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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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August 2009

News At a Glance

Senior Pastor Appointed for British Isles

Ministerial Services, in conjunction with Peter Hawkins and the ministry in the British Isles, would like to announce the appointment of Paul Suckling as senior pastor for Britain. Mr. Suckling's work will be focused on ministerial and congregational development. In fulfilling this role he will work with Peter Hawkins, who manages the day-to-day work of the Church in the British Isles and works with the National Council.

Mr. Suckling is currently serving as the regional pastor for the northeastern region in the United States and also pastors congregations in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Worcester, Massachusetts. A new regional pastor will be appointed for the northeastern region later this year. In the meantime, Mr. Suckling will continue to fill that position as well.

Jim Franks

GN Commentary Gets Over 40,000 Views

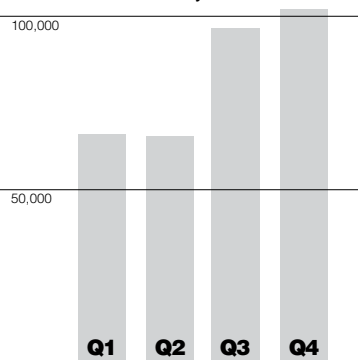
On June 26, the Media department filmed a GN commentary by Clyde Kilough titled "Michael Jackson's Funeral" one day after the pop musician died. Over the course of the next month, 15,152 people viewed it on YouTube and a record 23,856 people watched it on Yahoo Video.

Internet managing editor Aaron Booth commented about the unusually high response on Yahoo video. "We had a lot of comments on the video," he said. "And all the comments were in Spanish—except for one." He went on to explain that it is possible that a Span-

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United Statistics

verticalthought.org
Total Unique Visitors
for 2008-2009 fiscal year



Faithful Members Provide Feast Sermon Video Inspiration



THREE BOYS read an article in *Bonne Nouvelle*, the French Good News magazine, in Kigali, Rwanda, on June 20 (photos by Peter Eddington)

by Peter Eddington

During the month of June, the Media and Communications Services department, on behalf of Ministerial Services, began filming the 2009 Feast sermon video. The filming resulted in 40 to 50 hours of interview footage that will later be edited to the hour-long sermon video.

Theme of the Video

The faithful example of the membership of God's Church provides the core material for this year's sermon video. The inspiring stories of dedication to God's way of life, despite sore trial and adversity, are an inspiration to all of us as we seek the Kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17-18 is the key scripture for the video, providing the background theme: "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men."

Four Amazing Stories

The stories of four members and their families are covered. Without "spilling the beans" and preempting the video, the stories come from several corners of the globe: Texas, North Carolina, Nigeria and Rwanda!

We trust you'll be encouraged to seek the Kingdom of God more fervently as you hear our own members

living righteously, *when the odds are against us?* To hear the inspiring answers to these questions and more, make sure to view the sermon video at this year's Feast of Tabernacles, wherever you may be attending.

Thank You

As a side note and postscript, I would like to thank the many

congregations, members and friends who prayed for my recovery and health after I contracted dengue fever while on assignment in Africa for this very video.

While still low on energy and weak at times, I now expect a full recovery thanks to God. I'm sorry that I cannot personally reply to the more than a

hundred cards and notes that arrived. The encouragement of our membership gave me much strength through this difficult health trial. **UN**

Peter Eddington is Media and Communications production manager.



Video editor Clay Thornton films as minister Oludare Akinbo gives a Wednesday evening Bible study in Nigeria

tell their stories that have increased their faith in God—despite hardship, trial or persecution.

How can we have peace and joy, even while going through difficulties? How can we focus on the Kingdom,

Cattle, the Church and the Gospel: Why Branding Is Important for UCG

■ Two branding agencies met with members of the Council of Elders Media Committee along with key administrators at the home office on Sunday, July 19, to discuss how the Church can be more effective by developing a brand. Both agencies are associated with the Church. Four other local agencies are scheduled to present ideas on Aug. 6.

by Larry Salyer

Cattle have always been a valuable possession, and no owner likes to see even one go missing. Ranchers who manage vast herds are especially careful not to leave their cows easy prey for rustlers and thieves.

Hundreds, if not thousands of years ago, humans learned how to mark cattle and other livestock to identify their owner by putting a permanent sign or initials right into the cow's hide. This mark was called a brand.

See "Branding," page 5

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News At a Glance

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ish version of Yahoo Video pulled it from the English language site, increasing the amount of coverage.

One of the key factors for the high response, according to Mr. Booth, was the timeliness of the news topic. "It's important with the commentaries that we be timely in the news and to anticipate the news, which we were able to do with the keywords 'Michael Jackson Funeral.'"

At the time the commentary was posted, news programs were still reflecting on the events surrounding Michael Jackson's death and had not yet begun addressing the funeral event that was to take place on July 7.

By posting a *GN* commentary on his funeral before it was in the news, we were able to capitalize on searches made over the next few days when it was more of a hot topic. We hope to be able to anticipate news items and produce *GN* commentaries that address them.

To watch this commentary and others, visit www.gnmagazine.org/video.
Elizabeth Cannon

United Youth Corps— Jordan Prepares for Third Project

On Friday, July 24, the five young adults who will be heading off to Jordan for a year of teaching met at the home office for orientation.



(Left to right) Jamie Franks, Amber Epperson, Eduardo Elizondo, Audry Bauer and Stephanie Elizondo

Along with the five new volunteers, four from this past year also participated. Doug Horchak and David Register oversaw the orientation activities. Past project manager Cory Erickson participated via phone hookup. The five new volunteers are Eduardo and Stephanie Elizondo, Amber Epperson, Audry Bauer and Jamie Franks. They leave for Jordan and a great adventure on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Jim Franks

New Video Editor Hired

The Media and Communications Services department has recently hired

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Profile: New Council Member Melvin Rhodes

Melvin Rhodes, pastor of the Lansing, Michigan, congregation, was recently selected as a Council of Elders member at the General Conference of Elders annual meeting in May of this year.

Mr. Rhodes was born in the north of England and came into the Church after hearing the radio broadcast on Radio 270, one of the "pirate" stations that operated off the coast of England up until August 1967.

He then attended Ambassador College in Bricket Wood where he met his wife, Diane, who came from Detroit, Michigan. They were married in 1975 and have three children. They now have four grandchildren.

They spent the first 15 years of their married lives in England and Africa. They lived in both Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Ghana. In 1990 they moved to Michigan and have been attending the Lansing congregation ever since.

They have been in the United Church of God since its beginning, during which time Mr. Rhodes has spent most of his time pastoring and writing. He is a senior editor of *World News and Prophecy*. He is also the managing editor of



Diane and Melvin Rhodes

Breaking Free Journal, an online publication that offers articles of support and encouragement to those in the Church who are battling certain addictions and difficulties. The online journal can be found at breakingfree.ucg.org. In addition, he regularly contributes articles to *The Good News* and *United News*.

In 2001 he was asked to be the senior pastor for Ghana.

His four years at Ambassador College in Bricket Wood and his four years in Rhodesia were great influences on his life, as was his father who, although an atheist, was very interested in world affairs.

As he begins to serve on the Council, Mr. Rhodes looks forward to working with the other members of the Council in building unity within the Church, finding ways to more effectively preach the gospel and getting through the economic difficulties caused by the global financial crisis.

"Americans today are going through many challenges, which are mostly of a financial nature, but those in the Church are fully committed to supporting those whom God has called around the world." **UN**

FORWARD! The Value of Volunteers

by Clyde Kilough



Last week while on vacation in California, Dee and I had a marvelous day trip visiting the Hye Sierra summer camp. And there they were! Everywhere we looked—in the kitchen, at the waterfront, with every activity and every

dorm, running everything from the infirmary to the office—we saw the backbone of the entire camp program: the volunteers!

Without the hundreds of adults who give up a week or more every year to serve at camp, we would never be able to have this incredibly valuable program. They are one of the unsung key elements to its success.

Because so many volunteers are concentrated in one place at one time, the value of volunteerism leaps out at you in the camp environment. But

when you think about it, God's people are continually giving of themselves in so many ways, often out of sight, behind the scenes. One cannot help but ask, What kind of Church would we have without the volunteers who freely give of their time, talents and energy day in and day out? We would do well to stop, appreciate and sincerely express gratitude regularly to one another when we see these acts of altruism.

Just consider for a moment, how could you ever measure the value to the Church of all those who give of themselves? As one unknown author wrote, "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless!" How can I, for example, calculate the value of those Church members who sacrificed countless hours of their lives in 1981 to tirelessly help my mother (and father) as she walked through her "valley of the shadow of death"? Our family will never forget, can never repay and could never put a price on that service. But that's just one of literally thousands of stories.

To ask our treasurer to calculate the monetary value of the voluntary service provided annually

by Church members would be to ask the impossible!

But in addition to this type of value, the Church reaps many more intangible, incalculable communal benefits through volunteerism. How much does such serving build unity, trust and friendship; inspire reciprocal behavior in others; and help to instill this valuable quality in our children?

Volunteerism has been defined as "the practice of people working on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain... generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life." It is one of the most fundamental ways we have of inculcating God's give way of life.

As such, it is one of the greatest assets we can ever have. To all of you who volunteer, in ways great and small, visible and invisible, from the bottom of my heart I say, "Thank you!" In an increasingly lawless world growing colder by the day, it is your practicing this give way of life that will keep the Church warm and moving forward. **UN**

Clyde Kilough is president of UCGIA.

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News From **Around the World**

Three Deacons Ordained, 17 Baptized in Zimbabwe

by **André van Belkum**

From July 5 to 12 Morgen Kriedemann, pastor of the Johannesburg and Malawi congregations, and I visited with members in Zimbabwe on an extremely profitable trip.

Mike Mukarati met us at the airport in Harare. He and his wife, Primrose, handle the incoming and outgoing mail, *Good News*, distribution, budget and other administrative issues of the Church in Zimbabwe. They have converted one of their rooms into a Church office and keep copies of our literature to send to interested individuals.

The trip from Harare to the town of Kariba took about six hours. The next day we visited the Kariba dam wall. Eighty-six people died during its construction, and 22 are encased within the structure of the wall after falling into the bulwark where huge volumes of cement were being poured. There was no way they could be retrieved. Imagine the coming surprise at the resurrection!

Monday we held an evening Bible study, with 11 attending. We enjoyed singing from our hymnal and special music from 11-year-old Yolanda Sawona.

On Tuesday we started the long journey to Bulawayo, located in the southwestern region of the country. We stopped off to visit with various members, including Marshall Takaindisa, a high school English teacher. Marshall is wheelchair-bound from muscular dystrophy. That evening we met with eight members from Kadoma.

On Wednesday we visited Theresa Chichaya, a widow who farms successfully with maize and vegetables. She is in her 70s, but that has not dampened

her enthusiasm for producing outstanding crops. Recently, with help from LifeNets and funds from South African and Tasmanian brethren, a borehole and pump was installed for irrigation. From there we headed for Bulawayo.



Newly ordained deacons and wives: (from left to right) Harris and Liz Hlazo, Steven and Vetina Tshabalala, Primrose and Mike Mukarati

On Thursday we spent the day with Steve and Vetina Tshabalala, who for years have assisted with Church work in that region. In the morning we conversed with many isolated members, then held a Bible study with 27 in attendance. Steve had been working with these individuals since 2006, using pre-baptism and other notes from the leadership sessions conducted by Jim Franks, Richard Pinelli, Lyle Welty and Joel Meeker. Our leaders in Zimbabwe attended at least two of these conferences in the past. The end result was that we baptized 11 people in the Tshabalalas' bathtub!

In my 40 years in the ministry this was the largest group I saw baptized at one time. You can imagine the joy of these farmers who have patiently waited since 2006. On Friday we tackled the nearly nine-hour trek back to Harare with Steve and Vetina. The discussions on these long trips are most inspiring.

On the Sabbath we met with our members in Harare. Harris Hlazo, who was baptized in November 1971, is our leader there and has dedicated himself to serving the people within his area. Twenty-one people attended the morning service.

After services we baptized another six people who, like those from Bulawayo, had long awaited this special occasion. The baptisms took place in the Harare municipal public swimming pool. The cold temperature did not deter anyone

from boldly stepping into the water. These baptisms were also encouraging considering the small membership growth in Zimbabwe over the last number of years.

Also especially moving, Morgen Kriedemann and I ordained our three regional leaders as deacons. These men have proved dedicated and faithful for many years under the most trying circumstances.

On Sunday morning Morgen and I returned to Johannesburg and concurred that the trip was blessed in many ways. **UN**

United Youth Camp in the Philippines Focuses on Theme "Remember Your Creator"

by **Daniel Roy G. Macaraeg**

Thirty-two campers, 34 staff and four "mini-campers" gathered at Eden Nature Park from May 17 to 24 to attend this year's United Youth Camp in Davao, Philippines. The counselors and staff were required to report a week earlier to help set up camp and undergo training.

The camp was directed by Edmond Macaraeg, UCG-Mindanao pastor and veteran camp director. This was the 11th consecutive camp conducted by the United Church of God in the Philippines. The theme chosen for this year, "Remember Your Creator," was taken from the writings of King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:1.

As in previous camps, the 32 campers were organized into four dorms of eight campers, each with

a counselor and an assistant counselor in charge. Every dorm was provided with the necessary food, ingredients and supplies to prepare and cook their own meals. This has been an ongoing practice since 2004. Reportedly, the campers enjoy this experience more than being served prepared food. Sometimes, two dorms prepare and eat together. Cooking dinner through rain and darkness was an extra challenge and took several hours.

Each day, camp began and ended with God. The whole camp had quiet time from 5 to 6 a.m., when every camper and staff member was encouraged to pray and have their personal Bible study. Before lights out at 10 p.m., each dorm also had a group prayer to close the day.

The first activity of the day, conducted right after breakfast, was a two-hour interactive Christian Living class conducted by Mr. Macaraeg. It was not unusual for the discussions to last the whole morning.

Before class ended, each dorm was given a thought-provoking question or a challenging biblical topic to discuss within the dorm and present before the group the next day. This encouraged spiritual discussion among the campers, especially at mealtimes. Occa-

sionally, we would have a staff member volunteer to share a personal story that related to the topic. The stories were sometimes funny, but always encouraging and deeply moving.

Apart from the Christian Living classes, the confidence course and wilderness skills was probably the most popular activity. The campers had to go through several obstacles on the course while carrying one raw egg without it cracking. They arrived at camp an hour past midnight having survived the 10 to 12 hours of facing and conquering their fears.

The other activities were dance, first aid, inline skating, riflery, soccer, softball and swimming. Various workshops on Friday afternoon were used to pass on a useful skill. Each camper could choose two workshops from art illustration, carpentry, conversational English, cooking and baking, calligraphy, house painting, journalism and photography.

Novelty games, fellowship time, Bible study and a talent show/dance night took up most of the evenings. On separate nights the inspirational movies *Facing the Giants* and *Flywheel* were shown. The third and latest movie by the same producers, *Fireproof*, was also shown to all the staff and counselors during staff training week. On the Sabbath, after services, campers and staff played a game of Bible Bowl.

On the final night of camp, each camper received a special surprise gift: a brand-new New King James Bible. We felt this was the best gift we could give to remind each of them to remember the One who made this camp so enjoyable, successful and unforgettable. **UN**

Daniel Macaraeg is the assistant office manager for UCG-Philippines.



The enthusiastic junior staff welcomes campers to UYC-Davao, Philippines

International News At a Glance

Income Encouraging in Australia

The year-to-date income for the Church in Australia is above budget. Due to Holy Day offerings, tithes and anonymous donations, the total annual income is expected to exceed \$1.5 million (Australian) for the first time. This encouraging situation defies the general economic climate. With the recession appearing to have a longer-term impact, the budget for the next financial year will need to reflect a more cautious approach. However, the income is expected to maintain its positive trend through the end of the financial year.

Shaun Carnochan

Resourceful Youth Salvages Service

The electricity supply in East London, South Africa, was severed on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread due to street cables being repaired. The morning service went without music for the offering or hymns, and sermonette and sermon speakers raised their voices in order to be heard in the back row. By lunch time, the electricity was still off, which caused worry, considering a DVD sermon was planned for the afternoon service.

Realizing the need, teenager Bradley Helfrich devised a plan to save the service. Bradley has been experimenting, testing and designing ideas since he was a little boy, and his many years of practice served him well. A car battery, cables, screwdrivers, a portable 12-volt CD/MP3 player and various other connections were fetched from home and compiled.

By the afternoon service there was power for the microphone, music for the hymns and sound for the MP3 sermon.

Leanne Helfrich

LifeNets Helps Members in Guatemala

LifeNets made a grant of \$3,684 (from the Izabal Project) for the needs of disadvantaged families under the administration of local LifeNets director and UCG-Guatemala pastor Luis Mundo. Most of the projects involved housing improvements and are now complete. They included adding cement floors, methane gas producers, electricity and bathrooms. Most individual projects cost in the \$500 to \$900 range.

Dr. Mundo thanks the donors who helped with these projects that have measurably improved the quality of life of members in Guatemala.

Victor Kubik

United Youth Corps in Zambia: Teaching God's Elect

by Doug Horchak

Imagine flying 22 hours—13,000 miles—to the remote area where the famous explorer David Livingstone spent much of his life in the 19th century “discovering” Africa and doing his famous mission work! Well, that is exactly what two United Youth Corps volunteers did (along with myself) June 5 to 18 as we participated in the first-ever United Youth Corps project in Zambia.

Zach Zimmerman and Kristine McNeely served and taught 50 adult members basic computer use skills and remedial English language during the week of June 7 to 12. The program was held at the United Church of God campsite—which also is the Feast of Tabernacles location—outside of Lusaka, Zambia.

The pastor, Kambani Banda, and his wife, Shirley, greeted us at the airport. For the next two weeks they were wonderful hosts to the three of us and treated us like family!

Teaching Computer Skills

Most of the 13 students Zach taught had never operated a computer in their lives. A number of them had never touched a keyboard!

However, by the end of the week these 13 men and women were oriented to the basic uses of the computer, Internet and e-mail capabilities and also became motivated to understand and pursue the use of this technology to better their lives, communicate more effectively within the Church and better understand the technology by which much of the work of God is done.

Zach commented, “It was exciting to see members’ faces light up when

they could see what would appear on the screen of a computer and what it would do!... It was a great experience to show them things that some of them didn't even know were possible!”

As a part of preparing for the computer classes that were taught to the members in Zambia, we sought donations from any members in the United States who had old, working laptop computers that they were willing to give to this project.

As it turned out, seven very good laptops were donated—five of which came from Tim Smith of Dallas, Texas, whose company had upgraded its equipment and had used (but very reliable) IBM Thinkpads available to donate.

This blessing will have added benefits, as we were able to leave all seven laptops in Zambia with Mr. Banda, who will allow members to “check out” and use them throughout the year. We also hope to use these same seven machines for classes in the summer of 2010.

Remedial English for Rural Brethren

While Zach taught computer basics, Kristine McNeely drew from her experience and skills as a teacher to give English classes. Since the vast majority of the 32 members that took the classes had six to seven years of English in Zambian public schools when they were children, it was understood that they had some latent knowledge of English.

However, being rural brethren, virtually all of their daily communication occurs in one or two of the 17 native tribal languages of Zambia—and not English! So, over the years, they lose much of what they learn as young chil-

dren. Even more crucial is the fact that most of them lose their confidence to even try to speak English.

As such, we found out a few months prior to going to Zambia that despite the rural member's struggle with speaking and understanding English, nearly all of them knew many of the hymns in our UCG hymnal. Mr. Banda had informed me some months ago that his desired goals for the Youth Corps English classes were to assist the members in learning biblical terms and concepts and to give them confidence to use the English they know.

With these goals in mind, we targeted six of our hymns—ones we thought would give a good cross-section of biblical terms and vocabulary words—and taught 12 to 15 distinct words within each of the hymns every day.

The effort that Kristine put into planning her lessons worked wonderfully, as we saw the progress in understanding and marked increase in confidence of all the students throughout the week. It really was something to behold.

Sabbath Services

While we attended Sabbath services on June 6 with the local Lusaka brethren and 40 visitors from the rural areas (both the Mumbwa district and the north/Copper Belt region), our Sabbath attendance on June 13 with the combined group of three small



Students eagerly learn new computer skills on seven donated laptops



Kristine McNeely teaches an English lesson

reflected on the entire experience of working with these very special, dedicated brethren in that part of the world and the humbling appreciation and hospitality they showed to us on the Sabbath.

While the trip to Zambia ended with our Youth Corps volunteers seeing the most famous wonder in Zambia, Victoria Falls, we left this beautiful country with a deeper love and appreciation for what God is doing with His elect in preparing for a future when all of us will be teaching God's way of life to the masses during the Millennium.

This was the first United Youth Corps project of its kind in Zambia, and we hope this is the beginning of future projects where qualified and motivated young adults from the United States and elsewhere can teach English and serve God's people in Africa! **UN**

Go to www.ucgyouthcorps.org/2009/zambia.php for more information and photos from the United Youth Corps Zambia project.

Camp Woodmen “One of the Best Ever!”

by Jenah Hendershot

For 108 campers and 51 staff members, the week of June 28 to July 5 was better known by another name: Camp Woodmen!

Teenagers from all across the country set aside one week of their summer to travel to Alabama to attend the 12th year of Camp Woodmen.

Camp is all about the youth. This year campers took part in the regular camp activities like basketball, flag football, golf, high ropes, low ropes, journalism, riflery, speed-ay, swimming, watersliding, and sand volleyball. But they also enjoyed two dances, novelty Olympics, staff challenge events and open activities.

The focus was specifically on the concept of leading with insight. The Christian Living classes and Sabbath messages were all designed to emphasize this theme, as were the staff interactions with the campers. Participants were encouraged to focus on building this insight, with plenty of guidance from the ministers at camp.

One camper commented, “I love coming to camp every year to get away from the stresses of the world and focus on God.”

Along with the campers who arrived ready to learn about the Zone came the staff members to teach them. These young men and women are greatly appreciated.

“It was nice to see a crop of new campers buying in, and first-time staffers serving so selflessly,” said program director Mark Winner.

Summer camp is one of our primary obligations to the next generation. It teaches godly principles such as teamwork and leadership through its various classes and challenges. The lessons learned are longstanding ones for all involved, particularly the youth.

Another camper said, “It was really awesome to be able to come. I've definitely made some lifetime friendships just in this one week of church camp.”

“Without a doubt, camp is one of the greatest investments that UCG is making in the youth of the Church,”

said camp director David Dobson. “We are sowing lots of seeds that will reap good fruit in years to come.”

This year the American Camping Association (ACA) scheduled a visit to test the safety of the camp program.

“The highlight was definitely getting a 100 percent on all areas that [ACA] scored for us. This validates the idea that we are running camp as safely as possible for the youth of God's Church,” said Mr. Dobson.



Campers work as a team to catch their counselor swinging toward them



One of the highlights of Camp Woodmen is the gigantic waterslide

This year also marked Mr. Dobson's last year directing Camp Woodmen. He has been successfully directing Woodmen for 11 out of its 12 years of operation. The new camp director has yet to be chosen.

Mr. Winner reflected, “It was a solid year, from my standpoint. This year ranked as one of the best ever!” **UN**

Jenah served on journalism staff at Woodmen.

Camp Pinecrest Enjoys 15th Successful Year

by Laura Anderson

With great enthusiasm Camp Director Greg Sargent welcomed 111 campers and over 60 staff members from all over the United States and Canada to another outstanding year at Camp Pinecrest. Camp started off the first day with the heat index in the 110-degree range; however, our prayers were answered when God blessed us with temperatures in the 80s for the remainder of the camp session.

Built on the theme "Insight Today, Leadership Tomorrow," morning Compass Checks, daily leadership classes, evening Christian Living classes and the messages on the Sabbath encouraged everyone to walk in God's way daily. We learned the importance of developing a closer relationship with God, becoming a student of

the Bible and applying the principles of service in order to gain the insight to become leaders in the future.

The counseling and activity staff reinforced these concepts every day by creating an encouraging, safe environment, fondly referred to as the *Zone*. This environment gave the campers the opportunity to try new activities without the fear of negative criticism or ridicule.

Each individual camper was encouraged to challenge him or herself to grow by stepping outside his or her comfort zone with the support and encouragement of counselors and with the help of dorm sisters and brothers.

We were privileged to have Ken Treybig, United Youth Camps coordinator, and Dave Register, director of Education Programs, visit our camp this year. Camp Pinecrest and Camp Woodmen

successfully completed an ACA (American Camp Association) accreditation review this year; Winter Camp passed its assessment at the end of 2008.

Mr. Treybig, in addition to his responsibilities as a full-time pastor and UYC coordinator, is also a certified ACA visitor. His knowledge and expertise, along with the hard work of the camp directors and individual department heads, made the assessment go smoothly and helped us pass with flying colors.

On the Sabbath, Mr. Register gave a seminar on the merits of attending ABC. The main focus of ABC is to teach biblical knowledge in order to convict students about God's truth. During the question-and-answer portion of his presentation, he was joined on stage by several camp staff members who had previously attended.



Campers test their skill and accuracy at the archery range

By the end of camp we had all grown close. With tearful good-byes and newly formed, lifelong friendships, we departed with this year's official camp hymn in our heart, "And by this shall

all men know, all around the world you'll show, that you are My disciples...if you love one another." **UN**

Laura served as assistant department head in archery at Pinecrest.

"Branding," continued from page 1

Anyone who has seen Western movies, has likely watched a rancher heat a branding iron over an open fire and apply it to the flank of a critter, often a young calf. That brand on the animal would identify its owner, sometimes on sight, because the brand was so well known. Brands often matched the name of the ranch, reflecting family initials or some other outstanding characteristic of the owner or property.

Branding Today

Most of us today think of the word "brand" in a different context. We use it to refer to various products or services that are available in the marketplace. We regularly use phrases such as "name brands" or "store brands" or "expensive brands" or "brand recognition." But did you know that this usage springs from the branding of livestock?

Virtually all companies place their name or logo on their products to identify the maker or producer of the product.

The brand carries with it a whole set of information and images. Sometimes the brand includes a combination of name and symbol or shape. For example, many can remember from the 1950s the instantly recognizable Coke bottle or VW Bug. Today it might be the Mac computer "apple" or the Nike "swoosh."

What a Brand Does

In every case, the brand name and/or symbol is expected to convey the strengths and value of the product in a simple, easy-to-recognize form.

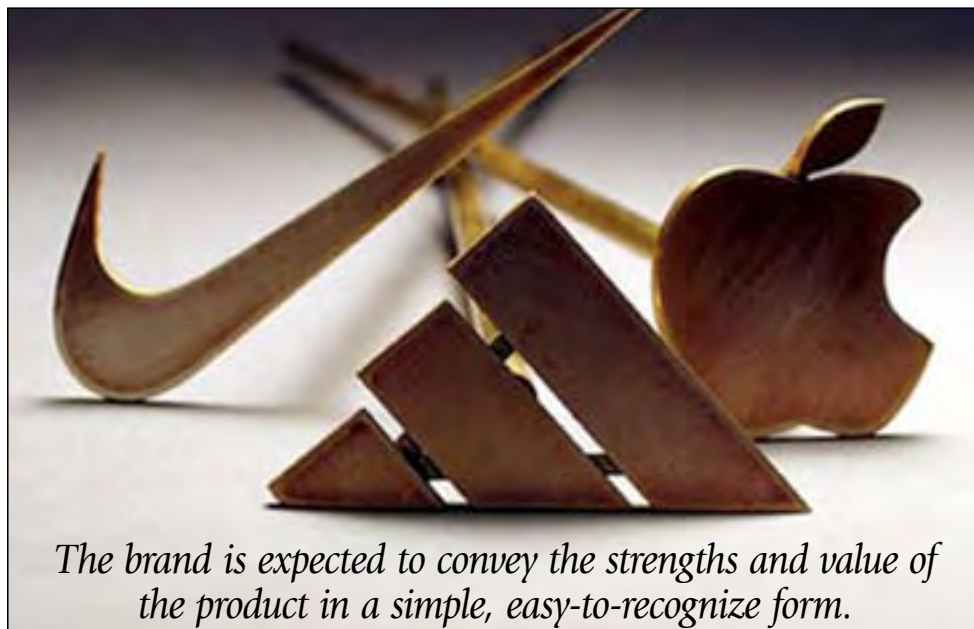
A brand becomes known and recognized across a broad audience when its product has proven successful over time and when it has developed a reputation of quality or convenience.

The brand represents the company and calls to mind all the good things we have come to believe about the product line.

For those who were fans of the old Western TV program *Bonanza*, even today the word "Ponderosa" not only brings to mind the identity of the ranch, but also images of rugged pioneers stalwart in their values and devoted to justice!

Branding and the Church

Over the next few months you will hear a lot about branding in the Church. No, we are not going into the cattle business! Neither are we going to market commercial products.



The brand is expected to convey the strengths and value of the product in a simple, easy-to-recognize form.

Simply put, in order to effectively preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the Church needs a clearly identifiable brand. The world is full of religious organizations using the name of Christ, as He prophesied. The general public often assumes them to be similar, if not identical, in purpose and doctrine.

When people ask which church you attend, your answer is not likely to distinctly register with them unless it is well known or is their church.

The Bible makes it clear that the true Church is called the Church of God, but how many know that? There are many that call themselves "Church of God," usually with other names added that do not really distinguish them from any other.

Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed that the end time would bring knowledge overload. "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (12:4). This is certainly happening in terms of the spread of false religion.

We need to be able to stand apart from this confusion and restore credibility to Christ's message. As we read in Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches." Because we carry the name of God Himself, it is most important that we properly represent Him in a world in which the very idea of religion is under suspicion. We are to be "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20) as we reach out with the message He brought.

How Do We Brand Ourselves?

The concept of branding an organization goes deeper than just outward appearance or recognizable name and symbols. To achieve a successful, quality brand, the principles and values the organization stands for must be visible throughout—at every level of work and with every person involved.

This is even more important for the Church—every one of us must practice what we preach and show that we believe "the Way" of life. No matter how impressive our outward brand or message, it is our fruit that will define us. Christ said, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit" (Matthew 12:33).

The Church already has its brand in the form of the truth we believe and the distinct message we preach, but we need to take advantage of the principles that will help us more effectively reach larger audiences and develop relationships with those who respond. In today's world we do not have all the needed expertise within the Council or administration to create an effective, viable brand for the Church.

Therefore, as we did with strategic planning, we are searching for branding and marketing advisers who can help us better meet our needs. We know of companies owned or managed by Church members and associates, and they will be considered, along with outside companies that can give us a different viewpoint on how we are seen and perceived by the public.

The Desired Goal of Branding

The designation of a brand is intended to help make who and what we are more clear and obvious and to help our message resonate more effectively with the broad audience we are trying to reach.

An effective brand will not only serve the public but will also help all of us do the work in a more uniform, recognizable way and improve the focus of our message to the world.

It will not change our commitment to yielding to Christ's leadership and guidance in everything. We are keenly aware of the apostle Paul's counsel and example in this: "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

"For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4: 2-6.)

Please ask God to give us discernment and judgment as we move forward with this branding process. We have much to learn, and we want to do all things in submission to Christ and according to His will.

Christ said, "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Any work we do on behalf of Christ can be done only through His power. He provides the words, opens the doors and gives us courage to speak. The apostle Paul, referring to himself as an ambassador for the gospel, asked for prayers that he might open his mouth "boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Ephesians 6:19).

One translation renders his request as "give me the right words" (New Living Translation). We want to work as if it all depends on us and pray as if it all depends on God.

It's not for their own benefit that cows need branding—they know where home is and who feeds them. God contrasts them with people, saying through Isaiah, "The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider" (1:3).

Branding is one means of more effectively helping the uninformed find their way to God's truth. **UN**

Larry Salyer is Media and Communications Services operation manager.

Congratulations! COLLEGE Graduates!

CLASS OF 2009

Jill Elise (Dirickson) Abraham

Family: Husband, Wakeen (Wayne) Abraham; son, Jordan; parents, Les and Janette Dirickson
Congregation: Albuquerque, New Mexico
College Accomplishments: Jill graduated summa



Jill Elise (Dirickson) Abraham

cum laude with a GPA of 4.08. She earned a B.S. in early childhood multicultural education.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jill hosts an annual mystery dinner, swim party and post-Feast party for the Albuquerque, New Mexico, congregation.

Plans After Graduation: Now that she has graduated, Jill plans to teach kindergarten through third grade in New Mexico.

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:8, 13.

Stephanie Nicole Anderson

Parents: Cary and Christine Anderson

Congregation: Wichita, Kansas

College Accomplishments: Stephanie received a



Stephanie Nicole Anderson

bachelor of business administration in finance and a bachelor of arts in biological sciences from Southern Methodist University. She was a Hill-top Scholar, University Scholar and recipient of the W.R. Nicholson Scholarship. In addition, Stephanie studied abroad at Oxford University through the SMU-in-Oxford Program. She was the coordinator of intellectual development on the Panhellenic Executive Board, Alpha Epsilon Delta mentor, Rho Gamma counselor and Chi Omega fraternity member.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Stephanie has attended United Youth Camps over the

years as a camper, co-counselor and activity staff member. She enjoys playing piano, tennis, dance, exercising and traveling.

Plans After Graduation: Stephanie plans to attend graduate school in order to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Favorite Quotes: "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step"—Lao Tzu.

Favorite Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Audrey Ruth Angcos

Parents: Arnel and Aurora Angcos

Congregation: Manila, Philippines



Audrey Ruth Angcos

College Accomplishments: Audrey earned a bachelor's in elementary education and won the awards for model student of the year and leadership. She was also on the Dean's List. She was champion in the Extemporaneous Speaking Competition and also won best speaker in the Third Interdepartmental Debate Competition. She was silver medalist in the Declamation Competition and bronze medalist in the Debate Competition 2009.

Plans After Graduation: Audrey goals include being in God's Kingdom, being a woman after God's own heart and being the best wife and mother that she can be

John W. Bratincevic

Parents: Jack and Janet Bratincevic

Congregation: Chicago, Illinois

College Accomplishments: John graduated summa cum laude from Elmhurst College with a bachelor of science in both Management and Music. He was a part of Delta Mu Delta (business administration honor society), Lambda Sigma Psi (music honors society), Phi Kappa Phi (oldest and largest collegiate honor society), and was the classical and opera music critic for the Elmhurst College *Leader*. He performed a 90-minute program of mostly classical pieces at the senior voice recital on March 15, 2009. He was also on the dean's list.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: John has been involved with the sound crew, ushering and the choir at Sabbath services. He has also served as assistant counselor at Camp Woodmen and as a riflery assistant at Pinecrest. His passion is

music, and lately he has been buying and wearing many old hats.



John W. Bratincevic

Plans After Graduation: Currently John has an internship in the Logistics Department of Navistar International. He is hoping that he will be able to secure a permanent position in either business or music administration.

Amber Michelle Epperson

Parents: Raymond and Annette Epperson

Congregation: Chattanooga, Tennessee



Amber Michelle Epperson

College Accomplishments: Amber earned a B.S. in fashion merchandising and design from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee. Amber was on the dean's list all eight semesters. She was also recognized in Who's Who Among America's Junior Colleges and was a member of the Merchandising Club and Tennessee Tech Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (TTAFCS). She won first place at Scholar's Day with her research project on detergents and denim fading. She was able to graduate debt-free due to her various scholarships.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amber enjoys running, sewing, designing, working out, horseback riding, traveling and shopping.

Plans After Graduation: Amber will be moving to Amman, Jordan, with the United Youth Corps for 11 months and then hopes to find a visual merchandising career or anything that pays more than minimum wage!

Favorite Quote: "Smile and wave, boys, just smile and wave" —*Madagascar* (the movie).

Andrew Giddens

Parents: Ralph and Sherrie Giddens

Congregation: St. Louis, Missouri

College Accomplishments: Andrew graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in accounting and economics.



Andrew Giddens

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Andrew enjoys volunteering at UYC camps, gaming, hanging out with friends and traveling.

Plans After Graduation: Andrew plans to work for a few years, helping his uncle manage a printing and publishing business before going to graduate school for a Ph.D in economics.

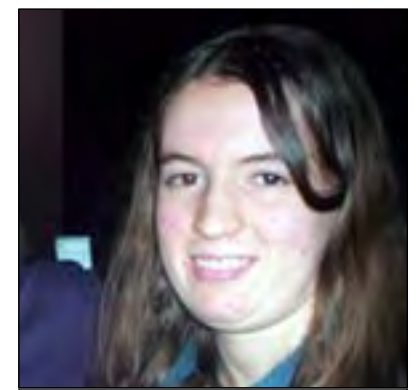
Favorite Scripture: "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians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

Alicia Jean Hargarten

Parents: Jim and Amy Hargarten

Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota

College Accomplishments: Alicia graduated with associate graphic design degrees in creative and Web design from Hennepin Technical College,



Alicia Jean Hargarten

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

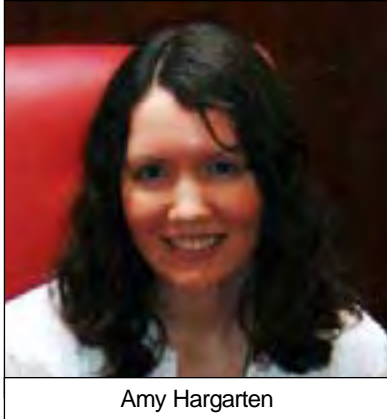
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Alicia loves sports of all kinds, camps, photography and hanging out with friends. She also plays the piano and flute for Sabbath services.

Plans After Graduation: Alicia is going to the

Challenger II Wind River Wilderness Expedition in northwest Wyoming and then plans to find a job in her field.

Amy Suzanne Hargarten

Parents: Jim and Amy Hargarten
Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota
College Accomplishments: Amy earned her associate graphic design degree in Web design from Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Amy also graduated from ABC in 2007.



Amy Hargarten

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amy writes her own piano music, which she often performs for special music. She has recorded her own CD. She loves sewing, especially bridal dresses, and has her own sewing business and Web site.

Plans After Graduation: Amy will be marrying Kyle Davis on Aug. 2, 2009, and will live in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. She will be running her sewing business, teaching piano and doing freelance Web design.

Erik Jones

Parent: Maria Jones
Congregation: Akron, Ohio



Erik Jones

College Accomplishments: Erik graduated cum laude from the University of Akron with an education degree in integrated social studies. He will also graduate with a second degree in history in August. He was also on the dean's list.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Erik acts as president of the Young Men's Christian Leadership Club. He is also an instructor in the Akron preteen Bible school. He has served as assistant counselor at Camp Buckeye and as a reader for the Church literature reading program for sight impaired. He has authored the 50-year history of the Akron congregation and gives sermonettes for the Akron and Youngstown, Ohio, congregations. Erik enjoys collecting used books, studying history, being an entrepreneur of a lawn care service and golf.

Plans After Graduation: Erik plans to attend ABC and afterwards secure a teaching position.

Favorite Scripture: Micah 4:3.

Aimee Lopez

Parents: Jesse and Sherie Lopez
Congregation: Oakland, California



Aimee Lopez

College Accomplishments: Aimee graduated in four years from San Francisco State University and never missed a Holy Day—even the Feast!

Plans After Graduation: Aimee is going to take this next year off and will be applying for graduate school for the next fall semester. She would like to get her master's degree in child life to be able to counsel children who are staying in hospitals.

Favorite Scripture: Her favorite scripture is her Grandma Bette's favorite as well: "Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun" (Psalm 37:4-6, New International Version).

Motto: "People don't pick on you because you are different, people pick on you because you are weak"—Anonymous.

Courtney Kristina Monson

Parent: Carol Monson
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois
College Accomplishments: Courtney graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Georgia. She majored in Spanish with a minor in teaching English to speakers



Courtney Kristina Monson

of other languages (TESOL). She volunteers by teaching English to adults and tutoring "at risk" elementary students in reading, math and social studies.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Courtney has been an assistant counselor at Camp Woodmen two summers and recently got baptized. She loves the Spanish language and is perfecting her accent by listening to as many Spanish movies and sermons as she can. *Don Quixote* is near the top of her reading list, right after a Spanish version of the Bible.

Plans After Graduation: Courtney hopes to teach Spanish to her baby niece and English to lots of other people. In a few years, she plans to get her master's degree in bilingual education. In the meantime, she'll enjoy her new hometown of Chicago and work as a waitress at a restaurant and winery.

Favorite Scripture: "I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:5-6).

Favorite Quote: "A woman's heart should be so close to God that a man should have to chase Him to find her"—C.S. Lewis.

Advice: "I think the next best thing to solving a problem is finding some humor in it"—Frank A. Clark.

Jessica Pierce

Husband: Michael Pierce
Congregation: Houston, Texas, South (Austin, Texas, while attending college)
College Accomplishments: Jessica graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor of science in nutrition. In college she worked part-time on campus in the executive vice president and provost's office while attending school full-time.



Jessica Pierce

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: In her free time Jessica enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, board games, cross-stitching, watching movies and spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Jessica moved with her husband to Chicago and is currently job searching.

Kerianne Springer

Parents: Mark and Marti Springer
Congregation: Asheville, North Carolina
College Accomplishments: Kerianne graduated from Furman University with a bachelor of science in biochemistry. She was a Phi Beta Kappa inductee and worked as a resident assistant for three years. She conducted two years of research involving the use of fluores-



Kerianne Springer

cent markers in DNA.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kerianne enjoys running, cooking and reading.

Plans After Graduation: Kerianne plans to attend medical school at the University of South Carolina in the fall.

Favorite Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.
Favorite Quote: "Be wise enough not to be reckless, but brave enough to take great risks"—Anonymous.

Adrian Marie Thomas

Parents: John and Kathy Thomas
Congregation: Lansing, Michigan
College Accomplishments: Adrian earned a bachelor of science in health fitness from Central Michigan University.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She enjoys many outdoor activities: camping, gardening, canoeing and playing softball.
Plans After Graduation: After graduation, she will be putting her degree to good use, work-

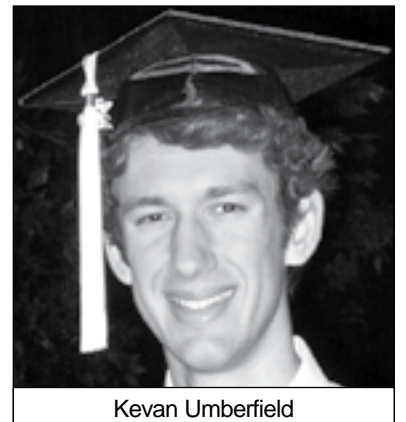


Adrian Marie Thomas

ing in a cardiologist's office.
Favorite Quote: "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land among the stars"—Helen Keller.

Kevan Umberfield

Parents: Clay and Jeanne Umberfield
Congregation: Saginaw, Michigan



Kevan Umberfield

College Accomplishments: Kevan earned a B.S. in mathematics and a B.A. in history, both summa cum laude, from Saginaw Valley State University. He received the residential, alumni endowed, Van Benschotten and foundation scholarships and is a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society. He was named outstanding graduate in mathematics and was part of the Roberts Fellows Leadership Program. A five-year performer in the SVSU Concert and Chamber Choirs, Kevan was also president of the Choral Society. He worked as a writing center mentor and received the Braun Writing Award. He participated in four study-abroad programs and traveled to 21 countries. He was a two-time winner of the SVSU Sims Public Speaking Competition and a state champion in oratory.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kevan has served as songleader, performed special music on the piano and vocally, and attended leadership club. Kevan's goal is to be a true Renaissance man and is interested in everything. He loves to travel, play the piano and sing, likes photography, reading, debating politics and philosophy, and learning new things.

Plans After Graduation: Currently working as a computer programmer and software analyst, Kevan's intent is to pursue his Ph.D. in the next year or two.

Congratulations, High School Graduates!



Pamela Maria Adames

Parent: Annette Chantal Adames
Congregation: Central New Jersey
High School Accomplishments: Pamela was a member of the Hispanic Honor Society, president of the Future Teachers Club, executive board member for Ahr Star Fundraising, executive board member of the French



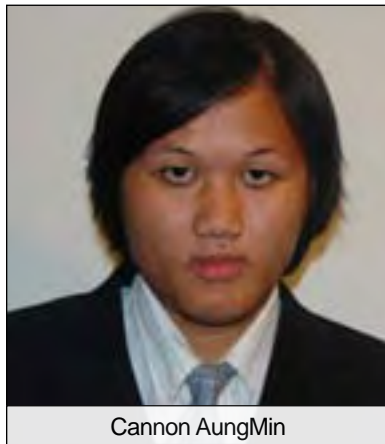
Pamela Marla Adames

Club, Spanish peer tutor and a peer leadership mentor for younger students.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At her local congregation, Pamela assists serving refreshments. Her favorite hobbies include writing short stories and poems, dancing, reading and shoe shopping. She enjoys traveling internationally and would like to live abroad in the future.
Plans After Graduation: In the spring of 2010 Pamela will be attending Winston Salem State University in North Carolina. She plans to major in communications and become an air traffic controller.
Favorite Quote: "Blessed is he who has learned to admire but not envy, to follow but not imitate, to praise but not flatter, and to lead but not manipulate"—William Arthur Ward.
Favorite Scripture: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast" (1 Peter 5:10, New International Version).

Cannon AungMin

Parents: Jack and Elizabeth AungMin
Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Cannon enjoys potluck at church services.
Plans After Graduation: Cannon plans to pursue a career in a mechanical field.

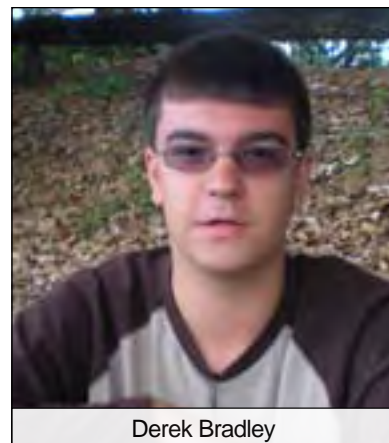


Cannon AungMin

Favorite Scripture: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

Derek Bradley

Parents: Hank and Celia Bradley
Congregation: Seattle, Washington



Derek Bradley

High School Accomplishments: Derek worked at the school, helping staff, parents and students with computer technology needs. He also participated in the Running Start program at Cascadia Community College during his second year.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Derek enjoys playing the guitar, snow-

boarding, longboarding and attending summer and winter church camps!

Plans After Graduation: Derek plans to transfer to the University of Washington and study management information technology.

Favorite Scripture: "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches" (Proverbs 13:7).

Austin James Chance

Parents: James and Suzette Chance
Congregation: Milwaukee and Oshkosh,



Austin James Chance

Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Austin graduated from Hartford Union High School (HUHS). He participated in the concert and symphonic bands and also played on the boys' tennis team.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Austin enjoys music and has taken private drum lessons since the fifth grade. He plays in Church ensemble and performs special music. He also volunteers at pre-teen camp and is a counselor-in-training for local summer camps. In addition to playing high school tennis, he took private tennis lessons and participated in club tennis and tournaments. He enjoys computers and video and computer games.
Plans After Graduation: Austin will be attending Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) in the fall of 2009. He plans to major in software engineering.
Favorite Quote: "War doesn't determine who is right, it only determines who is left"—Bertrand Russell.

Adam Evans

Parents: Daniel and Dawn Evans
Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio



Adam Evans

Plans After Graduation: Adam will begin attending Southern State Community College this fall and plans to pursue a career in physical therapy.

Jonathan Everman

Parents: Robert and Flavia Everman
Congregation: Columbia, Missouri
High School Accomplishments: Jonathan was in band.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jonathan enjoys playing around with computers.
Plans After Graduation: After graduation, Jonathan plans to finish his college classes.
Favorite Quote: "It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives."

Stephanie Haymond

Parents: Cathy Schatz and Jim Haymond
Congregation: West Palm Beach, Florida
High School Accomplishments: Stephanie graduated with a 4.0 and was ranked 10th out of a class of 324 students. She was a member of the National Honor Society and completed pre-AP precalculus, AP calculus, AP language and composition, AP literature and composition classes. She received awards for excelling in physics and animal science courses as well as the principles award, and she was chosen to show an FFA Chapter memorial heifer that won reserve champion.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Stephanie grew up in the Church, and God is first and foremost in her life. She loves working with and training horses. She owns an Arabian mare and pursues equestrian activities as time permits.



Stephanie Haymond

Plans After Graduation: Stephanie plans to attend University of Central Florida to pursue a veterinary science degree.

Favorite Scripture: "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever" (Daniel 2:44).

Ryan David Hendee

Parents: Russell and Diane Hendee

Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Ryan has been homeschooled since the third grade. He will



Ryan David Hendee

receive his high school diploma from the American School of Correspondence where he completed his high school program.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ryan loves all sports, but he especially likes basketball, volleyball and golf. He participated in tae kwon do for several years and received his black belt at age 15. Serving is another area that Ryan enjoys, and he has volunteered many hours through local teen service projects. He has also been serving monthly on the sound crew for several years.

Plans After Graduation: This summer Ryan is looking forward to spending a month in Germany and Austria. After he returns home he plans to continue to build his own business and will also begin his college education toward a radiological technology degree.

Katrina Kennedy

Parents: Richard Kennedy and David and Raida Pierce

Congregation: Oakland, California

High School Accomplishments: Katrina was a member of National Honor Society, CSF and was the vice president and, later, secretary of

the G.A.T.E. Club. She was the features editor of the school newspaper and was a peer helper and conflict mediator. Katrina was also a part of International House of Friends, Fijian-Indian Club and was the secretary of the French Club. She was recognized as one of Who's Who Among American High School Students, invited to the Congressional Student Leadership Conference and graduated with high honors.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Even before high school, Katrina has been an active



Katrina Kennedy

member on the kitchen crew and tape crew at church. She has also attended United Youth Camps every year since she was 9 at Oakhurst and Hye Sierra, California. Katrina enjoys reading, writing, drawing, ice-skating and learning languages.

Plans After Graduation: Katrina plans to move to Texas this summer where she will attend college this fall in pursuit of a degree in developmental psychology.

Favorite Quote: "It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are"—Roy Disney.

Favorite Scripture: "A man's heart deviseth his way; but the LORD directeth his steps" (Proverbs 16:9, King James Version).

Caitlyn Maylath

Parents: Anthony and Debra Dukes

Congregation: Hinsdale, Illinois

High School Accomplishments: Caitlyn was on the honor roll all four years of high school.



Caitlyn Maylath

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Caitlyn was in the choir for eight years and has participated in the Feast orchestra. She has been attending United Youth Camps for five years, some of which were Pinecrest, Winter Camp and Ironwood preteen camp. Some of her hobbies include traveling, singing, running, skiing and volleyball.

Plans After Graduation: Caitlyn plans to attend College of DuPage (community college) for two years, with intentions on moving on to the National University of Health Sciences.

From there she will be finishing her bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences and then wants to pursue chiropractics. She plans on attending ABC a year after she earns her bachelor's degree.

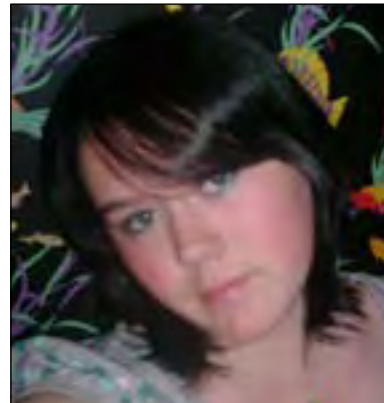
Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:37-39.

Jennifer Osborn

Parent: Jacquelyn Osborn

Congregation: Soldotna, Alaska

High School Accomplishments: Jennifer accomplished three years of high school in one year through homeschooling.



Jennifer Osborn

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jennifer enjoys camping, hanging out at the beach, sewing/designing, culinary arts and reading.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to go to college for small business management.

Favorite Quote: "Keep the world beautiful."

Dina Rodriguez

Parents: Kelly (Dueitt) Roe and William Rodriguez

Congregation: Corpus Christi, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Dina graduated from Calallen High School and was a member of the National Honor Society and the National Tech Society. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her class, magna cum laude. She was named to the honorable mention, all-district basketball team her junior year and first team all-district basketball team her senior year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Dina has attended Camp Woodmen and Camp Carter.

Plans After Graduation: Dina has already begun her college career with plans to receive her degree as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Favorite Quote: "Don't stop believing."

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

Wyllow Dawn Bobbie Buchanan Sloan

Parents: Bonnie Holzapfel and Bob Sloan

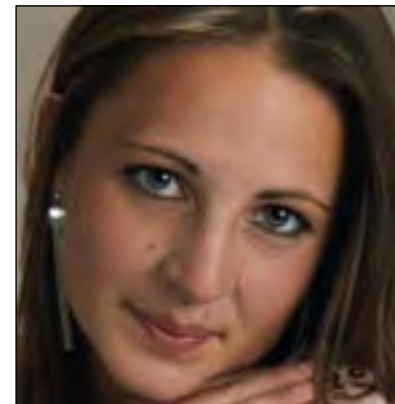
Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Wyllow graduated eighth of 88 students in her class. She also graduated as a distinguished scholar. She was a member of National Beta Club and Spanish Club. She was the team captain on varsity volleyball, which she played throughout high school, as well as varsity softball. She attended Youngstown State University through the postsecondary program, graduating with 22 college credits.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Wyllow attended Camp Buckeye as staff and camper, as well as Camp Heritage. She also attends the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, every year.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend Ashland University on a \$23,000 scholarship majoring in biology/prevet. She hopes

to graduate in three years and then go on to vet school at Ohio State University. In the long term, she wants to open an animal shelter, have a family and run her own horse ranch.



Wyllow Sloan

Favorite Quote: "The difference between extraordinary and just plain ordinary is that little bit extra"—Waiting.

Favorite Scripture: "Finally, brethren, . . . whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8, King James Version).

Motto: If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything!

Advice: Live the life you love and love the life you live: "Don't let your life pass you by. Weep not for the memories"—Sarah McLachlan.

Anastasia Marie Strebeck

Parents: Mark and Janet Strebeck

Congregation: Show Low, Arizona

High School Accomplishments: Stasia graduated with a vocational diploma. She was president of the Drama Club and was involved in several plays (both technical and acting). She also completed two years in the Northland Pioneer College NAVIT program for cosmetology.



Anastasia Marie Strebeck

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: In 2008 Stasia volunteered at Hye Sierra as kitchen staff. She was raised in the Church and is the youngest member of the Show Low congregation. She enjoys welding, reading, cosmetology and living life.

Plans After Graduation: Stasia is currently attending NPC. She is working on finishing cosmetology school as well as becoming a certified welder and completing an associate's degree. She is also employed at a salon part-time.

Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Note: See the July issue for additional high school graduates.



From **the Word**

And Such Were Some of You

■ The words of the apostle Paul should encourage all Christians who struggle with sin, dysfunctional or addictive behavior.

by **Melvin Rhodes**

In the ancient world, the Greek city of Corinth was a center for all the vices known to man. As a port city, it was very cosmopolitan, frequented by sailors from all over the Roman Empire and even beyond. It made money by catering to all their needs and wants.

Corinth was similar to the big cosmopolitan cities of the world today—New York, San Francisco, London, Sydney, Hong Kong and others.

The congregation in Corinth was not unlike today's Church, which is why Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians can be so encouraging.

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 the apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God... *And such were some of you.*"

"And such were some of you." These very words give encouragement to all Christians struggling with personal problems, challenges and sins.

Some years ago, my wife and I visited a Church member at one of the country's most reputable institutes for eating disorders. There we sat through a number of lectures on

the three eating disorders that afflict so many Americans—anorexia, bulimia and the most common one of all, obesity.

The director of the institute told us that addictions are mostly a Western phenomenon. The reason, he said, was that people in the Western world are all stressed out. Our lives are out of control, and many react to this with a diversion that, in time, becomes an addiction—something they may spend the rest of their lives battling.

As Christians, we know the need to change, to overcome addictions, some of which are clearly sins. Others still come between God and us, as we should "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33) and "have no other gods before" Him (Exodus 20:3).

Addictions tend to control people's lives. One young man I know spent 18 hours a day playing video games, while neglecting his wife and children. Inevitably, he lost his job over it, then his wife and children. Even

Rather than carrying around a heavy burden of guilt, we should appreciate God's grace more, that without His unmerited pardon we could never begin to hope for eternal life.

then, he still could not deal with the addiction. I was not surprised to see that a rehabilitation center for video game addicts has now opened in the Netherlands.

Jesus Christ tells us to become perfect (Matthew 5:48), emphasizing the need for Christians to change, to strive toward perfection. We find further incentive to overcome in these words: "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give



power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26).

Some addictions are of a moral nature. They may not be criminal under man's law, but they can certainly keep us out of the Kingdom if we do not overcome them, as the apostle Paul made clear.

The Need to Share

The brother of Jesus Christ, the apostle James wrote: "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16). The Greek word for "trespasses" is *paraptoma*, which means "a falling aside, a fall,

or two people who can help you or encourage you when needed.

Elsewhere, Paul tells us that one of the roles of the Church and of the ministry is "for the equipping of the saints [that's all of us] for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

Ministry is service. In today's world, it is highly unlikely that anybody called into the Church will not come with "baggage," the heavy burden of mistakes and accumulated sins, along with addictions. How can we best help them? We can start by trying to understand, by realizing that it's not easy for people to overcome some of these problems. Patience is needed.

Do Not Condemn

Jesus Christ warned us not to judge, lest we be judged (Matthew 7:1). "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged" (verse 2). Here, the Greek word for judge is *krino*, which means to condemn. We should be very careful not to condemn others for their sins and weaknesses. The following verse asks: "Why do you look at the speck

Of course, some addictions are criminal, mostly those of a sexual nature—including rape, sexual molestation and pedophilia—but also including addictions to illegal drugs. Others, like alcoholism, can certainly lead to problems with the police and the courts.

The apostle Paul also wrote, "let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

a fault or trespass" (*Companion Bible*). The marginal note in the New King James Version translates the first few words of this verse as "Therefore confess your sins."

Clearly, when we are struggling with a sin, an addiction or some other form of dysfunctional behavior, it helps to share it with others. Depending on the problem, it may not be wise to get up and share it in front of the entire congregation, but it should be possible to select one

Why would God allow people to struggle for a lifetime with eating disorders, alcoholism, sexual addictions and other problems? The answer lies elsewhere in the Scriptures.

In 2 Corinthians 1:4 Paul informs us that God "comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted." The experiences we gain through our own personal struggles help us to help others. Not just now, but also in the future.

Revelation 5:10 tells us that we will be kings and priests when Christ returns. We will rule with Him. At the end of the Millennium, all those who have ever lived but did not know God's truth will be resurrected. It will be our job to rule over them, to teach them and to guide them. Hundreds of millions of people—billions even—will be resurrected and will have all the "baggage" imaginable, all the problems known to man in the time of the apostle Paul and today. They will need a lot of help.

Those who suffered from eating disorders can best be helped by those who have similarly suffered; those in the Church today who are recovering alcoholics will be best able to assist those

Why God Allows Us to Suffer

alcoholics in the second resurrection; those who have struggled with same-sex attraction can help reeducate members of the gay community; and so on. "In My Father's house are many mansions" (John 14:2). There will be plenty of work for us all to do at the end of the 1,000 years.

In Matthew 10:38 Jesus said: "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Whatever the sin or addiction we are battling, the fact remains that God called us into His Church. That means we must strive to overcome, at the same time realizing that, as with the apostle Paul, the problem may never fully go away. It may be a lifetime struggle, the "cross" we have to bear to follow Him.

However, keep in mind the same apostle Paul who struggled himself with sin and had his own personal "thorn in the flesh" to contend with, wrote the following assurance: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond

what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Tackling the addiction head-on can often be frustrating and discouraging, as it tends not to work. But that does not mean we should do nothing. Keeping in mind that a primary cause of addictions is our stressful society, we should make sure that our priorities are right. Our complex lives make addictions worse. If we reorder our lives to reflect godly priorities, then our problems will diminish.

A good start is to remember to put God first in our lives through daily prayer and Bible study, weekly Church attendance and regular fasting. In John 15:5 Jesus Christ said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

"Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 7:24-25).

Remember, it is possible to learn to cope no matter how difficult your addiction may be. **UN**

in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?" As has often been said, when we point the finger, there's four others pointing back at us!

When the woman caught in the act of adultery was brought before Christ, her accusers wanted her stoned to death, which was the prescribed punishment. Jesus gave her accusers something to think about when He said: "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (John 8:7). We should all think about this before judging others.

Jesus Christ mixed "with tax collectors and sinners" (Matthew 9:11), yet many of His followers today would find it very difficult to do like-

wise. Perhaps we need to remember, "those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (verse 12).

God has called, is calling and will call those with all manner of problems. We need to be prepared for this and react accordingly, as Jesus Christ would have reacted. People need help, and we should be prepared to help them.

The apostle Paul wrote about his own struggle with sin in Romans 7:14-25. "For what I am doing, I do not understand," he wrote in verse 15. These words perceptively sum up all sins and addictions. People often do not know why they do what they do. Thankfully, the apostle Paul

gives us hope in verses 24 and 25. Through Jesus Christ, we can overcome.

Paul wrote further about his own struggles in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Paul here mentions his "thorn in the flesh" (verse 7). "Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (verses 8-9).

After pleading with the Lord three times to have this trial removed from him, he came to understand that

God's grace was sufficient for him. He arrived at a point of acceptance, realizing that his problem would likely never leave him, but that he must learn to cope with it.

Those who struggle today should take encouragement from this.

Peter tells us to "grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord" (2 Peter 3:18). Rather than carrying around a heavy burden of guilt, we should appreciate God's grace more, that without His unmerited pardon we could never begin to hope for eternal life.

We should also seek deeper knowledge as to the causes of our own personal addiction, as well as greater understanding of the problems of others.

In an effort to help Church members gain understanding, the United Church of God has a Web journal called *Breaking Free* (breaking-free.ucg.org). The Web site provides members with an opportunity to share accounts of their own personal struggles in the hope that this will help others. They may also write of how addictions within their own family environment, with a spouse or an adult child, have affected them.

Articles should be kept to a maximum of 1,500 words and sent to melvin_rhodes@ucg.org. If preferred, upon request, the article can be posted as "Anonymous." **UN**

Melvin Rhodes is managing editor of Breaking Free.

Living a Life That Makes a Difference

■ Are we trying to live a life that will make a difference in the lives of others? Living this kind of life is not about preaching to others or trying to control them. It is about living a godly life as an example to others.

by Steve Nutzman

Queen Victoria of England asked Helen Keller a fascinating question many years ago when they met. The queen asked how she could have accomplished so much in her life even though she was both blind and deaf. Ms. Keller's reply may surprise you.

She replied, "If it had not been for Anne Sullivan, the name of Helen Keller would have remained unknown."

But Anne Sullivan, too, had her share of physical challenges. A childhood fever left her almost sightless. She spent years in a mental institution outside of Boston. She had behavioral problems, displayed by violent outbursts toward anyone who came near her. Her caregivers even concluded she was insane.

Just as Helen Keller had Anne Sullivan make a difference in her life, Anne Sullivan had someone who believed in her. In her case it was an elderly nurse who took a liking to this unfortunate girl with emotional

nurturing words of love and encouragement.

Anne responded and began to heal emotionally. Her bursts of anger became fewer and less violent. Then the day arrived when this violent and troubled girl was given wings of freedom to the outside world. The kind elderly nurse had transformed a life!

Anne Sullivan blossomed into a young woman with the burning desire to serve others. And it was a transformed Anne Sullivan who turned on the light for her student, Helen Keller, in her dark and dismal world.

Just as Anne Sullivan was shown love and compassion by the elderly nurse, she in turn passed on her love and compassion to Helen.

Becoming a Walking Sermon

These true stories are not only inspiring, they challenge us to live a life that makes a difference.

If you think about it, many individuals have made significant contributions in your life. Who are they?

Obviously, our parents often make the biggest difference in our lives. But others do too. Perhaps it is a mate, a sibling, a relative, a teacher or a member in God's Church. We owe all these people a big debt of gratitude.

But by far, God has made the biggest difference in our lives. It can be stated that God is in the "life-that-makes-a-difference" business. The Father and Jesus Christ desire every human being to be changed and to live forever in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ lived a life that has made the most profound difference any life could make! He died for all of humanity in order for their indi-

vidual sins to be forgiven. What if He had not shown immense love, and patience and forgiveness toward us? Our lives would not be changed. We would have no way out of our lives of sin and spiritual darkness.

And what about us? Are we trying to live a life that will make a difference in the lives of others? This is certainly a godly goal.

Living this kind of life is not about preaching to others or trying to control them. It is about living a godly life as an example to others.

Jesus Christ was a walking sermon to all in His presence. That is our challenge now—following in His footsteps.

Peter wrote about Christ's example in 1 Peter 2:21-23, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously."

Jesus Christ taught that we need to live a life of good fruit, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (John 15:8). We should not underestimate the impact positive acts make in the lives of others. We may never know in this age to what degree our example has inspired and encouraged others.

Mothers and fathers are setting an

example for their children to follow. Children mimic what they see in their lives. Parents are passing on a legacy of God's way of life in action to their children. What a privilege God has given to you.

Mary of Bethany performed a good work upon Christ, who was about to be crucified, when she poured expensive, fragrant oil on His feet (Matthew 26:6-13).

Her example made a difference to Christ during the last few days of His life. She honored Him since such an anointing pictured a royal anointing appropriate for the Messiah. It also anticipated His soon coming burial. Jesus Christ said that Mary's act of selfless service would be memorialized for others to learn from.

But we all are passing on a legacy of God's way of life, in some way, to others. It may be to family members, to coworkers, to neighbors or to even strangers. What an impact our lives can make in this regard.



Left, Anne teaches Helen, age 7, the word "doll" by spelling the word on her hand. Top, Helen, age 18, and Anne in 1898. Their friendship lasted 49 years



Wikimedia Commons

Good Works

Living a life that makes a difference is about living God's way of life—daily. It is asking God for help each day in being a godly example in all we do or say.

We are all shining lights in a very dark world, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). God sets us apart at baptism and with the giving of His Holy Spirit, our lives are changed, and He is in us. Thankfully our lives will never be the same. We are to live to God's glory each day of our lives.

As we follow God, our lives do make an impact on those around us. Others see our conduct, hear our words, make mental notes of our character and values, thereby coming away with impressions of who and what we are.

We desire to reflect the God who made us and called us to live a life that makes a difference—a godly difference. **UN**

Steve Nutzman is the pastor of the Boise and Twin Falls, Idaho, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Baker City, Oregon, congregations.

Jesus Christ was a walking sermon to all in His presence. That is our challenge now—following in His footsteps.

problems. She showered her with kind words, patience and an attitude of love.

It made all the difference in Anne's life. She gradually responded to the kind nurse's gifts of food and her

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example for their children to follow. Children mimic what they see in their lives. Parents are passing on a legacy of God's way of life in action to their children. What a privilege God has given to you.

Treasure Digest

Four Enemies of Faith

The apostle Paul made it abundantly clear that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6-7). Yet we all lack faith from time to time. The Bible outlines at least four major enemies of faith that we need to avoid.

Anxious thought or worry is one. Often worries are over physical things like what we will eat, drink and wear (Matthew 6:25). Avoid getting bogged down with problems by focusing on our ultimate goal—the Kingdom of God (verses 33-34).

Some studies indicate that only about 8 percent of our worries will ever affect our lives. That means a full 92 percent of our worries are a waste of time. They can sap our energy and destroy our faith. A friend of mine turns her problems over to God by imagining she is serving a volleyball up to God and leaving it there for Him to handle.

Fear is a second enemy of faith. Christ directly connected fear to losing faith. When a storm struck the boat carrying Him and His disciples, He rebuked them for being overly concerned for their safety: “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:24-26, emphasis added throughout).

The apostle John explained, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18). Love and fear are mutually exclusive. If we have perfect love we will not fear. But if we have fear we do not have perfect love.

Doubt is another enemy of faith. When Peter was walking on water to meet Christ he began to sink. Christ pointed to the cause of the problem: “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31-32).

Human reasoning is one of the biggest enemies of faith. James maps out how this process works: “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed” (James 1:6, King James Version).

The Greek word translated “wavering” is *diakrino*. It means “thorough judgment.” It is like going back and forth in our minds trying to judge within ourselves. We are told not to lean to our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

Using too much human reasoning can limit our trust in God. *Barnes' Notes* explains: “In regard to the matter under consideration, there is to be no hesitancy, no doubting, *no vacillation of the mind*. We are to come to God with the utmost confidence and assurance.”

Rod Hall
Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene,
Idaho, congregation



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Turning the Hearts . . . Teaching Leadership by Your Example

Leadership training is an important lesson to learn from the family. The admonition to “train up a child” (Proverbs 22:6) infers that we should give them the proper instruction that prepares them to be successful in life.

There are many opportunities to teach children to be leaders. The most important way is for parents to model leadership skills to their children. Our examples of seeking input, making effective decisions and carrying out those decisions will speak volumes to them.

When they see loving authority exercised in a just and fair manner, our children will take notice. Good leaders are alert to the needs of those they serve. Our example of integrity, zeal, compassion and proper communication are so necessary in showing our children how to lead. Giving godly direction to the family is essential for children to observe. Leading in prayer and Bible study will let them see the source of our leadership skills.

In addition to setting a right example of leadership, we may also teach them to lead by giving them opportunities to handle responsibilities that affect the entire family. Take, for example, raking leaves. Usually an older child would be given the responsibility to do this kind of job. If a younger sibling is around to help, the older brother or sister has the chance to exert proper leadership in setting the example in how the job is done and how to perform it diligently.

Another leadership opportunity for children is taking care of the family pets or livestock. When a child is shown how to feed, clean and care for an animal, he or she is then able to develop care and concern as a leader. Fulfilling that task sets the example for other siblings to follow.

As we parents set the proper example of leading with loving authority, we will be training our children to lead and will give them a head start in life. Take every opportunity to train your children to lead by learning to be good followers and fulfilling the tasks they've been given. Allow them the flexibility to do the job so that they may exercise their leadership skills. Children are the future of our Church and communities. Teach them the leadership skills necessary to survive and prosper in life.

This is the last part in this series on lessons learned from the family. I hope it has been helpful to you and your family.

Gary E. Antion



A Blessing in Disguise

Have you ever prayed for help in a trial or difficulty but felt like the situation remained unchanged and your circumstance unimproved?

Perhaps at times it even seems that we pray more only to see our trials increase. Although we are often quick to assume that our prayers aren't being answered, we may be surprised that in some cases God may be answering us not by removing our trials, but by allowing them to continue! Look at it this way—God may be blessing you by giving you an opportunity to grow.

An illustration of this principle can be seen in the patriarch Abraham's life. On God's orders, Abraham packed up and left Haran without ever having been to the land God was directing Him to. This shows a great deal of faith, but notice that this is just the beginning—God had more in mind for Abraham.

Next, God tested Abraham's faith concerning His ability to protect him and his wife—twice. Both times Abraham allowed his fear to get the best of him and failed. Meanwhile, Abraham had decades to develop faith by waiting for the son God promised him. Here again, Abraham fell short. Only after many years did Abraham finally get it right with the near-sacrifice of Isaac.

Now, instead of just reading the account of Abraham's life, try putting yourself in Abraham's position. This was a lot of trouble to go

through! However, it is because of these trials that Abraham developed the kind of faith that earned him the title “father of the faithful” (Romans 4:11), the kind of faith we read about in Hebrews 11.

Of course this principle doesn't just apply to faith, but to many aspects of life. If you pray for patience, don't be surprised if God gives you the opportunity to wait. Or if you pray for courage, you may find yourself in more situations that require bravery.

While you're in Hebrews 11, go one chapter further to Hebrews 12:11, where we read that “no chastening seems to be joyful,” but that it “yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness.” The next time you feel overwhelmed, remember Abraham's example, and remember that, just like Abraham, we have been called to bear fruit for God!

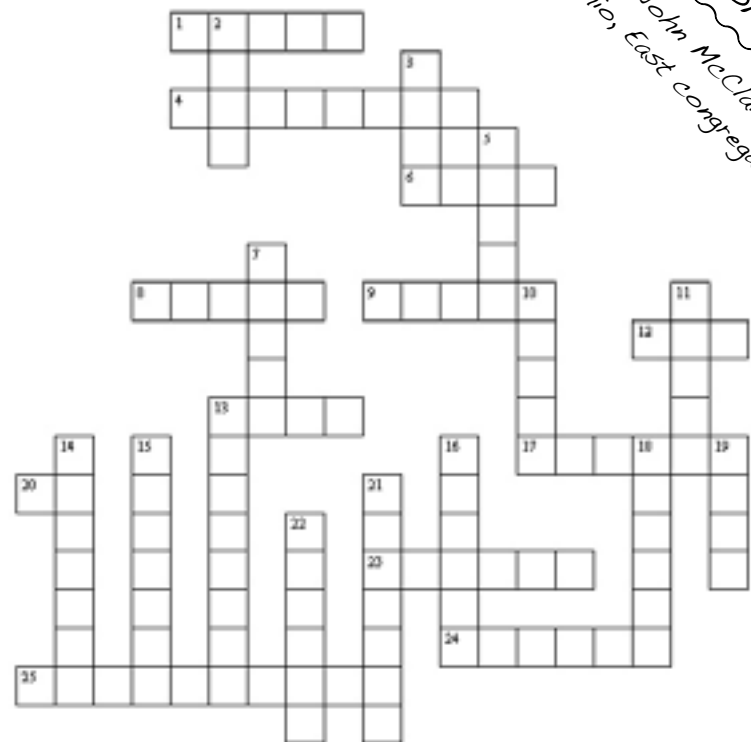
Darren Henke
Bellevue, Washington, congregation

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to *United News* at the home office. Guidelines are available on request (UN@ucg.org).

David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

Children's
Corner
Puzzle by John McClain, Cincinnati,
Ohio, East congregation



ACROSS

1. David's weapon (v. 40)
4. Where the stone struck Goliath (v. 49)
6. To whom David gave credit (v. 37)
8. David was a _____ (v. 42)
9. David used Goliath's own _____ (v. 51)
12. How many thousands did David slay? (18:7)
13. David killed a _____ and a lion (v. 34)
17. Goliath _____ the God of the armies of Israel (v. 45)
20. Did David fight with armor on? (v. 38-39)
23. David called God the _____ God (v. 26)
24. Anointed David as king (16:13)
25. Goliath was a _____ (v. 10)

DOWN

2. David killed a bear and a _____ (v. 34)
3. _____ led the armies of Israel (v. 2)
5. What Saul wanted David to wear (v. 38)
7. David slung a _____ (v. 49)
10. The young hero's name (v. 50)
11. David's father (v. 17)
13. David went to see his _____ (v. 17-18)
14. The Philistine champion (v. 4)
15. “If I _____ against him...” (v. 9)
16. David brought 10 _____ to his brothers (v. 17)
18. The army of _____ fought the Philistines (v. 2)
19. Goliath presented himself for 40 _____ (v. 16)
21. David knew God would _____ him (v. 37)
22. How the soldiers of Israel felt (v. 24)

Answer to last month's puzzle: beam, jawbone, bow, fiery, sling: The greatest weapon of a Christian is the BIBLE.



Local Church Updates

19 Graduate Sabbath School in Cincinnati

Sabbath school students of the Cincinnati, Ohio, East congregation celebrated their



Sabbath school coordinator John McClain presents the 2009 graduates (photo by Laura Phelps)

graduation on the Sabbath of June 6. This year 19 children graduated after completing the program taught by 19 instructors and helpers. Two teachers instructed four classes, and a total of 11 helpers took turns helping each of those classes.

The ceremony was held during the sermonette time slot and started off with a few songs by the younger children. After the songs, all the children walked across the stage, received a certificate and shook hands with John McClain, coordinator of the Cincinnati East Sabbath school program. Later a cookout and potluck was held to honor the new graduates.

Two students received a special gift. Brooklyn Booth and Jacquelin Slaughter each received a Bible memorizing and reciting in order the names of the books of the Bible.

Mr. McClain said that parents seemed pleased with the program this year. He said that he plans to continue using the class material from the UCG online Sabbath school lessons and wants to challenge more children to participate in the memory work.

In previous years there were only two classes for ages 4 to 11. But with so many volunteers it was possible to have four classes this year.

"The program is only possible because of our wonderful volunteers and the cooperation of the parents," said John McClain.

Linda Merrick

Mother Earns Respiratory Therapy Degree to Aid Son

Family and friends of Gian and Natalie Guerra gathered for a barbecue to celebrate Natalie's graduation from Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. Natalie said, "It really meant a lot to know so many people were joining me in my celebration. It would have not been possible without the support of all my family and friends." For Mr. and Mrs. Mark Monsivais, Natalie's parents, it was an especially happy time. Mrs. Monsivais said, "It's like we've graduated."

In December 2007, Natalie gave birth to her second son, James, who was born with a rare respiratory malfunction, congenital central hypoventilation syndrome (CCHS).

At the time of James' birth, Natalie had completed two years of nurse's training in Abilene. James' condition caused her to switch from a general nursing degree to a degree in respiratory therapy. Her primary goal: to be knowledgeable and able to take care of James.

CCHS is a disorder of the central nervous system. A child born with this rare condition doesn't breathe automatically. The autonomic system fails to respond to blood oxygen and carbon dioxide levels, and the child must receive ventilator assistance. In the first two years of his life, James experienced several life-threatening impaired breathing episodes and had to be hospitalized. Natalie, her husband, her parents, sisters and in-home nurses pulled together to handle each crisis while Natalie continued to go to school and do residence work in the hospital.



Natalie Guerra with her son James

James has made major improvements in the last two years. He breathes unassisted during the daytime, and needs a ventilator only when he sleeps. He is an active little boy who loves chasing his older brother Marcus. Since her graduation, Natalie can spend more time at home with the family and select the days she will work at Driscoll Children's Hospital.

Jack Hendren

Houston Seminar Teaches How to Make Marriage "Fireproof"

On March 7, 2009, the Houston, Texas, North congregation, heard a seminar focused on building up and strengthening the marital relationship. John Perry and Jim Servidio gave messages on key elements of successful and happy marriages, such as trust and unconditional love.

After a very encouraging Sabbath service, a meal was served before the actual mar-



Over 60 ladies took part in the Northwest Ladies' Retreat (photo by Nancy Corbett)

riage seminar portion of the program. The movie *Fireproof*, starring Kirk Cameron, was shown.

In the movie Cameron's character, a captain for the fire department, is on the brink of divorce with his wife of seven years. His father challenges him to follow a 40-day journal describing 40 self-sacrificing actions to do for his wife to try to heal his marriage. As he completes each action, he starts to truly understand God's part in his life and his marriage and works at changing the destructive behaviors that were ruining his marriage. To end the evening, Mr. Servidio fielded questions about the movie and the message it portrayed.

God first sanctified marriage in Genesis 2:21-24. He took a rib from Adam and made Eve. In verse 24 we read, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one." There are three in a marriage, the man, the woman and, most importantly, God. Without God in the marriage, there is no strength and no real marriage.

To have the opportunity for this marriage seminar was a true blessing many appreciated in the congregation. Hopefully, it will encourage others to practice unconditional love in their own marriages and strengthen their own relationships.

Jada Howell

Mansfield Brethren Enjoy Sabbath in the Woods

May 23, 2009, was a beautiful, warm, sunny day to enjoy the Pugh Cabin in Malabar Farm State Park in Lucas, Ohio. We had Sabbath services in Bible study format and a potluck meal afterwards with plenty of time for fellowship and enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Our special times in spring and fall are always a treat at this location.

Regina Wilson

Ladies Learn "How to Keep From Losing It"

"How to Keep from Losing It" was the theme of the Northwest Ladies' Weekend that took place May 15 to 17. The retreat was held again at Camp Gifford, at beautiful Deer Lake, Washington. Over 60 ladies participated in the retreat.

On the Sabbath, Perry Miller gave the sermon titled "Keeping the Big Picture in Mind." It was the moving story of Randy Pausch, a college professor, who had terminal cancer. His speech "The Last Lecture: Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams" has encouraged young people to have joy in life in spite of trials and strive to remain positive and balanced.

During the afternoon meeting, LeeAnn Luker spoke about "Lessons from Lucy," using examples taken from the Lucille Ball television show to point out how we must learn to react



Brethren enjoy fellowship and relaxing at Pugh Cabin in Malabar Farm State Park (photos by Dick Hindenlang)



properly in situations that may cause anger and frustration. Bev Pronishan followed with her speech "If You Do These Things," motivating us to learn to seek God first and have our priorities in order.

We then had breakout sessions discussing in depth the attributes listed in 2 Peter 1:5-10.

After a scrumptious dinner, the ladies got busy with service projects, putting together toiletry bags and making fleece blankets, both of which were given to needy children coming to Camp Gifford summer camps. These projects are always uplifting to the ladies.

On Sunday morning Val Deininger and Patty Sexton related emotional experiences from motherhood, showing the importance for young mothers to find time to maintain close contact with God.

We had another wonderful and inspiring time sharing and learning from each other!

Next year's ladies' retreat is planned for April 23 to 25. If you would like to be notified when registration starts for next year, please e-mail Michelle Mickelson at mommickelson@msn.com.

Nancy Czech

Fort Wayne Honors Its Senior Citizens

Sabbath services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, began in an unusual way on June 27, 2009—with food! Usually the congregation starts services at 10:30 a.m. and has a potluck afterward, but at this second annual Senior Citizens'



Myka Hermann serves seniors Bob and Barb Hancock, Phyllis Minton, Helene Dunlap and Helen Welty (photo by Scott Moss)

Appreciation Brunch the order was reversed.

Four chefs, including Steve Wendling, Karl Hermann, Joel Borton and John May, demonstrated their culinary prowess with scrambled eggs, potatoes and turkey sausage. The children served beverages, fruit cups and sweet rolls to the delight of the seniors.

All seniors (60 and older) were asked to provide photos of their high school and early life. Scott Moss put together a slide show that was shown as the brunch progressed. Everyone laughed as they guessed the identity of the people in the photos.

Brenda Wendling added joy and laughter as she sang senior-oriented alternate lyrics (two verses of which she composed herself) to the tune of "My Favorite Things," a rendition that Julie Andrews performed on her 69th birthday. The words were comical and reminiscent of seniors' aging experiences.

Flower bouquets and reusable cloth shopping bags were handed out as gifts to the 26 seniors in attendance as tokens of appreciation for the vital role seniors play in the congregation. At noon everyone settled down to Sab-

bath services with a full stomach and a joyful spirit.

Find additional photos on the Web at www.ucgfortwayne.org/Pages/Announcements.html.

Phyllis Minton

Bill Gates Sr. Interviewed by LifeNets Representative



Christina Davis

Bill Gates Sr. spoke at Seattle University Albers School of Business Tuesday, May 19, to promote his new book, *Showing Up for Life: Thoughts on the Gifts of a Lifetime*. LifeNets intern and Seattle University junior, Christina Davis served as the undergraduate representative to interview Mr. Gates at the event. Mr. Gates is cochairman of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the largest transparently operated private foundation in the world.

Christina worked with LifeNets in Malawi, Africa, this past year, researching scholarship recipients and teaching business fundamentals to microloan recipients (read about her experi-

ences in her article "Young Adult Completes Research Internship in Malawi" in the June 2009 issue of *United News*).

In her interview, Christina asked Mr. Gates to reflect on his hope in young people engaged in service. When Christina asked him to describe young leaders that give him hope, he responded right back at her, "It's like what you did, Christina!" He responded that more youth need to get involved in service efforts similar to Christina's work with LifeNets in Malawi.

Like LifeNets, the Gates Foundation invests heavily in education programs (scholarships and school infrastructure funding), and Mr. Gates stated that improving youth education achievement would improve many of the world's biggest problems.

Beyond his efforts at the foundation, Mr. Gates reflected on his most important roles as a father, husband, lawyer, community leader and someone who "shows up." Christina was honored to interview Mr. Gates and to represent LifeNets and Seattle University at the event.

Victor Kubik

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*.

Announcements

Births

Scarlet and James Ellis of the East Texas congregation happily announce the arrival of their first baby, Lauren Michele. She weighed in at 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. Grandparents of Lauren include Violet and Rod Gehrke of the East Texas congregation, Michele and Stoney Stone of Gladewater and Doug Ellis of Tyler,



Lauren Michele Ellis

Texas. The family never expected her to be so perfect. The blessing of a child is a miracle from God, and the parents are extremely grateful for all the answered prayers. The family is so excited to watch her grow and all the memories they will share.

Adam and Keri Sanders of the Columbus, Ohio, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their fourth child, Caleb Daniel Sanders. Caleb was born Nov. 3, 2008, weighing 8 pounds and mea-

suring 21 inches long. Adam and Keri hoped to have four children and are enjoying the bonus of having a son. His three older sisters, Abigail, Chloe and Sarah, shower him with love and provide plenty of entertainment! Caleb is the sixth grandchild of Gary and Jane McConnaughey



Caleb Daniel Sanders

of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the eighth grandchild of Wayne and Elsie Sanders of New Orleans, Louisiana. He is also the eighth great-grandchild of Nathan Sanders.

Engagements

Don and Camille Ballo of Fort Myers, Florida, and Monte and Susan Knudson of Phoenix East, Arizona, are delighted to announce the June 4, 2009, engagement of their children, Courtney Ballo and Rheo Knudson. Rheo and Courtney met six years ago at the United Youth Camp Hye Sierra in Cali-

fornia where they became good friends and eventually started dating. Courtney is currently finishing up nursing school at Arizona State University while Rheo pursues a



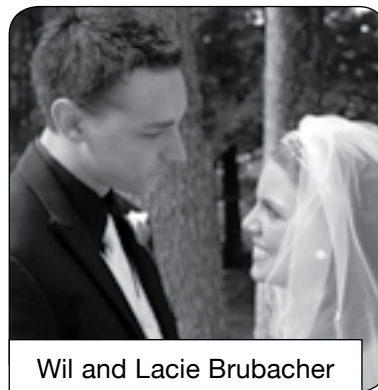
Rheo Knudson and Courtney Ballo

business degree while working full-time. Both currently attend the Phoenix East congregation and plan to be married on Jan. 11, 2010.

Weddings

Brent and Kris Feiock of the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation, are very pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Lacie Lacle Feiock, to William Blane Brubacher. Lacie and Wil were married June 7, 2009, in a beautiful setting in Bethesda, Ohio. Katelyn Coleman, cousin of the bride, was maid of honor, and Kevin Bailey, a friend of the groom, was best man. The ceremony was witnessed by many friends and fam-

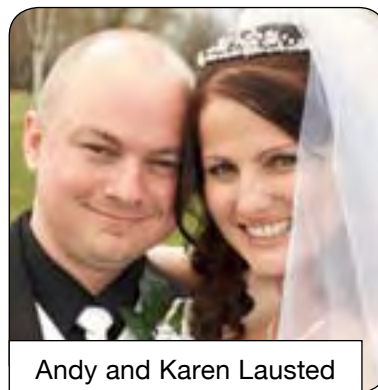
ily, and was performed by very close friend Gary Antion. The guests enjoyed a very unique kabob lunch,



Wil and Lacie Brubacher

a dance and a lot of cheerful fellowship. The couple resides in Belmont, Ohio, and attends in Cambridge.

Many gathered from near and far to join Karen Vaughan and Andrew Lausted in the celebration of their



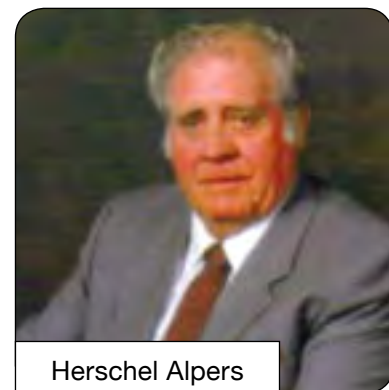
Andy and Karen Lausted

wedding. The event took place in River Falls, Wisconsin, on April 19, 2009, where Karen's parents,

John and Carol Vaughan from Gold Coast, Australia, and Andy's parents, Dennis and Kathy Lausted from Menomonie, Wisconsin, were pleased to witness the marriage of their children. Karen was attended by her two friends, Leah Shallcross and Renee Dean, who traveled from Australia to be there. Andy's brother, Dan, and brother-in-law, Andy Wagner, attended him. It was a beautiful day with many smiles and tears but mostly joy as the two started their life together. The couple resides in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota.

Obituaries

Martin Herschel Alpers died May 8, 2009, after a long battle with



Herschel Alpers

emphysema. He was 80 years old and was born in Boonville, Missouri, on Nov. 2, 1928. Mr. Alpers was not able to take the first Passover, but lived long enough to take the second Passover. He made the statement after-

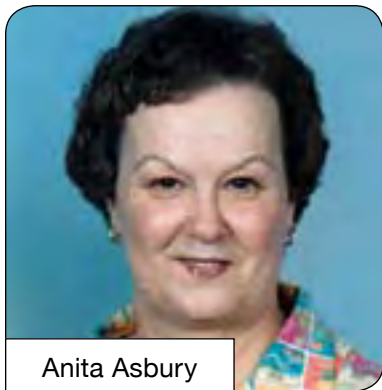
wards, "Now I feel better." He died the next morning.

Herschel married Jean Brewer of Petaluma, California, on June 20, 1971. He and Jean would have celebrated their 38th anniversary in June. Although Herschel tried his hand at many jobs, he was a farmer at heart. They farmed a 2,400-acre hay ranch until retirement in 1990. Then they moved to Oregon. He was baptized April 13, 1986, and served in any way he could. He was a songleader in the Roseburg, Oregon, congregation since 1995. They moved to Eugene where he continued to lead songs until his breathing became too labored.

Herschel was preceded in death by his younger brother, Herbert Alpers of Texas. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his older sister, Nita Wissink of Oxnard, California; his daughters Debi Doak of Houston, Texas, and Shannon of Eugene, Oregon; his son Jeremy of Cameron Park, California; and three stepdaughters. He had nine grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was a good and faithful servant to the end. Memorial services were held May 23, 2009, by the pastor of the Eugene congregation, John W. Cafourek.

Anita Joyce Asbury, 68, formerly of Marion, Illinois, died June 28, 2009,



Anita Asbury

in San Antonio, Texas, due to a sudden heart attack. Anita is survived by one son, Patrick Coffman of Marion, Illinois; two granddaughters, Stacey and Jeri Coffman of Sesser, Illinois; one sister, Bonnie (Gregory) Strass of Loves Park, Illinois; and one brother, Robert Metcalfe of Hesperia, California. Anita was preceded in death by her husband, Albert (Phil) Asbury, and her mother, Helen Watts of Loves Park, Illinois.

Anita was baptized into God's Church in the mid-1960s and has been a faithful member, attending several different congregations throughout the Midwest. Anita was well known in the southern Illinois area. She had worked for Holiday Inn and Red Lobster for many years. Anita will be greatly missed by family and many, many friends.

Graveside funeral services were held July 2. Neal Kinsey of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation conducted the service.

Brian Mark Chivers died on May 11, 2009, of a heart attack. Mark was born on June 10, 1961, in Carrickfergus, United Kingdom, and spent part of his life in Canada.

He graduated from Ambassador College in 1985 and was a member of the United Church of God in Pen-



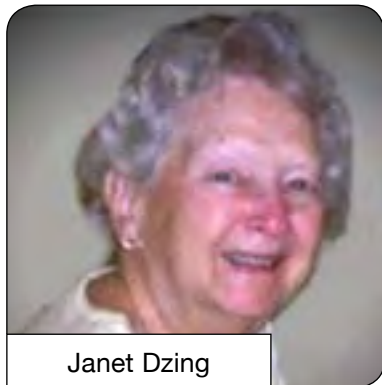
Mark Chivers

sacola, Florida. Mark was employed at Lockheed Martin.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, and four children, Brian, Shan, Cailin and Emily. He is also survived by his mother, Frances Patricia Dane Chivers; one brother, Paul Chivers; and two sisters, Karen Lawrence Bradford and Fiona Payne Edmonton.

A memorial service was held on May 15, 2009, in Milton, Florida.

Janet Marlene Dzing of Tucson, Arizona, died with her husband and friends at her side on May 5, 2009. Janet and her husband, Paul, met in Chicago, Illinois, in 1964 and were married Sept. 20, 1965. She was baptized into God's family in the early



Janet Dzing

'70s and remained a faithful lady of God throughout her life. Janet was loved by everyone who came in contact with her. She is survived by her husband Paul, her sister, one brother, an aunt, nieces and nephews, and her Church family.

Shane Lee Franke, oldest son of Charles and Arlene Franke, died at his home in Soldotna, Alaska, June 17, 2009, after a yearlong struggle with Wegener's disease. Shane was 49 years old.

Shane was born in Waterloo, Iowa. He moved to Alaska in 1980 and lived in Kenai for 29 years. He owned and operated the Ballard Company. He enjoyed hunting, snow machining, camping and the outdoors.

"Shane was a loving husband, father and son, who worked hard to provide his family's every need. He lived and walked in the Way everyday making a heartfelt attempt to practice pure and undefiled religion. He gave generously and freely always with a smile. He appreciated the simple pleasures of life, always seeing

beauty in the smallest of things in God's creation. He truly was a happy man," his family said.

He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Kim; three sons, Kristofer (wife, Michelle), Kaleb and Josef; one daughter, Shayna; and an adopted daughter, Elizabeth (Daniel) Wolverton. Shane is also survived by his parents; two brothers, Timothy (wife, Michele) and Terry; and two sisters, Jodi (Roger) Widmer and Shari; five grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He had been a deacon in the Church of God for the past 10 years.



Shane Franke

Memorial services were held in Kasilof, Alaska, on Friday, June 19. Rex Sexton conducted the services, which were followed by a time of remembrances from Shane's family and friends.

Virginia Gainey of the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation died on June 5, 2009, at the age of 75. She had been declining in health since an accident in 1999 that left her unable to work and take care of herself. Her husband, Heyward, and older sister, Dot, provided care for her at home.

Virginia was born May 19, 1934, in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. She was employed at Cannon Mills in the weaving room. She also worked as a sewing machine operator and at a hospital. She was a devoted wife, mother and friend.



Virginia Gainey

She was a faithful member of the Church since her baptism in 1981. She was unable to attend services the last several years, and she greatly appreciated visits, cards and Feast baskets sent by her brethren. Several of the brethren treasure her crocheted doilies and vests—a talent and labor of love she bestowed, much like Dorcas in Acts 9:36-39. She always sent Church visitors away with the message, "Tell my brethren I love them."

Virginia is survived by her husband, Heyward; three sons and a daughter; five stepchildren; 10 grandchildren;

15 great-grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and a sister. Now she will rest until the resurrection. She was a very loving and caring person. She loved much and was much loved. She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and the Charlotte congregation.

Phyllis M. Johnson, 79, a longtime member of the Church of God in Salem, Oregon, died at home on June 4, 2009. She had colon cancer.

Phyllis was born Sept. 14, 1929, in Wray, Colorado, to Frank and Ethel (Gross) Lott.

Phyllis came to Lebanon, Oregon, with her family in 1933 and graduated from Lebanon High School in 1947. She married Glen Johnson on Nov. 1, 1952, in Reno, Nevada. Glen served in the army for about two years, returning in 1955. They moved to Eugene and lived there for about three years before returning to Lebanon, where she lived for the rest of her life. Phyllis worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Cascade Auto Body for several years, where her husband was a co-owner.

Phyllis became interested in the Church after hearing Herbert Armstrong on the radio. She was baptized in Eugene, July 14, 1957, by Raymond McNair.

She is survived by her sister Lois Baughman; two nieces, Lavonne (Russ) Daniels of Beaverton and Lora (Justin) Murray of Salem; and two great-nephews, Trevor and Eric Murray.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, Glen, on April 21, 1998, and her son, Gary, who died in infancy.

Pastor John Cafourek conducted a memorial service after Sabbath services in Salem on June 20.

Bill Latham of the Asheboro, North Carolina, congregation died June 6, 2009, at the age of 84. He and his wife, Carolyn, became members



Bill Latham

of the Church of God in 1964, first attending in Greensboro, then in Fayetteville, and later the United Church of God congregation in Asheboro.

Bill was born Sept. 2, 1924, and grew up on a peach farm in Richmond County, North Carolina. He was the ninth of 10 children. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Navy in World War II; six of his brothers also served in the U.S. military during World War II. After the war, he served as a rural mail carrier for 27 years, delivering mail on a 100-mile route each day.

Bill's lifetime goal was to serve and help others. Up until the end of his life, he was serving his wife, who has Alzheimer's disease, and he also helped his older brother each day with some of his needs.

Bill is survived by his wife of 59 years; a daughter, Mary Lynne Walton; a son, William Walter Latham; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He had a rich and full life, and now he will rest till the resurrection. He will be greatly missed by his family and by the Asheboro congregation.

Herschel Spurlock, 77, died at the Yountville Veterans Home on May 20, 2009. At the time of his death, Herschel was nearing the end of his 40th baptized year in God's Church. He and his wife, Jan, were both baptized in October 1969.



Herschel Spurlock

Herschel was born in Houston, Texas, to Ariel and Alpha Lee Spurlock. His father, Ariel, was a Texas Ranger. The family later moved to Alameda, California, in 1943.

In 1950 Herschel enlisted in the Navy, and served four years on diesel submarines, two of which were spent on the Underwater Demolition Team. Herschel participated in many missions, was wounded in service of his country and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

After his discharge from the Navy in 1954, Herschel received his B.S. in psychology in 1960 and his M.A. in clinical psychology in 1962 from UC Berkeley. He married Jan Ader on Jan. 20, 1962.

In 1963, Herschel established Hyde and Spurlock in Dublin, California, a PR firm specializing in business start-ups. His passion for Napa wines led him to eventually become a member of the California North Coast Grape Grower's Association, and thereafter, he became the founder and president of California North Coast Grape Nuts.

Herschel was able to provide the Church with unique opportunities as a result of the good success God granted him in his wine PR business. He had a deep love for God and His people.

After Herschel had spent years attending his wife, Jan died in the faith in 2003. Herschel left his San Ramon home, his olive trees and his grape vines to take up residence at the Yountville VA Home. Before he died, he dedicated a bench on its grounds to Jan's loving memory.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

Rudy Rangel as associate media producer. His duties will include editing sermon videos as well as stand-alone productions, field shooting, duplication and equipment maintenance. Mr. Rangel will officially take on his new responsibilities at the home office at the end of August.

Mr. Rangel studied mass communication at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and graduated in 2008. In college he worked at the campus jazz radio station that broadcast over the entire St. Louis metro area. He also helped produce his university's half-hour news show as well as a promotional video for the department to recruit new freshman.

He later completed an internship where he worked as a production assistant on commercials and edited small projects. Since graduation, he has worked as a freelance editor on projects such as a 50-minute documentary.

"I am very excited about working at the home office. It is extremely humbling to have the opportunity to be a part of the work and to combine my love for filmmaking," commented Mr. Rangel.

Mr. Rangel and his wife, Judy, formerly attended the Fairview Heights, Illinois, congregation.

New Ordination Announced

On June 13, 2009, Matthew Sieff was ordained into the ministry. Mr. Sieff was hired in February 2008 as a ministerial trainee. He and his wife, Leah, are serving in the Newcastle, Sydney and Port Macquarie congregations in New South Wales, Australia.

ABC Prepares for Class of 2010

Ambassador Bible Center has accepted 41 students for the 2010 ABC class. This number may increase after a few additional applications that have already been submitted undergo review. The deadline for applications was July 15.

The ABC administrative team met the week of June 22 to discuss ABC orientation and plans for this fall. This year we are planning a get-acquainted picnic at the home office on Sunday, Aug. 16, to be hosted by the ABC alumni, and student orientation on Monday, Aug. 17.

The orientation will be more casual this year with an opportunity for the faculty to discuss classes and responsibilities at ABC. Students will have a chance to meet with home office staff and tour the home office after a casual lunch with the



What's New on the Web?



■ New Live Local Congregation Sites

The Media and Communications Services department has launched the initial phase of

new local congregation Web sites. The following is a list of local sites that are live.

- atlanta.ucg.org
- bedford.ucg.org
- charlotte.ucg.org
- corpus-christi.ucg.org
- greensboro.ucg.org
- hickory.ucg.org
- jefferson.ucg.org
- louisville.ucg.org
- springfield-mo.ucg.org

■ Web Page for Booklet Redesigned

Go to www.ucg.org/booklets to find this and other recently updated and Web-optimized booklets:

- *The Book of Revelation Unveiled.*

Featured Link

■ **Breaking Free Journal** helps our membership break free of various social ills affecting their lives and prepare them for service to God through the sharing of knowledge and experience. breakingfree.ucg.org



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

faculty. Regular classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

We are very excited about this incoming class of ABC! This year we have students primarily in their 20s. At this point, we do not have any "older" students as we usually have who serve as unofficial student "parents" and "grandparents" of the class. It is shaping up to be a very interesting year for ABC, with stu-

dents coming from all over the United States, Canada and South Africa. Your prayers for the success of this 11th year of ABC would be greatly appreciated!

Representatives from the ABC faculty and administration are traveling to each of the United Youth Camps this summer to discuss with all the campers and staff the advantages and opportunities to be had by attending ABC. We realize the United Youth Camps provide the largest pool of future ABC students, and we want the staff and campers to be fully aware of what ABC offers in terms of biblical studies and character-building opportunities.

David Register

Challenger II Applications Now Available

Accept the challenge for greater spiritual growth and personal leadership! Applications for the Challenger II Rock Climbing Program for young adults age 18-30+ are now available at the Challenger II Web site, members.ucg.org/challenger.

You will be challenged both physically and spiritually, and rewarded with meaningful friendships, fun, lessons and personal growth. The program will be held Dec. 27, 2009, to Jan. 3, 2010, on Mt. Lemmon, outside Tucson, Arizona. Check the Web site for information or contact the director, James Capo, at james_capo@ucg.org.

James Capo

Orlando to Celebrate 40th Anniversary

The Orlando, Florida, congregation will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Aug. 29, 2009. If you would like to join us for this special Sab-

bath, please contact Roy Demarest via e-mail at roy_demarest@ucg.org for details. If you have attended the Orlando congregation in the past and have information or pictures concerning its history, please e-mail them or mail them to Roy Demarest, P.O. Box 600, Minneola, FL 34755. Please include a short description of the pictures.

Wild Game Cookbook Available for Purchase

The *Wild Game Cookbook* is ready to go to press! Included are recipes for your favorite fish, venison, elk, duck, squab and exotic game meats to tantalize your pallet. The 8-by-11-inch, spiral-bound cookbook will lay flat while you make your favorite recipes.

Each book costs \$18, and all profits will be donated to the Summer Camp Scholarship fund.

Download a request form at www.ucg-colorado.org/cookbook or simply send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address (for shipment confirmation) as well as a check or money order made out to UCG Northern Colorado to Dr. Tammie Pearce, 617 N. 1st St., Johnstown, CO 80534.

If you have questions, e-mail Tammie at capri@mywdo.com.

Larry Neff

Calendar of Events

Aug. 9-13: Council of Elders meeting, home office.

Aug. 9-16: Camp Heritage, Pennsylvania.

Aug. 29: Orlando, Florida, 40th anniversary, roy_demarest@ucg.org.

Sept. 6: Houston Music Festival, Buchanan Environmental @ embarqmail.com.

Sept. 19: Feast of Trumpets.

Sept. 28: Day of Atonement.

Oct. 3-9: Feast of Tabernacles.

Oct. 10: Last Great Day.



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at Milford, Ohio, and at
additional mailing offices

Treasurer Reports End of Fiscal Year Income

We ended this fiscal year (June 30) with income at \$23,833,000, which is a 1.51 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. As we have mentioned before, given the economy, it is truly a blessing to end this year with an increase in income over last year.

If projected income for the next fiscal year continues at its current trend (that of approximately 1.5 percent to 1.75 percent income growth), we will be on target to hit our budgeted level of income for next year (\$24,250,000).

With that said, the instability of the economy right now will

require that we watch income carefully and be prepared to make adjustments as needed.

The figures are listed below. Category one represents regu-

lar income. Category two represents Holy Day offerings. Category three represents all other income.

Jason Lovelady

	Fiscal Year 2008-2009		
	2008-2009	2007-2008	% Inc/Dec
Category 1	\$17,385,000	\$17,089,000	1.73%
Category 2	\$5,768,000	\$5,553,000	3.87%
Category 3	\$680,000	\$836,000	-18.66%
Total	\$23,833,000	\$23,478,000	1.51%