

## Ambassador Bible Center Established

The United Church of God, an International Association, announced plans August 26 to establish a systematic and intensive program, beginning January 10, 2000, for students to study biblical doctrines and Scripture.

"After a great deal of discussion among the Council of Elders and with senior members of the ministry, it was evident that the Church could greatly benefit from a formal course of study for interested and committed people, particularly younger people," President Les McCullough said.

"We have neither the inclination, the need, nor the resources to start a new college or university," Mr. McCullough said. "But after

reviewing our physical and financial resources here at the home office, we determined that we could offer a highly-focused curriculum where students could deeply immerse themselves in the Scriptures. Our desire is to pass along to the next generation the understanding we have been given of God's Word and His plan."

Mr. McCullough stressed that the program is *not* intended to serve as a ministerial training program. "The Ambassador Bible Center will serve to ground students in scriptural knowledge and doctrine," he explained. "Our desire is to earnestly safeguard the 'faith once delivered,' especially for future generations (though men and women of all

ages may apply for admission to this program)."

Whether participants who complete this program would ultimately become Church employees or called to the ministry is not a focus of the program. "The prime imperative is to pass along and make available our God-given understanding of God's Word—delivered in a systematic manner—to the next generation," he said.

The program is designed to provide students with intensive instruction for a period of about nine months. "It will be an exciting and challenging course, but it is not designed for individuals who are incapable of truly committing  
(See "AMBASSADOR," page 7)



Wanda and Don Ward, Barbara and Gary Antion and visitor Ivan Yurishko from Ukraine at Council of Elders meetings in Seattle, Washington

## Council Meets in Seattle

by Doug Johnson

The Council of Elders approved a bold new educational program (see "Ambassador Bible Center Established" above) and made progress on a number of other important issues at their quarterly meetings August 25 to September 1 in Seattle, Washington.

In his president's report the first day, Les McCullough related recent contacts in international areas. In Italy, Carmelo Anastasi has been contacted by individuals from another Church of God fellowship who are interested in joining the

United Church of God for the Feast this year. Also, Cory Erickson, the elder responsible for the 1999 Feast in Jordan, has renewed contact with an advisor to King Abdullah who is familiar with earlier work by the Ambassador Foundation.

Also, on Friday, August 27, Victor Kubik introduced a special visitor—Ivan Yurishko, administrative head of one of the Ukrainian Sabbatarian groups with whom Mr. Kubik has had extensive contact. Mr. Yurishko, who has been instrumental in publishing a number of our booklets in Russian, was in the  
(See "COUNCIL," page 7)

## More Than 1,000 Attend Summer Camps

This summer about 740 young people were campers at six United Youth Camps in the United States, and another 27 attended the camp in Canada. Adding in the 93 adult staff, 140 college-age staff and 85 ministers and wives, about 1,060 attended the camps in the United States.

This means nearly 10 percent of those who attend Church each week in the United States were at camp. Also, 38 young people who do not attend the United Church of God applied to camp.

"This year was a wonderful year for the camp program and we are noticing more and more teens



Shauna Summey takes aim at McKenzie; Raphael Bernal, from France, rappels in the Tetons

go to multiple camps and return each year," said Larry Greider,

United Youth Camp Coordinator. Reports begin on page 8. UN

### IN THIS ISSUE...

A Lesson in Wisdom .....	2
Q&A: Tithing .....	2
Just What Does It Mean to "Do the Work"?	3
International Desk .....	4
United Youth Camps .....	8
Talking to Teachers About Holy Days/Holidays .....	11
Local Church Updates .....	12
Letters From Readers .....	13
Announcements .....	14
News at a Glance .....	15
What's New on the Web? .....	16

Next issue: November 1, 1999

## Feast Fever Enhanced by Video

Friday evening, September 24, about 11,000 are expected to gather at 11 United Church of God sites in the United States and more than 5,000 will gather at 22 other sites around the world for the opening of the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast video sermon presentation is due to be duplicated and sent to all sites. Titled *The United Church of God: A Work in Progress*, it contains segments of a sermon given by President Les McCullough.

The sermon provides a launching pad for interviews about proclaiming the good news and the warning message through *The Good News*, member participation in the waiting room program, TV spots ads, testing of TV and radio programs, *World News and Prophecy* and the Internet. A section on feeding the flock looks at educational programs and youth camps. International areas and scattered brethren are also featured. UN

## New Spot Ads and Program Air

Four new spot ads offering the *Good News* magazine are scheduled to be aired before the Feast in three test markets in the United States, according to Galen Morrison. He is an elder in Beloit, Wisconsin, who put this campaign together with John Barbush, a member in Chicago, Illinois.

Also, thanks to a donation of commercial TV time by Mr. and Mrs. Don Orr of Utica, New York, a half-hour pilot TV program exceeding national TV technical standards will be aired in Utica. The program uses a newsmagazine format, including six ministers in four segments, separated by the ads.

The ad test markets are Utica-

Rome, New York; Winston-Salem-High Point, North Carolina; and Dallas, Texas. "The TV times purchased will reach age groups from primarily 25 to 55 years of age in every income range," said Mr. Morrison. Later this fiscal year, two more markets will be tested. The planned markets are in Illinois and perhaps Kansas, said Mr. Morrison.

Also, for nine days at the beginning of October, spot ads will be seen on Sky TV, which has a potential audience of 16 million in the British Isles and Western Europe. In Canada, an ad will be tested on the TV guide channel on cable for six weeks. See "International Desk," pages 4 and 6. UN

# A Lesson in Wisdom

by Aaron Dean

"You're the king—you can make these hill people do what is best for them," said the generals to Thailand's King Bhumibol.

"It may be best," replied the king, "but we must find a better way and not offend these people. Aren't there enough enemies?"

That was the way the king related this story in a private conversation some years ago, and it has stuck with me ever since. It was one of many conversations I had with him and his queen during a 12-year relationship, which I recently renewed after a 11-year rest from travel. Many pearls of wisdom came from these talks.

The Bible says the children of this world are often wiser than the children of light. Yet it doesn't say we shouldn't be wise. The Proverbs are full of wisdom we are implored to use. God wants us to keep our eyes open for pearls of wisdom that we can use. Indeed He says we should become "perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." This would imply building a great deal of wisdom.

The Thai king faced a dilemma. This hill tribe lived in a dry climate where water was unpredictable. Their meager farming methods meant clearing land, usually with destructive slash and burn methods, and then moving on to new land after a season or two. Even then the tribe often went hungry as streams dried up.

The king had surveyed this land extensively and had decided to help the people. He was going to build a dam that would provide a steady source of water year round. It was a great plan, and this was one

of the few places suited for a sizable dam.

This tribe, unfortunately, had cleared its land exactly in the area that would be covered by water behind the dam! The chief was afraid and upset because the water would



Aaron Dean with King Bhumibol of Thailand

cover their fields. He didn't want a dam. He didn't want to move. Perhaps there were some superstitions involved regarding the gods, along with his own fear.

The generals were right. The king's plan was best for the people. It would give them water year round. They could irrigate and not have to move so often. And, yes, the king did have the power to enforce his building plans.

"I asked my aides to look upstream for another place," he told me. They found a place where a small dam could be built. "It wouldn't be as good, but the tribe could see how it worked," he explained.

So they built the dam there and no

fields were flooded and no one was afraid.

A year later the king went back. The tribe was at peace, and very appreciative of the dam. The tribal chief apologized for stopping the larger dam. "I was wrong," he said.

"Could you build the bigger dam?" And the king did.

At a time when the communists were trying to stir unrest in Thailand among these hill tribes, the king made an ally. Instead of allowing a seed of discord to be planted, he found another way and ended up building both trust and loyalty. This tribe could never be swayed against their trusted benefactor.

How often do we, when we are in a position of power, lack wisdom in using authority? How often do we make specific demands about the what, when

and how of something that probably really does not need to be done?

How do our children, our spouses or our employees react to our demands? Do the "dams" we build provide nourishment and trust to those we love, or do they "drown" the people we wish to help? How does Christ treat us in His leadership role?

It is very rewarding to help people in a way that gently brings them along. As Christians, when we think of the power God has in store for us, it is our duty to do as this wise king did—that is to "find a better way," even when we know the answer and have the power. *UV*

## Q&A: Tithing

**Q.** One of the "winds of doctrine" that has been blowing around the Church is that tithing is not required. Some even claim that assertion doesn't contradict our fundamental belief as stated in the Constitution. What does the Church teach on tithing?

**A.** Our teaching on tithing has not changed. In our fundamental beliefs as listed in the Constitution of the United Church of God, *an International Association*, Article 2.1.18, we read the following: "We believe in tithing as a way of honoring God with our substance and as a means of serving Him in the preaching of the gospel, the care of the Church, attending the festivals and helping the needy."

Our belief in tithing is well founded in the pages of the Bible and the history of the Church. The tithe belongs to God and therefore can appropriately be called "sacred" or "holy." It is sanctified or set apart. The term *tithe* itself means "tenth" and *tithing* means "tenthing." Anything less than a tenth is not a tithe. This is the core of our understanding and belief about tithing.

The fundamental belief lists three pur-

poses for tithing, thus identifying three distinct tithes. While there can be administrative decisions made regarding the three tithes, there has been no change in the essential needs among the people of God: (1) to preach the gospel and care for the Church, (2) to attend the festivals and (3) help the needy.

It was essential to all those involved in the early days of the United Church of God that there be a continuity with the beliefs through which God called us and led us to conversion. There was no doubt when the fundamental beliefs were prepared that God commands tithing and that to refuse is tantamount to robbing God (Malachi 3:8). Just as prayer, tithing is a personal, private matter, but no less expected of each Christian.

Other scriptures to study include the example of Abram and Jacob in Genesis 14 and 28; how God later allowed the Levites to gather His tithe to do His Work in Numbers 18:21; how Christ told the multitudes and disciples that tithing *should* be done in Matthew 23:1, 23; and how Christ superceded the Levitical system in Hebrews 7. Christ

has always been the real recipient of the tithe.

An administrative decision about tithing on net income was made by the Council of Elders in May 1996, which is summarized in its last paragraph: "While the Church acknowledges the validity of God's law of tithing, it also recognizes the excessive levels of taxation and their impact on individual incomes. The Church believes that the appropriate definition of 'increase' is net income after income tax. Therefore, the Church teaches that the tithe may be calculated on net income after income tax has been deducted. Of course, members are free to tithe on gross income before income taxes are deducted if they so choose and they are free to make contributions above their tithes as an expression of God's way of give."

The Council also made a statement on third tithe in September 1996. This took an administrative decision made by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1982 about some nations and applied it to the United States. In sum, the statement said that members do not "need to pay what in effect was an additional third

## United News

September 1999

Vol. 5, No. 5

*United News* (ISSN 1088-8020) is published bi-monthly by the United Church of God, *an International Association*, 5405 Dupont Circle, Suite A, Milford, OH 45150. © 1999 United Church of God, *an International Association*. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

Editor: Peter W. Eddington

Managing editor: Mike Bennett

United Church of God Council of Elders:

Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick (chairman), Roy Holladay, John A. Jewell, Victor Kubik, Dennis Luker, Les McCullough, Burk McNair, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker, Donald Ward

President: Leslie L. McCullough

Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**Subscriptions:** *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, *an International Association*, and their co-workers. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News*, United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or to one of the international addresses below.

**Address changes:** **POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027**

**International addresses:**

**AUSTRALIA:** United Church of God—Australia  
GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia  
Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

**BAHAMAS:** United Church of God, P.O. Box N8873, Nassau, Bahamas  
Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

**BRITISH ISLES:** United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 4052, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK13 7ZF, England. Phone: 0181-386-8467 Fax: 01257-453978

**CANADA:** United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada  
Phone: (416) 231-9379, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (416) 231-8238

**Fiji:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji  
Phone: 723-678

**FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS:** Église de Dieu Unifié—France, B.P. 51254, 45002 Orléans Cedex 1, France

**GERMANY:** Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany  
Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637  
E-mail: gutennachrichten@compuserve.com

**ITALY:** La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy  
Phone: 0039-035583474 Fax: 0039-035582140

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Verenigde Kerk van God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.

**NEW ZEALAND:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Auckland, 1015, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

**SOUTHERN AFRICA:** United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694

**SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 458, Big Sandy, TX 75755, U.S.A.  
Phone: (903) 636-4928

**Internet access on your computer:**

The United Church of God, *an International Association*, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address <http://www.ueg.org> gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News*, as well as our booklets. The address <http://www.ueg.ca> accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, <http://www.ueg.au> the Church's Australian Web site, <http://www.labuonanotizia.org> the Church's Italian Web site and <http://www.ueg.org.za> the Church's Southern Africa Web site.

tithe to the Church when governments were taxing them and using that tax for the same intent and purpose as the biblical third tithe."

The full text of these statements and additional information about tithing is being sent to elders to use in preparation of sermons or Bible studies. Feel free to talk with your minister about this. *UV*

# Just What Does It Mean to “Do the Work”?

by Gary E. Antion

“I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you,” God thundered to the nation of Judah (Habakkuk 1:5). He meant the forces of the Chaldeans were to come upon them and perform a mighty “work” upon them! However, Luke, in the book of Acts, uses the same expression to describe how God would do a mighty work through His Church! What does it mean to “do the Work?”

The words *work*, *works* and related words are found throughout the Bible. Basically the passages fall into four categories: God’s work, Satan’s work, our own work and the Work of God.



Gary and Barbara Antion

The two primary words in the Hebrew and Greek are: *maseh*—meaning “an action” and *ergon*—meaning “work” or “toil.”

Let’s examine these areas from the Bible to better understand the work we need to be doing and the work we must avoid!

## God’s Work

God, Himself, does works. His creation is spoken of as His works. David wrote, “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained” (Psalm 8:3). God’s work involved His creation, His re-creation and His spiritual creation as well as His miracles!

John wrote of God’s work through doing miracles. After being asked who sinned (when Jesus met the man who was born blind), He replied, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him” (John 9:3).

Christ’s work involved building His Church (Matthew 16:18). Jesus spoke of humans being redeemed as the work of God. “Then they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’ Jesus answered... ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent’” (John 6:28–29). Concerning His healing on the Sabbath and subsequent preaching, Jesus told the Jews, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working” (John 5:17).

Christ’s works, which came from the Father, gave witness that Jesus is the Christ (John 5:36). Jesus came to further the work of

God and finish His phase of it (John 4:34). So, we see that God the Father and Jesus Christ do their work!

## Satan’s Work

Satan also has his work. We need to be aware of his works and avoid them! In 1 John 3:8 we read John’s record, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

Satan’s work is described in numerous scriptures as deceiving humans, weakening the nations, accusing others, sowing discord and scaring humans as a roaring lion (see Revelation 12:9–10; Isaiah 14:12; 1 Peter 5:8). He works in humans to lead them to disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). He leads people into works of darkness so God may condemn them. Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

It is Satan’s desire to get us to join him in his works of darkness. Paul warned the Church members at Corinth, “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11). We must avoid Satan’s works!

## Our Works

Our works will either be good or evil. We must, with the strength of God’s Holy Spirit, determine that our works will be good ones. We will be rewarded according to our works. In Proverbs 24:12 we read, “and will He not render to each man according to his deeds?” Since we will be judged according to our doings or works now, so will those in the second resurrection be judged according to their works (Revelation 20:12).

Let’s look at the good works we may do. Being a light is one of the great works that Christ desires of us. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Our Christian examples involve the good works that honor our great God. Even a child is known to God by his or her works (Proverbs 20:11).

Tabitha was well-known among the members of the Church and community by her works (Acts 9:36). We are all admonished in 1 John 3:18 to not love in word only, but by our deeds (works). We need to be careful to “maintain good works” as Paul wrote in Titus 3:14. We are encouraged to provoke others to love and good works especially as we gather each Sabbath (Hebrews 10:24–25).

Though we hope all our works will be good ones, there are warnings against our own evil works. Paul wrote to Titus, “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work” (Titus 1:16). We are urged to move away from “dead works” in Hebrews 6:1.

We all desire to do the good works as individuals. We fall into evil works as our

human nature or Satan gets the best of us. In the end we hope for the praise that will come from our good works as illustrated by the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:31.

We may know that God won’t quit on us. “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

## The Work of God

If God’s Work is what He does, the Work of God is what He does through others. Collectively and individually we must be about our Father’s business of preaching the gospel to this world (Matthew 24:14 and 28:19–20). That was the burning desire of Jesus Christ, and it is ours (John 9:4). We need to be doing the Work of God!

As members of the Body of Christ, we individually serve God through prayer, fasting and service to His Church. Consider Timothy’s example. “And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do” (1 Corinthians 16:10). Both Timothy and Paul were individually engaged in doing the Work of God. Paul writes of Epaphroditus doing the work as an individual by his diligent service to Paul. Philippians 2:30 says, “Because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.”

---

*The Council of Elders in conjunction with the home office staff is very desirous to do all that is possible to preach God’s message to this world.*

---

Paul referred to those with whom he had involvement in their conversion as “my work in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 9:1).

Collectively, we support the ministry that is responsible for helping in the work of preparing the Bride of Christ (the Church). It is called the “work of the ministry” in Ephesians 4:11–12. Paul was pleased to join with other members in the selfless service by sharing the grace of God with others (2 Corinthians 6:1–2).

The seven churches of Revelation all had one thing in common. They had works! In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 John records for each, “I know your works...” Most of the works were good, but some were not commendable. These churches had works collectively that represented them.

When Jesus Christ returns, He wants to see us abounding in His Work. We know that whatever we do for His sake will never be counted useless. Paul wrote, “Therefore, my

beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

In the very last chapter of the last book of the Bible we read the inspiring words of Jesus Christ, the Revelator. “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12).

## Doing and Supporting the Work

The Work of God is being done through human beings—individually or collectively.

As individuals our examples vividly show that God’s way works. On our knees we individually pray for God to grant us success in preaching the gospel and taking care of the Church. Our individual care for those in need is doing the Work. Some congregations have collectively done the Work of God through their involvement in local programs such as placing magazines in hospital waiting rooms or helping stuff envelopes for the waiting room program. Some have individually taken brochure holders with multiple request cards to various establishments.

A few churches have had the talent and means to create public access television programs to share the good news of God’s kingdom and His way of life with those who tune in. Now these programs are available to other areas as they request it. Our Web site is another means of reaching out with the gospel. “Cybercasting” is being used. We have hosted public lectures and open houses and they will continue to be held.

*Reader’s Digest* and several newspapers have been used to place ads for *The Good News* and booklets. The responses have been very encouraging. Floating advertisements have been on other magazines’ Web sites. A test of the TV guide channel on cable television will be run this fall. The ad will be complete with visuals and audio and will advertise our magazine.

Collectively, we have the wonderful *Good News* magazine and many outstanding booklets. A Bible study course is nearing completion and has been featured in the expanded edition of *The Good News*. Television and radio spot ads have been used and preparations have begun to test radio and television programs.

The Council of Elders in conjunction with the home office staff is very desirous to do all that is possible to preach God’s message to this world. We are trying to do it as effectively and economically as possible. Our goal this year is to build the print run to a quarter of a million. From all of the reports, we are well on our way. We look to God to bless our efforts to fulfill the great commission (Matthew 28:18–20 and Matthew 24:14). Let’s all pray for the success of the various programs that are instituted and for others to be used to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. Let’s all be busily doing our best to support the Work of God! *UV*

# International Desk...

• We continue this new section, coordinated by Matthew Fenchel, devoted exclusively to articles and updates from areas outside of the United States.

## Satellite Television Opens Up to the British Work

• John Jewell, a Council member and operation manager for the work in Britain, tells about putting spot ads on television in October, and about the Birmingham congregation and the British summer camp.

We never thought it possible! But then we never thought it was possible to be nationwide in *Readers' Digest!* We also didn't think

it was possible to be on radio every week with our own *World Tomorrow* program.

But to be on television really did seem to be impossible.

During the Council of Elders meetings in May in Cincinnati, Peter Eddington was working on some 30-second spot ads for Canada that stimulated the idea that maybe, just maybe, we could use these in Britain. A phone call to Sky TV on returning to England established the fact that not only was it possible, but we could actually afford it! We already had the money in our media budget. The British

BRITISH ISLES



British summer camp in Devon; left, learning to stencil

National Council unanimously approved going ahead with this exciting project! Working with Peter Eddington we now have videotapes of a 30-second ad for satellite television advertising *The Good News*.

Sky TV has an audience of over 16 million throughout the British Isles and Western Europe. For what we can afford Sky TV has developed a campaign for us covering nine days at the beginning of October. We are now scheduled to be on Sky One (a popular channel), Sky News (now as prestigious as BBC if not more so), the History Channel and the National Geographic Channel. This balance of channels gives us, Sky TV feels, the best target audience for what we want to achieve and will maximize response for the cost.

For the ad itself we needed a British voice-over, and for this we used David McDermott who presents our radio program. We also needed to have the British address and phone number showing on screen. Peter Eddington worked on this and achieved everything we needed.

Over the nine day period we will have some 80 showings of our ad on the four channels. Three days in the first week, and then four days starting with the weekend subsequent to the first airings. This will give us experience of weekdays and also of weekends, but with the advantage of avoiding Friday evenings when people tend to go out and not stay in watching TV.

What do we anticipate the response to be? There is no experience to guide us. In all of these things the tender plant that is the British church is having to feel its way. One thing is for sure, it's fun finding out! And we also know that unless we get out there and do what we can, nothing will happen! There is a very real responsibility and urgency we have and we feel that very deeply.

### The Church in Britain

The Birmingham church is now becoming a regular part of the speaking schedule and in January we are hoping to have regular weekly services. We really do hope that it won't be too many more months before we can have a group meeting in Scotland, in

Eastern England, in the South of England and in the Southwest.

### British Summer Camp

We have also just concluded the first summer camp for our young people. This was not so much an SEP as a family camp. A year ago we did not see how we could have a youth camp. But facilities were found in Devon in the Southwest of England and everything began to come together as it was organized by David and Barbara Fenney. This was a first for them as well. They had never camped before, let alone organized a youth or family camp.

The Fenneys were ably assisted by David Payne from the Isle of Man, Tania and Brian Ellams from Gloucester and my wife, Tina, who spent many years as a P.E. teacher and has been involved with a number of youth camps over the years. Everything went very well, especially as, once again, we had most welcome support from a group from the United States from Melvin Rhodes' area in Michigan. The group included seven young people along with adults Mark Vreeland, Noreen Burry, Lenore Houghton and Pam Vreeland. The young people added a certain *je ne sais quoi* that only those from the U.S. can bring and the adults also provided help and support with the logistics (in other words, helped out with the cooking and washing up—the fun things!). We were really pleased they were with us and hope that they got as much from being over here as we did from having them.

We had a full range of activities: canoeing on the River Tamar from Calstock, hiking across Dartmoor and climbing some of the tors (large, and sometimes quite high, outcrops of granite), learning line dancing, learning how to stencil (some even stenciled their own T-shirts), candle making, football, sing-alongs—the time went very quickly!

The weather was basically great, but the atmosphere and attitudes were really super, and everyone had a very good camp. We don't know yet whether we shall be able to have another next year. We hope so—and maybe someone out there in the United

States would like to begin planning to come over to England and help us all to have another great camp to our mutual benefit. Bowing to pleas eloquently made by the young people, we are mulling over the possibility of having a camp in France—we have done it before, so it isn't beyond the realm of possibility. We shall see!

## Gideon's Army Doing the Work Down Under

• Ruth Root is a member of the Australian National Council and works in the Australian office. She submitted this report on behalf of the Australian National Council.

It occurred to me when thinking about our last two years of progress with our small group of members (409 people took the Passover in Australia in 1999) that our situation parallels to some extent that of the Israelites at the time of Gideon. They were under attack. Every time their crops were ready for harvest the Midianites destroyed them. The Israelites eventually cried out to their Creator for help. God answered their prayer and sent an angel to Gideon. Gideon demanded signs from God, which he was granted. Emboldened and reassured, he eventually assembled an army to fight the Midianites. But God continued to refine His army until finally Gideon was left with 300 men out of the original 32,000.

God accomplished his purpose with only 300 men so that the Israelites knew their victory was due to God's might and power and not their own.

This story encourages us today should we begin to think that because we are few we are destined to be ineffectual.

Working here each day at the Australian National Office on the Gold Coast with just two employees, our three faithful pastors, Bruce Dean, Graemme Marshall and Barry Williams, eight elders and our 409 committed members, I see us also as a small army whom God has called to proclaim God's salvation to the Australian people. We are a much depleted, but fully committed, army with many members volunteering time to help the Church after they have already put in a full day's work, and God is blessing us despite our problems, foibles and human weaknesses. Taking stock at the end of our financial year (the financial year ends on June 30 in Australia) and preparing reports for the auditors and directors of the Church is an opportunity to look back over what has happened these past 12 months.

### Income Holding Steady

Just before the financial year began some members moved to another Church of



AUSTRALIA

## U.S. State Department Travel Warning for Nigeria

Our members and traveling ministers face dangers internationally and need our prayers. Here are excerpts from the Consular Information Sheet for Nigeria:

"The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the dangers of travel to Nigeria. Violent crime, committed by persons in police and military uniforms, as well as by ordinary criminals, is an acute problem throughout the country. Use of public transportation throughout Nigeria, including taxis, is dangerous and should be avoided....

"Embassy employees are required to travel in armored vehicles between the islands and [airport], and when traveling to the airport at night, Embassy policy requires that they be accompanied by a police officer....

"Carjackings, roadblock robberies and armed break-ins occur often; assailants sometimes shoot victims for no apparent reason....

"Due to a lack of effective security measures, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation has ordered that direct air services between the U.S. and the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos be suspended."

God group and the National Council was concerned about the stability of our income base here in Australia. However, as the months went by it became obvious that, because of the small army of faithful, tithing members, our income level, although it dropped, was holding steady.

The financial subsidy received annually from the United States enables us to do much, much more towards preaching the gospel, distributing our literature and caring for those God has given us than we would have been able to do ourselves. In fact, thanks to the generosity of our American brethren, and the determined faithfulness of our members, the National Council was able to increase the amount already budgeted for preaching the gospel this financial year by an additional \$10,000 (all figures, Australian dollars). So, in total, for this financial year \$37,000 has been allotted to advertising and promotions, with another \$11,660 budgeted for preaching the gospel throughout Australia at the congregational level, making a grand total of \$48,660 budgeted for this purpose.

---

*As this article goes to press we have already reached our goal of increasing the waiting room program to 1,000 and intend to push forward with this program throughout the year.*

---

### More Waiting Rooms and Advertising

We have set a goal of increasing the *Good News* mailing list to 5,000 subscribers (after renewal) by the end of this financial year and, as part of this goal, increasing our waiting room program circulation to around 1,000. There are also contingency plans to go beyond this goal of 5,000 if we are able to support the mailing costs of maintaining the larger circulation list. As this article goes to press we have already reached our goal of increasing the waiting room program to 1,000 and intend to push forward with this program throughout the year. A subscriber from the waiting room program is considered a high quality subscriber, since he or she has already seen and read the magazine and therefore has a genuine interest in receiving a subscription.

We have also planned a half-page, full-color ad right after the Feast of Tabernacles in the next *That's Life* magazine advertising the booklet *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy* and offering a subscription to the *Good News* magazine. The booklet was chosen because of the increasing interest in prophecy and future events sparked by the anticipation of the year 2000. We can expect at least another

350 to 400 responses from this ad. The Media and Publishing Committee also has other advertising initiatives planned for the year.

When setting our circulation goals we always have to take into account the postage costs for mailing, not only the *Good News* magazine, but also the additional booklets that interested subscribers inevitably request. We estimate that this year it will cost \$30,000 to support a *Good News* mailing list of 5,000 subscribers. These postage and support costs pertain only to the mailing of the *Good News* magazine and booklets, and not to other literature mailed to members and others such as *United News* and *World News and Prophecy*.

Reg Wright, the National Office Manager, reported we mailed out over 15,000 envelopes of literature last financial year, with many of the envelopes containing up to three or four pieces of literature.

### New Donors, Members, Churches and Elders

Over the last few months a very small number of donors and co-workers have begun responding to what they read in the *Good News* magazine, and we are expecting this response to increase. We have had 15 baptisms since the United Church of God in Australia began. During the last year a new Bible study group was established in Beerwah, Queensland, where a group of approximately 30 very grateful members now fellowship every two weeks. The small Bible study on the Gold Coast has now grown to the point where they have a service three times a month. The fourth Sabbath of every month is reserved so that members can visit their mother church in Brisbane and enjoy the fellowship there with old friends.

The United Church of God—Australia also had the pleasure of welcoming elder Allan Hambleton, and his wife, Helen, and daughter, Sally, to Australia from the United States during the last 12 months. The Hambletons now reside in Brisbane and assist regional pastor Graemme Marshall in caring for the members in the southeast Queensland region. Don Goodger, treasurer for the United Church of God—Australia, was also ordained a local elder in Melbourne providing another assistant for regional pastor Barry Williams.

### New Chairman

The term of office for the chairman of the National Council expired in July, and Bruce Dean, the incumbent chairman, decided not to stand for membership of the National Council again. Mr. Dean is not only the only United Church of God elder in New South Wales, but also took on the additional responsibility of pastoring New Zealand until the Council of Elders could send a minister there. He has been a member of the Transitional Planning Team and the National Council since the United Church of God began in Australia and, more recently, chairman of the Pastoral Committee. He has decided to lighten his workload for an interim period to concentrate on his pastoral responsibilities.

As one of our experienced pastors, Mr. Dean will maintain contact with the National Council on matters pertaining to the Church and he will continue to coordinate a festival site and the national summer camp. The United Church of God in Australia and the National Council wish to express their admiration and appreciation for Bruce and Jeanette Dean's dedication and service.

Bill Eddington has been elected chairman of the National Council for the next two years. Mr. Eddington has extensive experience in management and has been an elder in the Church of God for many years. The National Council welcomes Mr. Eddington to the chairmanship of the National Council and recognizes that this will be a heavy workload along with his full-time job and his responsibilities as an elder in Victoria.



Bill Eddington

### More Good News and Booklets for Germany

• Paul Kieffer, pastor of the congregations in Germany, Austria and German-speaking Switzerland, writes from Bonn, Germany.

The July-August issue of the German *Good News* (*Gute Nachrichten*) magazine was mailed to 2,904 subscribers last month, a 6 percent increase over the last issue.

### Three Times as Many Booklets; More National Print Ads

UCG-Germany's regular direct-mail program continues to prompt reader response. Over 800 booklets have been ordered since the program began in April. In the first six months of 1999, UCG-Germany mailed three times as many booklets as were mailed in all of 1998. The most requested booklets for the first half of 1999 were *What Happens After Death?* (205 requests) and *How to Understand the Bible* (190 requests), which has been available only since May.

As its final major decision, the outgoing UCG-Germany National Council approved two new ads for the fall. One ad will be placed in the *reform rundschau* health food magazine in October. This magazine has a circulation of approximately 300,000 and is distributed in health food stores in Germany. The second ad will be a quarter-page ad in the entire German edition of *Reader's Digest* using the "half-full, half-empty" glass motif that UCG-Germany has used in all recent ads. *Reader's Digest* has a circulation of approximately 1.2 million in Germany, and the ad will run in November.

### New Council Chosen

Of the 57 members willing to serve on the National Council, UCG-Germany members nominated 14 people for the final selec-

tion process, which, in accordance with UCG-Germany's bylaws, is carried out by UCG-Germany's elders. The new National Council members are Hermann Goehring, Ernst Herzogenrath, Paul Kieffer, Rolf Marx, Alfred Nachtsheim, Alfred Riehle and Kurt Schmitz. Mr. Marx is a newcomer to the Council; the other six were reappointed for a new three-year term. The new Council has a combined experience of approximately 140 years membership in God's Church and will have its first formal meeting during the Feast of Tabernacles in Schluchsee, Germany.

UCG-Germany gratefully acknowledges special donations made by the Indianapolis, Indiana, and Garden Grove, California, churches. Both church areas donated \$500 to help fund a computer equipment upgrade for UCG-Germany's editorial work. The money is being used to help fund the purchase of a new laptop computer.

---

*In the first six months of 1999, UCG-Germany mailed three times as many booklets as were mailed in all of 1998.*

---

### Newsletter Reprints Article

An article in the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine has been reprinted in an informational newsletter distributed in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The article "Today's Toys: Child's Play or Something Else?" by Victor Kubik originally appeared in the November-December 1997 *Good News*.

After the article was published, a subscriber requested permission to reprint the article in the newsletter of the *Free Religious Youth*, published in Karlsruhe, Germany. UCG-Germany granted permission with the stipulation that the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine be given as the source, mentioning that subscriptions are free. The May 1999 issue of the group's newsletter contained the reprint.

### New Zealand Uses Reader's Digest, Other Promotions

• This report was pulled from articles by Daniel Porteous, treasurer, and Bruce Porteous in United News New Zealand, <http://www.ucg.org/a/news/nz/0899.htm>. See page 16 for an article about New Zealand's new pastor, Jeff Caudle.

The mailing list in New Zealand is now over 1,500, and the goal is to increase it to over 2,000 this year.

### Reader's Digest and That's Life Ads

We have recently run our second *Reader's Digest* advertisement for this calen-

dar year, again in the prime gatefold position on the inside front cover. Responses have been a little slower than the February issue, but overall, the *Reader's Digest* has proven to be an effective way of reaching people with the *Good News*.

In August a half-page advertisement appeared in a popular women's magazine, the New Zealand edition of *That's Life*. This publication has proved to be very successful in generating responses in Australia where the *After Death Then What?* booklet was advertised. We will be advertising *After Death Then What?* and *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*, along with *The Good News*. *That's Life* will target a different readership than that of *Reader's Digest*.

A considerable number of people are writing in to request additional literature. Most request multiple booklets and we've had some request ministerial visits. There appears to be a real desire by many people today to find some of the answers to life's problems with particular interest in prophecy.

### Waiting Rooms and Brochures

The waiting room program is generating a steady inflow under the supervision of Geoff Mills. This is expected to generate an ongoing level of responses at a relatively low cost to the Church.

Roy Michelson, national coordinator of the brochure program, has put together a team of volunteers to position brochure holders in strategic locations around New Zealand. The attractive brochures have proven to be the most cost effective way to build up the *Good News* mailing list.

### Activity-Filled August in Canada

• Gary Antion, operation manager for the *Work in Canada*, sent this report. See also reports on a Canadian public lecture, page 15, and the Canadian summer camp, page 10.

August has been a busy month for the Canadian branch of United Church of God.

### Waiting Room Growth

We have been busy making an assault on the waiting rooms in strategic church areas. So far, there have been over 2,400 offers for magazine subscriptions. We have added 800 waiting rooms already to our mailing list. We anticipate several thousand more after our mailings are complete. We have several large areas to do.

Our goal for the fiscal year (April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000) was to double our mailing list to 8,000. Now it looks very likely that we will reach or

exceed the 10,000 mark. We are excited to sow the seeds of Christ's message about the kingdom of God through the *Good News* magazine. We have such a great magazine with powerful articles that will help our fellow human beings.

### Ad on TV Guide Channel

David Palmer, an elder in Vancouver, British Columbia, is working with Peter Eddington at the home office to produce a test advertisement for the TV guide channel on cable in the Pickering, Ajax, area of Ontario. It is just to the east of Toronto and has 94,000 cable subscribers. The ad will be seen an average of 150 times per week for a six-week run. We will evaluate the effectiveness of this means of spreading the gospel. Please join us in praying for the success of this endeavor.

Another elder has been ordained to help share the load of caring for God's people in Canada. George Carter was finally ordained on August 7 by Mel Rahel and me (Gary Antion) at the therapy facility where his wife Christine is undergoing treatment to recover from her injuries from a car accident. The National Council of Canada and ultimately the Council of Elders had approved George earlier in the spring. We agreed to wait until Christine was well enough to appreciate the ordination. Our wives and a few friends attended as well. It was a time of tears of joy at this inspiring ceremony.

*Our goal...was to double our mailing list to 8,000. Now it looks very likely that we will reach or exceed the 10,000 mark.*

### Visiting Tours

Visiting tours were scheduled in the Maritimes to meet new prospectives and encourage the members. Barb and I did the tour in Newfoundland and visited all of the 18 members in that province. All were there for services on August 14. A record number of 20 attended. Newly ordained elder George Carter and Ed van Pelt, office manager for UCG—Canada, are touring the other three provinces of the Maritimes—Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. They had a few new visits to make in addition to "strengthening the souls of the disciples" as Paul and Barnabas did in Acts 14:22. One more tour of Saskatchewan is being planned by Robert Berendt to serve the scattered members in that province.

Finally, summer camp took place in Alberta with 27 campers and 20 staff members. The campers came from the western provinces of Canada and Washington, Idaho and Montana in the United States. The youths of the Church have the opportunity to have fun and grow together in a godly way. Eight



Sarah Squibb, the only youth attending in Newfoundland, with Barbara Antion; right, Gladys Smith, whose late husband monitored *The World Tomorrow* in the '60s



of our youths and a counselor from the Toronto area attended Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania, as it is less expensive to travel to that camp than to the Canadian camp.

We are thrilled with what God is doing in Canada. We pray to be useful instruments in our Father's hands.

### Growth in Zambia and Other News From Southern Africa

• André van Belkum, pastor in South Africa, submitted the update about the members in Southern Africa. Peter Hawkins submitted the report on waiting room and card holder programs, and Neil Becker reported on the move of the office.

The Southern African region consists of 10 different and independent countries in Africa (South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia and Botswana) and the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean off the east coast. Presently we have members in four of the African countries, but we are already receiving letters from the other areas. Here are the highest attendance figures for the month of July this year: South Africa, 164; Zambia, 75; Zimbabwe, 9; Malawi, 3; and Mauritius, 2.

In South Africa there are four congregations, with members located in virtually all the major cities. Presently we have two full-time ministers, Neil Becker and André van Belkum, and Peter Hawkins is a non-salaried elder who assists with the congregation in Cape Town.

Even though personal contact and visits to most of these regions is infrequent, we keep in regular contact either by telephone, fax, Internet messages and letters. Members in these countries receive *The Good News*, *United News*, booklets and other literature from our home office. The news reports from the home office and Mr. McCullough are sent from South Africa as soon as they arrive. The reports are sent to a member in each country, who in turn makes photocopies for distribution to all the members in that country. Most areas receive reports quickly, except for our

three members in Malawi. The Chonde family do not have telephone service in their area, so have to wait until the reports arrive by post. And sometimes that can take a week. However, they don't mind as any news from the home office is much appreciated and read when they congregate in their home on the Sabbath.

### More Members in Zambia

In the country of Zambia there has been solid growth in membership. Two years ago Kambani Banda was the only member, but now there are 28. Most families are large, hence the high attendance on the Sabbath.

*Two years ago Kambani Banda was the only member in Zambia, but now there are 28.*

For those interested in geography, first locate Lusaka, the capitol of Zambia, in your atlas. Then look due west, and you will notice a small town called Mumbwa located midway between Lusaka and the Kafue National Park. That's the region where the majority of our Zambian members live. And they will be observing the Feast there this year! As there is no electricity supply (or telephones) Mr.

Banda will take a diesel generator in order for the group (about 65) to view sermon videos sent from the home office. Incidentally, along with Uvongo, South Africa, the Feast will also be held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Even though the congregations in Southern Africa face many challenges, they continue to grow in unity and strength.

### Good News Waiting Rooms and Card Holders

Our first copies of *The Good News* for the waiting room program arrived in January this year, and 500 per issue are being distributed to four regions in South Africa where members of United Church of God are concentrated: Johannesburg, Durban, East London and Cape Town.

Several outlying members are keenly placing magazines around their neighborhoods hoping that more may be called to the Church in their locality!

In the main population centers, waiting room magazines are being posted regularly to some public libraries, school libraries, funeral parlors and corporate reception areas. The Durban congregation has a large proportion of the congregation taking a few copies each month, but, as in other areas, there are a few whose circumstances and zeal mean they carry the lion's share. In East London, copies



are available in a few hotels and libraries. Cape Town has copies going to doctors' and dentists' reception areas as well as libraries.

We received 30 card holders to display the card brochure. These have been placed in supermarket check-out areas, public notice boards and library display counters, among many other outlets.

Results from distribution of *The Good News* and cards to mid-August are: waiting room response cards, 73; brochure coupons, 160; *Good News* insert cards, 82; referral cards "from a friend," 19; miscellaneous (fax, telephone, Internet), 31.

In one of his regular reports, Durban coordinator Rob Tyler commented about the involvement of members:

"The distributors' comments regarding the program are varied. They find the program exciting and heartwarming to provide this kind of help to the community. Others are excited about being actively involved in pro-



Mr. and Mrs. Katapya of Nalubanta, Zambia

claiming the gospel. Others worry about their ability to do the job effectively while some are having trouble in finding the time to canvass possible outlets. Overall we seem to be

determination to fulfill the "responsibility of making disciples of all nations and feeding the flock, while proclaiming a warning that the kingdom of God is at hand."

### Other Decisions

The Council unanimously approved the Rules of Association. "No document produced by this Council has had more review, editing or wordsmithing," said Leon Walker. The document now goes to the General Conference of Elders for its acceptance. The Council also set the 2000 General Conference of Elders meeting for May 6, 7 and 8 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Faced with changing needs, the Council, by unanimous resolution, reduced the number of internal committees from ten to seven. The new Council committees are: Executive, Doctrine, Education, Ethical Review, Media and Communications, Roles and Process, and Strategic Planning and Finance.

The Council gave unanimous support for job descriptions for U.S. church pastors, for international Council members and to remove the word *provisional* from the president's job description.

### Strategic Planning Discussions

Roy Holladay led a lively strategic planning discussion of Church concerns: the continuing tendency toward apathy and complacency among some members, and the perception some seem to have that the Church lacks clear vision and purpose.

Mr. McCullough, Gary Antion and Ralph Levy will be the resident instructors in Cincinnati. Don Ward, Richard Thompson and others will be guest instructors, coming in to teach three- or four-week modules.

### Student Enrollment Fees

Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick said student enrollment fees for the course will be \$1,500. Instructor salaries and other costs of the program will be absorbed by the Church. Plans are for the program to be conducted in facilities adjacent to the home office in Cincinnati.

getting the job done and my assessment of the whole scene is that the program is having a positive effect upon the Durban brethren. This program provides the motivation to show that the work is once again going forward. That's good for everyone."

Mr. Tyler also discussed comments from the people receiving the magazine. "Some are genuinely puzzled by the 'free subscription' (Is there a catch?) and no hard sell follow-up. Favorable comments about the quality of the magazine are frequently received."

We are grateful for the continued support of the home office and brethren whose tithes continue to fund these programs.

### Moving the Office

The South African office has been located at the home of members Robert and Brigitta Kading in Johannesburg. Brigitta was handling the mail and other functions while Robert's secretary handled the books.

Several individuals pointed out the connection between "hands on" member involvement in some aspect of the Work and the disappearance of apathy.

"If people see us involved in doing a Work, the apathy will disappear," said Mr. Holladay. We are now at a point in our history where we can begin to move forward. That, he said, will ignite the membership.

### Ministerial Services

Richard Pinelli, manager of Ministerial Services, addressed the Council August 25 about current needs of the Church, citing findings from Richard Thompson's report at the August regional pastors' meetings. These include congregationalist tendencies still in evidence in some circles, the aging of the ministry and the Church, identifying the unique identity of the United Church of God, relationships with other groups and outside speakers at Church functions.

August 27 Mr. Pinelli updated the Council on progress in handling doctrinal concerns put forward by members of the Church. A total of 34 position papers have been published by the United Church of God, with eight more in various stages of completion. A list of 29 more areas of concern from members shows the work yet ahead.

A new job evaluation process for pastors was discussed, along with a review of policies on ordination, credentialings and expulsions. In a discussion on ministerial candidate identification, selection and education, Mr.

"Brigitta's mother has reached the age where she needs full-time attention resulting in great pressure on Brigitta," said Neil Becker, pastor in East London. "I therefore offered to take over the entire office function as I am already in the full-time employed ministry and our church office functions are still small-scale enough to be run from a private home and do not warrant renting office space. Also, I am the secretary/treasurer of the South African National Council of UCG, Southern Africa, so I guess it would be logical for me to get completely involved."

Mr. Becker has taken over the mailing system with the computer database of members and *Good News* readers. In about three months he will take over the books as well.

"I am in the process of having a separate telephone and fax line installed in my home for the Church office," he said. "Unfortunately the post office employees are on strike so there is a delay!" UN

Pinelli referred to a report by a task force of 10 elders. Based on this and other material he presented a three-part approach: a local leadership training program; a ministerial candidate program; and formal classroom training in biblical studies and associate pastoring.

Work was done on a policy dealing with speaking at events of other religious organizations, or having elders of other groups speak at UCG events. The three international representatives on the Council asked for more time to put forward their concerns, as there are sometimes clear differences compared to the American experience.

August 30 the Council surveyed agenda items on Church identity and a Church outreach program, and deliberated policies on member suspension and disfellowshipping and member appeals of Church disciplinary measures. An executive session on internal Council evaluation concluded day four.

August 31 the Council explored the biblical role of women in the Church and reviewed a study paper by the Doctrinal Committee on the Passover of Exodus 12.

The Council met in Seattle as part of its goal to meet in a local church area at least once a year. During the weekend Council members scattered from northern California to Alaska to speak on the Sabbath. The next face-to-face Council meetings will be December 1 to 7 and February 2 to 8, both in Cincinnati, Ohio. For full reports of the sessions, see <http://www.ugc.org/a/council/seattle/seattle.htm>. UN

### "COUNCIL," (Continued from page 1)

area visiting relatives. He presented the Council with a certificate of thanks from his city for the assistance given by United members during their economic difficulties.

Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick presented the Church's financial situation, which is graphically better than just one year ago. The current fund balance reflects a reserve of 5.7 weeks' operating expense for the Church.

### Media Developments

Dr. Kirkpatrick also pointed out the spectacular growth of the *Good News* print run, which will reach the fiscal year target of 250,000 copies with the next issue.

The Council viewed the current round of TV ads, accompanied by a trial 30-minute TV program meeting national broadcast standards (see "New Spot Ads and Program Air," on page 1). Differing opinions were expressed about gauging successful response to these media efforts. Galen Morrison, who developed the ad campaign with John Barbush, suggested a 0.1 percent response as successful. Other views included the recognition that seed-sowing doesn't always bear an immediate and measurable response.

The Council approved developing two to three months' radio broadcasts, with Don Ward as presenter, to be aired on a CNN-affiliate in Gilmer, Texas, at \$75 a week.

The Council adopted a statement on public proclamation of the gospel, reviewing biblical examples and stating the Council's

### "AMBASSADOR," (Continued from page 1)

themselves," Mr. McCullough said. Students will take part in course work Monday through Friday during normal business hours, completing assignments and tests during the day in addition to lecture presentations. Evenings will then be available for students to hold part-time employment to help pay for their enrollment fees, housing, food, and other personal living expenses. Students will be expected to secure and fund their own housing and other costs, as the Church has no plans to build or maintain a campus.

"The degree of investment by the Church is well worth the benefits for future generations," Dr. Kirkpatrick said.

Applicants for the program must be at least 20 years of age. The first group will be limited to 50 participants, and it is recommended—but not required—that participants have completed at least two years of college or university. Enrollment is open (membership in the United Church of God is not a requirement), but proselytizing is prohibited.

The first session will begin January 10, 2000, and conclude early enough in the sum-

mer of 2000 to permit individuals who may wish to resume their other university programs to do so for the fall semester of 2000. For future years, plans are to begin after the Feast, and conclude the following July. UN

For more information, check <http://www.ugc.org> and write to:  
Ambassador Bible Center  
c/o United Church of God  
P.O. Box 541027  
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

# United Youth Camps...

## Camp Woodmen

This summer marked the second year for United Youth Camps to operate a regional summer camp at Camp Woodmen in Alabama. The camp ran from June 27 to July 4. The 130 campers and 45 staff members represented 16 U.S. states along with the countries of Chile and South Africa.

Mario Seiglie attended as a visiting camp director from Chile. After returning home, he wrote, "It was a pleasure to be there.... Meanwhile, here I am, back to 32 degree weather, wearing a scarf while I write



Ashley Moen on the "big swing" at the ropes course at Camp Woodmen

to you" (it was winter in the Southern Hemisphere). Mr. Seiglie's daughter, Debbie, came as a camper. She wrote, "Thanks for everything. I had a great time. Hope to see you again, but this time in Chile."

Michelle de Campos traveled from South Africa to serve on the counseling staff and her brother, Eric, attended as a camper. Michelle wrote, "Eric and I want to thank you once again for giving us the opportunity to share with God's people. We will definitely be coming through again someday, hopefully soon!"

Each day began with a Christian living class. Eight pastors covered a variety of subjects of relevance to the youth of God's Church. A variety of activities followed. These included swimming, riflery, archery,

soccer, basketball and the 280-foot water slide.

Throughout the week campers participated in a variety of evening events. These included a get-acquainted mixer dance, a portable planetarium program, open activities, novelty Olympics, music video renditions and a Friday evening Bible Bowl.

The first day of camp saw occasional torrential rains. The weather that followed was an answer to many prayers in the form of overcast skies and cooler than usual temperatures. The last two days returned to normal for that time of year—very hot and humid. Everyone was thankful for the comforts of air-conditioned buildings.

On the Sabbath, morning brunch was served by the boys' dorms. Dorm pictures and fellowship time followed. Sabbath notes, which had been prepared during the week, were distributed for everyone to enjoy. During Sabbath services, visiting camp directors Paul Luecke and Mario Seiglie gave messages specifically directed toward the youth.

On Saturday evening, a closing dance and awards presentation was conducted. The dance ended at midnight as the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day, began. Everyone went out to the lake and enjoyed a traditional fireworks display, put on by Woodmen personnel.

Our week at Camp Woodmen was blessed by the presence of many dedicated staff workers who gave a week of their time to serve the youth of God's Church. Many traveled hundreds of miles at their own expense in order to serve at camp.

Jennifer Moen of Dorm 2G may have best expressed everyone's feelings about camp when she wrote, "It means so much to me to know that there is a place I can go to every year where I can meet new people who are in the Church. This year was the best I've ever had. I will remember it forever."

David E. Dobson, camp director

## Camp Oakhurst

June 27 began the fourth year at Camp Oakhurst in California and the most successful camp we have had yet in many respects. On behalf of the staff I would like to compli-

ment all the campers on the standard of behavior. Each year our campers are increasingly demonstrating a greater desire to live by the values of God's ways.

Camper Leslie Schwartz wrote: "Camp was a wonderful experience. Each year I leave with a bunch of new friends, more knowledge about God and memories that will last me a lifetime. I feel camp has shaped my life in a very positive way. When I am old enough I want to be a counselor so I can help the youth in the Church as much as they have helped me at camp over the years."

Many campers expressed strong interest to serve as staff at the camps. Larry Greider, coordinator of the camp directors team, explained to a group of about 20 of the oldest campers the opportunities that they will have in the years to come serving as staff in very important capacities.

Suzanne Miller, who served with her husband, Skip, on the water ski crew as first-time camp volunteers, wrote, "It took about a week to recuperate from camp, but we really enjoyed the opportunity. Skip normally teaches summer school, but he enjoyed this summer so much more. We are trying to work out how we can come again next year."

This year we again featured challenge activities such as the high ropes course and the climbing wall. The high ropes course has a "challenge level" which many of the

Adan Langarica. Some did not speak English and translation was provided by those who were bilingual in the group. Mr. Roybal said this was an experience of a lifetime for most of them. We considered ourselves blessed to have them with us for camp. We also had a counselor from the Isle of Man off the coast of England.

This year for the first time we offered a three-day high country hike in the Sierras after camp. Clyde Kilough and Bill Jacobs led 15 campers and staff as high as 11,000 feet and saw country few other people ever see. Next year we will offer a similar hike to Half Dome at Yosemite National Park and will visit several of the waterfalls in the high country above Yosemite.

Camp finished with an inspiring Sabbath service, a campers' speech presentation and a banquet and dance.

Bill Bradford, camp director



On the water and off the ground at Camp Oakhurst in California

campers attempted this year. The climbing wall has four levels of difficulty. Other activities included water skiing, tubing, swimming, flag football, volleyball, crafts and dance.

One of the most popular activities is "campfire." It is a time at the end of the day when the campers themselves can tell about their experiences of the day, give speeches, sing songs, compliment other campers for a job well done, do skits and have a "wacky Olympics." Campfire generates a spirit of enthusiasm at our camp and a strong bond between campers and staff.

We had 16 campers from Mexico join us along with their minister Larry Roybal and

## Teton Challenger Camp

This was the fourth year for the Teton Challenger Camp—a camp specially designed for older teens in God's Church. (All campers this year were entering sophomore year of high school or older). The majestic mountains of the Teton Range in the Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, provided the setting for camping and all the activities of the camp, which began July 21.

We felt blessed with very good weather during the main activity days of the camp. Normally, mountain rains come frequently and without much warning. But we only had rains at the very start and end of camp, and



Jonathan Beam, Charles Gilmer, Gregg Pennington and Ryan McNeely practice their staff skit for the Music Video Show at Woodmen



At the Teton Challenger Camp, Bill Jacobs prepares everyone for the hike; above, canoeing practice

then they only served to bring everyone closer together under the canopy tents while we ate or had a meeting together. The days were beautiful and nights were crisp and cold. Ice was observed on the picnic tables during breakfast a few mornings.

Speaking of ice, the first day of camp was a hike up to Amphitheater Lake. This lake still had some ice floating on it. However, it was as inviting as a swimming pool for many of the campers and staff. Only the involuntary shouts from hitting the cold water caused some reluctance in others.

The Sabbath was a special day, with services in the woods, an extra Bible study, a separate special music program, a presentation on Noah's ark with scale models (made by Arnold Mendez) and two film clips in the village Visitor Center theater.

Daily dining and meetings were at picnic tables around a campfire, which was lit every morning and evening. After a hearty breakfast, each day started with a "Compass Check" to orient us in a proper spiritual direction.

There were a total of three teams of campers, each team spending the whole day at its scheduled activity. Program activities included an overnight canoe trip, rock climbing and rappelling, hiking and white-water rafting. Some of the wildlife seen in the mountains at various times included bear, moose, elk, deer and eagles. After returning to base camp, bathing was often accomplished in Jackson Lake

(which is fed by melting snow). All meals were served by the camp's own food services, which operates out of a truck, cooks on portable stoves under canopy tents and serves up the best camp cooking found anywhere.

A Christian living discussion was held each evening around the campfire. Every day ended with personal items being placed into bear-proof storage to discourage bears from smelling inviting odors that would lead them into sleeping tents.

This year's camp was a great success, with another high-caliber group of both campers and staff. Though it lasted nine days, it just seemed to go by too quickly!

*Paul Luecke, camp director*

## Camp McKenzie

From August 1 to 8, more than 130 campers and 65 staff came together at Camp McKenzie in Oregon. The challenge placed before all teens and adults was to actively make a contribution to camp through learning and living God's laws, cooperation, respect and fun. Camp was compared to a neighborhood in the world tomorrow, and everyone was asked to think about the question, "How would we want our neighborhood to be?" The end result was not just the development of "the zone," but the staff and campers coming together as a camp family.



At Camp McKenzie, the guys of dorm B4 learn candle-making in arts & crafts class, and John Cafourek teaches the girls of G2 about the wisdom of Proverbs in the Christian living class



## Camp—One of the Church's Best Investments

by Mario Seiglie

After 14 years of having youth camps in South America, I was looking forward to visiting a youth camp in the United States. Frankly, I didn't know what to expect. In spite of the Church's teachings, would the campers reflect the heavy and mostly negative influence of the youth culture in the United States?

At least from what I saw at the seven-day Camp Woodmen in Blountsville, Alabama, the results were very encouraging. It certainly consisted of more than just having fun. Of the 130 youths who participated, at the end of the camp 95 percent raised their hands when asked if they were planning to be baptized in the future. There was a spiritual element in the camp which showed in their attitudes and lives. This camp provided an opportunity for the young people to have fun, acquire athletic and social skills, develop friendships within the Church and learn to enjoy and respect God's way of life.

When Jesus instructed His disciples to preach the gospel, it certainly included preaching the gospel to the children of the Church. He told Peter not only to "feed My sheep," but also to "feed My lambs" (John 21:15). The Greek term for "lambs" refers to the young sheep of the flock. Certainly, it doesn't appear to make sense to go out to the world with the gospel and yet neglect the very youth who are already attending Church. Both parts are needed to carry out Christ's mission.

In effect, the youth in our Church are in a special category, as Paul explains: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy" (1 Corinthians 7:14). This means the children of at least one converted spouse are considered by God to be "holy." They are set apart to be called if they choose to continue in God's way when they become adults.

But conversion, as we know, is not an

automatic process for anyone, including the young people in the Church. It can't be forced or manipulated, but only based on their desire and conviction. The Church has to first reach out to these youths and show them it deeply cares for them at this critical juncture in their lives. The principle is found in 1 John 4:19: "We love Him because He first loved us." Youth camps are an excellent way of first showing God's love toward our youth and then the youth can respond to that love by honoring God and wanting to be part of the Church.

The stage between childhood and adulthood is crucial, and generally, it is during these teenage years when either the "bonding" in the Church takes place or is lost. If the young people have negative experiences in the Church, it will be easy for them to leave. But if they have positive experiences, it will be easy for them to stay, and baptism will likely be around the corner.

This is why youth camps are considered an integral part of preaching the gospel—they provide a positive spiritual atmosphere for those who have the greatest potential of one day becoming members.

There is a moral in a children's story which brings this lesson out. One day, a tiny flower sprouted during a dry season. Every day the flower looked up at the sky to see if a rain cloud appeared. Finally one did, and the flower hoped the mighty cloud would drop a bit of its rain. But the cloud thought it was too much effort to muster up some rain for just a small flower, and continued along. But, feeling remorseful, the cloud turned around and headed for the flower. It thought how wonderful the flower would feel when the water reached it. But once it got there, all the petals had fallen and the flower had died. It was too late. Likewise, the only opportunity to invest in our young people is while they are still young!

From what I saw recently, the youth camps are an integral part of this process. Truly, youth camps are a small investment for the Church that will go a very long way in doing God's will. *UN*

For the second year, Camp McKenzie used the beautiful facilities of the U.S. Basketball Academy, located 45 miles east of Eugene, Oregon, along the McKenzie River in the Cascade Mountains. Camp was blessed most of the time with hot and sunny weather. God's protection was clearly evident as no one suffered any major injuries or illnesses.

After breakfast, every day at camp began with an hour-long Christian living class. The theme for these Bible studies was "A fool's way is nothing. Wisdom is everything. Get wisdom!" Each day, a different subject from

Proverbs was discussed, with the emphasis on practicing wisdom. An outline was sent to the teens and staff before camp, which helped the studies and discussion be even more effective.

During the day, campers had the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of activities. The usual favorites were offered, like softball, basketball, volleyball, flag football, ropes course, arts and crafts, archery, hiking and white-water rafting (for the oldest dorms). Several new activities were also introduced. A pool was completed just before camp, so a swimming class was offered. Camp also had a newspaper class this year where the campers were taught the basics of writing, photography and desktop publishing. A third addition to the schedule was the relationships class. Campers were taught about the differences in personalities, and how to improve

relationships with parents, peers and mentors.

Perhaps the most challenging activity added to the schedule was rock climbing for the older dorms. Mark Mickelson, pastor in Spokane and Kennewick, Washington, and head rock-climbing instructor at the Teton Challenger Camp, taught the class along with a well-trained staff of five. This proved to be a popular adventure for the older campers, who had the opportunity to learn courage, stamina, self-discipline and teamwork.

The evenings gave campers and staff additional opportunities for fellowship and participating in their favorite activities. A fifth new activity was also offered during this time—swing dance instruction—culminating in a final dance and demonstration/competition. Each evening at camp concluded with a campfire, followed by a “bedside chat” for each dorm with its dorm parents.

About mid-week, Dave Treybig and Ken Treybig, members of United’s camp team, visited. They came to help the staff get prepared for an accreditation visit by the American Camping Association (ACA) in the year 2000. At this time, Camp McKenzie meets about 80 to 85 percent of the ACA standards. Most of the remaining standards can be fulfilled without much difficulty.

On the Sabbath, the campers enjoyed some extra rest, hymn singing, Bible discussions with their dorm parents and Sabbath services. The first split sermon was given by Mr. Mickelson, who used vivid images from rock climbing to exhort the campers to stay within the safety of God’s laws. The second sermon was given by Glen White, pastor in Idaho and Montana and lead archery instructor. He showed how arrows are built for different flights and targets. Using the biblical analogy that our teenagers are like arrows (Psalm 123), he explained how teens are fashioned by God, mentors and themselves to achieve the optimal trajectory.

Camp McKenzie was truly blessed this year, and many of the campers and staff remarked that it was the best that they had ever experienced. The level of cooperation, respect, focus, unity and camaraderie was outstanding. A dedicated, outgoing and caring staff set the pace from the start. The oldest boy’s dorm and oldest girl’s dorm also provided an excellent example for their younger “brothers and sisters” to follow. The fruit of five years of United Youth Camps is clear to see in the character, care, actions and faces of the teenagers and staff. The participants say “thank you” to God for a great experience, and look forward to an even better camp family reunion in the year 2000!

*Matthew Fenchel, camp director*

## Australian Summer Camp December 20 to 27

Australia’s fifth United Church of God camp will be December 20 to 27, 1999, during summer in the Southern Hemisphere. It is open to 11- to 25-year olds, and will be held in Bundeena, south of Sydney. The cost remains \$200 Australian (about \$132 U.S.) for school-age campers. Activities will include surf-

## Camp Heritage

Building personal confidence by learning new activities was a theme at Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania August 15 to 22.



Watching billowing sails skimming along the surface of Lake Courage painted a peaceful picture as campers learned the basics of sailing. In the dining hall the popular art of swing dance introduced many to a new social skill which also improved the quality of a favorite Heritage tradition, the closing night dance.

Camp Heritage is a two thousand acre reserve described as the premiere Boy Scout camp in the eastern United States. The 141 campers and 60 staff enjoyed a variety of activities in this beautiful southwest Pennsylvania setting. Most of the days were sunny and cool with very little rain this year.

A unique part of Heritage was the presence of a number of international campers and staff. From Canada came eight campers and one staff member and from Italy two campers and three staff members. Each day’s flag ceremony saw the Canadian flag rise alongside the American flag.

President Les McCullough was able to visit the camp and observe the activities and meet many of the staff and campers. While addressing the camp during lunch he encouraged everyone to take advantage of everything offered by the camp program. “I didn’t have such opportunities when I was a boy,” he said. “These camps are a wonderful part of our youth program.” Ministerial Services Director Richard Pinelli and his wife, Mary, also paid a visit to the camp.

As part of the preparation for a visit by the American Camping Association in 2000, the camp staff made a thorough study of the standards required for accreditation. Dave

ing, volleyball, tag football, boating, hiking, dance classes, a soccer tournament, “world championship” arm wrestling, Bible seminars, a speaking club for seniors and more.

For more details and application forms, contact summer camp coordinator Bruce Dean by e-mail at [bdean@ozemail.com.au](mailto:bdean@ozemail.com.au).

*Bruce Dean*

and Ken Treybig acted as ACA personnel and inspected the camp as part of a self-evaluation. With a few corrections, Heritage is well on its way toward accreditation.

Campers and staff described Heritage as a “home away from home.” We hope to welcome many of them back to next year’s “family reunion,” beginning August 13, 2000.

*Darris McNeely, camp director*

## McGillvary Creek Youth Camp

On August 15, 27 campers and 20 workers arrived at the McGillvary Creek Youth Camp in the Crowsnest Pass of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada. The campers, from western Canada and the northwestern United States, spent eight days

leaming and living God’s way of life.

Throughout the week of camp, skills in riflery, archery and canoeing were developed. Teens mountain biked through

forests of Douglas fir, spruce and lodgepole pine on double and single track trails, occasionally stopping by streams to enjoy God’s creation. This year everyone took a day hike through the mountains and over the continen-



*Mountain biking was an activity at McGillvary Creek in the Canadian Rockies*

tal divide crossing the Alberta/British Columbia border. It is hard not to appreciate God’s creation as you hike through alpine meadows covered with flowers, walk along high ridges looking over huge valleys and look out over the expanse at the high peaks.

Throughout the week teens signed up for special classes in outdoor survival, bike mechanics and church skills, such as song leading and flower arranging.

Christian living classes were conducted every morning after breakfast. Six instructors conducted the classes in each of the cabins under the direction of camp director Tony Wasilkoff. Each day two of the Ten Commandments were covered stressing their relevance in our Christian life. Each teen cabin also worked on a skit. The skit had to display a situation in the Bible where the commandments were upheld or broken. Saturday night the skits were acted out by each group followed by interactive discussions.

Three evenings everyone sat around the campfire for informal interactive question and answer sessions. Questions varied from dating to a teen’s role at Church. Friday evening Robert Berendt conducted a Bible study titled “What I Wish I Knew

Before I Was 21.” On the Sabbath Larry DeLong and Rainer Salomaa had split sermons dealing with the Sabbath and worry.

*Larry DeLong*

## 24 Teen Bible Discussion Guides Available

by Larry Greider

Currently 24 *Teen Bible Discussion Guides* are available to parents, youth leaders and teens on the Internet at <http://www.ucg.org/a/teens/teenstudies.htm>, and many more are being prepared. They were created by volunteers, including young adults, ministers and concerned parents to offer some meaningful subjects to discuss with your youth group.

The guides are not meant to be the definitive doctrinal paper on any subject, but rather a discussion guide that will help you cover subjects of interest to teens. Parents may want to use these at home in a private family discussion.

There are no specific rules on when and

how you use these guides. Some will want to have a meeting before or after services and use the guides to frame a discussion. It is advisable to have the subject announced in advance and encourage some reading and preparation. Experience has taught us that there does need to be guidance and clear biblical teaching. Some ways to make the study/discussion more profitable would include: seek proofs, give examples and relate experiences.

Subjects include: Heaven, Repentance, What Is Your Destiny?, Jesus: Man or God?, Does God Exist?, The Authority of the Bible, Which Religion Is Right?, Comparing World Religions and guides on each Holy Day. Many more guides are planned. Your comments are welcome. *UN*

# From the Ministry...

## Talking to Your Child's Teacher About the Holy Days and Holidays

by Matt and Diana Zollner

Living God's way of life in this world can be a challenge at times. A frequent challenge of parents with elementary school-aged children is explaining to your child's teacher about our observance of God's Holy Days and the non-observance of many of the traditional holidays. Many have asked how we have dealt with this over the years. Although we certainly do not have all the answers, we would like to share with you a few ideas and suggestions that have worked for us. Your situation may be slightly different than ours. Nonetheless, we hope that some of these ideas will be of use to you.

### Teaching Your Children About God's Holy Days

The first step is to carefully discuss God's Holy Days with your child. This is critical. Your child must have some understanding of why you are doing what you are doing. Explain to him or her what the Holy Days mean to us now and what they will mean to all people in the future. Try to keep it as simple as possible. Your child may have many questions. Be enthusiastic and be positive.

Next, explain the world's holidays. Stress that these days do not honor God and He does not approve of our celebration of them. This is a great time to interject with Bible stories about obeying and disobeying God. Discussing these things with your child before talking to the teacher will help your child to have a better understanding as well as send a unified message to the teacher. It will also give them confidence knowing that these holidays are not the ones God wants us to keep. This discussion with your child is extremely important since sooner or later your child will have to face his or her teacher and fellow students alone. Many times your child will have to independently determine whether an assignment is OK or inappropriate can be modified.

The next step is to schedule an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. (Some have found it helpful to talk with the school principal first, then talk to the indi-

vidual teachers.) The purpose of this meeting is two-fold: (1) Specifying days off for the Holy Days and (2) discussing our non-observance of many of the traditional holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter). Pray for divine guidance and wisdom. It is a good idea to introduce yourself to the teacher before this meeting in order to start developing a relationship with him or her. Always show respect and let the teacher know you appreciate him or her.

Specifically tell the teacher the dates your child will not be at school for the observance of all the Holy Days. We have found that specifying the dates in a letter addressed to the teacher works out well since they will have something to keep with your child's records for reference. (See your minister for an excused absence form covering the Holy Days if you would like one.) Most of the time teachers will not have any questions. If they do have questions, answer them politely, calmly but firmly. Again, be positive. Most of the time teachers will assign homework to be completed while you are away. It is most important that your child completes the assignment before returning. This shows that you and your child are conscientious and sincere. You may want to offer to have your child do a special assignment in addition to the homework to share with the class when you return.

As stated earlier, the second purpose for this meeting is to discuss your family's non-observance of the traditional holidays. This topic can be overwhelming for some teachers and no problem for others. We personally have faced both situations. Use your best judgment. Either way, you have to state your position. Some teachers may be interested to know "why" we do not celebrate these days. It is always better to stress that we observe other Holy Days, and stress how beneficial they are to our children. It is easy to come off sounding like we're condemning when we elaborate on why we don't want our children doing these holiday oriented activities.

It's important to realize that you're asking the teacher to do something: to "exclude" your child from class projects and artwork that pertain to the holidays. He or she may feel uncomfortable "setting your child apart" from the other students, not to mention the added material the teacher will have to provide for your child. Explain very positively

that your child understands "why" he or she does not observe the holiday. Nor is it always necessary to provide an entirely different project. Many times a craft can be modified so that it is no longer holiday oriented. For

example, when the rest of the class is making Christmas tree scenes, your child could draw a winter forest scene. Assure the teacher that where necessary you would be happy to provide alternate artwork or activities for your child. Usually this puts the teacher at ease if there was any apprehension. Don't be too pushy.

Let the teacher decide what he or she would like to do and what you can provide. Most of the time the teacher will be receptive and cooperative in accommodating your requests especially seeing your level of commitment and sincerity. Remember that teachers want what is best for your child also.

The following are some suggested alternate activities for your child.

### Halloween

- Work on a fall scene with animals.
- Put together a colorful fall leaf collection to share with the class.
- Make a basket, gather fruits and vegetables (apples, nuts, pumpkins, gourds, corn, squash, etc.) for a classroom decoration.

### Christmas

- Make a snowman out of Styrofoam balls (three different sizes). Be creative and use yarn, buttons, material scraps, glitter or other items to dress him up.
- Draw some trees. Glue on real pine cones, cotton for snow and pictures of things that God created such as birds, fruit, etc.
- Cut out snowflakes and put a little glue and glitter on them. Attach a string to hang them in the classroom.
- Make animals out of twigs or pipe cleaners. Glue on eyes and a nose.
- Draw a picture of a favorite winter activity, for example, ice skating, sledding.

Remember to review appropriate songs with the teacher ahead of time. Some seasonal songs are not about Christmas, such as "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bells," "Sleigh Ride" and others.

### Valentine's Day

- Have your child make special cards for the sick.
- Make friendship bracelets using elastic string and small beads.

### Easter

- Start a seed collection. Glue them on a poster board and label them for others to see. Plant some of them in an egg carton. Marigold flowers grow quickly and can be transplanted in a decorated Styrofoam cup.
- Plant some grass in a clear plastic cup. Make a face on the cup and watch this character's green hair grow. The whole class can benefit from these projects and many times the teacher may even include the class in the same project.

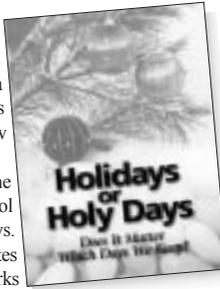
### General Suggestions

Here are a few other general suggestions. With any of the holidays, it's always a good idea to pack activity items in your child's backpack just in case the teacher forgets to provide something. Trace and draw coloring books, spiropgraphs, flash cards, weaving looms, various books, paper dolls and brush and paint books are just a few suggestions. Basically, whatever your child can sit and work with quietly in most cases is acceptable to the teacher. Be sure to check with the teacher first.

If you have more than one child in school, you may check to see if they can get together to play a board game or use the computer while the other children are having their parties. You may choose to pick up your child early when parties are scheduled.

If you have any other suggestions, send them to *United News*. *UN*

• *Matt and Diana Zollner serve as local church elder and wife in Collinsville, Illinois, and have four children, two now in college and two in high school.*



## Holy Day/Holiday Checklist

- ✓ Discuss Holy Days with your child.
- ✓ Explain the world's holidays to your child.
- ✓ Meet with teacher shortly after school year begins to show respect and appreciation of the teacher and to show your commitment to your child's education.
- ✓ Meet a second time with the teacher to specify dates your child will miss and why, and discuss not observing traditional holidays.
- ✓ Be sure your child completes homework before returning to class.
- ✓ Offer alternative activities at holiday times.

## Your Ideas for *United News* Welcome

We'd like your input to help make *United News* more useful and interesting to you.

What news items do you want to hear more about? Would you like to see a Q&A column? If so, what kinds of questions would you like to see addressed? A women's column, a teen section, a kids' page? More singles' news? Prayer request updates? What would make camp reports, Feast reports and the "International Desk" more interesting to you?

Would you like to read features about interesting Church members and stories of

faith and miracles? We need your help in finding these. Let us know about someone's story in your area. If you like to write or take pictures, let us know that as well.

What interesting activities are members in your area doing? Keep us up-to-date with births, weddings, anniversaries and obituaries as well.

Let us hear your suggestions! Send them to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or by e-mail to [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

We look forward to hearing from you! *UN*

# Local Church Updates...



Northwest Phoenix Active Christian Teens at the Grand Canyon. From left to right: Christian Gerchak (17), Judy Hernandez (18), Ahmed Hernandez (17), Jeff Kramer (16), Ryan Rapp (18) (back), Amy Coco (17), Mr. John Anderson, Jenny Nickelson (17), Justin Kramer (14), Mr. Pete Gerchak

## Northwest Phoenix Teens Experience Grand Canyon

An adventurous group of teens from the Northwest Phoenix ACT (Active Christian Teens) gathered outside the home of Terry and Cheryl Nickelson June 10, preparing for their long journey to the Grand Canyon.

Two chaperones, Pete Gerchak and John Anderson, accompanied group members Ahmed Hernandez, Ryan Rapp, Christian Gerchak, Jeff Kramer, Justin Kramer, Judy Hernandez, Amy Coco and Jenny Nickelson. The group packed up and headed north on our five-hour drive to the south rim. After arriving, we visited the IMAX Theater featuring *The Glorious Grand Canyon*. This of course got us all pumped up, ready for our great adventure the next morning.

We arrived at camp, set up and enjoyed our last hot scrumptious meal before turning in for a good night's rest. Arising the next morning to the fresh mountain air, we prepared for our downhill adventure. We rode a shuttle bus to our starting point, the North Kaibab Trail.

With the experienced guidance of Mr. Gerchak we made good time in our descent into the canyon. Arriving at our campsite we all plunged our tired, aching bodies into the cold refreshing creek that ran next to our camp. We set up camp and sat down for a dinner of dried camp food.

Sabbath morning we began our day with another meal of dried camp food. We then set out to explore the canyon. We visited Phantom Ranch, and on our way back we stopped at the Colorado River where we cooled off by covering our bodies with the cool mud. Staying cool was important for the temperatures reached 109 degrees. In the afternoon we talked with Mr. Gerchak and Mr. Anderson about God's creation and the world tomorrow. That evening we retired early to prepare for the long hot hike out.

Sunday morning we arose about 5 a.m. to break camp and to fuel our bodies for the

long hike. It was important to get an early start to get out of the canyon before the heat of the day. We set out about 7 a.m. up the Bright Angel Trail. We were encouraged to go at our own pace, drink lots of water and take many breaks. Following the advice of our leaders, one by one we all made it to the top safely. Greeting us at the top and yelling words of encouragement to each of us were Mr. and Mrs. Nickelson. After taking a few pictures of our success, the Nickelsons chauffeured our tired bodies to our campsite in the comfort of their RV.

We all ran off to enjoy hot showers that cost \$1 for five minutes, but it was worth it. While we were enjoying our hot relaxing showers, Mr. Gerchak, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. Nickelson prepared a hot meal of real food! Then we once again boarded the Nickelson's RV for our long journey home. This four-day adventure will be one we will always remember.

Jenny Nickelson, 17

## Storm Doesn't Dampen Spirits at Third Annual Kids' Camp

Violent storms hit the campsite in North Bend, Ohio, just before a camp for children ages 5 to 12 was scheduled to begin. Many trees were uprooted, severed and strewn everywhere and portolets were blown over by high winds Friday evening.

Amazingly, no damage was done to the camp shelter and there was little damage to tents set up the evening before (except that some were relocated!). Actually the storm allowed the 8-mile canoe trip down the Great Miami River to happen as planned. Because the storm brought the river's water level up 6 inches, the canoeing was an adventure for inexperienced and veteran campers alike. The downed trees provided a nice touch to the craft projects and the blue skies and cool evening temperatures were a real blessing!

The third annual kids' camp hosted by members of Cincinnati North really kept the kids hopping. It also kept about 20 adults and 22 teen leaders hustling to keep up with the 58 campers. Campers came mainly from the Cincinnati, Dayton and Portsmouth, Ohio, areas. Activities at the three and a half day camp were a hayride, nature hike, swimming, horseback riding, singing, rocketry, star gazing through telescopes, science fun, earthball, crafts and more. They also ate a lot!

The Bible studies' theme was "Fruits of the Spirit" and the crafts followed the theme as well. The children made table decorations which included a candle (to let their light shine) and the nature items picked up on the hike. The teen helpers provided a wonderful service by guiding and helping the children in their activities around the clock.

Patty Wayne

## "Most Outstanding Student Award" Given to Texas Youth

After going on stage for a number of academic awards, A.J. Dean, son of Aaron and Michelle Dean of Gladewater, Texas, was surprised to be called back to the stage to receive the "Most Outstanding Student in Gladewater Middle School" trophy. The



A.J. Dean wins award

award was presented by Principal James Griffin and is given to the student who displays the best attitude, character and service to the school, along with academic achievement. The school has about 600 sixth, seventh and eighth graders, and A.J. was completing the sixth grade. A.J.'s name will be placed on a permanent plaque alongside past years' recipients.

Aaron Dean

## Australians Canoe, Camp, Wake to Kookaburras

On Sunday, June 20, seven canoes and two four-wheel drive vehicles made the trek to Harry's Hut campsite for the Southeast Queensland, Upper Noosa River canoe trip. Later, 15 canoeists left Elanda Point to paddle across the lake, into the everglades and fur-

ther up the river. The day was sunny and calm and the lake smooth as glass.

The canoeists eventually arrived at the camp to be met by others who had already settled in and had hot drinks ready. Tents were erected and a hearty meal was served as darkness fell. A good campfire provided a welcome rallying spot for the 21 adults, teens and children as the temperatures dropped.

Campers were awakened by kookaburras, butcher birds, honeyeaters and another perfect day. After breakfast, provided by



Australian campers and canoeists congregate

gourmet chefs Kaylene Barton and Denise Herold, paddlers headed upstream for an hour and a half. There they set off on a 12-kilometer (7-mile) hike to the Cooloola sand dunes.

The next day was again picture perfect as canoeists paddled further upstream for the day. On the return journey some headwinds made paddling more strenuous.

A few distant rolls of thunder the next morning suggested a weather change. It was pleasant canoeing until we reached the broader stretches leading into the lake where strong winds and boisterous waves required extra endurance. All made it safely across the lake to end this enjoyable four-day trip.

Graemme Marshall

## Houston South Reaches Out to Burn Victims

Warm Up America volunteers from the Houston South congregation (see last issue, page 9) made tote bags and caps for the Shriner's Burn Hospital in Galveston, Texas. Their young patients use these bags for the toys and gifts brought to them during their stay in the hospital. The children are somewhat self-conscious of the bandages they have to wear and the caps seem to help.

On July 30, we visited the hospital and presented officials there with 31 tote bags and four caps. While there, we were given a tour of the facility. We began our tour in their conference room, where some social workers were having a meeting. Our handmade items were presented to those present at the meeting and they expressed their appreciation for our efforts. However, we discovered that the caps were too small to cover the bandages, so it was "back to the drawing board"!

Our spirits were lifted as we witnessed the total commitment, support and love shown to patients and their families.

Shirley Scott

## Profile: Risa Wilson, Counselor Extraordinaire

Risa (pronounced "Ree-sa") Wilson, 22, of Columbus, Ohio, is fast becoming a legend at United Youth Camps.

"In 1998 she paid her own way to serve at five UCG camps," said Clyde Kilough, regional pastor in Sacramento, California. "Not only did it cost her for transportation, but she also took time off work to do this, so she really did sacrifice mightily to serve the children of God's people. This year she wimped out on us and scaled back to only three camps!"

Altogether Risa has been to 17 camps in the last six years, once as a camper and the rest as worker, activity staff and counselor. Risa's mom, Regina Wilson, said Risa realized that getting home from one camp and immediately leaving for another was too much. "She decided it wouldn't be a smart thing to do to try to do all the camps again this year. But I admire her that she wants to be able to serve. I know she really enjoys it."

Risa said, "It gives me a great feeling when I look at the kids' faces, to see them come alive" without the putdowns from "friends" or even the gang troubles some face back home. "We treat them like gold. It makes me happy to watch them smile, and to help turn some kids around."

The campers enjoy Risa too. "It was so cool! I mean she has to be the best counselor," said Lindsey Buchanan, 15, who was in Risa's dorm at Camp Oakhurst this year. "You can tell her anything that's on your mind and she will make you feel so much better. She's like a big sister!"

Doing the ropes course was one of the biggest challenges at Oakhurst. Risa "was so supportive of the people who haven't done it before," said Lindsey. "She would give you encouragement and it was cool!"

One highlight of camp for Risa was shooting five bull's eyes in a row in riflery. "I beat my older brother, and it was the first time in four years that I've gotten to do that!"

Another highlight was trying to help a 16-year old who had been running with the



Risa Wilson at Pinecrest with Greg and Marian Sargent

wrong crowd at home. "The last day he came to me and he was crying, and he said, 'Thank you for caring. Thank you for worrying about me and for trying to help me,'" Risa said. "I made him promise me that he would try to get out of the situation he was in. He said, 'I promise, and I'll make you proud.'"

Clyde Kilough said: "What strikes me about Risa's effectiveness is her enthusiasm and positive approach to the entire camp program. She understands the need

to instill enthusiasm in her campers, and even when there are problems and challenges, she realizes that a positive approach will lead to finding solutions."

Camp has become one of Risa's main hobbies. When she's not at camp she's a farmer. "I work on an orchard. I love animals. I love anything that has to do with country, country music, being outside. I love to camp, to sleep under the stars even when it's 40 degrees out."

About the future, Risa says, "I want to be the world's greatest wife and mother... When I look at some of the kids at camp, it makes me think, oh, I don't want that to happen to my children." That's convinced her that she doesn't want her kids influenced by Nintendo or TV. "We're just going to have a lot of family time, a lot of running in the woods and learning to sew our own clothes and stuff like that."

"My parents have done a wonderful job," said Risa. "I want to make them proud of the way I mother my children also."

Mike Bennett

## Letters From Readers...

### "International Desk"/International Needs

"Thanks for the 'International Desk' in *United News*. We love to know what is going on all around the world. Also we can pray better about something we know about. It is great when we get to hear how we have helped our brethren in other areas.

"What about telling us of the different needs for the Feast of Tabernacles? There are a lot of people who would send extra second title if they understood the real needs besides hall rental and/or USA needs."

Texas

*The Church uses donations of extra second title to help those who are unable to work or are elderly or infirmed to also attend and enjoy the Feast. President Les McCullough wrote: "There are many requests for aid that come to the office and we do try to honor every one. We also send financial assistance to our brethren in Africa and some of the other less fortunate areas of the world. Thank you for your help in providing for them." For this year, we have budgeted for help to the church in the Philippines, Nigeria, Mexico, Peru, Estonia and Italy, and to help send speakers to Germany, Australia and South Africa.*

### A Chiropractor Writes

"Thank you for your excellent publication, *Good News*. I look forward to every issue. Your writing is straight-forward, concise and very informative.

"To what address can I send a donation to help you continue this work?"

Internet

### Comfort to the Bereaved

"Some weeks back a prospective member in my area died suddenly. I was rather

impressed with the way the pastor handled comforting the young man's mother. It's easy for us to forget the great gulf between the traditional worldly teaching about judgment and hell fire, and what we understand, and how powerful the truth is in providing comfort. The grieving mother had many questions, and found great comfort in the answers."

Internet

### A Real Eye-Opener

"I am writing to collect all the booklets that you've got in *The Good News*. My dad is one of your subscribers, and I found it to be very good. I thank you so much for the article on forgiveness. I never really thought that much about it. You can say it's been a real eye-opener to me, and I would like to know lots more. As a young lady, I feel that it's my responsibility to tell others about the Lord.

"I thank you for your gifts of love by your magazines and I thank God for you all, trying to help others who can't afford to spend lots on literature. God bless."

Trinidad

### Found GN While Waiting for Therapist

"Thank you for sending me the *Good News* magazine. I have found all of them very interesting. I would like you to carry on sending them to me, and also the booklet, *What Is Your Destiny?* By the way, I came across your *Good News* while waiting to see my therapist."

Australia

### Found the Church

"I think I have found the Church I am looking for... I would like to receive all of your booklets when you print them."

Australia

### New York Newsstand

"As I was coming out of my grocery store, I noticed *The Good News* with 'The Real Star Wars' cover. I took two copies. It is the best gospel tabloid I have read in years. Please have [five booklets] sent to me because *The Good News* was very enticing."

New York

*This newsstand copy was available through the efforts of Lomax Morris, a 64-year-old deacon in New York who was featured in the May issue, page 9.*

### Deeper into Scripture

"I'm one of your regular readers, not just a recipient of *The Good News*. I don't always agree with your interpretations, but I enjoy having my thoughts provoked. While I'm not what could be called a 'fundamentalist' by any stretch of the imagination, I'm a strong Christian. Your literature has gotten me much deeper into Scripture on a regular basis. I'd started regular Bible reading not too long after I started receiving the *GN* and have several versions of scripture.

"One thing I can assure you—I'm with you for the long haul. Your literature, whether I disagree or agree on some point, helps strengthen my faith, and my confidence in that faith as a real part of me. I'll also try to get a few cents off to you to assist in keeping your work going.

"I spent time this morning in the first Bible Study lesson. I'll go on to complete that, don't hold me to a time frame, and I'll do the surveys. Thank you for being there."

Internet, Montana

### Good News in Chile

"I'd like to congratulate you for this wonderful work you're doing. The story on

the Miller family in the *Good News* really helped me to understand the things that unfortunately happen sometimes. I'm just waking up from this world of lies and I'm closer to the Word of God. I'm listening to some tapes to have a better understanding of the Bible, and my point of view towards life is changing, still with difficulties and fear."

Internet, Chile

### Extra Help to Understand

"Thank you ahead of time. I've been reading through the Bible, but really need the extra help in understanding what I'm reading."

Internet

### Booklets to Read While in Labor

"I just received my five books from your library. I can't wait to read them! Actually, I've read most of *Holidays or Holy Days* already. I'm scheduled to have an induced birth next Monday (if I don't deliver her before then!), and so I'm taking all of it with me to read while in the hospital. The chronology of the week of the crucifixion is amazing. That's what sparked my interest in United Church of God in the first place. I got to wondering what else I was not reading correctly in addition to that! I'll be writing soon to ask any questions I might have."

Internet

*Editor's Note:* The letters in this section may be edited for length and clarity.

We encourage your comments and suggestions to improve *United News*. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail mike\_bennett@ucg.org.

# Announcements...

## Births

LaNora Jeanine Lee became the newest member of the Houston South congregation March 13. She weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 18 inches long. Her proud parents are Allen and Alicia Lee, and LaNora has two older half brothers, Ryan and Devin Lee.

Michele and Kevin Bortree (and big sister Courtney, age 5) of Denton, North Carolina, are happy to announce the birth of Cory Michael on July 10, weighing 9 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Randy and Maureen Bortree, and Jerry and Barbara McNeill.

Micah and Daryn Bradley would like to announce the arrival of their twin brother and sister on July 17. Clayton Douglas was born at 5:24 a.m., weighing 8 pounds 15 ounces and was 22 inches long. Vivian Elena was born at 5:29 a.m., weighing 2 pounds 4 ounces and was 14 inches long. Proud parents are Doug and Karen (Hazelip) Bradley of Tempe, Arizona.



Lawrence Garon Dueitt

Larry and Laura Dueitt and big sister Shelby of Corpus Christi, Texas, are excited to announce the birth of Lawrence Garon Dueitt. He was born June 17, weighed 10 pounds 3 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Dennis and Marilyn Braley of Houston, Texas, are delighted to announce the birth of their second granddaughter, Brianna Rose Ferreira. She arrived August 18, weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. The proud parents are Frank and Karen Ferreira of Houston. Her proud paternal grandmother is Rosalind Ferreira of New York.

## Wedding



Ben and Gina Jorgensen

Benjamin Andrew Jorgensen and Gina Renee Knapp were married on May 31 at the Boise Depot. David Blue, an elder in the Boise, Idaho, congregation, performed the ceremony. The bridegroom, son of Robert and Susan Jorgensen of Eagle, Idaho, is a graduate of Centennial High School and Albertson College of Idaho with a BA degree in creative writing/English. He is a reporter/photographer for *The Clearwater Progress*. The bride, daughter of LaWana Knapp of Boise, is a graduate of Meridian High School.

The matron of honor was Teesa Jorgensen of Haines, Oregon. The best man was Daylon Dubkowski of Nampa, Idaho. Ushers were Tim Jorgensen of Haines, Oregon, and Mike Lewis of Nampa, Idaho. Ben and Gina live in Kamiah, Idaho.

## Anniversaries



Walter and Dorothy Hawk

Walter and Dorothy Hawk of Wooster, Ohio, observed their 40th wedding anniversary June 20. They are members of the Canton, Ohio, congregation. The couple was baptized in 1971 and Mr. Hawk was ordained a local elder in 1984.

Their children are David and Julie Hawk, Brian and Sara Hawk, all of Wooster, and Jim and Linda Hawk of Barberton, Ohio. Mr. Hawk retired as materials manager

at Orville Dunlap Hospital and Mrs. Hawk retired after 30 years as an elementary school teacher.

Brian and Margaret (Brooks) Manwarring celebrated their 30th anniversary on June 29. They were baptized in 1965 at the Feast in Blackheath. They have two married sons, Daniel and Brett, and three grandchildren, Alissa, Georgie and Jake.



David and Elverda Rambsel

The Athens, Ohio, congregation provided a surprise celebration for the 50th anniversary of David and Elverda Rambsel. There was cake and punch, gifts and toasts to 50 years of love and dedication to each other and many years of love and service to God's Church, where Mr. Rambsel serves as an elder.

Mr. and Mrs. Rambsel were married April 16, 1949. They have two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren.



Joyce and Bill Seelig

Bill and Joyce Seelig, who attend the San Antonio, Texas, congregation, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on July 21. The Seeligs have six boys (five are surviving) who, along with their families and other relatives, gathered for an intimate dinner on the evening of July 21. The San Antonio congregation honored Bill and Joyce on the Sabbath, July 24. On Sunday, July 25, approximately 150 friends and family gathered to mark this very special occasion.

## Obituaries

Vivian Elena Bradley, newborn daughter of Doug and Karen Bradley of Tempe, Arizona, died due to complications from a heart defect.

Other survivors include her sisters, Micah and Daryn, her twin brother, Clay, maternal grandparents Tim and MaryAnn Hazelip of Glendale, California, and paternal grandparents Dr. Ronald and Sandra Bradley of Bandera, Texas.

Paul Lester Knapp, Jr. died of heart failure on July 5 at the age of 76 in Springfield, Missouri. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Phyllis; his son Mitchell and daughter-in-law Linda of Woodbury, Minnesota; his daughter Janice and son-in-law Jorden Kleier of Baraboo, Wisconsin; his son Edward of Carthage, Missouri; his sisters Audrey Rhodes and Alta Sarah Coulter of Springfield; and five grandchildren: Randy, Lucinda and Ben Kleier of Baraboo, Wisconsin; and Michael and Michelle Knapp of Logan and Cedar City, Utah. Funeral services were conducted by Michael Blackwell July 9, in Springfield.

Mr. Knapp was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater. He married Hazel Phyllis Jones on August 11, 1946. He was baptized August 14, 1950, and was a member of the Church of God until his death. He was a charter member of both the original Spokesman Club and the Pasadena Church Choir.

Mr. Knapp was a journeyman plasterer and cement mason. While employed at Ambassador College in the 1950s and '60s he helped convert five mansions for college use. He was pleased to have been part of the team that built the college.

Mr. Knapp was a dedicated and faithful family man. His highest goal was to contribute to the Work of God, and he derived a great deal of satisfaction in his service to his family and to the Church.

James Miller of Moneta, Virginia, died suddenly of a heart attack on May 30 at the age of 74. He and his daughter, Sharon Miller, have been members since the early 1990s. He began listening and taking literature in the late 1960s. He attended the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation. Mr. Miller is survived by his wife, Ruth. They were four months shy of their 50th anniversary. He is also survived by two daughters, Sharon Miller and Barbara Hailey; one son, Gerald Miller; four sisters; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was June 4 and was

officiated by Jim Haeffele of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Laura Wallace of Brisbane, Australia, died peacefully June 30 at the hospital after a fall. On July 6, 50 to 60 people gathered to pay their last respects. Mrs. Wallace had been a Church member since the late 1960s. Mrs. Wallace was well known for her poetry and agile mind. Having been largely bedridden for the last year, she now rests from her aches and pains and increasing loss of mobility.

Dorothy Garner of Wide Bay, Australia, died peacefully at home in her sleep on May 12 after several years of ill health. Her funeral was conducted by Graemme Marshall. Funeral messages were read by her sister-in-law and son-in-law and her daughter. Mrs. Garner was baptized by Bill Bradford in Toowoomba on the Day of Atonement, 1971. She is survived by her husband, Jim, sons Kevin, Neil, Mervyn and Bradley and daughter Rosalind, as well as nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Raymond H. Johnson died peacefully in his sleep June 17. He was born in Wilton, North Dakota, August 18, 1922.

He leaves his wife Ruth to whom he would have been married 46 years on June 23; three sons and three daughters-in-law, John and Anna, Leland and Sandy, and Watson and Sherry; four grandsons, a granddaughter and a step granddaughter.

He was a faithful member of God's Church since April 1969 when he and his wife were baptized. All three of his sons and their families attend United. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him for his kind, quiet ways and his loving concern for others. Paul Luecke, pastor of Bismarck, North Dakota, conducted the services.

Chalmer R. Pifer, 91, of the Bloomington, Illinois, congregation, died June 11. Mr. Pifer was born November 16, 1907, and married Thelma Craig in 1929.

He is survived by his wife Thelma; son Gary; sisters Mary Holsapple, Bernice Waggoner and Merle Ward; half sister Dorothy Jones; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Pifer was a retired farmer and carpenter.

# News at a Glance...

## Subscribers: Don't Request Bible Study Course

Plans are for all subscribers to *United News* to automatically receive the stand-alone *Bible Study Course* lessons as they are printed (see update on page 11 of the July issue). To avoid wasted effort, the Mail Processing area asks subscribers not to request the lessons.

If mates or children who are not presently receiving *United News* would like to receive their own set of lessons, they are welcome to request the course in their own name.

## Indianapolis Courses Draw 55

The Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation hosted an average of 55 attendees for six classes on biblical subjects July 19 to 23. "The Book of Romans" and "Current Events" were taught by Don Ward; "The Book of Malachi" and "Catholic Doctrine" were taught by Gary Antion. Ralph Levy conducted a class on "The Law and the Covenants" and Darris McNeely taught "Making Life Work." The group enjoyed an intensive week of instruction mixed with fellowship. Lunches were served by Indianapolis members Debbie McNeely, Bonnie Harrell and Freda Carlson.

"We received very positive feedback from those who attended," said Darris McNeely, pastor of the Indianapolis church and coordinator of the event.

"They felt it was worthwhile and would like to see more of these courses."

Many more expressed an interest in attending than could actually come. To serve some of these people, a cybercast of the first night's class was attempted. This would have allowed people to hear the course through their computers over the Internet. But the 150 to 200 people who attempted to log on overloaded the system and the cybercast couldn't continue.

"We concluded that there was a great deal of interest in accessing the sessions from a remote site, and that is something that needs to be pursued for future educational classes," said Mr. McNeely. Some of the tapes are being made available with RealAudio on the Indianapolis church Web site, <http://www.ucgindy.org>.

Videotapes were also made thanks to Steve Nutzman, pastor of the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation, and Mike Helwig, who brought the equipment from Beloit.

## Ministerial Services Team and Regional Pastors Meet

The Ministerial Services team met at the home office for three days August 4 to

6, then stayed on for meetings with the U.S. regional pastors August 8 to 10. "The meetings were very productive. Some of the discussions were in advance of the Council of Elders meetings," said President Les McCullough.

The Ministerial Services team—Jim Franks, Doug Horchak, Dennis Luker and Richard Thompson—met with Richard Pinelli, operation manager for Ministerial Services, to discuss administrative issues and plans. They also prepared the agenda for the regional pastors meetings, based on input from field ministers and items needed for the Council of Elders meetings.

The regional pastors and wives received updates from Mr. Pinelli and Mr. McCullough. They also worked on materials that will be included in a ministerial manual in the next year. This included suggesting edits in eight policies to be presented to the Council of Elders. Updates were suggested for the policies on ordination, reinstatement of ministerial credentials, suspension and expulsion from the General Conference, appeal to the Council of Elders, and others. "We also discussed the overall needs of the Church to present to the Council," said Mr. Pinelli.

One immediate result of the meetings is the special Bible study relating to the Feast of Tabernacles that will be presented at most U.S. Feast sites this year. Other items being developed include a comprehensive approach to ministerial evaluations, including self-assessment, peer evaluation, employer evaluation and congregational evaluation. A policy on outside speakers was also discussed, and there was open, biblical discussion of things women can contribute in the Church. Mr. Luker was chosen to bring this subject before the Council.

The nine regional pastors and their wives who attended are: Ken and Kathy Giese, Larry and Bonnie Greider, Clyde and Dee Kilough, Larry and Linda Neff, David Register, Harold and Loree Rhodes, Jim and Judy Servidio, Paul and Jane Suckling and Lyle and Margie Welty.

## Canadian Public Lecture Attracts 16 New People

Victor Kubik presented a *Good News Seminar* in the Toronto area July 11. "We had 16 new people in attendance," said Gary Antion, operation manager for the Work in Canada. "That was nearly 3 percent of the number of letters sent. Six of them expressed an interest in coming to Church. All that we spoke to enjoyed the lecture and the Kubik's warm enthusiasm."

The subject, "Kosovo: The Unlearned Lessons" lent itself to advertising the booklets on *You Can Understand Prophecy* and the *Gospel of the Kingdom*.

"We had packets made up with a welcoming letter and the booklets inside," said Mr. Antion. There were 56 total in attendance with some of the Toronto members making up the additional 40.

## Elder Ordained in England

David Fenney, a nuclear industry design engineer, long-time member of the Church and member of the National Council in the United Kingdom, was ordained at Pentecost as an elder in the United Church of God. Up to this time he has been serving as a deacon in the Manchester church and his wife, Barbara, as a deaconess.



David and Barbara Fenney

"They are highly respected by the members in the church in the northwest of England and everyone is delighted by their ordination into the ministry," said John Jewell, Council member and operation manager for the Work in Britain.

Mr. Fenney is the Feast of Tabernacles coordinator for the site in Conwy in North Wales this year.

## Services Cybercast From Eight Congregations and Two Feast Sites

More than 100 computer users connect each week to live services from eight United Church of God congregations. Two Feast sites will also be cybercasting this year: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Bend, Oregon.

A year ago no congregations were cybercasting regular Sabbath services. The first cybercasts were at the Feast site in Kelowna, British Columbia, in 1997 and 1998. The first congregation to cybercast Sabbath services was Spokane, Washington; followed by Helena, Montana; Lafayette, Indiana; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Tucson, Arizona; Akron, Ohio; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Garden Grove/Los Angeles, California. A directory of cybercasts can be found at <http://www.cgca.net>.

How many people are using the service? "Most congregations have between

15 and 40 connections per service, depending on the time they are cybercasting," said Dan Deininger, an elder in Helena, Montana, who helped pioneer cybercasting. "In some remote areas families get together to listen. Often times it is possible that the cyber audience is larger than the actual physical audience. With two or three listening at each connection, 15 to 40 connections could equal anywhere from 30 to 120 people listening to a service."

Who listens to a cybercast? "Many are members of a church of God who either are homebound due to sickness or age or for some reason cannot get to a Sabbath service due to distance," said Mr. Deininger. "Many others just like to listen so they can get more spiritual food—either before or after attending their local service. Some listen to find out about the Church to help decide if they want to attend in person. It doesn't appear that many use the cybercast as a substitute for attending church. Many like being connected to a live service more than listening to a tape or video."

The next step is to build a network of servers that can be linked together via the Internet to increase the number of connections that can be made to one service, said Mr. Deininger. "This server network is starting to take shape and hopefully will be a reality by the end of this year. The increased capacity will allow the Church cybercasts to be promoted on search engines and directories and eventually result in a method God can use to draw those He is calling into the Church."

## Council Members Visit Local Congregations

The budget for the current fiscal year includes \$18,000 for Council of Elders members to visit local congregations. Many congregations have had one or more of the Council members visit over the past few years. Out of 232 congregations in the United States, over 150 have been visited. "We would like to extend the opportunity to those who have not had such a visit," said Richard Pinelli, operation manager of Ministerial Services.

Victor Kubik, chairman of the Media and Communications Committee of the Council, is coordinating these visits.

At the May Council meetings Council member Dennis Luker pointed out the importance of Church members' realizing that Council members cannot be invited to areas to deal with problems or questions in a manner that bypasses Ministerial Services, since both are working together to serve the needs of the brethren.

# News at a Glance...

## What's New on the Web?

- Regular updates from the president and home office staff, plus news of the Work United is doing, are posted on our news page.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/news/news.htm>

- Full reports on the Council of Elders meetings in Seattle, Washington, August 25, 26, 27, 30, 31 and September 1 are available.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/council/seattle/seattle.htm>

- Press Release! The United Church of God will begin a course of intensive scriptural and doctrinal instruction January 2000, under the name of the Ambassador Bible Center.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/abc.htm>

- The September/October 1999 *Good News* magazine is available in PDF (1.9 mb) and HTML format. The new booklet, *Making Life Work*, which is included in the expanded section of this issue, is available in HTML format.

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- The Spanish version of the September/October 1999 *Good News—Las Buenas Noticias*—is now available in PDF (1.5mb) format. The Spanish newsletter, *El Comunicado*, for August is available in HTML format, and a new Spanish Literature Request Form is available.

[http://www.ucg.org/html/esp\\_a\\_ol.shtml](http://www.ucg.org/html/esp_a_ol.shtml)

- Ken Martin, pastor of the Columbus and Macon, Georgia, congregations, gives a sermon titled "The Family and Parenting." Robin Webber, pastor of the Los Angeles and Garden Grove, California, congregations, gives a message titled, "The Power of Intercessory Prayer." View them using RealPlayer G2.

<http://www.ucg.org/RealAud/Sermons.shtml>

- An updated link has been provided on our summer youth camp page for Camp Heritage.

<http://www.ucg.org/youthcamp/camp.html>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

[webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)

## Minister to Move to New Zealand

Plans are being finalized for Jeff and Lisa Caudle to move to New Zealand for three years on a work visa. They plan to relocate from Houston, Texas, before the beginning of next year. They plan to spend the Feast of Tabernacles in New Zealand. Complicating the move is the health of Mr. Caudle's father, Hugh Caudle. He has advanced prostate cancer that has spread to his spine and skeletal structure.

The Caudles have two children, Danielle, age 6, and Gabrielle, age 2.

The church in New Zealand is eager to have a resident pastor after four years of prayers. David House from England spent several months there before his death. After that, Peter Hawkins from South Africa was denied approval to immigrate.

The home office will employ Mr. Caudle, with the church in New Zealand meeting his job-related expenses, including pastoral visits to Fiji and Tonga. President Les McCullough pointed out that Mr.



Lisa and Jeff Caudle with daughters Danielle, 6, and Gabrielle, 2

Caudle's experiences in Thailand will help in this international assignment.

## Newsstand Test Begins

Looking for a way to promote *The Good News* in the San Francisco Bay area, Linda Nixon, a member in the Morgan Hill, California, congregation, contacted a company that owns hundreds of outdoor weather-proof displays. The units display up to nine free publications, including real estate, car sales and senior citizens brochures.

After providing samples of *The Good News* to company officials, Ms. Nixon and Bill Bradford, pastor of the Oakland and Morgan Hill churches, met with the distribution manager. He offered space on displays in Santa Clara and Alameda counties at a cost of \$5 per location, per month.

Distribution began on 126 displays; 28 members volunteered to financially sponsor the displays above their regular tithes and offerings and 13 members agreed to regularly stock the units.

Although magazines have been distributed on newsstands in New York City and in several airports in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, area, they have not included insert cards designed specifically to track newsstand subscriber response. Now, all these locations have begun a formal newsstand test using specially coded cards.

A total of 6,000 copies of the May/June issue and 8,100 copies of the July/August issue were sent to the Morgan Hill and Oakland congregations.



Justin Doig (left) and Neil Boyington restock Good News at newsstand in Morgan Hill, California

Tim Pebworth of the Morgan Hill congregation set up an Excel spreadsheet to track distribution quantities. The brethren are now carefully eliminating slow moving locations and adding higher volume distribution sites, especially in downtown San Jose.

John LaBissoniere

## 15 Percent Respond to Semiannual Letter

After four weeks, 10,368 responses to the semiannual letter to *Good News* subscribers have come in, a 15 percent response.

Total mail processed in August was 19,830, the highest yet. This includes 1,073 waiting room responses, another record.

The semiannual letter was sent to 68,048 U.S. subscribers and 1,837 international subscribers, excluding members and waiting room addresses. The letter offered the booklet *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*.

## 446 Web Sites Link to United Site

The United Church of God Web site can be reached through links on 446 other sites. The United site is in the top 1.3 percent of sites in the world in popularity. Of nine million registered domain names, the Church's site is in the top 121,000.

## Cable Access TV Programs Shown in More Than 28 Cities

Two television programs produced by United Church of God congregations in Portland, Oregon, and Beloit, Wisconsin, are being aired on cable access channels in more than 28 cities in the United States. Time on local access cable channels is often available at low or no cost to local congregations.

In the first six months of the year, the *Tomorrow* program, produced in Portland and now seen in more than 20 areas, received about 400 calls to its toll-free telephone number and requests on its Web site ([www.tomorrow-ucg.org](http://www.tomorrow-ucg.org)).

The programs are seen in California, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin.

Samples of *Tomorrow* and the *Good News Television* program produced in Beloit ([www.goodnewstelevision.org](http://www.goodnewstelevision.org)), are available from the home office. Congregations interested in airing one of telecasts in their local area should contact Peter Eddington at the home office for an application form.

## Lease Vehicle Pilot Program to Be Tested

A lease vehicle pilot program will soon be tested by 10 pastors with the greatest mileage requirements—all have driven over 30,000 miles on Church business in the past year. Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick said that in addition to providing more dependable vehicles for these men, he anticipates that over a three-year span the Church will save around \$235 per minister by leasing a vehicle, instead of paying mileage reimbursement.

## United News

Periodicals Postage  
paid at Milford, Ohio,  
and at additional mailing offices