



News At a Glance

Elders Ordained on Pentecost

Nelson Arnold was ordained an elder on Pentecost, June 4. He and his wife, Grace, serve in the Terre Haute, Indiana, congregation. Others ordained on Pentecost were:

- Paul Carter, who, with his wife, Tracy, serves in the Springfield, Missouri, congregation.
- Shawn Cortelyou, who, with his wife, Elizabeth, serves in the Canton, Illinois, congregation.
- Gordon Hannaway, who, with his wife, Holly, serves in the Tampa, Florida, congregation.
- Don Turgeon, who, with his wife, Donna, serves in the Lafayette, Indiana, congregation.
- Art Verschoor, who lives in Napier, New Zealand, and will be serving congregations in New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Feast Site in Bolivia Finalized

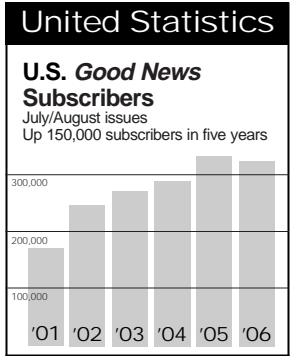
This year the Feast of Tabernacles in Bolivia will be observed in the region of Nor Yungas located at the northeastern part of the country. The region is a tropical zone with attractive flora and fauna surrounded by green mountains.

The Hotel Don Quijote, where we will have the Feast, is located less than one mile from the small tropical town of Coroico. This town is located 60 miles from the city of La Paz. The travel time from La Paz to Coroico is around two hours by bus.

The altitude of Coroico is 5,700 feet above sea level, and the temperature is in the 80s the whole year round. Nice summer clothes are fine for services.

The price of the Hotel Don Quijote,

See "News at a Glance," page 2



GN Print Advertising to Reach 13.3 Million for 2006-07

Members can help distribute new brochures.

A vigorous *Good News* print advertising campaign is planned for the new fiscal year. Nearly 13.3 million U.S. households will be reached through direct mail and "take one" brochures, resulting in over 100,000 new *Good News* subscribers.

As a part of this new effort, brethren will have the opportunity to distribute two newly designed trifold subscription brochures. One brochure will feature a cover photo of a lion and lamb with the

headline "Will Our World Ever See Lasting Peace?" The second covers a topic that always receives a high response, "What Happens After Death?"

A major component of the advertising plan will be the placement of inserts in 24 card pack co-op mailers. Over 9 million U.S. households will be reached, resulting in thousands of new *Good News* subscribers.

Beginning in September, an updated bifold subscription brochure titled "Are You Prepared to Teach Values?" will be sent to 2,750,000 first-time mothers by

means of American Baby, Inc., co-op mailers. Also, in January 2007, a test distribution of 500,000 *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension* brochures will be conducted. These brochures will be inserted in *American Baby's* "Parents-Healthy Kids" sampling pack to be distributed at pediatrician's offices.

Also, beginning in October 2006, we plan to distribute 721,000 bifold "take one" subscription brochures on 4,500 "Good Neighbor" displays located in major supermarket and discount stores across the United States.

Our four-color brochures will feature the following titles: *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy; Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?; The Middle East in Bible Prophecy, Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?; Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension and Managing Your Finances*. Samples of these new brochures will be sent to all elders for display at Sabbath services.

As always, your prayers for a successful print advertising campaign will be much appreciated.

John LaBissoniere

Challenger II—Buffalo River Experience



Three of the canoe staff (men in hats) and 16 young adults pose in the Buffalo River (photo by Allen Hirst)

by Karie Greider

Sixteen young adults from around the United States made the trek to the Buffalo National River in Arkansas to be a part of the first Challenger II canoeing program. The Challenger II program is designed to be a service and leadership program along with the rock climbing Challenger II program in Arizona. We had a few more girls (10) than guys (six). Our canoe staff consisted of Britt Taylor, Mike

Blackwell, Allen Hirst and Doug Horchak.

On day one, we pitched our tents and were introduced to the fantastic food that would continue for six days. (Admittedly it's not as hard to brave the wilderness while you are enjoying fajitas and homemade beef stew!)

Day two we hit the river and tested our skills as expert paddlers and, with the low water levels, we also tested our

See "Challenger II," page 4

Public Seminar Held in Sweden

The United Church of God on June 24 sponsored a *Good News* seminar in Mjölby, Sweden. Current and past readers of the *GN* were invited to attend.

Eleven people attended with four who were not UCG members. Others called before the seminar to ask questions and express interest. Two others contacted organizers Paul and Kira Spenser saying that they would have liked to have come, but could not this weekend.

Victor Kubik showed slides of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor and the "Revival" Center of the Rehabilitation of Disabled Children that he and his wife, Beverly, just visited. He then spoke about what the Bible says about how the Kingdom of God will come and that the world will not end in catastrophe.

Comments ranged from "exciting and positive," to "thought-provoking, informative, scary but hopeful." Following the seminar everyone gathered at the Spensers' home for pizza and ice cream.

The first Swedish language booklet, *The Road to Eternal Life*, is at the printers in Ukraine and will be offered shortly to *GN* readers. Other upcoming booklets are *What Is Your Destiny?* and *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. The 12-lesson *Bible Study Course* is in the final editing stage.

Paul and Kira Spenser, Solveig Hammar, Vic and Bev Kubik

God Blesses UCG With Strong Income in 2005-06

by Tom Kirkpatrick, treasurer

The blessings of God have been poured out on the United Church of God in many ways this past year. Among those blessings has been God's provision of ample financial resources to press forward in doing the work of the Church. For that we give God thanks, accompanied with a sober desire to use what He has made available in a wise, prudent and biblical way.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, the unrestricted income of UCGIA was just over \$21.4 million, which is 5.5 percent more than was budgeted. That strength in income, coupled with total expenses of \$20.5 million (1 percent more than budgeted), resulted in a surplus of slightly less than \$1 million for the fiscal year.

This has permitted the Church to maintain its solid financial footing and to be in a position to face the new fiscal year with greater operational flexibility than in times past. We have already taken the step of providing additional funding for the furtherance of both dimensions of the Church's mission. Ongoing discussions will, we hope, soon lead to the hiring of more men into the pastoral ministry than was originally planned. We also have recently freed up significant additional funds to augment the preaching of the gospel.

We thank the brethren for their faithfulness in tithes and offerings and their prayers to God on behalf of the work of the Church. The members of the Church account for nearly 90 percent of the Church's income. We also are grateful for an increase in the number of donors

and coworkers who, though many are not regular attendees of our Church services, have expressed in tangible terms their support for the work of the Church.

In financial terms, the Church is now stable, certainly by historic standards, and is leveraged to increase its efforts to perform its work in an increasingly challenging world. Even so, we have but "a little strength"—in measurable terms—when compared to the scope of the work still ahead of us. This is all the more reason for us to consider our utter dependence on God for the wherewithal to do what we are expected to do. But the help of God is sure, so long as we please Him.

As always, we solicit the prayers of God's people for the wisdom to be good and proper stewards of the financial resources He so graciously gives the Church. UN

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including three meals a day for the eight days of the Feast, will be only US\$90 total. Transportation to and from La Paz to the hotel will be about US\$10.

All the brethren who decide to attend this Feast will be accommodated in the same hotel where services will take place, so there will be no expense to travel to services. However, we are planning to have some outings that will cost about US\$10 for transportation. Visitors must also pay a US\$25 airport tax before leaving the country.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 6, at 8 p.m.

Information and Reservations: If you need more information about this Feast site, please contact Saúl Langarica at slangarica@unidachile.org, or write to P.O. Box 10384, Santiago, Chile. You can also contact Raul Machicao by e-mail at raulmachicao@hotmail.com.

We hope to share the Feast with our brethren of the Church of God from Latin America and the rest of the world.

Saúl Langarica

Indianapolis Holds WNP Seminar

Three years after *World News and Prophecy* seminars were launched, they returned to the site of the first one conducted in June of 2003. *World News and Prophecy* writers Paul Kieffer and Melvin Rhodes joined managing editor Daris McNeely in presenting this seminar. About 200 people attended all or part of the day that began at 10:30 a.m. and went to 6 p.m. Of these, 16 were visitors not associated with UCG.

Mr. Kieffer is the regional pastor for the United Church of God in Germany and edits the German language publications for UCG. Mr. Rhodes is the senior pastor for Ghana, pastor of the Lansing, Michigan, congregation, and is a senior writer for *The Good News* and *World News and Prophecy*. Mr. McNeely is pastor of the Indianapolis and Fort Wayne congregations.

The topics covered were varied, ranging from the signs of Christ's return to the looming energy crisis in Europe. Daniel 11 and the kings of the North and South were discussed by all of the presenters.

Daris McNeely

Media Steering Group Meets

The new media steering group of Clyde Kilough, Peter Eddington, Roger Foster, Bob Dick, Victor Kubik, Joel Meeker and Larry Salyer met in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the end of May. This group is designed "to make our efforts to

See "News at a Glance," page 24

Council Member Profile: Leon Walker

Council of Elders member Leon Walker and his wife, Reba, have five children and eight grandchildren.

While studying at Ambassador College (1956 to 1960), Mr. Walker worked in the Spanish Department as a student assistant to the director, Benjamin L. Rea.

When Dr. Rea was named dean of faculty at the new Bricklet Wood, England, campus in 1960, the Spanish Department was transferred to England. Mr. Walker, having graduated from the Pasadena campus that year, was also transferred to Bricklet Wood to work full-time in the Spanish Department. At the time, he and Dr. Rea were the only two members of the department.

Mr. Walker also became a faculty member at Bricklet Wood in 1960, and continued as such until the college closed in 1974. He taught a number of classes, including Old Testament

Survey, Epistles of Paul, Harmony of the Gospels, Intermediate Speech, Advanced Public Speaking, International Relations and Spanish. He was also dean of students from 1972 to 1974.

While in the United Kingdom, Mr. Walker served as associate pastor in the Birmingham congregation from 1963 to 1965, pastor in Bristol from 1965 to 1968, pastor in Warrington from 1968 to 1971 and pastor in London from 1971 to 1974.

He was transferred to Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, after the Bricklet Wood campus closed in 1974, and served as chairman of the Theology Department until the Big Sandy campus also closed (1977).

The Walkers then transferred to Pasadena where he was on the theology faculty from 1977 until 1979; he was also dean of faculty in 1979, and became

regional director of the Spanish region that same year. When the Advisory Council of Elders was formed by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1981, Mr. Walker was named a member of the Council and served in that capacity until 1995.

When the Texas campus reopened as a junior college in 1981, he was named deputy chancellor and served one year in that capacity. He was still regional director of the Spanish region, wearing both hats. In 1982 he transferred back to Pasadena. In 1990 he and the Spanish Department were transferred to the Big Sandy campus of Ambassador University. Since 1995 Mr. Walker has been directing the Spanish work from his home in Big Sandy.

Mr. Walker was elected to the Council of Elders of UCG in December 1995 and has remained a member of the Council since then. He is one of the three



Leon and Reba Walker

Council members from the international region.

He is currently chairman of the Doctrine Committee and also served in that capacity from 1999 to 2002. Mr. Walker has also served on the Education Committee, the Ethics, Roles and Rules Committee, the Executive Committee, the Media and Communications Committee and the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. UN

FORWARD! "No, Please, Not the Stones!"

by Tom Kirkpatrick



That headline is not the cry of someone trying to avoid listening to the music of a certain British rock group. Read on.

Which of the following assertions is true?

- God has selected and called individuals to be firstfruits—not solely for their salvation now, but in order to do His work now. Therefore, these individuals should take very seriously the responsibility—the "burden" (to use a biblical phrase)—to do His work. They have been called to do it, and it must get done!

- The work of God in these "last days" will get done. The work of God always has gotten done. Nothing can stop it. What God has foretold in the Bible will come to pass. This world will be warned and witnessed to

and given hope through the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom, whether there is a single human willing to perform that task or not.

Well, which is it? Should those who have been called to be firstfruits recognize a palpable responsibility to do what they've been called to do—shine spiritual light into a darkened and deceived world? Or, is that light going to shine, whether those God has selected to be His instruments carry out their responsibility or not?

Actually, it is not either/or. Both are true! It is a great privilege and a very real responsibility to do the work God has given His chosen ones to do. But, if some or all of a group that has been called to do God's work resist that calling, the job will be done nevertheless!

Christ said as much! He stated that God's work will be accomplished even if He has to use inanimate objects—stones—to do it. In the sad event that the people God would prefer to use to do His work, in any generation, fail to do it, it will be done nevertheless!

It was God's will that His Son would be praised when entering Jerusalem at the end of His physical life,

prior to being rejected. When many did cry out worshipful praise to Him as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, others criticized. In response, Jesus said, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40, KJV).

On an earlier occasion, John the Baptist expressed a similar thought. He preempted those in His day who took pride and false comfort in their "uniqueness" and "special standing" before God from believing that they were exempt from responding to the truth of God or that God was somehow dependent on, beholden to or limited by them—and their uniqueness.

"And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Matthew 3:9, KJV).

It is a great calling to be a firstfruit—and a great responsibility. God desires that the firstfruits respond to their calling and yield to Him as instruments in doing His work. But His work will be done!

Let's do it, and let the stones rest! UN

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President: Clyde Kilough

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News From Around the World

UCG–Australia Develops Ambitious Media Plan

On June 11 the budget and operational plans for the 2006-2007 financial year were approved by the UCG–Australia National Council.

The Australian media plan is particularly expansive in that, owing to the recent National Council decision to increase staff in the National Office (see article below), the target for adding new subscribers in the next financial year has been set at over 12,000. This is the first time that such an ambitious goal has been adopted.

Such a goal is realistic given the suc-

New Subscribers

2001-2002	6,538
2002-2003	5,662
2003-2004	6,004
2004-2005	9,232
2005-2006	7,200 (estimated)
2006-2007	12,160 (target)

cess of Internet advertising and the opportunities available to repeat some reliable print advertising initiatives.

When the proposal was presented in March, the media coordinator alerted National Council members to the fact that an almost twofold increase in new subscribers over the previous year would mean a proportional increase in literature requests, increasing the workload for the Mailing Department. The National Office manager assured National Council members that measures were in place to handle this increase.

The chairman of the Pastoral Committee commented that such an ambitious plan was an investment in the future growth of the Church.

Current Print Advertising

Along with various Internet ads, UCG–Australia has been using the fol-

lowing print advertising programs:

- Response Direct Publishing card deck drop of 600,000 in early May advertising *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* and offering a subscription to *The Good News*.

- Yellow Envelope drop of 100,000 reply-paid cards in northern Queensland in April. (The Response Direct Publishing deck drop covered most of the coast of Australia and the urban areas of Adelaide but missed northern Queensland.)

- *Reader's Digest* ad in the May edition to coincide with the release of the movie *The Da Vinci Code* and offering *Jesus Christ: The Real Story* and a subscription to *The Good News*. (An ad on the Internet referencing *The Da Vinci Code* is receiving over double the hits of any other topic advertised.)

Excerpted from United News Australia, April-June 2006.

International News At a Glance

Members Help Spread Gospel in Barbados

Members, led by Jeff Weatherhead, are distributing more than 1,500 *Good News* magazines on newsstands in Barbados. The stands are usually emptied within a few days.

The newsstand program is now being buttressed by the *Good News* radio broadcast aired on Gospel 790 AM on Sundays. The program averages around eight or nine new callers, but the highest response was around 18 on the topic of marriage. Sheila Burnett volunteers to answer the calls, and Ann Maycock substitutes when she is not available.

Excerpted from Caribnews, June 2006.

- 526 subscribers to *World News and Prophecy*.

- 269 subscribers to *Vertical Thought*. A total of 1,362 students have been sent all 12 lessons of the *Bible Study Course*; 237 of these have returned all 12 test cards (a special service provided by UCG–British Isles).

UCG–Australia Enjoys Positive Financial Position

The treasurer's report showed that UCG–Australia was on a solid financial footing as they entered the last quarter of the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Income was up, expenses were down and cash balances were at healthy levels.

Net income stood at a surplus of \$50,085 (all figures, Australian dollars) compared to a budgeted deficit of \$114,197. Actual total income for the first nine months of the year was \$799,365 compared to budgeted income of \$702,804, producing a positive variance of \$96,561.

Actual expenses were \$749,278 compared to budgeted expenses of \$817,001, producing another positive variance of \$67,723. However, the expense variance was to be reduced as the Media Department implemented its promotional plans for the last quarter of the financial year.

Allan Hambleton

Printing GN in Australia a Success

Copies of the March/April and May/June issues of *The Good News* to be distributed in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and South Africa came off the presses at Offset Alpine, a printer in Sydney, Australia, on time, on cost and of a very high quality. Around 36,000 to 38,000 copies were printed in this first of a series of trial runs before a final decision to continue printing in Australia is made by the media management at the home office.

It has also been suggested that the approximately 10,000 *Good News* magazines distributed in the Philippines be printed at Offset Alpine, subject to the printing and distribution costs being lower than the present U.S. printing and shipping costs.

Offset Alpine also handled the mailing and distribution of the magazine in Australia from the same location as the printers, thus lowering shipping costs. The processing of the magazines for mailing also came in at a more economical price than the previous company.

UCGIA Media and Communications Services manager Peter Eddington said, "Your three March-April 2006 samples of the *GN* that was printed in Sydney arrived today. They look great! . . . We're really happy with the way it turned out!"

Bill Eddington

UCG–Australia Hires Additional Staff Member

At the March Australian National Council meeting, Allan Hambleton, National Office manager, made a presentation regarding the steadily increasing workload. He explained that the *Good News* subscriber list had increased from approximately 3,500 in 1995 to over 20,000 in total distribution today.

In addition to this sixfold increase in workload resulting from the growth in the *GN* subscriber activity and the development of multilevel subscriber development programs, activity on the Australian Web site has increased geometrically. This much sought after and pleasing growth in subscribers and responses from the Internet—and the administrative work associated with them—had caused a reassessment of the way these matters are currently being handled at the office.

Web Volunteer to Retire

As these systems were under consideration, Harold Ingham of the Melbourne East congregation, who has been donating many hours of his time each week to assist in developing the UCG–Australia Web site, Internet advertising programs and reporting systems, notified the staff that he planned to gradually phase out these responsibilities over the next 12 to 18 months.

After discussions it was agreed that, since the Web site has become such an important part of the media efforts and would likely become even more important in the near future, the prudent decision would be to transfer the Web site back into the National Office as Mr. Ingham recommended.

The National Council was informed that, even if one of the webmasters were

not retiring, there was already a need for at least 15 hours of additional help.

Therefore it was recommended that Ruth Root, one of the co-webmasters, spend more time on Web matters and Internet advertising and delegate some of the more routine administrative office and Web site tasks.

New Employee Hired

The National Council agreed to add another person to the office staff and agreed that even after employing the additional person, giving a total of 3½ office employees, the Australian National Office would be operating in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Alisha Herold was hired in June to fill the new position. "We are very happy to have her," said Ruth Root.

Bill Eddington

British Isles National Council Meets in Gloucester

The National Council of UCG–British Isles met in Gloucester May 21.

Circulation report: Jan Schroeder reported that the circulation of *The Good News* is likely to rise with the resumption of UCGIA's Internet advertising.

Financial report: Barbara Fenney discussed a proposed budget for the financial year beginning July 1. After discussion, National Council members confirmed that the budget should be based on the principle of meeting the needs of the Church and its members first, and then using remaining funds to support the distribution of the *GN* and other literature. Once approved, the budget will be submitted for ratification at the annual general meeting July 16.

Young Adults' Leadership Week: The National Council reviewed details of the young adults' activity to be held July 21 and 28 near Mablethorpe. Council members confirmed their support and

agreed to donate £800 from Church funds. Ministers and other adult leaders will be fully involved with the young adults in this activity, which is being organized by Hannah Ellams.

Gospel Cost Minimization proposal: The National Council considered a proposal from Church members in the Isle of Man for minimizing the costs of preaching the gospel that would involve Internet advertising on the Manxnet Web site. Those responding to the ad would be directed to online-only versions of *GN* articles. The Council referred this suggestion to its Media and Internet Committee to examine the technicalities and strategic and cost implications.

Feast 2006: Gerhard Marx reported that around 125 people had registered so far for the York Feast site.

Feast Site Selection: David Fenney reported on behalf of this committee, which is searching out potentially less

expensive sites, such as caravan parks, especially where it may be possible for all Feastgoers to be housed on the site.

Media and Internet: Peter Hawkins reported for the committee on the effective use of Google ads and other items.

Strategic Planning and Finance: David Fenney reported on behalf of this committee. The report included:

- Suggestions for optimizing the running costs of the local congregations.
- Preliminary disaster recovery plans.
- A review of the impact of the Royal Mail's Pricing in Proportion scheme.

National Council members: As chairman, Bryan Ellams reported that Gerhard Marx, a ministerial member of the National Council, had decided to retire from the Council when his term expires at the annual general meeting. Council members offered a vote of thanks to Mr. Marx for his service to the Council since its formation in 1998. UN

Sabbath Service Held in Sweden

Frank Jarvis, an elder from England, wrote: "We enjoyed a Sabbath service in Sweden at the home of Paul and Kira Spenser on the 27th May. Five adults and two children were present. The evening before, 16 people attended the blessing of Paul and Kira's twin boys, Isak and Aaron. This number included Kira's family as well as Solveig Hammer (our other member in Sweden)."

Pentecost Reports

Services on Pentecost were held in eight locations in the British Isles. The total attendance was 162 (compared to 132 in 2005) and the offering was £4,069 (compared to £3,207 in 2005).

Pentecost Holy Day offerings in Canada were about 2.7 percent higher than last year, with individual offerings still coming in by mail.

British Isles Reports Circulation

Highlights from the UCG–British Isles circulation report for May, which covers all literature distributed by the Church from Britain, include:

- 1,126 letters and other responses.
- 566 *Good News* requests.
- 118 *Bible Study Course* requests.
- 433 requests for 961 further items.

As of May 31, there were:

- 4,253 subscribers to the *GN*, of which 3,309 are distributed within the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man.

- 441 students of the *Bible Study Course*.

- 318 subscribers to *United News*.

Philippine Camp "Fights the Good Fight!"

Thirty-two campers and 32 staff members gathered at Eden Nature Park in Davao City from May 14 to 21 for the United Youth Camp 2006. Members of the staff came days earlier for setup and precamp training.

The theme of this year's camp was "God's Special Forces—Fight the Good Fight!" This year's camp was designed to prepare the youths in God's Church to fight the good fight of faith. Like the Rangers or the Navy SEALs, God's Special Forces are few in number and often isolated from one another. Yet they have been called, not only to survive, but to accomplish the mission in hostile territory. All the campers were presented with "The Creed," patterned after the U.S. Special Forces Creed.

Each camper was assigned to one of four dorms—two boys' dorms (1B and 2B) and two girls' dorms (1G and 2G). Each dorm of eight campers (plus the counselor and assistant counselor) stayed in two five-man tents and cooked their own food on two-burner gas stoves.

Each day began at 5 a.m. with "quiet time," an hour of prayer and Bible study. Then at 6 a.m. campers would get ready and prepare breakfast. Like a family, the



campers and counselors in each dorm ate together and worked together. At other times, however, dorms would invite one another, help each other prepare meals and join forces in cleaning up afterward.

The first activity of each day was the Interactive Christian Living class. For

Philippine campers and staff, right, on the climbing wall (photos by Gino Dizon and Aunell Ross Angcos)

five mornings, camp director Edmond Macaraeg led discussions on the major issues and problems facing the youths today. He presented the concept of the

Special Forces as a metaphor for our calling in this world, battling against a society designed to destroy our faith. He presented various ideas and strategies for overcoming the various booby traps of the enemy.

The other activities consisted of classes and workshops (arts and crafts, carpentry, cooking and baking, first aid, journalism, PA system, public

rifery, softball, soccer, swimming and wilderness skills).

We also had a day of hiking and outdoor cooking, followed by a "confidence course." For the evenings we had novelty games, fellowship time, an open forum and a variety show and dance.

On the Sabbath, we had Bible bowl and Sabbath services. David Baker, our senior pastor, and Mr. and Mrs. Rey Evasco, pastor of the Manila congregation, visited us this year. Mr. Baker gave the sermon on leadership principles from the life of Joshua. After the service, we had "Open House," (a.k.a. open tent!) then a pizza and ice cream night.

The next day, we had awards ceremonies and pictorials, capped with a buffet lunch at the Holiday Terraces. It was a very memorable and profitable camp, with a lot of valuable lessons learned.

Daniel Macaraeg



speaking, signaling [International Morse Code], silkscreen printing and song leading) and regular day activities (confidence course, dance, in-line skating,

50 Campers Attend Youth Camp in Zambia

by Kambani Banda

A youth camp in Zambia was held from Wednesday, April 26, to Thursday, May 4, at Tina Trust School in Lusaka. Fifty young people from age 13 and up attended the camp. There were 32 boys and 18 girls from various parts of Zambia: 19 from Nalubanda, 19 from Kasumpa, four from the Copper Belt area and eight from Lusaka.

Activities started at 5 a.m. with a group prayer in the dorms. That was followed by a 2-kilometer jog, which prepared the campers and staff for a cold shower in readiness for breakfast served at 7:30 a.m.

After breakfast, lectures commenced at 9:30 a.m. The lectures were designed to equip campers with skills to help them live productive and fulfilling lives as they

prepare for life in the Kingdom of God. We used lecturers who were experts in their fields. These included a secondary school teacher, a social worker, a businessman and a senior civil servant.

Topics covered included the purpose of camp, proving God exists, communication skills, the value of education, health laws and dating. Lectures ended with a group discussion and a question-and-answer session. These proved to be the most popular and were very effective teaching and learning tools.

The lectures ended at 11 a.m., in time for a rigorous physical education program that lasted for an hour. We hired two professional physical education trainers who stretched the camper's stamina. Then they enjoyed good games of football, net ball and volleyball. We were blessed to have the same expert trainers

take this session as well.

The games finished in good time for lunch at 1 p.m. Lunch and dinner consisted of an unlimited helping of starch in the form of *nshima*, rice or potatoes, accompanied by either fish, beef or chicken and a helping of vegetables with a large drink to make up for the rigorous physical exercise.

Afternoon activities started at 2 p.m. and included a trip into the city, a visit to a township near Tina Trust School, a youth speech club and a moving and emotional visit to an orphanage to see the reality and the effects of HIV/AIDS on innocent children. There was a cook-



out on the last Wednesday.

The evenings were occupied by a Bible quiz, a variety show, films and a dance. The campers were pleased to retire to their dorms, pray and crawl into bed by 9 p.m.



Campers in Zambia attend class and eat a meal outdoors

The Sabbath was a highlight of the camp for two reasons. Campers got a chance to catch up on some much-needed rest, and some parents came to join us for services, learn about camp and visit with the campers. The fellowship after the service was exceptional.

Camp finished on Thursday with presentation of prizes as follows:

Best Overall Camper: boy—Bevin Momba, girl—Mutinta Moonga; Most Helpful Camper: boy—Gideon Ngulube, girl—Mwansa Mfula; Most Improved Camper: boy—Joseph Banda, girl—Sharon Katapyia.

Thursday was a very sad day for all of us, because campers were saying their good-byes. All in all, the staff found the experience very valuable and hope that the investment in our youths bears good fruit as the years go by. UN

"Challenger II," continued from page 1

leg strength with a few portages. Although Mr. Blackwell educated us on the snakes and crawling creatures that are native to Arkansas, I am pleased to report that most kept their distance and we were able to admire them from afar, or not at all.

For three days and two nights we called the river home and were responsible for setting up and tearing down camp each day. Once we mastered our canoeing techniques, we focused on team building. The participants experimented with makeshift catamarans by tying two canoes together in which four or five young adults paddled and one lucky participant took the stern and worked to encourage the rest of

the team members.

Each morning we started the day with a brief Compass Check to highlight a biblical principle that would be the focus of our day. Toward the end of camp, one of our own, Matthew Miller, presented a Compass Check to the group.

Each evening ended with a campfire discussion that would start with a story of courage, bravery or integrity and end with a discussion involving life skills and our personal conviction. Oftentimes campfire was followed by informal discussion in which we all related personal stories, scriptures and opinions about all walks of life.

As for the highlights, of which there were many, I'd have to say that the



Challenger II participants around the campfire and on the river (photos by Britton Taylor Jr. and Doug Horchak) camaraderie of the young adults was definitely at the top of the list! While all the meals were fantastic, a special thanks go to Chef Doug Horchak and Chef Mike Blackwell for the Sabbath

morning made-to-order omelets, which were definitely a smashing suc-



cess. I am sure we will all always remember hitting the river's rock "pil-

lows" while floating in our lifejackets down the rapids (whose names are a great contradiction!). And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the pickin' and grinnin' exhibition of Ozark mountain music that was showcased by the locals after sundown on the Sabbath.

At the conclusion of camp, we were all responsible for taking a Learning by Doing service project back to our location congregation. These projects can be anything from mentoring, to assisting with service logistics or organizing a congregational activity. We will be working locally to share our camp experiences! UN



From the Word

Heart-to-Heart Talk With Men and Teen Boys

■ This article is a follow-up to last month's article on "Good Sex, Bad Sex." References to "men" include teenage boys and references to "women" include teenage girls.

by Don Hooser

Many of you men are clean in conduct and pure in heart. But virtually every man is tempted sexually. We sometimes win and sometimes lose the spiritual battles with "the lust of the flesh [and] the lust of the eyes" (1 John 2:16).

For clear explanations of these male temptations and how to do battle with them, I highly recommend the books by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker, *Every Man's Battle* and *Every Young Man's Battle*. I also recommend a book by Joshua Harris, *Sex Is Not the Problem (Lust Is)*.

We can only be saved by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8). But we must continue to put all leaven of sin out of our lives. Even one sin infects and leads to other—usually bigger—sins.

"But among you [believers] there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed . . . Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or course joking" (Ephesians 5:3-4, NIV, emphasis added throughout).

Brazen misuse of sex saturates our society, as Robert Bork describes in his book, *Slouching Toward Gomorrah*. But Paul urges us to be shining lights in the dark: "Therefore, having these promises [eternal life in the Kingdom of God!], let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh [our actions] and spirit [our thoughts], perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

Don't confuse temptation with sin. Even Jesus Christ "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). But if you hang around temptations, you will eventually sin because "the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). We must "flee sexual immorality" and "flee . . . youthful lusts" (1 Corinthians 6:18; 2 Timothy 2:22).

Nip temptation in the bud, before it turns into sin. Our calling is to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). Though we will never be perfect at this in this life, rely on God and continually work toward that goal.

Needed: Holy Men of God

True gentlemen are taught from the earliest age not to hit girls—physically, verbally or emotionally. Men of honor are chivalrous—respectful and protec-

tive of women.

Unfortunately, men often are more predators than protectors. Women more often than not are the stronger ones in setting and defending moral boundaries. Often men try to go as far they can toward intimacy and intercourse. How shameful this is!

To make matters worse, women have increasingly become sexually aggressive. It is all the more necessary for men to have clear spiritual principles and strong moral boundaries. "Run from her! Don't go near her house!" (Proverbs 5:8, Living Bible). Note how Joseph is a great role model for all of us (Genesis 39:6-12).

Don't be confident about your strength to resist temptations. "Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). For men with a normal supply of male hormones, sex is a powerful drive. Almost every book in the New Testament—addressed in most cases to *Church members*—contains needful teachings and warnings about sexual temptations.

Sexual Sins Bring Terrible Consequences

Satan hates God and is jealous of humanity. Satan's short-range goal is to tempt us with the "forbidden fruit" of sinful sex. But Satan's long-range purpose in this is to destroy physical health (such as with sexually transmitted diseases), mental and emotional health and relationships so that people end up with *no sex*, even in marriage. The only "safe sex" is monogamous sex within marriage. *Save your sex* for marriage. The potential for great sex in marriage is well worth waiting for!

People become jaded, desensitized and bored with sex that is disconnected from marital love. Romans 1:20-32 describes how those who turn from God to anything immoral are often drawn into more and worse sins as they desperately try to recapture excitement. For example, indulging in soft-core pornography often leads men to hardcore pornography and then addiction. There is less and less real satisfaction, and more and more guilt and depression.

Proverbs is a book of wisdom. It teaches us that sins bring terrible consequences, and this is especially true of sexual sins, as we read in Proverbs 2:10-20; 5:1-23; 6:23-35; 7:1-27; and 9:13-18! Even mighty King David suffered many bad consequences for his adultery with Bathsheba.

God's laws are absolute, and we *always* suffer penalties for our sins sooner or later. "Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife [or someone's future wife]; whoever touches her

shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 6:27-29).

Sins of immorality are especially self-destructive. "He who commits adultery has no sense; he who does it destroys himself" (verse 32, Living Bible; compare 1 Corinthians 6:13-20).

Love Versus Lust

Women often suffer more penalties than men when they engage in non-marital sex. The point is that men ought to be terribly ashamed for doing harm to women! Men should treat "older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity" (1 Timothy 5:2). Treat women as you would want someone to treat your mother, sister or daughter.

If you are married, you must be absolutely loyal to your wife. If you are single, you should be absolutely loyal to your future wife. You should want any woman you are dating to be loyal to her future husband.

Don't think, "It's my body. I can do with it what I want." Our bodies and minds are not our own for two reasons. God created us plus "you were bought at a price" by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The only sexual activity that God permits with His property is within marriage.

You are not even second in authority over your body. Your wife or future wife is (1 Corinthians 7:3-4). In part this means you should think of your sexual organs as belonging to your wife (or future wife once you are married). And you are not to touch a woman where only her husband should ever touch her.

Guard Your Eyes, Ears, Mind and Heart

Likewise, God has authority over what we see, hear and think, and He judges us accordingly. Jesus said, "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

Women can lust, too, so God expects men to be modest in dress and actions as well. But as you know, God made men to be more *visually* oriented so they are immediately tempted to lust by what they *see*. Women generally are more slow to react, responding more to romance, relationships and touch.

Jesus went on to explain that we must *do whatever it takes to keep from sinning in our minds!* (Matthew 5:29-30). In this immodest and sexualized society, that means we very often must look the other way. Instead of our eyes locking on to a woman (or to parts of her body or her underwear, etc.) like radar, we must learn to quickly avert our eyes.

This doesn't mean that we men can't enjoy the God-given attractiveness of women. But when a woman is dressed

immodestly or is exposed in some way, like when she leans over and you can see down her blouse, look the other way. Don't ogle her. We must not let a glance turn into a gaze or gape, or let a look turn into lust.

Many men have not grown spiritually enough to recognize these sins as sin, as Paul explains in Romans 7. Others just minimize or excuse this lusting. We men have reasoned, "I'm only looking at the menu—I'm not ordering." Or, "I'm only window shopping—I'm not buying or touching." Or, "A guy is a guy and this is a guy thing—can't we just enjoy a little eye candy?" But God doesn't accept these excuses.

The *Every Man* series of books explains very well how men must immediately "bounce" their eyes away from any provocative or erotic images, whether they are women or pictures of women—in TV, movies, the Internet, magazines, advertising or wherever. Ask yourself, "Does God want me to see this?"

Let's follow the example of Job, who said, "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl" (Job 31:1, NIV, see also verses 9-10). As you learn to rule over your eyes, you can better rule over your thoughts.

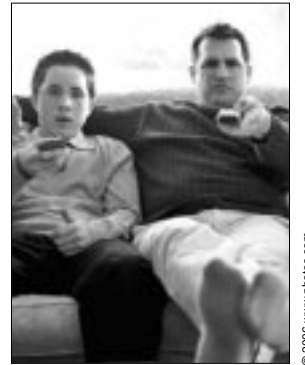
But what if a woman is deliberately being immodest and flaunting her assets? In that case, a man is not being a voyeur or acting against the woman's wishes, is he?

No, but what is *God's will*? And we must assume that someday that woman is going to be ashamed of her past immodesty and exposure to men. So out of respect for her and her husband or future husband, we must not steal views that God does not intend for us to have (compare Genesis 9:20-23). Another reason is to avoid filling your mind with images and memories that will tarnish your marriage or future marriage.

God's people should have the purest standards of what we allow our eyes to see, so avoid many movies, TV shows, Internet sites and magazines, and all lingerie and swimsuit catalogs. David wrote, "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes" (Psalm 101:3), and "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way" (Psalm 119:37).

We must also control our imaginations and fantasies. It is much easier to control thoughts if our memories are not filled with erotic images, so don't continue to pollute your mind. And since many times masturbation is done while viewing pornography or while fantasizing, ruling over one's eyes and thoughts can eliminate much of the temptation of masturbation. Masturbation can cause serious problems. Guilt complexes, self-centeredness and even the habit itself often continue into marriage.

But how do we purge wrong



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thoughts from our minds? By filling our minds with "whatever things are noble . . . pure," etc. (Philippians 4:8). "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word" (Psalm 119:9).

We in God's Church must immerse ourselves in Bible study and seek "the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:26). Keep praying for God's power to overcome bad habits and to grow spiritually.

Will You Choose God's Standards?

During the coming Millennium, probably the only nude woman's body that a man will ever see will be that of his wife after they are married. Because a woman's body is so different from a man's, a married man will be highly attracted and excited by his wife's body. He will not be jaded and bored because of having seen thousands of partly and mostly naked women. He will have no other image with which to compare his wife's body. This will greatly contribute to contented husbands!

Our primary role model should be Jesus Christ. He revolutionized the world in teaching the equal worth of and respect for women. Jesus was friendly to everyone and had women friends, but He never sinned. That means He never improperly touched, ogled or lusted for a woman.

Let us regularly ask, what did and would Jesus do? What would He look at? What would He think? Let us do likewise.

Prepare to give to your wife a healthy body, clean mind and pure heart. That way, you can "live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your . . . life" (Ecclesiastes 9:9). More importantly, be a spotless member of the Bride of Christ, and look forward to a joyous eternity with Jesus Christ and His entire family!

We strongly recommend that all of our members read our booklet, *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*. To see a list of recommended books on morality and modesty, see the Web site www.ucg-nwashington.com.

The next article in this series will be a heart-to-heart talk with women and girls. After that, we plan to have an article for parents on teaching your children about sex and modesty. UN

Depression: Is There a Cure?

by Daniel Fitzpatrick

Have you ever been depressed? I mean, really depressed? Sometimes you may feel like you have no idea what is going on. Why me? What is happening? How do I climb out of this hole that I am in? Do you see the hole, or does everyone around you see it and you don't?

Well, I know exactly how you feel! I was really depressed at one point in my life. There wasn't anything major like a death in the family or someone close to me being really ill, but there was a girl that came in and out of my life. I didn't know what I really wanted to do with my life and I had unresolved issues with my father. Do any of these situations sound familiar?

The kind of depression that I am talking about may not be what you are thinking about. I am talking about what is called *clinical depression*: a psychiatric disorder characterized by an inability to concentrate, insomnia, loss of appetite, anhedonia (the inability to experience pleasure), feelings of extreme sadness, guilt, helplessness and hopelessness and thoughts of death. This is the real thing.

Here are some sobering statistics on depression in the United States:

Approximately 7 million women in the United States are clinically depressed. Almost 15 percent of women suffering from severe depression will commit suicide. Though women experience depression at double the rate of men, men are three times as likely to commit suicide as women. Up to 2.5 percent of children in the

United States suffer from depression. Up to 8.3 percent of adolescents in the United States suffer from depression. Depression affects about 6 million elderly people. In any given year, about 7 percent—between 13 million and 14 million people—will experience a depressive disorder (www.add-adhd-help-center.com/Depression/statistics.htm).

Depression in the Bible?

Is there something wrong with human beings? Why do so many people experience depression? Do you think depression was ever present in the Bible? I didn't think so. How could God-fearing men and women in the Bible experience depression?

But, *read all about it!* Many prophets, kings and writers of the Bible were depressed at one time or another. You are not alone! And you are in the company of some very faithful servants of God! Let's look at two examples of men and two examples of women who may have been depressed in the Bible.

- **King David.** He had committed adultery with Bathsheba. He was depressed until he finally confessed his sin. "When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah" (Psalm 32:3-4).

- **Paul.** I don't see how, with everything Paul went through, he wouldn't have been depressed at times.

He wrote, "I have worked much hard-

er, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, and I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:23b-28, NIV).

- **Eve.** Why not start with the first woman ever? Do you think Eve may have been depressed after she ate the forbidden fruit of the garden and changed the world forever? How would you have felt?

- **Naomi.** Naomi was probably a happily married woman. She also had two sons. But then her husband died and her two sons died 10 years after her husband. She was left alone with her two daughters-in-law. It must have been devastating to lose her husband and sons like that. Do you think Naomi was depressed at all? I am sure she was.

What Should You Do?

So, what should you do if you are

depressed? Should you not listen to others? Should you forget about those who love you? Should you enclose your thoughts and feelings in a fortress so no one can possibly find them?

I know the answers to all three of these questions. Remember, I lived through severe depression. I didn't listen to others, forgot about all who loved me and hid all of my thoughts and feelings way deep in the recesses of my mind. I wasn't in the Church at the time. I was a nonpracticing Catholic, actually.

Looking back, I can see that God was helping me. I went to a self-help group that started me on my road to recovery. Then, I went to a social worker who talked with me about my past, present and future. Next, I went to the Peace Corps, where I finally came into contact with the true Church.

So, what is the first thing you should do when you find yourself severely depressed? *Turn to God.* "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

This step, turning to God, may not seem easy when you are depressed. If you are depressed, you probably think you are feeling that way *because God* is not giving you financial success, a stable family, good health or a strong sense of self-esteem.

It is so easy to blame God for all of our troubles. But, remember, from the beginning, God gave man the power of choice. Is it possible that we create many

of our own problems, through bad choices that we have made in our own lives?

The second step, after truly connecting with God through prayer and meditation, is to *seek assistance from those who love you.* Listen to what they say.

I know that in my situation, I was not listening to anyone. I was too busy feeling sorry for myself and thinking that no one understood me. This prevented me from reaching out for help from my family or friends. Talking your problems out with even an anonymous person, like a social worker, or asking help from a minister may help. I know it helped me. I didn't feel like I could share any of my feelings with my family, so having that third party really helped.

Remember, severe depression can be very dangerous. I almost reached that point of no return in my life. I beseech you to get help before it is too late, if you are experiencing depression now or face it in the future.

Depression is a serious issue. It is a sickness that almost all of us experience at one time or another in our lives. There are different levels of depression. But, one of the true markers of severe depression is if you are having any kind of suicidal thoughts. I was. I sought help and I recovered. You can too.

God is there for all of us. He will guide you to a proper understanding of what life is all about. Never give up hope. UN

Daniel Fitzpatrick is a member in the Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation.

When Little Is More

by Robert Berendt

Some years ago when my wife, Valerie, and I were serving God's people in the Nuremberg area of Germany, we had an occasion to visit with an old lady in the city of Hof. She has since died, but God had called her to be one of His special people.

Her life had been hard. She had endured being raped by soldiers of the advancing Russian army near the end of World War II. She had been in a concentration camp and had lived in the very difficult years of hunger and need that followed the war.

We visited her for the first time in 1989 and found her living in a tiny, old apartment with the bare necessities for life. She would put plastic on the windows in the winter and close off the bedroom to conserve heat. She would gather little branches and sticks for the tiny wood-burning heater and essentially lived in one room all winter.

Her clothes were old and her shoes were worn. But there was a bright shining light in her eyes when it came to learning about God and obeying His commandments. I baptized her a few months later.

On our first and subsequent visits, this lady would always serve tea and, as we were leaving, she would give me an

offering for the Church. I can't tell you how hard it was for me to accept the 20 German marks she would press into my hand for "God's work."

My wife and I knew how difficult it was for her to save any money, and we could see that there were many things she was doing without. It seemed to me that the Church did not need the money as much as she did. It wouldn't make much of a difference—would it?

The Widow's Mites

In Luke 21:1-4 we read the account of Jesus observing the widow casting her two mites into the treasury. Jesus did not attempt to give the money back, but He did say that it had greater worth in the eyes of God than the large and generous offering of the rich man. God is just and fair—and it did make a difference.

Jesus accepted the gift of the mites with a special love. When a person has to go to greater effort to give, to serve or to live the life of a Christian, the rewards must also be greater. The little the widow gave was indeed more. God made it more. Perhaps that was in James' thoughts when he wrote that God chooses the poor of the world who are rich in faith to be heirs of the Kingdom (James 2:5). Their rewards will be great.

It is harder to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ when a person is poor. It

takes more effort and determination to follow principles that may mean your income is curtailed. Paul expressed his admiration for those in Macedonia who also gave though they were in poverty. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-6 it is clear that Paul understood the riches they would gain from God.

God is perfectly just and fair. If He observes two people who are obeying Him and sees that it costs one person much more for that obedience, there can be no doubt that God will reward that greater effort. The "little" one person gives can then be more.

We read in Matthew 25:14-30 about the talents God gives to people. The result that God looked for was not so much in amount or quantity, it was in effort. Serving God with all our heart, soul and mind is what is asked of us (Matthew 22:37).

Struggles to Overcome

Paul lists some problems that people whom God calls may face in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Some were fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers or extortioners. Each was saddled with some sort of hindrance that required great effort to overcome or to struggle with because God required that they change.

Alcoholics, for example, almost every day have to face the temptations that drinking offers in our society. It is not easy to abstain. To others, it may seem like a small thing that someone goes

through constant small battles to live a godly life, but to God it is of great value. When the Bible says "and such were some of you" in verse 11, it does not mean God has removed the desire or craving from an alcoholic. It means the alcoholic abstains from drinking. That ongoing battle is to his or her credit.

Few of us realize the difficulty that homosexuals, for another example, face. They have inner feelings and desires that they do not want and have not sought. Various factors in their lives have brought them to a condition that God says is wrong. How then can Paul say "such were some of you" to these children of God?

God did not necessarily remove the desires. Many such people have to struggle every day to win that battle. They remain celibate. That takes effort and a great deal of character and determination every day. And there is much pain caused by those who do not understand or who are not kind and sensitive to the huge problem. This, too, may seem like a "little" problem to some, but God understands it to be huge. One who fights this battle has little rest and often receives little understanding or help from his or her physical or spiritual family.

God Knows

There are some in God's Church who cannot hold great offices and don't appear to be strong leaders in the Church. They seem to be on the sidelines and not strongly involved. Only God

sees the effort and daily battles they fight to attend services and follow the laws and teachings of God. Only God knows their pain and suffering.

I believe that the widow who tossed two mites into the treasury waited until almost nobody was there to see her and in her heart wondered if God accepted her offering. Most (if not all) people of God who give all they have to give, still feel it is not enough—and, of course, it isn't. Except that God makes it be enough for them. Enough, filled to the brim and running over.

It was the widow who went home justified by God. What a wonderful gift it is to bring before God—a heart that is broken and seeking His mercy (Psalm 51:17)! What father could ever turn from such a child? Our Father in heaven is a much better father than any of us mortals could hope to be.

In Matthew 10:42 Jesus stated that even the giving of just one cup of cold water would be noted and blessed. Poor people seem to understand the needs of others. They also realize their need for God. Maybe that is why God can focus on them. I find it is the poor and struggling ones in God's family who are the first to extend that cup of water. They seem to understand what loving your neighbor is all about. They seem to sense what mercy and love really mean. I as a minister have felt blessed by the examples that I have witnessed.

Their "little" is indeed more. God bless these "little ones"—every one. UN

Congratulations, High School Graduates 2006

Zach Alleman

Parents: Glen and Lynn Alleman
Congregation: Marietta, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Zach played



Zach Alleman

football, basketball and ran track in school.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He enjoys watching all sports, especially the West Virginia Mountaineers.
Plans After Graduation: Zach plans to attend Fairmont State University, Fairmont, West Virginia, with an undeclared major.

Linda Arnold

Parents: Stephen and Becky Arnold
Congregation: Houston South, Texas
High School Accomplishments: In high school Linda was a member of the National Honor Society, was president of one of the art



Linda Arnold

clubs on campus, graduated in the top 5 percent of her class of 650, and received a Marguerite Edwards scholarship.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Her interests include swimming, water polo, painting, reading and writing letters to friends. She is currently working as a life-guard at the city pool and tutoring a second-grader.
Plans After Graduation: This fall she will be attending the University of North Texas where she was awarded a Board of Regents scholarship. Her declared major is education.
Favorite Quote: "Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale"—Hans Christian Andersen.
Favorite Scripture: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Elyse Ashcraft

Parent: Jeanine Ashcraft
Congregation: Corpus Christi, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Elyse graduated top 10 and was a member of National Honor Society and French National Honor Society. She was a mentor and was listed on the Permanent Honor Roll and in *Who's*



Elyse Ashcraft

Who Among American High School Students.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Elyse is involved in her church youth group.
Plans After Graduation: Elyse will attend Our Lady of the Lake University in the fall. She plans to major in the pre-veterinary program.

Anabel Avilés

Parents: Carlos and Renée Avilés
Congregation: Toronto, Ontario
High School Accomplishments: Anabel was an honor roll student throughout high school.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Anabel is a member of the Young Ambassadors Club at church and is interested in fashion, travel and learning languages.
Plans After Graduation: Anabel plans to go to McMaster University to study international business and psychology.



Anabel Avilés

Favorite Scripture: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8, NIV).
Favorite Quote: "We change the world not by what we say or do, but as a consequence of

what we have become"—Dr. David Hawkins.

Michael Daniel Ball (aka "Meekle")

Parents: Louis and Joan Ball
Congregation: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
High School Accomplishments: Michael was involved in National Honor Society, tennis (lettered three years), Math Club (vice president), Publications Club, Graphics Club, Calculus competition, Robotech competition and Advance Curriculum Education. He beat cancer (remission for four years) maintaining an A average.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Michael's Church activities include setup and cleanup, videorecording services, food bank, wheelchair committee at the Feast, Camp Heritage (seven years), Camp Buckeye staff and Teen Speech Club. His hobbies include drawing, friends, laughing, camp, tennis, guitar and reading the Bible.
Plans After Graduation: Michael's plans include "getting into the camp video where someone will recognize my face instead of



Michael Daniel Ball

my "fro" for once," getting organized, cutting the "fro," going to Penn State for architecture, going to ABC, getting baptized, getting married, getting a house, having his own family, growing old and teaching in the Kingdom.
Favorite Quote: "Dwell not on the past. Use it to illustrate a point, then leave it behind. Nothing really matters except what you do now, in this instant of time. From this moment onward you can be an entirely different person, filled with love and understanding, ready with an outstretched hand, uplifted and positive in every thought and deed"—Eileen Caddy.
Favorite Scripture: "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" (Philippians 4:8).
Motto: Don't leave the toilet seat in the upright position.
Alyssa Marie Bledsoe
Parents: Denby and Theresa Bledsoe
Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Alyssa has

been schooled at home for the past six years. Her diploma will be awarded through the American School of Correspondence where she has maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She was named to *Who's Who Among*

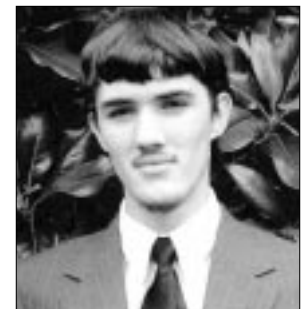


Alyssa Marie Bledsoe

American High School Students and the National Society of High School Scholars. Alyssa has also been a 4-H member for the past six years, where she has won various awards. As a 4-H member, she has held several offices, among them vice president, secretary and news reporter.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Alyssa has attended Camp Pinecrest. She has also participated in the teen choir and variety shows at church. At home, farm life keeps her busy, but in her free time Alyssa enjoys listening to music, singing, reading and riding her four-wheeler.
Plans After Graduation: She will be attending Ohio University—Chillicothe in the fall.
Favorite Quote: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us"—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

David Anthony Bradford

Parents: Rick and (Mary) Beth Bradford



David Anthony Bradford

Congregation: Chattanooga (Cleveland), Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: David studied music throughout high school.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David has attended Camp Woodmen regularly. He sang in the Feast choir in Panama City Beach, and sings in the local church choir

and plays hymns for Sabbath services periodically. He is interested in computers and is regularly called on to repair computer problems for family, friends and neighbors.

Plans After Graduation: David plans to attend Northwestern Georgia Technical College to study computer networking. After completing that program, he wants to study computer software and hardware design.

Favorite Scripture: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." (1 Corinthians 13:4-11).

Kaylah Brosky

Parent: Fran Brosky

Congregation: Bakersfield, California

High School Accomplishments: Kaylah has been involved in local charity activities for the Boys and Girls Club and the Local Relay for Life through the Interact Club. She served as Drama Performance Club vice



Kaylah Brosky

president, directed three main stage plays and performed in two main stage plays and local theater improv shows.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Kaylah has been blessed to attend five years of Church camps and recently the Louisville, Kentucky, Winter Family Weekend. She says her days are filled with work and opportunities to spoil her niece and nephew rotten.

Plans After Graduation: Kaylah plans to attend California University, Northridge and major in English.

Favorite Quote: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with his shadow on the wall"—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Justin Michael Brunick

Parents: Edward (deceased) and Claudia Brunick

Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota

High School Accomplishments: Justin's achievements include South Dakota All-State Orchestra alternate, Orchestra Four-Year award, South Dakota All-State Chorus, Junior and Senior Outstanding Chorus Member award, football letter, Football Scout Player of the Year award, Annie cast—Best Male Servant award, Boy Scouts—Eagle Scout award, 4-H Jr. Leader award, first place South Dakota 4-H State Family Consumer Science Judging and 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Trip.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Justin's Church activities have included Winter Camp, Pinecrest summer camp, Ironwood preteen camp staff, men's club, special music, youth choir and Feast teen choir. His interests include music, sports and physical fitness.

Plans After Graduation: Justin's plans include work, college and ACE (American Council on Exercise) certification for personal training.



Justin Michael Brunick

Favorite Scripture: "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).

Tiffany Kaye Bullard

Parents: Mike and Lisa Augustine; Ronald and Chris Bullard

Congregation: Little Rock, Arkansas

High School Accomplishments: Tiffany was named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students, Who's Who Most Likely to Succeed* and served as valedictorian.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Tiffany enjoys tennis and running.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas Honors College on a full scholarship, during which she plans to study in London on another scholarship she has been awarded.



Tiffany Kaye Bullard

Favorite Scripture: "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

Debra Ellen Burns

Parents: Roger and Leone Burns

Congregation: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

High School Accomplishments: Debbie won a scholarship for her involvement in the Spanish National Honor Society. She also graduated with honors, which meant she



Debra Ellen Burns

maintained a 3.5 GPA or higher and took many difficult classes. Debbie graduated in the top 10 percent of her class.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: One of Debbie's favorite hobbies is music. She stays busy by playing in her local church area's ensemble, occasionally accompanying hymns on piano and singing in the local church choir.

Plans After Graduation: Debbie plans on attending the University of Wisconsin—Madison this fall, where she plans to major in elementary education and possibly minor in Spanish and music.

Favorite Quote: "I believe in God like I believe that the sun has risen this morning; not because I can see it, but rather because by way of it, I can see everything else"—C.S. Lewis.

Kimberly Nichole Bush

Parents: Fulton and Florence Bush

Congregation: London, Kentucky

High School Accomplishments: Kimberly has



Kimberly Nichole Bush

received a high school diploma from Lee County High School, a Business and Marketing Certificate of Achievement, an award for All As in English for the past four years as well as Data Entry Operator O*net.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Kimberly helps with the taping department in her congregation, which she has been doing since she was 10. She also teaches Bible class to the young kids. She has three older sisters, Elizabeth, Leah and Julie.

Plans After Graduation: Kimberly plans to attend Western Kentucky University this fall. This summer she will be working at a Rite Aid store and taking a vacation trip to the beach in Florida.

Favorite Scripture: "'For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,' says the LORD, who has mercy on you" (Isaiah 54:10).

Reuel Regem O. Cainglet

Parents: Romeo O. Cainglet and Dr. Victoria O. Cainglet

Congregation: Bacolod City, Philippines

High School Accomplishments: Reuel's achievements include being drummer in the cheer dance competition, leading the Pledge of Loyalty during graduation day and playing the keyboard in the tribute to parents during graduation day.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Reuel attended the recent summer camp in Davao, Philippines. He plays guitar and keyboard instruments and is also able to swim. He is interested in future technologies and exploring many places in his country and all over the world.



Reuel Regem O. Cainglet

Plans After Graduation: Reuel's plans are to be successful and to put God first in life.

Favorite Scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Motto: The greatest use of life is to live for things that will outlast it.

Josie Caldwell

Parents: Larry and Shirley Caldwell

Congregation: Van Buren, Arkansas

High School Accomplishments: Josie was named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students* ('03-'04) and the National Honor Roll ('04-'05 and '05-'06).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Josie has attended and served at Church camps



Josie Caldwell

(Carter, Tetons, Pinecrest and Winter Camp) and helps set up and take down for Church services. She also sings special music for Church. She enjoys training and riding horses, running and staying fit and playing the flute.

Plans After Graduation: Josie is planning to attend the University of Arkansas Fort Smith for two years and then transfer to the University of Arkansas Fayetteville to major in geology.

Favorite Scriptures: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13) and "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Michael Case

Parents: Eric and Nancy Case
Congregation: East Texas, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Michael graduated fifth in his class at Big Sandy High School and was on the honor roll all four years. He is an All Region Leadership Honors recipient, a member of Interact for two years, National Society of High School Scholars for three years and the Family and Community Career Leaders of America (FCLA) representative for Student Council. He was listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* for three years, and Michael's classmates voted him Most Friendly his sophomore and junior years and Most Dependable his senior year. He was a member of the high school band for four years and held first chair clarinet for



Michael Case

one year and second chair for two years. Michael achieved all this while working 15 hours a week his junior and senior years.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Michael is an active member of the local church teen group. He has played on the volleyball and basketball teams and participated in fund-raising and service projects. As a clarinet player, he has played in the Feast ensemble since seventh grade and had the opportunity to play in the Festival Orchestra in Wisconsin Dells. He has accompanied hymns at services and played special music. He is also a member of the church teen and adult choir.
Plans After Graduation: Michael was awarded four scholarships, including ones from the band and Chamber of Commerce. He plans to attend Kilgore College to obtain a pre-med degree and then transfer to Parker Chiropractic College in Dallas, Texas.

Katelyn Grace Collison

Parents: Doug and Dianne Collison
Congregation: Grand Rapids, Michigan
High School Accomplishments: Katelyn's achievements include the Honor Roll and French.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



Katelyn Grace Collison

Katelyn enjoys hanging out and having fun with her friends, music, cards, computer stuff and, yes, collecting Hot Wheel cars.
Plans After Graduation: She plans to work for a year and then go to school for massage therapy.
Additional Comments: Katelyn loves the book of Esther because she was a great heroine.

Laura Rose Convery

Parents: Brian and Linda Convery
Congregation: Buffalo, New York



Laura Rose Convery

High School Accomplishments: Laura's achievements include High Honor Roll for four years, National Honor Society for four years, finishing her freshman year of college while a senior, American Field Service for three years, varsity soccer for two years and varsity track for one year.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Laura has served as a volunteer staff member at Camp Buckeye since 2001, and has attended Camp Heritage since 2001. She has enjoyed playing soccer for the past 14 years, enjoys reading, drawing, making pottery, traveling, music and lifeguarding.
Plans After Graduation: Laura plans on attending Brockport State University in the fall of 2006, entering as a first year sophomore. She plans to major in history and become a history teacher, with a minor in art.
Favorite Quote: "I believe we write our own stories, and each time we think we know the end, we don't. Perhaps luck exists somewhere between the world of planning, the world of chance and from the peace that comes from knowing that you just can't know it all. Life's funny that way. Once you let go of the wheel, you might end up right where you belong."

Michael Czepizak

Parents: Henry and Elizabeth Czepizak
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Michael was



Michael Czepizak

on the Honor Roll for four years, was in the top 15 percent of his class and received the Prairie State Achievement Award and the President's Award.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Michael has participated in choir, ushering,

babysitting and other services. He has attended United Youth Camps for eight years. He enjoys watching and playing baseball, football and basketball.
Plans After Graduation: Michael will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago, majoring in chemical engineering.
Favorite Scriptures: "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6) and "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

Christina Davis

Parents: Howard and Patti Davis
Congregation: Portland, Oregon
High School Accomplishments: Christina's honors and accomplishments include: valedictorian at David Douglas High School, Oregon's largest with nearly 3,000 students; Student Body first vice president; varsity swimming and water polo for four years, captain and/or co-captain junior and senior years; times qualified for western U.S. swimming regionals in five events; age-group champion of Blue Lake Olympic Triathlon three years; DDHS Scholar-



Christina Davis

Athlete for Multnomah Athletic Club (includes membership and \$1,000 scholarship); awarded \$5,000 Joe Loprinzi Scholarship from Multnomah Athletic Foundation; top 8, Academic All Star in Social Sciences in Portland area; National Honor Society member; Model United Nations delegate; "We the People" Constitution Competition group leader; Coca-Cola Scholar national semifinalist; David Douglas academic departmental awards in art/design and social studies; business/shop manager of the advanced automotive program; scholarship from the DD Dad's Club and PTSA; award finalist for DDHS scholar athlete, student leader of the year and the service award. She was the female winner of the American Legion Award for outstanding character, patriotism, academic excellence, athletics, leadership and service to humanity. She earned 50 community college credits in high school.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Christina founded Nets Saves Lives as a project of LifeNets. She loves God, friends, art, athletic challenges, traveling, helping the elderly and disabled children, reading Chaim Potok books on Stairmaster, citrus sorbet and unprocessed almonds.
Plans After Graduation: Christina will attend Seattle University as a sophomore in the School of Business and Nonprofit

Leadership and plans to pursue a master's degree at Tufts University Fletcher School of International Relations in Boston. She plans to dedicate her professional life to African development, including working in Church African programs.
Favorite Scripture: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Chelsea Alexandra Dawe

Parent: Catherine Dawe
Congregation: Buffalo, New York
High School Accomplishments: Since she was homeschooled, she ranked first in her class!
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Chelsea has helped with Sabbath school and Feast FYI classes, and she has painted backdrops for the congregation youth play. She's also attended Camp Heritage and

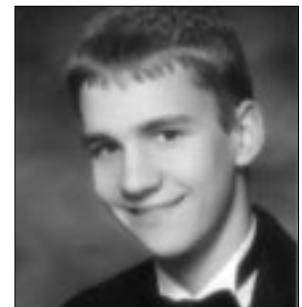


Chelsea Alexandra Dawe

Camp Highlands. She's taken dance lessons for the last 14 years and currently takes jazz, tap and ballet. She is a volunteer with Cheektowaga Youth Engaged in Service and was named Volunteer of the Month for July 2005. She loves reading, daydreaming, drawing her own comic strips and making people laugh.
Plans After Graduation: Chelsea has been accepted to Daemen College and will work toward a BFA in art with a specialization in drawing/illustration. She would like to become a children's book illustrator or graphic designer.
Favorite Scripture: "For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7b).
Advice: If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it!
Favorite Quote: "Do or do not—there is no try"—Yoda.

Brett Diggins

Parents: Steve and Rhonda Diggins
Congregation: Columbia, Maryland
High School Accomplishments: Brett's achievements include being an Eagle Scout,



Brett Diggins

Maryland Distinguished Scholar Honorable Mention, third year National Honor Society member, honor roll, four-year full-tuition scholarship to the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Elks scholarships and Wal-Mart Foundation scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brett is involved with Boy Scouts and enjoys camping and spending time outdoors. He has played the piano for 10 years and bowled in a league for two years. He enjoys talking to Church buddies online and loves going to Church dances, especially the Pittsburgh Prom and the Winter Family Weekend. He has attended Camp Heritage for the past seven years.

Plans After Graduation: Brett plans to attend the Milwaukee School of Engineering to earn a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering. After college he aims to attend classes at ABC, which would be in either 2011 or 2012. Then he plans to move back to Baltimore and get a job with a large engineering firm downtown. After he gains enough experience, he wishes to manage construction projects with a team of architects and engineers to positively impact Baltimore's urban skyline.

Favorite Scripture: "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

Jeffrey Duncan

Parents: John and Angie Duncan
Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: Jeffrey played in the school band for two years and graduated May 27.



Jeffrey Duncan

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jeffrey has attended Camp Woodmen for the last seven years and will again this year. He looks forward to seeing his friends from camp at the Feast. His hobbies include listening to music, IM-ing his friends online, playing video games, playing and watching basketball, beach volleyball, swimming and cutting the grass.

Plans After Graduation: Jeffrey will be working this summer to save money for college in the fall. He will be attending Austin Peay State University and majoring in business or maybe math. He wants to work in an office job doing something math-related.

Favorite Scripture: "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son" (Revelation 21:7).

Motto: The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.

Melissa Mae Ehrmann

Parents: Robert and Cari Ehrmann
Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High School Accomplishments: Melissa's achievements include graduating with honors, being Student Council president, playing violin at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt for four years, serving on Prom Committee and doing service projects such as Feed the Children and Room in the Inn.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



Melissa Mae Ehrmann

Melissa has served as a counselor at Camp Tomahawk preteen camp. She loves interactive Bible studies, football, music, her car, hanging out with friends, boating, the color green and flowers (not carnations).

Plans After Graduation: Melissa will be attending MTSU to study prelaw and business.

Favorite Scripture: "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty . . ." (Psalm 91).

Quote: "What!?! Yeah! OK!"

Advice: Live today like it's your last.

Kristin Rene Ellithorpe

Parents: Keith and Candis Ellithorpe
Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: Kristin graduated in the top 10 percent of her class and was involved in Beta Club and National Honor Society. She was also a member of Select Chorus.



Kristin Rene Ellithorpe

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Kristin sings in the Nashville congregation's choir. She enjoys listening to music and reading magazines. She spends time with friends and works a part-time job. In her spare time she likes to relax and maybe treat herself to a nice dinner.

Plans After Graduation: Kristin plans to attend Volunteer State Community College for two years, then transfer to Middle Tennessee State University to earn a bachelor's degree in Spanish.

Favorite Scripture: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).

Lauren Michelle Estes

Parents: Mike and Lynn Estes
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia
High School Accomplishments: Lauren served



Lauren Michelle Estes

as vice president of the National Honor Society chapter and received the Hope Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Lauren's hobbies and activities include ballet (15 years), tap (five years), pointe (six years), jazz (eight years), hip-hop (three years) and serving as a dance teacher, life-guard and youth swim instructor. She participated in the swim team, plays flute, attends Church camps and other Church activities and volunteers. Her interests include traveling, music, going to the beach, swimming, being outside, trying new things, shopping, spending time with friends and family, ice cream and, of course, shoes!

Plans After Graduation: Lauren will be attending Georgia College and State University in the fall, studying public relations with a minor in Spanish. She plans to attend ABC in 2007 before finishing up at GCSU and hopefully working in PR one day.

Favorite Quote: "Work like you don't need money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like no one's watching."

Favorite Scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:33-34).

Jacqueline Kristine Evans

Parents: Eric and Jeannie Evans
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia



Jacqueline Kristine Evans

High School Accomplishments: Jacqueline graduated with honors and was class president.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jacqueline was home schooled until age 16, and then entered a private school. She loves to travel and meet new people. She is very

athletic and loves sports and anything that's a challenge. She loves being around people who know God's truth.

Plans After Graduation: Jacqueline would like to get as much traveling in as possible. She plans to attend ABC in January of 2007. She would like to attend college after ABC, but is not quite sure what degree she would like to get.

Favorite Scripture: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Aubrey Nicole Flynn

Parents: John and Toni Flynn
Congregation: East Texas, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Aubrey graduated at age 16 from American School Dec. 19, 2005.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She participates in the local church teen group, regional sport programs and United Youth Camps. She enjoys cooking, music, fashion,



Aubrey Nicole Flynn

and being goofy with her friends.

Plans After Graduation: Aubrey plans to attend Tyler Junior College for business and home economics, then go to a nearby culinary school. She hopes to go to ABC before she settles down to build a house and become a full-time mom.

Advice: Be yourself.

Lovely B. Gabuya

Parents: Romel and Gilda Gabuya



Lovely B. Gabuya

Congregation: Bacolod City, Philippines
High School Accomplishments: Lovely has been an active member of the Science Club and Math Club, was a 2002-2003 Girl Scout camper awardee and was a CAT (Citizenship Advancement Training) first aid officer.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Lovely participates in Church activities. She says she is a tranquil kind of person yet enjoys the company of friends in school and

in Church. She likes to cover up artistic things and implement them to become a new form of artistry. She also loves writing.

Plans After Graduation: Lovely would like to continue her studies and has enrolled at the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos where she took up medical technology. She has also enrolled at Techno1 and took up MS Office application as a computer-related course.

Favorite Scripture: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, KJV).

Chad Elgie Gibson

Parents: Elgie and Leah Gibson
Congregation: Seattle, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Chad was part of the Honor Society and the wrestling team.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Chad became interested in stereos when he was in the seventh grade. He installed his first car



Chad Elgie Gibson

stereo for a friend when he was in the ninth grade and got paid for it. He eventually became incredibly adept at all areas of car audio and installed custom stereos throughout high school. Car audio is his passion, and he earned enough money doing it through high school that he never had to hold down a regular job! Chad's other hobbies include snowboarding, snowmobiling and hanging out with friends and family.

Plans After Graduation: Chad will be attending Western Washington University in the fall and hopes to major in electrical engineering or business.

Jonathan Andrew Groenhoff

Parents: Douglas and Clara Groenhoff
Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota
High School Accomplishments: Jon did independent study in animal husbandry.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jon enjoys restoring old cars and machinery.

Plans After Graduation: Jon plans to go to work full time in his job trimming trees. He wants to work in some type of horticulture,



Jonathan Andrew Groenhoff

seek higher education in his area and live a good life in obedience to God.

Motto: I'll cross that bridge when I get there.

Charlotte L. Guzman

Parents: Rio and Carlota Guzman
Congregation: Toronto, Ontario
High School Accomplishments: Charlotte is graduating from ESC Renaissance, a full French-language high school, where she made the honor roll all four years and received several academic excellence awards in single subjects (English, French, etc.). She was Most Improved Cross-Country Runner 2003-2004, Student Council secretary 2005-2006, and was involved in the Sports Council 2005-2006, Prom Committee 2005-2006, Yearbook Committee 2002 and 2003 and Student Radio 2003 through 2006.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Charlotte helps teach the Sabbath school lessons and occasionally sings in the choir. She is currently the secretary for the Church young adult group, the Young Ambassadors. She has attended Camp Heritage four times and is planning to attend this summer as well. She enjoys reading, cross-country running, spending time with friends and family doing anything and shopping.

Plans After Graduation: Charlotte plans on attending McMaster University (in Hamilton, Ontario) to study in health sciences, and hopefully (after many years) become a pediatrician.

Favorite Scripture: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mer-



Charlotte L. Guzman

cies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Colossians 3:12-15).

Patrick Healey

Parents: James and Kathleen Healey
Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Patrick has been a two-time ACSI State Soccer Champion (2005 and 2004) and NACA National Soccer Champion (2005).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He enjoys playing soccer, playing piano, drawing/painting, collecting coins, collecting decks of cards and performing sleight of hand. He has three older sisters and one younger brother.

Plans After Graduation: Patrick is currently working at the Cleveland Metropark's Zoo. He plans to attend Tri-C for two years before transferring to Baldwin-Wallace to



Patrick Healey

major in athletic training.
Quote: "The journey of a thousand miles begins beneath one's feet"—Lao Tzu.
Motto: It is never too late to learn.

Rebecca Horchak

Parents: Doug and Tanya Horchak
Congregation: Dallas, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Becky received an academic scholarship to Texas Women's University and University of Texas/Dallas.

Plans After Graduation: Becky plans to attend university for a bachelor of science degree in biology and become an oral surgeon.



Rebecca Horchak

Favorite Scripture: "And let us be not weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9, KJV).

Matthew Timothy Hull

Parents: Tim and Lori Hull
Congregation: Fort Smith, Arkansas
High School Accomplishments: Matthew's achievements included receiving a choir letter his freshman and sophomore years, serving as vice president of German Club his senior year, visiting Germany as an



Matthew Timothy Hull

exchange student at the end of his sophomore year, being a member of Skills USA, winning a bronze medal (one-year tuition scholarship) for a Skills USA Arkansas state competition in 3-D anima-

tion, being awarded a four-year tuition University Scholarship to the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith and graduating with an honors diploma.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Matthew enjoys anime sketching, singing and playing guitar, video games and computers.

Plans After Graduation: Matthew plans to attend the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith to pursue a degree in digital design with a long-term goal of pursuing a 3-D animation career.

Michael Christopher Irrera

Parent: Sherry Irrera
Congregation: Bloomington, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Michael's achievements and activities include the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, honor roll, high honors, Spanish Club, Homecoming Float Committee, National Honor Society, co-op half day work program, Co-op Achievement Award, college courses (Comp. 110 and chemistry), Eagle Scout, volunteered for Southside Mission and local park district, Outstanding Math Student Award, Prairie State Achievement Award for exceeding state learning standards in science, math and English, Jim Sandy Memorial Scholarship and Merit Recognition Scholarship Award for ranking in top 5 percent of his high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



Michael Christopher Irrera

Michael's hobbies include paintball, horseback riding, four-wheeling, rock climbing and time with family. He's hiked the Appalachian Trail and fished in Canada. This summer he is working full time and taking two college classes in math and history. He likes to stay busy! If there's time, he'll try to get some sleep.

Plans After Graduation: He will be going to college full time in the fall, and plans on taking courses in engineering.

Motto: Believe in yourself, trust in God, for all things are possible.

Raymond Jain

Parent: Leonida Jain (his father has died)
Congregation: Bacolod City, Philippines
High School Accomplishments: Raymond is the treasurer of the Supreme Student Government in his school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He is fond of solving problems in math. He also likes fishing, swimming and biking.

Plans After Graduation: Raymond plans to continue his study in college. He wants to complete a program in mechanical engineering or business administration.



Raymond Jain

Favorite Motto: "Failure is not defeat unless you stop trying."

Ariel Jantzen

Parent: Larry Jantzen
Congregation: Colorado Springs, Colorado
High School Accomplishments: Ariel graduated in three years by taking some extra Internet courses. She took honors/AP English and played field hockey for three years and soccer for one year.



Ariel Jantzen

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ariel enjoyed summer camp and snowboarding with the Church teen group.

Plans After Graduation: Ariel will be attending Colorado University-Boulder in the journalism program.

Favorite Scripture: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

Dexter B. Julag-ay

Parents: Norman and Teresa Julag-ay
Congregation: Bacolod City, Philippines
High School Accomplishments: Dexter's achievements include receiving second



Dexter B. Julag-ay

place in Computer Based Slogan ('05-'06), serving as an assistant Scout patrol leader and being awarded Outstanding Boy Scout of the Philippines.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.:

Dexter enjoys softball, football, tennis and chess. He loves to read the Bible and *The Good News* magazine.

Plans After Graduation: Dexter will continue his studies in college at the University of St. La Salle pursuing a bachelor of science in computer science.

Favorite Scripture: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Anna Deborah Karlik

Parents: John and Cindy Karlik
Congregation: Bakersfield, California
High School Accomplishments: Anna's achievements include being a California State Scholar, on the honor roll all four years, a varsity swimmer and a member of



Anna Deborah Karlik

Bible Club and Key Club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Anna attended nine years of camps and is certified as a lifeguard and water safety instructor. She enjoys learning foreign languages, photography and international travel. She participates in competitive swimming and water polo, and enjoys surfing California's beaches when possible.

Plans After Graduation: Anna is going to attend Cal State University Northridge in Los Angeles, California. She is planning to major in international affairs and relations with minors in French and Spanish.

Favorite Quote: "Every man dies, but not every man truly lives"—*Braveheart*.

Molly Keenan

Parents: Sue and Conrad Keenan
Congregation: Munster, Indiana
High School Accomplishments: Molly received Core 40, received the awards for top student and maintaining a 4.0 in her criminal justice class and obtained a fully paid scholarship to Calumet College.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Molly has attended Winter Camp, the Winter Family Weekend, preteen summer camp and church proms. She loves music and is learning to play guitar. Her favorite pastime is watching the Chicago Bears and Notre Dame football.

Plans After Graduation: Molly will be attending Calumet College in the fall of 2006 for law enforcement. She plans on becoming a criminal profiler for the FBI.

Favorite Scripture: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Michelle Ko

Parents: Thomas Ko and Esther Ko
Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina
High School Accomplishments: Michelle has been in her school Service Learning Club

for three years, and has given over 100 hours throughout her years of high school. She has two jobs, and works every Sunday and during school breaks, while maintaining a 4.16 GPA.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Michelle enjoys reading, writing, listening to music, crocheting and especially enjoys painting and doing art. Her favorite sport to play is volleyball.

Plans After Graduation: Michelle will attend North Carolina State University this fall.



Michelle Ko

Favorite Quote: "If you loved someone, you loved him, and when you had nothing else to give, you still gave him love" (from 1984 by George Orwell).

Favorite Scripture: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud" (1 Corinthians 13:4, NIV).

Eileen Kwee

Parents: Dr. Jason and Angela Kwee
Congregation: San Antonio, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Eileen was recipient of a Southwestern University scholarship of \$60,000. She was ranked number 15 for the class of 2006 at Health Careers High School. She served as president of Varsity Orchestra, president of the Spanish Honor Society and a member of the National Honor Society. She was ranked one of the top 10 high school violinists in Texas 2005-2006, and received the Award of Musical Achievement from Mayor Phil



Eileen Kwee

Hardberger in May. She was Texas All-State violinist 2003-2006, won the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest Outstanding Soloist Award 2003-2005, took first place in the Texas Music Teachers Association Solo Music Composition Contest and served as concertmaster of Youth Orchestras of San Antonio for eight years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Eileen performs special music at Church. Her hobbies include music performance for violin and piano, music composing, reading and arts and crafts. Her interests include health care and music.

Plans After Graduation: Eileen plans to attend Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, as a double major in music performance and biology. After completing the prerequisites for dental school, she plans to attend the University of Texas Health Science Center's prestigious dental school.

Favorite Quote: "For beautiful lips, speak words of kindness. For lovely eyes, seek out the good in people. For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry. For beautiful hair, let a child run their hands through it. For poise, walk with the knowledge you never walk alone"—Audrey Hepburn.

Motto: "Always take chances"—Clive Amor, her late violin teacher.

India Lutz

Parents: Tim and Deborah Lutz
Congregation: Murfreesboro, Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: India's achievements include being a member of Student Health Council, Beta Club, Art Club, parliamentarian and secretary of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club and secretary of her class.
Plans After Graduation: India hopes to be



India Lutz

attending Motlow State Community College in the spring, but until then she is mentoring kids at her local grammar school for part of the day, and then after that she works at a hospital. She will probably be a pediatric nurse, but her dream is to be a pediatrician.
Favorite Scripture: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12).

Favorite Quote: "When you feel like giving up, remember why you held on so long in the first place."

Motto: Do what you love and love what you do.

Charlotte Jo Mallia

Parents: Mike and Lisa Mallia
Congregation: Corpus Christi, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Charlotte's activities included American Sign Language Club (two years), History Club (two years), A-B Honor Roll (four years), Permanent Honor Roll, National Honor Roll, *Who's*



Charlotte Jo Mallia

Who Among American High School Students (four years), *Who's Who Among American High School Students Sports Edition* (one year), varsity volleyball (three years), All Academic Volleyball Team (three years) and National Honor Society. Charlotte graduated on the Distinguished Achievement Plan.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Charlotte participated in the church choir, the youth group and Camp Carter. Her hobbies and interests include sailing, volleyball, basketball, softball, hacky sack, reading, going to the beach and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Charlotte plans to attend the University of Houston to study chemical engineering in the Honors College Program.

Jonathan Michael McClure

Parents: Malcolm and Cathy McClure

Congregation: Lafayette, Indiana

High School Accomplishments: Jonathan was National History Day State Champion (1999-2005; also a national finalist), International Student Media Festival winner (2002-2005), IAME Media Festival State winner (Best in Show 2004, 2005), Houston Worldfest International Film Competition (Silver Award 2004; Platinum Award 2005, 2006) and Prelude Award winner Video Film (2005, 2006). As an Eagle Scout he received the Firecrafter and God and Life awards. He also earned a varsity letter on the crew team and was on the Student



Jonathan Michael McClure

Council Leadership Team, president of the video club, president of Spanish Club and was part of the Indiana University Honors Language Program in Valencia, Spain. He was one of 10 U.S. students chosen for the National History Day German American Academy 2004. He was on the honor roll and as a Global Scholar did a two-year project thesis and presentation.

He's also won the following scholarships: *U.S. News & World Report* AXA scholarship winner from Indiana, Target Scholarship, Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship, Pacer's Foundation Scholarship, Dennis Hollings Scholarship and the National Arts and Television Scholarship.

His volunteer experiences include his Eagle Scout project linking Riley Hospital for Children with Revival Children's Hospital in Ukraine, serving as volunteer filmmaker for the Indiana Historical Society and for the LifeNets charity, teaching English to Spanish-speaking children and adults and interning at WFYI public television station.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jonathan is an assistant for children's church activities and participates in the Family Christian Club. His favorite activities include volunteering and community service, creating documentary films and

technology. His interests and hobbies include art, photography, scuba diving, technology and history.

Plans After Graduation: Jonathan plans to attend Northwestern University for a double major in film and business with a minor in Spanish.

Advice/Motto: Think everything through, make every day count, and always be willing to make a difference.

Joshua Cassidy McKinney

Parents: Doug and Elaine McKinney

Congregation: Gadsden, Alabama



Joshua Cassidy McKinney

High School Accomplishments: Josh received an advanced diploma.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Josh enjoys all church activities, running, working out and studying the Bible.

Plans After Graduation: Josh plans to attend Gadsden State Community College. He would like to go to ABC sometime in the future. Even with these plans, he says the most important plan is to stay focused on God and His way.

Favorite Scripture: "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:1-4).

Cynthia McMillen

Parents: Kevin and Linda McMillen

Congregation: Morgantown, West Virginia

High School Accomplishments: Cindy was on



Cynthia McMillen

the honor roll all four years of high school, received Science Honors, a WVU Achievement Award and WV Promise Scholarship. She was a Mohiganette and majorette.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Her interests include music, learning how to play guitar, being with friends, cooking (she wants to open her own restaurant one day),

making new friends and traveling.

Plans After Graduation: Cindy plans to attend WVU for prepharmacy, then maybe go to culinary school and travel the world.

Advice: Don't get caught up in all of the bad things; look on the bright side of things.

Eric Daniel Mez

Parents: Henry and Rhonda Mez

Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

High School Accomplishments: Eric graduated with distinction.



Eric Daniel Mez

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Eric goes to Camp Woodmen every year or tries to. He plays basketball and other sports. He has two sisters and a brother.

Plans After Graduation: Eric plans to go to Kennesaw State University after high school.

Favorite Scripture: "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:14).

William John Miller IV

Parents: William (Skip) and Suzanne Miller

Congregation: San Diego, California

High School Accomplishments: He was on the honor roll for four years, lettered in cross-country and track (high and low hurdles) for four years and won the *Union Tribune* academic/sports award.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He has attended summer camps at Oakhurst and Hye Sierra for seven years and will be an assistant volleyball coach this summer. He enjoys surfing and body boarding and likes to throw pots. He works at Subway



William John Miller IV

part-time (to earn enough money to put gas in his Saturn "Shadow").

Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend Grossmont Community College for two years and then go to UCSD with a major in engineering.

Favorite Scripture: "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts" (Proverbs 21:2).

Margret Monsivais

Parents: Mark and Amalia Monsivais

Congregation: Corpus Christi, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Margret graduated in the top 10 percent of her class, was



Margret Monsivais

on the Permanent Honor Roll, a member of the National Honor Society, a Health Science Academy graduate, a member of the Health Occupation Society of America and received dual credit from Del Mar College for anatomy and physiology and emergency medical technician courses. She was certified as an emergency medical technician. In athletics, she was in varsity volleyball for four years (three years as captain), varsity softball for four years (three years as captain) and led her softball team to back-to-back district championships in the 2005 and 2006 seasons. She received a softball scholarship to Texas A&M Kingsville.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Margret's favorite Church activity is attending the Feast of Tabernacles. She enjoys the beach and is interested in emergency medicine.

Plans After Graduation: Margret plans to attend Texas A&M Kingsville to become a registered nurse to pay her way to become an emergency room doctor.

Favorite Quote: "Anything worthwhile is not easy."

Favorite Scripture: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Jessica Lynn Moore

Parents: Charley and Barbara Moore

Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Jessica's achievements include National Honor Roll, Top 10% of Ohio students, President's Award, Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Editor's Choice Award for Poetry, Key Club, Italian Club, Varsity



Jessica Lynn Moore

Soccer, Yearbook Editor and Youth Court.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jessica has been to Camp Buckeye and Camp Heritage and has helped with setup in her church area. Her hobbies and inter-

ests include soccer, reading, writing and singing.

Plans After Graduation: Jessica plans to enjoy her summer and then attend Youngstown State University on full tuition to become a nurse anesthetist.

Favorite Quote: "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game"—A *Cinderella Story*.

Jason Musgrove

Parents: Greg and Robin Musgrove

Congregation: Laurel, Mississippi

High School Accomplishments: Jason graduated with honors, was named a Mississippi Scholar and will be receiving an ACT Scholarship.



Jason Musgrove

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jason attended youth camps in Alabama and Texas. He is in the process of restoring an International Scout truck. He has just finished restoring a bass boat and hopes to get some fishing in this summer.

Plans After Graduation: Jason will be attending Jones Junior College this fall. He has future plans of attending the University of Nebraska seeking a degree in architectural engineering. He is presently employed as a contractor building houses.

Paul Myers

Parents: Steve and Kathie Myers

Congregation: Austin, Minnesota

High School Accomplishments: Paul was home schooled from seventh through 12th grade, which enabled him to pursue his desire to train and show horses.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Paul enjoyed attending summer camps over the years at Pinecrest and Heritage, as well as Winter Camp. He also had a lot of fun serving as a staff member at Highlands and Ironwood preteen camps for five years. His



Paul Myers

hobby (that may develop into a career) is horses. He's a member of the National Reining Horse Association and really enjoys training and showing reining performance horses.

Plans After Graduation: He plans to work part time; train, show and sell horses; and continue college classes.

Favorite Scripture: "Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments" (Psalm 112:1).

Motto: "Why follow, when you can lead?"

Isaac Martin Nelson

Parents: Tadd and Janice Nelson

Congregation: Austin, Minnesota



Isaac Martin Nelson

High School Accomplishments: Isaac received fourth place in a Distributive Education Clubs of America sales demonstration at a state conference.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Isaac likes to play or watch "any manly sport that is out there." He also enjoys everything about cars.

Plans After Graduation: Isaac plans on going to Rochester Technical and Community College to be an automotive technician.

Favorite Scripture: "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

Jessey (Jessica) O'Bryan

Parents: Stan and Anita O'Bryan

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Jessey participated in concert choir all four years.



Jessey (Jessica) O'Bryan

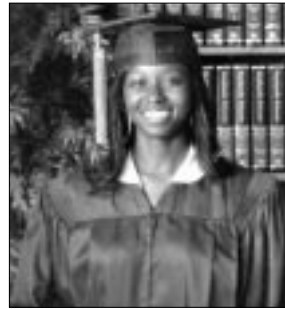
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jessey calls herself "a wholehearted choir kid," and has been singing since she was 5 years old in church and school. She says without music, she wouldn't be who she is today. She has also been a children's camp counselor for four years, starting when she was 13. This summer will be her fifth year. She says, "I can never wait till camp starts up, then when it is over, about a week after, I start counting down till it comes again."

Plans After Graduation: Jessey plans to go to ABC in 2007 and to the University of Cincinnati Clermont after ABC to study graphic design.

Motto: Have fun with life, never get bored.

Stephanie Oliver

Parents: Robert and Patricia Oliver



Stephanie Oliver

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Stephanie was active in girls' basketball for 2.5 years and involved with peer mediation for two years. She's been listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* for two years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Stephanie participated in youth education and basketball with the church. Her hobbies include reading and cleaning house.

Plans After Graduation: Stephanie plans to go to college and major in forensic science.

Jennifer Leann Orban

Parents: Donan and Evelyn Orban



Jennifer Leann Orban

Congregation: Mobile, Alabama

High School Accomplishments: Jennifer's achievements include National Art Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars and having a poem published. She has been a library assistant for four years, has taken four years of French and has 15 years as a dancer.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jennifer enjoys dance (jazz, tap, ballet and lyrical) and reading.

Favorite Quote: "Pray as if everything depended upon God and work as if everything depended upon man"—Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Robert Micheal Ouellette

Parent: Gena Ouellette

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Robert's achievements include playing varsity basketball and winning the Junior Leadership Award and first place in a drug awareness art contest.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Robert has played church basketball and volleyball and has been a camper and staff member at UCG summer camps. He really enjoys playing basketball and hanging out with his friends. He loves music, and in his



Robert Micheal Ouellette

free time he likes to make instrumental beats.

Plans After Graduation: He is attending Eastfield Community College now and plans to continue on to earn a degree in general business.

Favorite Quote: "In my experience, there is no such thing as luck."

Meagan Overton

Parents: Mac Overton and Melodee Overton

Congregation: East Texas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Meagan is graduating with distinguished honors from Big Sandy High School. She has participated in Interact Club, Student Council, FCCLA, National Honor Society and has been president of the Spanish Club her senior year. She has been involved with volleyball, tennis and track in high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Meagan volunteered with the American Red Cross at the Maude Cobb Center in Longview, Texas, for both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. She also helped with Hurricane Ivan cleanup at Destin, Florida.

Plans After Graduation: Meagan plans to pursue a degree in nursing through the University of Texas at Tyler. She is concurrently enrolled in Tyler Junior College and received 12 college credits before high school graduation. Meagan has received several scholarships that will help in her



Meagan Overton

collegiate pursuits. She is working part-time at AgPro Systems and also at Strategic Fulfillment Group.

Eric Samuel Pate

Parents: Lynn and Michelle Pate

Congregation: Tacoma, Washington

High School Accomplishments: Eric played the French horn in band, varsity tennis, basketball and track. He was named MVP in varsity basketball, received honorable mention in the Nisqually League for basketball and went to state in track. He was named Eatonville High School 2006 male athlete of the year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Eric enjoys a great youth group and much support from a close-knit church family. He loves sports, especially basketball, skiing and water sports.



Eric Samuel Pate

Plans After Graduation: Eric has a basketball scholarship to Tacoma Community College, and plans to continue on to a four-year degree and a career in teaching or construction management. He also plans to attend Camp Davidson this summer.

Favorite Scripture: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Avery Joseph Powers

Parent: Jack and Denise Powers
Congregation: Seattle, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Avery's passion is computer technology. At Liberty High School, he was a Technology Information Project (TIP) intern. He helped set up computers and troubleshoot problems for teachers, staff and students.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Avery has built several computers for people at low prices, helps troubleshoot friends' computers and maintains his family's home machines. He and a friend operate a Web site, www.moditory.com, where they try out and review products by various technology manufacturers.



Avery Joseph Powers

Plans After Graduation: Avery plans to get a job after graduation in a computer store, then go on to college to get a degree in computer engineering.

Victoria Bridgette-Dawn Proctor

Parent: Colleen Proctor
Congregation: Eureka, California
High School Accomplishments: Victoria completed high school this spring at age 16 through the CHSPE (California High School Proficiency Examination). She was class secretary her freshman year, was nominated for Who's Who Among American High School Students and had a leading role in two spring plays: *Stage Door* and *Rumors*.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She serves on the sound crew, kitchen team and choir at church. She loves to read, write,



Victoria Bridgette-Dawn Proctor

watch Bible videos (think *Ten Commandments* and Charlton Heston) and enjoys *Stargate SG-1* and shopping.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to take a road trip with an older sister this summer, then attend local colleges to study accounting with the goal of an MBA. She plans to attend ABC after she gets her associate's degree.

Favorite Scripture: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Motto: Everything's better with a piece of pie.

Kathy Renee Reynolds

Parents: Charles and Margot Reynolds
Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Kathy's achievements include Distinguished Scholar, National Honor Society, graduating with honors, being ranked in the top 10 percent of her graduating class and receiving two scholarships toward college.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kathy was part of her congregation's Teen Speech Club. She's been to Camp Heritage and Camp Buckeye. She's been on staff at Camp Buckeye for a few years because she loves helping out. Some of her hobbies and interests include reading, dancing and enjoying summer.

Plans After Graduation: Kathy plans to go to the University of Akron's Honors College to get a bachelor's degree in nursing. She may go another four years of college to become a pediatrician. She plans to work in a children's hospital.

Favorite Scripture: "But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of



Kathy Renee Reynolds

faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him" (1 Thessalonians 5:8-10).

Brittney Schuster

Parents: Kurt and Fran Schuster
Congregation: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Brittney played basketball, played in the band and sang in the choir. She also graduated with honors.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brittney went to Winter Camp for 10 years and volunteered at a preteen camp for a couple of years. She likes going to church socials and helped the Beloit congregation with their clothing giveaway and helped her congregation raise money for the Katrina Disaster Fund. She has sung in the Feast choir and played in the Feast orchestra. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, playing basketball, shopping, talking on the phone, singing, dancing, watching TV and camping. Her interests include travel, cooking and decorating.

Plans After Graduation: Brittney is going to college to become a cosmetologist, with the goal of owning her own beauty salon. She



Brittney Schuster

also wants to become a nail technician and a wedding planner and own her own business.

Favorite Scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:33-34).

Emily Schuster

Parents: Kurt and Fran Schuster
Congregation: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Emily played basketball, volleyball, softball and powder-



Emily Schuster

puff football. She majored in child development and also played the trumpet.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Emily has volunteered at Head Start and at preteen camp. She has played in the Feast orchestra and has attended Winter Camp for 10 years. She helped the Beloit congregation with the clothing giveaway and helped raise money

for the Katrina Disaster fund. Her hobbies include sports, dancing, singing and collecting baseball cards.

Plans After Graduation: Emily plans to go to MATC for child development to get a day care license so she can own her own day care. She also plans to take business classes and go to a culinary school to become a chef.

Favorite Scripture: "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'" (Revelation 21:1-4).

Daniel E. Sheppard

Parents: William and Leah Sheppard
Congregation: Akron, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Dan completed



Daniel E. Sheppard

a two-year carpentry program.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He enjoys playing guitar and hanging out with friends.

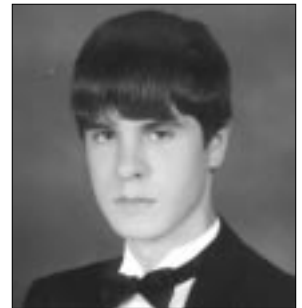
Plans After Graduation: Dan's plans include working in construction.

Additional Comments: "I do what I can, that's all I can do."

Nathan Smith

Parents: Bob and Linda Smith
Congregation: Gadsden, Alabama
High School Accomplishments: Nathan was awarded a cross-country scholarship to Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Alabama.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Nathan has attended Camp Woodmen and enjoys four-wheeler riding and cars, especially retro cars.



Nathan Smith

Plans After Graduation: Nathan plans to attend Southern Union College to pursue an associate's degree and to improve as a collegiate cross-country runner.

Favorite Quote: "To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift"—Steve Prefontaine (American long-distance runner and 1972 Olympian).

Kathleen Hall Taylor

Parents: Ronald and Veronica Taylor
Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina



Kathleen Hall Taylor

High School Accomplishments: Kathleen's achievements include being a Superior Honor Roll Student (four years A average) and Who's Who Among American High School Students 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kathleen serves as a pianist for hymn accompaniment and does special music at church. Her hobbies included reading, swimming, listening to music, playing piano, singing and dancing. Her interests include chemistry, music and developing and recording radio programs.

Plans After Graduation: Kathleen will be attending college in the fall of 2006 and will be majoring in organic chemistry with a minor in music. Her educational goal is to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry and to work in research and development.

Ashley Chelle Thomas

Parent: Patricia Price
Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina
High School Accomplishments: During her four years of high school, Ashley has devoted



Ashley Chelle Thomas

herself to the Volunteer Hospice Program of Johnston County. She has learned valuable lessons about life and love. She has encouraged many of her peers to take the time to help others in need. She will continue to work for the Hospice Program this summer. She has also received awards for her photography and her artwork.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Ashley has a wonderful sense of humor and those around her can always count on her

for a good laugh. Her hobbies are writing and photography, and she loves music.

Plans After Graduation: She will be attending Wake Technical Community College and then transfer to Shaw University. Ashley is planning to teach kindergarten. She loves children!

Favorite Scripture: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Advice: "Be good, do good. You never know who is watching."

Kirsten Nicole Thomson

Parents: Ken and Krissie Thomson
Congregation: San Antonio, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Kirsten has been a member of the National Honor Society, FCCLA and FFA and has been list-



Kirsten Nicole Thomson

ed on the Honor Roll and in *Who's Who Among High School Students*. She was an office aide at Blanco Middle and High School (one year each) and was involved in PPAT mentoring elementary students.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kirsten is involved in the San Antonio teen group and has played volleyball and basketball with the church teen group for six years and been on the Bible Millionaire team for two years. She's attend UYC Camp Carter for four years. At the Feast of Tabernacles she's served as Mother's Room supervisor and as a preteen instruction assistant. Her hobbies and interests include art, swimming, horses and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Kirsten plans to study nutrition, work and in the future attend Ambassador Bible Center.

Joe Trone

Parents: Drew and Lydia Trone
Congregation: Sacramento, California
High School Accomplishments: Joe played two years of high school baseball. He took honors classes and graduated in the top 10 percent of his class with a 3.90 GPA.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At Church, Joe participated in Leadership Club, choir and attended nine UCG camps. He will be part of the Hye Sierra staff this year. His hobbies include riding dirt bikes, camping and snowboarding.

Plans After Graduation: Joe's plans include attending a junior college then transferring to study either architecture or physical therapy.

Favorite Scripture: "For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called



Joe Trone

according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:28-31).

Favorite Quote: "The only job you start at the top is digging a hole."

Jeremy Ullrich

Parents: Joe and Mary Ullrich
Congregation: Fairview Heights, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Jeremy's achievements include two years of video productions, two years of French and two years of auto mechanics.



Jeremy Ullrich

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jeremy has attended Camp Pinecrest for six years and last year also attended Teton Challenger Camp. He likes hunting and fishing.

Plans After Graduation: Jeremy's plans include studying for an engineering degree.

Favorite Scripture: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Tyler VanAusdle

Parents: Gary and Nancy VanAusdle



Tyler VanAusdle

Congregation: Sedro-Woolley, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Tyler completed four years of regular high school and three years of transitions.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tyler helps with closing, Sabbath school and greeting at church. He likes to collect music and movies from the computer and loves to play the game "Need for Speed."

Favorite Scripture: "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

Lauren Mae Waggy

Parents: Scott and Zondra Johnson
Congregation: Marietta, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Lauren has been a member of the Astronomy Club, Ballroom Dancing Club, American Field Service and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



Lauren Mae Waggy

Lauren started attending UCG in 2001 with her parents. In the years since, she has helped set up/clean up the refreshment area and assisted with the church bulletin. She has participated in the Akron, Ohio, Speech Club and the Columbus, Ohio, Teen Bible Study. She attended Camp Heritage in '02 and '03, Camp Woodmen in '04 and '06 and Winter Family Weekend (every year). She enjoys hanging out with her friends, playing guitar, listening to music, literature, going camping, hiking, writing poetry, photography and playing computer games.

Plans After Graduation: She plans on attending Washington State Community College in the fall to earn her massage therapy license, then go on to work at a resort.

Favorite Scripture: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted . . . He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13).

Quote: "A sight to dream of, not to tell!" (Christabel, Part I, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1772-1834).

Shannon Wayne

Parents: Rusty and Pattie Wayne
Congregation: Cincinnati North, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Shannon's achievements include swim team all four years, valedictorian, Honor Society member, female science student of the year, 4.0 GPA, perfect verbal SAT score. She also

participated in the PSEO program, earning college credit in high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Shannon volunteers each year to help with the Cincinnati preteen camp, most recently serving as the co-captain of 10-year-olds. She has helped with Winter Weekend reg-



Shannon Wayne

istration and with the local bulletin. She has been a Heritage camper five times and is attending Teton Challenger for the second year. She is involved in horseback riding, including eventing, dressage and jumping; she was a Hamilton County Fair participant throughout high school and a Pony Club member. She dabbles in origami and the Rubik's cube and scuba diving.

Plans After Graduation: Shannon will be attending the University of Cincinnati for chemical engineering.

Favorite Scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Motto: "Whatever you do, do with all of your might" (also the theme of her commencement speech).

Robert "Bobby" Franklin Wentz II

Parents: Bob and Peggy Wentz
Congregation: Bobby's mother and maternal grandmother are members in the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, congregation, where his Uncle Joe and Aunt Ginny Bromfield serve as deacon and deaconess, and his Aunt JoAnna and Uncle "Buck" Buckwalter are members as well.



Robert "Bobby" Franklin Wentz II

Bobby has lifelong attended the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, congregation of the Worldwide Church of God with his father and younger brother, Joey.

High School Accomplishments: Bobby was an honor student and in the gifted program, achieving first and second awards in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. He was in baseball, basketball, football and cross-country for a few seasons, but his first love is wrestling, where

he lettered. And as a senior, he achieved an award for the Most Dedicated Wrestler and is the first in his school to receive the Jack Breita Leadership Award.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: His hobbies include computers, video games, medieval movies and sandlot football. Bobby has been working as a lifeguard for the past three years and plans to study computers. While serving as a lifeguard, he is also a volunteer for the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon each year.

Plans After Graduation: In the fall, he will attend Luzerne County Community College for two years and will then choose a college to continue his education when he decides what area of computers he wants to work in.

Rhonda Whitley

Parents: Christine and Paul Whitley
Congregation: Houston North, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Rhonda was involved in basketball, volleyball, Leo Club, National Honor Society, Who's



Rhonda Whitley

Who, FFA and 4H.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She is very active in the Church activities. She plays on the volleyball and basketball teams and sings in the teen choir. She works at the annual preteen camp in Houston as an activity staff member and looks forward to traveling every year to Alabama for the teen camp there.

Plans After Graduation: Rhonda plans on attending Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Additional Comments: "I was in a hurry to get through high school . . . I didn't have time to 'stop and smell the roses,' so I'm going to spend some time doing just that."

Rebecca S. Wickman

Parents: Clifford and LuCinda Wickman
Congregation: St. Paul, Minnesota



Rebecca S. Wickman

High School Accomplishments: Becca's achievements include the B Honor Roll.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Becca has played the viola for eight years and plays in the church ensemble. She spends her free time either working or playing games.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend community college for two years to get her general requirements done, then try to get into the University of Minnesota to become either a social worker or elementary teacher.

Advice: Don't date seriously in high school.

Justin Wierenga

Parents: Harvey and Connie Wierenga
Congregation: Grand Rapids, Michigan
High School Accomplishments: Justin took an EMT class in high school to become a certified health care provider.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Justin has had multiple camp experiences at Winter Camp and Pinecrest, and has been a teen counselor at preteen camp. He has been involved in the Michigan Teen Speech Club, Winter Family Weekend, prom in Minnesota and yearly barn dances in Wisconsin. His interests



Justin Wierenga

include running, computers, health services and travel.
Plans After Graduation: Justin plans to attend Grand Valley State University to pursue a career in health care, preferably pharmacist or physical therapist. He plans to keep in good shape and health.
Advice: Go to camp—you'll make some of the best friends you will ever have. You'll see others have similar problems, with different solutions to help you overcome them.

Favorite Scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

David Windsor

Parents: Denny and Joyce Windsor
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia
High School Accomplishments: David's achievements include top 15 percent of the graduating class, Martin Luther King, Jr. High School Yearbook staff and the MLK Young Men of Distinction.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David assists in setup and handling the sound system at church. His hobbies include drawing, driving, listening to music and hanging out with his buddies. His interests include car design and automotive engineering.

Plans After Graduation: College.
Favorite Quote: "Think different"—Steve Jobs.
Motto: Aspire to be your own person. Don't follow the crowd.
Favorite Scripture: "The fear of the LORD is the



David Windsor

beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7).

Tiffany Dawn Zimmerman

Parents: Rick and Debbie Zimmerman
Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana
High School Accomplishments: During her time at Pendleton Heights High School, Tiffany started a SADD chapter and served as president. Every year of high school, she served as a class representative and was president of her class her junior year. Other areas in which Tiffany has been involved during high school include varsity tennis, South Madison Youth Commission (a community philanthropy group from which she received an Outstanding Service Award), Spanish National Honor Society, Sunshine Society and National Honor Society, of which Tiffany was vice president. Her senior year Tiffany received the American Youth Character Counts Award, the Principal's Leadership Award and the PHHS Outstanding Citizenship Award.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Being a part of God's Church has been a



Tiffany Zimmerman

major part of Tiffany's life. She has attended at least one summer or winter camp every year since she was 12 years old. She has also served as camp staff four times (including two preteen camps.) At church, she enjoys learning and using sign language.
Plans After Graduation: Tiffany will attend Indiana University's Kelley School of Business at IUPUI where she received a Dean of Faculties Scholarship. In January 2007 Tiffany will attend ABC.

Favorite Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Note: A color PDF of this section can be downloaded at www.ucg.org/un. We printed all the graduate information we received. If you were not included, please send your information to mike_bennett@ucg.org to be used in a future issue.

Treasure Digest

A Pastor's Reflection on Luke 14:26

Luke 14:26 says, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."

Growing up as a youth, going to four years of Ambassador College and listening to the Bible expounded for a total of approximately 43 years, I have always heard this scripture reduced to "it does not literally mean hate, it means love less by comparison."

While I agree with that explanation, when I look at the Greek, I cringe at thinking that is about as far as many have gone with meditating on what Jesus, the Word, was teaching us (from the Father).

The first part warns us to not put any family member in the way of loving God, obeying God and His commandments. Yet often, people don't seem to flinch at the reality of putting a family member first.

As you reflect, have you let any family member get in the way of assembling at a holy convocation? This is probably the most obvious one to me. I have been there and done that, but I am sober about my past.

This is just one area, among many, that we can reflect upon. We justify that God will understand—that we are showing love to our mate by staying home with him or her when actually he or she could survive quite well without our choice to do that. (Of course, there is a balance here, and God will understand if our mate or other family member really needs us during a severe illness or trial.)

The second area of this verse deals with our life: "and his own life also." We are so programmed for self-love and self-preservation, that we can easily not grasp the depth of this teaching from our Lord.

Our human nature glosses over this so quickly. If we see the reality of it, then it requires self-examination. When we are so quick to protect "our rights," defend ourselves with gusto, not turn the other cheek, not go the extra mile, not deny ourselves, but seek to save ourselves—are we kidding

ourselves about our understanding of verse 26?

Would God want us to minimize this verse and expect Him to understand and accept our selfish choices? Or would it be better to go overboard a bit knowing we would probably find the middle road better since we are inclined to be liberal with ourselves in this?

Wouldn't it be better for God to tell us one day, "Hey, you were too zealous in this," rather than to express to us His profound disappointment because we were not zealous enough?

Think about this in your eating and drinking, choices about your use of time, your entitlements, accusations and defenses. Think about this in your service or lack of it to the Body of Jesus Christ. Think about it in how you take care of the temple of the Holy Spirit of God for service to Him.

Consider this verse next time you hear the words of Romans 12:1: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." If you choose to do that, He will be glad you did, and if He is glad you did, you will be too!



Stuart Segall
Pastor, Crescent City and Eureka, California, congregations

Will You Hire Me, God?

Have you ever thought about filling out a job application for God's Kingdom? Doing so could bring some real clarity as to what aptitudes, talents, abilities, etc., you have developed thus far in your life and what you yet need to work on and develop to be an upper management leader in the Kingdom of God.

You could start your application for a place in the royal family by explaining why you want the job. (Because it beats the alternative is not a good enough reason!) A good place to start is understanding why God wants you in His family and what He is looking for.

Next on your application for a job in the Kingdom you could list all the paid and unpaid jobs you have filled. Go into detail about what you have done and what they have taught you that would be of value to your Employers, God and Jesus. Describe how your jobs have given you or helped you develop the attributes that will be needed in a Kingdom

job. This is to show what you would be bringing to the group.

In other words, why should you be considered for a job? Some attributes you may have developed could be good organizational skills, people skills and conflict-resolution skills. Have you learned to be a leader, a planner, a motivator? Can you anticipate problems, show common sense, inspire people? Do you see problems as a challenge or as a crisis? Do you anticipate or react?

Finally, you could list other areas of your life, such as hobbies, interests and volunteering, where you have acquired skills and abilities that would make you a more valuable employee.

Giving this application some thought, you may be surprised to realize that God has led you along a path that has given you a lot of the training He wants. For it is Christ in us, and how well we yield to Him, that prepares us for our future job.

Barbara Sackett
Olympia, Washington, congregation

Attitude Check

The parable of the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) warns us that we must not be presumptuous if we've been serving God longer than someone else. God is continuing to call people into His Church, as He sees fit.

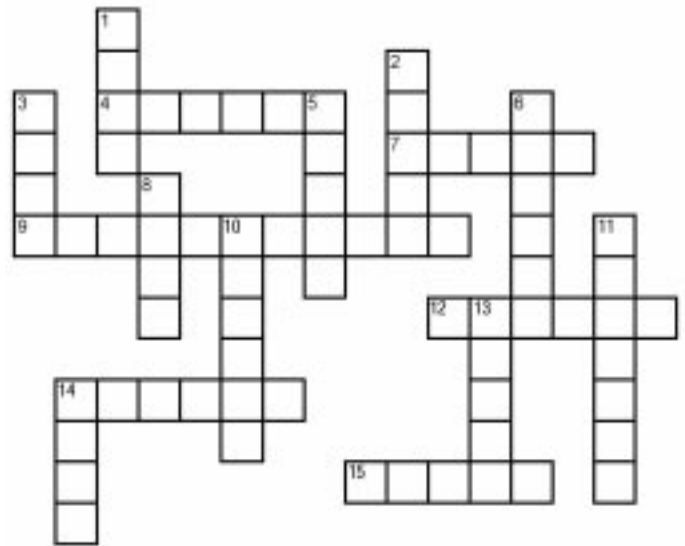
We must be prepared for the possibility that God will call people who have not known Herbert Armstrong, and who may well be called to be teachers, deacons, deaconesses, elders and pastors. In fact, we must be prepared to be passed over for these roles and to see God choose people who, to our eyes, seem less qualified.

Those of us who have been in the Church a long time need to be prepared to handle these situations graciously. We must trust God to do what's best for the Church as a whole, even if it doesn't please us.

In the parable, those who had worked longer thought their employer was being unfair, but he really was being compassionate, giving all the day laborers what they needed to feed their families. We

Children's Corner

David and Goliath—1 Samuel 17



Choose a word from the Word Pool to match the clue and place it in the correct spaces in the crossword above

Across

- 4 Having fear of something or someone
- 7 Something used as a weapon by David
- 9 Enemy of Israel
- 12 A fight or war
- 14 Used by David to make Goliath fall
- 15 A sharp weapon

Down

- 1 Killed by David
- 2 Father of David
- 3 Played by David to soothe Saul
- 5 Young man who became king
- 6 To pour oil over head
- 8 Means "to kill"
- 10 Prophet
- 11 Giant of a man
- 13 Worn by armies
- 14 First king of Israel

WORD POOL

- Philistines
- armor
- bear
- sword
- afraid
- stones
- Goliath
- battle
- David
- slay
- Jesse
- sling
- Samuel
- anoint
- Saul
- harp

—puzzle by Shelby Faith

Turning the Hearts . . . Don't Play Favorites!

When Isaac and Rebekah became the "proud" parents of twin boys, they probably never thought they would have the issue of favoritism enter their family. But it did! Isaac loved Esau because he was such a good hunter and brought home meat from wild game. Jacob, on the other hand, stayed around home and is said to have been quite handy in making stew—he was Momma Rebekah's favorite son (Genesis 25:28).

You know the story how Rebekah coached Jacob on how to steal the final blessing from Esau, which increased the hatred emanating from Esau's heart toward his twin brother. Jacob had to leave his family for his own protection and safety.

Playing favorites among children is not a healthy exercise in rearing a family. Children need to feel loved and appreciated equally by both parents. When I was growing up, I thought my dad liked my brother better than he did me. After many years of adulthood, I told my brother, and he retorted that he thought I was the "favorite"! We both had misperceptions. Since it's so easy to give the wrong impression, parents must be extra careful. The feeling of not being as acceptable to one parent can hinder healthy growth and development.

God is a God of fairness and balance (Ezekiel 18:25). He gives to us what we need and is always there for us. As parents, we need to reflect this characteristic of God and strive to make sure that we do not play favorites among our children. (For more about the principle of fairness, see James 2:1-9 and Colossians 4:1.)

Sure, we might relate better to one child because of his or her personality, interests or mental ability, but we dare not allow ourselves to play favorites to the detriment of our children's development.

May God guide us to become more like He is—equitable and loving—as we rear our children in His way of life.

Gary E. Antion



must trust that God will do what is best for the Church.

Jay Turner
San Jose, California, congregation

Pillars of Wisdom: Things God Hates



The book of Proverbs has much to say about God's love. It also has much to say about human behaviors and thoughts God hates. Powerful words are used to describe God's reactions to human beings.

Proverbs 3:31-32: "Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways; for the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD." The Hebrew word *toebah*, translated "abomination," means something that is repulsive.

God finds certain human behavior particularly repulsive. Wisdom is more than knowledge. The wisdom of Proverbs is to be inculcated into the core of an individual's character.

Points to Build On

Lies are an abomination to God.

Proverbs 12:22: "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

The wicked are an abomination to God, but He loves the righteous.

Proverbs 15:8-9: "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness."

Even a person's thoughts can be an abomination to God.

Proverbs 15:26: "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but the words of the pure are pleasant."

A person who supports others who are wicked is an abomination to God.

Proverbs 17:15: "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD."

In Proverbs 6:16-18 we have listed "... six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren."

A wise person regularly examines his or her life to see if any of these traits have seeped into his or her character. It is just as important to strive to

become a person whose character exhibits the opposite traits.

What God Hates

- A proud look.
- A lying tongue.
- Hands that kill the innocent.
- A heart that plots evil.
- Feet that race to do wrong.
- A false witness that pours out lies.
- A person who sows discord among brethren.

What God Loves

- Humility.
- Honesty.
- A person who defends the innocent.
- A person who avoids evil.
- A person who flees from the wrong.
- A person who does not slander or gossip.
- A peacemaker.

Application

Ultimately, wisdom is more than just knowing how to make good decisions. Wisdom is revealed by a person's character. Wisdom isn't just a set of principles that we can learn. Wisdom becomes who we are.

Gary Petty

Pastor of Austin, San Antonio and Waco, Texas, congregations

Going Above and Beyond

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly above all that we ask or think . . . to Him be glory" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Eighteen years ago my 10-month old daughter Karen lay dying in a Pasadena hospital. It was the day before Mother's Day. She had suffered two cardiac arrests that morning and the doctors said she would not survive a third.

Karen had contracted an unusual case of meningitis that was destroying both her red and white blood cells. When she survived a third cardiac arrest later that same day, the doctors said she would be a "vegetable." They had good reason for saying that, as Karen had been "dead" for a total of 25 minutes from the three cardiac arrests.

To the amazement of the doctors, Karen was ready to go home after only 3 1/2 weeks in the hospital. "An act of God," they called it. "I've never seen anything like it," said the respiratory therapist. Karen had been completely healed by God. One nurse rightly concluded, "That baby doesn't need to be here!"

Last year Karen graduated from high school with honors. She had been tested and identified as gifted in elementary school—a far cry from "vegetable." You see, God did not just spare her

life. He went above and beyond!

We must also go above and beyond. Doing the minimum required is not good enough by God's standards. Always add something extra to everything you do, even if it is only a smile.

Mary Williams

Los Angeles, California, congregation

Are You Fasting Too Much?

The taste of God's cool, refreshing water is never better than when breaking a fast. The weak, hungry body is quickly strengthened by a morsel of wholesome food. Our physical bodies are weakened in a fast, but our inward spiritual person is made stronger. A fast seeking a closer walk with our God and His guidance in our lives adds to our spiritual growth.

There is, however, a fast that can lead to spiritual weakness. It's a fast that over time leads to a gradual falling away, to taking on less of the character of our Father and to a high risk of spiritual estrangement from our God. This harmful fast deprives us of the "meat" of God's Word—Bible study—and the "water" of the Spirit—



our time in prayer to God.

Ours is a 24/7 Internet-connected world—iPods, e-mails and cell phones seek to fill every waking moment of our hectic lives. A physical priority each day is to partake of sufficient food and water to nourish the body for the daily demands. How much more, with the cares of the world pressing on our lives, must we partake of the spiritual food and water (Bible study and prayer) to nourish the inner man?

Soldiers cannot go to war successfully on empty stomachs. Neither can we, as soldiers of Christ, engage in our spiritual warfare if we are weakened by spiritual starvation. Satan is like a roaring lion, and the spiritual weakening is a prime target.

Each of us must work out what best fits in our lifestyle to avoid spiritual starvation. Morning peo-

ple can get up early enough to fit in prayer and Bible study time before the day begins. Night owls can fit in the spiritual time when the early birds are zonked out by 10 p.m.! Even a lunch hour, with a quiet spot somewhere, can work in a pinch.

You're a commuter? Use your church library and check out sermons to listen to on your daily commute. What joy these sermons brought me on my own daily commute!

Be creative! Where there is a will, there is a way to keep spiritual priorities.

When it comes to spiritual food and drink, don't fast too much. *Bon appétit!*

Betty D. Best

Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation

My Prayer Was Answered

I fell sick and a doctor prescribed some medicine for me. However, I would have to buy the medicine in a town 120 miles from my home. And to pay for it, I would have to cash a pension check at a bank in that town.

I considered the journey to be impractical for several reasons. I was sick, and trying to get there and back on public transportation would not be easy.

Since it was the end of the month, the bank would be overcrowded with customers, and I might miss the ride home.

However, there was no other way to get the medicine. I knelt down and prayed earnestly to God for a safe and speedy journey. Then at around 5 a.m. I started my journey and reached the town at 9 o'clock.

As I feared, the bank was jammed to full capacity, with customers extending 500 feet outside. I knew I couldn't make it. But before returning home, I had to try. I walked straight to the door, which was guarded by a sentry, and without a word from him, I passed through—possibly without his notice! I presented my passbook at the counter without objection from anyone. I received my check, and within 10 minutes another cashier, again without complaint, cashed it for me.

This was a miracle, and I knew for sure that it was God's intervention. I arrived back home safe and very appreciative.

Daniel Z. Odeny

Madiany, Kenya, congregation

Question and Answer: Why Don't the Churches of God Pool Their Resources to Preach the Gospel?

Thank you for your interest. Yes, it would be sensible for the various Church of God organizations to pool our resources from a practical point of view. It's possible that we will be able to do that again one day.

Of course, there was a time when most of the people who make up these organizations did pool their resources, when we were members of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). God did a powerful work through the WCG, which at one point was the largest purchaser of television airtime for religious programming. (In the days before television, the Radio Church of God, the parent organization of the WCG, was one of the largest, if not the largest, purchasers of radio airtime for religious programming.)

The circumstances that led to the eventual breakup of the WCG caused people to leave that organization at different times over several years, resulting in the creation of several offshoot organizations. The breakup of the WCG also caused a great deal of emotional and spiritual turmoil for Church members.

We in the United Church of God are committed to doing our part in healing any breaches that exist between other organizations and us, as well as between individuals. We expect God to continue to do a powerful work of preaching His gospel through His Church.

Quiz: Pick a Number From One to 10

Sometimes in our Bible reading we overlook the richness of detail it contains. Take for instance the inclusion of "how many" in a given account. Test your memory of "how many" in the following passages, using numbers from one to 10.

- __ 1. Number of sparrows a copper coin or farthing would buy in the days of Jesus (Matthew 10:29). (a) one
- __ 2. How many wings do seraphim have (Isaiah 6:2)? (b) two
- __ 3. The number of the likeness of living creatures Ezekiel saw in his vision; also the number of their faces and their wings (Ezekiel 1:5-6). (c) three
- __ 4. How old was Josiah when he became the king of Judah (2 Kings 22:1)?
- __ 5. In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus healed 10 lepers. How many of them neglected to thank him and to glorify God? (d) four
- __ 6. Number of languages in existence in the world in the days of Noah and his sons (Genesis 11:1). (e) five
- __ 7. The lowest number of righteous individuals it would take for God to spare the wicked city of Sodom from destruction (Genesis 18:32-33). (f) six
- __ 8. How many times was Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Syria, told by Elisha's messenger to wash in the Jordan River in order to be cleansed and healed of his leprosy (2 Kings 5:10)? (g) seven
- __ 9. Number of days and nights Jonah was in the belly of the great fish (Jonah 1:17; Matthew 12:40). (h) eight
- __ 10. Christ performed a miracle in order to feed about 5,000 men plus women and children. How many loaves fed this crowd (Matthew 14:19-21)? Bonus: How many fish? (i) nine (j) ten

Karen Meeker

St. Louis, Missouri, congregation

Answers: b, f, d, h, i, a, j, c, e. Bonus: b



Local Church Updates

Kingsport Honors Oldest Members

On May 13, the Sabbath of Mother's Day weekend, the Kingsport, Tennessee, congregation honored the three oldest members.

Eliza Carico recently turned 97, Ethel Clubb is 93 and Macie Renfro will shortly turn 90!



The Kingsport, Tennessee, congregation honors Eliza Carico, 97; Ethel Clubb, 93; and Macie Renfro, soon to be 90 (photo by David Dobson)

A cake with a picture of the three ladies in the icing and the words "Thanks for Brightening Our Lives" was enjoyed by the congregation.

David Dobson

90-Year-Old Member Honored

The Austin, Minnesota, congregation honored Vera Bowman with a cake, punch and coffee on March 18 after Sabbath services.

Vera was born March 9, 1916, and grew up in Ellendale, Illinois. She attended business college in Sterling and held several jobs. On June 16, 1936, she married Eugene Bowman. They farmed two years in Illinois and then bought a farm in southeast Minnesota. Vera was widowed on Aug. 26, 1967.



Vera Bowman, 90, was honored by the Austin, Minnesota, congregation (photo by Gary Groh)

She worked hard keeping up the farm, driving big trucks, milking cows, etc. She still works full time for her son, Bill, also a member, and has for the past 20 years, driving her own car to work. She says, "What else would I do, if I did not work?"

She is a very sweet, soft-spoken lady,

with a warm smile, whom God called, along with two sons in 1980. She has been a faithful member and an example for all of us.

She was also honored at an open house hosted by her four children and attended by all but one of her 11 grandchildren (one is in the service) and 18 great-grandchildren. There are more babies on the way.

Norma Nelson

Sexton Chooses to Keep the Sabbath

(Reprinted by permission from the Mustang Daily, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, May 19, 2006.)

by Kendra Deutsche

Two years of training suddenly for naught—that's how Bridgette Sexton felt when she found out the Big West heptathlon had been switched from a middle-of-the-week to a Friday-Saturday event.

Sexton, a Cal Poly track and field athlete, is a member of the United Church of God. While pursuing the sport she loves, she has committed to keeping the Sabbath, choosing not to compete from Friday at sundown until Saturday at sundown. That meant the sophomore heptathlete would have to switch to a different event for the Big West meet—the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

"I've been keeping the Sabbath my whole life, and to me, it's a gift that God set aside a day . . . to rest and recuperate from your week," Sexton said.

Sexton finished in eighth place in the steeple at the Big West finals last Friday despite just a few weeks of long-distance practices.

"It's just my one time where I get an opportunity to relax and really refocus my life, and it's been an awesome opportunity for me to . . . [set] my own desires aside for one day just to serve something greater than myself."

Keeping the Sabbath has always been Sexton's choice, and because of her strong convictions, she has never faltered with her decision.

"Although I love track and it's really important, I could so easily be injured and I would not have that [anymore], but this is something I always have," Sexton said, which is why she continually chooses not to compete during the Sabbath.

Sexton is no stranger to the sacrifice that results from this decision.

"My whole athletic career since I was in middle school has been basically one big barrier after another, one big obstacle, one hurdle, and . . . it's been really hard," Sexton said. "I can't say that I haven't left track meets or watched my team leave for a meet and not cried or not been frustrated, but there's never been a hurdle that I haven't been able to get over, and I'm going to keep fighting to get over them."

Finding a college team that would take her on despite her need to have the Sabbath off was a challenge because

most track meets are held during this time. Sexton explained that she initially received offers to run at schools such as Columbia, Cornell and Harvard, but that they took back their offers when they found out about the Sabbath.

She then sent out about 500 e-mails to coaches across the country, writing to tell them that she would work diligently for six days, but that she needed one day off, and that this would not change. Of those 500 e-mails, Sexton received only two responses from schools that were genuinely interested.

At the time, Jack Hoyt was the coach at Seattle Pacific University, and he was willing to take a risk with Sexton, so she began college there as a heptathlete. Typically, heptathlon competitions, which are female versions of the decathlon, are held during the week, which would allow her to compete in this event.

"I knew she was a competitor, and her number one thing . . . was to compete in college athletics," said Hoyt, who is now the assistant track and field coach at Cal Poly.

"All she asks is that she has Saturday, the Sabbath, to do her worship and spend time with God and rest," Hoyt said. "And I can deal with that."

Sexton transferred to Cal Poly winter quarter of this year, continuing to train as a heptathlete. Then, about one month before conference, the event was moved to Saturday and Sunday.

"That was a really big blow for me,"



Bridgette Sexton trained for two years for the heptathlon, but then the event was moved to include Saturday

Sexton said. "I had been training for two years . . . for something I couldn't do all of the sudden."

But she and her coaches refused to give up. They decided to enter her as a wildcard in the steeplechase, a 3,000-meter race that requires hurdling five barriers and a water pit. Sexton had three weeks to train as a distance runner for an event she had only participated in once before.

Although her season is now over, Sexton will likely continue to train as a steeplechase athlete.

"I have this thing that is perceived as a weakness, the Sabbath, but really it's what makes me strong," Sexton said. "It's what makes me a better athlete."

Women of Salt Lake Enjoy Tea

The women of Salt Lake City, Utah, were invited to the first annual "Friendship Tea," on May 7 at the home of Beth Hart, and cohosted by Carol Foy and Debbie Pierce. Nineteen of 22 women were able to attend, all sporting festive hats and gloves. A vast spread of savory and sweet treats had been prepared, and though everyone came with an



Nineteen women from Salt Lake City, Utah, gathered for a friendship tea May 7

appetite, there was much left over!

Women were also invited to share their favorite from an assortment of poems, prose and other small quotes on the topics of friendship and tea.

According to one longtime member, Pauline Park, this is the first all-women's activity to be hosted in this area in 25 years. Each of the women expressed a desire to make it an annual event, and several offered to host it in coming years.

Debbie Pierce

Durban Youth Spend Winter Day at the Beach

The Durban, South Africa, youth spent a day at the beach Sunday, May 28, at Amanzimtoti, a coastal town 12 miles south of Durban.

Although it is winter here, the climate is very mild on the east coast of Kwa Zulu-Natal, and everyone who attended had a very enjoyable day.

There were 13 present, and



Young people in Durban, South Africa, enjoy baseball and a braai

they spent most of the morning playing baseball and soccer on the beach. As usual lunch was the traditional South African braai (barbecue).

Neville Smith

Ann Arbor/Detroit Christian Club Has Ladies' Day

On April 30, the Ann Arbor/Detroit, Michigan, Christian Men's Speech Club hosted a ladies' day meeting for the ladies of the two congregations. The 29 attendees were treated to a delicious brunch at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor.

After the meal, the spiritual feast commenced with a rousing session of table topics led by Ken Cooke. Then Brian McGuire and Terry Robison followed with thought-provoking speeches. Mr. McGuire spoke about the Proverbs 31

woman and connected this with how we are to fulfill this role as the Bride of Christ. Mr. Robison told us about the demons that attempt to infiltrate our minds if we do not resist them with the help of God's Spirit. These demons include bad attitudes and prejudice. The speeches also included a discussion period.

Phil Schafer

Oshkosh Bids Good-bye to the Haniskos

The Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation held a farewell party and buffet luncheon for Mike and Zelda Hanisko following services on June 3.

The Haniskos have served the Oshkosh and Milwaukee congregations for the past nine years and are being transferred to the Minneapolis,



Norm Myers presents gifts to Mike and Zelda Hanisko on behalf of the Oshkosh congregation

Minnesota, area to become regional pastor and to serve the Minneapolis and Little Falls congregations.

Parting gifts included a family photo album of the Oshkosh congregation and activities, a handheld computer with GPS mapping and a basket of miscellaneous goodies for Zelda.

Donna Myers

Deacon and Deaconesses Ordained in Michigan

The brethren from the Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Cadillac, Michigan, congregations met for a very inspiring



New deacon and deaconesses in West Michigan: Lisa Williams from Kalamazoo, pastor Gary McConaughy, Maria and Matt Wilkinson from Cadillac

Night to Be Observed and First Day of Unleavened Bread at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Holland, Michigan.

Pastor Gary McConaughy ordained three individuals who have shown over the years their heart of service to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ordained to the office of deacon and deaconess were Matt and Maria Wilkinson serving in the Cadillac congregation. Mrs. Lisa Williams was ordained a deaconess serving in Kalamazoo congregation.

Gary McConaughy

Grand Rapids Says Good-bye to Kieviet

Longtime members and deacon and deaconess Ted and Wini Kieviet of Grand Rapids, Michigan, were given a farewell send off after services on May 13. With Ted Kieviet battling cancer,



The Grand Rapids, Michigan, congregation with the Kieviet's seated in the front right (with flowers)

they were leaving to start a new life in Fairfield, Ohio, near their son, Bruce Kieviet, and family.

The Kieviet's have always lived in the Grand Rapids area and have touched so many lives since their calling to God's Church in the 1960s.

Many of the members told short stories of how Ted and Wini had touched them. It was a very emotional and uplifting time as a testament of their

years of dedicated service. They will be sorely missed.

Gary McConaughy

Editor's note: As we go to press, we received word that Ted Kieviet died June 27 with his family at his side.

"The Tie That Binds": Women's Weekend in Cincinnati

May 20 and 21, 85 women attended the first women's weekend held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme for the weekend was "The Tie That Binds," encouraging women to work together while building strong relationships. The weekend kicked off with a sermon given by UCGIA President Clyde Kilough about Martha and Mary.

After services a tour was offered to all those who wished to view the home office. When the tour reached the president's office, visitors were warmly greeted by Clyde and Dee Kilough. Mr. Kilough gave each person a 10th anniversary coffee mug.

That evening, just before the ladies sat down for a very nice candlelight dinner, Margie Welty, the wife of Lyle Welty, pastor of the Cincinnati East congregations, welcomed the ladies to the event. Mrs. Welty asked each lady to find her partner and sit with her during the meal, giving both the opportunity to get to know one another. At the conclusion of the dinner, each lady was asked to introduce her partner to the rest of the ladies.

Sunday morning began with morning refreshments and check-in. Dee Kilough, the keynote speaker, started off the presentations with the topic "Mentoring Relationships." Mrs. Kilough covered the importance of becoming a mentor and gave tips on how to be a good one.

After her speech, a panel of five women shared their personal experiences in a presentation on "Encouragement for All Ages." The five ladies were Laura Beth Childers, an ABC student; Becky Bennett and Kathy de Campos, both employees of the home office; Patsy Perkins and Laura Hitchin, both from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Becky Bennett spoke on the importance of encouraging young mothers. She said that it was the encouragement of others that helped her when her daughters were small.

Kathy de Campos spoke about life in South Africa. Kathy gave several examples of how God was involved with her life, in a very difficult place. Patsy Perkins gave accounts of how people encouraged her through her cancer treatments. Patsy encouraged us all to do the same.

Laura Beth Childers' experience as a

young adult taught her the value of encouragement and the need to encourage our young adults in the Church. The panel concluded with Laura Hitchin keeping everyone laughing, while delivering a very encouraging speech on how God intervened and saved her life five times.

The weekend also included a personality workshop given by Amy Stephens, followed by "Necessity Is the Mother of Invention" by Cindy Phelps and "Many Hands Make Light Work" by Wanda Ward. All three ladies attend the Cincinnati East congregations.

Special music was performed during the weekend by ABC students. The activity ended with closing remarks from Dee Kilough and Margie Welty.

In addition to the speakers, this very



Julie Warren introduces her partner, Margie Welty, at the women's weekend in Cincinnati (photo by Janet Treadway)

successful event was made possible by the hard work of Cindy Phelps, Kathy de Campos, Michelle de Campos, Terri Eddington, Becky Johnson, Dee Kilough and Margie Welty.

Janet Treadway

Missouri Congregations Protected From Lightning

The air was bustling with energy May 13 as brethren from the Columbia and St. Louis, Missouri, congregations gathered for their annual seminar, service and spring dinner/dance. There were 78 in attendance for the 10 a.m. seminar. Guest speaker Ken Graham gave an inspiring seminar about the canonization of the books of the Bible, after which everyone took a break for lunch.

As the lunch break was coming to an end, the clouds moved in and the sky grew dark. Then the rain came down in buckets!

The lightning was flashing and the thunder seemed to be getting louder. Then FLASH/BOOM! The lightning flash was almost instantaneously followed by the boom of the thunder. The short-lived chaos was only funny if you were not one of the startled flock.

The flash was so bright that those outside shielded their eyes away from it. The boom was deafening. There were people ducking as though a shot had rung out right behind them. Shaking hands quickly covered ears. Coffee jumped from cups. There was a report of flame or sparks coming from the outlets along one wall.



Lightning struck and split the top of a power pole just 40 feet from where services were about to be held in Missouri. Services and a dinner/dance were unaffected

It was amazing how quickly everyone settled down when we realized it was only thunder that shook the building. Few knew the full extent of the event. The afternoon services began with 143 in attendance. Mr. Graham gave an edifying sermon on the authorized order of the Bible.

No one suspected we were part of a continuing miracle at this time. In fact, the lightning bolt had struck a power pole with a transformer on it just 40 feet from the building. The pole splintered at the very top. The swing-bars on the transformer were swinging back and forth but the transformer did not blow. The outlets still worked as services continued without a flicker. The sermon, dinner and dance all continued as if nothing had ever happened.

God performed a miracle on this day. The keyboard that worked after the lightning strike didn't work the following Sabbath. Had God not intervened, we would have been without electricity for the rest of the day, resulting in no Sabbath service and no dance. Experiencing these miracles with a group of brothers and sisters reminds us that God provides protection for His flock in everything we do.

Flavia Everman and her husband, Mark, coordinated this event.

Linda Morgan

Ladies in Washington Examine "Pearl of Great Price"

Thunder clouds and rain greeted everyone Friday evening, May 19, for the ninth annual Ladies' Retreat on Deer Lake north of Spokane, Washington. The rain was welcome, however, as the moisture is always appreciated in this area.

The theme this year was "The Pearl of Great Price," representing the blessing of the knowledge of God's coming Kingdom. More than 60 ladies gathered May 19 to 21, many for the first time. Four ladies came down from Canada, some making the journey from Grand Prairie, Alberta, more than 800 miles away!

We were privileged to hear Victor Kubik speak to us on the Sabbath. He told the story of his mother from the Ukraine and her great struggle to get to a land of freedom from the oppression

of Nazism and Communism. Freedom was an example of her pearl of great price, physically speaking. She went on to discover the true pearl of great price in God's truth, but then had to give up her Ukrainian community in her new home, the United States.

Her story vividly portrayed how much we should be willing to sacrifice and struggle to attain God's pearl for ourselves.

The speakers told many stories of how people came to learn the truth and illustrated the parable of the pearl of great price more fully. Beverly Kubik spoke the opening night, telling about participating in the LifeNets program acquiring wheelchairs for those who cannot afford them. She also spoke about her mother-in-law and her struggles to obey God.

LeeAnn Luker gave a very informative presentation about pearls, their many characteristics and the spiritual lessons of each. Patty Sexton told the ladies how to look for role models among the many we know in the Church who are an inspiration to us and from whom we can learn.

Michelle Mickelson gave a wonderful insight into the pearls of Nigeria: the ladies in the Church there and the struggles they deal with daily. They face struggles Americans can't even imagine, yet through it all they have a warm and happy attitude.

The last speaker, Sandy Cafourek, dressed as "Minnie Pearl" and gave a delightfully amusing presentation on how and when we were called and what some of the ladies had to sacrifice for that calling.

The highlight, as always, was the special dinner put together by a number of the ladies for the Saturday evening meal. As many as desired dressed up with their hats and pearls.

All too quickly the time passed, and attendees hugged and said good-bye. The ladies left looking forward to the next ladies' weekend, May 18 to 20, 2007.

Nancy Czech

ABC Choral Visits Dayton June 10

The Dayton, Ohio, congregation had the privilege of hosting the ABC chorale at Sabbath services the morning of June 10. The chorale presented a variety of inspiring group songs as well as solos, quartets and octets, all led by Ken Shoemaker. The group has very fine talent and the members in Dayton appreciated their efforts to serve the brethren.

After a message from Dave Johnson, the ladies in the congregation served a wonderful buffet meal for all present.

Following the lunch Mr. Shoemaker and the chorale traveled to Auburn Hills Healthcare Center where they presented another enjoyable performance. The residents were very enthusiastic and appreciative of the singing. After the performance, the chorale members visited with the residents before returning to Cincinnati.

Jean Dawson

See "Local," page 23

Announcements

Births

Preston, Rachael (Jahns) and big sister Rowan Cooksey are excited to announce the birth of daughter/sister



Meagan Cheryl Cooksey

Meagan Cheryl. Meagan joined the family on March 16, 2006. She was 8 pounds and 20 inches long. Rowan loves her sister and is being a great help. Meagan is the fifth grandchild of Bill and Cheryl Jahns (mother's parents). She is the eighth grandchild of Arlene Burnett and William Cooksey (father's parents).

The Cookseys attend the Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation.

Reuel and Esther Dimah Appiah of Yeji, Ghana, are thrilled to announce the



Judy Tanya Dimah Appiah

birth of their first child, Judy Tanya Dimah Appiah. She was born March 11, 2006. Mr. Dimah is the pastor of the Yeji and Macongo congregations of the United Church of God.

Daniel and Alix Fitzpatrick of the Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation are proud to formally announce the birth of their son, Caleb Wendinso Fitz-



Caleb Wendinso Fitzpatrick

patrick. Caleb was born on Jan. 15, 2006, weighing 7 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches in length. His proud grandparents are Jim and Charlotte Fitzpatrick of Ossipee, New Hampshire, and Ghanda and Lucienne Kabore of Burkina Faso in West Africa.

Vincent and Ese Hila of the Accra, Ghana, congregation are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy,



Yayragah Korku Dethar

Yayragah Korku Dethar. Yayragah was born April 19, 2006, weighing 3.8 kilograms. Older brothers Elorm, Elikem and Wisdom are very happy as well!

Kurt and Sherrill (Dungan) Tannert of the Tucson, Arizona, congregation are pleased to introduce their son, Joshua Kurt, who was born Jan. 19, 2005. Joshua is quickly learning how to keep



Joshua Kurt Tannert

up with his 3-year-old sister, Sarah.

Proud grandparents are Marcia Dungan of the Laurel, Mississippi, congregation and Walt and Ann Tannert, also of Tucson.

Weddings

Anne Dungan and Matthew Lucas are happy to announce their marriage on Jan. 1, 2006. The ceremony was held in Meridian, Mississippi, and was officiated by Richard Thompson. The bride is the daughter of Marcia Dungan and the late Eddie Dungan of Meridian. The groom is the son of Jack and Nancy Lucas of Maxville, Florida.

The bride's sister, Sherril Tannert (of Tucson, Arizona), was the matron of honor, and the best man was the groom's brother, Jacob Lucas (of Jacksonville, Florida). The happy couple currently resides in Meridian while



Matthew and Anne Lucas

attending the Laurel, Mississippi, congregation.

Anniversaries

Don and Betty Cole were married on April 20, 1946, and celebrated their 60th



Don and Betty Cole

anniversary this year. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Don Cole heard Mr. Herbert Armstrong on the radio in 1961 and studied the truth for several years. They began attending the Manchester, New Hampshire, congregation in November 1966 and were both baptized in January 1967. Both have faithfully attended church ever since. Don was ordained a deacon in 1975 and Betty a deaconess in 1988.

Although now into their 80s, they never miss church and are always there for the setup of services. Don takes care of the hall layout, and Betty keeps a watchful eye on many things to do with potlucks and food and flowers in general.

"They are a wonderfully stable couple," said Paul Suckling, Worcester, Massachusetts, church pastor. "We all enjoyed a celebration with them when it came to 60 years of marriage."

On the Sabbath of June 6, 2006, the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation honored Ralph and Maxine Pope, who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They reside in lovely Cumming, Georgia, where Ralph, an engineer, works as an inventor, holding patents on a number of items already on the market and others he hopes to have out there soon. Maxine has been a member since the

early 1960s. Together, they reared three children.

Obituaries

David Ogwen Owak, 42, was a faithful servant of God, a deacon and full-time employee of the Church overseeing several congregations and groups in Kenya and Tanzania. He also assisted in the Migori Church office with various administrative matters.

In early April a rapidly spreading cancer was discovered, and it took his life on May 2, 2006.

He is survived by his wife, Damaris, and their five young children. David was known as a businessman, a tailor and a husband and father. He had



David Ogwen Owak

recently spearheaded a widows and orphans agricultural project for members in southwest Kenya.

His funeral was held on May 11 in Migori, Kenya, with the sermon given by the senior pastor for East Africa, John Elliott, to an audience of nearly 800 attendees.

Many of those attending expressed how David had enriched their lives, had taken time to assist them with personal needs and had taught them the truth from the Bible. His presence will be greatly missed by the Owak family and among people in the communities he served.

The family wishes to extend their thanks for the many prayers, cards and messages of consolation received from brethren around the world. We look forward to being with our dear brother David at the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Marvin Heins, 81, of Houston, Ohio, died May 7, 2006, at his home. He was born June 25, 1924, on the family farm in Cynthian Township to Paul W. and Eva Mae (Mills) Heins. He married Ruth Knoop on Feb. 18, 1950.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ruth; two children, Helen Ward and Paul; and six grandchildren.

Jim Chapman baptized him April 16, 1976. Mr. Heins spent his life farming and provided many members with meat, vegetables, milk and fruit. He was a very active member of the Outreach Program in the Dayton congregation. He was responsible for making arrangements in 1999 for monthly Bible studies at the Fair



Marvin Heins

Haven Nursing Home in Sidney where he was a caregiver. He helped in the *Good News* distribution program for many years.

He was active in the local community. He was an honorary member of the Houston FFA and received his American Farmer degree in 1943. He was a 4-H Club advisor, a member of the Houston Grange and he helped other farmers to repair machinery.

Adeline "Addie" Filachione, a member in the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation, died May 19, 2006. She was 94.

Miss Filachione was born Sept. 10, 1911, in Baglini Del Trigno, Italy, a daughter of the late Alexander and Maria Lezara Filachione. She came to the United States in 1918. Addie had worked for Youngstown Sheet and Tube company for 20 years in the general office as a weight calculator and in customer service, retiring in 1976.

She loved music and donated her piano to the local church when her fingers were no longer nimble enough to play it herself. Miss Filachione was known for her expert cooking skills, quick wit and sense of humor until stricken by Alzheimer's disease a few years ago. We look forward to seeing her fully restored in the resurrection.

Richard Nickels, age 58, lost his battle with cancer on June 4, 2006. Diagnosed with an unknown stage four cancer in March 2006, he did not suffer long.

An accountant and computer consultant, Richard worked for a major coal mining company in Gillette, Wyoming. He was a graduate of Lin-



Richard Nickels

field College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude).

Richard Nickels became a *World Tomorrow* broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of

Tribute: Phillip Carl Fowler

Phillip Carl Fowler was born Jan. 6, 1920, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. He died peacefully at his home in Linden, California, June 13, 2006.

Phil moved to Chicago, Illinois, at an early age and attended school there. He first met his future wife, Waueda, when she was only 10 days old. His mother was a good friend of Waueda's mother and a nurse, and was there to help when she was born. The long friendship of their mothers eventually brought Phil and Waueda together. Years later they were wed on July 10, 1943, and resided in Chicago. It would prove to be a long and loving marriage of almost 63 years.

Not long after the birth of their first child, Roy, Phil was sent overseas to serve in the Pacific theater as a paratrooper during World War II with the 82nd Airborne. During the war, he jumped in Luzon, the Philippines; Guadalcanal; and a number of other islands. Many of his fellow paratroopers never returned home, and he felt it was a miracle he survived.

Phil's occupation after the war was growing and canning mushrooms. He had his own cannery and had the largest mushroom operation in that part of the

country. He maintained a successful mushroom business for 40 years.

He and his wife began attending services in 1958. In the later 1960s he was ordained a deacon, and not long after that an elder. He fulfilled many duties and services in the Chicago area. At one time, he was editor of a church newspaper in Chicago, the president of Spokesman's Club, and he served in speaking and many other functions.

After many years in Chicago, he and his wife moved to Linden, California, to be near their family. He has a son, Roy, and a daughter, Robin, and was preceded in death by another daughter, Rona, who died when she was only 23 years old. He also had the blessing of two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

When the United Church of God began in Stockton, he and his wife volunteered to host the congregation at their home for about six months to help save hall rental expense. They also hosted many other events at their home.

Phil was a man of many interests. He loved to fly airplanes, and owned single- and twin-engine aircraft that he flew all over the United States, Canada, Mexico and parts of South America.

After retiring from the mushroom business in 1983, he took the time to



Phillip Carl Fowler

complete his education as a naturopath, receiving an N.D. degree. He really enjoyed helping people with their health problems.

He continued to actively pursue learning into his later years. He enjoyed listening to and actively participating in educational videos from the University of Texas on various mathematical subjects. He especially liked to get out his calculator and work out calculus problems.

Phil's wonderful sense of humor and colorful personality endeared him to many. He will indeed be missed.

Jim and Joan Tuck

Everett, Washington; and Amanda Byrd of Eugene, Oregon. His funeral was held in Vancouver, Washington, on June 11. The family is overwhelmed and very thankful for all of the prayers, support, cards and calls they have received over the last few months.

Dale (John) Freyman, 71, passed away April 22, 2006, at his home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, after a long illness.

He was born July 9, 1934, in Cata-sauqua, Pennsylvania. He worked most of his life in construction, building houses. He was baptized in 1969 in Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania. He was very active and participated in many church



Dale (John) Freyman

activities. He worked a lot with the teenagers until he moved away to Florida in 1974. He also spent 18 months in Houston, Texas, and attended the Houston North church during that time and then returned to Lake Worth, Florida.

He and his wife, Rose, also a member, lived in Port St. Lucie for 26 years. He had been with UCG since 1995.

He was preceded in death by three children, Donna, Diane and Dennis. Mr. Freyman is survived by his wife of 52 years, Rose; two sons, David of Port St. Lucie and Jim of West Palm Beach, Florida; and three daughters, Roseann of Melbourne, Florida, Cindy of Cary, North Carolina, and Ruth of Raleigh, North Carolina. He also has nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were held in Lake Worth, and were performed by West Palm Beach associate pastor Richard Rand.

Dale Pope, born in St. Louis, Missouri, lost his battle with colon cancer on April 30, 2006. Dale, who had a zest for sports, was baptized in 1983 at the age of 21. He was a faithful member in the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation and was looking forward to the Kingdom of God.

He is survived by his mother, Maxine Pope, also a member, and a father, brother and sister. He had expressed his appreciation for the prayers and cards over the past months from members all over the world who had encouraged and strengthened him through this trial.

Announcements: Members are welcome to submit announcements of the births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.) and obituaries in their families. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Most items are 50 to 100 words and should not exceed 250 words. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give them to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

God from 1971 to 1973 in Festival site construction and Church Administration. Since 1978, he wrote numerous articles and books for Giving & Sharing, a nonprofit mail-order bookstore

serving Sabbath-keepers around the world. Thousands of Bibles and Bible study aides were donated around the world through this organization. From 1996 to 1999 and 2004 to 2006 he was

president of the Bible Sabbath Association.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley, of Gillette; and daughters Barbara Parada of Houston, Texas; Rachel Nickless of

"Local," continued from page 21

Houston South Improves Service

The Houston, Texas, South congregation of about 200 people is organized with 40 volunteer service teams under the leadership of the pastor, Ken Giese. These teams provide services ranging from "bulletin and calendar" and "cards and health status" to "Web page" and "young adults."

Houston South has prepared Service Area Process Descriptions that provide "how-to" details of one or more ways to carry out the process of providing the services in each area. The purpose of process descriptions is not only to enable improved, higher quality service to others by having a written process that can be changed, but also to allow those who may want to volunteer, but hesitate because they don't know what might be involved, to see in some detail how each service area carries out its functions.

When people can see a way that a process has been performed, they can be creative in changing to a new way that is an improvement—a higher quality service. This improvement is sought by members imagining being the recipient of a service, and then, with prayer, thinking of ways that would be more helpful, timely, show more love, etc.

One example of a new service added is the "Do You Know . . ." biographical feature in the bulletin with a photo of the person being featured that week. Get-

ting to know each other better this way enhances fellowship, particularly when some are new or live far apart.

Houston South uses a specific, concise way of describing processes, so that only as much detail as is desired is presented. The idea is to describe the essence of each service area in a way that covers the services so that someone else



Susan Scott Smith, Houston South Sabbath Bulletin editor, discusses "Do You Know..." biographical feature with Laura Gustafson (photo by George Foshee)

could carry out the service process from the description.

Jon Erickson

Member Graduates From UCLA

Leslie Schwartz, 22, a member of the Los Angeles, California, congregation, graduated June 18, Summa Cum Laude

from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a B.A. in mass communications and a double minor in education studies and applied developmental psychology.

Leslie completed both College Honors and Departmental Honors, was recognized as one of the Distinguished Seniors by the UCLA Alumni Association, as well as being selected as a Bruin-Life Senior of the Year. She is currently a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and Golden Key International Honor Society, in addition to serving as president of the UCLA chapter of Mortar Board Senior National Honor Society.

She is very passionate about leadership development and community outreach, and actively participated in numerous campus and community service organizations, including UCLA's Office of Residential Life and the Center for Women and Men.

Leslie has also been an active participant in the United Youth Camp program for over a decade, attending camp both as a camper and serving as a counselor at multiple camp locations. She also currently teaches Sabbath school for the Los Angeles congregation.

After graduation, Leslie plans to work

professionally in the Office of Residential Life at UCLA as an assistant resident director in addition to assisting with graduate school research projects at the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute. Future plans include attending



Leslie Schwartz

graduate school and working at a university in Student Affairs, and ultimately working with students in the area of leadership development in order to inspire future generations to use their skills and talents to improve society in positive ways.

College Graduate Named "Outstanding Senior"

Caroline Kirkpatrick graduated with a B.A. in English from the University of Cincinnati on June 10, 2006, with



Caroline Kirkpatrick

Comparative Literature.

Following graduation, Caroline is involved in planning for her August wedding to Ryan Luecke. Caroline is the daughter of Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick, of Milford, Ohio.



Combined Pentecost services for St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida, saw six ordinations: from left, Moses Summers (deacon), Wanda Smith (deaconess), Tyeise Summers (deaconess), Gordon Hannaway (elder), Kristin Yarbrough (deaconess), David Treybig (pastor) and Sean Yarbrough (deacon) (photo by Bart Huitema)

Local Church Updates: If your congregation's news and events are rarely covered in *United News*, why not check with your pastor and write something for him to send in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

preach the gospel more powerful, effective and cost-efficient," said Mr. Kilough. He said the group will be consulting regularly.

"Media encompasses a huge arena, and the nature of technology makes it a dynamic, fast-changing world. We are committed to using the best means possible, in the best manner possible, to fulfill the commission God has given us, and this group's efforts will be a key factor in helping us reach that goal."

Six Speakers Set for Five-Day ABC Seminar

The Ambassador Bible Center announced the 2006 Cincinnati Continuing Education Seminar. The Continuing Education Seminars, formerly called ABC Samplers, are designed to share the ABC classes with interested adults. The annual Cincinnati Seminar lasts five days, Aug. 21 through 25, and will include classes by six different presenters, each of whom will give presentations from the 2006 academic year.

All classes will be held in the ABC lecture hall at the home office in Milford, Ohio. Classes will begin each day at 8:45 a.m. and last until 5:15 p.m., with a 1 1/2 hour break for lunch. Participants will provide their own housing and meals, and ABC can provide a list of local motels if needed. We are asking for \$50 a person to cover the costs of duplicating and refreshments. (If anyone cannot afford this, contact us and we'll see what we can work out.)

A full class schedule will be distributed on the first day of classes, but here are the planned topics and presenters:

- Gary Antion—Hosea, the Apostle John of the Old Testament.
- Jim Franks—Introduction to Doctrine/The Divinity of Christ.
- David Johnson—Ephesians: Keys to Godly Unity.

- Clyde Kilough—Dynamics of Spiritual Growth.
- Ralph Levy—Principles of Prophecy and the Book of Ezekiel.
- David Register—Postmodernism: How Postmodernism Affects Our Thinking.

Space may be limited, so it is important that those who are interested register as soon as possible. Register by sending your name, address, phone number and e-mail (if available), along with a check for \$50 a person to: Ambassador Bible Center Continuing Education, P.O. Box 54992, Cincinnati, OH 45257-0992.

If you have additional questions, please e-mail the Continuing Education coordinator at david_johnson@ucg.org or call (513) 576-9796, extension 208.

In addition to this five-day seminar, weekend seminars are scheduled in various locations across the United States and Canada between the end of August and the end of November. More information will be published about these regional seminars in the next few weeks.

David Johnson

Milwaukee 50th Anniversary Planned

On Nov. 18, the United Church of God will host a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Church of God in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. Brethren will reunite and reminisce over old photos and memorabilia while enjoying a semiformal dinner dance at the Milwaukee Marriott West.

The Sabbath will include socializing from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., followed by a special Sabbath service from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Joel Meeker, Council of Elders member, and George Meeker, the first resident pastor of the Church of God in the Milwaukee area. Following services, there will be cocktails, dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m., a Milwaukee Church of God history program and dancing to a live seven-piece band from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Hotel rooms are available at the Marriott West for a special rate of \$99 plus tax per night by calling (262) 574-0888 and mentioning the United Church of God. The deadline is Oct. 28.

See the dinner dance reservation form



What's New on the Web?

World News and Prophecy Seminars Online

Check out recent seminars given by writers of *World News and Prophecy* at www.ucg.org/sermons/wnp.htm

Blogs

Visit the travel blogs of Council members Victor Kubik and Joel Meeker as they visit brethren around the world. You can access the blogs at

www.ucg.org/multimedia/blog.htm

Teens and Young Adults

Are you looking for sound biblical answers to your questions? Then check out the questions and answer topics at www.verticalthought.org/qa/. If you don't see an answer to your question, then send your question to info@verticalthought.org.

UCG Commentary

"The Quiet Islamic Movement to Restore the Caliphate"
"Why Are Americans So

Obsessed With Celebrities?"
"Christians Must Prepare for *The Da Vinci Code*"
"America's Heritage of Forgetfulness"
www.ucg.org/commentary/

Featured Link

World News and Prophecy Online with blogs on the day's news, podcasts and more.

www.wnponline.org

If you have questions or comments, please contact: webmaster@ucg.org

below for more details.

For more information, you may contact Dale or Sandy Puermer at dpuerner@earthlink.net or (414) 643-9183.

White-water Rafting Set for Aug. 6

The Cleveland, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting their annual white-water Ocoee rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 6, at 11 a.m. As in prior years, the Church will be using the services of Ocoee Inn Rafting as outfitters for the trip.

Participants must be at least 12 years old (Tennessee law) and in good health. Those with bad backs or other similar injuries should not participate. Due to the inherent risk of this activity, all participants must sign a liability waiver. Those under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian's signature before they can participate.

To register and guarantee a seat, please send a check payable to the United Church of God, Cleveland, for \$25 per person to: Allen Dance, 9201 Cobblestone Hill Dr., Ooltewah, TN 37363.

Once we receive your check, a liability waiver will be forwarded to you to sign. Please include your e-mail address to receive the waiver electronically.

Please clearly identify each partici-

pant, church area and a phone number where you can be contacted. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. In the past all slots have been filled and late requests were added to a waiting list. This activity takes place regardless of the weather.

If you have any questions, please contact Allen Dance at (423) 855-0868 or allendance@hotmail.com. Detailed information on camping, housing facilities and church services will be sent personally to all those who register.

Allen Dance

Costa Rica Feast Site Still Has Room for Transfers

The 2006 Feast site in Puntarenas, Costa Rica, still has room for 100 people. Food and lodging at the Fiesta Resort on the Pacific coast costs \$100 per day per adult and \$50 per day per child under age 13. Please visit www.unidaelsalvador.org/feast to register or call Barbara Parada at (713) 914-0766 for more information. The Salvadoran brethren would love for you to join them to celebrate the Feast in beautiful Costa Rica!

Barbara Parada

Calendar of Events

July 20-23: Bluegrass Family Fun Weekend at Sally Buffalo Park near Cadiz, Ohio (www.ucgnet.org/wheeling/bluegrass).

Aug. 5-6: Denver, Colorado, 50th Anniversary (larry_neff@ucg.org).
Aug. 6: Ocoee white-water rafting trip, hosted by Cleveland, Tennessee, congregation (see article this page).
For more info, contact Allen Dance at (423) 855-0868 or allendance@hotmail.com.

Aug. 21-25: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sept. 1-4: Young Adults Christian Living Conference, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, \$125. Contact: Gale Black, galeblack@earthlink.net or (651) 769-8802; www.ucgstp.org/conference.

Sept. 3: Second Annual UCG Houston Music Festival.

Sept. 9-10: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Denver, Colorado.

Oct. 28-29: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Atlanta, Georgia.

Nov. 4-5: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

Nov. 11-12: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Calgary, Alberta.

Nov. 18: Milwaukee 50th Anniversary (see article this page).

Nov. 18-19: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Morton, Illinois.

Milwaukee 50th Anniversary Nov. 18 Dinner Dance Registration Form

As part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Church of God in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, there will be a dinner dance Nov. 18. (See article above for more information on the anniversary.) The cost for the dinner dance is \$32 per adult, which includes sliced roast sirloin with red wine glaze or lemon chicken with a white wine butter sauce. The price includes gratuity. The cost for children ages 12 and under will be \$13 per person, which includes a dinner of chicken strips, fresh fruit cup and French fries. Vegetarian meals are available upon request.

To make dinner dance reservations, please make checks payable to "UCG Milwaukee" and mail the following form to Ray Fabry, N65 W22201 St. James Pkwy. Lot M-76, Sussex, WI 53089 by Nov. 4. Or you can call the Fabrys at (262) 820-1665.

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Phone and E-mail _____
 # Adults Roast Sirloin _____ x \$32 = _____
 # Adults Lemon Chicken _____ x \$32 = _____
 # Children _____ x \$13 = _____
 TOTAL: _____



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