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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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September/October 2006

News At a Glance

54.5 Million See Link to Middle East Booklet

From July through August, more than 54.5 million searchers looking for information about the crisis in the Middle East saw a link to an ad for our booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* appear on their computer screens. For several weeks this occurred at the pace of more than a million impressions a day.

Of these, 170,000 clicked on the link to find more information, and 10,600 ordered the booklet and became *Good News* magazine subscribers.

Peter Edgington

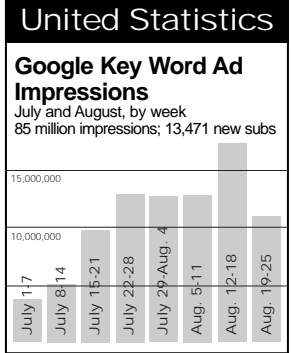
New Educational Travel Program: Paris and London

A new aspect of the United Church of God's education efforts involves guided, organized visits to international sites with a specific focus on the biblical record and prophecy. The first program will feature a 12-day itinerary Dec. 27, 2006, through Jan. 7, 2007, featuring the great cities of Paris and London with their incomparable museums and histories, and tailored for young adults 18 to 30 years of age.

There will be a guide for preparatory study, daily discussions and specific site visits related to the educational objectives of the program. Desired outcomes include gaining new knowledge, deepening existing knowledge, appreciating the reality and veracity of scriptural accounts and building friendships.

This first program will be led by UCG pastor David Dobson and University of California educator Dr. John

See "News at a Glance," page 2



Council of Elders Reviews and Looks Ahead

The Council of Elders met Aug. 4 to 9 for its regular quarterly meeting.

President's Unified Report

Clyde Kilough opened his fiscal year-end report by commenting that overall it was a very successful year. Even though some adjustments were necessary due to new personnel, all the major goals established for 2005-2006 were accomplished. He described the overall condition of the Church as stable and settled, and he said that membership is continuing to grow at a modest rate.

He mentioned that this year's Amba-

sador Bible Center class of 53 students is the largest ever and will bring the total number of graduates to 374. And 45 have already been accepted for 2007.

Mr. Kilough also mentioned that in the past four years, some 70 elders and potential leaders have completed the Leadership Workshop.

Mr. Kilough also described a training program provided for men newly hired into the full-time ministry. It begins with a two-day orientation and then will be followed up with a series of three two-week sessions of classes over a period of six months, designed to further train

the men to pastor in all areas of the ministry (church organization, visiting, counseling, speaking, etc.).

In addition, Roy Holladay has been asked to compile leadership training programs that have been developed by individual pastors. Then Dave Register will use the information to help develop a comprehensive leadership program to be used in local congregations.

Mr. Kilough commented on the care that is taken in the hiring process, which includes a comprehensive personal interview of the candidate and his wife by two representatives from Ministerial

Services. He emphasized the importance of having a thorough working knowledge of the candidate and being certain to answer any of his questions too. Mr. Kilough gave the Council a copy of the questions and topics included in the interview and commented that the process has worked well.

In a written report sent to the Council the previous week, Ministerial Services operation manager Jim Franks cited some basic statistics. U.S. church attendance as of July 1, 2006, was 15,800,

See "Council," page 4

53 Graduate From Ambassador Bible Center



Award recipients Eduardo Elizondo, Stephanie Healey, Jessica Schultz and Jason Nitzberg with Clyde Kilough and Bob Dick

Aug. 13, the largest class yet graduated from Ambassador Bible Center. Including three students who received their diplomas early before leaving to serve on the United Youth Corps project in Ghana, 53 students graduated.

Christopher Stewart, ABC student body president, encouraged the class to be doers of what they had learned. The ABC Chorale, directed by Ken Shoemaker of the class of 2000, performed "We Will Be Your People" by Don Phillips and "We Are Not Alone" by Pepper Choplin, along

with a piece not in the program, a round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" to lighten things up.

UCGIA President Clyde Kilough gave the graduation address. He related a story from Robert Fulghum's book *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It* about a professor who was actually willing to tackle the question, "What is the meaning of life?" The professor's answer was to hold up a

See "ABC," page 9

Council OKs New Education Focus

On Aug. 8, UCG president Clyde Kilough, Ministerial Services operation manager Jim Franks and education programs director David Register presented a new focus for education programs to the Council of Elders. The proposal was unanimously adopted by the Council.

The new education model will build upon current success of the more than 37 education programs in the Church and place emphasis on desired "outcomes." Once outcomes are established, tools and benchmarks will be put into place to measure effectiveness.

Some of the major benefits will include: providing better allocation of resources such as avoiding duplication of effort and making better use of volunteer efforts, staff time and finances; more focus on end results and benefits; a means to unify and rally Church members around the educational efforts; and a more linear approach that allows programs to be tied together and address educational needs as members enter different ages, stages or situations in life.

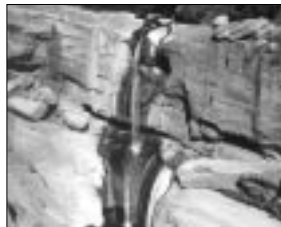
One Council member commented that one outstanding difference between current and new programs will be the emphasis on connecting curriculum and ensuring that education programs are part of a building-block approach.

David Register

New Challenger II Backpacking Program Planned

Participants will backpack in California's Sespe Wilderness Dec. 25 to 29.

by Randy Schreiber



Sespe Wilderness in California

The United Youth Education Team is introducing another Challenger II activity—a four-day backpacking trek in the mountains of southwest California. This program is for young adults, ages 19 to 30, who want to grow in their relationship with God and with others, to learn valuable leadership principles and to challenge themselves physically.

Dec. 25 to 29, 2006, we will tackle a 30-mile stretch of the Sespe Wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest.

Spiritual/Leadership Focus

Challenger II is "for the purpose of

helping older teens and young adults mature in their relationship with God by a wilderness or specialized camp that will challenge them both physically and spiritually. Goals include familiarizing this group with the doctrines of the Church and true godly values to be used in guiding their faith and commitment to a life of service and leadership in doing the work of the Church."

The physical emphasis will involve overnight backpacking, team building, endurance, difficult river crossings and "roughing it" in the wilderness.

In a sense, all participants will also serve as "staff," as each person will be responsible for various aspects of the program from trail navigation, food preparation, camp setup, safety, team-building activities, Compass Checks, etc. The actual staff will be composed of ministers who will guide and mentor the program.

Sespe Wilderness

Sespe Creek is the last remaining undammed river in Southern California, and it is part of the fourth largest roadless region left in the lower 48 states. The hike includes navigating the Sespe

See "Challenger II," page 15

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News At a Glance

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F. Karlik. The itinerary, application and cost can be found on the Web at www.TravelGallery.com or obtained by mail by calling (800) 858-6999. For additional information, David Dobson may be reached at (423) 239-0501.

David Register

Three From St. Paul Ordained

Several ordinations took place on Pentecost during a combined service with the St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, congregations. Peter McNair was ordained a deacon and Steve and Amy Allwine were ordained deacon and deaconess. All three attend in St. Paul.

Gary Black

U.S. Feast Sites and Fragrance Sensitivities

The United Church of God is aware of the increasing sensitivities and allergies to fragrances affecting our members and society in general. For the Feast it is nearly impossible to offer a room that eliminates all fragrances. However, most of our U.S. Feast sites attempt to provide some relief by either reserving a room (and prohibiting anyone wearing perfumes, etc. to enter) or designating a section of the meeting hall as a fragrance-free area. In many cases, these are not full solutions, but they can somewhat aid those who experience allergic reactions in their attempt to attend services.

The following U.S. sites provide some measure of assistance: Bend, Oregon; Branson, Missouri; Cincinnati, Ohio/Northern Kentucky; Escondido, California; Kerrville, Texas; Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Panama City Beach, Florida; and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. If you need more details as to what the specific site that you want to attend offers, e-mail USFestival@ucg.org or call (970) 484-5878.

Charles Melear

Chris Stewart Hired at Home Office



Chris Stewart, a 2006 ABC graduate, was hired to work full-time in the Information Technology area of the home office, where he worked part-time during ABC. His training

Chris Stewart

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Council Member Profile: Clyde Kilough

Clyde Kilough was selected by the Council of Elders in May of 2005 to serve as president of the United Church of God, an *International Association*, and moved with his wife, Dee, to Cincinnati to assume those responsibilities on July 1, 2005.

Mr. and Mrs. Kilough graduated from Ambassador College (Big Sandy) together in 1974, married two days later and moved to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, the first stop in a string of ministerial assignments that included Evansburg, Alberta; Winnipeg and Dauphin, Manitoba; Yorkton, Saskatchewan; Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Poplar Bluff, Missouri; Wilkes-Barre and Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania; Akron and Youngstown, Ohio; Sacramento, Santa Rosa and Stockton, California, and Reno, Nevada.

They have two grown children, Dave, and Becca Washington; one son-

in-law, Brett; and one granddaughter, Jazmin.

Mr. Kilough was born in 1951 and came into the Church in Houston, Texas, with his parents in 1963. Mrs. Kilough grew up primarily in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and began attending Church services in 1965.

He was appointed regional pastor of the Northern California and Nevada area in 1996, and served in that capacity until being named to the Council of Elders in May 2001. His experience with the Council had begun earlier, when he worked as the first Council reporter from 1997 to 1999. Later, from May 2002 until May 2005, he was the chairman of the Council.

"We are now well into our second decade as the United Church of God," Mr. Kilough observed, "and God has blessed us immensely to be positioned more strongly than ever to fulfill our

mission of preaching the gospel to the world, making disciples through that process and caring for those disciples as they strive to live God's way of life."

His emphasis for the Church has been that of being zealously focused on fulfilling that mission in every arena—individually, collectively and administratively. "God's calling and working in our lives is a miracle, and we must treasure this as a gift and a responsibility to help others.

"Understanding the good news of the coming Kingdom of God, and all that it encompasses, is one of the greatest things that can happen to an individual," he said. "In that knowledge we find the purpose for our existence, insight into both the history and future of humanity, and why and how God is involved with this world. It gives us tremendous hope for the future as well



Clyde and Dee Kilough

as marvelous understanding about how to live today."

The Kiloughs especially enjoy visiting the congregations and members of the United Church of God around the world. "We are always encouraged and inspired to see so many people from all walks of life, some in extremely difficult circumstances, unified in purpose and understanding. It is a continual display of God's Spirit, and it is such a blessing to be part of His work at this time." UN

FORWARD! The Future Is Now!

by Jim Franks



One of the most thought-provoking songs in recent memory is one called "Cat's in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin. The song was number one on the *Billboard* music chart in December of 1974 and went on to sell millions of copies.

The song was based on a poem written by Harry's wife, Sandy. It is about fathers who have too little time for their families. But it is about more than just fathers. Life seems to pass all of us by so quickly that we live with guilt and many regrets.

When asked what the song was really about in an interview in 2003, Sandy made the following comment: "The whole point of the story is that we learn our lessons in life by making mistakes, by trial and error, by experience." She added, "It would be great if we

could learn about the future ahead of time, but we have to learn the hard way. It's like the old saying—too old too soon, too wise too late."

The chorus of the song tells a haunting story of how much we miss in life by not stopping to "smell the roses" along the way.

"And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. 'When you coming home, dad?' 'I don't know when, but we'll get together then. You know we'll have a good time then.'"

The lesson of the song is quite simple. If we could see the future and change our lives accordingly, we could enjoy the things that are important and capitalize on things that have true meaning rather than concentrate on things that are transient. It seems that there are so many things in life that occupy our time that will not have a lasting impact.

It is said that no one reaches the end of his life wishing he had spent more time at work. It seems the regrets we have are about our relationships. We regret all the time we missed with our families or our friends or in

the case of the Church, with our brethren. Relationships are of more value than *things*, and that is really the message of the song.

We also read in Scripture about this simple concept. It is found in Ephesians 5:15-16: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." This same principle is found in Colossians 4:4-5: "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."

To redeem the time means to "buy back." How can you buy back time? By setting priorities and making the best use of the time that you have. Every one of us has the same number of minutes and hours in each day. As Christians we know the future, so, in one sense, we are without excuse. We must "redeem" the time by spending it wisely on things of value—our relationship with God, our relationships with our family and our relationships with one another as Christians.

"The cat's in the cradle . . ." and it's time to focus on what is really important! Don't wait until it is too late! The future is now! UN

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

President: Clyde Kilough

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News From Around the World

14 Children Attend Summer Camp in Germany

From Aug. 2 to 7, 14 children and nine adults from Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland attended summer camp at the hostel Naturfreunde-haus in Oerlinghausen, Germany. This year special guest Lara Muir from southern France was part of the staff.

Following a brief orientation meeting on the afternoon of the arrival day, campers learned how to make decorative candle holders. In the evening the first Morse code class was conducted by Paul Kieffer, who has been a licensed ham operator for 40 years.

On Thursday, the first full day of camp, campers enjoyed various games played with a parachute. In the afternoon the group walked 1.5 miles through the forest to the nearby Oerlinghausen glider airport, which is the largest of its kind in all of Europe. A sunny afternoon provided an opportunity to watch dozens of starts and landings on the parallel grass runways at the airport. In the evening campers practiced the song selected as this year's special music for the children's choir at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Friday's main activity was a special "bicycle" ride on train tracks. The train line between Rinteln and Barntup is no longer in regular service. Instead, the tracks have been leased to an outdoor activity group that provides special cars propelled by bicycle chains and gears.

Staff members accompanied campers on the uphill climb of 8 miles before the group turned around at 2 p.m., the time set for one-way traffic on the tracks to reverse. Local member Elisabeth Hellmig met the group along the route and prepared a barbecue lunch. On the downhill stretch staff members did not

have to provide much



Jesmima Allaoua and campers at Hermannsdenkmal; Lara Muir helps with craft; campers pedal uphill



help pedaling.

The campers enjoyed seeing how fast they could go on the descent.

For the daily interactive Bible study, campers were divided into two groups based on age. The theme for this year's camp was the Ten Commandments. Using various puzzles and other craft materials, instructors Hermann Göhring and Mr. Kieffer helped the campers see some of the underlying principles found in the basic points of God's law.

On the Sabbath campers were divided into two teams for a Bible quiz competition conducted by Mr. Kieffer. Questions for the quiz were taken from the book of Genesis and were divided into four categories by degree of difficulty.

In the afternoon, visitors from the local Bielefeld congregation joined the group for Sabbath services. The campers performed special music prior to the sermon, a PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Kieffer. The sermon covered an overview of the Ten Commandments and showed how the theme of freedom from slavery still applies to today's world. After the service, the group had coffee and cake, a German tradition for

mid-afternoon. In the evening campers, staff and visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner.

On Sunday, the last full day of camp, the group traveled to nearby Detmold by car to view two historical sites. The first stop on the day trip was the Externsteine, an unusual natural stone formation of several large boulders used anciently as a site for cultic worship. After lunch the second stop was the Hermannsdenkmal, which was completed in 1875 and commemorates the victory of Germanic chieftain Arminius (Hermann) over three Roman legions in A.D. 9. Hermann's victory ended Rome's attempts to extend its dominion beyond the Rhine River. After returning to the hostel and enjoying a final evening meal, each camper received a certificate of participation that emphasized his or her contribution to the camp.

Despite weather forecasts at the beginning of the week predicting rainstorms from Thursday through Sunday, it only rained briefly on Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. The weather otherwise was cool and sunny.

Naturfreundehaus Bielefeld, the venue for the camp, uses volunteer supervisors during the year. Its members are expected to volunteer a couple of weeks a year to provide oversight when groups use the site. This year's volunteer supervisor was the same one as for the previous camps. He called us a "low-maintenance" group and said he will schedule himself again next year when summer camp 2007 is in session during the last week of July. UN

Article and photos first appeared on www.ucog.org.

International News At a Glance

U.K. Leadership Training Held

Richard and Mary Pinelli and Lyle Welty traveled from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Manchester, England, to hold a leadership training program Aug. 24 to 29.

Forty men, their wives and a few family members met in the Hay's Conference Center, about two hours drive north of Manchester. There were members from Sweden, Holland and all parts of the United Kingdom. Peter Hawkins and his wife, Sonja, organized the five-day, 20-hour set of lectures, workshops and sermons. The classes ran from 9:30 a.m. until about 9 p.m. most evenings.

"The theme was developing our leadership at every level. The purpose of the classes was passing the baton of truth to others and developing ourselves to be better servants," said Mr. Pinelli.

"Many commented that they had never heard much of this material before," said Mr. Pinelli. "They were very warm and appreciative for all the help the home office had given them to make this possible."

Isle of Man Raises Funds for El Salvador Feast

Fund-raisers to help brethren in El Salvador attend the Feast of Tabernacles have been sponsored by members of the Isle of Man congregation. These have raised 700 pounds (more than \$1,300) in total, including 250 pounds from an auction of items made in Central America that was held at the young adults' leadership week in England.

Young Adults' Leadership Week Successful

A young adults' leadership week was held in the village of Theddlethorpe All Saints, Lincolnshire, England, July 21 to 28. The event was regarded as a great success. Young adults came from the United Kingdom and Isle of Man, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. About 40 people from age 16 upwards attended. Also attending were two babies and two children under 10.

The friendly atmosphere was extremely conducive to forums that included topics on Sabbath-keeping, how to influence people, how to be a leader, what is meant by leadership and who can be a leader, to name just a few.

These were often followed by informal late-night talks about personal choice, evolution and various related topics.

During the weekend, activities included playing pool, darts, Jacuzzi, Frisbee, swimming, beach trips, kite flying, DVD presentations and table tennis.

Sabbath services were held in a pleasant village hall. Split sermons were given by Bryan Ellams and Paul Howard. The songleader was Peter Hawkins.

After the weekend visitors left, a core group of 24 people remained to enjoy several outings to Louth, Skegness, Lincoln and Rutland Waters.

Ten-pin bowling, crazy golf, visiting historical monuments and stock car racing all took their place in the week.

A camp is being considered for December, and then in August 2007 at the home of the Kaspers in Belgium (the Kaspers have been firm supporters of the British camps for the last three years).

Hannah Ellams

Canada Breaks More Records

Incoming mail in the Canadian office is setting new records. For the first time, we have received more than 1,000 pieces of mail per month for seven consecutive months. The previous record back in 2004 was for six months. Incoming mail for this year already exceeds the total amount of mail received in all of 2005. We received 2,115 pieces of mail in August, surpassing the previous record of 1,755 pieces received in January.

The Church in Canada also set a new record for the number of Internet and e-mail literature and subscription requests received in a single month. The previous record of 603 was set in March of this year. We ended July with a record 680 literature and subscription requests by e-mail. And August again broke that record with 1,030, a 51.5 percent increase over the previous month.

For the month of August we have averaged 1.5 e-mails per hour. For the year, the average is slightly less than one e-mail per hour. Over half of the new subscribers added recently have requested *The Good News* magazine and *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* booklet (959 copies distributed in August).

Also included in the high volume of incoming mail are responses to the subscriber development letter that was sent out in late July and early August. A total of 4,408 letters were sent and we have received nearly 600 replies as of Aug. 24, giving a response rate of 13.2 percent.

Outgoing mail is setting records as well. We've already distributed more material this year than in all of 2005. The average number of items being mailed per month this year is 15,291—another record. That's about 516 items per day. We're averaging just over 25 responses per week from the *Beyond Today* television program and the *beyondtoday.ca* Web site.

Anthony Wasilkoff and Edwin van Pelt

Ghana Camp Volunteers Experience Challenges

by Melvin Rhodes

Before they even got on the plane, the six Youth Corps volunteers (Laura Beth Childers, Zachary Smith, Francesca Nixon, Mark Mirigian, Michal Lisa Capov and Kirsten Korhuis) headed to Ghana's annual summer camp where they were learning some serious lessons about the hazards of modern travel.

We all woke up Aug. 10, departure day, to hear of chaos at London's Heathrow Airport as a result of a terrorist scare. British police had intercepted a plot to blow up 10 to 15 jumbo jets.

As a result of the terrorist scare, new rules were introduced on hand luggage. The result was long delays at some airports. For the eight of us going to Ghana, our flights from the United States were delayed as were flights from London to Accra. Michal Lisa did not make the connection and had to fly to Accra a day later.

Four of our volunteers had to wait 10 days for their luggage, so finding

replacement clothes and toiletries in Ghana was a priority. Included in their luggage was some of the equipment needed for the summer camp. We simply had to make do. The soccer balls and Frisbees can always be used next year!

Eventually, everybody made it and we were in Accra ready to see some of Ghana en route to Kumasi, the venue for our annual summer camps.

In Kumasi, we were able to buy the clothes needed. The camp was held at Premph College. Staff stayed at the Freeman Center, a guest house run by the Methodist Church. We had 100 campers from around Ghana and 30 volunteers helping.

Everything went well on the first day, but then three of the four girl volunteers from the United States got sick. The two guys were fine and remained so.

Laura Beth had to go to the hospital when dehydration became a problem, and she was not able to keep anything down, including fluids. They gave her an IV, which helped her build up her fluids.

After one night they released her, but she needed to return as she continued to dehydrate. Francesca, the only girl not to get sick, was able to stay with her.

When a blood test showed that Laura Beth had been bitten by a mosquito, the doctors and nurses began to treat her for malaria, which was actually making her dehydration problem worse. The malaria pills led to more vomiting and diarrhea. It became necessary to take her to Accra, from where it was hoped she could get a flight home to continue further treatment for dehydration.

It took us all day but we made it, just in time to get the two last seats on a British Airways flight out of Ghana. Two of the girls left. Kirsten, who was also sick with a stomach bug, tried to leave on KLM but there were no spare seats, so she had to remain for a further 48 hours.

Every year, we all have to come together to help each other, but this year the bonding that took place was that much greater. We worked very well together as a team. UN

Southern African National Council Chairman Reports on Region

André van Belkum, chairman of United Church of God, Southern Africa, gave the following report to the Southern African National Council Aug. 27.

South Africa

Positive trends are once again reflected in our recent office report. Distribution of *The Good News* magazine has remained constant and stable, despite the fact that a controlled renewal program is in operation. Circulation projections indicate that the distribution of the magazine will increase slightly, possibly by 1,000, by the beginning of next year.

One reason that the circulation has remained steady is the response from the Internet, both from the United States and from our local Google advertising. Recently over 100 requests were received in one day, which is a record. Average new *GN* contacts have risen sharply over the past months. Noticeable is the increase in the value of donations received from our *GN* readers. It seems that donations this year will once again surpass the record set last year.

The monthly average of literature received and sent from the East London, South Africa, office has increased by over 30 percent and is putting additional pressure on our staff members. However, at this stage they are still able to

cope, and they continue to use two homes as offices to process the mail.

Malawi

Over the Pentecost season Bill Jahns visited both the Blantyre and Lilongwe churches in Malawi. There was a record attendance of 73 in Blantyre, where Mr. Salawila handles incoming and outgoing mail for Malawi from his home.

There has been a proposal from a member to purchase a tract of land for constructing a church hall and other buildings in Lilongwe. Mr. Jahns will keep the council informed regarding the viability of such a project.

Zambia

From July 7 to 13, my wife, Elize, and I visited the members in Zambia. The first stop was in the Copper Belt region in the north, where Sabbath services were conducted with 31 in attendance. After lunch a question-and-answer session was held.

We were also able to spend valuable time with Derrick and Cherry Pringle who use their office in the town of Kitwe as a base for receiving and distributing the literature for Zambia. The Pringles kindly



Kambani Banda, elder in Zambia, reports that the 22 cattle provided by LifeNets in 2001 have increased to 68

drove us about 400 kilometers (250 miles) to meet with our pastor, Kambani Banda, and his wife in Mumbwa.

From there we traveled to meet with our members from three congregations in the Mumbwa region. Sabbath services were combined with 84 in attendance. We slept over for two nights, and spent a joyous time fellowshiping with our members.

Incidentally, this past season our members, who are all farmers, more than trebled their maize crop yields, largely due to the application of fertilizer supplied by LifeNets.

It was encouraging to witness the construction of three church halls, made possible by donations from the Good Works Program. Each of the three church areas will have its own hall once they are completed, hopefully before the end of October this year. We were able to keep costs down as a result of members offering their time and expertise with the construction process. Our trip to Zambia proved to be extremely profitable.

Zimbabwe

From Aug. 6 to 13 I undertook a vis-

iting tour to Zimbabwe. I was met at the airport by Mike and Primrose Mukarati, who manage our office there. Their son Gabriel accompanied us on the trip and to our first stop, Mutare, where we met with a group of six new people. They all work for the same organization and are keenly interested in our teachings. However, some of them have to resolve a Sabbath problem, and we hope and pray that they can make alternative arrangements with their employer.

After visiting with our only member in Mutare, Mrs. Harrison, we returned to Harare. There I teamed up with member Harris Hlazo for the remainder of the trip. The Mukarati family returned to their home in Kariba.

From Harare Harris and I visited Theresa Chichaya and her family members in Kadoma. She is a widow, but is a successful small-scale farmer. It appears God blesses her as she reaps good crops, no matter what adverse weather conditions she has to face. With financial support from Australian brethren and the help of a friend I have known for years, we hope to reactivate a borehole water well on her property. This will be a great help to her, especially during the dry season.

Next we traveled to visit another member who, with her husband and



Brethren in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, with new MP3 player donated by the UCG Good Works Program children, farm in the Kwekwe region. They feel extremely insecure as the Zimbabwe government continues its policy of occupying mostly white-owned farms. So far their dairy farm has not been seized. They appreciate our concern and prayers.

Our last stop was the city of Bulawayo. There we observed the Sabbath with a group of 16. They now meet in a hall close to public transportation. Previously they met in the home of Stephen and Vetina Tshabalala, who just a few years ago were the only members there.

During the visit we baptized three people, including the son of Mrs. Chichaya. We also welcomed into our fellowship Fanwell Gorondo who left our former association in 2006 as a result of doctrinal changes. We also finalized plans for the Feast, which this year will be held at Lake Chevero, 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the capital city, Harare. Again, this was a rewarding and profitable trip. UN

"Council," continued from page 1

compared to 15,500 on Oct. 31, 2005. Attendance on Pentecost of this year showed a modest gain of 2 to 3 percent. Through May 2006 there were 103 baptisms in the United States, compared to 109 the previous year. There are currently 216 congregations in the United States served by 87 pastors, two associate pastors and one pastor assigned solely to overseas work.

Media

Mr. Kilough then moved on to report on the 2005-2006 efforts in the area of Media and Communications Services, under the direction of operation manager Peter Eddington.

He pointed out the steady growth in the number of coworkers (3,251, a 14.6 percent increase) and donors (7,905, an 18.5 percent increase) during the year.

The newly formed media steering group (which consists of Mr. Kilough, Bob Dick, Victor Kubik, Larry Salyer, Peter Eddington, Joel Meeker, Roger Foster and Jason Lovelady) met for three days in June in Indianapolis, Indiana. Since then the group has had four two-hour teleconferences and conducted a series of face-to-face meetings after the Council meetings. The value of the discussions to date has been in verifying the value of the Church's Media Philosophy Statement and helping to identify the Church's core issues in the media efforts.

After answering about 40 foundational questions, the group's agenda includes discussion of the *Beyond Today* program in particular and the effective use of Internet video in general as tools to preach the gospel effectively. Over time each area of media will be discussed, each generating its own list of questions, issues and decisions.

Statistical highlights from Mr.

Eddington's 2005-2006 report include:

- Answered 16,946 questions left on the Church's Web sites.
- Total *Good News* magazines printed—3,001,616 (21.9 percent increase over last year).
- Visitors to the *Good News* Web site (www.gnmagazine.org)—1,154,806 (207 percent increase).
- Literature requests generated by Yahoo Internet advertisements—48,144 (8.7 percent increase).
- Pieces of literature mailed from the home office mail center—494,452 (0.7 percent increase (does not include the millions of pieces mailed directly by printing companies).

Financial Report

At the start of calendar year 2006, income started to increase steadily. The fiscal year ended on June 30 with income settling at 5 percent over what had been projected in the budget. Income in the first five weeks of the current fiscal year (July 2006) is 17 percent above the same period last year. As a result of the strong income levels, the Church has already met the reserve amount budgeted for 2006-2007, and has an income surplus on-hand.

Mr. Kilough summarized that his focus for the upcoming year will be to:

- Continue to stay in touch with members and ministers, doing what is possible to keep us collectively focused on our calling, mission, growth, unity and spiritual development.
- Develop an effective education program.
- Develop manpower to meet the future needs of the Church.
- Develop the most-effective media program we can possibly have.

Online Donation Proposal

In the May 2006 meetings, the Coun-

cil directed Tom Kirkpatrick to prepare a proposal for using online means of receiving donations to the Church.

Dr. Kirkpatrick emphasized that the motivation for accepting electronic donations is to provide a service to members, coworkers and donors who already are using electronic means to make other payments. The proposal included

details on the security of the system, potential costs and the process for accounting for and receipting of electronic donations.

With the help of Paul Wasilkoff, Dr. Kirkpatrick gave a hands-on example of exactly how the proposed method will work. Council members asked questions and offered comments and suggestions

as they viewed the demonstration.

Mr. Kilough proposed a resolution for the Council to authorize the home office administration to take the steps necessary to provide for the acceptance of electronic donations. The Council voted 10-0 in favor, Les McCullough abstaining.

See "Council," page 13

Council of Elders Continues Strategic Planning Process

Aug. 7 Chairman Bob Dick directed the Council in a discussion on the topic of strategic planning. This discussion was a follow-up to the brainstorming session on this topic in the Council meeting held on May 11.

Mr. Dick reminded the Council of the previous discussion. The strategic question is: "What are the biggest issues we face as an organization?" He summarized that the comments in the previous strategic planning discussion focused on four fundamental areas:

1. The internal, spiritual health of the organization.
2. Developing manpower and using existing manpower.
3. Preaching the gospel, fulfilling the commission—with passion, focus, determination, urgency, etc.
4. Relationships among Sabbatarian groups.

The Council confirmed that it still believes these are the most important strategic issues the Church faces now.

The discussion of specific strategic priorities continued, resulting in the following expansion of the first three strategic areas, with specific action items included.

1. Internal spiritual health of the organization.

Here are the issues/conditions:

- Commitment—develop a higher level.

• Not falling into the cares of the world—less materialism.

• Working in harmony, doctrinal cohesiveness.

• Doctrinal drift in real-life application—Christian living.

• Suggestions for what we can do about them:

• Promotion of the achievements of the Church—express zeal, energy.

• The president and administration can convey to the ministry the issues we have talked about—what is involved in developing the spiritual health of the Church and how to do so.

• Strengthen understanding of basic doctrines in the minds of young people (which the proposed education program will be specifically tackling).

• Identify areas of doctrinal drift and suggest ways to deal with them.

• Identify areas of societal drift and suggest ways to deal with them.

• Identify ways to be a success by following God's way—promote the positive aspects of godliness.

• Understand patterns of behavior identified in the pastors' monthly church reports to identify trends that either currently exist or are developing (the positive as well as negative).

2. Developing new manpower and utilizing existing manpower.

Here are the issues/conditions:

- Aging ministry.

• Not falling into the cares of the world—less materialism.

• Working in harmony, doctrinal cohesiveness.

• Doctrinal drift in real-life application—Christian living.

• Suggestions for what we can do about them:

• Promotion of the achievements of the Church—express zeal, energy.

• The president and administration can convey to the ministry the issues we have talked about—what is involved in developing the spiritual health of the Church and how to do so.

• Strengthen understanding of basic doctrines in the minds of young people (which the proposed education program will be specifically tackling).

• Identify areas of doctrinal drift and suggest ways to deal with them.

• Identify areas of societal drift and suggest ways to deal with them.

• Identify ways to be a success by following God's way—promote the positive aspects of godliness.

3. Preaching the gospel, fulfilling the commission—with passion, focus, determination, urgency, etc.

• The media steering group has been formed and is already at work identifying and addressing broad principles and specific issues.

• Translate concepts from the media steering group to application in all areas of media.

Don Henson

Teton Challenger Camp Reaches 10th Year

The 10th year for the Teton Challenger Camp was in many respects the best so far. The weather was ideal; the lake level the fullest in years (due to a heavy mountain snow pack); and the staff was highly competent and worked together superbly.

Having a more mature group of older teens and young adults this year (ranging from sophomore to age 21), the emphasis of the program could be summarized by this year's theme: "Prepare for the Future." All instruction through camp emphasized preparing personally for what's ahead.

This year campers arrived a day earlier to help set up the base camp, along with staff members, in the woods of Colter Bay Village. Campers were divided into two men's and two women's teams—blue and green. After a staff training day and orientation meetings, the camp program began with a training day in wilderness emergency skills. Then one team received training in reading topographic maps with a compass, preparing essential gear for day hikes and basic rock climbing knots. At the same time the other team trained and prepared for the three-day backpacking trip.

The three-day backpacking trip fol-



at two scenic locations, and the third day embarked on the Wilderness Challenge Course. Teams of four or five are taken to a hiking area in the mountains, given a map with a destination to find and are presented with challenges to solve along the route. Points are gained or lost according to how challenges are dealt with. The course is about six miles and takes most of



Brandon Krueger climbing Muster Buster; members of blue team reach their destination on the three-day backpacking trip; Sabbath group photo

the day, with a debriefing period afterward.

Base camp life included bathing in the snowmelt waters of Jackson Lake, fan-



tastic meals (including elk and antelope steaks), Compass Checks each morning and Christian Living discussions every evening around the fire. Compass Check subjects this year included: treating the opposite sex with respect, serving with sincerity and humility, elevating our speech and eliminating euphemisms, respecting laws and rules, proper respect for authority, showing faith in God despite peer pressure or political correctness and preparing for coming adversity.

Sabbath services are held in the

woods, with this year's sermons and Bible study messages on trusting the Bible, being teachable and the history of our Church. The next day was another day of recuperation and training, plus half a day in the town of Jackson, a town full of Western flavor, unique shops and fantastic art galleries.

The second week the teams reversed venues, then Thursday everyone helped take down the camp and load it into the trailer to be stored another year in a Dubois, Wyoming, storage unit.

Paul Luecke, director

Carter Campers Brave the Heat, Focus on Leadership

The end of July in Fort Worth, Texas, is always hot, and this year was no exception. Thankfully, God blessed us with temperatures in the 90s instead of the 100s like the week before. That coupled with some nice breezes helped 108 campers and 45 staff members enjoy "the Zone" at Camp Carter from July 23 to 30 this year.

As always, sports and educational activities filled the better part of each day and evening, keeping campers and staff busy the whole week. There was also much discussion each day of God and His principles to keep us "on track" as to why we do these camps.

A Compass Check was held each morning and at the end of each day a question-and-answer discussion session was held. Several times during the questions and discussion with the older dorms, the interest level was so high we went past the scheduled one-hour slot.

The theme for this year was "Leadership" with a specific focus on ethical principles that are vital for all leaders. Ken Treybig, director of Camp Carter, pointed out in the opening night orientation that not only are campers and the young adult staff the future leaders of the Church, they also have an opportunity to lead right now by being good examples of God's way of life in their schools

and communities. The oldest boys' and girls' dorms set wonderful examples of leadership at camp this year in many ways, even winning the clean dorm award numerous times.

After an overview of the principles and why they are important for every leader—especially for leaders aspiring



swimming. The oldest boys' dorm and oldest girls' dorm were also given an extra afternoon at the lake, a two-hour session of golf and rappelling on the 65-foot tower.

On Tuesday evening we had an all-camp dance and on the other evenings campers were able to choose which activity they wanted to do—or they could choose to play table games or just sit and visit inside.

The Sabbath began on Friday night with another all-camp activity where various Christian living scenarios were posed and campers divided into groups to discuss how they would advise someone to handle that situation. Then a spokesman reported to the whole group and fielded questions from campers and staff members.

This year we were blessed to have a



Camp Carter activities included waterskiing, softball, volleyball and ropes; above, Clyde Kilough gets into the swing of things at softball (photos by Ken Treybig, Angela Quant and Preston Buchanan)



visit from Clyde Kilough, president of the United Church of God. On Wednesday evening, in an all-camp assembly, he spoke about the most important prophetic event in the New Testament—the coming Kingdom of God. He pointed out that many of the instructions of Jesus Christ tell us to focus on that future event as an anchoring point of our attention. If we are truly excited



about and praying for God's Kingdom to be established as Christ commanded in Matthew 6, we will find it has a huge effect on how we live our lives.

On Saturday night the final dance was another opportunity to practice the skills learned in dance class before tearful good-byes on Sunday morning.

Ken Treybig

Protection, Inspection and Direction at Heritage '06

"Camp Heritage—11th Edition" wrapped up Sunday, Aug. 21, as 141 campers and 68 staff members said good-bye for another year to their "home away from home" near Farmington, Pennsylvania.

This year's weather was by all accounts the most exceptional of all the years we've had a camp program at the Heritage Reservation, a 2,000-acre property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Pittsburgh Council. We had brief showers early Tuesday morning and late Saturday night, but nothing to compare with last year's ferocious thunder and lightning storm.

Campers were guided in "respecting the Zone" in several of the Christian Living classes and the Life Skills class; and challenged to prove the uniqueness of the knowledge God has given His Church in other Christian Living classes, which once again began each day at camp.

Heritage received its American Camp Association visit from two officials of the Keystone Section of the ACA on Tuesday, Aug. 15. The five-and-a-half-hour visit was thorough and

professional, but friendly and warm. Our guests joined us for lunch, then concluded the scoring of the camp by mid-afternoon, recording that Heritage didn't miss any of the ACA standards applicable to this regional camp.

By far the most inspiring aspect of an outstanding camp year was the clear evidence of God's protection and guidance, especially for the Challenge campers and staff who took part in the whitewater rafting trip on Wednesday, Aug. 16. The trip takes place annually on the Lower Youghiogheny River, and always has its share of "thrills and spills" for participants. This year, as in all years, rafts occasionally capsized, with guides acting immediately to recover swimmers (all equipped with helmets and "PFDs"—personal flotation devices or life jackets) from the water.



But in an extremely rare occurrence, two campers from an eight-person cap-sized raft became entan-



gled in the lines thrown into the water to pull them to shore, and had to receive hospital attention, including care for abrasions from the ropes. God's protection was clearly in evidence, and both were back at camp by Thursday evening, fully participating in the remainder of camp activities.

We look forward to our 12th season at Camp Heritage, scheduled for Aug. 12-19, 2007. See you then!

Doug Johnson



Clockwise from left: campers play hard in basketball, kayak on Lake Courage, carry a blindfolded team member in the Amazing Race, make a pass in water polo and make big splashes! (photos by Dave Baker)



Camp Davidson: Challenged, Connected, Confident

We really had a fantastic year at Camp Davidson in Oregon, with a super staff and amazing mix of campers and dorms! We started camp by setting the focus on three areas: accepting challenges, making connections and learning godly confidence.

Accepting challenges is a foundational concept at camp, based on Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might." We encourage everyone to mentally prepare, learn the skill of an activity and take the challenge of learning something new.

This is accomplished with a variety of activities that challenge in different ways, including archery, arts and crafts, basketball/volleyball, dance instruction, Excellence in Living, flag football, hiking, kayaking, low and high challenge courses, rock wall, swimming and waterskiing. New challenges for 2006 were the addition of water polo, water aerobics, capture the flag and an overnight camping trip for G4 and B4 (the oldest girls' and boys' dorms).

Making connections that last a lifetime is vital and is based on the principle in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up." We learned to tie a threefold cord (which is not quickly broken, verse 12) by making connections with God, our friends and our Church family throughout the week.

In addition to mealtime and free time, this year we specifically designed a number of new activities to encourage strong connections. These included:

- Memorization of a scripture a day.



camp was the nightly campfire! Campfire consists of many fun activities that really bring the



Wakeboarding, basketball and an original campfire song at Davidson (photos by Michelle Pate)

entire camp and staff together, including the world-famous dorm greetings

contest, Camp Davidson salutes, relay games, riddles and contests, dorm inspection results and songs. It is wrapped up with an inspiring campfire story.

The sermon given on the Sabbath by David Holladay was titled "The Battle for Your Heart" and wove together the five memorization scriptures into a formula for protecting your heart from Satan's attempt to capture it. The Sabbath concluded with a nicely orchestrated sit-down banquet and the second all-camp dance after sunset.

The staff had a fantastic time getting to know everyone, and we have all seen amazing growth in all the fine young men and women over the years!

David Holladay

United Youth Camps Score Well as ACA Visits Three Camps

Beginning in 2000 the United Youth Camps (UYC) have been visited by volunteers from the American Camp Association (ACA) sections every three years and scored using the approved standards in 10 major areas—from site and food service to operational management, aquatics, adventure/challenge, etc. During that time, 11 regional camps have been inspected in three years (2000, 2003 and 2006).

Each camp is scored on 120 to 160 individual standards. The interesting challenge for the UYC program is that we are considered one program in multiple sites, and we score on one scorecard. That means we have to get each standard correct four times but would miss the entire standard if even one site was not in compliance. To receive accreditation we need at least 80 percent correct in each area with all "mandatory" standards passed.

In these 11 scoring visits, more than 1,500 standards were considered and scored and only three standards were missed. According to the national ACA office, this is a very major accomplishment. Achieving such excellence is a tribute to the outstanding efforts of camp directors and volunteer staff.

This year marks the third round of visits. Camp Hye Sierra, Camp Carter and Camp Heritage were visited and scored, missing only one standard. (Camp Davidson was scheduled for a visit this summer, but the local visiting team was unable to complete the visit.)

Larry W. Greider



Photo taken at Camp Heritage Aug. 15 following the American Camp Association visit. From left: Bonnie and Larry Greider, Frankie Graham, Todd Brinkman and Doug Johnson (photo by Christine Martinez)



From the Word

What Kind of Clothing Is Appropriate to Appear Before God?

■ What we wear to appear before God on His Sabbath says something about us.

by Richard Pinelli

Our Sabbath-keeping reflects the relationship we have with God. God uses the Sabbath as a test for His people—and He gives us a test each Sabbath.

He watches to learn something about our character, how much we understand about who He is and what He is doing. How important is it to us to learn more of His mind and His ways?

There are four primary principles of Sabbath-keeping (see "How to Keep the Sabbath Day Holy," May 2005 *United News*):

1. The command tells us not to work.
2. The command tells us to rest.
3. We are told to assemble with others for worship. Most commandments can be done by yourself, but in the case of the Sabbath for most, we are required to congregate. The purpose of congregating is to worship.

Leviticus 23:5 calls it a "holy convocation," which implies we have been officially summoned to worship.

4. Hebrews 10:23-25 tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, and even more as the day of Christ's return approaches.

But the key to all of this is found in Leviticus 19:30, which says: "You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD." To "revere" means "to regard with awe, great respect or devotion; honor." We worship God in spirit and truth. We may meet in a plain building, sitting on metal chairs, but we in spirit come into the very presence of God.

Clothing and Worship Are Inseparable

If Christ were to decide to spend the day with you, would you dress any differently than normal? Would you rush out to buy new clothing? Maybe you would make sure you were dressed formally or make sure you dressed modestly? Maybe you would put on what the world calls its "Sunday best"?

The Bible is filled with examples of how God's people dressed up to reverence God's sanctuary—to reverence His presence. They made a big deal out of this one important facet because, spiritually, the outward and the inward should agree and reflect our relationship with our God.

In Deuteronomy 31:12 the people were called together to hear God's Word "... that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law."

Matthew 22:11-12 shows the calling to the wedding supper. Yet a man came in without a wedding garment, and he was cast out. Why? Because he was not prepared to meet Christ. Rev-

elation 19:7-8 and Isaiah 61:10 show that fine and clean clothing has always been a part of God's thinking, as representative of righteousness.

David in Psalm 110:3 talks about "the beauties of holiness." The Jamieson, Fausset and Brown commentary says: "In the beauty of holiness is a poetical phrase for holy garments such as those worn by the high priest on the great day of Atonement. Here it refers to the same event as Revelation 19:7-8 and Revelation 1:6 where Christ's people wear as their priestly garb the beauties of holiness unsee by the world. It is then that the inward beauty (God's character) will be seen as depicted by the robes of the high priest on Atonement."

Leviticus 16:1-4 and Exodus 39:2-5, 8-31 show how much work went into preparing the high priest to meet God in His sanctuary. The Jamieson, Fausset and Brown commentary says these garments "are called holy simply because they were not worn on ordinary occasions, but were used in the discharge of the sacred functions (reverencing the sanctuary of God). In material it was elaborate embroidery and color and it had an imposing splendor ... being all made of linen, they were symbolic of the truth, purity and other qualities in Christ that rendered him such a high priest."

In Exodus 19:4-6 Israel was called "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." In 1 Peter 2:9 we are called the same. Exodus 19:10-11 and 14 shows that they were to come with clean clothing, prepared to meet God. Again clothing, cleanliness, etc., were all a part of meeting God and reverencing His sanctuary and presence.

Does Your Appearance Count Before God?

In recent years the fads have been dressing down and dressing to draw attention to the body. These things are perfectly acceptable in a society without understanding, but not in God's Church. An abysmal lack of training in dress, grooming and hygiene is seen every day. The problem is, the more we are around this thinking, the more we think it is normal.

Listen to an article the *Cincinnati Enquirer* ran Aug. 10 titled "Got a Job Interview? Then Ditch the Flip-Flops": "There's something that's definitely happening with the younger generation now," says Joseph Rosenfeld, an image consultant based in San Jose, Calif. "There's a lot of 'Accept me now, accept me for who and what I am, and give me whatever I want right now.'"

"For those students, the real world provides a harsh wake-up call ... Denise Bober ... says she's amazed by the number of young women who show up for job interviews showing way too much skin. 'If you look in the mirror, and you look sexy,' she says, 'change' ...

'We've had applicants come in with bare midriffs or flip-flops,' says Jennifer Loyless ... 'This does not give us the impression that they respect the work that we do' ...

"Grads should never delude themselves into thinking that grades trump attitude' ... Once you learn the company's dress code ... dress one step above it."

This is the attitude out there among some. We should not bring this into God's sanctuary. This attitude was reflected recently when the women's champion lacrosse team met President Bush at the White House. Several came wearing flip-flops. They had no idea what is proper dress when you meet the highest dignitary in the land. Remember the question about what would you wear if you were to meet face-to-face with Jesus Christ? Sadly, some have never learned or refuse to be taught.

In 2 Corinthians 6:11-18 Paul gives a series of principles on removing yourself from the spirit that infects our present society. It means simply to come out of the way this world thinks about fashions, hair, clothing, religion, etc. Don't worship your God like the people around you.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

An Error in Our Thinking

It's easy to think: What I am wearing is modest when I compare it to what the world around me is wearing. But too often it is still immodest compared to what the Church is teaching as modesty.

Let me be more specific. In the last several years five articles have been written in *United News* that bear upon the attitudes we struggle with in the world around us. They are titled "Modesty: A Vanishing Virtue" (parts 1 and 2 in the March/April and May 2003 issues) "Good Sex, Bad Sex" (June 2006); "Heart-to-Heart Talk With Men and Teen Boys" (July 2006); and "Heart-to-Heart Talk With Women and Teen Girls" (August 2006). We also provided a video/PowerPoint presentation on modesty to be used in all congregations.

These articles are *not* suggestions—they are the teachings and standards of the United Church of God on this topic.

Standards Set by Companies and Religious Groups

Many major corporations and banks have some pretty stringent standards of dress: no conformity—no job! Several large religious institutions of higher learning have set a basic standard of modesty that most of us would agree with.

We have been called out of the world. True religion, which enters into every phase of life, must have a molding influence on all our activities. Our habits of life must stem from principle and not from the world around us. Dress is an

important factor in Christian character.

What Is the Teaching of UCG on Sabbath Dress?

For men: Except in the tropical climates and the islands of the tropics where formal dress may be special shirts or other formal garments, we expect the men in the congregation to wear a shirt, tie and quality slacks. We expect men to be attired this way.

We believe most men can afford a suit or jacket, shirt and tie. Some in our congregations have found suits and jackets at places like Goodwill and other non-profit outlets for \$5 to \$10. (If either men or women in God's Church are having financial problems, our local pastors will privately help you.)

For women: For the ladies, we expect you to wear the best dress, suit or pantsuit you can afford. Strapless dresses, halter tops and outfits that show a plunging neckline or backside are not acceptable Sabbath wear.

This was explained in "Heart-to-Heart Talk With Women and Teen Girls" last issue on page 8: "There is a difference between dressing attractively and dressing to attract. Many women wear clothing that is too low, too high, too tight and/or too transparent. Much of it is way too formfitting, defining every curve exactly. Often clothing, body jewelry and tattoos draw attention to body parts, like printed words across one's breasts or bottom.

"We suggest the 'sit-down test.' Sit in a chair in front of a mirror, see if the hem of your skirt still reaches your knees, and look in the mirror to see what others can see under your skirt. Then lean over to see if you can see down your blouse. Godly character is shown by not compromising even in small ways. [She] who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10) ...

"Total nudity is less erotic than sexy packaging. A woman in skimpy or tight clothes is more exciting and mysterious because she is tantalizing and teasing to a man in a way similar to a striptease show. His appetite is stimulated to see and imagine more.

"The peekaboo effect is also erotic. Advertisers know that a split-second sexy image can have as great an impact as a longer scene. Likewise, high slits in skirts are like flashing lights—now you see thigh, now you don't. Also sheer clothes, loose blouses when a woman leans forward and sleeveless tops with loose armholes offer titillating peeks of skin and underwear."

In three Feast sites near beaches we face this "dress down" or "dressing to draw attention" problem. Even if you are in Hawaii, Panama City Beach or Jekyll Island, beach wear, flip-flops, beach sandals and running shoes are not acceptable for God's convocations.

Parents, We Need Your Help
It is not an easy task to shop for and

encourage proper dress among our young people. But it must begin somewhere. The Church has given you some basic guidelines. We hope you will support our efforts to raise our quality of dress for services.

Some years ago, just before going to Sabbath services, my daughter came downstairs with inappropriate clothing for Sabbath services. I stopped her and sent her back upstairs to change.

It was very difficult, and it was mighty cold in the car on the way to Sabbath services that day. But a father and a mother have to do what they have to do. And I encourage you to work together as a family on this.

Offenses by Some in God's Church

Over the past few years Ministerial Services and local pastors have received a number of letters and verbal complaints on offensive clothing at Sabbath services. The apostle Paul said in Romans 14:12-13, "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."

Christ has given His ministry the responsibility to expound the biblical principles to encourage unity, togetherness and single-mindedness in all customs and traditions.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:2: "Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you."

Many times traditions based on principles of God's Word are given to fit the needs of the Church. Paul had to make judgments in areas such as:

- Passover observance and how it was to be done.
- Hair length for both men and women.
- How services were to be conducted in relationship to speaking in other languages.
- Laziness and sponging off the brethren because they were expecting the immediate return of Christ.
- Sowing of discord and disrespect toward the ministry.

The Church today supports and teaches these clear principles from God's Word and expects all of us to follow these principles of modesty as we strive to come out of the world and become Christlike. We believe the way we appear before God on the Sabbath is very important. We encourage you to read all of the articles and revisit the video on modesty.

Our Sabbath-keeping is to reflect our character and how much we understand about who the Almighty God is and what He is doing.

Remember Leviticus 19:30: "You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD." UN

To Vote or Not to Vote

■ The Church teaches the importance of being good examples and good citizens, so why doesn't it support voting? What is the biblical basis for the Church's teaching?

by David Treybig

The U.S. midterm elections will soon be here. On Nov. 7, an estimated 80 million Americans will cast their ballots for individuals seeking positions in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives and state and local offices. Will you be among those casting a ballot?

The decision as to whether to participate in the governing process of our country by voting has been a puzzling question for some within the Church. After making the personal decision via baptism to put God and His coming Kingdom first in their lives (Matthew 6:33), some have wondered if they shouldn't also do what they can to help elect the most godly and moral candidates possible.

From school civics classes, we've all likely heard that voting is the right *and* duty of every citizen. Shouldn't we be responsible citizens? Shouldn't we show love to our neighbors by striving to keep our country as godly as possible?

As we approach this year's political season, it is a good time for us to review our teaching on voting for political candidates. It is also a good time to give thoughtful consideration to the reasons why we either vote or don't vote.

Apolitical

The Church of God in modern times has always striven to be apolitical—that is, we have no involvement in political matters. With only a few occasional exceptions concerning local issues, our advice to members has always been nonparticipation.

This stance has served the Church and its members well in several practical ways. First, not voting is consistent with

our belief that we should not bear arms or be involved in military service.

Second, keeping politics out of our congregations has eliminated the potential for political fights and divisions.

Third, our commission to preach the gospel of the Kingdom is to be directed to all peoples—not just those of a political party we may choose to support.

Fourth, according to U.S. tax law, nonprofit organizations such as churches are not supposed to support political candidates or attempt to influence the outcome of political races (www.rutherford.org/PDF/rightsofchurches.pdf).

Fifth, by an apolitical stance, the Church has been able to give greater clarity, focus and emphasis on preaching the gospel of the Kingdom (Matthew 10:7; 24:14) and to encourage everyone to seek the coming Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:10, 33; Mark 15:43). Members have likewise been able to give singular focus to the job of serving as ambassadors of that Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20).

While recognizing the value of placing our primary focus on the coming Kingdom of God, some have also noted that there is no specific scripture forbidding voting in an election. Additionally, some have seen that Paul cared deeply for his fellow countrymen (Romans 10:1), took advantage of his Roman citizenship (Acts 22:25) and advocated submission to civil authority (Romans 13:1-7). With these concepts in mind, some have felt that they should seek the Kingdom of God first and, secondarily, be good citizens by voting.

To address this issue, first let's consider some of the common reasons we are told we should vote.

The Case for Voting

As we grow up, most Americans (and citizens of other democracies around the world) are taught that we should vote in political elections. The implied perspective is that most everyone does. Yet this is far from the truth. Indeed, countries with totalitarian governments have much higher voter turnouts because people are afraid of retaliation if they don't vote for the government in power.

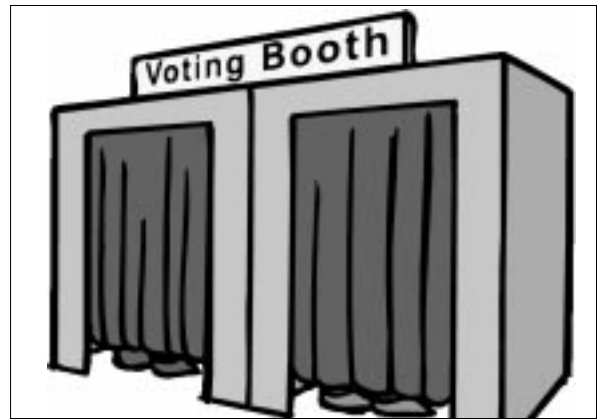
For the past three U.S. presidential elections, the percentage of voting-age citizens who actually voted hovered around 50 percent. And for the past three midterm elections (when there is no balloting for president), the percentage of voting-age Americans who voted has been around 37 percent (www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0781453.html).

Why do so many not participate? According to Infoplease.com in its encyclopedia article on voting, "Also a subject for considerable study in the United States is that large segment of the population [approximately 50 percent] that refrains from voting. Research has shown that nonvoting is caused by factors that include social cross pressures, new residency in the community, and relative political ignorance or lack of interest" (www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0851178.html).

"Lack of interest" is furthered by the common observation that it doesn't really matter who is elected because things stay pretty much the same. "Lack of interest" also develops as people become disgusted with the continual political bickering and fighting that goes on in Congress. Indeed, it is well known that the approval rating of Congress has recently been considerably lower than that of the U.S. president, who also has an extremely low rating. Poor conduct by congressional members may also lead many to distance themselves from politics.

On the surface, the strongest case for a Church member deciding to vote seems to be based on the motivation to show love to our neighbors by choosing the most godly and moral candidates. Buttressing this view is the historically adapted quote of Edmund Burke that says, "All that is needed for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing" (www.tartarus.org/martin/essays/burke-quote2.html). Yet as we endeavor to be "good" people, is voting in the upcoming elections the best way for us to show love? Let's consider a few more important questions.

If we choose to vote, how do we know which candidates God would endorse (if any)? In this country's representative



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form of governance, people generally get and deserve the candidates they place in office. Should we become part of the world in this process? If we decide that we should, does our vote really matter since God is the One who sets up and removes rulers (Daniel 2:21; Romans 13:1)?

With total control, God can allow a bad leader to take office to teach people lessons the hard way or He can see that a good leader is installed in office. If we decide to vote, how do we know which candidate God wants in office? Does God need our help in this area to accomplish His will? These are all serious questions not to be casually dismissed.

An Examination of Politics

To make a judgment, sometimes it is also helpful to step back and look at the big picture. Let's consider the fruits of the American political process. After all, Jesus instructed us to judge things by their fruits (Matthew 7:16, 20).

The longer one observes the political process in the United States (and other countries), the easier it is to determine its fruit. These political races with their campaigns and debates do not create national unity. Instead, candidates routinely make cutting accusations against their opponents. Elections seem to be open seasons for character assassination and incitement to anger. Each side believes it has the logical position and that the other side's platform is detrimental to the country.

And sadly, even after an election this anger doesn't seem to disappear; it just subsides until it is brought back to full intensity for the next election. Political elections do not unite, they divide.

As good as the American system is in comparison to other forms of governance, we have to remember that because it is of the people, it is still subject to all human weaknesses. American politics does not produce peace and feelings of harmony among all. Rather, it is an ongoing fight for values and the opportunity to shape laws and society as the victors please. The fruits of political voting—and every other form of human governance—are not good and that is why the Kingdom of God must come to this earth to replace *all* of man's governments.

The Two Trees

One of the great truths that God has revealed via His Holy Days is that He is working with humanity in different ages. God is calling firstfruits (James 1:18;

Revelation 14:4) now who will be teachers of other humans in the coming Kingdom of God.

In short, God is not calling or working with everyone at this time. Of course, everyone will have an opportunity to understand God's truth and receive salvation, but that time lies ahead for the majority of the earth's inhabitants. The foundation of this understanding goes back to the Garden of Eden.

In working with Adam and Eve, God placed two trees within the garden. One was called "the tree of life" and the other, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9). God's instructions were: "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17).

These two trees represented two choices of how to live. The tree of life represented following God's instructions and would have led to eternal life. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented human beings making their own decisions about how to live rather than obeying God.

Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In doing so, they chose to decide for themselves how they would live, and humanity has followed Adam and Eve's lead. Only those whom God calls out of this present evil world (John 6:44) currently have the opportunity to live under the tree of life and thereby receive eternal life.

In 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 the apostle Paul quoted God's words from the Old Testament to those privileged to live under the tree of life in this age: "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." Furthermore, Romans 12:2 tells those called at this time not to be conformed to this world.

God has called His people to come out of the world so we can prepare to be rulers in His coming Kingdom (Revelation 5:10). We can show love to God by following His instruction and love to our neighbors by preparing for our future service to them. Our time for direct civil service as rulers and teachers under Jesus Christ lies ahead in a much better world.

For more on this subject, see the study paper "Voting and Involvement in Politics" at www.ucg.org/papers. UN

What Would Jesus Do?

It has become popular today for some to ask, "What would Jesus do?" in determining what course of action to take. This is certainly a valid point to consider since we are told to follow Jesus' steps (1 Peter 2:21) and to "walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6). Similarly, Paul told the Corinthians to imitate him as he imitated Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

When Christ walked this earth as a human, He could have sought a position in civil service, but He didn't. He came to this earth on a mission to preach the gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14) and had a single-minded focus to fulfill the work God had given Him to do (John 9:4).

On trial for His life, He plainly told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (John 18:36).

In considering Jesus' example, some have reasoned that living in a modern democratic country today is so different from the circumstances that prevailed during Jesus' ministry that a comparison isn't relevant or applicable. But is Jesus' example really irrelevant?

Consider a slightly different situation. Even though God has called us into His Church, does it make sense for us to likewise maintain our memberships in other churches which have different doctrines and meet on a day other than the Sabbath? Would God think this was OK as long as we were simply trying to be good neighbors and to influence others the best we could? Or would this be a case of divided loyalty?

While the opportunities for participation in government are undoubtedly different today than the first century, Christ's single-minded focus on the coming Kingdom of God remains a valid example for us.

The real question for us is: How closely do we want to follow His example? We can choose to try to give God's Kingdom our priority while we also spend part of our time working for or against the party in power in a flawed government that will soon be replaced. Or we can choose to have a single-minded focus on the Kingdom (the only real solution).

Parenting and Your Child's First Year

by Nancy Capo

Ellen fell asleep on the floor while breastfeeding in the middle of the night, and woke up later in her own bed, not really certain if she actually fed the baby.

Sally spent every evening for three months bouncing on her birthing ball, with her newborn son tucked in close to her chest—the only tactic that would curb his colicky crying.

Jeanine and Dirk looked at each other and, without speaking a word, simultaneously broke into a game of “rock, paper, scissors” to see who would change the diaper of their formerly contented son.

Having a newborn is nothing short of an adventure that many new parents describe as “the best and the hardest days of our lives.”

A search at www.babycenter.com, a comprehensive Internet resource for new parents, indicates that the most challenging issues in baby's first year center around: 1) crying, 2) sleep issues and 3) breastfeeding.

In gathering information for this article, I interviewed a panel of experts—at least a dozen parents from our childbirth classes with children under one year of age. Most agreed that crying, sleep and breastfeeding topped their lists as well, and that first-year parenting impacted them beyond their expectations.

Jeanine said, “I've always heard that the first year of marriage is the most difficult. I actually think it's the first year of your first child's life. What a ride! I had no idea.”

I'm not sure anything can really prepare you for what the first year of parenting is really like—each child is different, so even for the same parents, it can be a different journey every time. But if I could pass along a precious pearl of wisdom, it's this: *What you do in the first year lays the groundwork for successful parenting and marriage in years to come.*

Parenting With the End in Mind

It can be really hard to see the “big

picture” when you're suffering from extreme sleep deprivation on top of a hormonal roller-coaster ride. But that's part of the job of being a parent. While you are in your first year of parenting, it's important to ask yourself, “What do I want my child to be like two, five, 10 or 20 years from now? What do I want my marriage to be like then too?”

The goal of parenting is to bring up our children to responsibly enter the adult world, and eventually God's Kingdom, with a mature, godly perspective (“...nourish them in the instruction and admonition of the Lord” Ephesians 6:4, Young's Literal Translation). God has a job for your child. Your job is to teach and train him or her and nurture his or her gifts and talents.

This is “your” child for a time, but it's important for Mom and Dad to focus on what God, your child's Heavenly Father, is doing in his or her eternal life. It requires respect for your child, even as you provide authority and leadership. Everything you say or do—or neglect to say or do—will teach your child in some way, and will influence your child's view of what God (his or her ultimate Father) is like.

When your child looks at you, will he or she see a reflection of God? Because of you, will your child learn that God is reliable, consistent, patient, deeply loving, worthy of respect and always accessible?

Brain growth occurs at its most rapid rate from eight months gestation through the first years of life. During this time, children are like little sponges, soaking up information through all of the five senses, as well as through attitudes and relationships.

As one of my parent experts, Shantelle, advised, “Take time to teach your baby. Yes, they will lie around a lot and act as though they don't know what is going on, but they are smarter than we think!”

As for practical tidbits, there is no lack of information, and a wide variety of approaches, on how to deal with breastfeeding problems, nursing strikes, colic, diapers, nap times, bedtime rituals, sep-

aration anxiety and on and on. The practical issues of parenting overwhelmingly dominate—and at times frustrate—new parents' lives. Much of the information is apparently conflicting. It's important that the parents talk about these things together and decide on a team approach.

Supporting each other and working together are essential. God the Father and Jesus Christ are in total agreement on how to rear the spiritual children in the family of God, and it's vitally important that Mom and Dad also work together as one.

If parents disagree, who does the child learn to follow? Neither—he or she will learn to play the two against each other or will learn to disregard and disrespect authority (even “loving” authority) because it is too confusing and conflicting. Parents should learn to get it right during this first year—it is much harder to do so later. This is when good parenting habits are born.

Marriage

When the hard work of parenting is over, what will be left? Will you have a strong, loving marriage bound even tighter by successfully building a family together? Will your friendship have grown deeper, with memories of joy and laughter?

Will you have a platform of teamwork and respect on which to build the next phase of life as a twosome once again? Ellen reminds herself “how important my relationship with my spouse is, he must come first . . . he'll be there in 18 years; my child won't be.”

Let's get practical. Marriage can take a hit when “couple life” changes to “family life.” It seems there is little time or energy left for each other. Because the needs of baby take priority in the sense of requiring immediate, spontaneous attention, the needs of the couple often get relegated to “later.”

How can a couple stay close? The solutions these parents offer demonstrate an abiding devotion to their children, while keeping the needs of the couple as an overarching priority, lovingly

and maturely integrated as you build your family together.

Jen's insight: “We have had to remember always to treat each other with love, even on four hours of sleep, which is not easy. That is what has brought us together as a family in the first place, and that will keep us together.”

Clint said, “Sandy and I have been perpetually emotionally exhausted . . .” They advised developing a support network among family, very close friends and church community, so you can go out on regular dates.

For some, “family dates” are the answer—especially in those early months when moms and babies are quite literally inseparable “bosom buddies,” and it would actually create stress, rather than relieve it, to take mom away from her baby.

A regular, early bedtime has been a lifesaver for many couples, who work together to get the children to bed by 7:30 or 8, then spend “couple time” on the sofa or in the bedroom. Even so, sheer exhaustion is a big factor during the first year, and dads particularly need to be patient and understanding. Dad may get the kids down at 8 and find Mom is snoring at 8:05. No joke.

Church Culture

Our Church is a little community all its own, and there are a few points to keep in mind as a new “Church parent.” Many people, in and out of the Church, will offer you advice. Jeanine's suggestion? “Absorb all the unsolicited advice you can fathom and process it with your husband later. It saves everyone's feelings (this is more difficult than it sounds when your body is just oozing hormones) and you will actually gain some valuable insight should you choose to sort through it all later.”

You may get advice regarding “blan-



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ket training” for services, proper child-rearing techniques, infant circumcision and childhood vaccinations. Most issues are really to be decided between you and your spouse with due consideration toward others; however, keep your eyes, ears and heart open to the wisdom that comes from other parents' research and experience.

Parenting in your baby's first year is one of the most intense experiences of your life—yes, intensely stressful. But the moments of pure bliss seem to melt away the stress if you snatch them up and capture them in your heart.

You will watch your baby sleep, not able to pull yourself away—not just yet. You will nurse your baby and hear her sweet sighs of contentment with every breath. You will place your finger in his palm, his tiny fingers wrapping around yours in a surprisingly tight grip.

Singing soothing lullabies, dancing in the living room, rocking at midnight while all is quiet—these are moments you'll cherish. Your biggest joys will be his or her newest accomplishments—his first smile, her first laugh, his first tooth, her first word, his first step.

This year is full of firsts for you too—most importantly, your first steps toward building the marriage and family God has in mind for you. UN

Nancy Capo is married to James Capo, pastor of the Tucson and Sierra Vista, Arizona, and El Paso, Texas, congregations. They have three children.

“ABC,” continued from page 1

little fragment of mirror he had found as a young boy during the war, and explain



the game he had developed of reflecting light into dark places with his little mirror.

The professor said he had discovered that in life, he was not the light, or the source of the light, but was to be a mirror to shine light into dark places.

Mr. Kilough told the ABC graduates that they also were to reflect the light of

Jesus Christ in the world. Now they would go out and do the things they had learned. He presented each of them with a fragment from a single mirror, and said he hopes they will carry it with them to remind them to shine in dark places and



Left, Marinkov family—John and son Steven both graduate; Erin Roscoe congratulated by David and Becky Johnson (photos by Mike Bennett; page 1 photo by Janet Treadway)

that they are all part of something bigger.

Mr. Kilough said that the Church's budget allotted to ABC is the Church's gift to them. “How you reflect that is

your gift to the Church. You may be the only Bible someone sees,” he said.

The Ambassador Award of Excellence was presented to Jessica Schultz

and Eduardo Elizondo. The Council of Elders Service Award was presented to Stephanie Healey and Jason Nitzberg. UN

You're Never Too Old to Learn

This has been an amazing year for ABC student Mariet Horjus from South Africa, who turned 80 in January. She never dreamed that she would have the honor of being the oldest student to attend ABC.

She didn't just attend but had perfect attendance, was on time for every class every day and she involved herself with many of the activities and service projects. The home office staff and students alike were warmed by her smiles and upbeat, energetic and positive attitude.

With the encouragement of her daughters and her granddaughter, Laura Gabrielides, who also attended ABC this year, Mariet made the bold decision to attend ABC. After she made the decision to attend, many blessings from God made what seemed impossible an awesome reality. In fact, Mariet calls it a miracle!

She says she has learned so much from her experience at ABC, but most of all her relationship with God has deepened. Mariet holds the record for being the oldest student to attend ABC at the age of 80.

So don't let age hold you back from this wonderful experience, because you are never too old to learn.

Janet Treadway



Mariet Horjus receives diploma from UCGIA President Clyde Kilough Aug. 13 (photo by Janet Treadway)

Treasure Digest

Pillars of Wisdom: Making Wise Decisions

Wisdom is being able to discern the outcome of a decision so that the right course of action is taken for the right reasons.

Wisdom begins as the acquiring of knowledge, but develops into character.

Jesus Christ said, "Wisdom is proved right by all of her children" (Luke 7:35, New International Version). The proof of wisdom is in the results produced by the decisions made.

Points to build on

We must remember that wisdom comes from God, and we must ask Him for it.

Proverbs 2:6-7: "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright."

We must search the Bible for knowledge and understanding. Wisdom must be sought after and learned.

Proverbs 2:1-5: "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

We must seek wise counsel.

Proverbs 1:5: "A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel."

Proverbs 11:14: "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 12:15: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise."

Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established."

Once you make a decision, you must take action toward its completion. We must put forth the need-

ed effort to make our decisions successful.

Proverbs 10:4-5: "He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame."

Proverbs 21:5: "The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty" (NIV).

Application

Most people make decisions based on emotional reactions or with a shortsighted view of consequences.

Wisdom leads to the development of a decision-making process that first seeks the teachings of the Creator of life, and then finds ways to apply those principles to the practical problems of everyday living.



Gary Petty
Pastor, Austin, San Antonio and Waco, Texas, congregations

Living in Hummingbird Mode?

Have you ever considered yourself to be living in hummingbird mode? They flit; they fly; they zoom; they hover. But where and why?

I was getting a cup of coffee, and that takes a minute or two. I walked from my study room to the kitchen and back twice. Both times from our kitchen window I watched one hummingbird chase another from "his" feeder.

I thought, It's not yours. My wife hung it and refills it regularly. You just claimed it for yourself! But that is only part of the point.

Hummingbirds are among the most transitory of God's creation. Their life span may be hectic, but it isn't long, relatively speaking.

Hummingbirds spend most of their time seeking food. Perhaps a greedy little hummer really figures that his next meal is the most essential thing. But we shouldn't.

God says He feeds the birds and that we are more valuable even than the iridescent hummingbird. Physical food is necessary and (honestly) can also be quite enjoyable.

But we are not just physical if we have God's Holy Spirit. If we have that "earnest" of the Spirit,

we are now living a life with a grand expectation of incredible fulfillment someday—guaranteed. Our spiritual side must also be nourished regularly

through the milk and meat of God's Word.

I find it faintly amusing that I was getting a cup of coffee to go with my Bible study when that ruby-throated hummingbird caught my eye.

He was looking for a sip, and so was I. Thank you, Father!

Skip Miller
San Diego, California, congregation

Under the Shadow of His Wings

One of the most expressive word pictures Christ gave is in Matthew 23:37-38: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate . . ."

This displays Christ's deeply emotional care and love for His human creation. They were not willing, but hopefully we are. Can we learn from this analogy to our feathered friends?

When does a hen gather her chicks? Observing our frolicsome flock of 40, the mother hens gather their chicks for three main reasons:

1. Protection from danger.

If a hawk threatens, the hen will run for cover, fluff up her feathers and cluck insistently for all the chicks to take refuge under her.

"For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these

calamities have passed by" (Psalm 57:1; see also Psalm 91:4 and 17:8-9).

Remember to take refuge there in the future when Satan agitates the world into heartless chaos.

2. Food.
A young chick doesn't automatically recognize what is and isn't food. The mother hen teaches them what is good to eat. She will call them with excited, rapid, high-pitched chirps to gather them to eat whatever good things she has found. The chicks who are "not willing" to come don't get fed.

God wants to fill us with the bread of life: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:35).

The hen teaches the chicks that seeds are better than fire ants. We too need to learn to not eat just anything, but to seek the pure milk of the Word daily and on the Sabbaths, and to shun false teachers.

3. Rest and comfort.

After a busy morning of digging up the yard, feeding and dust bathing, the little chicks get all worn out, and they willingly gather under mama's wings for a nap to "recharge their batteries." It's not long before they are rejuvenated and back at their

activities again, full force, until dusk.

We, too, could use a midday "pick-me-up." "Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17).

At night they willingly gather under her without coaxing. Christ also gathers us to Him when we are weary with dealing with the cares of this life:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest . . . I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

This analogy of a mother hen gathering her chicks is just one more way God expresses His love and care for us in a way we can understand.

Georgia Ann Veller
Tampa, Florida, congregation

Turning the Hearts . . . Appreciate Your Father!

On July 19 my 97-year-old dad died. He had been hospitalized for six weeks. Spending time with him as he lay in the bed dying is something I will never forget. The opportunity to hold his hand, fondly stroke his forehead and hair, tell him how much he has meant to our family and kiss him were wonderful opportunities to show him appreciation for his being my dad.

Three of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 help guard the family. Number five is "Honor your father and mother . . ." Number seven is "You shall not commit adultery." And number 10 tells us not to covet our neighbor's wife. God loves the family. Fathers are to lead and be responsible for the family.

Fathers who fulfill their roles in the family are worthy of our appreciation and honor. I had the opportunity of sharing time with my father in his last days alive on this earth. We sang together, laughed together, reminisced together and talked of life and death. Some of the last words he actually said were to my wife and me. I told him I loved him and he told me, "I love you too." My wife expressed her love for him a little later in the day and he responded with "I love you too, hon." We both felt very special about my dad, and he felt the same way toward us.

We did a memorial in his honor with family and a few friends in attendance 10 days after his death. We then said our good-byes as his ashes were placed in the cemetery. My dad's asleep, but the memories that he created with us will live on.

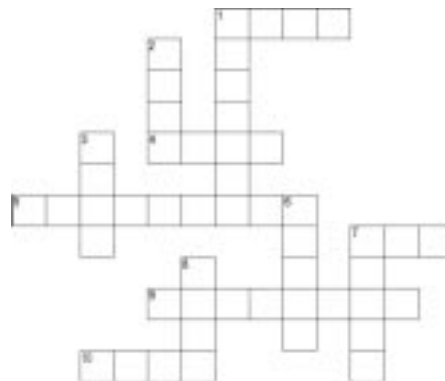
Please appreciate your fathers while they are still alive. Tell them often that you love them. Write or call them and let them know how much they mean to you. Tell them what blessings they are and treasure them as loving role models.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 gives us the principle of doing wholeheartedly what we can while we are able to do so. Honor your father and mother by showing them appreciation regularly and fulfill your responsibility as a loving child of God—our Heavenly Father.

Gary E. Antion



Children's Corner Kingdom of God (Isaiah 11:6-9)



Fill in the blanks below and then write the words in the correct numbered space in the puzzle.

"The _____ (8 down) also shall dwell with the _____ (2 down), the _____ (1 down) shall lie down with the young goat; the _____ (10 across) and the young _____ (3 down) and the fatling together; and a little _____ (7 down) shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

"The _____ (7 across) and the _____ (4 across) shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox" (verse 7).

"The nursing child shall play by the cobra's den, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den" (verse 8).

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy _____ (9 across); for the _____ (6 down) shall be full of the _____ (5 across) of the _____ (1 across), as the waters cover the sea" (verse 9).

—puzzle by Shelby Faith



Local Church Updates

55 Preteens Enjoy Camp Ironwood Springs

The spectacular outdoors of south-eastern Minnesota was the setting for the North Central Region Preteen Youth Camp from July 25 to 28. This year 55 campers from six states attended Camp Ironwood Springs located near Rochester, Minnesota (about 90 miles south of Minneapolis).

With the theme of "God's Way Is for Me," each day began with Christian living classes to give the campers a spiritual basis each day. The goal was to have fun God's way and enrich the campers relationship with God.

Campers had the opportunity to participate in many activities that included crafts, swimming, field games, nature and exploring, music, indoor games, team challenge and novelty Olympics.

A highlight for the children was the opportunity to go horseback riding. Camp codirector Kathe Myers commented, "It was wonderful to see campers experience new things here at camp, and that included every child riding a horse. They experienced firsthand



Campers try horseback riding at preteen camp in Minnesota (photo by Steve Myers)

that fun and God's way go hand-in-hand."

Camp also stressed the importance of friendship. One 10-year-old said, "It's fun to make new friends and be with people who believe like you do. Camp is great!"

Steve Myers

Houston South Silver Ambassadors Have Luncheon

On July 15, 37 members of the Hous-



Earl and Yvonne Travis at Houston South Silver Ambassadors luncheon

ton, Texas, South Silver Ambassadors enjoyed fellowship and a luncheon before services. The menu listed turkey with cheese or roast beef and cheese croissant sandwiches, BBQ meat balls, various cheeses, fruit, vegetables with dips, chips and two kinds of cobbler and cake.

George Foshee

Ruston Teen-Plus Group Travels to Arkansas

The Ruston, Louisiana, UCG Teen-Plus group and friends traveled to western Arkansas for the weekend of July 14



Ruston group: back row, Connor Kelley, Jimmy Martin, Scott Martin, Johna Barnette, LaDonna Teague, Chris Teague, Steve Wood and Steve Barnette; front row, Bridget Wood, Rachael Moore, Marian Wood, Claudia Martin, Robert Martin, Ramona Wood and Heather Wood

to 16. Several of them enjoyed playing paintball on Friday before heading to Camp Arrowhead on the Caddo River.

On Sabbath two of the teens, Jimmy Martin and Marian Wood, performed special music at the Mena, Arkansas, church services, where the brethren provided refreshments.

The trip concluded Sunday with a swim and picnic at the Little Missouri Falls.

Ramona Wood

Oakland Gives Bibles to Graduates

On the Sabbath of June 24 the Oakland, California, congregation began a program intended to encourage our young people as they accomplish a hallmark of their lives.

Pastor Jim Tuck presented a New



Oakland graduates Amiel Maquilan and Gregory Rorem receive Bibles (photo by Jerri Anderson)

King James Bible to Amiel Maquilan and Gregory Rorem in recognition of

their graduation from high school, with encouragement to utilize the knowledge God has revealed within its pages for a full and rich life.

A potluck luncheon with a special cake followed after Sabbath services, and brethren took the opportunity to congratulate them.

Jerri Anderson

North Carolina Congregations Prepare Mailing for GN Subscribers

In the first half of July, brethren from the Asheboro, Charlotte, Kinston and Raleigh, North Carolina, congregations participated in putting together mailing packages for *Good News* subscribers. The packages contained invitations to attend Sabbath services in their areas or to return a request card for an audiotape of the sermon message, "Holidays or Holy

Days—Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?"

A total of 3,300 letters were mailed in the region, the largest mailing effort to date. Near the end of August, there were 381 responses, an 11.5 percent response.



Brethren in North Carolina prepare mailing to *GN* readers July 9

The final response should be a little over 12 percent. This is the fifth annual summer mailing to the subscribers.

Rebekah Leyden

College Grad Wins Fulbright Grant

Mary Ann Miller, a member of the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation, was recently awarded a Fulbright grant to spend the 2006-2007 academic year conducting research in Bern, Switzerland. Fulbright grants are administered by the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The program was established in 1946 with the purpose of building mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

The Honors Program at her college encouraged Mary Ann to apply for one of two Fulbright grants to Switzerland for graduating seniors. During the fall of her senior year, she wrote a proposal outlining plans to build on the ethnographic work she conducted in Amish com-

munities for her senior thesis by studying the history of Anabaptists in the Bern area.

Mary Ann graduated from Denison University in May, earning a B.A., summa cum laude, with a double major in international studies and English literature. She graduated as valedictorian of her class and was inducted in the national honor societies Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board.



Mary Ann Miller

Mary Ann is a 2004 graduate of Ambassador Bible Center and an enthusiastic volunteer at United Youth Camps.

Wheeling Hosts Bluegrass Weekend

The Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation hosted the third annual Bluegrass Family Fun Weekend from July 20 to 23. The first night there were a number of early arrivals who joined in a jam session at one of the camp sites. Friday saw more campers arrive and as friends visited, the mood was like a mini-Feast of Tabernacles.

Friday afternoon, a number of campers gathered for another jam session. It rained for a while, but a little moisture did not dampen spirits.

On the Sabbath, many from the Wheeling, Akron and Cambridge congregations gathered in the "Big Barn" for services. The sermon, given by



A jam session at the Bluegrass Family Fun Weekend

Blaney Sproul, an elder from the Morgantown, West Virginia, congregation, was titled "The Wisdom of Meekness." Attendance was 123, which is more than for the two previous years. Services were followed by a potluck. Later in the day there were Bible studies for adults, while the teens assisted in presenting a Bible study for the preteens.

After sunset, a large group sat in their lawn chairs enjoying a big jam session and more food. A few ambitious folks danced to the music.

"The Big Show in the Big Barn" started at 11 a.m. Sunday, featuring musicians from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana and Virginia.

As everyone prepared to leave for home, hugs and tears were plentiful as another successful family-style weekend came to its conclusion.

Bob Miller

Asheboro Youth Serve

The Asheboro, North Carolina, congregation enjoyed the service of its youth on June 24, 2006. The youth served in many areas including hall set-



Asheboro, North Carolina, children's choir sings on youth day

up, handing out song books, ushering and serving refreshments.

The song service was led by one of the young adults, Josh Lambert. The service included special music performed by the children's choir directed by Mary Davis.

Following the service, children served finger foods that they had prepared. Then several youths read scriptures, recited poems and gave speeches, including children as young as 6 years of age.

Tom and Julie Burrow

Denver Holds 50th Anniversary

The Denver, Colorado, congregation commemorated its 50th anniversary on Aug. 5. This was actually a few months after the actual anniversary, but was the best time for most to keep it. As early as 1953, occasional services were held by Herbert W. Armstrong and others, mostly in the home of Dwight and Marguerite Webster.

A full-time minister, Raymond Cole, began to hold regular services beginning with Passover and Unleavened Bread in 1956 in Longmont. Very shortly thereafter the location was changed to a tent on 70 acres of property west of Lyons donated by the Websters. When the weather cooled off, the location was shifted to Montgomery School, east of Lyons. Interestingly, there seemed to be more brethren from Wyoming than Colorado in the first year or two.

Early on Lyons was part of a three-congregation circuit of 1,000 miles! Ser-

vices were conducted on Friday night in Garden City, Kansas; Sabbath morning in Pueblo, Colorado; and Sabbath afternoon in Lyons. The congregation was moved from Lyons to Denver in 1958 or 1959.

Following afternoon services, during which previous Denver pastors Doug Horchak and Burk McNair gave split sermons, about 215 enjoyed a nice meal of barbecued beef brisket and chicken. A



Burk and Billie Sue McNair prepare to cut the cake at the Denver 50th anniversary (photo by Tammie Pearce)

number of those with us were guests, and everyone experienced a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and renew old acquaintances.

Many old photos and Denver-Pueblo Church of God News articles were displayed, along with other memorabilia. Plaques were presented to several individuals, including the one original member who was able to be present, Shirley (Skufca) Schmidt.

The evening was capped off by addresses from Burk McNair, Greg Sargent and Doug Horchak, all of whom served in Denver in years gone by, and a number of pictures projected onto the screen, narrated by Steve Grabowski.

The entire occasion, which was held at Northglenn Recreation Center, was very upbeat and encouraging to everyone involved.

Larry Neff

145 Preteens and Staff Enjoy Camp Tomahawk

Camp Tomahawk, held July 23 to 27 in Eva, Tennessee, filled to maximum capacity this year with 66 smiling campers, 24 inspiring teen leaders and 55 enthusiastic staff members, representing 15 different states in all!

The camp theme, presented by Chuck Smith at orientation, was "Discovering Your PO!" (Your POsitive POtential). This theme focused on the campers' ability to do anything through a positive attitude and their God-given potential.

Following the opening class, a picnic-style cookout was served, followed by hayrides and kickball games and an evening Compass Check.

Every morning the campers were awakened to the sounds of reveille on the trumpet. Monday's activities included Christian Living classes, swimming, a reptile program, arts and crafts featuring melt bead creations and wooden boats, leatherworks and an owl prowler. One area especially enjoyed by all was the lazy river inner tube ride. Each day

ended with a Compass Check and trumpeted taps played in the courtyard.

Tuesday brought beautiful weather and the campers enjoyed many activities including Christian Living instruction, speedway, a treasure hunt, a creek walk, scratch board art and sand art crafts, hiking and dancing. Campers especially delighted in learning some dance favorites from the teen leadership crew, such as the Texas two-step line dance, the electric slide and the cha cha slide. The evening was capped off with popcorn and movies featuring *Spirit, Stallion of the Cimarron*.

Wednesday included another swimming session, speedway, hiking and a Christian Living class on "what you can take home from camp this year."

New to Camp Tomahawk this year was our teen leadership program. This pilot program accepted 24 teens (ages 12 to 17) to work in a dual role serving the campers by working on the maintenance staff and then, once the work was completed, moving on to their own workshops, Christian Living seminars, arts and crafts program, sports activities and socialization events for their age level. The program was a great success and the teens were a wonderful example to both staff and campers.

Our kitchen chefs turned out fabulous themed meals, including Southwestern Night (tacos, burritos, tostadas, etc.), Tropical Night (marinated pineapple chicken breasts and glazed pecan salad) and Italian Circus night (featuring our now famous, home-



Spirit of Camp Tomahawk winners: Andrew Coulter, Seth Dolby, Melanie DiMauro and Autumn Haggard (photos by Michele Franke)

made whole-wheat lasagna). On these nights, campers dressed up to compete for the best themed outfit award, and the variety and imagination were endless. Clean Bunk awards were given to a member of each tribe daily.

At the end of camp, special recognition was given to one member of each of the four tribes for the "Spirit of Camp Tomahawk." This award recognizes the children for participation, positive attitude and willingness to help others. Winners were Colin Dolby of Kernersville, North Carolina, from the Mingo Tribe; Andrew Coulter of Marissa, Illinois, from the Cherokee Tribe; Melanie DiMauro of Ringgold, Georgia, from the Seneca Tribe; and Autumn Haggard of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, from the Delaware Tribe.

An overall "Spirit of Camp Tomahawk" award was given to one camper who counselors felt exhibited the best overall positive influence in humility, participation and positive example. This award is a full scholarship to the United Youth Camp of their choice next year.

Heather Degagne of Malone, Florida, won this award.

Campers left on closing night with promises to write one another and hugs and tears. Two common statements on the feedback forms included "this was truly the best year ever" and "I can't wait until next year!"

Shari Fooshe

Milwaukee Hosts Marriage Seminar

On the weekend of Aug. 20 and 21, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregation had its first marriage seminar. Sabbath services for the 11 couples in atten-



Milwaukee couples enjoy dinner at Alioto's Restaurant Aug. 20

dance were held at the Holiday Inn Express in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Russ DeVilbiss gave the morning sermon. After a lunch break, the conference began promptly at 12:15. It was conducted by Frank McCrady III, pastor of the Dayton and Cincinnati North, Ohio, congregations. The theme of the workshops was "God's Plan for Intimacy."

From the very beginning, God created the institution of marriage, thus making it divine. We discussed oneness—oneness of spirit, oneness of soul and oneness of body. The health of a good marriage was compared to the circulatory system—when the blood is flowing smoothly, it reaches all parts of the body. But should the flow (compared to communication within a marriage) become disrupted, then the parts of the body not receiving proper flow have a danger of simply dying off.

Several exercises were done where each couple reviewed how well they felt they communicated with their partner. Scores were marked and then compared with the other partner to see if he or she concurred or not. What was concluded was that often the woman prioritizes things of importance quite differently from the man. By making partners aware of what is important to each other, the couple can begin to further improve their marriage and meet the needs of the other person.

Marriage "staff meetings" were encouraged so that each partner knows what the other is dealing with—whether it be discussing hopes and dreams or in child rearing, for example. Part of these meetings can certainly deal with the area of appreciation—what the mate does that pleases you.

Another intriguing exercise was filling out a page titled, "Marriage Intimacy Inventory."

Other topics discussed and worked on had to do with one's emotional capacity—illustrated by an overflowing cup. If the stresses of life continue to pour into

the person, they can overflow and result in negative results, such as sleep disturbances, escaping into work, drugs, becoming depressed, etc.

Then there were tools provided to help us empty our emotional cups via godly principles. This was referred to as healing emotional hurts.

There were two days of these workshops—Sabbath afternoon and Sunday until 2 in the afternoon.

On Saturday evening the couples ate dinner at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa.

On Sunday afternoon Mrs. McCrady gave the final presentation on the deadly habits of relationships—what to avoid and how to identify it.

We wish to extend our gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. McCrady for taking the time and effort to come all the way out here. A special thanks goes to Russ and Tammy DeVilbiss for having made all the arrangements in coordinating this valuable and informative workshop.

Leone Burns

ABC Auction Beats Expectations for Charity Fund-Raising

On July 30, Ambassador Bible Center students raised a record \$5,325 during their year-end charity fund-raiser. About 175 guests and students enjoyed a Tuscan-themed hors d'oeuvre reception with background music provided by the talented ABC students.

The evening, held at the home office, began with mingling and bidding on more than 100 silent auction items,



ABC Drama Club performs a skit at the charity fund-raiser July 30 (photo by Janet Treadway)

donated by Cincinnati, Ohio, Church members and local businesses. Over \$2,000 was raised in the silent auction.

The highlight of the evening was a variety show of musical numbers and skits performed by members of the ABC Drama Club interspersed with auctions for delicious baked goods. ABC alumnus Mark Riley from Wichita, Kansas, led the lively auction that included 27 mouthwatering, home-baked desserts from local Church members and ABC students.

The baked-goods auction raised over \$3,000 and the audience was entertained by several spirited bidding wars. Barbara Anton's famous baklava platters were popular items and raised over \$700. Other cakes went for over \$200 apiece.

The money was donated to the LifeNets Developing Nations Student

Fund, which helps United Church of God students in developing nations with school tuition and living expenses. An estimated seven students can attend school for one year with the funds.

David Register

Kansas City Honors Two 50-Year Members

Two members, Oran Ogle and Arthur Ziesch, were honored by the Kansas City, Kansas, congregation for having been members of God's Church for 50 or more years.

Oran Ogle was living in Lawrence, Kansas, when he first heard *The World Tomorrow* broadcast on Mexican superstations XEG and XELO in 1955. Shortly after hearing Herbert W. Armstrong, he moved to Pasadena and began meeting with the Radio Church of God in the old college library.



Arthur Ziesch and Oran Ogle

Oran was baptized Jan. 9, 1956, in the pool below the library by Carlton Smith. The highlight of his life in the Church has been meeting students at the college, remembering them and praying for them all these years. His advice to new members is to look into the Bible and prove everything.

Arthur Ziesch first heard Mr. Armstrong in 1955 on XEG and XELO radio in Baldwin, Kansas. At the time, Mr. Ziesch was mostly interested in the information on Great Britain and prophecy. About a year later he was baptized (July 1, 1956) when Bryce Clark traveled through Kansas on a baptizing tour. Since there was no congregation in Kansas City, his first Passover service was in St. Louis, Missouri. His advice to new members: "Get to know the Bible well. Stay with the fundamentals of the Church and don't deviate from God's Word."

The Kansas City congregation counts it an honor to have two members who have been loyal to God for so many years.

Greg Sargent

Houston Teens Play in Parade and Battle of the Bands

Six Houston, Texas, North teens, Cameron Bounds, Preston Buchanan, Matt Curry, Ethan Doig, Brian Koester and Steve Stegent, who comprise the band, Loadstone, were granted the opportunity to play in the Woodlands (a

suburb of Houston), Texas, July 4th parade. They were chosen by Phoenix House (a national drug prevention agency) to represent the agency in the parade because of the teens' Christian/moral values, anti-drug beliefs and skills in composing and playing their own rock music.

According to Ethan Doig, the band chose Loadstone as their name because, "Besides merely sounding like a name befitting a rock band, the name has some positive, suggestive qualities. A loadstone is the magnetic needle in a compass that points north, keeping its user on the right path. The band chose this name because we all strongly believe in using the Word of God to guide us through life."

Local community leaders were impressed with the band's ideals and talents. Consequently, the band has been selected to compete in the local "Battle of the Bands" coming up on Saturday, Sept. 16. Upon learning of the band's Sabbath beliefs, special consideration was given to them by granting a time slot after sundown.

Karen Doig

Youngstown and Akron Celebrate the Myers' 25th Anniversary

The Youngstown, Ohio, congregation surprised their pastor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Myers, with a 25th wedding anniversary celebration on May 13,



Pam and Dave Myers

2006. The Youngstown families made donations to purchase a beautiful platter, and a bouquet and an anniversary cake were also presented to them. Also, each family was encouraged to decorate card stock with special "Myers' memories" for a scrapbook. The beautiful day

wrapped up with everyone enjoying lunch snacks together.

The Akron, Ohio, congregation celebrated the following week on May 20, the Myers' actual anniversary day. They presented Mr. and Mrs. Myers with a surprise anniversary cake and red roses.

Tina Rupp

San Antonio Celebrates Three 60ths

The San Antonio congregation is blessed with many positive role models of strong marriages, but none surpass the examples set for us this year by three couples. Combined, they have enjoyed over 180 years of marriage. Each of these three couples celebrated their 60-year wedding anniversary this year!

Nell Nelson describes her husband, Gail, as the best husband in the world, and you can see why in the way he pampers her. Nell worked at the Jokes store in San Antonio when she met Gail, a B-25 bomber pilot returning from the war. They married in



Nell and Gail Nelson

March 1946. Gail, originally from Portsmouth, Virginia, went to work for Trans-Tex Co. After their son Gail Jr. was born, Nell quit the fashion industry and eventually went back to school for a teaching certificate, later landing a position at a private school.

Both Gail and Nell came into the Church in the mid-80s after hearing Mr. Armstrong on the radio. They retired in 1990 and are active in the local UCG congregation providing both encouragement and role models for all San Antonio couples.

Donald Moore was 15 years old when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He misrepresented his age to get into the Marines and was involved in the landings on both Tarawa and Guadalcanal. When he returned home

for Thanksgiving, included among the guests was a tall, attractive young woman named Louise. The trap was



Donald and Louise Moore

baited, set and sprung before Don knew what had hit him! Five months later in April 1946 they were married. The Moores had five children and came into God's Church in 1972. They still both look after each other and love to help with their new granddaughter. They, too, are good examples of marital commitment and love.

Mrs. Faye Stack and her husband, Charles, have endured some painful times. Two of their four children were born severely handicapped. While Charles does not attend any church, he doesn't interfere with Faye's religious beliefs.

Faye and Charles met while supporting the war effort. Faye was an employee at Kelly Field AFB and Charles an Air Force airplane mechanic. Faye says she had always dreamed that one day a



Faye and Charles Stack

fighter plane would crash at Kelly while she was working and that she would rescue the pilot from the flames, they would fall in love, marry and live happily ever after. She now laughs and says, "No pilot and not much of the ever-after stuff, but I am still trying to rescue him from the flames!"

All three of these couples have one thing in common—commitment. Their stories can inspire all of us to strive for success in our marriages.

Vince Thompson

Congratulations to More High School Graduates

Courtney Monson

Parent: Carol Monson
Congregations: Atlanta and Macon, Georgia

High School Accomplishments: Courtney did joint-enrollment and attended Middle Georgia College full-time her junior and senior years of high school. She loved being in cross-country, soccer and track, and was voted "Most Athletic" of her class. She was first chair saxophone in jazz and concert bands, was in a four-person woodwind ensemble and was ecstatic when she had the opportunity to perform in exactly one non-Sabbath marching band show.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Courtney is a UCG camp veteran of nine years and was an assistant counselor in Woodmen, Alabama, this summer. She backs up weekly hymns on her saxophone and "makes a joyful noise" in the Atlanta choir. She loves



Courtney Monson

soccer, running, rock climbing, skydiving (she did it once!) and dancing. She attributes her love of dancing in great part to the UCG Atlanta Proms (www.ucgatlanta.org) and suggests that everyone should come next year!

Plans After Graduation: Courtney will be attending the University of Georgia with concentrations in mathematics and Spanish.

Favorite Quote: "Let us so live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry"—Mark Twain.

Favorite Scripture: "The ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will

overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away" (Isaiah 51:11, New International Version).

Sarah Katherine Stewart

Parents: Larry and Tamera Stewart
Congregation: Lexington, Kentucky
High School Accomplishments: Sarah participated in art shows and in FFA received Greenhand and Chapter Degree.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Sarah enjoys a variety of music, painting and watching rodeos and truck and tractor pulls. She also loves to wait tables. She said, "My first job was at a little hometown restaurant called Cantuckee Diner. After being there so long, waitressing has become more of a hobby than an actual job. I love meeting different people and have grown close to those who eat there faithfully."

Plans After Graduation: Sarah recently started a new job working for the University of Kentucky Medical Center. She is an assistant in part of the



Sarah Katherine Stewart

Cancer Center. She hopes to take some classes and move up in position. She also still works Sunday afternoons at the Cantuckee Diner.

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*.

"Council," continued from page 4

Further effort will be put into preparing a system, which will be formally introduced by the president when ready.

2007 Feast Sermon Video

After some discussion, Council members unanimously agreed that Europe would probably be the focus for the 2007 Feast sermon video. One suggested theme was to emphasize prophesied events that will occur in Europe and how the Kingdom of God will finally bring peace to a region that has seen so much war in its history. We will begin gathering footage from the Feast this year.

Proposed Amendments

Leon Walker, chairman of the Doctrine Committee, presented three proposed amendments to the Fundamental Beliefs section of the UCG Constitution for Council consideration.

In this case, the Doctrine Committee recommended against support of any of the three proposed amendments. After discussion, the Council voted unanimously to not support any of the proposals.

The Council met in executive session to discuss potential ordinations, annual General Conference of Elders meeting suggestions and various Ministerial Services matters.

GCE Planning

Aug. 7 Chairman Bob Dick read portions of a letter by Ken Giese, chairman of the 2006 GCE planning committee, who expressed his preference that former chairman Dave Register resume his chairmanship. Mr. Dick proposed a resolution that Mr. Register be named the chairman of the GCE planning committee and that under his direction, the committee would be responsible for the physical planning and coordination of the annual meeting. The Council passed the resolution unanimously.

At the conclusion of Council discussion of future GCE plans, Mr. Dick asked Richard Pinelli to coordinate the

effort of creating a broad-based task force to explore the options and make recommendations to the Council for future meetings of the GCE.

Tuesday, Aug. 8, the open session included discussion of the education program proposal (see article, page 1) and the establishing of a task force to review Council committee structure.

According to Bylaw 9.1, "At the regularly scheduled Council meeting prior to the anniversary of each third year of service for each officer, the Council must reaffirm, with at least a simple majority, the continuance of each officer on an individual basis." In executive session Aug. 9, the Council chose not to reaf-

firm the position of the secretary, Gerald Seelig. Mr. Seelig, at the Council's request, will serve through May 10, 2007, and the secretary to be named will begin duties following the end of the May 2007 Council meeting.

The Council approved the new members' committee choices: Richard Pinelli chose the Doctrine and Education and Ministerial Services committees and Bill Eddington chose the Media and Communications, Strategic Planning and Finance and Ethics, Roles and Rules committees.

For complete Council reports, see www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm.

Don Henson

Announcements

Births

Alyssa Anne McDuffie entered this life on March 22, 2005, weighing in at 6 pounds 4 ounces and 20 inches long. She was awaited with much anticipation by her big brother, Lucus Matthew McDuffie; her parents, Lucus Matthew



Alyssa Anne McDuffie with big brother Lucus Matthew

Sr. and Julie McDuffie; and grandparents Dunwoodie and Cheryl McDuffie of the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation.

Douglas and Merry Stewart would like to introduce their two children. Samantha Mae was born Feb. 22, 2004. The new addition to the family is Spencer Avery, born May 17, 2006. He was 9 pounds 10 ounces and 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are John and Joanne Rutis of the Portland, Oregon, congregation and Christi Stewart of Modesto, California; and great-grand-



Spencer Avery Stewart with big sister Samantha Mae

parents are George and Kathy Kiehn of the Hood River, Oregon, congregation. The Stewarts attend the Portland congregation.

Tony, Kari and Joshua Kardell of the Minneapolis, Minnesota, congregation are happy to announce the birth of Ryan



Ryan James Henry Kardell

James Henry on March 10, 2006. He weighed 9 pounds 8 ounces and was 22

inches long. Ryan is welcomed by his big brother, Josh; his grandparents, Vern and Anita Kardell of the Mankato, Minnesota, congregation, and Tom and Ann Rademacher; and his great-grandma Sally Peters; along with his uncles, aunts and cousins.

Rion and Hannah McClelland of the St. Paul, Minnesota, congregation joyfully announce the birth of their first child, Rowan Paul. Rowan was born on April 20, 2006, weighing 6 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.



Rowan Paul McClelland

Proud grandparents are Bob and Dianne McClelland of Menomonie, Wisconsin, and Mike and Marilyn Hiott of Clinton, Tennessee.

Jeff and Amy (Joseph) Welch of Lansing, Michigan, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Thomas Jay Joseph. He was born May 3, 2006, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Big brothers Sam, 12,



Thomas Jay Joseph Welch

and Jacob, 10, are thrilled with the new addition to the family. Proud grandparents Mike and Barb Joseph also attend the Lansing congregation.

Sam and Amy (Warrington) Vierra of El Monte, California, would like to



Isaac and Adelina Vierra

announce the birth of twins, Isaac Thomas and Adelina Amanda Vierra. They were born on May 25, 2006, at 7:12 a.m. and 7:13 a.m. respectively. Isaac weighed 6.15 pounds and was 19 inches long and Adelina weighed 5.12 pounds and was 18 inches long.

Isaac and Adelina are the first grandchildren for Herb and Ann Vierra of the Los Angeles, California, congregation, and they are "very, very pleased."

Steve and Anna (Wright) Burgett of the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their third child, Emily Rose Burgett. She was born Jan. 3, 2006. She weighed 8 pounds 15.8 ounces and was 21 inches long. Her big brothers, Steve (8) and Caleb (6), are excited about their little sister and are always eager to help. The proud grand-



Emily Rose Burgett with big brothers Caleb and Steve

parents are Marvin and Rita Wright of the Poplar Bluff, Missouri, congregation and Steve and Susan Burgett of Ohio.

Joel and Kristin Brunick of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota, congregation are pleased to introduce their son, Kade Edward Brunick, who was born on Aug. 23, 2005. Kade joined his two big sisters, Jaden (6) and Kaylee (4), who have kept him entertained from the start. Proud grandparents are the late Edward



Kade Edward Brunick with big sisters Kaylee and Jaden

Brunick and Claudia Brunick of the Watertown, South Dakota, congregation and Robert and Alane Arneson of Hayti, South Dakota.

Jeff and Tracy (Werner) Strnad of the Salina, Kansas, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their beautiful son, Seth Alexander. Seth was born on



Seth Alexander Strnad

June 30, 2006. He weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Seth has one older brother, Alex. His grandparents are Bruce and Judy Werner of Wakefield, Kansas; Dave and Glenna Barker of Junction City, Oregon; and Shirley and Phyllis Strnad of Scandia, Kansas.

Mark and Lori Holladay are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Andrew Mark. Andrew was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on June 24, 2006. He arrived two weeks early weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and 19 1/2 inches long. He is the 10th grandchild of Roy and Norma Holladay. Andrew and his parents are moving back to the Dallas/Ft.



Andrew Mark Holladay

Worth, Texas, area where Randy and Tina Hooser can spoil their first grandchild.

Engagements

Jim and Lorinda Springer of Sacramento, California, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Marie Springer, to Kyle Aidan Mullen, son of Gerald Mullen and the late Carmel Mullen of Portland, Oregon. The couple plans to



reside in Corvallis, Oregon, where Kyle will work as a high school biology teacher and Kim will work as a process engineer. A June 2007 wedding is planned.

Weddings

Dave and Peggy Severns, of the Flint, Michigan, congregation, are happy to announce the marriage of their son, Jason Allen Severns, to Keshia Jo Newsome. The wedding took place on June



Keshia and Jason Severns

17, 2006, in Olivet, Michigan, with the reception following in Springport, Michigan. The groom's brother, Shawn Severns, was the best man, and the bride's sister, Kara Newsome, was the maid of honor. The rest of the wedding party consisted of close friends. The happy couple resides in Springport.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Shoemaker are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Sarah Rebecca Shoemaker to M. Scott Howard, son of Tina and John Howard on June 11, 2006. Though wet and dreary outside, the day was filled with warmth, joy and happiness. Mallory Newberry (close friend of the bride) was the maid of honor, with Nathan Dailey as best man. Other close friends and family to represent the bride



Sarah and Scott Howard

and groom were Sarah Beth Shoemaker, Lee-Ann Shoemaker (sister of the bride), Anna Helderbrand and Jody Evans (as junior bridesmaid); along with Randy Shoemaker (brother of the bride), Andy Howard (brother of the groom), Jeff Foster and Joe Shoemaker (as junior groomsmen). The officiant for the ceremony was Mike Arritt from the Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation.

Currently, the couple live in Peebles, Ohio, allowing Sarah to finish her college and Scott to continue working.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Carreiro of the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Kimberly Carreiro, to Justin Mark Rivers. With over 170 guests in attendance, the ceremony and reception took place on June 18, 2006,

in Hutchinson Island, Florida, at the Pelican Yacht Club.

The following day the newlyweds left for their Caribbean cruise honeymoon. The ports of call were highlighted by



Kimberly and Justin Rivers

stops in Belize City, Belize, and Cozumel, Mexico.

The couple currently live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, until this fall when the construction of their new home will be complete.

Anniversaries

On the Sabbath of July 22, 2006, the Orlando, Florida, congregation honored Harold and Frieda Sikes, who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Cake and punch were enjoyed after services, along with hearty fellowship. Harold and Frieda were married on July 10, 1956. Harold came in contact with



Harold and Frieda Sikes

the Church through Herbert Armstrong and the radio program in the early 1960s. Eventually, Harold and Frieda began attending the Washington, D.C., congregation and were both baptized in 1967. They have five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Obituaries

Daphne Doreen Scheepers, aged 73, died on May 30, 2006, in Tygerberg Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. Daphne was the eldest of Dinah and

Martin Abrahams' six children. She grew up in Cape Town and was baptized on Dec. 6, 1982. Daphne was a mother of four children—Leonor, Hilton, Dawn and Jenny—and a grandmother of eight, as well as great-grandmother of one.

Daphne's memorial service was held on June 1, 2006, with many friends and family present to honor her. Daphne is greatly missed by the Cape Town congregation and especially by her husband of almost 50 years, Frank Scheepers,



Daphne Doreen Scheepers

who was ordained as a deacon on July 9, 2005. We look forward to seeing Daphne again soon, at the last trumpet, in her glorified spiritual form. Until then, she will be remembered for her gentle presence, humble spirit, enthusiasm to serve and warm, encouraging smile. Frank wishes to express his appreciation to everyone for all the prayers, kind words, flowers and cards he has received.

Funeral services for Maxcy Paul Brown Sr. were held Aug. 1, 2006, in Elgin, South Carolina, where he was born 79 years ago. He had lived in Jenkinsville, South Carolina, for many years, and faithfully attended the United Church of God congregation in Columbia, South Carolina. Mr. Brown was baptized in 1971, and was ordained a deacon in 1988. He served the Church in this capacity for as long as he was physically able and continued to serve by his wonderful example. Due to serious injuries in Korea, he had to make extra effort to come to services. His faithful wife, Micki, drove him to Sabbath ser-



Maxcy Paul Brown Sr.

vices even when inclement weather kept others from attending.

Before he was called by God, Mr. Brown served with honor and bravery in the U.S. Army for 26 years. He saw ser-

vice in both WWII and in Korea, and received many decorations for his service. Among the many medals Mr. Brown received were the Purple Heart for Valor, for which one must be wounded in action. He also received the Bronze Star for Heroism and the National Defense Medal for Honorable Active Service, and the Good Conduct Medal. On the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, Mr. Brown received a letter of appreciation delivered by Major General Seung Woo of the Army of the Republic of Korea.

Due to his impeccable military service and numerous decorations, Mr. Brown was awarded full military honors at the funeral conducted by Don Waterhouse.

Mr. Brown is survived by his loving and loyal wife of almost 55 years, Mitsuko "Micki" Inoue Brown. She was and is a wonderful example to many women in the Church. Also surviving are his sons, Maxcy P. Brown Jr. (wife Carter) and Stephen L. Brown; and his daughter, Shirley Ann Gregg (husband Tom). Mr. Brown also leaves five beautiful grandsons and three loving great-grandchildren to honor his memory.

Mr. Brown was a pillar of strength and wisdom, and his presence in the congregation in Columbia was a steady influence on all. The void left by his death will be felt for years. We will miss him immensely.

Gladys Jenkins Ducker, age 72, died June 7, 2006, at home in Graham, North Carolina, two weeks after a diagnosis of brain tumors.

Married to the late Garvin Javan Ducker for 43 years, she worked as a housewife, bookkeeper and manager for family businesses. Her husband often referred to her as the "Proverbs 31 woman" and "the neck that turns the head."

She served as a Girl Scout leader for five years and with other service organizations over the years. At the time of her death she worked as a volunteer as a reading tutor in a public elementary school.

Gladys' scriptural study motivated her husband to prove or discredit her conclusions. Both were baptized in



Gladys Jenkins Ducker

1970. Together they traveled extensively and found visiting brethren inspired passion for the Church and work.

They enjoyed motorcycles, beekeeping, reading, studying, gardening, handicrafts and fishing in Alaska. They loved camping and boating with their grandchildren.

Survivors include five siblings of Asheville, North Carolina; three daughters (Diane Jeffords of Franklin, Tennessee, Linda Fuhrman and Marlene Ducker, both of Graham, North Carolina); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mary Antonia (Parisi) Mazzie of Wilmerding, Pennsylvania, died on Aug. 15, 2006, at age 86. Mary was a member of the United Church of God (baptized in 1968), the Women's Civic Club of Wilmerding and the Wilmerding Historical Society. She was a daughter of



Mary Antonia Mazzie

the late Antonio and Consiglia (Baccari) Parisi; wife of the late Nicholas Mazzie; beloved mother of Dr. William N. Mazzie and the late Nicholas Mazzie; dear sister of Clara (the late Carl) Tuskan, Edith (Lou) Botti, Dominic (Clara) Parisi, Joe (the late Joy) Parisi, Jerry (Barb) Parisi, Millie (the late Tom) Morris, Dr. Frank Parisi and the late Rose Ruffo; also numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Mazzie was highly respected by all who knew her. She had a well-earned reputation of being energetic, enthusiastic, strong-willed and determined in everything she set her hand to do. She was a faithful member of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation (as is her son, Dr. William Mazzie)—filled with love for God, for her brethren and dedication to her calling.

The funeral was conducted on Aug. 17 at the New St. Joseph Cemetery in North Versailles, Pennsylvania, by Don Henson.

Douglas Hulings, a deacon in the United Church of God, died July 13, 2006, after a brief illness. Doug and his wife, Nohemi, faithfully served as host and hostess of the United Church of God in Harlingen, Texas, since the start of that congregation.

Doug also helped with the visiting speakers program in Monterrey, Mexi-

co. John Bald, Doug Hulings and several members of the Harlingen and Corpus Christi congregations, their wives and children, made regular visits to the church and brethren in Monterrey to fellowship and serve the brethren there.

Doug is survived by his wife, Nohemi; children, Tammy Reed, Jaime, Douglas, Freddy and Erica; seven grandchildren; two brothers; and two sisters. He will be greatly missed by his family and the congregation in Harlingen. Doug's trust in



Douglas Hulings

God, his service to the brethren and his appreciation of the area characterized his leadership in south Texas.

Jerry and Tandra (Pritchard) Hawkins would like to announce the birth of their fourth son. Garrett Emery Hawkins was born at 34 weeks on May 7, 2005. He weighed 5 pounds 11 ounces and was beautiful. Sadly, Garrett was only with us for two short days and went to sleep on May 9, 2005. Jerry and Tandra, along with their three other sons, Ethan (11), Blake (7) and Grant (3½) greatly miss Garrett and look forward to seeing him, and all the others



Garrett Emery Hawkins

who've been lost, in God's Kingdom.

The family attends the Wichita, Kansas, congregation.

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*.

"Challenger II," continued from page 1

Gorge, a remarkable canyon with steep cliffs, deep pools and enormous boulders. Travel in the canyon is difficult, requiring hours of boulder hopping, stream wading, bushwhacking and a mandatory swim through a deep pool.

Those considering this trip should be

in excellent physical condition, have good camping skills, good balance and strong ankles. You should be prepared to work together to help everyone make it safely through the obstacles we will encounter along the way. Daytime temperatures in December can range from the mid-50s up to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Nighttime can get near freezing.

Participants must:

- Be a minimum of 19 years of age and a high school graduate.
- Be in excellent physical health.
- Desire to be challenged both physically and spiritually.
- Demonstrate physical ability to participate. Teton Challenger Camp experience is preferred, but is not required.
- Ask their pastor to send in a

recommendation.

- Pay the \$150 program fee.

The camp will be directed by Randy Schreiber, pastor of Phoenix Northwest and Northern Arizona, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Las Vegas, Nevada, congregations, and director of the backpacking hikes at Teton Challenger and Hye Sierra camps. Other staff will include Larry Greider, pastor of Los

Angeles and Bakersfield, California, congregations, and United Youth Camps coordinator; Bonnie Greider; and David Register, director of education programs.

For more information or to apply, contact Mr. Schreiber at 28822 N. 43rd St., Cave Creek, AZ 85331 or by e-mail at randy_schreiber@ucg.org or on the Web at www.ucg.org/challenger/. UN

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

and experience in the computer field includes work at E.D.S., General Motors and S.H. Brown Forensic Research Firm. His job title will be programmer/analyst I.

It has been a busy year for Chris, who served as student body president for ABC and married Elisha Kennebeck, a 2004 ABC graduate, during the year.

Three Ministers Hired

Ministerial Services announced the hiring of three elders into the full-time ministry of the United Church of God. From a long list of candidates the Church made an offer to three men, and all three have accepted the offer.

They begin work after the Feast of Tabernacles as assistant pastors in their local areas. After a year of training in the local area plus additional training by Ministerial Services at the home office, each will be given an assignment during the summer of 2007.

Ronald Kelley and his wife, Nancy, will be hired to assist Randy Stiver in the Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio, area. Jonathan Pinelli and his wife, Debbie, will be hired to assist Lyle Welty in the Cincinnati East AM and PM congregations. And Paul Carter and his wife, Tracy, will be hired to assist Mike Blackwell in the Springfield and Joplin, Missouri, and Harrison, Arkansas, congregations.

ABC Comparative Religion Class on the Web

Many members who are unable to attend the Ambassador Bible Center program have expressed an interest in listening to recordings of the classes. During the 2006 class year we were able to record the Comparative Religion

class taught by Gary Antion. The audio files are available in MP3 format at www.ucg.org/abc/religion.

ABC Seminar Set for Calgary

An ABC Continuing Education seminar is planned for Calgary, Alberta, on Nov. 11 and 12 (Remembrance Day weekend). ABC instructors Gary Antion and David Register will speak at Sabbath services and teach classes on Sabbath afternoon and evening as well as all day Sunday, for a total of 11 classes.

The purpose of the ABC Continuing Education seminars is to give members the opportunity to receive samples of some of the classes taught at Ambassador Bible Center. The seminars are beneficial for adults and young people. Some younger children in elementary school have received certificates!

Sabbath services and the seminars will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 2120-16 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta. The phone numbers for the Radisson are (800) 333-3333 and (403) 291-4666.

Sabbath services will start at 10:30 a.m. The classes will begin after lunch. The concluding time on Sunday will be about 5 p.m. with the distribution of certificates and awards.

There will be a minimal charge to help pay for the hall rental (\$5 per person or \$10 per family). Those who complete all 11 classes will receive a certificate. The Radisson Hotel offers a group rate for those who wish to stay there. Feel free to make your own reservations.

If you would like to attend, please send the following details to Rainer Salomaa: Names of attendees, address, phone number and e-mail address. Send this information by e-mail to ray_salomaa@msn.com or by regular mail to Rainer Salomaa, 175 Sunlake Way SE, Calgary, AB, T2X 3H4, Canada.

Rainer Salomaa

Regina Singers and Musicians Needed

Attention all singers and musicians attending the Feast in Regina, Saskatchewan: If you would like to sing



What's New on the Web?

Local Congregations

View a list of both U.S. and international UCG congregations at www.ucg.org/about/church.htm.

You can also access many local congregation Web sites from this location.

Good News Radio

Listen to or download over 100 online radio programs at

www.gnmagazine.org/radio/.

Church Service Webcast

The home office Cincinnati East A.M. congregation is now offering onDemand Church services in video and audio format. Access the video and audio files at www.ucg.org/multimedia/webcast.htm.

UCG Commentary

"Iranian Nukes: The End of Israel?"
"How Long Will Your Window of Opportunity Be Open?"
"America's Season of Anger"

"Diplomats Needed, Now"
"We Sure Could Use a Little Good News Today"

www.ucg.org/commentary/

Featured Link

Virtual Christian Magazine

monthly online magazine of inspirational and Christian living topics.

vcmagazine.org

If you have questions or comments, please contact: webmaster@ucg.org



in the choir, play an instrument or present special music, please contact Wil Berg at wberg@dteworld.com or (307) 455-2432 or P.O. Box 1379, Dubois, WY 82513 U.S.A.

In addition to adults, teenagers are also encouraged to respond. Please state what choral part you sing (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) or what instrument you play. If enough are present the afternoon before the Feast (Friday, Oct. 6), there will be a rehearsal at 2 p.m. by the stage where the meetings will be held.

Wil Berg

Jamaica Site Full

The Jamaica Feast site is full and is closed to further transfers.

Kingsley Mather

Winter Camp: New Facility, No Conflict With Louisville

The 12th annual United Youth Winter Camp will be held from Wednesday, Dec. 27, through Monday, Jan. 1, 2007. There is no conflict with the Louisville Winter Family Weekend this year.

We have a whole new facility to enjoy

in Montello, Wisconsin. Activities include basketball, capture the flag, Christian Living, cross-country skiing, dance, broomball, horseback riding, ice skating, snow speedaway, team challenge, tubing, volleyball, indoor games and more.

Camp and staff applications are being accepted now. Youth ages 12 to 18 are welcome as campers. Staff must be at least 17. Camper tuition is \$175 and high school staff is \$85. Camper and staff applications are available on the Web site at www.ucg.org/youth. For more information, contact Gary and Gale Black at (651) 769-8802.

Application deadline is Nov. 1 for staff and Nov. 15 for campers.

Gary and Gale Black

ABC Chorale Alumni Invited to Sing in Louisville

All ABC Chorale alumni who will be attending the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, Dec. 22 to 26, are encouraged to contact Kenneth Shoemaker as soon as possible. A combined chorale is being formed to provide music for a full sermonette-length program.

Contact Mr. Shoemaker by e-mail at kshoemak@bright.net or by mail at 862

McCoy Rd., Peebles, OH 45660.

Kenneth Shoemaker

Calendar of Events

Sept. 4-21: Trip to Kenya, Jim and Sharon Franks, John and Merrie Elliott.

Sept. 26: ABC assessment meeting.

Oct. 28-29: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Atlanta, Georgia.

Nov. 1-2: Senior pastors (those working in Africa and Asia) conference.

Nov. 4: *World News and Prophecy* seminar, Beloit, Wisconsin (steve_nutzman@ucg.org).

Nov. 4-5: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

Nov. 11-12: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Calgary, Alberta (see details, this page).

Nov. 13-15: Regional pastors conference.

Nov. 16-17: Camp directors meeting.

Nov. 18: Milwaukee 50th Anniversary (see article July issue, page 16).

Nov. 18-19: ABC Continuing Education Seminars, Morton, Illinois.

Dec. 8-13: Council of Elders meeting.

Dec. 22-26: Winter Family Weekend, Louisville, Kentucky.

Dec. 27-Jan. 1, 2007: Winter Camp, Montello, Wisconsin (see article, this page).

Feb. 16 to 19, 2007: Presidents' Day Ski Weekend, Salt Lake City, Utah. (801) 495-0412 or larry_salyer@ucg.org.

Brethren Needed to Distribute GN Brochures

Two new *Good News* "take one" subscription brochures are now available for distribution by our brethren in the United States.

One brochure features 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 high response, "What Happens After Death?"

Members who occasionally visit stores, hairdressers, senior centers, restaurants, libraries or other places within their communi-



ties may find them to be excellent distribution locations for brochure displays. Even if only a single display is placed and maintained, it would be a valuable contribution.

Brethren are welcome to order a supply of brochures and displays by contacting John LaBissoniere at 198 McDeerman Road, Jacksboro, TN 37757,

by toll-free telephone at (888) 369-9940 or e-mail at john_labissoniere@ucg.org.

John LaBissoniere



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