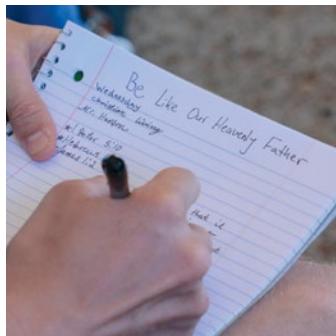




## United Youth Camps: "20 Years and Counting"



### From THE WORD

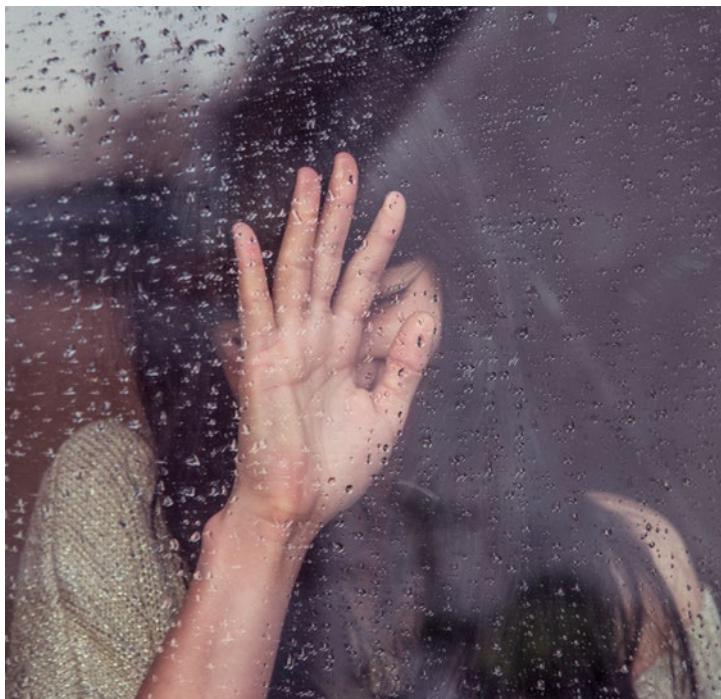
## "He Has Sent Me to Heal the Brokenhearted"

by Dan Preston

Regardless of what it is you do for a living, or what sort of education you might be pursuing, you have no doubt read many job descriptions. In my previous job as an engineer, I've written a few job descriptions myself. So I can attest that it's extremely difficult—I know what it is I want for a person in a particular position to do, but how do I summarize that in a few sentences?

But have you ever stopped to think about what your job description *as a Christian* is? I'll have to admit I never really did, but an awful event last summer made me stop and think about it: My niece committed suicide. Needless to say, it was a difficult time for my entire family, and our hearts will continue to grieve for a very long time.

After the news had sunk in, my brother and sister-in-law asked if I would be willing to conduct her funeral service. I knew this would be difficult, especially since I had never performed a funeral service before. In preparing for the service, I struggled to find a scripture that would give comfort in the wake of the emotional pain that led to the end of my niece Kaitlynn's life. After talking it over with my pastor, he suggested that Luke 4:18-19 might be helpful. This is where Christ said, "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; *He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted*, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD" (emphasis added).



On an intellectual and theological level, I understood that my niece would have an opportunity to live again in the second resurrection (Resurrection 20:4-5). But this verse brought home

Please see page 13

## news

### AT A GLANCE

#### Information Technology Position Posted

Human resources and information technology have announced an opening for a help desk/junior programmer analyst.

The help desk/junior programmer analyst is present at the home office each workday. He or she is responsible for providing technical assistance and support related to computer systems, hardware, and/or software. He or she works with personnel in multiple departments at the home office, ministers in the field, as well as with external vendors when needed. The incumbent also provides support for international offices when needed. An additional duty of the applicant is using postal software to prepare mailings for others

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#### BY THE NUMBERS

# 24

Registered students beginning Ambassador Bible College class of 2016

# Preteen Camp Reports

## Camp Piney Woods

Texas—July 12-15



Thirty-six campers enjoyed a very successful preteen camp in the Piney Woods of East Texas. We appreciate the help of imported adult and teen staff, along with many of the local East Texas brethren. They all went above and beyond and helped us enjoy the many different types of activities at camp. The water activities (swimming, fishing, dunking booth, slip'n'slide and water balloon fight) topped the list of favorites. Other activities included woodwork, bak-



ing, field day, dodgeball and gaga-ball.

Our theme for the camp followed the teen camp theme taken from Matthew 5:48: "Be Like Our Heavenly Father." Our compass checks and our activities were based on this verse. Parents were on hand to see the end of camp awards ceremony, where each camper was presented a certificate of award. The campers also sang two music pieces: "God Is Our Light" and "You Are a Kind and Merciful Father." Thanks to everyone for your prayers, and thanks to our Heavenly Father for his divine oversight.

*Jim Moody*



Pre-teen Camp Buckeye, located in North-central Ohio's beautiful Amish Country, ran Aug. 2-5. This year we had 80 campers, largest single-year increase in the past five years! With fewer than a dozen 12-year old campers, we anticipate even more campers next year. We were also blessed with a wonderful staff of 79 people who came in order to serve and make camp a success.

God blessed us with absolutely excellent weather. The very little rain that came through camp this year occurred in the overnight hours of Sunday and was gone before breakfast Monday morning, leaving the remainder of the days and evenings dry and pleasant.

The Christian living classes were "God is Love," "Having Courage to Overcome Fears" and that God loves children and wants to have a relationship with them. The themes of Christian living were reinforced throughout the daily activities, setting the

The theme was emphasized throughout the day in activities and in their evening wrap-up dorm time. The campers enjoyed the new Jelly video and easily learned the song, which they performed at the closing day program. They were also delighted by a few surprise visits from Jelly at their afternoon activities and the evening carnival.

Camp Ironwood is a family camp with many parents bringing their young children, preteens and teens and spending four days together in a loving and nurturing family environment. This year we had a wonderful group of teens who served as assistant counselors and activity assistants, as well as big brothers and big sisters to the campers. Adult staff enjoyed the opportunities to interact with their children during the day. It was a fun-filled four days with a variety of activities including horseback riding, swimming, arts and crafts, field games, climbing wall, archery, creek walk, team challenge, campus improvement, sling shot and mini



## Camp Buckeye

Ohio—Aug. 2-5



expectations for proper behavior. The children were exceptionally well behaved, extremely positive and upbeat the entire camp.

The campfire Bible skits were well prepared and performed with creative props. This year we had Bible trivia in between dorm skits, and it's pretty amazing what even the youngest at camp remember from the scriptures. We also had a visit by Professor Puddy, who appeared in the recent Jelly video.

We plan to return to the same facility next year, when it is anticipated that a brand new state-of-the-art swimming pool with a wading area, spray-ground and splash pad as well as dual spiral tube slides will be part of camp.

Thank you to everyone who supports our pre-teen program and especially to our Heavenly Father who watched over the safety of our children and staff.

*Len Martin*

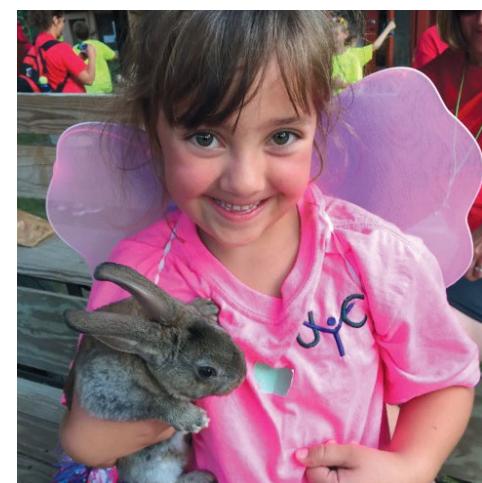
farm. Evening activities included a sing-a-long/campfire, carnival, treasure hunt, tractor rides and novelty olympics.

We praise God and thank Him for another successful year at Camp Ironwood!

The dates for next year's Preteen Camp Ironwood will be July 17-20. Campers, teens and parents who would like to work as staff are welcome to join us for the 15th annual United Youth Camp Ironwood experience.

The friendships, camaraderie, nurturing family environment and living, working and playing together according to God's laws, is an experience that those who attended Camp Ironwood this summer will not soon forget.

*David Schreiber*



## Camp Seven Mountains

Pennsylvania—Aug. 9-12



Seven Mountains pre-teen camp in Pennsylvania was an amazing and Spirit-filled three and a half days! The new location for camp this year was well-received, and the modern facilities made for a more comfortable camp. We had 56 campers ranging from age 12 down to a few months.

Campers started off each day with guitar-led worship singing and a filling breakfast prepared by our awesome cooks! They then dispersed by dorm for Christian living classes focused on the story of Moses in one of the many outdoor facilities. The



rest of the day was packed with various activities such as boating, swimming, woodshop, team building, sports, and crafts. The camp's human foosball court proved to be a camp favorite with young and old alike along with our traditional capture the flag game. Nightly campfires of songs and fellowship ended each day along with a prayer of thanks to God the Father for his many blessings.

We really appreciated the staff, campers and God's blessings, which all contributed to make the Seven Mountains preteen camp such a success! We are working on scheduling for next year to be at the same location!

*Rachel Massie*

protection as well as beautiful weather.

Our goal was to enrich the children's lives by giving them opportunities to build relationships with other children who share common beliefs, experience a variety of challenging activities and deepen their relationship with God by getting to know more about their loving Father through daily Christian living and music classes. The theme of this year's camp was "Love is..." (focusing on 1 Corinthians 13) and that God is love.

## Camp Ironwood

Minnesota—July 12-15

This was the 14th year at the beautiful Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, Minnesota. A total of 150 of us—64 preteens and mini dorm campers, 27 teens and 49 adults—enjoyed four days of living, playing and working together God's way. God blessed the camp with His



**ROY HOLLADAY**  
Ministerial and Member  
Services Operations  
Manager

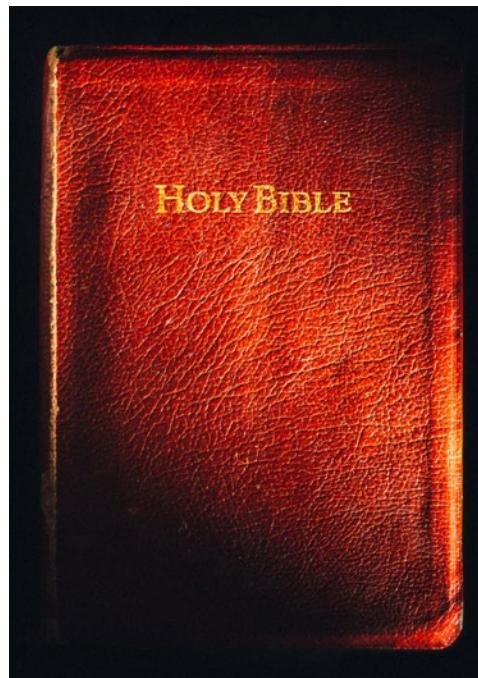
“The latest poll says...” When you listen to a newscast how often do you hear the commentator talk about the latest poll? He may say a certain percentage of people favor abortion, homosexuality, securing our southern border, or granting citizenship to illegal aliens already residing in this country. Many politicians base their actions on these polls. If the majority of the people favor something, then many politicians will favor that ideology. Their values and beliefs are not based upon their own convictions, but upon what they think the public wants.

However, some politicians may have personal convictions about family, marriage, and ethics, but their definition of these terms is quite different from ours. They may consider themselves to be quite religious but understand precious little about the Bible. Have you ever heard a politician champion marriage, but his definition of

marriage could be between two people of the same gender, not between one man and one woman?

As a Christian our beliefs and actions are not based upon what is the popular opinion or prevailing view of the day. We cannot create our own personal definition on subjects that are contrary to the Bible. Our values and views must be based upon the Scriptures. How we view the world and what is taught in society is commonly called your “worldview.” One’s worldview generally refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs through which an individual, group or culture interprets the world and interacts with it.

The prevailing idea in society is that Darwinian evolution is true—that it explains how life came about on earth. Even many Christians who claim to believe in God will explain creation through evolution. Yet the Scriptures clearly tell us that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” And speaking of the Word, John wrote that “all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:3). Why is this important? It demonstrates whether



you believe the Bible or not. We are not free to pick and choose what sections of the Bible we will believe. Jesus said that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). Do we trust the Scriptures as the divine revelation of God to mankind? Do we pick and choose which values to embrace or do

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## From The COUNCIL

# The Oneness of God



by Mark Mickelson

Have you ever wondered just how God the Father and Jesus Christ are one? They are individual beings, but they exist in a relationship of perfect unity. In mathematics, the number one is a unit, or unity. With the Father and Jesus Christ, it means they are in perfect agreement in purpose and function, and they are not divided any way. That unity was on Jesus’ mind even as He approached His own brutal torture and death, but His concern was not about His relationship with His Father; His concern was for those whom His Father was calling and would call. His concern was that they would be in unity with the Father and with Him. He prayed, “Holy Father, keep through Your name those You have given Me, that they may be one as We are” (John

17:11). He went on, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us” and “that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (verses 20-23). That is a pretty amazing passage. To think that we should be in unity with each other just as Jesus Christ is in unity with His Father. Imagine that!

It is the Father who forgives our sins; thereby allowing us to be restored, and to be in unity with Him. Psalm 103 portrays God’s incredible mercy as something beyond measure: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust” (Psalm 103:11-14). The Father truly does understand what it takes for us to be in unity with each other, with Jesus Christ and with Him.

God and Christ are one in character, in love and in spirit. They are also one in how they work in harmony, the Father working through the Son. A few examples are in the creation, in the resurrections, in judgment and in salvation.

Paul stated: “There is only one God, the

Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live” (1 Corinthians 8:6). The Father is the supreme being; He has all power and authority, and yet He works through Jesus Christ in a perfect way. That means that Christ also responds perfectly to His Father. He always seeks and does His Father’s will.

## The Creation Is of the Father and Through the Son

The setting of Revelation 4 is the throne room of God in heaven, and in chapter 5 Jesus comes before His Father. The four living creatures and the 24 elders are described praising God. “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:11). God is the Creator. He directed and had authority over all creation. But Scripture is clear in showing that He created all things through Jesus Christ. “God ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Whom He has appointed heir of all things, through Whom also He made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

John made a similar reference when he said, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:3). Paul said the same thing when he stated: “He is the image

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# 3 Ways to Avoid Leaving Prayer and Study at Home When You're at the Feast

Continued from page 1

Whether you're relaxing or busy with activities, here are some points to keep in mind when you are out of your normal routine.

by Rachel Henderson

Have you ever gotten through a week of family vacation only to realize you completely forgot to pray? And I mean like, 100 percent, totally, completely slipped your mind *forgot?* I have. It's so easy to get wrapped up in all the hustle and bustle of family, great food, beach-going, hiking, and board games that we leave no time for the most important members of our family—God our Father and Christ our Brother. With vacation season in full swing I thought now would be a great

you know what? The relationships that matter most to us can take all the time and energy we have but we still make it work. We prioritize. So the real question is: For the rest of the year, while I'm not on vacation, *am I prioritizing my relationship with God?*

The book of Acts instructs us on how to build a relationship with God: "They should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27). Do I look forward to talking with God when I get up in the morning? Do I continue to seek him as the questions and problems of the day arise? Or do I simply check it off my list?

That passage also points out that God isn't far away from us when we do seek! He is right there, eagerly waiting for us

with God in your own room before joining friends and family downstairs. Christ showed us this example of talking with God early in the day in a private place: "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed" (Mark 1:35).

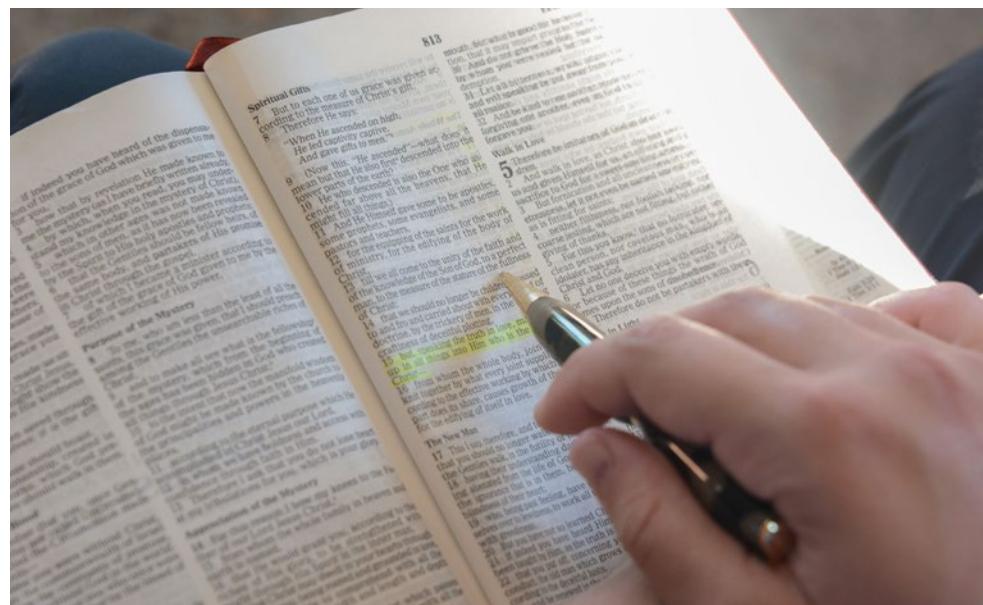
If you're married, do it together. Read a few verses out loud and then say a prayer to begin and bless the day. I'm sure you'll feel refreshed and ready to start the day. If we literally put God first, we won't find mid-way through the week that we've placed Him last.

### 3. Gather the family

Are you fortunate enough to be part of a family that all share Christian values? Have you ever tried a family prayer and short Bible reading around the breakfast table? Everyone is typically already gathered around and it's a nice, casual way to get everyone (even the kids) involved. Remember, you don't have to agree on everything, just on the fact that prayer and Scripture are a great start to every day. Keep this promise from Christ in mind as well: "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Isn't that what we all want? I can't think of a better way to begin each vacation day than being together, praying and reading God's Word knowing Christ is there with us. And hey, maybe this is something you'd enjoy so much you would take it home and make it part of your own family's daily practice!

The real goal we share is to use *every* day as an opportunity to get to know and love God even more. Sometimes it's easy to edge out our time with God but one thing is true: a day begun and spent with God is a day well spent. Hopefully we can use these tips to enrich our time away from home so we come back truly refreshed and rejuvenated! **UN**

*Rachel Henderson is a member who attends in Ann Arbor, Michigan.*



time to brush up on a few simple, easy and practical tools to be sure we don't leave our prayer and Bible study time at home while we are on vacation.

### 1. Remember the relationship

First of all, if I can go a week without talking to God there is a deeper problem than simply forgetting to get it in. We all need to be building a *relationship* with God the Father and Jesus Christ. Relationships take time and energy. But

to pursue Him. If we focus on building a relationship with God and Jesus Christ every day, we won't be able to forget them no matter where we find ourselves throughout the year!

### 2. Begin the day with a bit of quiet

Even with a great relationship as a foundation, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement of, well, *everything else* when we are out of our routine. My suggestion is to begin your conversation

 **Up and Coming**

## Dayton, Ohio, Congregation to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Dayton, Ohio, congregation will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Sabbath, Oct. 31. After services, there will be a meal followed by a slide show documenting Dayton's 50 years as a congregation. All past attendees of the Day-

ton congregation are invited to attend this special celebration.

If you are interested in attending or have any pictures or other items related to Dayton's 50 years that you would like to have includ-

ed in the slide show, please contact Ron Barker at [ron\\_barker@ucg.org](mailto:ron_barker@ucg.org). Services will be at 2 p.m. More information will be available at <http://dayton.ucg.org> as the event draws closer.

Ron Barker

to print and deliver to the post office.

Skills include excellent customer service, troubleshooting and communication skills. A good understanding of Microsoft Office, e-mail, Microsoft Windows, antivirus software and PC hardware are a must. Consistent customer care and quality standards are core competencies of the position. Experience in programming and Web development, especially in Microsoft Access or .NET and Drupal/PHP are a plus.

A college degree or equivalent and two years related experience and training in computer skills are required.

Potential employees must be baptized members of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God. The deadline for submission of an application is Oct. 14, 2015. The Church does not keep submissions or applications that do not result in the applicant being hired. For more information about the position and to submit a resume, please contact [human\\_resources@ucg.org](mailto:human_resources@ucg.org).

Richard Kennebeck

## Deuteronomy 6 Festival Youth Instruction

This year we would like to help families continue to use the Deuteronomy 6 parents-first model for youth instruction

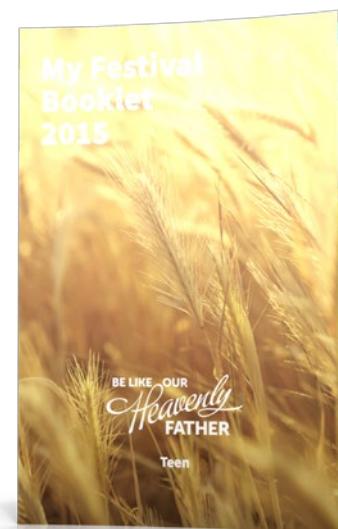


photo: Kody Kinsella

at the Feast. The UCG education team has developed materials for families, which can be found on the Feast website

Please see page 14

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# UYC 2015 Reports

## Camp Cotubic

Ohio—June 14–21

This year 80 campers and 57 staff enjoyed a great week at Camp Cotubic where the rolling fields, lush trees and beautiful lake provide a gorgeous setting to gather together and learn how to “Be Like Our Heavenly Father!” The rainy weather was a bit of a challenge at times, but did not prevent anyone from enjoying the high ropes course, climbing wall and all the other traditional outdoor activities of basketball, volleyball, softball, field games and watersports.

This year also saw the introduction of a hospitality class, which focused on various biblical principles of hospitality and etiquette. The funny and creative approach in teaching this class caused many campers to ask about having it again next year. The inaugural issue of *Compass Check*

was well received, and combined with the content of the daily Christian living classes, they set the stage for some valuable question and answer sessions at the end of the week. It was encouraging to hear many campers, even the youngest, asking serious questions about baptism, repentance and conversion. It is obvious that parents are diligently training their children as it can be seen in their behaviors, attitudes and certainly the questions that they want to talk about!

Each year campers have requested more time for social interaction. This year changes were made to the schedule in order to provide those opportunities. It was nice to see them have more “down time” and be able to sit, relax and just talk without always being on the go from one activity

to another.

We continue our tradition of focused leadership training for our counselors. Lead counselors spend the lunch and dinner hours with the counselors, providing education and focus on how to be a more effective leaders and counselors. This continues to be a highly successful effort as we have seen many of these counselors grow into solid leaders in various ways in their local congregations.

Camp Cotubic 2015 wound up being a very successful camp. We want to thank you for your prayers and support of the entire camp program. Most importantly we thank God for His guidance, direction and protection.

*Len Martin*

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## Camp Pinecrest

Missouri—June 19–26

“20 Years and Counting” adorned the back of each ball cap and visor. The 20th year at Pinecrest was truly an excellent year for a number of reasons.

On June 19 the camp program began for 80 campers and 50 staff with an orientation to prepare for the week ahead. With orientation completed, staff and campers proceeded to the gym for get acquainted games organized Randy and Penny Urwiller. With the games completed, the campers and counselors headed back to their dorms for meetings and their first opportunity to interact with their dorm parents.

Camp Pinecrest begins with the Sabbath. This provides a time to relax and enjoy a spiritual focus before launching into a busy activity week.

Saturday morning, after a sumptuous breakfast, the campers and staff enjoyed a Bible study, “Waiting on

God,” presented by Brian Shaw. The study was followed by an ABC presentation and Sabbath singing. A leisurely Sabbath continued with services that afternoon. Randy Urwiller and Gary Smith gave split sermons introducing the week’s theme, “Be Like Our Heavenly Father.”

The first day ended with six Bible challenges. Each dorm had to solve a Bible word search, identify Bible Mad Gabs, search and read the Scriptures, identify Bible stories, draw clues in Bible Pictionary, and use clues to discover biblical people, places, and things.

With a most positive Sabbath concluded, the activity week began on Sunday. Each day began with a Christian living class for all campers and staff. With a spiritual foundation established, dorms proceeded to the activities. Regular activities enjoyed included riflery, archery, ropes, softball, speedaway, journalism, rock climbing and rappel-

ling, and volleyball. Three new activities were introduced this year: stand-up paddle boarding, nerf tag, and Frisbee golf.

Each evening after dinner, a different activity was offered. Campers and staff enjoyed dodgeball, a question-and-answer Bible study, the Amazing Race, a fun show. To cap off the week, an awards ceremony was followed by a dance.

As the camp came to a close, various members of the United leadership team heard from those who work at the camp, who made positive comments about UYC teens displaying qualities of “the Zone.”

The week at Camp Pinecrest came to a close on Friday, June 26. It is to God’s glory and honor that Camp Pinecrest is an annual reminder that this glimpse of the Kingdom will one day be a reality for all mankind.

*Gary Smith*

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## Camp Woodmen

Alabama—June 28–July 5

Our theme this year, “Be Like Our Heavenly Father,” was a wonderful reminder each day, encouraging campers and staff to develop their relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. The Friday evening Bible study and daily Christian living classes revealed the diligence of parents who have taught their children God’s way of life. The campers were very attentive and involved in the interactive Bible study. Each dorm was given a Bible story, from which they extrapolated lessons to apply in their own lives. Christian living classes were given every morning to the whole camp, and each dorm received two individual Christian living classes during the week.

Camp Woodmen is located in rural northern Alabama amongst woods and gently rolling hills. Weather during the weeks surrounding camp was very hot and humid, but dur-

ing camp there was a drastic drop in both temperature and humidity. God’s intervention in the weather shows that He is concerned with even the minor parts of our lives.

Each evening, all campers and staff sang an evening hymn (“Who Shall Dwell on Thy Holy Hill?”) in order to focus our attention on God’s plan right before bedtime. Several young men took the opportunity to lead songs, and two campers helped accompany the hymns on piano.

Our daily classes included basketball, sand volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, speedaway, swimming, archery, riflery, dance, low ropes, and high ropes, which included a climbing wall, zipline, and other daring activities involving heights and high speeds. Leisure times found campers visiting in the hall or playing spikeball (a type of volleyball), ping pong, softball and basketball.

Evening activities included two dances, novelty olympics, and open activities (where they could choose their favorite activity). The ever-popular fun show did not disappoint with lots of laughs and a fun evening.

There were 77 campers with three dorms each for boys and girls and 42 staff. Most were from the Southeast region of the United States, but this year we were pleased to host international campers from Germany and South Africa.

Camp Woodmen had a wonderful serving staff that was a joy to work with. We appreciate the staff who volunteer their time to serve at camp. They are a very dedicated group. We thank the parents, campers, staff and especially God for the best year yet at Camp Woodmen. We look forward to next year!

*Shawn Cortelyou*

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## Camp Hye Sierra

California—June 28–July 5

Camp Hye Sierra in Central California began with energy and excitement. First there were the arrivals—97 campers, 93 staff, and nine junior campers sharing hugs and smiles, surrounded by cheers and squeals from happy reunions. There were the practical and administrative events: first to check-in, then registration, and moving gear into the dorms. And there was that first meet-and-greet, which included the reappearing camp chant: “Hye!...Sierra! Hye! Hye! Sierra!” Camp Hye Sierra 2015 was off to a great start.

In drought-stricken California, we had to meet some challenges. With the drought came the loss of the waterfront; there was only enough water for kayaking. New activities had to be advanced, and schedule modifications made. There was the weather: The facility caretaker noted, before opening day, that Camp Hye Sierra would face some of the hottest temperatures to be experienced in years. And there was the challenge to simply enjoy the week’s opportunities while showing God’s way works!

Happily, all challenges were met.

Our Father quickly demonstrated His enjoyment for camp by providing a daily overcast that dropped campus temperatures by 20 degrees compared to the surrounding areas. The camp was even enlivened by a thunderstorm that gave much-needed rain. Added to the camp schedule was the introduction of a new camp favorite, bubble soccer,

**Please see next page**

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# UYC 2015 Reports

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## Camp Hye Sierra

California—June 28–July 5

where campers would wear giant airbags, adding a bouncing dimension to the field of soccer.

The success of camp centers on everyone's attitude. The attitudes of camper and staff alike centered on how to "Be Like Our Heavenly Father," this year's camp theme. Care and cooperation were hallmarks of each day. Many hands were fast to help set up each activity, to clean up and to be encouraging, helping and sharing.

After breakfast, each day began with compass check, the presentation of a single point to ponder during the day and emphasized at each activity. While each camper learned new skills and honed others, they also learned to give. Camp Hye Sierra is 100 percent self-sustained—kitchen and janitorial services are staffed by volunteers. Their tire-

less and unsung service is augmented daily by each dorm performing dish and dining room clean-up, janitorial and sanitation detail.

Camp Hye Sierra once again proved to be a hotbed of friendships, encouragement, camaraderie, energy, and trust; lifelong relationships were developed. Camp Hye Sierra also proved, once again, that God's way does work!

*Fred Crow*

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## Northwest Camp

Oregon—July 26–Aug. 2

Camp Magruder on the beautiful Oregon coast hosted the 2015 UYC Northwest teen camp July 25–Aug. 2. 93 enthusiastic campers and 70 dedicated and hard-working staff built the camp program around the overall theme of the year "Be Like Our Heavenly Father." Campers and staff were encouraged to emulate God's qualities in this pristine setting of beautiful creation.

This year the Oregon coastal weather was nearly perfect with sunshine and temperatures in the 70s every day. The daily Christian living themes ("God is Love," "God Is Truthful," "God Is Faithful," "God Is Complete," and "God Is Holy") were taught in the daily Bible classes and demonstrated throughout the day in the activities, campfire stories, and dorm parent discussions. Many of the campers mentioned in their surveys at the end of camp how much

practical information they learned at camp about living according to God's way. This year Aaron and Michelle Dean were able to join our UYC staff on the water skiing crew, and enjoyed their first experience as dorm parents. The campers enjoyed Mr. Dean's campfire story about the queen of Thailand.

Joining us from New Zealand were Daniel and Linda Porteous, who served as dining hall coordinators and assisted LeeAnn Luker in teaching the "excellence in living" classes.

Activities enjoyed by the campers included water skiing, speed-away, swimming, skim and boogie boarding on the beach, beach volleyball, archery, pickle ball, and an eight-mile kayak trip down the scenic Nehalem river.

In arts and crafts Roc and Nancy Corbett taught campers

how to make designs with colored clay on white tiles. Some were very detailed and colorful designs. Each camper made his or her own tile and then the tiles were baked in an oven and then put together on a grid to form the "UYC" symbol.

God's blessing has been evident to everyone. One of the highlights of camp was an evening ride on the Oregon Coastal Scenic Railway. The classic steam train engine is nearly 100 years old and operates on tracks that run along the ocean for miles north and south of the camp.

Plans are well underway for Northwest Camp 2016! Dates for the camp next year will be July 24–30. Plan now to attend this great week of learning God's way of life and enjoying fabulous activities and fellowship during the final week of July.

*Rex Sexton*

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## San Gil del Campo

Santander, Colombia—June 25–July 1

The 2015 Colombian youth camp was held in a new location this year just outside the city of San Gil, Santander, Colombia. With a total of 18 campers, five staff from Colombia, and three staff from the United States, (two of which were Colombian pastor Scott Hoefker and his wife Gayle), this centrally located city made travel to camp easier and less expensive for all who attended.

Campers and staff stayed in hotel rooms that housed four to six people comfortably, and we all ate together in the dining hall that provided three freshly prepared and cooked meals each day. We started each day with a spiritual compass check and ended each day with a Christian living class or other Bible activity using the camp theme "Be Like Our Heavenly Father." Building bonds of friendship with our spiritual family was also a huge part of camp. Plenty of time for fellowship and relaxing is an

integral part of this camp. Bonding and renewing friendships between campers, and staff with campers, is truly an uplifting experience, and the setting of tranquility added to such.

A new activity introduced this year was preparing a Bible skit. The skits were practiced during free time and performed later on in camp. Another activity that was a favorite among the campers was the Amazing Race, led by Courtney Horvath. Jaime Salek led an etiquette class, and campers were seen putting the etiquette tips into practice during camp. On the Sabbath, the youngest camper, Abraham Martinez, led songs for the first time and two older campers, David Sierra and Richard Sierra, gave short sermonettes. Claudio Sierra gave the sermon. After the Sabbath, everyone participated in another favorite activity—a dance.

The proximity of the pool to the hotel rooms made swimming a repeated activity all week. Campers took bus trip to the National Park of Chicamocha, called the "Grand Canyon of Colombia," on Monday. Most of the campers had never visited the park before.

Everybody developed strong bonds of friendship and spiritual growth. On the last day, all campers shared what they learned at camp in short two to three minute speeches. A few tears were shed when we said goodbye, and everyone looks forward to returning to this tranquil gem of a location next year. A hearty thank you to LifeNets International in making this camp possible. Their generous donations allowed youth to attend and experience an uplifting atmosphere and growth opportunity.

*Scott & Gayle Hoefker*

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## Boca del Río

Veracruz, Mexico—July 26–Aug. 2

The Mexican Youth Camp was once again held in the coastal city of Boca del Río, Veracruz. This place on the Gulf coast of Mexico was chosen since it was relatively central for most campers, it has a nice, tropical climate and an excellent beach.

We had 16 campers, eight adults and a baby (the resident minister's two-month old daughter). Like last year, we used the same spacious house as the main facility of the camp. It has a large pool under a huge 100-year old gum tree that protected us from the hot sun during the meals and the activities held on the patio.

One of the highlights of the camp was a two-hour trip to a scenic park called "The Five Waterfalls." We were astonished to see this marvel of nature arrayed in a semicircle. After lunch we swam in the shallow, refreshing natural pool created by these waterfalls, and explored a small cave behind one of them. Later in the week, we visited the port

of Veracruz, which has an ample pier.

One blessing was the exclusive use of a nearby billiard center, including being able to use it for a youth dance. Of course, before the dance, Mr. Seigle taught his famous cha-cha classes, which the campers greatly enjoyed putting this fun dance and others into action.

Other activities included soccer, beach volleyball, swimming in the pool and at the beach, games, riding a banana boat, and handicraft classes by Andrea Garcia.

Everybody also greatly enjoyed Mrs. Seigle's delicious home-style meals. She was ably helped by three Mexican ladies, Miriam Cruzaley, Susana Juarez and Maritza Alcantara.

In the mornings we held Christian living classes, which included how to memorize the Ten Commandments using memory prompters, and 12 Biblical Life Principles by Mario Seigle.

Toward the end of camp, each camper gave a speech about what they had learned at camp—they were quite moving.

On the last evening, we greatly enjoyed the talent night, where practically all the campers participated in singing, dancing and doing sketches. On the Sabbath, after a delicious brunch, we had a class on song-leading. We held services in the afternoon.

The campers came from Matamoros, Monterrey, Mexico City, and Tabasco, and for a week they enjoyed being in an environment of joy, respect, peace and friendship. The results could be seen as their smiles grew bigger by the day as they got to know one another much better. Thankfully, God protected us from any accidents and we all returned safely to our homes. We want to especially thank LifeNets Australia, which helped with some of the camp expenses for these Mexican youths. They are so grateful!

*Gabriel García*

# UYC 2015 Photos

## Camp Cotubic

Ohio—June 14–21



## Camp Pinecrest

Missouri—June 19–26



# UYC 2015 Photos

## Camp Woodmen

Alabama— June 28–July 5



## Camp Hye Sierra

California—June 28–July 5



# UYC 2015 Photos

## Northwest Camp

Oregon—July 26–Aug. 2



## San Gil del Campo

Santander, Colombia—June 25–July 1



# UYC 2015 Photos

## Boca del Río

Veracruz, Mexico—July 26–Aug. 2



## Agaja

Lagos, Nigeria—Aug. 16–24



The United Youth Camp in Nigeria took place at the beautiful beach side of Agaja in Lagos State, Nigeria, Aug. 16-24. 33 enthusiastic campers and 17 committed staff from around the country enjoyed a week of fun and challenging activities, while learning more about God's way of life through the theme, "Be Like Our Heavenly Father."

In addition to our regular activities of archery, volleyball, kickball, team challenge, Christian living, craft class, rope bridge and swimming, there was American Sign Language training. Last year, a deaf friend of the camp director made the campers see the need to learn even more this year.

The 33 campers were organized into three teams: the sapphire, the ruby and the emerald team. By using the names of precious stones, they were reminded of how valuable and precious they are to God. For a week, they built new friendships, strength-

ened old ones, learned lessons and faced each day's challenges together as a family.

Following breakfast and a 15-minute compass check each day, the different teams would go to their different activities outlined for the day. The kitchen staff served healthy and delicious lunch in between the activities to keep the campers and staff going. Aspects of the camp theme and daily themes were reinforced at the activities throughout the day. After dinner, there was free time for fellowship, rehearsal and clean up before lights out at 9:30 p.m.

Archery, rope bridge and swimming classes taught the importance of setting goals, focus, persistence, boldness and courage. The kickball, volleyball and team challenges taught the importance of teamwork, cooperation and unity. The campers were also taught how to make unleavened bread in the craft and catering classes.

On the Sabbath, members from the Lagos congregation joined the campers and staff for the Sabbath service. After the service there was fellowshiping before the members returned to the city.

A banquet rounded off the rest of the camp, during which each team presented songs, a skit or an ASL demonstration. Everyone enjoyed an evening of entertainment and laughter. After a Bible bowl, campers were awarded certificates for participation, outstanding attitudes and godly character, as well as for excelling in various activities.

Thanks to all campers for their cooperation, the staff and camp director and his wife for their selfless sacrifice and most importantly, all praise to our Heavenly Father for making this year's camp a success.

*Oludare Akinbo*

## Valley View

Accra, Ghana—Aug. 16–23

Sunday, Aug. 16, had been long in coming for the campers and staff of this year's youth camp in Accra, Ghana. When it finally arrived, we converged at the Valley View University campus just outside Accra with palpable zest.

In the beautiful settings of the women's center of the university, the theme of "Be Like Our Heavenly Father" provided the perfect motivation for bonding, singing, shooting arrows in archery class, playing various field

games, learning leather craft and weaving baskets.

Lively fellowshiping characterized the interaction among campers and staff. God's blessings were manifest in the few cases of injury, excellent weather and protection throughout the seven-day event.

All through camp, compass checks and Christian living classes provided tremendous daily boosters.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, 80 grateful hearts departed back to the four scattered Ghana congregations, looking forward to next year's camp!

*Henry Aikins*



# Announcements



**Leah Irene Helterbrand**

Born Jan. 13, 2015

## Births

### Leah Irene Helterbrand

Nellie Helterbrand of the Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation would like to announce the birth of her daughter, Leah Irene Helterbrand. Leah came into this world on Jan. 13, 2015, weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz., and was 21 in. long. Leah is the first grandchild of Bill and Darlene Helterbrand. Leah is a wonderful bundle of joy, and a gift to the entire family, loved by all of her aunts and uncles.

## Anniversaries

### Lloyd and Norma Nelson

On the Sabbath of July 4, 2015, the Southern Minnesota Congregation honored Lloyd and Norma Nelson on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. Joining the Southern Minnesota brethren were 45 family members of the Nelsons, 20 of whom are baptized members of God's Church.

Lloyd and Norma were both widowed when they were in their early 40s. Lloyd's first wife died in 1967 in the faith, leaving him with five children; Kathy, Peter, Peggy, Amy and Tadd. After seven years Lloyd met Norma Snyder at a church social in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She had been recently widowed with three children: Brad, Mary and Todd. The couple began dating, taking turns driving 180 miles one way.

On May 4, 1975, Lloyd and Norma were married in Rochester, Minnesota. They bought a house in Rochester in which they still live in now at the ages of 90 and 85. They now are blessed with 18 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. One more great grandchild is due in the fall, which will bring the family count to 70. Norma's son Todd died in the faith in 1999 at the age of 33.

At the July 4th celebration, the Nelsons' sons-in-law Scott Moss and Randy D'Alessandro gave split sermons. Another son-in-law, Dennis Lausted, gave the opening prayer, and grandsons Andy Lausted, Dan Lausted and Mitchell Moss led songs, performed special music and played hymns. Steve Myers gave the closing prayer.



**Lloyd and Norma Nelson**

Married 40 Years

After services, everyone enjoyed a meal. Victor Kubik, who has known the Nelson couple since the early 1960s, was in attendance as well, making the day even more special.

Lloyd and Norma have served as deacon and deaconess for many years and continue serving in the Southern Minnesota area today. Lloyd often gives sermonettes, and Norma brings flowers from her garden each week from spring until the first frost. She also takes care of the congregation's anniversary cards, making sure each couple's anniversary is recognized. They are tireless servants and are a blessing to others in the Southern Minnesota area.

### Alvis and Eudina Foust

Alvis and Eudina Foust of Dayton, Ohio, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary June 14, 2015. The couple met while Eudina was visiting her sister in Jellico, Tennessee. They were married several months later and moved to Michigan. Al and Eudina had two sons: Terry, who lives in Dayton, Ohio, and Jerry, who passed away in 1971 while in the military. Al retired from Chrysler, and Eudina was a homemaker.

Al became interested in God's truth in 1966 after listening to Herbert Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong on the radio. He was baptized in August 1971.

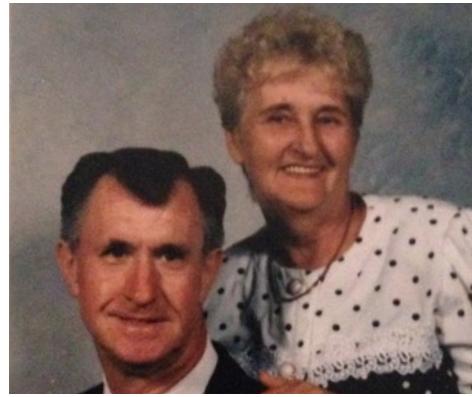
## Obituaries

### Arthur C. Michaud

Arthur C. Michaud, a faithful member of God's Church since 1969, died at home at the age of 81 years from multiple health issues. He died on Oct. 30, 2014. His loving wife Sherry was constantly at his side.

He was born in Hartford, Connecticut, Dec. 16, 1932, as the second son of five children. Both his parents were of French descent from Canada.

Sometime in the early 1950s, Arthur was drafted into the army and stationed in Korea as a military police officer in charge of a German Red Cross hospital. Some time later, he attended Columbia University in New York City studying television production.



**Alvis and Eudina Foust**

Married 65 Years

In 1969, he was baptized and then soon after hired by the Worldwide Church of God as a producer for *The World Tomorrow*. During those years, he also traveled with Herbert Armstrong filming many dignitaries.

By 1972, he started his own production company in Pasadena, California, and became successful over the remaining years.

He married his wife Sherry in 1978. They raised one son, Michael. Many family outings were spent at the local mountains hiking, camping and fishing.

Since the start of the United Church of God in 1995, Arthur produced much of the audio/video work for the Church with the help of Manfred Fraund. Arthur loved doing God's work and said he would "die with his boots on." Five days later, after settling at his desk, he died peacefully in his home.

We all greatly miss him! He loved the book of Psalms. King David's 23rd Psalm was his favorite.

### Delores Dykes

Delores Dykes died at her daughter's home in November 2014. She has been a Church of God member since 1974. She attended services in Kingsport, Tennessee, up until two weeks before her death. She really looked forward to church services where she could get a good hug from everyone in the congregation. Her smile was a joy to all!

Delores was born in December 1923 in Ohio. When the Depression hit, they returned to Tennessee to work the family farm. They didn't have a lot of money, but always had plenty to eat. After graduating high school she worked at Holston Defense and had an apartment in downtown Kingsport. She became a homemaker after marrying Harold Dykes, and they raised three children together.

Delores was the neighborhood mom; she always had biscuits, cornbread or something to feed a hungry kid. Delores was very active in the small Baptist church in the community. She taught Sunday school, had a beautiful voice and sang duets in many church services. Harold found the Radio Church of God and



**Arthur C. Michaud**

Dec. 16, 1932–Oct. 30, 2014



**Delores Dykes**

Dec. 1923–Nov. 2014

became very interested. Before long he was telling Dolores about what he was hearing, and she set out to prove Harold and Herbert Armstrong wrong! They both began attending Sabbath services, and Dolores was baptized and became a member of the Worldwide Church of God in 1974, Harold to follow shortly after. They attended their first Feast at Jekyll Island in 1977.

She was preceded in death by her husband and two sons. Survivors include her daughter Theresa Renfro (husband Darrell, who Dolores fondly called "the big man"), grandchildren Jack Renfro, Sherri Roth and Jason Renfro, and three great-grandchildren. We are looking forward to the resurrection when we can see her healthy again, with that big smile and get another hug!

### Conway Edhegard

Longtime member Conway Edhegard, member of the Mobile, Alabama, congregation, went to sleep peacefully at home on Nov. 30, 2014. He was 93 years of age. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, three daughters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He also has two sisters who are still living. He was predeceased by one daughter and one son. He grew up with one brother and six sisters.

Conway was born in Clovis, New Mexico, on Feb. 14, 1921, to missionary parents. They settled in Alabama, where he grew up and lived all his life. As a boy he worked in his dad's feed store and delivered feed to the farmers. He enlisted in the

Please see page 12

# Announcements



**Conway Edhegard**

Feb. 14, 1921–Nov. 30, 2014



**Bill Baylor**

Sept. 24, 1942–June 23, 2015



**Barbara Jean Schulz**

1965–June 23, 2015



**Virginia Cole**

Dec. 16, 1932–July 8, 2015

## Continued from page 11

Navy in 1942 and served on the *USS San Francisco*, becoming a First Class Yeoman during World War II. In 1945, he returned to Silverhill, Alabama, and he and a friend bought his father's feed business.

After Conway's service in the Navy, he married Dorothy Lindell in 1947. He began his career in the poultry business by delivering eggs door-to-door, and as his business grew he supplied several grocery stores with eggs. After many years in the poultry business, he began hanging wallpaper, and did so until he retired.

He began listening to Herbert Armstrong in 1958, and he and his wife Dorothy were baptized in a creek in 1960 on a baptizing tour at the time. They began attending services in Opp, Alabama, but eventually a church was started in Mobile where they attended thereafter. Mr. Edhegard was ordained a deacon in 1986 and Mrs. Edhegard a deaconess in 1993. Mr. Edhegard gave sermonettes and led songs, and Mrs. Edhegard played the piano for services.

Mr. Edhegard and his wife faithfully served the brethren in the Church over the years and made many friends in the local congregation and at the many Feast sites they attended. He is missed greatly by all, but will awake as if it were yesterday, in the soon coming resurrection and the return of Christ!

## William "Bill" Robert Baylor

William "Bill" Robert Baylor, 72, of rural Nora Springs, Iowa, died at his home on Tuesday, June 23. Bill was born in Mason City on Sept. 24, 1942, to Robert and Martha (Baylor) Champlin. While in high school, he qualified two years to sing in the Iowa All State Choir. He served three years in the Marine Corps, spending most of his enlisted time in Southern California. He was a journeyman electrician for 19 years. In 1988 he founded Bill's Window Cleaning.

Bill was adventurous, and his hobbies included life-guarding at City Beach in Clear Lake and in the Marine Corps, scuba diving in California, camping, fishing and flying, as well as developing a fine appreciation for music. Bill was

also a member of the board of directors at North Iowa Community Credit Union for many years.

Bill met his wife Gayle in San Diego, California, at a local church where they both sang in the choir. She spotted him and wanted to meet, which she managed to do when they were exiting the church. After they dated for a few years, they were married on Jan. 2, 1965.

After listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio and reading a stack of Church booklets, they began attending the Worldwide Church of God in 1974 and were both baptized on March 23, 1975. Bill served faithfully in the Church alongside his wife Gayle. He was happiest when he was leading the choir in special music, which he did with great enthusiasm and passion for more than 40 years.

Over the years the Baylor family grew to include four children. Bill is survived by his wife, Gayle (Barnard) Baylor; his four precious children Scott (Carrie Marie) Baylor of Texas; Dawn (Scott) Familetti of Wisconsin; Martha (Brian) Gilley of Kansas; and Paul (Trishia) Baylor of Iowa; his grandchildren Zachary and Christopher Baylor of Texas; Nathan, Elizabeth and Brody Familetti of Wisconsin; Ashlynn, Brennen, Conner and Daenen Gilley of Kansas.

A celebration of life service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, 2015. David Schreiber officiated. Bill will be greatly missed by his family, friends and his Southern Minnesota Church family.

## Barbara Jean Schulz

Barbara Jean Schulz, 50, died June 23, 2015, in Springfield, Missouri, with her kids by her side.

Barbara was from Mandan, North Dakota, and spent most of her life in the Bismarck-Mandan area. She moved to Springfield, Missouri, just less than a year ago to be closer to her kids.

Barb loved cooking for people—cakes, salads, anything at all. She never shied away from telling a good joke or trying to make someone laugh, even when she herself had a hard time laughing.

She was raised in the Church and died knowing the promise of God's merciful

and wonderful plan.

With a heavy heart and a great hope in God's plan for humankind, we say until we meet again to our beloved mother, sister, aunt, daughter, friend. She will be missed by many.

Barb is survived by her father Burt Daly, of Mandan, North Dakota; her children Brandon and Tarah Schulz of Columbia, South Carolina; Devin and Tiffany Schulz of Springfield; and Amber and Andy Duran of Springfield; her sisters Linda Daly Deraas of Duluth, Minnesota; and Karen Daly of Bismarck, North Dakota; and nieces, nephews, daughters and a son-in-law, and friends who loved her dearly.

She is preceded in death by her mother Darlene Daly and her nephew Clayton Deraas.

In lieu of flowers, lend a helping hand to someone in need today.

## Virginia "Ginny" Cole

Virginia "Ginny" Cole of La Pine, Oregon, died peacefully in her sleep on July 8, 2015, at the age of 82 after a very short battle with cancer.

Ginny was born in Scio, Oregon, on Dec. 16, 1932, to Jesse and Pearl (Erwin) Freitag. Ginny graduated from Jefferson High School in Jefferson, Oregon.

In 1950 she married Truman "Wade" Cole from Jefferson, Oregon. Ginny spent most of her life as a homemaker but also worked for the Albany school district for a period of time. They lived there nearly 45 years before moving to La Pine, Oregon, in 1995.

She loved gardening, camping, hunting, crafts and reading. She taught sewing and quilting classes and loved her grandkids and great grandkids. She was active in the Church of God for many years.

Ginny was preceded in death by her husband Wade and by two sons, Steven Cole and Randal Cole. She is survived by three daughters, Karen (Larry) Walker of La Pine; Lonna Cole of La Pine; Lisa (Jeff) Richards of Bend, Oregon; one son, Donald Cole of Columbus, Ohio; 10 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life was held Aug. 16, 2015, in Redmond, Oregon. Larry Walker officiated the service.



**Marion Franklin Wyatt, Jr.**

Oct. 19, 1933–July 8, 2015

## Marion Franklin Wyatt, Jr.

Marion Franklin Wyatt, Jr., was born Oct. 19, 1933, in Neely's Landing, Missouri. He grew up in a rural setting and even attended a one-room school house. During the Korean War, he joined the U.S. Air Force. He served first in Hawaii and then on Johnson's Island in the Pacific. He was then sent to the Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. While attending a local church, he met Frances Wyatt. Shortly after meeting her, and at the time of his release from the Air Force, he married her. Then they moved home to Missouri. He trained to be a machinist, which was his trade until he retired with a disability.

Marion's mother was a member of the Radio Church of God. He felt that he had to show her that she was wrong and so began studying. In the process, he realized that he was the one who was wrong. He then convinced his wife. They were both baptized in 1962. They made many trips to Big Sandy, Texas, for the Feast and then to Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

In 1978, he moved his family back to San Angelo, Texas, where his wife had grown up. They have been members of United Church of God since its inception. Their home church is Coleman, Texas.

Marion Wyatt, Jr., died Wednesday, July 8, 2015, from liver cancer. He spent the last three weeks of his life in a nursing home along with his wife. He was married for 61 years and was preceded in death by his daughter, Norma Bowles. He is survived by his wife, Frances Wyatt; daughter Jean Howdeshell; sons Cecil Wyatt and Mark Wyatt as well as seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

He will be missed.



## Local Church UPDATES

### Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Congregation Focused Education Seminars

The Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregation hosted a focused education weekend June 20-21, 2015, covering the subject of homosexuality. Joe Dallas—lecturer, author and director of a biblical counseling practice in Southern California—was the featured speaker. The title of his seminar was “Homosexuality and Truth.” Three of the five 45-minute sessions were held on the Sabbath, two before and one after services, covering the topics of “Terms and Concepts,” “Answering Pro-Homosexual Claims,” and “Answering Pro-Gay Theology.”

Sessions four and five were held on Sunday. Session four covered the subject of “When Homosexuality Hits Home,” and session five covered “Where Do We Go From Here?”

The weekend was very informative and

appreciated by those who attended.

An interview was done with Joe Dallas, an excerpt of which is on page 15. The full transcript is on the *Breaking Free* website (<http://breakingfree.ucg.org>). There will also be CDs available of the entire seminar and the interview free upon request. Please contact Tony Kuczynski at [tonykuc@centurylink.net](mailto:tonykuc@centurylink.net) or by phone (262) 363-4260 if you are interested.

Dan Dowd

### Little Rock, Arkansas, Church Picnic

On June 28, the Little Rock congregation enjoyed their annual church picnic. It was held at Pettit Jean State Park on an unseasonably cool summer day. Tommy and Brenda Runnels grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for the rest of us hungry folks. The side dishes were prepared by the women of the congregation. No one went away hungry.

Activities included swimming, hiking, and fishing, not to mention lots of happy

conversation. There was also a playground for the children. Everybody had a great time.

Barry Howdeshell

### Los Angeles Women’s Club Enjoys Arts & Crafts

On Sunday, May 31, the women’s club of the Los Angeles, California, congregation met at the home of Carla Rudajs. They shared a lunch and were treated to a lesson in making “miniature gardens” by Elida Bricio and her daughter Lourdes.

Arts and crafts meetings really add to the fun and fellowship times at women’s club. Learning a new craft gives us a way of expressing our artistic side, and it seems to really build unity among the ladies who attend.

The ladies all had a good time and produced several works of art.

Patti Josifek



Elida Bricio teaching the ladies of the L.A. women’s club about miniature gardens.



**Local Church Updates:** Send us news and events from your local congregation! Check with your pastor and have him forward what you write. We’re looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photos with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you’d like photos returned. Include the author’s and photographer’s names. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

### “Heal the Brokenhearted”

Continued from page 1

the fact that Jesus wasn’t done working in her life, and that she would have an opportunity to someday be healed of the emotional pain that hurt her. It was then that I first realized that this verse could very well be used as Jesus Christ’s job description!

It’s certainly true to say that He came to earth to establish the New Covenant (Hebrews 12:24) and to show us the loving intent of God’s law (Matthew 22:37-40). It’s also true to say that He will come again to remove Satan from the picture (Revelation 20:2, 10) so all mankind will have a chance to live God’s way of life in peace. But those things describe *events* Jesus Christ will perform while doing His job. Christ’s job *description* is, among other things listed there, *to heal the brokenhearted*.

#### Our Part in Jesus’ Job Description

So how does that apply to us? It wasn’t your or my blood that was shed for the remission of sin (Matthew 26:28). It’s not by our lives that men are saved (Romans 5:10). But as disciples of Christ, can we take something from His job description to heal the brokenhearted, and apply it to our jobs as Christians? I think so!

When I first read this verse as a job description for Jesus Christ, I understood more clearly what His part in the job was. And after thinking about it a bit, I came to understand that we can all take on the job of healing the broken hearts of those around us by emulating His life. Being a disciple of Jesus means offering encouragement, hope and love to those who are in need. But after the death of my niece, I came to a new realization: *My heart was broken, too*. I knew Christ was going to heal other people’s heart. I knew I could be a source of encouragement to others who had broken hearts. But it took a great personal tragedy to realize that I needed healing as well.

That’s where brethren from our local (and not-so-local) congregations came in. Our family received a *flood* of cards, kind words, soft smiles and warm hugs in the days and weeks after my niece’s death. You see, all those people were *already* actively working to heal a broken heart they saw. In those words, smiles and moments of compassion, I saw and felt Christ healing me and my family. This brings up yet another aspect of our jobs as Christians: We need to open up and allow ourselves to receive the gift of healing for our broken hearts.

There are a lot of things Jesus Christ will perform when He returns to establish the Kingdom of God. But at the core of His job, He is coming to heal the broken hearts of all mankind. **UN**

### The Sure Foundation

Continued from page 3

we look to God as the ultimate authority? Jeremiah explained that “the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). The Bible is a revelation from God of spiritual knowledge and understanding that mankind would not be able to

*“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock” (Luke 6:47).*

discover on his own. God makes known how to direct our steps.

At one time the education in this country was based upon the Bible and the values of Scripture. When I attended grade school in the 50s, we would memorize Bible verses and be given a New Testament as a gift for doing so. In high school, each day started with a prayer. No one thought anything about it. Today children are being molded with secular humanism in school. Notice what Wikipedia states about secular humanism: It “embraces human reason, ethics, and philosophical

naturalism while specifically rejecting religious dogma [and] supernaturalism ... as the basis of morality and decision making. Secular humanism posits that human beings are capable of being ethical and moral without religion or a god.”

Consequently, we have whole generations of young people who grow up formulating their own values based upon their personal beliefs. Many of their ideas and approaches are formed by the teaching and education they receive from instructors who do not believe in

God or eternal values. Humanism relies one human reason, human ethics, and a rejection of religious dogma as a basis for morality.

So what is the foundation of our belief? Jesus explains: “Who-

ever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock” (Luke 6:47-48).

Our lives must be built on the sure foundation of the words of God, which are spirit and life. Popular ideas and views change over a period of time. But the Word of God stands fast forever and ever. **UN**

# The Oneness of God

Continued from page 3

of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:15-16). In a human sense we might think of God as the developer and architect and Christ as the builder. There could be various analogies, but their relationship, scripturally, is clear.

## The Resurrection Is of the Father and Through the Son

It is the Father who resurrected His Son Jesus Christ, and it is the Father who will also give eternal spirit life to the rest of His children. Paul states, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11).

Jesus portrays His part in the way God is working through Him: "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:37-40). Jesus then went on to emphasize the statement "I will raise him up at the last day" by stating it twice again (verses 44 and 54). The entire passage repeatedly emphasizes that the Father is working through Jesus Christ in fulfilling His plan.

## Judgment Is of the Father and Through the Son

We are told to "call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work" (1 Peter 1:17). At the

same time, scripture records "the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father (John 5:22-23). So which is it?

Again, with God working through Jesus Christ, it is explained. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He ordained" (Acts 17:30-31). And further, "He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42). The apparent differences in some of these scriptures can often be resolved by understanding the intended focus. Sometimes the reference is to the Father and sometimes it is to Jesus Christ. The Bible explains the Bible, and it clearly shows that God is working in perfect harmony with and through His Son.

## Salvation Is of the Father and Through the Son

God is our Savior (1 Timothy 1:1), Jesus Christ is our Savior (2 Timothy 1:10), and the relationship between Them in this way is the same as we have seen. The Father is our Savior in that He offered the sacrifice. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). And Christ is our Savior in that He willingly died for our sins. He said: "I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself ... This command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17-18). We come to God through Jesus Christ. "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Salvation is one more example of how God and Christ are in perfect harmony, or one.

## The Kingdom Is of the Father and Through the Son

The term "the kingdom of God" is a reference to the kingdom of the Father. Jesus, in keeping the Passover for the last

time before His death, referred to it as "My Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:29). Prior to His entry into Jerusalem, He told His disciples that He was going to die and then be resurrected, and the question arose as to who would sit at His right and His left hand in His Kingdom. His instruction to them was that they needed to seek to serve, rather than to be served, but He also told them that those positions were not His to give. He said, "It is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father" (Matthew 20:23).

There is a prophecy in Daniel 7 that portrays the Father granting authority in the Kingdom to Jesus Christ. "And behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14). The kingdom is indeed the Father's to give. It is in this context that Paul referred to it as "the kingdom of Christ and God" (Ephesians 5:5). Another example of perfect unity, or oneness, between the Father and His Son is the way in which God is administering His Kingdom.

## Truly Being One

God and Jesus Christ are two in existence, but they are one in relationship. They are one in mind and spirit, and we are to be one in mind and spirit with them. We are also to be one in mind and spirit with each other. "If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he if does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20).

From our perspective, we approach that in stages, but the Kingdom of God is not entered into by degree. God is either first in our lives, or He is not, and we are either in unity with Him and Jesus Christ, or we are not. There is no middle position. Those who truly do put God first in responding to His call will be in His family. They will be one. There won't be any number-twos. **UN**

# news

## AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 4

(<http://feast.ucg.org/youth-instruction>). Here is what is available for youth instruction at the Feast this year:

The "My 2015 Festival Booklets" (Grades K-2; 3-5; 6-8; Teens) are available online at the link above. This year, the booklets for grades 6-8 and for teens



align to the 2015 summer camp theme, "Be Like Our Heavenly Father." Inside are daily connection discussion points and questions that you can use with your family studies.

There are activity sheets that can be downloaded for your children to use during the Feast, or with the lessons.

The lesson materials used during the Feast youth instruction (including for teens) are likewise aligned to the 2015 United Teen Camp theme. We hope that by continuing the same theme and topics from summer camps, the spiritual values that were emphasized each day at teen camp will be reinforced at the Feast and with your family discussions.

The goal for this year's festival instructional materials is to continue to support and supplement what families have been learning and observing. It is the discussions, thoughts and ideas about God's festivals. The materials can continue to reinforce parent's teaching about God.

Have very happy and inspirational Holy Days!

Randy and Kay Schreiber

## 2015 Festival Fund

To help meet festival expenses throughout the world, U.S. members are asked to send in a 10 percent donation from their expected second tithe total (a tithe of the tithe). **Canadian** members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the space below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Good News* label.
- Make your check payable to United Church of God and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN:

U \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

# Congratulations Class of 2015!

High School



## Kaitlyn Gjesvold

*Parents:* Scott and Sarah Gjesvold

*Congregation:* Twin Cities, Minnesota

*Accomplishments:* Kaitlyn participated in DECA (an organization that prepares students for careers in multiple fields) during high school, participating two years in district competitions as well as one year in the state competitions. She received two academic letters during high school and graduated with highest

honors. She completed her last two years of high school through a post-secondary enrollment program at the University of Minnesota and was able to complete her liberal arts education requirements during this time.

*Interests:* Kaitlyn has played piano for 12 years, and enjoys playing and composing original work during her free time. She loves to read, and she has also played soccer through her community recreational team for the past two years. Kaitlyn sings in the choir at her local congregation, and has enjoyed many years of attending various UYC camps as both camper and staff.

*Plans after graduation:* Kaitlyn plans to continue her education at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, with marketing as her current intended major.

*Favorite scripture:* "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).



## Abigail Volk

*Parents:* Dona Banister and Jeff Volk

*Congregation:* Portland, Oregon

*Accomplishments:* Abigail graduated from Mountain View High School on June 10, 2015. While in high school, Abigail took part in choir and spent her junior and senior year in L concert choir and on the choir council as secretary. She was a member of the National Honors Society and graduated with both school-wide

honors and national honors. Throughout her high school career she was involved in the Rachel's Challenge club, peer tutoring/mentoring, and leadership.

*Interests:* Abigail's main interest is in music, and she plans to major in musical therapy in college. She plays both guitar and piano, has served as the team captain of the Portland congregation's teen volleyball team, and enjoys reading, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family. Her favorite times of the year include anytime she can spend with God's family, at camps and Feast sites, etc.

*Plans after graduation:* In the fall, Abigail plans to attend Clark Community College to receive her associate of arts degree before heading off to Ambassador Bible College. She is looking into many colleges to continue her music degree after ABC, including one located in Texas.

*Favorite scripture:* "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

## Excerpt From an Interview With Same-Sex Counselor Joe Dallas

On June 20-21, the Milwaukee congregation invited Joe Dallas, a counselor and lecturer, to present five lectures on homosexuality and same-sex attraction. Following are some excerpts from an interview conducted with him by Milwaukee pastor Dan Dowd. The entire interview is available at <http://breakingfree.ucg.org/content/q-joe-dallas-authority-homosexuality-and-ssa>.

### On his background

I actually got into my ministry by a fluke. I was studying and completing my Master's degree in counseling psychology, and I was hoping to go into the field of drug and alcohol rehab. . . . Every recovery center or outpatient hospital I interviewed at turned me down. . . .

Then finally our intern supervisor at my Master's program told me that there was one little Christian counseling center which was counseling people who were struggling with homosexuality and with pornography. I said, "Not on your life." . . . Well, little did I know, I did agree to take an intern position for six months only, and after accepting the position . . . the number of clients I could see weekly as an intern went from six to 29.

### On why people with same-sex attraction don't feel comfortable sharing their struggles in the Church

There is still a tremendous amount of shame and stigma attached to people who wrestle with SSA. . . . I think part of the problem also lies in the fact that it has become so politicized. . . . So because we feel a high level of anger about the subject, those who personally wrestle with homosexuality take that into account and think,

"Oh wow, I better not ever talk about the fact that I myself have those kinds of feelings or else these people are going to think that I, too, am an enemy."

### On whether same-sex attraction (SSA) is a choice

No, I do not believe that it is. Same-sex behavior is a choice. The attraction seems to be involuntary. If you think about it, could you as a heterosexual choose to become sexually attracted to someone of the same sex? I doubt that.

### On why he thinks so many Christians single out homosexuality as worse than other sin

I think that the church [that is, mainstream Christianity] on this issue seems to be very influenced by the world. [Up] until the late 70s and early 80s in particular, the world viewed homosexuals with a very hateful contempt. . . . Had the church been operating in a Christ-like way on this issue, the church would have said that's wrong. . . . But instead the church had an attitude of particular disdain for homosexuals, largely, I believe, as a result of influence by the world. . . . Now the church is still guilty of being influenced by the world by going to the other extreme.

Now many churches are being influenced by the culture's acceptance of homosexuality. But in both extremes it's the same root—sin. The church is taking its cues from the culture rather than the church influencing the culture.

### On whether same-sex relationships should be treated differently than other sexual sins

I think they should be treated equally. They are certainly listed equally. I see nothing in Paul's writing that one is worse than the other and I think if we're going to be faithful to Scripture, I think we need to have the same priorities Scripture has.

### On what family and friends can do for a loved one struggling with SSA

If a family member has a daughter . . . who says, "Mom, Dad, I'm lesbian and I'm fine with it," well, that daughter is not asking for help. As Jesus said, when people say they are well, they have no need of a physician. In a case like that, the church should gather around the family, support them, grieve with them and lovingly call the daughter to repentance if she will hear that call. If . . . a son or daughter says, "Hey, I know this is wrong, I don't want to yield to it, please help me." Well, then the church can move in as a place of safety

and a place of discipling and say, "You're one of us. We love you, we welcome you, we want to walk with you as you seek to continue in your integrity by abstaining from this sin."

### On what people struggling with same-sex attraction can do about it

I believe the beginning of all true change is repentance, born of God's intervention. . . . That can be something as striking as Saul being knocked to the ground at his conversion, or the still, small voice. But one way or another I believe God generates a crisis of truth to turn a man to repentance. I think the first step a man has to take is, before God, to renounce the sin and then in practical terms do all that he can to separate himself from that behavior and anything that would draw him back to that.

### On what average Church members can do about this issue to help

The more grounded we are as believers (grounded meaning regularly studying the Word, investing in our communion with God through our prayer life, regular in our fellowship, taking opportunity to share the gospel when we can), the more effective we will be in all areas including this one [1 Corinthians 6:9-11]. **UN**

# What's New In MEDIA?



## Television Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Literature	Airing Period
<i>The Great Battle for God</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>Who Is God?</i>	Sept. 4–10
<i>Three Mind-Bending Truths</i>	Steve Myers	<i>The Gospel of the Kingdom</i>	Sept. 11–12*
<i>Your Ultimate Purpose</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Transforming Your Life</i>	Sept. 13–19
<i>Fasting and Prayer: Tools for Spiritual Growth</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Tools for Spiritual Growth</i>	Sept. 20–26
<i>Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Today's World</i>	Steve Myers	<i>God's Holy Day Plan</i>	Sept. 27–Oct. 3
<i>Kingdoms at War: Powers of the Unseen World</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>You Can Understand Bible Prophecy</i>	Oct. 4–10
<i>What's That Parable All About?</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Bible Study Course</i>	Oct. 11–17
<i>Kingdoms at War: Babylon Stands Against God</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Final Superpower</i>	Oct. 18–24

WATCH

### Jelly

Jelly Learns About Love



*Jelly and Mr. Jonathan are invited to Professor Puddy's Toy Shop to help him with an exciting new invention! Join Jelly and friends as they learn about love!*

<http://www.ucg.org/jelly/jelly-learns-about-love>



**Periodicals Postage Paid** at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices

\*As of Sept. 13, *Beyond Today* began airing on the Word Network at 11 a.m., which caused a schedule adjustment the week of Sept. 12.

The network has made Sunday morning airtime offers to the Church before, but each time other ministries would buy those time slots as we would try to negotiate the price. This time, we took their asking price, which is still very good, to take the offer off the table.

We will continue airing the program during the current Friday and Saturday evening slots until we evaluate how Sunday morning does in comparison.

Thanks for your continued prayers for the success of our efforts in preaching the gospel on *Beyond Today*.

*Peter Eddington*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Aug. 30:** Ambassador Bible College orientation, home office
- Sept. 14:** Feast of Trumpets
- Sept. 23:** Day of Atonement
- Sept. 28–Oct. 5:** Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day
- Oct. 20:** "America: The Time Is Now" Public Appearance Campaign (PAC), Dallas
- Oct. 22:** PAC, San Antonio
- Oct. 25:** PAC, Houston
- Oct. 31:** Dayton, Ohio, 50th Anniversary

## Holy Day Offering Procedure for U.S. Members Traveling to Non-U.S. Feast Sites

The question arises each year from U.S. members traveling to foreign Feast sites (including Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean) whether they should mail in their Holy Day offerings to the home office, or if they should contribute directly at the Feast site they are attending. United States law states that contributions to the Church in the United States are tax-deductible. Contributions to foreign church organizations cannot be taken as tax deductions. So U.S. members traveling to foreign Feast sites are encouraged to send their offerings directly to the home office in Cincinnati, before or after the Feast. In this way, your contributions will be appropriately receipted and reported to the IRS, allowing you to

take a tax deduction at year-end, if you so desire. Of course, so as not to "appear before the Lord empty-handed," and out of courtesy to the nation hosting the Feast where you attend, please consider giving some of your offering (preferably in the local currency) on the Holy Days at the international site you attend. To summarize: Only those offerings received at the home office will appear on your U.S. tax donation receipt. Any offering given at an international Feast site will be kept in the country of donation, unless you request them to send it to the home office after the Feast of Tabernacles. Otherwise, no donation receipt will be issued for those funds.

*Rick Shabi*