



United Church of God  
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August 2005

## News At a Glance

### Meetings on Media and Africa Set

On Aug. 3 and 4 meetings will be held to finalize plans for video production for the new media center at the home office.

Sept. 6 and 7 the home office will host a two-day conference for the three areas of operations in Africa that are administered from the United States—East Africa, Nigeria and Ghana.

### Executive Assistant Named

Diane Bailey will move from her duties in Ministerial Services to become executive assistant to the president. She will also help Robert Dick in his duties as chairman of the Council of Elders and continue her assistance to Larry Darden, the Church's legal counsel.

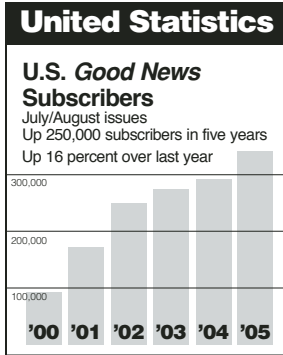
### Ministerial Transfers Announced

Ministerial Services announced July 23 that Lyle Welty will be transferring to serve the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation. Mr. Welty will continue as regional pastor. Doug Johnson will take Mr. Welty's place in Cleveland, Ohio, and will also pastor the Meadville, Pennsylvania, congregation.

Chris Moen, who has been assisting Richard Thompson in Florida, will take Mr. Johnson's place in serving the Canton and Mansfield, Ohio, congregations. Frank McCrady will serve the Cincinnati North, Ohio, congregation in addition to Dayton, where he is presently serving.

As announced last issue, Randall Stiver is transferring from Oregon to pastor

See "News at a Glance," page 2



## President Shares Vision for the Church

During his first busy month as president, Clyde Kilough took the time to answer the following questions:

**United News: What is your vision for the Church in terms of what you will focus on accomplishing over the next three to five years?**

**Clyde Kilough:** The short-term vision is no different than the long-term vision that has always existed for the Church: It must be a home in which both Church "veterans" and newcomers alike are spiritually growing and dedicated to the mission God has given us.

Being mission-focused drives the

hunger to preach the gospel, make disciples and care for those disciples. That steers our focus away from ourselves, and that is critically important for a healthy spiritual mentality. Being inwardly-directed sows its own seeds of destruction for individuals and organizations alike.

Therefore, we must cast our eyes on something bigger than ourselves, on God and the work He has given us to do. We have the greatest calling, work and future anyone could ever have in this lifetime. That focus will make us zealous and upbeat, but also realistic

and sober, responsible and accountable.

That big picture drives the short-term work we have in specific areas of operations. One of our strengths is our track record of being fiscally conservative and healthy, which speaks to responsible financial stewardship. Considering the limited resources in both members and finances, it's quite amazing how much product we have turned out in 10 years, which speaks to the dedication of the Church members.

We can't determine the number of members and the amount of money

we'll have, so we always have to work on more effectively coordinating those resources. That means carefully evaluating the efforts of the past 10 years to identify the most effective tools we've had to reach the world with the gospel message and care for the disciples.

We need a greater passion and zeal for our calling. Satan operates both overtly and covertly to try to kill our zeal, and we cannot be ignorant of his devices. We have recaptured the beliefs of the early New Testament Church; now we have

See "President," page 7

## ABC Raises Funds for Developing Nations



ABC raises funds for LifeNets Developing Nations Scholarships with a variety show/bake auction and a car wash

Ambassador Bible Center sponsored a LifeNets charity evening July 10 that raised over \$3,800 for the Developing Nations Scholarship Fund. This fund sends more than 50 young people to universities, colleges, upper grades of high school and vocational schools in nine countries.

The evening began with a dinner with an Asian theme. During dinner a silent auction was in progress with many items donated by local businesses, as well as members.

Following dinner a variety show mixed with an auction of baked goods by auctioneer Mark Riley entertained and raised money for the fund. Baked goods were contributed by ABC students and Cincinnati United Church of God members. The funds will help more than seven young adults go to college for one year.

ABC students also raised funds with a car wash on June 5. More coverage of ABC is planned for next issue. **UN**

## New French-Language Office Announced

■ Two elders to move to the home office to increase efficiency, coordination and level of service to French-speaking area.

Clyde Kilough announced July 18, at the home office Compass Check meeting, the opening of a French office in the home office building.

Joel and Marjolaine Meeker and their daughters, Fiona and Tatiana, currently in the St. Louis, Missouri, area, and Bernard and Linda Hongerlout and their son, Jeremy, currently in the Kansas City, Missouri, area, will be moving to Cincinnati as soon as is practical for them. (The Meekers hope to move in August—as soon as Mr. Meeker returns from a pastoral trip through Europe. The Hongerlouts hope to move a few months later.)

Mr. Meeker and Mr. Hongerlout will open a two-office bureau in the home office in order to serve the French-language areas of the world. Mr. Meeker and Mr. Hongerlout write and translate articles, edit and produce the Church's French-language publications, as well as recording sermons for the scattered francophone brethren and answering electronic and other mail.

Mr. Meeker acts as pastor for the brethren in Belgium, France and Switzerland in Europe; Martinique in the

See "French Office," page 2

## Challenger II—Rock Climbing and Leadership Program for Young Adults Set for Late December

by James Capo

Conviction. Commitment. Courage. These are the qualities of leadership and character we will be emphasizing at the Challenger II rock climbing program for young adults, which will be held Dec. 25 to Jan. 1 in the mountains outside Tucson, Arizona.

Challenger II is designed for young adults who are looking to challenge themselves both physically and spiritually. Older teens and young adults ages 18 to 30 who want to stimulate their spiritual growth—and deepen their faith and commitment to a life of service and leadership in doing the work of the Church—are invited to participate in this wilderness/adventure program.

Previous rock climbing experience is not required, but those who have participated in climbing programs at UYC camps or elsewhere will be able to take their rock climbing experience to "the next level" on the cliffs of 9,000-foot-high Mt. Lemmon.

We will focus on learning climbing skills including belaying, a wide variety of climbing techniques and rappelling. Depending on ability, participants will be exposed to lead-climbing skills and



Challenger II staff members doing the cancan atop Hitchcock Pinnacle, a featured climb for this year's program (photo by James Capo)

responsibilities as well. A highlight of this year's program will be climbing Mt. Lemmon's famous Hitchcock Pinnacle.

All participants will be expected to take responsibility for various aspects of the program, from equipment safety and maintenance to food preparation. Team building and mentoring under the guidance of ministers and members experienced in our

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## News At a Glance

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the Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio, areas.

President Clyde Kilough announced in his July 22 letter that John Cafourek, pastor of Salem, Oregon, will pick up Mr. Stiver's Eugene and Coos Bay, Oregon, congregations and Larry Walker, pastor of Bend and Medford, Oregon, will pick up Roseburg.

Another personnel change that will be taking place concerns Matthew Fenchel. He has worked the last seven years at the home office assisting the president and Council of Elders, and teaching at Ambassador Bible Center. He was offered a transfer back to the field ministry (having previously pastored congregations in Germany, Washington and Ohio). However, due to personal considerations, he could not undertake a move at this time. After cordial discussions, it was agreed that the best course of action would be his transition from paid ministerial employment to the noncareer ministry, which will commence in mid-August.

## Service Project Announced for Twin Cities Women's Conference

In keeping with the theme "Women After God's Own Heart," women planning to attend the Twin Cities Women's Conference are invited to collect the following items for a service project designed to serve their sisters overseas:

1. Eyeglasses to recycle.
2. Toothbrushes (new).
3. Lady's mirrored compact.

Attendees are asked to please bring these items with them to the Twin Cities Women's Conference to be held in Plymouth, Minnesota, on Nov. 13, 2005. For more information, contact Sandi Williams at sandiwilliams1@aol.com.

Colene Erickson

## Bend Correction: Echoes in the Canyon Number

The phone number for the Echoes in the Canyon dinner show was printed incorrectly in the *Festival Site Activity Announcements* brochure mailed to members in the United States and Canada. The correct number is (541) 322-9319.

## Attention Seniors Attending Kerrville Feast Site

Have you and your spouse been mar-

See "News at a Glance," page 14

## Good News Radio Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

Last month Gary Petty, *Good News Radio* host and pastor of the Austin, San Antonio and Waco, Texas, congregations, recorded 12 new radio programs at the home office. Overall, he has prepared, edited and hosted 120 programs over the last five years. Mr. Petty has soloed 23 programs. Also, 26 guest ministers have appeared on 97 programs.

Since the program first aired in August 2000, the programs have aired 255 times. Total response is 12,336, averaging 49 responses per week.

Also, over the five years since *GN Radio* began, the program has aired in 46 cities. The program is also currently airing on XM Satellite Radio, which has coverage throughout the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico. Also, the show airs on the Internet at [www.live365.com](http://www.live365.com), as well as the [ucg.org/radio](http://ucg.org/radio) Web site.

The majority of the stations on which the program airs are 50,000-watt news/talk format AM stations. Our programs have also aired on various FM-band stations featuring religious-talk and various music formats.

*Good News Radio* host Gary Petty said, "Because of the radio program I've had some interesting experiences. I've received a number of e-mails from people, some saying that the program has helped them have a better understanding of the Bible, others of a more negative nature. We've actually produced a couple of programs based on e-mails. Recently we recorded a program on Mardi Gras as a result of an e-mail question.

"The real future of audio productions like *Good News Radio* is on the Internet. On two occasions I've gone to visit new contacts here in San Antonio only to have the people voice sur-

prise that the host of *Good News Radio* would come and visit them. When I seemed confused because the program isn't aired in the San Antonio market, both people said that they listened online."

The 12 new programs recorded last month will begin airing the weekend of Aug. 6 and 7. They are:

- The Promised Rest.
- The Future of America (with Larry Greider).
- Getting Control of Your Money (with Ken Treybig).
- The Occult (with Steve Myers).
- God's Holy Day Plan—Part 1 (with Steve Myers and Gary Antion).

- God's Holy Day Plan—Part 2 (with Steve Myers and Gary Antion).
- The Hard Questions Christianity Must Face—Part 1 (with Larry Greider and Ralph Levy).
- The Hard Questions Christianity Must Face—Part 2 (with Larry Greider and Ralph Levy).
- The History of Europe and the Church—Part 1 (with Melvin Rhodes).
- The History of Europe and the Church—Part 2 (with Melvin Rhodes).
- War of the Worlds (with Melvin Rhodes).
- Signs of the End Times. **UN**

## Top 20 Programs Based on Responses

Myth and Truth About Armageddon  
What Happens After Death?  
The Ten Commandments  
The Mark of the Beast  
What Lies Beyond the Grave?  
4,000 Years of Christmas  
Death, Then What?  
Recipe for a Happy Marriage—Part 1  
Will I Go to Heaven?  
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—Part 1

Recipe for a Happy Marriage—Part 2  
The Spirit World  
Religions in Conflict  
Has God Abandoned the Jews? Part 1  
Secrets to Better Health—Part 2  
America's Culture War  
The Passion's Missing Dimension  
A Journey to Hell  
Role of Religion  
The Coming European Superpower

### "French Office," continued from page 1

Caribbean; Bénin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon. Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Rwanda and Togo in Africa; Mauritius in the Indian Ocean; as well as corresponding with interested groups in Burundi, Chad, the Congo and Madagascar.

A steady increase in workload over

the last few years has necessitated finding a way to do more work, more effectively, but with the same two employees. Having the two French-language elders employed by the Church work in the same office will allow them to work more closely together and share the workload more effectively.

Prior to this move, the French office was in Mr. Meeker's home, and during

his heavy international travel schedule there were sometimes difficulties contacting him. Now there should always be someone present in the French office to answer queries and handle any other contact requests.

Mr. Hongerlout said he looked forward to moving to the home office area, especially as it would allow him to be more effective in serving the Church.

Mr. Meeker added, "We really appreciate the support of Mr. Kilough and the home office team in making two office spaces available for us. This will help us to serve our French-speaking brethren much more effectively by allowing us to work more closely together, and to profit from the support of the staff without significantly increasing their workload." **UN**

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples.

President: Clyde Kilough

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## News From **Around the World**

### Young Adults Gather in Germany

by **Jesmina Allaoua**

From July 7 to 10, 25 people attended the third annual international young adults activity hosted by the United Church of God—Germany. Young adults from Belgium, England, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United States met in Mechernich, located in the scenic Eifel region between Cologne and the Belgian border. The venue for the activity was a former elementary school converted to a hostel-style activity center.

Following a suggestion made last year, an extra day was added to the weekend to provide more opportunity for social activities and fellowship. The young adults arrived Thursday, and after dinner the group enjoyed a sing-along around a campfire.

A hearty breakfast was the first item on Friday's agenda. Then the young adults hiked an hour to the small village of Satzvey to visit the town castle, which dates back to the 14th century and is one of the best preserved castles of its era in the region. After the hike back to camp and lunch, a brief rain shower provided an opportunity for indoor activities like card games, Ping Pong and "table soccer." In the evening, everyone was divided up into five groups for an interactive Bible study. After lengthy group discussion, each of the five groups reported its summary of what it means to be "in the world, but not of the world."

On Sabbath morning, another interactive Bible study followed a leisurely brunch. This time the break-out groups discussed the question "How are the challenges faced by the Church in Europe different from those faced in the

United States?" Once again, each group summarized its findings for everyone. Interestingly, the various groups reached several similar conclusions. Among them were the following:

- Europe is generally less religious than the United States. Therefore, the challenge is to prove whether there is a God at all, rather than which church is the right one.
- Language is a barrier in Europe.
- Church members in Europe are generally far fewer in number and more isolated. As a result, there are fewer opportunities for worship services and fellowship. A higher level of commitment may be required. The effect of church splits and the various "competing" groups make it more difficult.
- The challenge of having laborers for the harvest is greater.
- The bulk of the Church's literature is produced in the English language in the United States and may project an "American" image internationally.
- Given the Church's prophetic understanding, being closer to the "source" of certain prophetic fulfillment in Europe requires a different approach than one that may be possible from a greater distance.
- Being a greater distance from the home office means that people may not be as aware of what is going on at the home office or in the Church in the United States.

Following a light lunch, members of the Dormagen congregation in Germany joined the group for church services in the afternoon. Special music was provided by Elizabeth Cannon and Mary Ann Miller from the United States, who



Young adults from six countries meet in Mechernich, Germany

are currently studying in Europe.

In his sermon, German pastor Paul Kieffer discussed the practical application of loving your neighbor as yourself, a topic requested by the young adults. After services everyone enjoyed coffee and cake provided by the visiting Dormagen members, and in the evening young adults and visiting brethren combined efforts for a barbecue meal on the outdoor grill. Various sausages and salads were on the menu. After sunset the young adults enjoyed a round of storytelling and singing around a campfire.

On Sunday the group traveled to near-by Cologne, which was a Roman outpost on the Rhine River 2,000 years ago. A few young adults climbed several hundred steps to reach a viewing platform on one of the Cologne Cathedral's towers. After some sightseeing it was time for everyone to head home.

The weekend was a welcome opportunity for young adults of the same faith to fellowship and encourage one another. Hannah Ellams from England, Jesmina Allaoua from Germany (who coordinated the activity) and Mr. Kieffer discussed the possibility of pooling efforts to host a summer camp for young adults in the future. **UN**

### International News At a Glance

#### New German Booklet Being Produced

According to [www.ucog.org](http://www.ucog.org), as of July 6, a special fund-raiser to provide \$5,000 to help pay the printing costs for the German version of the booklet *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* had reached 85 percent of its goal. The booklet is scheduled to be printed in late summer, and six members of UCG—Germany are helping out as proofreaders for the booklet in its final proofreading stage.

With its 48 pages, the booklet is the largest that the UCG—Germany has printed to date. The forerunner of this booklet was the most frequently requested publication in the German language.

#### German Members Approve New Appeal Process

Members of UCG—Germany have approved a new member appeal policy. Altogether, 69 percent of registered members participated in the determination process, and the ballot was unanimous.

Members of the new appeals committee are Robert Berendt (Canada), Matthew Fenchel (United States), Gerhard Marx (United Kingdom) and John and Susan Miller (United States).

#### Isle of Man Has Special Sabbaths in the Capital

On June 25 the first of the three special Sabbath meetings in the Isle of Man had mixed success. We had anticipated that four *Good News* readers would attend, with another expressing an interest, but not able to come due to age and a lack of mobility. In the end, only one visitor attended the meeting, perhaps because there were transport difficulties during that day as some roads were closed at various times due to a charity walk.

All the congregation was present and the meeting itself went very well. It was felt that the three extended-sermonette format on a linked theme was effective. The group also felt that the pastor should write again to the mailing list and offer a personal visit.

The second of the three special Sabbath meetings took place on July 16, again with one *Good News* reader pre-

sent in addition to the congregation.

The third meeting in this series will take place on Sept. 3, and from that point the congregation will meet in Douglas in the center of the island on one Sabbath every couple of months. On the other Sabbaths the congregation will continue to meet in Ramsey in the north and in an occasional video group in Castletown in the south.

*David Fenney*

#### UCG—British Isles Reports June Circulation

Highlights from the circulation report for June, which covers all literature distributed by the Church from Britain, include:

- 829 letters and other responses.
- 353 new *Good News* requests.
- 73 new *Bible Study Course* requests.
- 617 other requests for 1,158 further items of literature.

There are now:

- 5,768 subscribers to *The Good News*; of which 4,586 are distributed within the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.
- 377 subscribers to the *Bible Study Course*.
- 440 subscribers to *United News*.
- 755 subscribers to *World News and Prophecy*.
- 398 subscribers to *Vertical Thought*.

Plans are underway to send renewal offers to subscribers to *United News*, *World News and Prophecy* and *Vertical Thought* for the first time. *The Good News* list is subject to an ongoing renewal program.

At this halfway point through the present calendar year it is interesting to note the percentage increases in the circulation of our regular publications since December 2004:

- *The Good News*, 57 percent.
- *United News*, 20 percent.
- *World News and Prophecy*, 27 percent.
- *Vertical Thought*, 60 percent.

*Jan Schroeder*

#### Canada Sends Semiannual Subscriber Letter

The Canadian office prepared and mailed a semiannual subscriber development letter in July. Just over 2,200 letters were sent, offering two booklets—*Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?* and *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* We've already received about 120 responses, for a response rate of 5.4 percent, in the first full week after the letters were sent out.

*Edwin van Pelt*

### Four Bible Lectures Held in New South Wales

A series of four public Bible lectures was held in May in the state of New South Wales, Australia. The topic was chosen to respond to publicity and questions arising over *The Da Vinci Code*. For all involved, this project has proven to be a challenge, a learning process and an encouraging experience beyond our expectations!

#### Invitations

Coordinated by the Australian National Office, 1,700 invitation letters were sent to *Good News* readers throughout Sydney and Wollongong. Additionally, Bruce Dean wrote 28 personal invitation letters to individuals who had been in contact with him.

A total of 22,000 flyers were also dropped in the surrounding letterboxes. These were dropped in the local area the week before each lecture:

- 7,200 in Wollongong
- 3,800 in Hornsby
- 4,000 in Parramatta
- 7,000 in Hurstville

Members assisted with dropping flyers in most areas, and two commercial

drops were made in Wollongong and Hurstville.

Once the work was done, members could only pray for God's blessing. There was many a prayer to be said—for both our anticipated visitors and for us! We prayed for God to bring those who would benefit from contact with our members and the Church—that we could share understanding and truth with them. We also prayed that we could glorify God through our example and that we would know how to warmly welcome visitors and answer any questions we might encounter.

Many a flyer and prayer later, on the morning of the first lecture in Wollongong, excitement, anticipation and curiosity filled the air.

Posters and signs had been erected to assist visitors locating the venue. Pleasant background music played, and as visitors arrived, they were greeted and handed a Welcome Pack containing *Jesus Christ: The Real Story, Is the Bible True?* some handouts relating to the lecture and a business card with the pastor's (Bruce Dean's) contact details.

Each lecture began with a brief slide presentation providing an overview of the Church in Australia, followed by a 45-minute lecture, prepared and presented by Dr. Dean. Fellowship, tea, coffee and refreshments followed each lecture, involving a number of hearty discussions.

#### How Many People Came?

In Wollongong, we met three visitors—very encouraging. In Hornsby 11 people came—now it was difficult to contain our excitement!

In Parramatta, 31 new people turned up—we were buzzing, and the excitement was no longer contained! Finally, 14 visitors attended our lecture in Hurstville, capping off a truly encouraging experience, ending in joyful exhaustion. We had received 59 visitors in total.

Mr. Dean commented: "We were all very excited to have reached so many people with the truth of Jesus Christ—who He was and why He is returning again." There are plans for similar lectures in other areas!

*Jacqui Aftoumi*

# Australian Media Push, Other News From Down Under

The following reports are from the April-June 2005 United News Australia.

The Australian Media and Publishing Committee's responsibility is to reach as many people as we can with the message of the gospel and, along with the other members in God's Church, pray that God will bless our efforts.

Over the last four years God has made it very clear which doors He has wanted the United Church of God in Australia to walk through in order to proclaim this gospel message. We have been continually blessed during this time with increasing responses for a diminishing cost per response.

When planning for our media initiatives from April-July 2005, four avenues became apparent. It is expected that these four different means of proclaiming the gospel will add 3,500 new subscribers to our mailing list for *The Good News* and encourage over 60,000 visits to our Web site.

From these figures and other sources we have been able to conservatively calculate that in this 16-week period, 27,000 people will have had a chance to read some of our literature, from a copy of *The Good News* or online. Following is a list of the initiatives and the number of responses we expect to receive.

**The Yellow Envelope Drop** in Wollongong, Port Macquarie, Mackay/Clermont and Kingaroy/Warwick was planned to reach 276,000 households and bring in 430 responses. This drop is also being used to test a new, larger card offering three booklets and a subscription to *The Good News* magazine.

**The Response Direct Drop** in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia (centering on the capital cities) targets a particular population demographic responsive to religious advertising. It was set to reach 400,000 households and expected to bring in over 1,200 responses. *What Happens After Death?* was advertised along with a subscription to *The Good News* magazine.

**Reader's Digest Ad:** This ad was set for July and has national coverage. *Reader's Digest* has a circulation in Australia of 954,000. The ad title is "The Story of Satan," and it offers *Is There Really a Devil?* and *Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?* along with a subscription to *The Good News*. Over 1,000 responses are expected.

Ongoing **Internet Advertising** covers mainly Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and Great Britain. Internet advertising brings in an average of 20 booklet or magazine requests a day (not

counting PDF downloads or HTML viewings of a booklet or magazine on the Web site). We estimate PDF and HTML viewings and audio downloads average about 50 a day. Five new Internet ads are planned.

In addition to these efforts, requests for *Good News* subscriptions from other sources average about 150 a month. These sources would include member letterbox drops and card holders, newsletters, recommendations from friends and the insert cards in *The Good News*.

Ruth Rout

## Internet Advertising

The Australian Internet advertising works like this: We provide an advertisement, which incidentally must meet strict editorial guidelines set by the provider, and a list of associated keywords and phrases. When someone searches on a keyword or phrase that matches an entry in our list, then our ad appears alongside the search results.

The ad aims to motivate the searcher to seek more information by clicking on the ad. The click takes the searcher to a related page on our Web site, where we promote a booklet or topic and invite the visitor to either order or download the target booklet.

For example, one of our ads is for: "The Biblical Crucifixion—Three Days and Three Nights? Does the Bible teach Good Friday/Easter Sunday?" This ad links to: [www.ucg.org.au/offers/hh.asp](http://www.ucg.org.au/offers/hh.asp), which promotes the *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?* booklet. Some of the keywords associated with this ad are: *crucifixion, Easter Sunday, Good Friday and resurrection*.

Approximately 30 text ads are running at the moment, and we are testing response to an image ad. These ads offer six different booklets. In addition there are also six ads on different topics.

April 2005 was our best month so far. The ads were shown 1.5 million times (up from 166,000 in December 2004), with 9,900 clicks (up from 5,791 in December 2004). The cost per click averaged \$0.18 (compared to \$0.21 in December 2004) and cost per response averaged \$0.95 (down from \$1.45 in December 2004).

Subject to Australian National Council approval of the 2005/2006 Media and Publishing Committee budget request, we plan to increase our Internet advertising activity in the next financial year.

Harold Ingham, webmaster

## Treasurer's Report March 31

Income was much higher than expected during March, and total income for the year starting July 2004 has also been very strong. Our expenses in total remain very controlled.

**Allocation of Spending:** Media promotions and responses to requests of members and subscribers (mission support) represent 29 percent of our total expenditure. An additional 1 percent was sent to the United States for the media center (\$10,212). Pastoral, local congregations and youth programs represent almost 40 percent of the funds we've spent. Approximately 19 percent of expenses has been for the National Office in supporting our media and congregational efforts. Festival and Assistance Funds have been some 5 percent, and our insurances, audit and committee expenses make up less than 6 percent.

**Surplus:** Our year-to-date income has exceeded expenses by approximately \$9,000. This is much better than we projected. We expect a modest deficit of perhaps \$10,000 by the end of June. We have, however, an adequate surplus of funds to cover this deficit.

Drew Efmov

Full reports can be found at [www.ucg.org.au/content/uma.asp](http://www.ucg.org.au/content/uma.asp).

# Philippine Campers Enjoy Eden and Climb Mt. Apo

From all over the Philippines, 72 campers and staff members gathered for the annual summer United Youth Camp held at Eden Nature Park, Mt. Talomo, Davao City. The camp officially started on Sunday, May 22, and lasted until May 29. A second part of camp was an ascent to the highest peak in the Philippines, Mt. Apo, which took place May 30 to June 3.

The theme for this year's camp was adopted from last year's—"Character Counts"—with the added challenge of climbing Mt. Apo, which rises 10,311 feet above sea level.

The campers were divided into four dorms, two dorms each for both boys and girls. The four dorms in camp were 1B, 2B, 1G and 2G, consisting of 10 campers with two counselors each. Each dorm was assigned two tents with six persons in each tent.

Activities at camp included volleyball, table tennis, soccer, softball, swimming with water polo, riflery, wilderness skills and the confidence course, highlighted by the wall-climbing and rappelling activity. The workshops consisted of flower and paper card making, cooking and baking, electronics, carpentry, journalism and public speaking.

Responsibility, teamwork, camaraderie, hard work—these were just some of the traits mentioned when campers were asked what they learned by cooking their own meals. They were given food supplies, kitchen utensils, a gas tank with stove burner, and they



areas of the country, which also affected the Davao lowlands with heavy rain.

The first part of camp ended May 29. It was capped off with a hearty buffet lunch—a treat for all the sacrifice and the job well done by both campers and staff. After that pictures were taken and the awards ceremony was held while the jeepneys were waiting to take everyone back to Davao City.

were on their own to cook their share of food in camp.

From day one until the last day of camp at Eden, both campers and staff members experienced new highlights every day, starting with the Christian living classes every morning. Each day, one dorm was to present a role play that would depict the pressures youths in the Church experience in their contact with the outside world. The camp director, Edmond Macaraeg, would then facilitate an interactive discussion and then point out valuable insights and lessons from the Bible.

Reports from the staff of Eden Nature Park were that there had been a continuous downpour of rain days before camp started. All who were at camp and those who witnessed from outside were amazed at how good the weather turned out to be, even with the ongoing typhoon happening in certain

the back. Mr. Macaraeg, who was not with the bus, was miraculously informed through a text message that went through from the campsite (even though it is a remote area with no cell phone signal).



From left: group shot of staff and campers; boys' dorms after confidence course; campers enjoy pizza during the last night of camp; at the peak of Mt. Apo (photos by Noel Roy Gilos, Richard John Macaraeg, Meryl Lynn Macaraeg and Charles Phillip Macaraeg)

It was already late at night when he contacted the Kidapawan police to ask where the buses parked for the night. At around 11 o'clock, the bus was finally located in a town 10 kilometers away with the food supply still intact.

That incident proved to be a blessing in disguise. Since we bought food for the first night at a small store, the food planned for the first night was not eaten, so there was still enough food to last

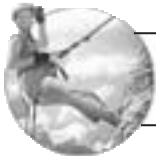


for another unexpected day on the mountain.

As most of the campers and climbers recounted, without the experience and the effort that was exerted in helping and encouraging each other to reach the top and back, from the first day of camp to the last, they would never have truly felt the bond that they felt with each other. Everyone recognized God's intervention on their behalf.

As one staff member commented, "Sufferings and trials bring blessings—blessings which cannot be quantified, because it is part [of] the molding of the invisible character which is not quantified. And [despite] how invisible it is, it crystallizes God in action in our lives. Trials? Suffering? Pain? You may count it all as loss, but upon further analysis, it is all gain indeed. That is what UYC 2005 is all about."

Cheryl Lynn Macaraeg



# United Youth Camps

## Pinecrest Starts the UCG Summer Camp Season

From June 23 to 30, 122 campers from 22 American states were joined by 58 staff members from 13 states for the United Youth Summer Camp at Camp Pinecrest near Fredericktown, Missouri. The exceptionally high temperatures during the camp this year did not weaken the enthusiasm and excitement during the camp.

During the orientation assembly, camp director Greg Sargent encouraged campers and staff to strive to stay in "the Zone" for the whole week of camp. "The Zone" is a term used to describe an atmosphere of encouragement, safety and mutual support that comes from applying God's way of love toward God and each other in all activities. It is meant to be a small foretaste of how the whole world will be after Jesus Christ establishes the Kingdom of God on the earth.

In his welcome comments, Fred Yates, manager of the Pinecrest Camp and Conference Center, said the UCG camp was one he and the staff looked forward to hosting each year. Mr. Yates had earlier asked Mr. Sargent if the UCG staff would be willing to hold a seminar for camp staff from the Nazarene Church (which owns the Pinecrest site) to give some advice on having a smooth-running and effective camp program.

Campers were divided into five

boys' and five girls' dorms each served by a counselor and a cocounselor who stayed with them and participated with them in the wide variety of activities offered at camp. This year activities

prayer and a "compass check"—a 15-minute presentation on a Bible topic to help campers and staff start the day well. This year the theme of the compass checks was "God's plan of salvation as revealed by His Holy Days." Each compass check (as well as seminars and split sermons on the Sabbath) covered a different Holy

teams of church elders. The elders also asked the campers some questions of their own, which made for lively, informative and enjoyable discussions.



included: archery, basketball, canoeing (culminating in a 12½-mile trip down the Black River), journalism (in which campers wrote articles and took photos for the camp newspaper), riflery, a ropes course, softball, speedaway, swimming (which included swimming, water polo and "the blob"—a large air cushion from which campers could be catapulted in the air before an exciting splashdown in Lake Pinecrest!), volleyball and, for the first time at Camp Pinecrest, a dance class held in nearby Fredericktown.

Each activity day began with a

Day, allowing campers a concentrated and connected view of these fascinating truths. Many campers commented on how much they appreciated these presentations.

Each day's official activities ended with an hour-long Christian living session where campers could ask their Bible and Christian-living questions to

From left, campers enjoy a fast-paced game of speedaway; canoeing on the Black River; assistant counselor Andrew Giddens hits the water; girls' dorm takes its turn at riflery

Topics covered included the Sabbath, Holy Days, dating and marriage, why we pray, the importance of marrying in the faith, how to answer questions about what one believes, the resurrections, proper dress for church services, the validity of the Old Testament and how to know when one is ready to be baptized.

Other high points of the camp included the "crazy Olympics" games on Saturday night and the fun show where dorms and individuals performed skits and music to much laughter and applause.

On the last morning, campers watched a video that will shortly be made available to campers and staff about the camp this year.

Following this, a special awards ceremony was held to honor campers who completed proficiencies and other achievements during the camp. The Ozzie Engelbart Award for positive example and encouraging attitude was awarded to Chad Smith and Jenna Waldrup.

God's blessing was apparent on Camp Pinecrest. It was a wonderful foretaste of exciting things to come.

Joel Meeker

## Camp Hye Sierra Builds Bonds of Friendship

Taking our cue from the cover of this year's camp magazine, "Friends Forever in the Zone," the theme for Camp Hye Sierra this year was "Build the Bond." Campers did just that as they enjoyed a week of beautiful weather and fun-filled activities in the central mountains of California.

Our morning Compass Checks and evening Christian Living sessions focused on the character traits that build lasting, godly friendships—positive friends who support, encourage and protect each other and nurture proper Christian growth—while developing the most important friendship of all, becoming a friend of God.

The spirit of love, joy and peace that prevailed at camp shows the lessons were well applied. Coming from many regions of the United States, as well as from Chile, Mexico and Canada, the campers and staff will carry new and stronger friendships with them from camp, along with the great memories they shared.

### Abundant Activities

Campers kept a busy schedule, with activities including archery, basketball, crafts, hiking amidst the giant sequoias, kayaking, volleyball, speedway, rock climbing and rappelling, fishing, journalism and the ever-popular Latin dance classes.

During evening campfires, campers showed their creativity and talents with a "Star Search" talent night and a

number of Bible-based skits, including a modern version of the story of Ruth, set in a Starbucks coffee shop! The week of camp concluded with our traditional banquet and dance.

Older campers have the opportunity to participate in more rigorous aspects



From left, Daryn Campbell rappels; learning a Latin line dance; practicing kayaking techniques; Maxie Parks, Olympic gold medalist, poses with Lucas Hahn holding an autograph and the genuine gold medal; serving in volleyball



of the hiking and kayaking activities, but the record amount of snow in the upper elevations of the Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks forced changes in our Challenge-track activities.

Our planned hike to an alpine lake at the 9,200-foot elevation was rerouted since the snow level was at about 8,000 feet. Instead, campers hiked in the spectacular scenery of the Kings Canyon along the swollen, dancing waters of

the Kings River to Mist Falls. Rangers described the water volume as "epic"—reaching levels this high only once in a



hundred years.

Challenge-track campers also spent one night camping on the banks of the Kings River, then spent the next day kayaking the stretch of river that empties into the Pine Flat reservoir. Original plans called for kayaking farther up the river, but with the huge amount of runoff we moved downstream a bit to safer water.

### Visit From an Olympic Gold Medalist

Campers were in for an unexpected treat when Olympic gold medalist

Maxie Parks came to visit. Mr. Parks anchored the U.S. 4x400 meter relay team that won the gold at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Quebec. He spoke to the campers about the importance of character, perseverance and setting goals, showed a film made about the Olympic event, answered questions, signed autographs and freely let campers wear his own gold medal around their necks.



Mr. Parks is a warm, humble man, and all were inspired by his example, friendliness and genuineness. Mr. Parks commented that he was inspired by the friendship and encouragement of another Olympian, Bob Mathias, a two-time gold medalist in the decathlon who originally built what is today Camp Hye Sierra.

We hope the friendships forged at Camp Hye Sierra this year will encourage one and all to achieve success in the most important race in life, and win the goal of the Kingdom of God.

James Capo

# 126 Campers Experience Wet but Friendly Woodmen

There is something to be said for children and young adults who will leave the comforts of home to camp for a week in sultry Alabama. Yet that is exactly what happened during the week of July 3 through 10. Altogether 126 campers and 50 staff members traveled from as far as Arizona and Washington to either be a camper or serve at the eighth annual session of Camp Woodmen. Three staff members and three campers came from Canada!

The authors of this article both worked as part of the counseling staff this year and were able to experience firsthand the activities in which campers took part, as well as the benefits of being able to serve. Each day campers began their activities with a different Christian living class. Some of these dealt with the true meaning of friendship, while others urged deep, consistent study of the Bible to foster greater understanding of the truth.

This year was the first year that Woodmen was able to take part in a newspaper activity, the theme of which was different heroes. In the near future all of the dorms will be able to share their different articles

and pictures with the world on the Web!

From the challenging low ropes to the hot basketball games, it was clear that all activities shared the common themes of team-building, unity, personal growth or a combination of all



mates, then Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 really comes to life.

There were times when it seemed as though the fun might end for staff and campers alike. During the bad weather

three! Above all else, it was very clear that God's Spirit was permeating camp to guide both campers and staff members every day. When one girl, suspended 35 feet above the ground, can be cheered across a 20-foot expanse by her ground-bound dorm

storm Cindy and later the first waves of rain from Hurricane Dennis, many inches of precipitation were dropped on the camp. Yet all endured with cheerful spirits, either by playing "Name That Tune," singing karaoke or grabbing mats from the nearby

waterslide and sliding down a drenched hillside instead.

With a week full of fun activities in "the Zone" and protected and guided by God's Spirit, it was inevitable that the campers would make new friendships. In fact, friendship was one of the main goals of all of the United Youth Camps this summer. This meant creating a safe and



encouraging environment where new friends could be made in a godly atmosphere, and it seems that this goal was accomplished.

One of the most encouraging statements heard all week was when a first-time camper exclaimed in the middle of her dorm, "I am totally coming back next year! We are all looking forward to next year!"

*Karen Claunch and Mary Miller*

# Teton Challenger Camp Adds Problem-Solving Course

July 4 to 14, 75 campers and staff combined camped in the grandeur of the Grand Teton National Park for the ninth year of the Teton Challenger Camp. Staff members arrived early to help set up our "base camp" in a bare campsite in the woods of Colter Bay Village.

Major features of the 10-day camp included a walking tour of the town of Jackson, with its Western flavor and unique shops and art galleries, backpacking, rock climbing, orienteering, a special session on wilderness first aid and survival skills (taught by Dr. Bruce Suckling, healthcare manager for the camp this year), bathing in the snowmelt waters of Jackson Lake, Christian Living twice daily, scheduled jobs and, of course, dining daily on the best camp fare in the nation, prepared by the famous Teton food services staff.

Several changes were implemented in this year's camp that resulted in a more young adult level of instruction and challenge and more focus on leadership and spiritual concepts. The age requirement was raised by one year, the total number of campers limited to 40, and the activity program set as com-

pletely land-based, capitalizing on the unique venues of this mountainous setting.

A three-day backpack trip up the Death Canyon trail to Fox Creek Pass was spectacular, with wildflowers just coming into bloom. The 10-mile trail to the top wove through meadows, along creeks, past waterfalls, over log bridges and up the mountain. On the mid-



From left: serving up a delicious and healthy meal; enjoying the breathtaking scenery; rappelling; a rope traverse campers built across a stream as part of the new problem-solving course (photos by Paul Luecke, Andrew Beattie and Michal Lisa Capo)

ple day, campers hiked farther up the mountain and engaged in spontaneous snowball fights and snow sledding on garbage bags, ponchos and sleeping pads. Wildlife, including a moose with her calf, was spotted during the trip.

Rock climbing provided each camper with another two days of challenge—for both novice and advan-

ced—and brought teams closer together as team members encouraged each other up rock routes or rappelling over the edge of a cliff.

A new activity this year was a problem-solving course, which was enthusiastically received. Campers first received instruction on reading topographical maps and orienteering (using



a compass to navigate) before being dropped at the starting point of their course. In teams of four, campers had to follow a map along an 8-mile course. At times they followed an actual foot trail; other times they had to cross boulder fields or follow an animal trail. At one point they had to cross a stream—without getting wet—by constructing a rope traverse.

A staff member accompanied each team as a silent observer; intervening only when a team got too far off course. The team could ask for help, but it resulted in a point deduction (teams were scored for performance). The course emphasized team-building skills and following instructions . . . rather than what seems right. Most teams veered off course at one point or another and thought they were going the right

way; but when they reoriented themselves with the map, they found they had strayed off course.

On the problem-solving course, as in all the camp's activities, there were spiritual lessons we all can learn. The Bible is our compass, and we must



always use it as our guide. In fact, every morning campers received a Compass Check from one of the ministers to set the focus for the day, and the activities concluded in the evening with a fireside session during which ministers and campers alternately asked each other questions around the campfire.

This year's camp will be hard to beat, but we'll try to do so next year.

*Paul Luecke*

# President: "We Need a Greater Passion and Zeal for Our Calling"

"President," continued from page 1

to recapture the zeal of that Church that we see in the book of Acts. The God that instilled that zeal in them is the same God we serve today, and we have the same mission. We just need to be the same type of people who are zealously dedicated to this mission.

Frankly, we still need to be more unified and peaceful than we have been at times during the past 10 to 15 years. We need to put negativism behind us, and we need to shoulder our individual responsibility for constructing a healthy church environment into which God can bring new people.

Human problems inevitably arise, but I believe we can do better in minimizing them by trying to anticipate and deal with them earlier and more effectively. I pray that in the last 10 years we, as a church, have learned lessons about how to better handle conflict and differences of opinion, the folly of unnecessary division and the need to lock arms instead of horns. It is dependent on each individual, of course, but we will be doing what we can within the administration to improve our efforts.

Overall, United has established its willingness to be at peace with other groups, and I hope we can encourage the right relationships with all the people of God. As Paul said in Romans 12:18, "As much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." We've all fallen short in this, with resulting hurts along the way. If we all treat one another more respectfully, then maybe God will be pleased and will open some doors to help repair the breaches.

These are some of the areas of vision, and each establishes numerous focal points for the president. One of my main responsibilities is to keep the mission and vision before the Church, to keep us centered on the greater calling and picture of life.

Jesus Christ is a purveyor of hope and

*Jesus Christ is a purveyor of hope and optimism, directing and rallying the troops, with an unwavering zeal to be about His Father's business. We all need to study the leadership style of Jesus and humbly draw daily from the strength of God's Spirit.*

optimism, directing and rallying the troops, with an unwavering zeal to be about His Father's business. We all need to study the leadership style of Jesus and humbly draw daily from the strength of God's Spirit. In it we will find direction, wisdom, discernment, solutions to problems, the right attitude in times of stress, faith, commitment—in essence, everything we need.

**What is your perspective regarding the current direction and state of the Church in areas such as the administration, ministry and congregations? Can you identify issues of concern and how you would address them?**

First, one of the steadily growing strengths over the last few years is the manner in which the Council of Elders is operating, and that has a profound impact on the direction of the Church. We have a wide variety of individual per-

spectives and experiences on the Council, but it's the chemistry that is vital, and it's "cooking" well—we operate in a spirit of camaraderie and consensus, which has helped us grow in clarifying the respective roles of the administration and Council.

In essence, the Council has steadily moved away from managing details to putting more time on the greater leadership issues of the future—where we are going and how to best get there.

In that process, a few months ago the Council analyzed in depth UCG's



Dee and Clyde Kilough (photo by Peter Eddington)

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We were brutally honest in all areas. The list of strengths was particularly encouraging because it showed where the Church is moving in the right direction. We can list a lot of positives, including such things as:

- A biblically-based, balanced governmental system.
- A strong doctrinal foundation.
- A solid ministry and membership with stable congregations.
- A broad media base for preaching the gospel.
- Healthy financial management.

- A commitment to openness in communication.
- Growing international representations.
- A sensitivity to ethics.
- Multilayered educational efforts.
- Equitable processes and procedures for dealing with everything from doctrinal papers to member appeals when someone feels he has been wronged.
- Excellent youth and young adult development programs ranging from Sabbath schools to camps to ABC to Youth Corps.

We need to remember this, and always give credit to the greatest positive of all: God in His mercy kept us alive when all human reasoning says we should not have survived.

On the other hand, while heading the right direction in many ways, I wish we could accelerate the rate of speed—we strain at the bit to do more, but when

your resources are limited, it is hard to do what you want, as fast as you want to do it. So we're not satisfied with the status quo and will be bold enough to self-examine, honestly confront our weaknesses, pull together the "think tanks" necessary to come up with action plans and implement solutions.

I sense a bit of weariness at times in the Church, not "weary in well-doing," but weariness of the turmoil over the past decade. But I also sense that most of the Church is committed to God, loves the truth and simply wants to see so much positive going on that it overcomes the negative voices of pessimism and cynicism. We just always need to keep in mind that our strength lies not in numbers but in our spiritual condition. Likewise, our greatest threats are spiritual—things like complacency, disunity, the cares of the world—and loom large if we let down our guard.

We are blessed with a dedicated group of elders and wives who are giving all they have in service to the Church. Physically, we're a bit more tired, but we're learning to pace ourselves. For the last decade we ministers have been pressed to do things we never did before—write booklets and articles, staff camps, pastor multiple congregations, work on task forces, do radio and TV work and so on.

However, I'm not wringing my hands over the aging ministry issue, because we have a good pool of developing leaders, plus we see strong leadership qualities emerging in many young adults. While we work toward better organization to use our existing manpower more efficiently, we are also putting in place programs that will accelerate the growth of new leadership through effective mentoring.

**As per the president's job description, how do you see the president working with the international areas?**

We are first and foremost a spiritual body that has no national boundaries, and I will try to do everything possible to further the spiritual work of the Church of taking the gospel into all the world and caring for the disciples God may call. However, we operate in a complex world and it has been challenging for all the parties involved—home office, Council and various national offices—over the last few years to understand the exact role of the president vis-à-vis the international areas.

Developing the Rules of Association was a great step, but even a well-crafted governing document cannot anticipate all the intricacies of operating in many different countries. In some areas a foreigner is legally prohibited from having much influence in that country, while in other areas he may be quite involved.

Overall, though, I will always work to establish a good personal relationship with everyone in the international areas, make sure we have clear lines of good communication, try to better coordinate efforts and facilitate problem solving when challenges arise. It's not a matter for the president to tell international areas what to do, but I do believe the president is in a great position to have a

global overview, to understand the needs in all the various nations and to help communication between the international areas, Council and home office.

**You mentioned zeal earlier. How would you instill zeal and a sense of urgency in the Church?**

True zeal is a spiritual issue and therefore must ultimately come from within, that is, one's relationship with God. However, its stirring can be strongly affected by outside sources that God uses. Every one of us has been fired up by the zeal of another person, just as we have been discouraged by the negativity of another.

The key is *passion!* The gospel has at its core optimism and hope, and if we cannot be passionate about that, then we need to reexamine our priorities. True passion for this work is not driven by personality or style or anything else artificial, but by a genuine and fervent heart. Genuine, eternal passion comes from the truth of God, His way of life, ever present awareness of what He did for us, the love of God, the belief in His calling and our future.

The Church, though, needs a consistent voice of mission, vision, encour-

*The key is passion! The gospel has at its core optimism and hope, and if we cannot be passionate about that, then we need to reexamine our priorities. True passion for this work is not driven by personality or style or anything else artificial, but by a genuine and fervent heart.*

agement, inspiration and focus on the future. It needs a passionate voice that shifts our thinking from the negative to the positive in a very consistent way. The president does have a responsibility to strive to motivate people through a message that is hopeful, relevant, encouraging and goal-oriented.

It all centers on seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Matthew 6:33 is very personal, conveying to each of us the need to be visionary. However, it helps to hear a constant voice lifting our vision higher. When we fervently preach this, not only will we properly carry Christ's message, but we will distinguish ourselves from other religions that derive their motivation from fear or elitism or escapism or the promise of prosperity or temporary emotional highs or anything else. Our drive to "seek His righteousness" should not be based on trying to escape the tribulation, but on striving to enter the Kingdom of God!

The Church should also derive great motivation from being a part of the biggest thing going on right now on the earth. Everyone needs to understand how they are a vital part in this work, and it must be relevant to them. Each member is a link in a chain that Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, has been building for 2,000 years. We talk of being the first-century Church in the 21st century, and perhaps we think of that primarily in terms of doctrine, but what took place in the early Church in terms of zeal and passion also has to be present at the end times.

God has placed each one of us in the Body as it has pleased Him, and what else in this life can ever give us more purpose?

We must ask Him, "Where do you want me to fit within Your temple?" Humans need meaning in their lives, and we must effectively relate to everyone—from the children to the elderly, from babes in Christ to the old veterans—the meaning God has given us. That breeds zeal. And people filled with zeal for serving God and one another will find their opportunities to contribute effectively to their congregations and to the Church as a whole.

We need to use all the spiritual tools at our disposal, including Churchwide "positive fasting" such as we had recently. Not fasting out of crisis, but fasting in faith, asking God to bless us with deeper vision, commitment and righteousness. When that ball starts rolling, we will see God's hand and His blessing, and His zeal will inspire more zeal.

**Where do we go from here? What will be happening over the next few months?**

Personally, I'm getting up to speed as fast as possible on all the areas that affect my responsibilities, and the home office staff is being very helpful. Our priority will be on performance assessment of all areas of the administration. Let's figure out what we're doing well

and can capitalize on, find out what isn't working so well and either discard it or find solutions, then resolve to do whatever's necessary to make needed changes.

We will see some changes in organizational structure, some moves in personnel, some changes in programs. We will streamline our efforts in certain areas in order to better coordinate our resources and prevent duplication of efforts that don't use money and manpower to its greatest effectiveness.

The media center facility construction is nearly completed, and TV production will start very soon. This will boost our Internet presence and open additional opportunities for cable TV. Technology, especially in the Internet world, is opening doors for preaching the gospel in ways few of us comprehended a decade ago, and we are running to keep up with it as much as possible. We will always be looking for ways to improve our delivery of the gospel to the world, and in the next few months we will be on that road of assessment.

We also have a number of ideas on the table for how Ministerial Services can strengthen the Church's wide-ranging educational efforts that are so essential for the growth of the Body. We're rapidly moving along in the developmental stages, and we will soon unveil some major initiatives that will have quite a positive impact.

I want to express how much Dee and I have been touched by the outpouring of support and prayers from members around the world. We deeply appreciate it and will do our best to serve God, and you, in this responsibility. **UM**



## From the Word

# Our "Rod of Iron": A User's Guide

■ What does the book of Revelation mean when it describes the saints helping Christ rule the nations with "a rod of iron"? What training is necessary to use this tool?

by Kevin Ford

Many of Christ's followers are familiar with the scriptures that reveal our destiny to have rulership over this world. In Revelation 5:10 Christians are described as being made "kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

The prophecies of Daniel describe the time when "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High" (Daniel 7:27). Jesus indicated to His disciples in the parable of the pounds that some are to have rule over 10 cities, some five, etc. (Luke 19:17, 19).

One of the most dramatic scriptures, however, is that found in the message to the Thyatiran church. "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father" (Revelation 2:26-27, emphasis added).

Are you looking forward to wielding your iron rod? Is the Kingdom of God to be a time when those still living out physical lives on the earth will be kept in subjection by a divine dictatorship of such terrifying and all-pervasive power that George Orwell's vision of *1984* will look like a kindergarten by comparison?

Let's examine a few descriptions of the Kingdom of God to see if we have an accurate picture of the kind of world we are to rule. But we should first notice an interesting point from the Greek text. The verb translated "rule" in Revelation 2:27 is *poimanei*, derived from the word for a shepherd (*poimen*). It is the same word used by the apostle Paul in Acts 20:28 to

describe the care that overseers are to show toward the Church of God.

The Concordant Literal Translation renders Revelation 2:27 as: "He shall shepherd them with an iron club." The rod or club carried by a shepherd was, of course, primarily for the protection of his sheep, not to frighten or punish them.

In Zechariah 14:16 we read that God will issue an edict commanding all nations to send representatives to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. What if a nation refuses to heed the command? Is such disobedience conceivable or even possible in a world of immortal saints each armed with an iron rod? The answer may be surprising.

"And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of Hosts, on them there will be no rain" (Zechariah 14:17). There will be a response from Jesus Christ and His saints to this stubbornness, but it will be a measured and merciful response that will allow time for carnal attitudes to change.

Jesus Christ is a kind, loving, patient

God who reveals Himself in these terms: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20, Revised Standard Version).

He has no desire to smash the door down and force His will on us, even though He has that power. He prefers us to willingly open the door and welcome Him into our lives. He wants the obedience that comes from our love and gratitude for what He has done for us, and from our unshakable conviction that He knows what is best for us, not from the fear of punishment if we do not obey. And He wants just the same from all the billions on the face of this earth who have yet to experience the opportunity given to us.

Although the Kingdom of God will certainly have to be ushered in with a terrifying show of divine power, this is not how God intends to rule the earth for the next thousand years. In the Millennium, the new world leader, Jesus Christ, "will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will

gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young" (Isaiah 40:11).

He says of the people living at that time: "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods . . . They shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid" (Ezekiel 34:25, 28, RSV).

If God just needed people to wield iron rods, He would have no need of His saints. There is no shortage of thugs and bullies—people accustomed to dominating and terrorizing others—who would qualify for that job.

What He needs are those who have spent their lives developing the character of Jesus Christ—those who can be trusted to exercise great power with love and mercy as well as firmness and justice.

Our "rod of iron" will come with a warning label: "Use only as directed by the Holy Spirit." ☞

## Children of War

■ Working with children whose lives have been devastated by war today provides some clues about how we can prepare to help people heal when peace finally does come.

by Louise Kleinbergs

"War Creates Refugees" was the theme for Refugee Week in the United Kingdom in June 2004. It was a week aimed at celebrating the enormous contribution of refugees to the United Kingdom and promoting understanding for the reasons people seek sanctuary.

The Bible is packed with accounts of wars between nations. In Matthew 24 Christ talks about war being one of the signs of the end of the age. Across the world today there are over 20 wars being fought, yet most of us could only name a few. The consequences of war on the world at large, and individuals in particular, are enormous.

In my job as an EAL (English as an Additional Language) teacher, I am involved with many students who are refugees. These students have been forced to leave their homes and countries because of circumstances beyond their control. In many cases they became refugees because of war.

Some of the students I teach arrive in the classroom needing more than instruction in English. Some have no concept of the truth and fail to see that lying is a problem. Others know of no other way to

solve problems than by fighting, and there are those who will steal whatever they want without a conscience pang.

There is also, at times, a lack of respect for others, particularly those in authority. This is reflected in their interaction with each other and authority figures. In short, the basic principles of right and wrong need to be taught. But how?

### The Horrors of War

I spoke with Norman Sheehan, CEO of War Child, a network of independent organizations helping children affected by war by developing programs to reintegrate them into society.

Some of the children they deal with were abducted, drugged and forced to kill in order not to be killed themselves. These children, some as young as 5, know no other life. They do what they can to survive.

A newspaper article by Tim Judah in *The Independent*, dated Oct. 23, 2004, talked of child soldiers, sex slaves and cannibalism in Uganda. Children were forced at gunpoint by the rebels to abduct and murder other children and to drink their blood.

Tim Judah goes on to describe the murder of a 14-year-old girl who had been killed by other child captives. One of the girl captives was asked why she had participated. She responded, "I was frightened, but we were told that if we did not kill, they would kill us. So you had to pretend to be brave."

As part of his job, Norman Sheehan spent a year in Sierra Leone working with children of war. I asked him how these young people could be educated.

He gave me four basic principles that prompted me to think about what I do in my role as a teacher today, and what we will all do as teachers in the world to come after Jesus Christ returns to save this world from itself. I like to think of this as the S-T-E-P program.

### Safety

After the basic needs of children are met, which are food, clothing and shelter, the most important thing is to make them feel safe. They need to feel they can walk around without fear of being shot, abducted or abused. Without this feeling of safety, fear develops, and then the behavior resulting from fear occurs.

The same article by Tim Judah explained how in Uganda a local hospital gives shelter at night to "some of the 45,000 children who, because of their fear of abduction, stream into Gulu, Kitgum, and other towns every evening to sleep in the safety of the hospitals."

In the Kingdom of God we will need to create an environment of safety and reassure people they are safe. Have we considered the trauma that people will have experienced? Those who come up in the second resurrection after the Millennium will also need reassurance. It will be vital that we establish a place of safety for them.

### Trust

Secondly, a relationship of trust needs to be established. Norman Sheehan maintains that this is very important if a teacher is to make any progress. Trust is not something that can be bought, and is not something that comes overnight. It is

developed by finding opportunities to share your time with the children.

As future teachers, we will need to establish a relationship of trust with the people with whom we will be working. We have had the advantage of learning God's way and practicing it in this life. Before we can teach our future students, we will first have to gain their trust.

### Example

Norman Sheehan also mentioned how vital the teacher's example is. The children he worked with did not know the right way to do even basic things such as wash their hands before eating—let alone how to conduct their lives in an orderly and peaceful way. His example was important for them to learn from.

Our example in the Kingdom will be equally significant. We will be a light to the world. Indeed we are told in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

People will be watching us! They will want to know what to do, how to have a happy and peaceful life and how to have a relationship with God and with one another.

Isaiah 30:21 tells us, "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." How wonderful it will be to be this guide, this light!

### Patience

As a teacher, patience is crucial—without it you will fail. The civilized behavior patterns of these children in

Sierra Leone have been destroyed. They need to be rebuilt, and it is a very long road to changing their behavior.

I once heard a behavior support teacher say that changing bad behavior is like breaking a bad habit. It takes time and patience for a new pattern of behavior to be learned.

One of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22 is patience. In our role as teachers in the Kingdom of God, we will certainly need patience. People will not change overnight—or even in a week!

We need to develop the fruit of patience now. These four basic principles of the S-T-E-P program can be developed and practiced today when dealing with people in our workplace and within our families.

We need to practice establishing a feeling of safety and a relationship of trust, as well as setting an example that can be followed. And finally we need to learn to exercise patience on a daily basis.

Our future is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, a time of wonderful peace, joy and harmony, when people will learn to live God's way of life—a time when Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit, and shut up so "that he should deceive the nations no more" (Revelation 20:3).

This is a time when God's Spirit will truly be among His people. This time is mentioned in Isaiah 2:4 when "neither shall they learn war anymore."

And when there is no more war, there will be no more children of war! May God hasten that day! ☞

Louise Kleinbergs is a teacher at Henry Compton's Boys School in London.

# God's Spiritual Pruning Process

■ I agonized over pruning my trees because I thought it would harm them.

Pruning, whether physical or spiritual, doesn't seem pleasant, but it really is necessary for health and growth.

by **Andy McClain**

Our backyard has two bowl willow trees. In the past 10 years, they have grown to about 25 feet tall and nearly 25 feet in diameter. We love their shade and the privacy they provide during the summer. In the fall, however, we noticed they needed some care. The branches were getting thick and rubbing against each other and there were quite a few dead limbs.

Now I am not a tree expert, and at the time I knew virtually nothing about trimming trees. So, I had an arborist come out to our home and inspect our trees. He told me that although our trees were basically healthy, they needed pruning.

Like the trees in my backyard, we sometimes need pruning in our spiritual life. Jesus Christ reminds us of this when He says, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:1-2). Pruning involves cutting off superfluous branches. This is done to make the tree bear better fruit, grow higher or to give the tree a more handsome appearance.

All trees need attention and care if they are to flourish and beautify our yards. Before we prune, we need to have a mental picture of what we desire our tree to look like. According to the *Better Homes & Gardens New Garden Book*, "Grown under optimum conditions . . . a tree has a good chance to become the beauty you hope it will be."

In similar fashion, God knows the beauty that He hopes we can become when He says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). God envisions us becoming part of His family. When He prunes us, He has that vision in mind.

## How to Prune

Before I pruned our trees, I had to learn how to prune so I wouldn't injure the trees. We can be very thankful that God "pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13-14).

A very encouraging scripture from one of the newer translations available today called *The Message*, reads, "No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to

remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Pruning is a process through which God mercifully helps us.

When pruning a tree, it is important to use the right tool. Although chain saws work well for large branches, they are not appropriate for smaller branches that require a gentler touch. Hand pruners and small pruning saws work better for this. Also, tools need to be sharp to reduce the possible harm to the tree.

God's Word is the perfect tool for pruning us. God's Word is sharp so that it can remove the unwanted "branches" in our lives without harming us. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). God's Word helps us to discern our intentions and thoughts.

God directs our pruning through the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit guides us "into all truth," helping us to study what we need (John 16:13). It also helps us to see what God is working out in our lives. The Holy Spirit encourages us and directs our minds.

Pruning must also be done at the proper time. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Service recommends pruning trees during the dormant season so that the wounds will close during the next growing season and minimize the transmission of disease. A tree pruned at the wrong time of year is more susceptible to a fatal disease.

God knows the perfect time to prune us. Read again the story of Esther. God is very much a part of our lives despite how separated we sometimes might feel. Mordecai's response to Esther in Esther 4:12-14 after learning of Haman's evil plot to exterminate the Jews shows God's providence. God placed Esther in the exact position necessary to be used by God

*Before we can serve God as kings and priests, we must be cleansed. It is through the pruning process that God develops His strength in us and molds us with His character and in His appearance so that we can serve Him for eternity.*

for intervention. It is sometimes difficult to realize that God's timing is perfect, but God knows what we can become when properly pruned.

## Why Prune?

Pruning improves tree health and strength. Pruning for health involves removing diseased or insect-infested wood. Typically it involves thinning the crown to increase airflow and reduce pest problems, and removing crossing or rubbing branches. Pruning encourages trees to develop a strong structure and reduces the like-

lihood of damage during severe weather. All of these actions encourage growth of the main trunk.

As we are pruned in our spiritual lives, we must "seek those things which are above" (Colossians 3:1). Paul instructs us, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). These attitudes and actions are things that "rub" against God's ways, much like the branches in trees.

Our pruning must be extensive for us to grow in God's character. Just a few verses down Paul says, "You yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Colossians 3:8-10).

God's pruning process uses the circumstances in our lives to help us grow in His character and appearance. Even Jesus Christ was pruned. Hebrews 5:8-10 tells us, "He learned obedience by the things which He suffered." *Vincent Word Studies* says that "Jesus did not have to learn to obey . . . but he required the special discipline of a severe human experience as a training for his office as a high priest who could be touched with the feeling of human infirmities . . . The fundamental idea in verse nine *perfected* is the bringing of a person or thing to the goal fixed by God."

## Don't Be Discouraged

Sometimes pruning does involve trials. We must remember Hebrews 12:5-6, which says, "Do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens."

The *Adam Clarke Commentary* says the following about these verses: "Here is the reason why we should neither neglect correction, nor faint under it: it is a proof of the fatherly

love of God Almighty, and shows his most gracious designs towards us; from which we may be fully convinced that the affliction will prove the means of good to our souls, if we make a proper use of it."

The Barnes commentary on verse 10 follows with a similar thought: "This is the elevated object at which God aims by our trials. It is not that he delights to produce pain; not that he envies us and would rob us of our little comforts . . . it is, that he may make us more pure and holy, and thus promote our own best interest."

Remember, God is pruning us to become like Him.

## Producing Growth

Pruning is also done to improve

because God says, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).



*I agonized over pruning my trees because I thought it would harm them, but what I learned is that pruning actually improves health and strength. Our pruning may not be pleasant sometimes, but we can take comfort because God says, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).*

appearance and produce growth. This involves enhancing the natural form and character of the tree by removing limbs that turn inward, cross or extend. It means removing anything that competes with the growth of the main trunk—water sprouts, root suckers and excess lateral branches. Thinning lateral shoots will let the remaining branches get better air circulation, water and sunlight.

Any Y-shape in the main trunk creates a weak zone with two competing branches. The lesson for us is to choose whom we will serve. As Christ says, "You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

We must remember that we are the work of God's hand and that we "are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Isaiah 64:8; Ephesians 2:19-22). As our inward man changes, our actions will also.

I agonized over pruning my trees because I thought it would harm them, but what I learned is that pruning actually improves health and strength. Our pruning may not be pleasant sometimes, but we can take comfort

Before the priests could enter into the temple, symbolically coming before God, they had to be cleansed. God had the Israelites create the bronze laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar for this purpose (Exodus 30:17-21). We too must be cleansed to serve as priests before God (Exodus 29:1-4; Leviticus 8:1-6; Ephesians 5:25-27).

The word *cleans* (*Strong's* number G2511, *katharizo*) that Paul mentions in 2 Corinthians 7:1, when he says, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God," comes from the same root word that the word *prunes* (*Strong's* G2508, *kathairo*) in John 15:1-2 comes from. It means to purify.

Before we can serve God as kings and priests, we must be cleansed. It is through the pruning process that God develops His strength in us and molds us with His character and in His appearance so that we can serve Him for eternity. **UN**

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# Humanism: Dangerous Modern Philosophy With an Ancient Origin

■ This insidious philosophy is at the heart and core of the cultural war. Revelation 18:4 tells us to come out of this world so we don't share its sins and receive its plagues.

by David Treybig

Throughout human history those who have committed their lives to God have had to resist the influences of the society around them. Righteous Lot was vexed by the conduct of the ungodly people of Sodom. Daniel and his three friends had to resist the influences and standards of Babylon and Persia. First-century Christians had to reject Gnosticism, the sexually immoral lifestyle of Corinth, the intellectual vanity of the Greeks and the paganism of the Romans.

The same principle applies to Christians today. We also have to reject worldly values in favor of obeying God and learning to think as He thinks. As the people of God, we have to be on guard against wrong influences and values that continually bombard us with the purpose of separating us from God in our thinking and way of life. Revelation 18:4 tells us to come out of this world so we don't share its sins and receive its plagues.

Just as Paul reminded members in Corinth that they weren't ignorant of Satan's devices to deceive them (2 Corinthians 2:11), we need to be aware of philosophies that can deceive us today. The admonition "Be not deceived" is found throughout the Bible (Deuteronomy 11:16; Luke 21:8; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 15:33; Galatians 6:7). This advice is critically important because Satan is extremely successful in his deceptions (Revelation 12:9) and is prophesied to continue being successful through the end of this age (Revelation 13:14).

One of today's most influential philosophies is that of modern humanism. This way of thinking is having a profound influence upon modern nations and peoples. This philosophy is at the heart and core of the cultural war taking place within the United States and many other Western nations. Although proponents of modern humanism point to a resurgence of interest and support in the last century, the underlying principles of humanism are really quite ancient.

## Modern Humanism Defined

To better understand this philosophy, consider what Frederick Edwords, executive director of the American Humanist Association, wrote in an article titled "What Is Humanism?" for his association's Web site ([www.jcn.com/humanism.html](http://www.jcn.com/humanism.html)).

After summarizing literary humanism, Renaissance humanism, cultural humanism, philosophical humanism and Christian humanism, Edwords comes to modern humanism, the broad philosophy consisting of both secular humanism and religious humanism.

"Modern Humanism, also called Nat-

uralistic Humanism, Scientific Humanism, Ethical Humanism and Democratic Humanism, is defined by one of its leading proponents, Corliss Lamont, as "a naturalistic philosophy that rejects all supernaturalism and relies primarily upon reason and science, democracy and human compassion." Modern Humanism has a dual origin, both secular and religious, and these constitute its sub-categories.

"Secular Humanism is an outgrowth of 18th century enlightenment rationalism and 19th century freethought . . . Religious Humanism emerged out of Ethical Culture, Unitarianism, and Universalism. Today, many Unitarian-Universalist congregations and all Ethical Culture societies describe themselves as humanist in the modern sense . . .

"Secular and Religious Humanists both share the same worldview and the same basic principles. This is made evident by the fact that both Secular and Religious Humanists were among the signers of *Humanist Manifesto I* in 1933 and *Humanist Manifesto II* in 1973. From the standpoint of philosophy alone, there is no difference between the two. It is only in the definition of religion and in the practice of the philosophy that Religious and Secular Humanists effectively disagree" (ibid.).

## The Focus of Humanism

These philosophies are all focused on humans. Human beings—not God—are at the center of all this thinking. Within secular humanism, and even religious humanism to a lesser degree, anything dealing with the supernatural (including God, the Bible, angels, demons) isn't considered.

In general, secular humanists consider all religion to be superstitious thought that has held back the progress of humanity. "Secular Humanists maintain that there is so much in religion deserving of criticism that the good name of Humanism should not be tainted by connection with it. Secular Humanists often refer to Unitarian Universalists as 'Humanists not yet out of the church habit'" (ibid.).

As for the religious humanists such as the Unitarian Universalists, Edwords explains that "the definition of religion used by religious humanists is a functional one. Religion is that which serves the personal and social needs of a group of people sharing the same philosophical world view" (ibid.).

Secular humanism and religious humanism agree that people decide for themselves what their human needs are and design lifestyles in accordance with their wishes. Because all modern humanism promotes free thinking, unencumbered by any outside rules or influences, secular humanists grudgingly accept religious humanists who think they should have some type of religious activity—albeit designed by themselves to enhance their lives rather than necessarily based upon guidance from God or His Word.

## Secular Humanism

While both branches of modern humanism, religious and secular, have

had profound influences upon Western societies, the latter has received more attention and attained more success in both Europe and the United States in recent years.

According to the Edwords, "The Secular Humanist tradition is a tradition of defiance, a tradition that dates back to ancient Greece. One can see, even in Greek mythology, Humanist themes that are rarely, if ever, manifested in the mythologies of other cultures. And they certainly have not been repeated by modern religions. The best example here is the character Prometheus.

"Prometheus stands out because he was idolized by ancient Greeks as the one who defied Zeus. He stole the fire of the gods and brought it down to earth. For this he was punished. And yet he continued his defiance amid his tortures. This is the root of the Humanist challenge to authority . . .

"Imagine how shocked a friend of mine was when I told her my view of 'God's moral standards.' I said, 'If there were such a god, and these were indeed his ideal moral principles, I would be tolerant. After all, God is entitled to his own opinions!'

"Only a Humanist is inclined to speak this way. Only a Humanist can suggest that, even if there be a god, it is OK to disagree with him, her, or it . . .

"Much of Human progress has been in defiance of religion or of the apparent natural order. When we deflect lightning or evacuate a town before a tornado strikes, we lessen the effects of so called 'acts of God.' When we land on the Moon we defy the Earth's gravitational pull. When we seek a solution to the AIDS crisis, we, according to Jerry Falwell, thwart 'God's punishment of homosexuals.'

"Politically, the defiance of religious and secular authority has led to democracy, human rights, and even the protection of the environment. Humanists make no apologies for this. Humanists twist no biblical doctrine to justify such actions. They recognize the Promethean defiance of their response and take pride in it. For this is part of the tradition" (ibid.).

Humanists are quite proud of their tradition of defiance of authority (including God's) and believe that their actions have made the world a better place to live. They believe their approach is more caring and considerate of people and that their way of thinking is superior to others.

Secular humanists proudly maintain that their philosophy is for the here and now as opposed to some supposed life after death. Most reject religious notions of sin, guilt, faith, authority, revelation and even God, which they consider to be arbitrary and superstitious. They believe in evolution—that man evolved upon the earth with all the abilities within himself for creating a peaceful, happy society.

They believe that we humans only have one life to live and that each person should be free to live it as he or she chooses. They are advocates of contemporary sexual values determined by humans themselves and support all

modern ideas of humans rights including the right for a woman to have an abortion if she so chooses.

Secular humanists are proud of their advocacy for a secular state and wholeheartedly fight for the separation of church and state. They are proud of the "progress" they have brought to Europe and the United States in these areas. Above all, they relish the enlightenment that comes to people as they cast aside preconceived ideas and think for themselves (also see the British Humanist Association, [www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentChapterView.asp?chapter=309](http://www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentChapterView.asp?chapter=309)).

## The Origin of Humanism

While modern humanists point to Prometheus in Greek mythology as a hero in defiance of Zeus, the real origin of humans defying God and thinking for themselves goes back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Here Satan, represented by a snake, invited Eve to think for herself about whether to eat the fruit God had forbidden. He suggested that in making her own decision she would become like God—able to decide right and wrong for herself (Genesis 3:1-5).

Satan presented the underlying philosophy of self-determination to Eve as higher-level thinking—something positive and good for her to do. Satan invited Eve to cast away God's rules and to think for herself. Based upon Satan's sales pitch for humanism, Eve was

deceived (1 Timothy 2:14). She ate of the forbidden fruit and gave it to Adam, who did the same.

In making the decision to eat of the fruit, Eve reasoned that she didn't really have to obey God. Of course, the result of Adam and Eve's action was tragic for them (they lost access to the Tree of Life representing eternal life, Genesis 3:22-24) and tragic for all mankind thereafter (death came to all because of sin, Romans 5:12).

## The Appeal of Humanism

The sales pitch for modern humanism is that this philosophy is the one for educated people who care about other human beings and who want to make this world a better place to live. Notice the following quotes from modern humanists:

"Humanists recognize that it is only when people feel free to think for themselves, using reason as their guide, that they are best capable of developing values that succeed in satisfying human needs and serving human interests"—*Isaac Asimov, author and past president of the American Humanist Association.*

"It seems to me that the idea of a personal God is an anthropological concept which I cannot take seriously. I also cannot imagine some will or goal outside the human sphere . . . Science has been charged with undermining morality, but the charge is unjust. A man's ethical behavior should be based effectually on

## The United Nations at 60: Signs of Humanism's Failings

by Howard Davis

The United Nations: There is no greater place where the human potential for good and evil are represented every day, or where the brilliance and fundamental problems of human nature are demonstrated 24/7.

When I visited UN headquarters in June, one UN employee summed up its basic problem for me in an interview: "It's a great idea, but people are flawed."

Consider just a few of the United Nations' flaws:

- "The UN-sponsored Iraq oil-for-food scandal is probably the greatest financial rip-off in the history of the world," former U.S. State Department officer Jack Skruggs told me. He formerly worked for the U.S. ambassador to the UN.

The UN Security Council created the oil-for-food program in 1995 to provide humanitarian aid to Iraqi people suffering from sanctions imposed on Iraq after the defeat of Saddam Hussein in the first Gulf War. Under its terms, Iraq could sell crude oil through the UN and the proceeds would be carefully distributed for humanitarian food and aid back to the Iraqi people directly to ensure Saddam's dictatorship would not profit.

It now appears tens of billions of dollars may have been robbed from the people of Iraq when the proceeds of the oil went to personal bank accounts of many officials, companies and even billions to Saddam himself.

- There were a few periods when the UN was used to preserve or make peace, but many more when it was unable to prevent war or genocide.

Korea, the Six-Day War, Vietnam, Cambodia, Biafra, the Sudan, Rwanda, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq War, Bosnia, the Angolan civil war, the ongoing war in the Republic of Congo and more were all examples of the inherent inability of humans to rule themselves peacefully.

- Other recent UN failings include the raping of women by UN peacekeepers in the Republic of Congo and several other hot spots in the world, the coddling of rogue regimes, the constant anti-American and anti-Israeli rhetoric, and lavish administrative spending.

The UN's lofty ideals are among man's best attempts to bring peace and prosperity, but they turn out to just be tinkering with a human race that is profoundly flawed and a world system that is virulently blind in its selfishness. The United Nations can do nothing to alter these underlying problems. This is why divine intervention is necessary to fix the fundamentals.

(Excerpted from articles submitted for the September/October Good News.)

sympathy, education, and social ties and needs; no religious basis is necessary. Man would indeed be in a poor way if he had to be restrained by fear of punishment and hope of reward after death"—*Albert Einstein, scientist, Nobel Prize winner in physics, originator of the theory of relativity.*

"When we speak of equality, of women and men, of Blacks and Whites, of all the world's people, we are talking about humanism"—*Gloria Steinem, founder of Ms. magazine, Humanist Pioneer awardee.*

"Humanism, in all its simplicity, is the only genuine spirituality"—*Albert Schweitzer, accepting the Nobel Peace Prize.*

"Humanism is a philosophy of joyous service for the greater good of all humanity, of application of new ideas of scientific progress for the benefit of all"—*Linus Pauling, scientist, Humanist of the Year in 1961, Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1954, Nobel Peace Prize in 1962* ([www.americanhumanist.org/humanism/famous.html](http://www.americanhumanist.org/humanism/famous.html)).

Secular humanism has been particularly successful in Western societies. According to pollster George Barna on Oct. 8, 2002, "most Americans believe 'truth can be discovered only through

logic, human reasoning and personal experience.' A majority of Americans (54%) embraces this perspective, which is at odds with both the traditional Protestant belief that the Bible is the source of truth and the Catholic perspective that the Bible and papal authority convey truth" ("Americans Draw Theological Beliefs From Diverse Points of View," [www.barna.org/Flex-Page.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=122](http://www.barna.org/Flex-Page.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=122), emphasis added throughout).

In reflecting on the implications of this survey, Barna wrote, "Over the past 20 years we have seen the nation's theological views slowly become less aligned with the Bible. Americans still revere the Bible and like to think of themselves as Bible-believing people, but the evidence suggests otherwise. Christians have increasingly been adopting spiritual views that come from Islam, Wicca, secular humanism, the eastern religions and other sources.

"Because we remain a largely Bible-illiterate society, few are alarmed or even aware of the slide toward syncretism—a belief system that blindly combines beliefs from many different faith perspectives" (ibid.).

"Surveys on religious belief in

Britain have found 30-40% (and 65% of young people) declaring themselves atheists or agnostics. A Home Office survey (2004) found almost 22% of no faith, and that religion played little part in the lives of most of those calling themselves Christians. Many people, even if they do not call themselves humanists, live their lives by the [humanist] principles outlined above, and many thousands use the services of the British Humanist Association every year; organised Humanism is the tip of a very large iceberg" ([www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/content/Chapter-View.asp?chapter=309](http://www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/content/Chapter-View.asp?chapter=309)).

### God on Modern Humanism

Although created by God with marvelous intricacy (David acknowledged that he was "wonderfully made," Psalm 139:14), we humans were not created with the inherent knowledge to adequately make every decision as to how we can best live. As the prophet Jeremiah explained, "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Ironically, the starting point for a better life—the full abundant life God wants each of us to enjoy (John 10:10)—

is to acknowledge this important biblical truth that we don't have all the answers ourselves and that we need God's instruction.

When humans believe that there is no God and that they inherently have all the answers to life's questions, they are deceived. David wrote, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalm 14:1). In denying that there is a God, humans, in essence, foolishly make themselves God.

In denying God, humans unwittingly open themselves up to faulty thinking. In writing to the Romans, Paul explained how such erroneous thinking develops: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:20-22).

In exchanging "the truth of God for the lie [that there was no God to explain to humans how to live]," humans then "worshiped and served the creature

[themselves] rather than the Creator" (verse 25). This faulty thinking led to the acceptance of sexual immorality including homosexuality, hatred of God and the inability to properly discern good from evil (verses 26-31). Humanism thus ignores the lessons of millennia of history and human experience explained in the Bible.

None of us need follow the above recipe for disaster. Instead, we can choose to acknowledge God and His directions for happiness.

If you are being bombarded by modern humanism and are not sure what to believe, please order our free booklets *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?*, *Is the Bible True?* and *What Is Your Destiny?* All can be ordered, downloaded or read from our Web site at [www.ucg.org/booklets](http://www.ucg.org/booklets). All will help you understand the implications of the choice between God and modern humanism.

God doesn't want anyone to be deceived. Remember this important advice: "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8). **UN**

## Letters

### Caution Regarding Pictures

I wanted to mention something in an article in the June 2005 *United News* that bothers me. It is in "Reading the Scriptures to Your Children." The area of concern to me is in column two, last paragraph, concerning pictures of Christ, which reads:

"Pictures. As the saying goes, 'A picture is worth a thousand words.' Some Bible resource books (Bible dictionaries, Bible encyclopedias, etc.) contain some good diagrams or pictures. A word of caution regarding pictures, however: A child's mind is very impressionable and a picture can stick in the mind for a long time. With this in mind, we should avoid using certain pictures such as those that depict Christ with long hair, for example."

If I didn't know better, I might very well infer from this statement that it is OK to show our children "pictures" of Christ as long as He is depicted with short hair. Of course, the Second Commandment [commands against] trying to depict God or Christ by some image such as a picture.

Florida

*Sorry, we didn't realize the statement would be read that way. It was intended as a warning against using any pictures of Christ.*

### Ready to Give an Answer

I would like to express my appreciation for the section in the *United News* "Be Ready to Give an Answer." It has been helpful to me on numerous occasions, and I know it has been helpful to others within my congregation. I do hope that this feature will remain a part of *United News*, and that God will continue to guide you.

Internet

*What questions would you like to see answered in the "Be Ready to Give an Answer" column? Send comments and questions to United News, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 or [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).*

### "How to Keep the Sabbath Day Holy"

We read the article "How to Keep the Sabbath Day Holy" (May, pages 5-6) by Richard Pinelli. It is God's day and we loved every bit of the article. Thank you for showing us the right way.

New York

### Seeing Through His Eyes

I had the honor of being baptized one month ago, following one year of active attendance.

Two and a half years ago, God's Spirit led me to the truth through one of your Church members.

Presently I am overwhelmed by how obvious God's Word is now that I can see, and I am gorging myself in His Word and basking in His joy as I learn and practice obedience to His commandments of love. I thank God for His blessings of life now and for His soon-coming Kingdom. My thanks to God's watchmen and to my new UCG family. I am anxiously looking forward to my first Feast of Tabernacles as each Holy Day Experience draws me closer to our Father. To now see through His eyes and feel with His heart, life has a whole new meaning.

Florida

### Reprint

Your article is an excellent piece, and I would like to publish part of "The Mighty Assyrian Empire Emerges From the Dust" [from *Is the Bible True?*] in

our weekly religious newspaper. We are known as *Herald—The Catholic Weekly*. Our circulation is 9,000 copies.

We hope that your UCG article will be of help to those people who are seeking to know the true story.

Malaysia

*Permission was granted.*

### Attracted by Family Cover

Thank you so much for sending me *The Good News*. I liked the cover of the latest issue so much (photo of a family with kids). I just ordered your new booklet *Marriage and Family* as well because it looks very interesting. I feel that cover design is quite important because it made me feel like I want to read more and more. This month's issue about premarital sex is the topic I really wanted to read because it is a very serious issue for young people like me (also adults in these days).

Japan

### Found Us Through "Ask Jeeves"

I found this Web site while searching "Ask Jeeves" because I wanted to find out how and if evolution and creation could coexist. No need for me to wonder anymore. Darwin's evolution theory is pure ignoramic bunk! It's truly sad man's vanity can do so much damage to people's minds and thus lives when so much is at stake.

Internet

### Believed the Rapture Until Last Week

I've read the entire *Left Behind* series (all 12 books), and up until about a week ago, I believed in that theory. Then I read your March/April 2000 issue, which says that the theory isn't true. So now I

wonder, if that isn't true, where (and when) do all the judgments come in (e.g., the earthquake, the moon turning to blood, etc.)?

South Africa

### "It Is Painful, but Thanks for Letting Me Know"

Lately, I was reading one of the booklets you sent to me some few months back on *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion* and shockingly, I discovered after 13 good years of being born again, that the baptism I had by sprinkling as an Anglican was wrong! It is painful, but thanks for letting me know.

Do you have any representatives here in Nigeria that can administer baptism by immersion?

Nigeria

### "I Believe in God Even More Now"

Hi, just wanted to say I love your booklets. I believe in God even more now. Thank you for the wonderful things you all do to make it possible.

Internet

### "I Love the Sermons"

I have been wanting to write for some time, but have had my right arm in a sling! I want you to know I pray every day to the Almighty God, thanking Him for His wonderful servants on this earth who send me helps to go with the Bible (His Word). I love the sermons. I feel like I know some of the ones who give the sermons.

Arizona

### "Read Them Over and Over"

I have some of your small books, and have read them over and over. I must say

I've never read any other publications that I have been so impressed with as these. If you have any others, please send me some more of your books. I am enclosing a little gift.

Arkansas

### "May Not Agree 100 Percent"

I just want to thank you for all your wonderful literature and your awesome Web site. You have so much good and valuable information on your Web site, and I love reading all the articles. I may not agree 100 percent with some of your beliefs, i.e., worshipping on Saturdays and not eating pork, but most of what you teach is "right on," and I appreciate that. I love your Bible studies and find myself intrigued by your teachings (I am a Baptist).

Please keep up the good work you are doing in telling people about Jesus. You make it fun to learn about Him. You're doing a great job and I intend to continue doing your Bible studies and learning more about what you have to say!

Internet

### "Holy Boldness"

May I say that I appreciate the way you say things in a point-blank sort of way. Some things in *The Good News* would make some people cringe. Thanks for the holy boldness!

Florida

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* are welcome. Please let us know if you would like your name printed. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

# Treasure Digest

## We Shall Be Butterflies

I am at least as excited as the 8-year-olds around me. We watch, breathless, as the chrysalis breaks open a bit more, as more butterfly parts emerge. We have become amazingly attached to our little creatures over the past three weeks, and together we await the results of one of nature's most amazing miracles—the birth of a butterfly, which 10 days before had been a creeping, crawling caterpillar.

In a recent conversation with a friend, I realized how much we can learn from this miraculous process. Caterpillars live in what could be called a "2D" world—they cannot truly see; their 12 eyes can only distinguish between light and dark. Their sole purpose is to gorge themselves, to satisfy their flesh, you could say. How much can we relate to this state, before we decided to answer God's calling?

When it is finally time for them to go into a chrysalis, caterpillars shed their last skin, or exoskeleton—the "old man," as it were. Then they are encased in a shell while inside all their parts are becoming a gooey, liquid mush.

As I was teaching this process to my second grade students, I could only say, "This is where the true miracle occurs; scientists can't explain how this mush recreates itself into a beautiful butterfly." But it does, time and time again.

As they become more and more like a butterfly and less like goo, their case becomes more transparent and they can begin to see the "real world." Their case also becomes more transparent to those

around them—people can see that they are starting to look like a butterfly. I think of how we develop after we are baptized, how we have to become a humble, malleable "goo" for God to work with, and how as we grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ, we begin to see the world around us for what it truly is. And those around us also notice the difference.

And then, when the time is right, the butterfly emerges, a new being. Butterflies can see and live in a "3D" world. They have full flight; they are the epitome of freedom. And their beauty and grace have delighted humans for centuries. If we follow God, we will one day be a delight to those who have contact with us; we will also have true freedom.

Someday we will emerge as fully formed butterflies, able to flit around the world and be a delight to all. We have only to enter the chrysalis and let God work our caterpillar goings into His own wondrous creation.

*Kirsten Kortheis  
Seattle/Bellevue, Washington, congregation*



## That We May Be One

Knowing that He was to be crucified, Jesus went to the Father in prayer the night before His crucifixion. In that prayer He asked the Father that both the disciples and those who would come to God through their word might be one, as He and the Father are.

*Bill Faith  
St. Louis, Missouri, congregation*

How much were Jesus and the Father at one? Enough that Jesus was able to tell Philip, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Jesus and the Father are not the same person, but rather, they are so much alike in thought, belief and way of life that Jesus was able to say that if you saw Him, you saw the Father.

Today, if someone sees us, do they see Christ? That may sound a little self-righteous at first. But Jesus' prayer was that we would be one in Him as He is with the Father. Are our thoughts, beliefs and way of life patterned after Christ's to the extent that we closely represent Him?

If Christ indeed is in us, then we will pattern our life after Christ's and walk in His footsteps. "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light [i.e. God is holy and pure] and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness [i.e. not being holy and pure], we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:5-7).

Hopefully, our life is a reflection of Christ's. If we love God with all our heart, soul and mind, which is the first and great command, then we will be seeking God's truth and His way of life. And His truth and way of life will become an integral part of our life. Then truly, we can let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. Then if someone looks at us, perhaps they may get a glimpse of Christ who dwells in us.

*Bill Faith  
St. Louis, Missouri, congregation*

## What My Boss Said About the Sabbath

In the 20-plus years that I was in the real estate profession, I found it to be a satisfying and rewarding experience—earning an income doing something I loved and making people happy! Whenever I was able to help people find the home of their dreams or sell a home they no longer wanted, I was rewarded with their thankfulness and got paid in the process.

When I was first hired into my office, I told the manager that I wouldn't be working on Saturdays because of keeping the Sabbath. She told me that wasn't a problem. For all those years, I never worked from Friday sunset until Saturday sunset, but my income was always adequate.

After a few years my manager offered me the job of being her assistant. She needed someone to help run the office when she was unavailable. I reminded her that I didn't work on Saturdays. She replied, "I'm not asking you to work on Saturdays but could someone call you at home if questions or problems arise while I'm away?" I explained that it would still be conducting business and I couldn't do that on the Sabbath. She never again asked me to work on Saturdays, and I felt that she was disappointed even though she was always kind to me.

At one of our weekly sales meetings the question came up about the stresses of our business and how to find some relief. Our manager suggested that everyone should take a day or two off every so often. Some agents complained that if they took time off they would lose business and income. She exclaimed, "Well, that's not true." Pointing in my direction she told the group that I never worked on Saturdays because of my religion. "Saturdays are our biggest sales days but it doesn't seem to have affected her business and income," she continued. That closed the discussion.

I was surprised that my manager used me as an example to others, but she was used as a witness

that day in proclaiming the blessings of keeping the Sabbath. She was probably unaware of what happened, but someday all this may have a meaning for her and perhaps others who heard her.

I never knew Saturdays were the biggest sales days for real estate. I always thought Sundays and Mondays were the biggest sales days because that's when I was the busiest. I was blessed for not working on the Sabbath, but I never realized how much until it was made clear to me that day by my manager. What a testimony she gave! God certainly does work wondrously!

*Shelby Faith  
St. Louis, Missouri, congregation*

## Caution: Hazardous to Your Health

Imagine, if you will, an attack on your physical health brought on by simply going out in public. The assault can be in a department store, the laundry aisle in a grocery store or even at church. For example, last year approximately 20 people at the Wisconsin Dells Feast site battled for their physical health because of this environmental hazard.

The culprit, unlike cigarette smoking, is not a substance banned from certain areas of life. What causes this assault? The very item many men and women consider a part of preparing for church—frangrances. The aftershave or perfume some wear to church may actually risk their spiritual brother's or sister's physical health.

Unlike allergies, a sufferer cannot just take a decongestant to resolve the problem. This would merely eliminate the runny nose and itchy eyes, but the attack on one's immune system can be severe.

There are varying results from the exposure to fragrances. (Singing hymns and breathing deeply only worsens the problem.) For one person a migraine may be triggered, even resulting in nausea and vomiting. For most, breathing becomes very difficult, some even needing to use an inhaler. Some may, after fragrance exposure, get a sinus infection and end up using antibiotics to eliminate the infection, then needing to rebuild their immune system again.

The common thread, however, is that fragrance exposure attacks the immune system and overall health of many of God's people. Repeated exposure only tears down the sufferer's health even more.

Imagine coming before God, rejoicing and singing praise, which is such a joy, and at the same time having it make you physically ill. Let's try not to be the one causing illness to others.

Take it upon yourself to be a caring Christian and find out if your congregation includes a fragrance-intolerant person. If so, a small change in your habits would be greeted with very deep gratitude. (For more technical and in-depth information, refer to the article "Colognes, Chemicals, Compassion and the Church" from the January 2002 *United News*, [www.ueg.org/un/un0201/cologne.html](http://www.ueg.org/un/un0201/cologne.html).)

I am from central Illinois. I have battled with this problem for 13 years. My tolerance to fragrances has continued to worsen because of exposure I have had no control over. When moving here two years ago, my health problem became known. The brethren took it upon themselves to eliminate cologne, aftershave and perfume from their Sabbath routines. I cannot convey the deep appreciation I have toward God's people here in Illinois. I am grateful beyond words.

*Susan Graham  
Bloomington, Canton and Springfield, Illinois, congregations*

## Turning the Hearts "Fathers to the Children"

Since God first loved us, and then we love Him, it is appropriate to consider how we as fathers and mothers may turn our hearts to our children so that they may indeed turn their hearts toward us.

Let's look at five areas in which parents' hearts may be turned to their children.

**Understanding** is one way to turn our hearts to our children. There is no greater gift to give someone than to understand them. To understand means to look at things from their perspective.

To understand our children, we must realize that they *are* children. We should not expect them to react like adults yet. Relating to them at their level will go a long way toward turning their hearts to us as parents (1 Corinthians 13:11). As they mature, expect more from them, but never forget that they are children until they have matured at 18 to 20 years of age.

**Communication** must be a two-way street. It is up to the parents to make themselves approachable and to set the communication rules that allow discussions and feedback. Children should be free to ask questions for clarity and understanding (Matthew 7:7-11).

Teaching is certainly part of communication. Parents should try to use an interactive style (Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:6-7; Exodus 12:26) with their children as this tends to be more effective.

Communication also involves courtesy and compliments. Children learn courtesy by hearing "thank you" and "please" and are taught to value others by observing kind, caring communication (Proverbs 22:6; 3:27).

**Providing** for the needs of our families sends a very strong message of care and concern to the heart of our children (1 Timothy 5:8). Christ said, "If you . . . know how to give good gifts to your children . . ." (Luke 11:13), showing that giving is something that should occur in the family.

I remember just going for a short drive with my parents to have a Dairy Queen frozen custard cone. What a thrill that was! What a message of caring and doing something special was sent to my heart from my parents! It is important for a child to feel secure and not have to worry about whether there will be food or clothing or shelter. He or she just knows that his or her parents will supply the needs.

Being an **example** is a fourth way. Many children walk just like their dads. If example is so powerful that they pick up a style of walk, how much more powerful is a parent's example of being a wife or husband or a mom or dad? What about our children's views of Christianity from observing us? What about their views of working? They learn all of these from hundreds of days of seeing the same "movie" in their own families. Children want to emulate their parents and will (Proverbs 17:6), for better or for worse. So being a proper, godly example is another way of turning our children's hearts.

Finally, **love** among family members touches the hearts in a very special way. I remember one young lady telling me, "I just want my dad to love me." Another said that she never recalled receiving a hug from her father in her entire life (she was 17). Telling our children we love them and showing we love them with actions will do much to turn the hearts of our children (Luke 15:20; Genesis 46:29-30). Be willing to express your love to your children regularly, and watch their hearts glow with appreciation.

*Gary Antion*





## Local Church Updates

### Kansas City Hosts First Young Adults Weekend

The Kansas City, Missouri, singles hosted their first young adults event over the 2005 Memorial Day weekend. A total of 73 young adults from 18 different states and Canada converged at the Show Me state's "City of Fountains" for a very exciting and inspiring weekend May 27 to 30.



Scenes from Kansas City young adults weekend (clockwise from upper left): Ann Thomas and Jason Watkins sing; Emmanuel Gomez leads an enthusiastic crowd during the Saturday night dance; group photo in front of Plaza Fountain (photos by Ruben Gusman)

Guests were immediately treated to a surprising twist as each of the singles and speakers received two lengthy written reports that contained the online survey results that each of the singles filled out prior to the event. Reading the unedited responses and poll results raised eyebrows and created quite a buzz that was to last throughout the entire weekend. (The reports are online at [www.kcya2005.com/Questionnaire.html](http://www.kcya2005.com/Questionnaire.html).)

Doug Horchak delivered the Saturday morning keynote address titled "Raising the Standards for the Next Generation of the Church of God." His inspiring PowerPoint message was further enhanced by encouraging audience participation.

Following the keynote address, there was a triple breakout session. The single women's seminar "Female Makeover 101" was given by a panel that included Marian Sargent, Tanya Horchak, Marjolaine Meeker and Becky Johnson. A panel that included Mr. Horchak, Greg Sargent and Joel Meeker gave the single men's seminar "Male Makeover 101." The singles seminars focused on practical physical improvements and spiritual principles to help the singles better relate and interact with each other.

Dave Johnson gave the seminar for the married guests titled "How to Keep the Romance Alive and Maintain a Healthy Marriage." All the seminars

included a brief question-and-answer session.

Kansas City's beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel served as the facility for all the seminars and Sabbath services. For many, one of the highlights of the weekend was the Saturday night dance. Located in a spacious outdoor facility at Union Station, young adults feasted on a delicious barbecue buffet meal that was immediately followed by a mix of karaoke and dance music. One young adult commented later about the dance, "I didn't know we were allowed to have that much fun!" Young adults and other guests danced and sang the night away well past midnight.

The Sunday morning brunch was supplemented by a last-minute video presentation.

Mr. Meeker was able to share a 30-minute video from his recent trip to Africa, which he narrated for all the guests. Mr. Meeker then moderated the last interactive seminar on "Online Etiquette" in which each table was assigned a few scriptures to discuss regarding the topic.

Young adults had the rest of the day free to attend any of the optional activities or do their own thing. Some toured Kansas City's Historic Liberty Memorial Museum while others went to Worlds of Fun amusement park. The evening ended with a bang as most gathered to watch a spectacular fireworks display and enjoy an outdoor patriotic concert performed by the Kansas City Symphony.

On Memorial Day, the 40 guests who remained met for brunch at the Cheese-cake Factory on the world-famous Country Club Plaza. A group photo was taken at one of Kansas City's most famous fountains after the brunch and those who could stay toured a nearby Memorial Gardens park.

The event has received so much positive feedback that plans are already in the works to host another Memorial Day weekend in 2006. More photos of the event can be viewed at the following link: [http://kcya2005.com/Event\\_Photos.html](http://kcya2005.com/Event_Photos.html).

Ruben Gusman

### Baptism Highlights Tampa Bay Family Weekend

God's family got a little larger this year during the annual Tampa Bay Family Weekend, held June 4 and 5, 2005. Charlene Langner, of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, was baptized in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico during the annual beach party on Sunday at Fort DeSoto Beach—currently the number one rated beach in the United States.

Local and visiting ministers laid hands on Charlene asking for God's Holy Spirit for her prior to asking a blessing on the cookout meal. Charlene learned about the United Church of God about a year ago while searching the Internet for churches. After finding the UCG Web site and reading about our doctrines, she asked if she could attend services. Since that time she has been at nearly every service and now she has become a member. Welcome to the family, Charlene!

The day before, about 200 brethren met at the Largo Cultural Center for a combined Sabbath service with the St. Petersburg and Tampa congregations plus visitors. Larry Greider, a regional pastor and chairman of the UCG Youth Education Team, was the guest speaker.



Charlene Langner was baptized at the Tampa Bay Family Weekend and has hands laid on her for receiving the Holy Spirit by ministers David Treybig, Larry Greider, Eric Evans and Jack Fike (photo by Sean Yarbrough)

Since this Sabbath was also the date of a Churchwide fast, the potluck meal provided afterward by the local brethren was unofficially deemed one of the best potlucks in Church history!

After the potluck, members from as far away as California participated in an interactive seminar on teaching, presented by Larry Greider. Then brethren danced the night away under palm fronds at a safari-themed family dance.

Kristin Yarbrough

### Member Celebrates a Century

Gertrude (May) Rogers recently turned 100 years old and has been in the



May Rogers turned 100 on May 10, and has been part of the Church of God for 50 years

Church of God for 50 years. She was born Gertrude (May) Hodgson in Stoke-on-Trent, England, on May 10, 1905.

May's father was forced out of his profession as a baker due to an allergy. May's uncle had migrated to America and found a good paying job in a coal mine in southern Illinois. He was so delighted with his new life in Illinois that May's mother and father thought moving to the United States was a good idea. At the tender young age of 5, May Hodgson left her home in England and started a new life in America in 1910.

On June 20, 1936, May was married to Arthur Rogers. Mr. Rogers was a coal miner and a farmer. May enjoyed farm life, but Arthur wanted to live in town. In 1992 May and Arthur moved to Centralia, Illinois, where Arthur took up wood-working and filled their new home with fine handmade furniture. Arthur's health declined badly, and he died in 1998.

Due to a childhood mishap, May's right leg was paralyzed, but in spite of the hardship, May learned to function well. May has three children: Virginia, Ruth and Arthur Jr.

Before there was a local congregation in her area, May heard Herbert Armstrong on the radio. She was an avid reader, and she soon requested and received baptism. When local congregations were established, May began attending, first in Harrisburg, Illinois, then in Evansville, Indiana, and then in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She was attending in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, when she became homebound.

May always set a fine example of ladylike dress and decorum. May's mother taught her to play the piano, and she also became an excellent seamstress at her mother's knee. For many years

May kept her family dressed in her own handmade clothing.

During the years that May was homebound, her health continued to decline. It finally came to the point that her daughter could no longer take care of her. May is now residing at Odin Health Care in Odin, Illinois.

Louis Muench

### Houston South Sponsors Student in El Salvador

A young mother, Jeanette Bonilla, came to Houston, Texas, from El Salvador several months ago hoping to obtain employment in her field as a computer network administrator to pay off some debts. This required her to leave her two children behind with her mother in El Salvador.

Jeanette is a member of United in El Salvador, and she attended the Houston South congregation for several months. Once members realized the nature of her predicament, needing both added education and funding, they inquired about



Jeanette Bonilla, a member in El Salvador and mother of two, is being sponsored by the Houston South, Texas, congregation

the possibility of "sponsorship" of Jeanette.

Houston South pastor, Ken Giese, spoke with Jeanette's pastor, Herbert Cisneros, about the sponsorship, and he was all in favor of it. So Jeanette has returned to El Salvador and is being sponsored by the UCG Houston South congregation so that she can take classes in information technology full-time while supporting her family. After completing these studies over the next 12 to 18 months, she will be able to further her career with a better paying job, and thus be better able to support her family, including two children, a boy, 14, and a girl, 12, and her mother.

Jeanette registered for six summer classes at Universidad Don Bosco in San Salvador on June 22, 2005, and started classes the same day. She is taking network administration, laboratory for local networks, digital systems and digital systems laboratory, and physics and physics laboratory. Many days' classes

See "Local Church Updates," page 14

## News At a Glance

### Continued from page 2

ried 50 years or more? We plan to honor all couples wed 50 years or more who are attending the Kerrville site.

Please send a wedding photo or one taken during the year you were married plus a current photo. Please include a short biography of your life together. The photos will be displayed at the senior table in the main hall lobby.

Please send photos and biography to Norm and Donna Myers, 416 Union St., Stevens Point, WI 54481 before Sept. 10. Photos will be returned at the Feast. For more information, call (888) 663-6498 or e-mail normmyers@ameritech.net.

Norm Myers

### Scuba Diving in Maui?

Planning efforts are now in progress for anyone who would like to go scuba diving as a UCG group at the Feast in Maui, Hawaii, this year.

Anyone who is interested, please contact Duncan Paisley by Sept. 18 either by e-mail at dcpaisley@cox.net or calling (623) 878-5980.

Duncan Paisley

### St. John's Feast Site May Close Next Year

Due to lower than expected attendance, the St. John's, Newfoundland, Feast site may have to close next year, according to Anthony Wasilkoff, director of operations in Canada. "This is most difficult to fathom because those who attend come back with such positive comments about their experiences," Mr. Wasilkoff said.

Victor Kubik, who pastors two Indiana congregations and who has attended in St. John's, said, "The unique scenery and the beautiful spirit of the local people keep calling you back."

Mary and Jim Jordan from Virginia, who attended in St. John's for four years, put it this way: "It's not the breathtaking view of the ocean, the sunsets over Conception Bay, the whale watching, the local music of Wasisname and the Other Fellers. No, it's the people. They open their hearts and lives and make you feel like they have known you all their lives and make you welcome."

Melissa Williams from Michigan said, "The entire experience contributed to a most spiritually rewarding Feast. In fact, the Newfoundlanders I encountered—from store clerks to servers—were warm and outgoing. Newfoundland itself is fascinating—the connection to the sea, the traditions and heritage, the colorful array of accents and the rugged, beautiful landscape."

Vernon Hargrove, who pastors two Indiana congregations, said, "It was like

a big family reunion. It was one of the best Feast decisions we ever made."

If you have not finalized your 2005 Feast plans, consider St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

For more information, contact David Smith at david\_smith@ucg.org

Dennis Horlick

### Men Needed at Panama City Beach Feast Site

There is a need for additional male singers in this year's Panama City Beach, Florida, Festival Choir. Please e-mail Al Purdy at alpurdy@neo.rr.com and register to sing, or call Joseph DeCapite, choir director, at (478) 953-3524, as soon as possible.

Harold Rhodes

### ABC Mini-Sampler Coming to Akron

On Sept. 17 and 18, the Akron, Ohio, congregation will be sponsoring an Ambassador Bible Center Mini-Sampler.

The ABC Mini-Sampler is a two-day compressed version of the same Bible classes that are given by the same instructors at ABC. The weekend's activities will be held at Akron North High School located at 985 Gorge Blvd. (at the corner of Tallmadge Ave. and Gorge Blvd.) in Akron.

Our instructors will be Clyde Kilough, president of the United Church of God, and Gary E. Antion, coordinator, admissions officer and director of student affairs for ABC.

Mr. Kilough will present the "Dynamics of Spiritual Growth," which was presented in Practical Christianity class. Mr. Antion will present "Secularism—the New Religion of the World" from Comparative Religion class and the book of 2 Peter from the General Epistles class.

Sabbath services Sept. 17 will be held at 10:30 a.m. with split sermons from Mr. Kilough and Mr. Antion. After a lunch provided by the Akron congregation, the 10 hours of classes begin.

The first class starts at 2 p.m. and the first day's classes conclude at 6:40. On Sunday, Sept. 18, classes begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m., with lunch provided once more by the Akron brethren. A brief Q&A session and certificates and awards will be presented until 5:40 p.m. when the Mini-Sampler concludes.

There will be special projects for the children while their parents are attending the Mini-Sampler, including an open gym day on Sunday.

For further information about the program or for lodging, please contact Roger Ellis by phone at (330) 745-1338 or e-mail Dave Pavlik at davidp@en.com. Or visit the Akron Web site at www.ucgakron.org. Dave Myers is the pastor and may also be reached by e-mail at dave\_myers@ucg.org.

Gary E. Antion

See "News at a Glance," page 16

### "Local Church Updates," continued from page 13

start at 7 a.m. and end at 6 p.m.

Jeanette will be staying in touch with the members of Houston South via monthly updates printed in our bulletin and via e-mail with some of the brethren.

Jon Erickson

### New Congregation Started in Kinston, North Carolina

A new congregation of the United Church of God started on the Sabbath of June 4 in Kinston, North Carolina, with a total of 19 people gathering at the Hampton Inn for the first meeting. It began, perhaps appropriately, on the day



New congregation begins in Kinston in eastern North Carolina June 4

of the Churchwide fast. At the second service on June 18, there were 22 in attendance.

Though the numbers are relatively small, the excitement and enthusiasm were high. Quite a few members have

been traveling two to three hours one way to attend the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation, and some have not been able to attend at all. The new congregation is a good central location between several sizable cities less than an hour away, bringing a congregation to the huge area in the eastern part of the state.

The new Kinston congregation will be meeting on the first and third Sabbaths of each month for a while. It is pastored by David Mills, who also pastors the Charlotte, Asheboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, congregations.

David Mills

### Additional High School Graduate Honored

Here is information about a high school graduate not included in last issue:

**Graduate's Name:** Christine Joyce M. Remo

**Parents:** Adolfo and Grace Remo

**Congregation:** Manila, Philippines

**High School Accomplishments:** Christine graduated first honor-

able mention, was a consistent honor student and four-year academic scholar. She was on the varsity table tennis team and participated in the Math Quiz Bee.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Inter-**

ests/etc.:

Christine has attended United Youth Camp five times, and her family attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Davao, Philippines, for the past four years. Her hobbies are reading, drawing and playing the violin. She loves to be with her friends in Church and loves cats.

**Plans After Graduation:** Christine plans to take up dentistry.

**Favorite Quote:** "And now here's my secret, a very simple secret. It is only with the heart that one can see



Christine Joyce M. Remo

rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye"—*The Little Prince*.

**Favorite Scriptures:** Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

### "Challenger II," continued from page 1

youth camp climbing programs will be a highlight of Challenger II.

Young adults who think they may like to serve on the climbing staff at one of the United Youth Camp summer programs at some point will find participating in Challenger II particularly helpful.

#### Mt. Lemmon

The slopes of Mt. Lemmon, in the Coronado National Forest, attract rock climbers from all over the United States.

Southern Arizona's warm winters and Mt. Lemmon's south-facing rock walls keep winter climbing temperatures on the lower half of the mountain comfortable during the day, with average highs in the mid-60s, though snow often covers the higher elevations. Numerous climbing routes of all difficulty levels are easily accessible within a short distance from the Mt. Lemmon highway.

The Challenger II camp is scheduled to take place from Dec. 25, 2005, to Jan. 1, 2006, to take advantage of the year-end winter break from school and work.

Participants will be tent camping at the base of Mt. Lemmon in a developed campground, though bathhouses in the campground are basic with only pit toilets—no sinks or running water. Nighttime temperatures average in the mid-30s, but participants should be prepared

for the possibility of below-freezing temperatures at night with appropriate clothes and sleeping bags.

#### Spiritual/Leadership Focus

The wilderness-challenge environment is a proven, effective way for building and mentoring skills for leadership and spiritual growth. The Youth Education committee has stated that the goal of Challenger II is "for the purpose of helping older teens and young adults mature in their relationship with God by a wilderness or specialized camp that will challenge them both physically and spiritually. Goals would include familiarizing this group with the doctrines of the Church and true godly values to be used in guiding their faith and commitment to a life of service and leadership in doing the work of the Church."

Participants should be in harmony and agreement with the intended goal of Challenger II and should desire the kind of spiritual growth possible from working with a relatively small group (approximately 15) of like-minded young adults. A specialized series of classes and discussions is being developed for the program, emphasizing the qualities of courage, character and commitment in spiritual maturity and leadership.

Requisites for participating in the Challenger II climbing program are:

- Minimum of 18 years of age, and a

high school graduate.

- Excellent physical health.
- Desire to be challenged both physically and spiritually.
- Previous United Youth Camp experience is helpful, especially in a camp with a climbing/rappelling program, but is not required as long as physical ability to participate is demonstrated.
- The applicant's pastor's recommendation.
- \$250 program fee.

Applications for Challenger II will be available beginning in August on the UCG Youth Web site, with the application deadline being Nov. 1, 2005. Based on response from last year's program and interest already expressed, the program is expected to fill early.

A video of the 2004 Challenger II program is also available online at [ucg.org/youth/videomp3.htm](http://ucg.org/youth/videomp3.htm).

The camp will be directed by James Capo, pastor of the Tucson and Sierra Vista, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas, congregations, and also the director of the UYC Hye Sierra summer camp in California.

Mark Mickelson, pastor of the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Kennewick, Washington, congregations and also the director of the rock climbing and rappelling program at the Teton Challenger camp, will also be assisting with the Challenger II program. **UM**

# Announcements

## Births

Scott and Mandy (Eckman) Jennings of the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, are delighted to announce the



Anthea Rose Jennings

arrival of their newest family member, a baby girl, Anthea Rose Jennings, born on July 3, 2005, weighing 6 pounds 15 ounces and 21 inches long.

Older brothers Aaron and Austin and bigger sister, Ashlee, are enamored with their new little sister!

Proud grandparents are Richard and Dorene Eckman of Wasilla, Alaska, and Malcolm and Judy Jennings of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Daniel and Kimberly (Walker) Preston of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Aaron Edward, born June 14, 2005,



Aaron Edward Preston

weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces. The very happy grandparents are Alvin and Brenda Walker of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Charles and Betty Preston of Cincinnati and great-grandmother Ollie Preston of Ohio. Big brother Andrew is very happy to have a new brother.

Aaron and Dawn (Schwartzrock) Booth of Loveland, Ohio, are proud to announce the birth of their son Wyatt Aaron. Wyatt arrived on Feb. 18, 2005, weighing in at 8 pounds 2 ounces and



Wyatt Aaron Booth

measuring 21 inches long. Big sister Brooklyn, age 2½, witnessed her brother's birth at home. The grandparents are Gerald and Ardelle Schwartzrock of Hawley, Minnesota, and Les and Debbie Booth of West Lafayette, Indiana.

Ted and Beth (Schwartzrock) Wilson of Killbuck, Ohio, announce the arrival of their twin boys, Samuel and Luke. Samuel Thomas was born Aug. 1, 2004, at 4:09 a.m., weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces and 20½ inches in length. Luke Eugene made his appearance three hours later at 7:18 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 6 ounces and 20 inches in length. According to Aunt Dawn, "they are identical!" Grandparents are Tom and Regina Wilson of Killbuck and Gerald



Luke (left), Samuel (right) and big brother Taylor Wilson

and Ardelle Schwartzrock of Hawley, Minnesota.

Eric and Rachele (Henson) Metzger of Dayton, Ohio, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Kyle Dublin. Kyle was born on March 1, 2005, weighing 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches long. Ecstatic grandparents are Don and Rannie Henson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and John and Jane Metzger of Dayton, as well as great-grandparents Mary Satterfield of



Kyle Dublin Metzger

Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Don and Alice Henson of Tacoma, Washington.

Stephen and Beth (Whitley) Ferguson are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Rylan Kaden Ferguson. Rylan was born on July 6, 2005, weighing in at 8 pounds and 21 inches long.

He is the first grandchild of Patty and Jerry Ferguson of Mt. Vernon, Texas, and the 18th grandchild of Floyd and



Rylan Kaden Ferguson

Floyce Whitley of Conroe, Texas.

Stephen and Beth attend the Houston North, Texas, congregation. With the new addition, the Whitley family has grown to 36 members!

## Weddings

Patrick and Joanne Read of Ethel, Ontario, Canada, along with Rudolph Jr. and Carolyn Rangel of Granite City, Illinois, are thrilled to announce the marriage of their children, Judy Marie and Rudy Joseph. An intimate ceremony officiated by Anthony Wasilkoff, back-



Judy and Rudy Rangel

dropped by a lovely outdoor venue, was performed on May 27, 2005. The newlyweds now reside in Glen Carbon, Illinois. The couple thanks all their friends and family for a magical wedding weekend filled with love and support!

Charlie and Lanae Waldrup and Gary and Faith Dullum of Houston, Texas, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Breanna Gail and David Andrew. The ceremony was performed by Jim Franks in Houston Jan. 2, 2005.



Breanna and David Dullum

The bridal attendants were: matron of honor Alea Waldrup Meek, maid of honor Kristin Waldrup, bridesmaid Jena Waldrup, attendants Rachael Wasdin and Megan Ahlgren and flower girls Bennett and MacKenzie Van Meter. The groom's attendants were: best man Michael Giese, groomsmen Anthony Moore and Greg Baker and ushers Bryan and Eric Followell.

After a weeklong cruise of the Caribbean, the couple returned to Austin, Texas, where they are both students at the University of Texas and members of the Austin congregation.

Marlyn and Martha Reamy of Phoenix, Arizona, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Maggie Marie to Jay Bruce Rumpf. The wedding was May 1, 2005, in



Maggie and Jay Rumpf

Scottsdale, Arizona. The couple now resides in Phoenix.

## Obituaries

Miriam (Myra) Rose Poff Stiglich, 85, of Troutville, Virginia, died July 15, 2005. She was a member of the Roanoke congregation, and was baptized in March 1969. Her husband of 60 years, Leon, also a longtime member of the Church, survives her.

Also surviving her are her two children: Linda Jo Yowell and James Stiglich, and his wife, Renee. Her other son, Michael, preceded her in death in Vietnam. She is also survived by five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her brother, Joseph; her sisters, Juanita, Sue and Betty; and a number of nieces and nephews and close family and dear friends also survive her.

Myra served in the Navy and was stationed in Cleveland, Ohio, during World War II. She was a devoted wife and loving mother. Myra had suffered from cancer for the last number of years, and despite her weakened condition, she maintained a very positive and optimistic attitude. She had a wonderful sense of humor and was loved by all who knew her. The Roanoke congregation will truly miss her.

The funeral service was conducted by her pastor, John Foster.

Ralph C. Becker, 74, a member of the Church of God since 1970, died April 10, 2005, with his wife standing by his side. Mr. Becker attended the United Church of God in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where his wife, Liesbeth, continues to

attend. Funeral services were held on Friday, April 15, and were conducted by Michael Hanisko, pastor of the Oshkosh congregation.

Ralph was born in Kassel, Germany, on Jan. 29, 1931. At the age of 14, he began his profession of barbering, which he continued for almost 60 years. Ralph came to the United States at the age of 20 and soon enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He was an airman medic when wounded in Korea, and he spent the remainder of his life as a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Ralph is survived by his wife, two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Candido Merino, 63, a local leader in Sabang, Baybay, Leyte, Philippines, passed away July 21, 2005, in his residence in Conalum, Leyte. Mr. Merino suffered a stroke, which caused his death.

He is survived by his wife, Nenita; their two daughters, Cielo and Cherry; his mother, Maria; and brother and sisters, most of whom are members of the Church. Mr. Merino was an example of



Candido Merino

humility and meekness in the congregation where he served. He will be very much missed by his family, relatives, friends and brethren.

Bonnie Campbell was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, March 27, 1942. She died May 1, 2005, after a long-term illness of over 41 years. Cecil Maranville conducted the funeral May 6.

Bonnie married Cecil Campbell Sept. 5, 1965, in Indianapolis. John Bald performed the ceremony. She and her husband moved to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1974 in hopes that the climate would



Bonnie Campbell

help Bonnie's health problems.

Bonnie is survived by her husband of nearly 40 years, Cecil; two daughters, Renee Stenbak and Diane George; and four grandchildren: Leandra, Janessa and Jared Stenbak and Jesse George, all of Phoenix. Bonnie has two sisters, Mary Turner, 82, and Florence Sisk, 80.

Bonnie stayed very firm in the faith for all those many years of pain and suffering. She is now at rest awaiting the first resurrection. The family would like to thank everyone for the many prayers.

## News At a Glance

Continued from page 14

### ABC Mini-Sampler Goes to Nashville

As announced in the July *United News*, ABC will bring a Mini-Sampler to the Nashville/Murfreesboro, Tennessee, area over the weekend of Sept. 17 and 18.

The weekend will begin with services at 10:30 Sabbath morning. Ralph Levy, from Ambassador Bible Center, and Melvin Rhodes, a writer for *The Good News* and *World News and Prophecy*, will present split-sermons.

After a break for lunch, classes will start Sabbath afternoon and continue Saturday evening. There will be four classes on Sabbath afternoon/Saturday evening, and another eight classes beginning Sunday morning, for a total of 12 50-minute classes. Mr. Rhodes' classes are titled "Topics in Bible Prophecy," and Dr. Levy's are "Two Bible Heroines: Ruth and Esther."

At the time of going to press, the venue was still to be determined. Please contact either Fred Kellers, pastor of the congregations in Nashville, Murfreesboro and Bowling Green, Kentucky, at [Fred\\_Kellers@ucg.org](mailto:Fred_Kellers@ucg.org) or (615) 591-4966, or Dr. Levy at [Ralph\\_Levy@ucg.org](mailto:Ralph_Levy@ucg.org) or (513) 576-9796 for details, which should be finalized by the time you receive this issue.

Ralph Levy

### Young Adults Christian Leadership Conference in Wisconsin Sept. 2-5

Attention young adults: The upper Midwest regional Christian Leadership Conference will be held from Friday evening, Sept. 2, through Monday, Sept. 5, at the Wesley Woods Camp, Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Activities will include: informative seminars and interactive



## What's New on the Web?

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

#### ■ Compass Check

See video of home office weekly meeting.  
[www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice/compasscheck.htm](http://www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice/compasscheck.htm)

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

Weekly commentaries by UCG written on world news and trends, from a biblical perspective. Read these and more: "Is the Philippines Poised for Another 'People Power' Revolt?" "What Next for Britain, Europe and the World?" "The UN Millennium Manifesto"  
[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 August *VCM* includes "Choosing Music, TV and Movies—What's Going Into Your Mind?" and "Are You Feeling Overwhelmed?"

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

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

■ New articles posted on the Web site for August include: "A New Look at Leadership," "Credibility: Vital for Service" and "Count the Cost."

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

### Featured Links of the Month

■ **Good News/Tomorrow TV station listings.**

[www.ucg.org/multimedia/gntv.htm](http://www.ucg.org/multimedia/gntv.htm)

■ **Good Works Program.**

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

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

studies concerning Christian leadership, Sabbath services, a service project, recreational activities (including volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, lakefront swimming and fishing, pontoon boat rides, waterskiing and tubing) and lots of fellowship. Dormitory housing and camping are available. Registration is required!

Speakers for the weekend include Gary Black, Mike Hanisko, Steve Myers and Jim Servidio.

More information will be made available on the Web at [www.ucgstp.org/conference/](http://www.ucgstp.org/conference/) or you may contact Gary and Gale Black at (651) 769-8802 or e-mail [gary\\_black@ucg.org](mailto:gary_black@ucg.org).

### Winter Family Weekend Set for Louisville Starting Dec. 23

Plans for the Winter Family Weekend 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky, are well under way. More than 1,500 are expected to attend for four full days of fun and fellowship.

Although last year's weather gave all who attended the opportunity to share stories about the "great snow of 2004," we anticipate weather much more rep-

resentative of the area at that time—milder and without snow.

Some of this year's plans include basketball, volleyball, flag football, soccer, speedway, wall climbing and batting cages for the sports enthusiasts.

There will also be swimming pool parties, preteen organized games, card parties, jam sessions, novelty Olympics, a family dance, a teen dance and a young adult dinner dance. Additionally, there will be a family fun fair with games for all ages, such as a mechanical bull, zing swing, fire truck slide, hi-striker, moon bounce, obstacle course, putt-putt, twin spin, Velcro wall, sumo wrestling suits, grab bag fishing and more.

For those who prefer checking out the local sites and sounds, there is Fourth Street Live (Louisville's downtown entertainment district), the Kentucky Derby Museum, the Frazier Historical Arms Museum and other options.

In addition to the 75 restaurants within a 2-mile radius, this year there will be more food options at both the hotel and the sports facility.

The highlight of the weekend is always the Sabbath, and we will have a stimulating lineup of speakers planning to give studies and seminars. Everything will begin with a Bible study followed by a welcoming reception on Friday evening, Dec. 23, at 7:30.

Sabbath services as well as the

evening events throughout the four days will be held at the Clarion Hotel. The Clarion has made a number of renovations within the last year, including all new sleeper sofas, 35 rooms completely renovated, new carpet and chairs in the convention center, a new Jacuzzi and a new snack bar area.

We have contracted a three-year room rate (meaning this is the price for the next three years should we decide to stay at this property) of \$40 a night for regular sleeping rooms, and \$45 a night for an executive suite. Please call (502) 491-4830 or toll free (866) 246-2021 to make reservations. The Clarion will fill quickly, so don't wait.

If the Clarion is sold out when you call, you may make a reservation at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne (same exit as the Clarion) for \$43 a night by calling (502) 426-2600. Both hotels have free airport shuttles.

More details of the specific activities as well as how to register will be announced. For more information see [www.ucg.org/familyweekend/](http://www.ucg.org/familyweekend/).

Mark Winner

### Calendar of Events

Aug. 3-4: Video production meetings for the new media center at the home office.

Aug. 14: ABC graduation.

Aug. 19-21: Women's Weekend in Sacramento, California, "Encouraging One Another to Love and Good Works" ([suecrow@gmail.com](mailto:suecrow@gmail.com)).

Aug. 22-26: ABC Sampler at the home office ([gary\\_anton@ucg.org](mailto:gary_anton@ucg.org)).

Aug. 26-31: Council meetings.

Sept. 2-5: Upper Midwest regional Christian Leadership Conference at Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Sept. 4: An outdoor, live music festival, Houston North, Texas, congregation ([elbuch@aol.com](mailto:elbuch@aol.com), please use "Subject: Houston Music Festival").

Sept. 4-5: Fifth Columbus, Ohio, softball tournament.

Sept. 6-7: Conference for the three areas of operations in Africa administered from the United States—East Africa, Nigeria and Ghana.

Sept. 17-18: ABC Mini-Samplers in Nashville, Tennessee, and Akron, Ohio.

Nov. 19-20: ABC Mini-Sampler in Los Angeles, California.

Dec. 11-15: Council meetings.

Dec. 21-26: Winter Camp, Wisconsin.

Dec. 23 (evening)-27 (late): Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky.

Feb. 27, 2006: Deadline for congregations to submit Statements of Concern about any proposed amendments.

May 7-8, 2006: General Conference of Elders annual meeting.

### 16 Men Invited to Fourth Leadership Workshop

Ministerial Services has invited 16 men and wives from local congregations in the United States and Canada for the fourth Leadership Workshop. The seminar will run from Sept. 1 through 5 at the home office in Milford, Ohio.

The invitees are: \*David and Pam Blue, Boise, Idaho; David Campbell, Vancouver, British Columbia; Shawn and Beth Cortelou, Canton, Illinois; \*Larry and Maureen DeLong, Lethbridge, Alberta; Russ and Tammy DeVilbiss, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Michael and Angie Erickson, Prince George, British Columbia; \*Neal and Linda Kinsey, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Pete and Miquelyn McNair, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Arnold and Janie Mendez, Corpus Christi, Texas; \*Fred and Lidia Nance, Lansing,

Michigan; \*Fred and Cheryl Reeves, Tacoma, Washington; \*Brian and ReNae Shaw, Chicago, Illinois; \*Greg and Jan Swartz, Columbia, Missouri; \*Steve and Margaret Villaescusa, Raleigh, North Carolina; David and Lori West, Ft. Worth, Texas; and David and Sarah Witt, Williamsburg, Virginia (\*elder).

There will be five days of classes covering topics such as: leadership in the Church, teaching as we have been taught, developing the heart of a leader, developing wisdom and judgment, learning to understand and appreciate differences between yourself and others, principles of research, roles of deacons and elders, roles of pastors' and elders' wives, relevance in speaking and principles of counseling.



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