Dec. 10, Richard Thompson updated the Council on the status of the "Sexual Misconduct Policy and Youth Protection Guidelines," which will be presented at the February meetings.

Richard Pinelli sought input from the Council concerning the production of a final version of the Church hymnal. Mr. Pinelli said he would like to see the new hymnal, with more than 200 hymns, completed in the next two years. The total cost of the project for 20,000 copies (including printing, distribution, song leader and pianist editions and accompaniment CDs) is estimated at \$100,000. Mr. Pinelli also received approval from the Council to test a suggestion to slightly modify the Sabbath services format to allow for the opening prayer before the congregational hymn singing.

You can find complete Council of Elders meeting reports on the Web at [www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm](http://www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm). The next Council meetings will be Feb. 25 to March 2. **UN**

This article was excerpted from Council reports filed by Don Henson.

## Ministerial Services Report

Ministerial Services operation manager Richard Pinelli told the Council that while there are plans and budget for three ministerial new hires this fiscal year, those positions remain open. It is important, he said, to take the time necessary to find the right men for those responsibilities. Five men were hired into the ministry last year and all are doing very well.

Mr. Pinelli reported that due to health considerations, Harold Rhodes will no longer serve as a regional pastor. He will be replaced by Bruce Gore. Mr. Pinelli described the procedure that is followed in making such a change. First he discussed the matter with the Ministerial Services team, the president and regional pastors. After that he approached Mr. Rhodes to suggest the change in responsibilities and then he spoke with Mr. Gore to see if he would be willing to serve as regional pastor. Mr. Pinelli also sought input from the pastors in the region, all of whom were supportive. He also pointed out that since 1996 there have been eight regional pastor changes.

In reference to the need to continue to develop men for the ministry, Mr. Pinelli stated that as the result of retirements, deaths and transfers, there are now 13.5 fewer salaried ministers than in 1998. (The half position is the result of a pastor who now divides his time between the field ministry and editorial.)

## News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

• 19,129 attended United Feast sites at 53 locations, 11 in the United States.

### Feast Coordinators Discuss Feast 2004

The U.S. Feast coordinators met Dec. 12 at the home office. The team went over last Feast's feedback concerning trends and needs and discussed next year's needs, plans and budgets. Feast-related articles for publication were discussed, as well as local Festival manpower needs.

Youth instruction at the Feast was addressed as well as using the Feast as a tool of evangelism. Service times and needs were a major item of concern as well in some areas.

Many ideas on how to better serve the needs of the brethren were discussed, including a broader perspective on keeping our preaching schedule but adding some educational classes. Webcasting and other electronic needs were the final items discussed for next Feast.

David Treybig, pastor of the St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida, congregations, was added to the Festival team as coordinator of the Jekyll Island, Georgia, site.

Richard Pinelli

### 2004 ABC Sampler and Mini-Samplers Scheduled

The Ambassador Bible Center has scheduled the ABC Sampler and four Mini-Samplers for 2004. The weeklong Sampler is scheduled for Aug. 16 to 20 in Cincinnati at the home office. Each year the ABC instructors present different material from their classes, so students are welcome to come each year and receive instruction from a different section of the Scriptures.

The Mini-Samplers are scheduled in



## What's New on the Web?

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

#### ■ Good Works Program

New project: Ghana.

[www.ucg.org/goodworks/](http://www.ucg.org/goodworks/)

#### ■ UCG Commentary on This Week's News

Weekly commentaries by the United Church of God written on world news and trends, from a biblical perspective. Read these recent commentaries and more:

"Separation of Church and State' Is Not Uniformly Applied"

"The Unrealized Lesson of Saddam's Fall and Capture: What Is It?"

"The Holiday Stress Begins"

[www.ucg.org/commentary/](http://www.ucg.org/commentary/)

#### ■ Current World News & Trends

Browse up-to-date world news events by subject categories!

[www.ucg.org/worldnews/](http://www.ucg.org/worldnews/)

#### ■ E-mail Updates and UCG eNews

Receive E-mail updates relevant to UCG members and weekly HTML newsletters with [ucg.org](http://ucg.org) updates. Sign up today!

[www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm](http://www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm)

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

■ The January *Virtual Christian Magazine* includes "What Goes Around, Comes Around," "The Coming Age of Grace," "In the Image of God," "Disbelief in the Bible," "The Great I AM" and more.

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

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

■ The January-March issue of *Vertical Thought* has articles on dating, "What Guys and Girls Want," "A Touchy Subject," faith, recovering from mistakes, "Letters From Ukraine," Q&As and more. The Web site includes material not in the printed magazine.

[verticalthought.org](http://verticalthought.org)

### Other Helpful Links

■ **Youth** and young adults' Web site. [ucgyouth.org](http://ucgyouth.org)

■ **Singles'** Web site for singles in the Church. [www.ucgsingles.org](http://www.ucgsingles.org)

■ **Good News Bible Reading Program.** [www.ucg.org/brp](http://www.ucg.org/brp)

■ **Good News Web site.** [gngmagazine.org](http://gngmagazine.org)

■ **Anchor:** A message of hope for those struggling with homosexuality. [www.anchorhelp.com](http://www.anchorhelp.com)

■ **UCG News pages** with Council meeting reports, letters, Home Office Updates, etc. [www.ucg.org/about/council](http://www.ucg.org/about/council)  
[www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice](http://www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice)

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

areas where requests have been received on a priority basis. The instructors try to do various sections of the United States and internationally if possible. The following areas have been selected:

- Lansing, Michigan, in September. Melvin Rhodes is the pastor.

- Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in October. Anthony Wasilkoff is the pastor.

- Charlotte, North Carolina, in November. David Mills is the pastor.

- Sacramento, California, in November. Clyde Kilough is the pastor.

The exact dates, locations and all the other details will be announced later.

"We're excited to bring a little bit of ABC to our brethren in these areas," said Gary Antion, ABC coordinator. "Keep a watch in *United News* for further information on these exciting programs."

### Anchor Being Sent to All Elders

The current issue of *Anchor* is being mailed to all the ministry of the United

Church of God along with the current *Ministerial Quarterly*.

In a cover letter, Melvin Rhodes and Dennis Luker of the Focused Education Committee wrote, "*Anchor* is a newsletter devoted to the subject of homosexuality. Our purpose is to educate those who wish to understand and help, to encourage those who struggle and to support their loved ones. . . . After you have read it, we would kindly ask that you leave it on your information table."

The publication of *Anchor* has been approved by the UCG Council of Elders. More information can be found on the Web at [Anchorhelp.com](http://Anchorhelp.com).

### GN Bible Studies Draw Visitors in British Isles

Bible studies for *Good News* readers have been held in various areas of the British Isles. In Taunton, 10 people who had never attended a United Sabbath ser-

vice were present Nov. 29. In the Isle of Man, five visitors attended Dec. 6, swelling total attendance to 18. In Tonbridge Dec. 13, one *GN* reader with no Church of God background arrived from the 177 invited, and she expects to be attending on a regular basis.

### Newsstand and Brochure Programs Being Revised

The Media and Communications Services department has reevaluated the newsstand program and will be downsizing it beginning with the March/April 2004 *Good News* to use the funds for significantly increasing mailed promotions to younger families. The newsstand program will continue but on a smaller scale. The brochure program will continue and be augmented by a test in various congregations of 5,000 copies of the new first-contact brochures, *The Debt Trap*.

### Education Meetings Planned

Roy Holladay announced that a series of meetings on the Church's educational efforts will be held at the home office March 21 to 23. The meetings will include all four areas of the Church's educational programs—youth, general, ministerial and focused education.

Mr. Holladay said, "We also plan to give our educational initiatives a good review and take a fresh look at what resources we have available for 'preparing a people'—i.e., how we are providing spiritual food to our brethren.

"One goal of these meetings is to find a way to better coordinate our efforts, so that we have a systematic approach to providing programs and material for all ages," Mr. Holladay said. He emphasized that this "does not mean the individuals involved in those areas have not done a good job. They have, and I believe God has blessed those efforts. However, we always want to be seeking how we can better fulfill our mission."

## 2003 Statistics at a Glance

For 2003, total mail received at the home office was 382,436 pieces (up 2 percent from 2002), and 384,889 pieces of literature were sent out (up 17 percent). The literature mailed out does not include *The Good News* and other periodicals that are not mailed from the home office.

Subscription requests came from many sources, including 33,336 from card decks, 4,757 from newsstands, 2,717 from radio, 2,208 from waiting rooms, 1,888 from brochures and even 310 responses to the *Reader's Digest* ad run in June 2000! Below are some other statistics:

	Dec. 2002	Dec. 2003	Percentage Change
U.S. Donors	4,242	5,207	23%
U.S. Coworkers	1,867	2,281	22%
U.S. Baptisms	226	177	-22%
U.S. Bible Study Course Subscribers	23,226	16,537	-29%
U.S. BSC Graduates on the 12-month Tape Program	3,636	3,410	-6%
United News Subscribers (worldwide, after renewal)	15,349	13,607	-11%
World News and Prophecy Subscribers (worldwide)	18,362	20,978	14%
U.S. Personal Correspondence (mail and e-mail)	2,083	2,649	27%



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at Milford, Ohio, and at  
additional mailing offices