

## Media Meetings Examine Evangelistic "Harvest" Process

On January 18 and 19 the Media and Communications Committee of the Council of Elders along with the chairman of the Council, the president, Ministerial Services, Media and Communications Services and other personnel held a conference titled "Working Together for the Harvest." This was a follow-up to the Integrated Media/Evangelism Oversight proposal approved at the Council meetings in December.

"The basic premise of this plan is that gospel proclamation should be done in a coordinated manner using media, followed by the skillful nurture of those whom God is calling by those gifted within the ministry and membership," said Victor Kubik, chairman of the Media Committee.

"We want to bring together in team fashion as many of the key elements of God's work as we can to first clarify our mission, then discuss how we can work together better to be as effective as we can in preaching the gospel as God grants the increase," said Mr. Kubik.

The discussions followed the harvest analogy, examining the



UCG member Julie Zutz gives a presentation about the "Net Generation" at the Media Oversight Committee meeting January 18. Tables to left display many promotional and subscriber development efforts United has been implementing (photo by Peter Eddington)

field (audience), the seed (message), the implements (media programs), the growing season (watering and working with those who express an interest) and the harvest (as people seek the Church and come to repentance and baptism).

### Warning and Witnessing

One of the key outcomes of the meetings was the commitment to intensify the warning and witnessing aspect of preaching the gospel, based on the Council's proclamation of August 31, 1999 (see page 12).

## TV Spot Ads Placed for February

Television spot ads offering the *Making Life Work* booklet and the *Good News* magazine will be aired in six markets this month.

They are being placed in daytime slots targeted to women

25 to 54 years old. During the two-week period the ads will air a total of 317 times, and are expected to be seen by 2.5 million viewers in the target group.

The spots will be aired Monday through Friday, February 19 through 23 and February 26 to March 2.

The cities and stations airing the ads are:

- Cincinnati, Ohio, WCPT, an ABC affiliate.
- Columbus, Ohio, WWHO 53, a UPN affiliate.
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, WZZM 13, an ABC affiliate.
- Greensboro, North Carolina, WXII 12, an NBC affiliate.
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin, WTMJ, an NBC affiliate.
- Wichita, Kansas, KAKE, an ABC affiliate. *UN*

Scott Ashley, *Good News* managing editor, pointed out that now that the *United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* and other prophetic booklets are completed, we have the backup we need to increase the urgency of our message in *The Good News*.

Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager, said we will start to see this enhanced trend in the May/June issue of *The Good News*.

In considering the "field" or audience we are trying to reach, the group discussed demographic (See "MEDIA," page 12)

## Council Teleconference Prepares for CGCF and GCE

by Doug Johnson

The Council of Elders met for six hours January 11 by teleconference, with a full docket.

The Council first delved into finalizing answers to doctrinal and governance questions (about United's teachings and practices) put forward by the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship (CGCF). Questions ranged from United's belief on the ultimate destiny of man to governance questions on the relationship of local congregations to the home office. The Council will meet face-to-face with the executive board of CGCF March 12 at the beginning of the Council's next quarterly meeting.

Next they reviewed how to

## Youth Corps Announces Projects in Philippines, South Africa, Ghana

Fact sheets for three United Youth Corps projects were posted to the UCG Youth Web site ([www.ucgyouth.org](http://www.ucgyouth.org)) January 31. Youth Corps volunteers will serve on the staff of youth camps in the Philippines and South Africa, and will again teach basic computer and office skills in Ghana.

All volunteers must be 18, high school graduates and have a valid passport (and a visa for the Philippines and Ghana).

Dates: April 22 through 29, 2001. Subject to approval, some additional time may be spent with Church families in the Philippines if participants desire.

Number of participants needed: one to four men or women.

Estimated cost to Youth Corps participants: Airfare and pocket money totaling approximately \$2,000.

Deadline for application: February 28, 2001.

### Philippines

Volunteers will serve on the staff of the Philippines teen camp based at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Regional Training Center on the island of Mindanao. This is about 600 miles south of Manila. Most workshops, socials, sports and religious activities are held at the GSP camp; the camps also usually include an overnight campout to beautiful Samal Island and a mountaineering activity as well. English is an official language in the Philippines.



The South African project will be a Church youth camp on a wilderness reserve

### South Africa

Volunteers will serve on the staff of the South African camp. The camp site is Lapalala (See "YOUTH CORPS," page 3)

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Next issue: March 5, 2001

# ABC Second Year Off to Great Beginning

by Gary Antion

Monday morning January 8 at 8:30 a.m. saw the beginning of the second year of studies at Ambassador Bible Center (ABC). Richard Thompson was the first instructor to speak to the students in his Gospels I class. The 38 students were enthusiastic and curious to experience what ABC has to offer. Two more students

phone and two speakers for better sound distribution. We also added a tape deck and receiver. Finally, a bell was installed to signal the beginning and ending of each class. This has helped call the students back to their seats from breaks and lunch.

## Student Leaders Chosen

The students participated in selecting leaders for this year. Dan Graham was selected as the student representative. Ryan and Stephanie McNeely chair the Social Activities Committee which also includes Keri McConaughy, Kelly

Since the beginning of the school year the students have, on their own, organized a Sabbath brunch at one apartment, gathered for tacos at another and so on. And January 20, some Church members of Cincinnati East hosted all the students plus ABC grads and other young adults for a social evening.

Most of the students have found work and are settled into their new homes for the next seven months. Now planning begins for socials, service projects and fellowship opportunities. The students become a formidable volunteer work force for the home office to help with major stuffing needs. Last year's class gave hundreds of man hours in volunteer service to help "do the work."

Charles Macaraeg is receiving both theoretical and practical training to aid him when he returns to his home country, the Philippines, to manage the mailing facet of the Church's work there.

## Burning Desire for God's Truth

We are pleased with this year's class. Overall they are younger than last year's and there are 16 more students than last year. I see in their eyes the burning desire for God's truth. That is inspiring!

Already, there are 15 applications for next year. Several of the applications are those who were accepted for this year, but due to unforeseen circumstances were unable to come this year. They will form a good nucleus for next year.

If you are interested in attending ABC in 2002, please request an application or download one from our Web site at [www.ucg.org/abc](http://www.ucg.org/abc).



Richard Thompson teaches the first class January 8

were still in transit on that opening day.

Gary Antion followed with General Epistles and then Ralph Levy brought his class on the Pentateuch. Following a lunch break, the students heard once again from Dr. Levy in his Introduction to the Bible class. Mr. Antion taught Practical Christianity and Dr. Levy concluded the instruction for the day with the Former Prophets.

On Tuesday and Thursday there is a slightly different schedule with the module presenter at the 8:30 a.m. time followed by Les McCullough with the Epistles of Paul class. Dr. Levy has the first class of the afternoon on the Writings. Mr. Antion concludes the afternoon with Comparative Religion I.

The students seem eager to learn and ask many questions, which makes the class interesting. They have a way of inspiring the instructors to respond by giving more of themselves and material to the class.

After the first week, the Cincinnati East congregation had a square dance social and potluck meal. This gave the students a social opportunity to interact with the congregation. They appreciated the food, fellowship and the fun.

Aaron Taylor, our ABC elder statesman at 72, arrived on Monday, January 15. Charles Macaraeg of the Philippines received his visa and arrived on January 17. We now have the complete class of 40 students present for this year. The students welcomed the newcomers to the program and are helping them settle in. We had the classes recorded for them so they could "catch up."

This year, we added a cordless micro-



Savoie, Stephen Warren and Ted Wilson. Kris Browning chairs the Service Projects Committee composed of Tanya Ekama, Sarah Janicich, Carl Koester and Dori Naranjo.

Lisa Browning (no blood relation to Kris) and Rachel Rodriguez work with music coordination. Beth Schwartzrock, Jennifer Kelley and Lori Higgs take care of the communications board. Nicole Graham, with help from Michelle de Campos, Mike Greider and Sarah Rogers Winner, looks after our ABC Web site. Dale and Sandy Puerner along with Lina Reid take care of the all-important kitchen area.

Beth Schwartzrock and Farrol Harmon were asked to be class secretaries.



Students and faculty get together at orientation January 7. Above, Stephen Warren, Lisa Browning, Dan Graham and Glenn Harmon. Left, Les McCullough congratulates newlyweds Stephanie and Ryan McNeely

Please join us in praying that this will be another successful year at ABC. *un*

Gary Antion is the ABC coordinator and a member of the Council of Elders.

## United News

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Editor: Peter W. Eddington

Managing editor: Mike Bennett

Copy editor: Becky Bennett

United Church of God Council of Elders:  
Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick, Roy Holladay (chairman), John A. Jewell, Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Burk McNair, Mario Seiglie, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker, Donald Ward

President: Leslie L. McCullough

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### 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 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England.  
Phone: 020-8386-8467 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

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

**FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS:** Église de Dieu Unie—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 [gutenachrichten@compuserve.com](mailto:gutenachrichten@compuserve.com)

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

**MAURITIUS:** P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius  
**THE NETHERLANDS:** United Church of God Holland, P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands

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

**PHILIPPINES:** United Church of God, P.O. Box 4774, MCPO, 1287 Makati City, Philippines  
Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

**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:** Iglesia de Dios Unida, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.  
Phone: (513) 576-9796

**TONGA:** United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

### 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.ucg.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.ucg.ca> accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, <http://www.ucg.org.au> the Australian Web site, <http://www.labonnotizia.org> the Italian Web site, <http://www.goodnews.org.uk> the British Isles Web site, <http://www.ucg.org.ph> the Philippines Web site and <http://www.ucg.org/html/rsa> the Southern Africa Web site.

# International News...

## Elder Ordained in England

Frank Jarvis and his wife, Dot, were called to the front of the Gloucester, England, congregation following Sabbath services, December 30, 2000. Here Mr. Jarvis, hand in hand with his wife, was ordained by church pastor, John A. Jewell, as an elder in the Church of God.

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis have been very active in the Church for a number of years, and since the restructuring of 1998 have been pillars of strength within the Church. Together with deacon and deaconess Ray and Joan Bunting, they were instrumental in helping to keep the Gloucester congregation on course in 1998. They have served in visiting the other congregations and taking Church services, visiting and encouraging others.

Mr. Jarvis was born in Birmingham in 1943. He says that mercury poisoning almost claimed his life as a child and consequently he lost a lot of education. But it was at school that another pupil gave him his first Bible. Later, on passing his examinations, he became a junior draftsman. Then he was employed on the railways in the civil engineering division as a draftsman at the age of 18. In the mid-1960s he was challenged to disprove the message of a magazine called *The Plain Truth*. Since his late father had taught there was no God or spirit world, this was a challenge to be accepted.

Mr. Jarvis was baptized in 1970. At his first Sabbath service the minister invited him to meet with some of the men on a Tuesday evening. It was a Spokesman Club. A few weeks later he heard of one



Frank Jarvis was ordained in Gloucester congregation in the west of England

young lady who would be attending services for the first time. This was Dorothy Rogers who was then his first date at a club Ladies Night. They were married 18 months later in 1971. Mrs. Jarvis is now a staff nurse at a hospital in Worcester.

Mr. Jarvis is currently working for a mail order company in Birmingham. He is also an executive member of the British National Council and a valued member of our ministerial team here in the United Kingdom.

With his ordination we have asked him to be assistant pastor of the Gloucester congregation and to pastor the small group meeting in Birmingham. We know that he and his wife are going to set a great pace in serving the members of God's Church, Jesus Christ and God the Father as we draw ever closer to the end of this age.

John A. Jewell

## UCG-Germany Sends Out 25,151 Pieces of Literature in the Year 2000

During the year 2000, UCG-Germany mailed out 25,151 pieces of literature, including 21,654 copies of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine (the German *Good News*) and 2,662 booklets.

Of the 10 booklet titles available, the German version of *What Is Your Destiny?* was the most requested booklet, with 516 mailed out, and the German version of *The Road to Eternal Life* was next with 469 sent. Also mailed were 835

copies of *Intern*, the German *United News*.

Besides the literature mailings, UCG-Germany also sent out 3,433 promotional mailings such as literature offers and semiannual letters.

Personal Correspondence answers were sent to 289 people by mail and 43 by e-mail. Another 451 letters were sent to members of the Church, and 299 cassette sermon tape mailings were sent to shut-ins and remote brethren. *uv*

## Canadian Work on the Move

The year 2000 saw the Canadian membership increase 2.8 percent, donors increase 19.7 percent and subscribers increase 28.6 percent. At the end of the year there were 366 members, 340 donors and 11,403 subscribers on file. Average attendance through November was 467, compared to 438 the year before.

The Canadian office distributed 78,442 *Good News* magazines for the year—65.7 percent more than the previous year.

### Subscriber Development Letter

In January nearly 4,000 subscriber development letters were mailed to *Good News* subscribers across Canada. The letter offered two booklets: *The Church Jesus Built* and *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*. As of January 25, 373 responses

had been received, (about a 10 percent response) with more coming in daily.

### Staff Visits the Home Office

Sunday morning, January 21, Tony and Linda Wasilkoff, Ed van Pelt and Kevin Ford made the eight-hour drive to Cincinnati for meetings with home office staff. Various items were discussed, including the Canadian budget for 2001-2002. Mr. Wasilkoff was asked by Gary Antion to teach his class on Monday, covering James 4.

"We came away from the meetings on Monday and Tuesday with lots of good ideas and found ways to improve things, like our reports to the home office," said Mr. van Pelt. "It was also a good opportunity to get reacquainted with the staff who work so hard to do the work. There is quite a change at the home office especially when compared to last year. It was quite evident that more room is required."

### Report From Vancouver

David Palmer, pastor of the Vancouver and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, congregations, wrote in the *UCG Canadian Report*: "Here on British Columbia's west coast, we have a team approach to serving God's people. Elders Lorne Davies and Joseph Cheperdak, along with deacons Chuck Chase, Ken Kerr Sr. and Willy Weber, as well as several enthusiastic volunteers, all work closely together in creating, under God's guiding hand, a family atmosphere.

"Recognizing the importance of communication, both Mr. Davies and I hold a teleconference with Mr. Cheperdak and Mr. Kerr...twice a month, allowing us to formulate local initiatives. One of the most recent was the discussion to combine the Victoria and Nanaimo areas into one UCG congregation located in Ladysmith, which is situated between the two larger centers. After consultation with the brethren, the move was made to the satisfaction of all concerned." *uv*

### "YOUTH CORPS," (Continued from page 1)

Wilderness School in the Lapalala wilderness reserve, 200 miles north of Johannesburg. This camp is nature-oriented, with many activities to help young people increase their understanding of the African wilderness, and learn various wilderness skills. Youth Corps participants will act as counselors and/or activity staff during the camp.

Dates: The camp runs July 1 through 6, 2001. Youth Corps participants will need to arrive by June 28 and would leave on Thursday, July 12. Following the camp, there will be opportunities to visit areas of interest in South Africa.

Number of participants needed: two men and two women.

Estimated cost to Youth Corps participants: Airfare (estimated at between \$1,800 and \$2,200 from the United States) and pocket money (recommended amount \$300).

Deadline for application: March 31, 2001.

### Ghana

Volunteers will teach basic computer and office skills to elders and members of the Remnant Church of God, as the United Church of God assists them to improve their abilities to do the work of the Church in West Africa.

Dates: June 14 through July 1, 2001.

Number of participants needed: one or two men.

Estimated cost to Youth Corps participants: Airfare and pocket money totaling approximately \$2,000.

Deadline for application: April 15, 2001.

The complete fact sheets for all three projects and application forms can be found on the Web at [www.ucgyouth.org/corp](http://www.ucgyouth.org/corp) and at [www.ucg.org/youthcorps](http://www.ucg.org/youthcorps).

The United Youth Corps program is designed to assist young adults in capturing the vision of the Kingdom of God and developing leadership skills through service and



Street scene in Ghana

international travel. These opportunities to serve in the work of the Church have lasting benefits for those served, for the volunteers and for the Church. *uv*

# Brethren Safe in El Salvadoran Earthquake; Several Lose Their Homes

*Herbert Cisneros filed the following reports with Leon Walker, director of Church activities in the Spanish-speaking areas, after a 7.9 earthquake jolted the central Pacific coast of El Salvador on January 13. Mr. Cisneros pastors congregations in San Salvador and San Sebastián, El Salvador.*

At 11:35 a.m. on January 13 we Salvadorans were struck by a powerful earthquake inflicting catastrophe on highways, buildings and people as well as producing enormous landslides. Seconds before the earthquake you could hear a strange rumbling coming from the bowels of the earth. It was as if some fearsome giant were marching across the Salvadoran landscape tossing aside houses and electric utility poles while ripping apart roadways and human lives. It is absolutely horrifying to witness what just 62 seconds of terrestrial convulsion can wreak.

Afterwards, the basic utilities of electricity, water and telephone were inoperable for several hours and haphazard for days.

It is especially painful to look into the faces of both children and adults still in shock and unable to comprehend what has happened. In this area an avalanche erased from the map a swath of territory at least one kilometer long and one half kilometer wide.

The Minister of Health says that on average every three minutes a patient is admitted to one of the area hospitals. Since many of the hospitals themselves are unsafe,

patients are being housed in adjacent automobile parking structures.

Thankfully no Church members were injured. After several days, however, I learned that five members and three prospective members had lost their homes. They sleep wherever they can, protected from the elements only by makeshift tents of plastic and cardboard which offer but scant protection against a cold snap affecting this area.

These folks, in spite of their circumstances, are by no means down and out; on the contrary, they are optimistic because they realize our Father, who has everything under control, knows how to use this painfully tragic event to the benefit of everyone—for the Church as well as for all Salvadorans.

On the day of the earthquake, we were not with the congregation in San Salvador. We were 83 kilometers away in the town of Juayua, an area hit hard by the quake. I had received an invitation to speak from a *Buenas Noticias* (Spanish *Good News*) subscriber. He took us to their little church building and gave me the opportunity to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

I was eagerly engaged in doing just that—explaining to them the coming government of God, His Feast days and the Sabbath (which they observe)—when the quake struck. I thought for just a moment we were going to be buried on the spot because of the violent intensity of the temblor and the lightweight construction of the building in which

we were meeting. Again, thanks be to God for saving us from nature's violence!

I am confident our brethren around the

world will beseech God to give relief and consolation to the Salvadoran members and nation.

*Herbert Cisneros*

## Seeds Growing in Peru

During the last month we have seen an increase of interest in being part of the United Church of God, an *International Association*, from people who have been reading *Las Buenas Noticias* (Spanish *Good News*) and the booklets in Spanish.

The seed was planted during some trips Wilfredo Saenz, the pastor of the Peruvian congregations, took back in 1996. Back then we received visit requests from some people in the jungle area of our country. Thanks to the support of our sister congregation in Indianapolis, Indiana, Mr. Saenz was able to make sporadic trips to those areas. Some of those trips were very long because you could get there, but when weather conditions got very bad you could not get back. By the end of last year Mr. Saenz and I talked about the possibility of focusing our effort in some other area in our country, because we thought nothing was happening there.

Much to our surprise, during this past month we have received letters and phone calls from people who, like the Bereans, were just taking their time to study and consider if what we were teaching was according to the Bible. They wanted to go slow to be safe.

These people have now asked to be considered part of United and have asked for ministerial care. They want to listen to sermon tapes weekly and to be visited on a regular basis, even though they understand that sometimes that is not going to be possible due to weather considerations. For example, right now some roads are closed due to heavy rain. The new areas we are now sending tapes to and taking care of are (with number of people in each): Amazonas, 10; Cerro de Pasco, 7; Tingo Maria, 5; San Martin, 7; and Pucallpa, 8.

Also in Lima, we have five new people attending services since the beginning of this year, and two people from another fellowship came to visit us during the last Feast season and started to meet with us.

As you can see, all of a sudden we have more work to do, which is really nice and we are not complaining about it. It is encouraging to see new people elated to hear the truth and learn more about God's way of life. We respectfully request your prayers for these people and for us, as we pray for you and the work God is carrying out around the world.

*Manuel Quijano*

## Leadership Training Seminars Held in Three Locations in the Philippines

The weekend of January 13, 2001, saw the beginning of a series of Leadership Training Seminars for the Church leadership in the Philippines. At the request of UCGA President Les McCullough and Ministerial Services Operation Manager Richard Pinelli, Earl Roemer, pastor of the congregations in Hawaii, arrived in the Philippines to present the seminars to Church leaders in Luzon in the north, Bacolod City in the central islands and in Mindanao—the main southern Philippine island. This is Mr. Roemer's fifth visit to the Philippines since November 1996 in support of the leaders and members in the islands.

Thirteen ordained and unordained Church leaders and wives met in Manila Saturday night and Sunday. The subjects included the format of Sabbath services, song-leading, opening and closing prayers, God-minister (leader)-member relationships, as well as an introduction to servant-based leadership. More than 60 pages of handouts included 48 pages of Church policies.

The second leg of the seminars was held



Leadership seminars held in Manila (left), Davao City (top) and Bacolod City (right) (photos by Earl Roemer)

in Bacolod City in the Visayas—the central islands of the Philippines—on the island of Negros. Sixteen men and women met Wednesday night (January 17) for an abbreviated seminar that included segments of the

information presented in Manila. They received the same handouts.

The final leg of the trip was in Davao City, on the island of Mindanao. Attendance at the combined Sabbath service and Bible

study on January 20 was 167. Fifty men and wives attended the leadership seminars conducted Saturday night and Sunday morning representing the eight congregations on Mindanao. Because of the great number of participants, the meetings were held at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines Regional Training Center facilities (where the Feast is held).

It is ironic that while this leadership



training was being planned and taking place, the Philippines underwent a change in political leadership because of a national crisis in their leadership. The president of the Philippines has been forced by certain political and religious sectors to resign and step down because of alleged malfeasance both morally and ethically.

*Earl Roemer and Ed Macaraeg*

# United Congregations Support Guatemala ABC/LifeNets Project

by Belinda McCloud

While a student this past year at ABC, I was able to learn of the many needs of United brethren in various parts of the world. We learned of the brethren who needed Bibles in South America and the Philippines, and we were able to raise money to help purchase Bibles.

Then we learned of many needs of our brethren in Guatemala. I was excited to learn that Victor Kubik, member of the Council of Elders, has set up an infrastructure to help people all over the world. Through the establishment of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization called LifeNets, we are able to cut through government red tape, customs difficulties, legal obstacles and numerous problems. We can get a tremendous amount of aid to those who desperately need it. For Guatemala we decided to gather useful items ranging from clothing to dental equipment and sewing machines to farm equipment. These will soon be delivered to Guatemala in a large container shipped from Houston, Texas.

As the project coordinator for Guatemala, I have been inspired by the brethren and congregations that have become involved. I have seen closed doors open and little miracles occur throughout this project. For example, I walked into a business I had never been in before and had the person say, "I just happen to have five boxes of kitchen equipment packed up and ready to go. Can you use it?" And in the boxes was exactly what we needed! Things like this have happened repeatedly working on this project, and the list of people involved in serving and helping is amazing.

## Help From Tulsa, Kansas City and Ohio Congregations

In addition to sending the shipping container, we set a goal to replace the dirt floors in about 15 Church members' homes with concrete floors. To help with this expense, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation, with the help of Amy Babcock and pastor Mark Welch, had a big garage sale, raising about \$1,500. Additionally Tulsa donated several sewing machines. The Kansas City, Missouri, congregation donated \$1,000 from their fruit sales proceeds.



Les McCullough and Vince Thompson with U-Haul trailer in Cincinnati

Cincinnati East and North, Ohio, donated some really nice things for our garage sale, raising about \$1,000. Recently, Cincinnati East, along with Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Portsmouth, Ohio, finished a big drive, gathering up much needed aid for Guatemala. Special thanks to Ken

Shoemaker of Portsmouth, John Elliott of Cincinnati and B.J. Thomas of Cleveland for coordinating this effort.

Vince Thompson, former ABC student and resident of San Antonio, Texas, volunteered to drive the things collected in Ohio back to the warehouse in Houston. The items collected completely filled a U-Haul trailer, and even the U-Haul employees got into the act, giving us a good discount on the trailer and making a nice donation.

## Finding the Elusive Corn Shellers

We also learned of some special equipment that could be used in Guatemala and Church members rose to the occasion, refurbishing and donating two antique corn shellers. One was donated by Fred and Judy Fenner of Cincinnati; the other by Harry English of Baden, Pennsylvania. The farmers in Guatemala have had to shell their corn crops by hand and these tools will save them hours of labor.

## Fort Smith, Bentonville and Springfield Pitch In

In Arkansas, our project started with the late Ozzie Englebart, along with Joan Taylor and Andrea West. They gathered sewing machines and other needed items in the Fort Smith and Bentonville, Arkansas, congregations. They even provided an interesting system of relay transportation to get the items to Houston. Kids on the way to camp, sewing machines and clothes were tightly packed into cars and relayed across Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, until they reached their final destination in Houston. Thankfully, no kids were lost in the process!

Warren and Joan Ott of Springfield, Missouri, did a tremendous job gathering needed medical equipment. They asked an acquaintance to donate some used medical things needed in Guatemala. This man said to them, "Sure you can have some things, but don't even look at the used stuff. You pick out all the *new* things that you need." Another "little" miracle! Several thousand dollars worth of new and used medical equipment ended up being donated. The



Greg and Belinda McCloud with corn sheller

Springfield congregation also donated about a pallet of needed items.

## Tireless Texans and Houston Hub

Council member Aaron Dean, along with the Big Sandy, Texas, congregation, enthusiastically collected two pallets of things, including some specialized tools. Mr. Dean then made the nine-hour round trip bringing everything from Big Sandy to Houston, then helping at the warehouse.

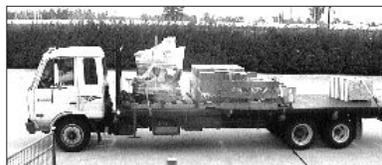
The San Antonio congregation, under the direction of Roosevelt Edwards, has donated money for the concrete floors, gathered needed items for Guatemala and worked tirelessly on this project. They got blankets and linens and helped purchase shirts for the school uniforms that the Guatemalan children have to wear.

Rob Stanchi of Houston has been the backbone of this project, with the monumental job of coordinating the storage area, organizing a work party to label all the boxes and make sure everything will meet customs requirements. Also, the Houston South and North churches have donated a substantial amount of items. Royce Mitchell, owner of the warehouse from which the container is being shipped, has been very patient, with pallets and pallets of material invading his warehouse. His kindness and willingness to let us "take over" his warehouse has been a much appreciated and tremendous blessing!

## Dental Office Donations From Pennsylvania and Oregon

Through the work of Suzan Johns in Pennsylvania, an entire dental office has been donated to LifeNets. It was transported from Pennsylvania to the Houston warehouse through the services of Alton Dacus, who owns a shipping business in Houston.

In Portland, Oregon, Brenda Messerly and the Portland East congregation pulled together to donate and ship needed items to



Donated dental office on its way to Houston

Houston. Becky Hornor, wife of UCG pastor Noel Hornor, who works at Denkor Dental Management Corporation, arranged for a donation of more than \$17,000 worth of dental supplies. This gift will be a fine complement to the entire dental office that was shipped from Central Pennsylvania.



Aaron Dean

Saul Langarica, the minister in Guatemala, informed us that graduating dental students will be able to set up this equipment and use it. This will be a tremendous boost for the people and provide a much needed service to Church members.

## Feast Travelers Help

Church members in Florida, Arizona and other areas went to the Feast in Guatemala, carrying medications that the brethren needed. These included large quantities of antibiotics plus medicines for rashes, skin infections, parasites, yeast infections and bladder and urinary infections. Members also bought and donated tape players for the remote congregations so that they could play tapes when the minister is not there. Some members even bought and donated a digital camera for the minister there, so that he could easily communicate progress there with us.

Many people all over the United States have sacrificed their time and money to help our brethren in Guatemala. There are too many people to mention in one article. But each person, doing his or her own small part, has made this project a success. Thanks to the efforts of all, our container in Houston is filled and ready to ship out. The anticipated ship date is in February and it should arrive in Guatemala a few days later.



Bread oven in Guatemala

## More to Do

There's still more work to be done, however, such as the completion of eight more concrete floors in the homes of brethren. To date, three have been completed and a bread oven was built with a little extra money. This bread oven enabled Church members, who formerly had to rely on Church assistance, to start their own small business and support themselves. Four more floors are being installed right now, and funds need to be raised to pay for the remaining eight.

As this last leg of the Guatemala project is being completed, the groundwork is being laid for a project in El Salvador as well as other projects. Watch for future developments on these projects and more! UN

# Youth Camps and News...

## Plenty of Fresh Snow and Enthusiasm Bless Winter Camp

One camper summed up her first Winter Camp experience this way, "It was awesome. The campers and staff were so friendly. I definitely felt in 'the Zone,' a feeling that God's way really works."

Campers and staff from 16 states and from Mexico joined together to make the sixth year of Winter Camp a tremendous success. The 79 campers and 38 staff journeyed to the rolling hills of southern Wisconsin from December 26 to 31, 2000. With God's blessing, camp was injury free and everyone worked to create "the Zone," the way of cooperation, peace and encouragement.

Enthusiasm ran high at the start of camp, in part because of the overabundance of snow before camp began. Around 18 inches of the white powder blanketed the rolling hills of the camp facility and 6 more inches fell during the five-day camp. Campers delighted in outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing, tubing, team challenge and flag football.

The experienced staff served with exceptional dedication. As a camp director I deeply appreciated their service to all the campers and to all the parents of the campers. Visitors included Larry Greider, United Youth Camp coordinator, Ken Treybig, Peter Eddington and his son Matthew, and Jim and Judy Servidio. Staff members Tom and Mary Clark drove campers all the way from Kansas.

When a staff member was asked why he felt camp went smoothly, he said it was because "the Church is more stable now and it shows in the campers and staff."



International campers included Pamela and Paola Roybal from Monterey, Mexico. They both enjoyed the activities in the fresh snow and the opportunity to meet new friends.

A new activity this year was astronomy. Some campers were able to view the rings of Saturn, the planet Jupiter, as well as the Andromeda galaxy through a telescope one cold but clear evening.

Other activities included floor hockey, Christian Living, dance class, volleyball, basketball, game nights, capture the flag, astronomy and Web page class. Gary Black, assistant camp director, put together a special computer slide show of 400 photographs of campers and staff taken during camp activities. It made for a special

conclusion after the variety show and end-of-camp dance.

On Friday night campers and ministers took turns asking each other questions that in turn had to be answered by campers and ministers alike. Special Sabbath activities included hymn singing where campers could lead the camp in hymns, a special Friday

Winter Camp in 2001 is scheduled for December 23 to 27, 2001. Many photos and



night dinner, Sabbath notes and split sermons given by Larry Greider and Tom Clark.

camp stories can be found on the Winter Camp site at [www.wintercamp.org](http://www.wintercamp.org).

One camper summarized her thoughts this way: "I really enjoyed the Christian Living classes and the Q&A session. The Sabbath also added to the atmosphere of God's way at camp. I can't wait until summer camp, then I count the months to Winter Camp again."

Steve Nutzman

## 43 Discussion Guides Posted on Web

They aren't meant to be a secret, but some readers have stumbled across the *Teen Bible Study Discussion Guides* on the Web by accident.

"I accidentally stumbled on this study guide.... Thanks again very much for such well-thought-out study lessons," said one reader who suggested they be advertised more.

Another reader said, "I came across your *Teen Bible Study Guides* this morning. I think the topics and contents are excellent... I'm going to show them to my minister for possible use in teen Bible studies."

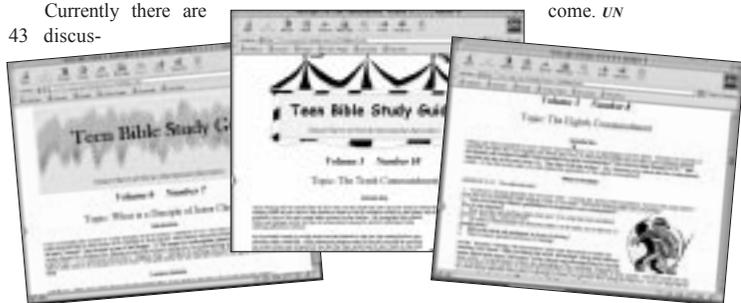
Currently there are 43 discus-

sion guides posted on the Web at [www.ucg.org/a/teenbs/teenstudies.htm](http://www.ucg.org/a/teenbs/teenstudies.htm).

The guides are being created by a group of volunteers, including young adults, ministers and concerned parents, to offer some meaningful subjects to discuss in youth groups or in families.

Subjects include: Dating, Easter, Heaven, Repentance, Does God Exist?, The Authority of the Bible, Which Religion Is Right?, Comparing World Religions and many more. There are guides on each of the Holy Days and each Commandment. Your comments are welcome. *UN*

come. *UN*



## Take the Challenge—Win a Bow!

by Randy Stiver

Past a low-swept cedar branch, down the shadow-infested fir tree corridor, the black bear seemed to pause in mid-stride as if intent upon the summer sounds of Camp McKenzie. But the sounds were soft whistles of cedar shafts propelled by the bow of an archer. *Thunk! Thunk! Thunk!*

David Dullum's well-aimed arrows found their mark on the foam, cut-out target to win Camp McKenzie's Archery Challenge Shoot 2000. David, from Houston, Texas, and nearly 75 other campers and mini-campers took the challenge of six arrows at an unknown distance ("about" 40 yards) under the soft light of the forest canopy. The archery staff agreed that it was a very challenging target, but David registered the best score by focusing on good technique and instinct.

For some years archery instructor Glen White has been tutoring McKenzie campers in the fine and ancient art of traditional archery. Archery teaches the good character of self-discipline and calmness of spirit. With each shot you compete with yourself.

To add excitement to the archery chal-

lenge, Mr. White offered as a prize for the best score, a custom-made, wooden longbow, crafted in the American-English longbow tradition. The challenge bow was hand carved from an Oregon locust stave by this reporter, then tillered to make the limbs bend evenly and finished by professional bowyer and Medford, Oregon, Church member Mike Hunicke who taught archery last year at Oakhurst and spent a day as our "guest pro" at McKenzie.

As bow-building mentor to Mr. White and myself, Mr. Hunicke estimates the value of the challenge bow to be between \$300 and \$400.

Before camp ended we measured David for draw length of arrow and draw weight of bow. By November the bow was finished and a few weeks later shipped with three target arrows to Texas. "What a great way to remember camp," commented David, "But please be sure to send me all the instructions so I can take good care of it."

Will there be a challenge bow awarded in 2001? In my garage stands a lovely bow restrained in another piece of locust just waiting to be liberated. If you come to Camp McKenzie, be sure to take the archery challenge and maybe you too will win a bow! *UN*



# Campers From Guatemala and El Salvador Enjoy Five *Full* Days

This year 109 campers and 19 helpers were able to attend our camp in Guatemala. The camp took place January 9 through 15, during five full days at a camp facility located 60 kilometers (about 40 miles) from Guatemala City, near the town of Chimaltenango.

Of the 109 campers, there were 20 campers from El Salvador and two helpers from there. Since we did not have the Feast of Tabernacles together last year, camp was a great opportunity for the youth from both countries to see each other after about a year since last camp.

## “Remember Your Creator”

Every day began at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast. After that we had an hour called “Remember Your Creator.” During that hour the camp was quiet for everybody to pray, study his or her Bible or talk about the Bible in small groups.

After that hour we had a Bible study directed by one of the ministers present at the camp. Later in the day we had sports, then lunch, then siesta time, then more sports, a forum with questions and answers, then dinner and finally an activity just to get together and talk.

Campers were to go to sleep at 11 p.m., but they all had so much energy that they were still talking in their cabins for at least another hour. So they normally went to sleep (or at least I thought they did) at midnight. You would think that the next day they would not be able to awake, but



to our surprise, they were up and playing basketball at 4 a.m. sometimes. That was the schedule during five full days at camp.

During camp we have exclusive use of the basketball, volleyball and soccer courts.

The camp facility also has a very nice swimming pool. The water was very cold to us (the adults) during this time of year (winter). You would think that nobody would use the pool with this kind of weather. Well, instead of taking a siesta after lunch (none of the youth did), many of them continued to play and, to our surprise, many went swimming! (The tem-



perature at the time of camp is usually around 60 degrees.) The camp facility has a big, fully equipped kitchen. My wife and several of the ladies cooked for the campers during the whole time at camp. The food was so good that many of us, even though we were doing sports, gained some weight. One youngster said: “The food is much better than in my own house. In our house we only have frijoles (beans) and tortillas.”

We were able to spend a Sabbath all

together at camp. That Sabbath we had services in the morning and a Bible study in the afternoon. All of the subjects were dedicated for the youth.

## Earthquake!

We were in the middle of services in the morning when the earthquake took place in neighboring El Salvador (see article, page 4). It was 7.9 in the Richter scale!

All of us were very scared, but as always, God protected us and we were able to continue services. That Sabbath we had some visitors from Guatemala City, including some of the parents who wanted to see their children.

We all had a great time at camp again this year, and we are expecting next year to be great as well.

Saul Langarica

# Campers in Chile Spend Nine Days at the Beach

We just finished a very fine youth camp with 45 children—43 from Chile and two from Argentina. All went very well and we had the help of two girls from the United States as part of the United Youth Corps project.

## Nine Days in La Serena

Camp was held in the beach area of the city of La Serena, a six-hour drive from Santiago, the capital. Camp ran for nine days, and it went off quite well. There were quite a few campers coming for the first time, and at the end of the camp we saw how they are now far more enthusiastic for the Church, have a lot of new friendships in the Church with other youths they hardly knew before and have developed some sports skills as well. All expressed the desire to be back next year.

My wife and I are recuperating from the effort, and it was well worth it. Cathy and four ladies did the cooking, and I handled most of the activities with the help of an older youth and the two girls who came from the United States, Lena Disman and Lindsay Jennings. Although they didn't speak much Spanish, the friendliness at the camp won them over and soon they fit

in very well. At the end of camp they could communicate just fine, with the occasional help of someone in the group who spoke both languages. They had tears in their eyes when they departed for the States. Lindsay Jennings is one of the new ABC students.

## Plans for Next Year

We plan to hold the



of camp, including transportation, food and lodging.

The camper should have some knowledge of Spanish, although not very much is necessary. Young people



Photos provided by Lena Disman and Lindsay Jennings

camp in the same place and on the same dates next year: Camping Sole di Mare in La Serena, December 23, 2001, through January 1, 2002.

Anyone interested in coming should contact Mario Seiglie, Casilla 10384, Central Casillas, Santiago, Chile; or e-mail seiglie@unete.cl. The cost is \$80 for the entire nine days



know how to communicate and be friendly despite the language barrier. Campers stay in tents, on a wooded area next to a beautiful, serene beach. Activities include softball, volleyball, soccer and body surfing. The camp has a more relaxed atmosphere and activity schedule than in the United States, and campers have more time to get together and get to know each other.

Mario Seiglie

# United Youth Camps: The Quest for Excellence

*Setting high standards does more than help our camp program achieve accreditation. Striving for excellence has eternal rewards.*

by Darris McNeely

At our United Youth Camps we set as our standard the Word of God and the way of life it teaches. We strive to teach spiritual principles through an outdoor program which incorporates challenging activities. We set a standard based on the Word of God. Our goal is to help campers and staff gain a vision of the Kingdom of God and thereby give purpose and direction to their daily lives.

Because this high standard requires a set of rules and a code of honor which spells out in detail what is expected from campers and staff, we sometimes encounter questions like, "why be so strict?" or "why so many rules?" The answer lies in understanding a key element about the character of God, something that is easily forgotten in today's moral climate.

The coming Kingdom of God will be a time of peace and beauty. A quality life will be produced when the world begins to work according to the plan of God. God gives us a description of the new Jerusalem in Revelation 21. It is described as a city "having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal" (verse 11). Its walls will be made of jasper and gold will be throughout the city. Other gems such as sapphire, emerald, topaz and pearl will be included in the foundation and gates of the city. From one perspective this represents the spiritual quality of the life that is lived by those who inhabit the city and world during the time of Christ's reign. God's truth will produce a quality of life unparalleled in any previous period of history.

The lesson for us today is this: We should be pursuing excellence, a superior quality of life, in preparation for our role as leaders in the Kingdom of God. Our goal is to be like our Father in heaven. Notice Matthew 5:48, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." God is perfect in both physical and spiritual realms and He teaches through a physical type. We have many examples in the Bible where God stresses excellence and quality in those things that teach us of His plan for human life.

When God had finished the physical creation, He said it was "good" (Genesis 1:31). The garden in Eden, created by God, needed constant care. God said to Adam, "tend and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). God intended man to use the physical creation and maintain it to the superior standard with which it was made.

God is decked with majesty, glory and beauty. When we pursue excellence in the physical details of life, we are emulating our spiritual Father, who is excellent in all His ways. It is God's nature to strive for excellence. Quality is a natural product of God's mind at work through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## The Tabernacle

Perhaps this can be best illustrated by looking at the architectural plan God laid down for building first a portable tabernacle for Israel in the wilderness and then later the permanent temple structure built by Solomon in Jerusalem. Both were built after what is described in Hebrews as "...the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle" (Hebrew 8:5).

Moses was instructed to build the wilderness structure out of fine quality materials. Offerings were to include gold, silver and bronze; fine linen and wood as well as precious stones like onyx (Exodus 25:1-9). Notice the design of the veil that was to separate the holy of holies from the rest of the sanctuary. "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim. You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy" (Exodus 26:31-33).

The skilled artisans assigned to this building project were aided by God to do their very best. "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship" (Exodus 31:3-5). When the project was complete it had been done according to the specifications given by God and Moses put his blessing on the work (Exodus 39:43).

Later when Solomon built the fabulous temple to God in Jerusalem, the same care and attention to quality was made. King David, who first desired to build the temple, passed on to Solomon not only the commission to build, but detailed architectural plans which included custom-made furnishings of gold and silver. "'All this,' said David, 'the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans'" (1 Chronicles 28:19).

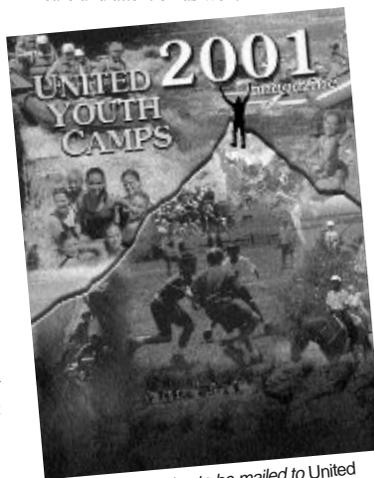
Solomon understood that this temple could only be built by skilled craftsmen who were capable of working with such fine materials. Mistakes would be costly. The building project was undertaken in a genuine

spirit of humility that sought to build a structure pleasing to God (2 Chronicles 2:3-10). God would dwell among the people in a sanctuary made only in a specific fashion, built by skilled craftsmen out of the finest materials.

## The Physical Is a Type of the Spiritual

It is a biblical principle that the physical is a type of the spiritual reality. When we can grasp this fact—and that we should approach all parts of life with the goal of doing and being the best we can be—then we have a sharper view of how God is and how we should approach Him.

Quality items and workmanship usually cost more money and stand out. A person with character stands out because of his or her excellence. Spiritual character takes more care and attention as well.



Our primary goal in life is to develop righteous godly character. That does not come cheaply or easily. It requires we pay a high price in care and concern for doing things according to God's way.

Solomon learned from his building experience that excellence took effort. He wrote, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). To reach this level of performance we must determine never to settle for mediocrity. We must infuse quality into everything that we do and not settle for second best. This is the approach we have in our camp program because it reflects the way of God.

Last year our camp program became accredited by the American Camping Association. This came after two years of work to upgrade all areas of our program to meet the exacting standards required. The camp directors took the approach that we would come as close as possible to meeting all standards. Some presented quite a challenge.

ACA standards require that staff receive 24 hours of training before the start of the session. In our circumstances, with rented facilities and staff coming in from all over the country, it is not possible to get this done a day or two prior to camp's start. We could have taken a "no," deliberately missing the standard, and probably not jeopardized our chances of accreditation. But we decided that was not for us. Instead we designed a method of using audiotaped messages on various camp-related subjects to fulfill this training requirement. Tapes were then sent to staff members in advance so they could listen to the information. We were then able to score a "yes" to that standard.

This approach helped two of our camps to accomplish perfect scores when the ACA representatives visited. Not taking a "calculated no," a deliberate miss, carries an important spiritual lesson. On what part of God's way might we decide to deliberately take a "no" score and miss—sin? What could be the consequences of intentionally disobeying a part of God's law? All it takes is one mistake to change the course of one's whole life.

## A Reason for the Rules

God sets a high standard of quality and excellence in both the physical and spiritual realm. That is why, when we bring the youth of the Church into a camp setting, we set rules for dress and conduct that help create an atmosphere reflective of God's way of life. That is why we ask young people to not bring drugs, tobacco or alcohol or use profanity or other coarse language that degrades and puts down another person. When we ask them to avoid extremes of dress, hairstyle and jewelry inspired by today's popular culture, we are saying that approach misses the standard of spiritual culture found in God's Word.

Experience shows us that when the influences of today's culture are removed we can focus, for the camp week, on more important spiritual values that help kids and their families. In this safe zone we can create a microcosm of how life will be in the Kingdom of God.

God continues to build a spiritual temple that is far greater than any of the previous temples. This spiritual house is not made of gold or silver. Today's materials are spiritual and are built through the crucible of life experiences. Notice what Paul writes, "having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:20-22).

God has shown us the way to spiritual excellence. It is up to us to seize the opportunity and follow in that path. *UN*

*Darris McNeely is pastor of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation and director of Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania.*

# For Believers: Reconcile or Remain Unmarried. Why?

*To understand how God views the marriage covenant between believers, consider God's loving and merciful baptismal covenant with us.*

by Greg Sargent

The apostle Paul recognized and repeated God's command for married couples who had God's Spirit but were separated because they just could not reconcile. He wrote that they must remain unmarried (1 Corinthians 7:10–11), unless *porneia* was evident (Matthew 5:32; 19:9).

## Irreconcilable Differences?

In today's world, where we read of upwards of 50 percent divorce rates, such a command seems old-fashioned and outdated. Many divorces are granted based on couples having irreconcilable differences. In other words, those couples cannot live in peace because of their different approaches to life.

The reasons for those differences may be many. Since we are all products of our environment and background, our views on issues may differ greatly. For example, growing up in fear of an abusive parent evokes a myriad of emotional characteristics.

When two converted people marry, they have high hopes their marriage will be eternally happy and tremendously successful. Often, despite major problems in the background of one or both, the marriage is a happy one (and both would admit it takes work). Once in a while, the two just cannot get along and have to separate. Reasons may be many.

"This marriage should never have been in the first place" is a common expression used, after the fact. Or "the marriage was broken when she/he could not live up to the standards God requires in a marriage." Or, "his/her past was so bad, he/she could never be a good husband/wife."

And yet we don't hear such expressions coming from God's Word. Why doesn't Paul state, "the members must reconcile or remain unmarried unless the problems were caused by... [you fill in the reason]"? No doubt in Paul's age some of the same problems and abusive backgrounds existed. After all, he called it "this present evil age" (Galatians 1:4).

But still the bottom line when two members could not get along was—if they cannot reconcile, they must remain unmarried.

## Why?

On the surface this seems like a cruel judgment. God doesn't even give hope for the party that might be trying the hardest. If just one member is trying and the other member refuses to reconcile, the judgment remains the same—both must remain unmarried. Does God want two people to live alone for the rest of their lives without hope of remarrying someone else? Is this judg-

ment a fair one from our merciful Father?

What if one member has had a terribly abusive past? The reality of scars from the past can affect a marriage deeply. The challenges that can face married couples can be discouraging and at times almost overwhelming. It can seem like giving up and having a fresh start would be easier and more likely to succeed.

But God does not want us to give up. He doesn't give up on us in our struggle to overcome our past in our baptismal covenant. And He doesn't want us to give up on each other in our marital covenant.

In order to understand God's judgment, it's important to comprehend that reconciling a marriage between two believers who have God's Spirit is not impossible! God nowhere uses the term "irreconcilable marriage" when speaking of "believers." If a marriage were truly not reconcilable and God's judgment stood, we might question His wisdom and mercy. However, God gives believers a tremendous advantage over nonbelievers.

At the heart of God's judgment is the fact of a transformation experienced by all believers. It's called conversion.

Before considering this transformation, let's read how God considers all of us just before our conversion. It's necessary to consider this factor because some feel one's background, especially an abusive one, is justification for invalidating a marriage if one or both members fail in a marriage.

## Consider Our Covenant With God

In considering whether an abusive past negates a marriage covenant, why not start by considering whether an abusive past negates our baptismal covenant with God? Will Christ refuse to marry any Christian at the resurrection because we have not overcome all our problems? Or does He put us away because we haven't overcome the reactions stemming from our abusive past completely?

Thankfully He does not. In His love and mercy He gives us the chance to reconcile with Him. We are grateful that God gives us every chance to keep our covenant with Him—all the way to death. We know our past. We want time to overcome it.

While our individual pasts may seem harder or easier to us, God sees things differently. In Ephesians 2:1–6, God describes our past. He says *every single one of us* has been dead in our sins, living in lust according to Satan's way. He says we were by nature *children of wrath*. None of us are exceptions.

Let's make God's description very clear. Every man and woman entering into a marriage covenant came out of a background that caused him or her to have a wrathful nature. It's interesting that the Greek for "wrath" is *orge* and is also defined as "anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath."

Paul makes it evident in Romans 3:9–19, that both Israelites and gentiles are wicked before God. Truly, all of us have come from a background causing us to have

a heart that "is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).

In order to have a happy, successful marriage, we need a new foundation, a new background. Otherwise the problems generated from our past will cause irreconcilable marriage impasses. All believers have equal pasts to God. None come to the baptismal waters with a greater chance of displaying the fruits of God's Spirit than anyone else. We are all worthy of death. None are good.

Upon repentance, baptism and receiving God's Holy Spirit, every believer has been transformed. No exceptions! Former sexual offenders, alcoholics, recipients of abuse, haters of God, antagonists—all are transformed (converted) in the process of time with God's Spirit.

Note through the following scriptures what happens to the believer:

We are delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13).

We are a new creation in Christ. Old things have passed away, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). "New" is not a "repairing of damages," but rather a "new existence."

We have died with Christ, but now Christ lives in us and we live by faith in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). The mystery of the ages is revealed in our life—Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:26–27).

Christ is magnified in believers (Philippians 1:20). The life of Christ is to be seen in us (2 Corinthians 4:11). Christ is being formed in us (Galatians 4:19).

## Newness of Life

Do we grasp the great meaning and hope that these scriptures hold? In reality, believers have a new start. Our former background of deceit, wrath, etc., has been buried. We walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). All this because we have been given by God, not a spirit of fear or any other dysfunctional emotion, but the Spirit of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Stirring up the Spirit of love through prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation yields the fruits of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23).

God provides the way and means for us to reconcile the problems in marriage. We are admonished to "put off the old man" and "put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (Colossians 3:9–10).

If we are raised with Christ (in baptism, Romans 6:4) we are to *seek* those things that are above (Colossians 3:1). That which is from above solves all marriage problems between believers: pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy (James 3:17).

The fruit of righteousness between believers in their marriages is sown in peace by those who make peace (verse 18). It is the

responsibility of believers to *let* Christ's mind of humility be in them (Philippians 2:5). Because we are newborn babes, we lay aside malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy and all evil speaking (1 Peter 2:1–2).

For believers who are having problems in marriage, there are only two options. "Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife" (1 Corinthians 7:10–11).

For Paul to make any exception for believers other than that prescribed by Christ (*porneia*), would be to deny the very Spirit of God. Paul understood that one's prebaptismal past must not influence judgments of binding and loosing believers' marriages.

Believers are new creations in Christ. They have been enlightened, have tasted the heavenly gift, have become partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:4–6). It is vitally important that we not willfully deny that power working in our life, making the blood of the covenant something common and insulting the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29).

There will always be difficulties in marriage. Many may be very severe and demand our all in coping! And to this world many would seem like more than reason enough to give up. There can always be reasons believers use to justify why they cannot get along and choose to separate. Yet there has never been a marriage broken by the actions of love, joy, peace—the mind of Christ in us. Conflict arises when we fail to *put off and lay aside* wicked ways and dysfunctional reactions from our past and *put on and seek* the righteous clothing of the Bride of Christ.

Allowing exceptions by judging what happened before conversion would open Pandora's box. *There would never be a time when marriages would ever be binding.*

When the Church makes judgments concerning believers who have separated or divorced and desire a judgment as to whether their marriage is bound or not, the Church must base its determination on Scripture only. The following questions are asked:

- Was *porneia* involved—sexual misconduct (Matthew 5 and 19)?
- Was there fraud? (Fraud is always intentional.)
- Are both parties really believers?

Do you and your mate have God's Spirit? Then, "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." God is fair and justified in His judgment. Marriage is holy, the very reflection of Christ's marriage to the Church (Ephesians 5:32). Just as the marriage between Christ and His Bride will never be broken, neither will the marriage between two believers who endure to the end.

For more information, see the articles in the January 2000 *United News*, on the Web at [www.ugc.org/articles/nb/un0001.html](http://www.ugc.org/articles/nb/un0001.html). *UN*

# Which Bible Should I Use?

*“Which Bible should I use?” is a question frequently asked among our members. And with all the confusion regarding English translations, it is a question worthy of examination.*

by Ken Graham, II

In the past few years there have been a lot of questions regarding which Bible translations are the best ones to use. This question usually revolves around which translations are the most accurate. Some have decided that the NIV (New International Version) is not good. Others say it's the best. Some say that the King James is best.

How can you know which one is best to use? A number of different questions need to be asked in order to answer that. Questions like, who will use it? How will they use it? What will they use it for? Some Bibles make excellent light-reading Bibles. Some make good modern English children's Bibles. Some make good research Bibles. Some are closer to the original than others.

Depending on the purpose, several translations might be “best” for that use. It is not necessary to get yourself locked into one translation and then ignore all the others.

The question, “Which English Bible is most accurate, or closest to the original?” is another matter. This may be the question that most members are really asking.

But to answer the question “Which English Bible is most accurate, or closest to the original?” we need to examine some information. All translations from other languages into English, are just that—translations. The Old Testament was originally recorded for us in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was first recorded in the Greek language. So we need to look at the texts of those languages.

## The Old Testament

There have been many men who have given their entire lives to the study of the history and accuracy of our English Bible. Many books have been written, and many controversies still exist. So I will attempt to summarize all of that in this article.

Most of our English Bibles today represent good to excellent translations of the Old Testament. The Hebrew Masoretic text of the Old Testament has been well translated and for the most part well presented in most Modern English Bibles. Few significant controversies exist in the translation from Hebrew to English for our purposes today. Most scholars agree that the Masoretic text is the one to use when translating the Hebrew Bible into English.

## The New Testament

Most of the controversies in translation today revolve around the New Testament, so we will spend most of our time there.

In order for us to see what English translation(s) are most accurate or reflect the “original” the best, we need to look at the various Greek copies that exist today. There are no original or “autographs” in existence today of any of the New Testament books. All that we have today are copies. The men who study these copies and try to determine which ones are the most accurate or closest to the original are called textual critics. And unfortunately, textual critics are divided in their opinions.

## Greek Texts

There are probably somewhere between 4,500 and 5,000 Greek manuscripts in existence today. Our task would be easy if they were all the exactly the same, but they are not. They all were copied from some other manuscript, and so they all have different dates when they were made too. (We could also look at several thousand Latin texts of the New Testament but they were all translated from Greek texts originally, so that wouldn't be of much profit.) The Greek texts have been classified into different text families, and even these classifications vary depending upon the textual critic who lists them.

The vast majority (approximately 4,500) of all these Greek manuscripts are of one major group called the Byzantine family or Byzantine text type. Most of them come from the area of Asia Minor or modern-day Turkey. Most of the earliest ones of these come from the fourth and fifth century A.D. There is a great deal of consistency between these many manuscripts and there are not many variants between them as compared to other types. Variants are simply differences in spelling, wording or phrasing.

Different scribes made each copy by hand. Sometimes a scribe copying these manuscripts made a “slip of the quill.” Although in the vast majority of cases an error would have been caught, a few slipped by. But because we have many copies of this type (Byzantine) available today, we are able to compare them with each other and eliminate most errors. Several men have produced Greek versions of the Byzantine text attempting to take the most common reading (wherever there are variants) and have named it the *Majority Text*. It represents the most consistent reading of the majority of all the manuscripts of the Byzantine type.

However, in 1607 when the King James version began to be translated into English from Greek there was believed to be only one Greek Byzantine text used by the men doing the translating. Years before, a gentleman named Erasmus assembled his own Greek version of the New Testament from less than a half dozen copies or exemplars of the

Byzantine text type that he had available to him. The King James translators used Erasmus' version as their primary Greek reference. In fact, the King James translators used Greek, Latin and several previous English texts in the process of translating the King James version.

This is not to say that the KJV isn't an excellent version of the Bible; it certainly is. Erasmus' Greek text has come to be called the *Textus Receptus*, Latin for the Received Text. But it is based upon just a handful of Byzantine texts of the approximately 4,500 available today. So even it is not based upon the best available Greek texts we have today.

For the most part, there are few variants between the King James (*Textus Receptus*) and the Majority Text. Unfortunately, there are only two reputable English Bibles printed today that are based upon the *Textus Receptus*, the King James Version and the New King James Version.

Sadly, there are no recognized English translations of the Majority Text in existence today. This is a disappointment, and there has been a call by a few scholars for such a translation to be made. Certainly one would think that the most reliable and accurate English version would be made from the Majority Text, since it is the best Greek text, but this is not the case. This leaves us with the next best thing—the King James and the New King James versions.

But we are not finished. One more major problem needs to be discussed. There are several ancient manuscripts in Greek that do not belong to the Byzantine family of texts. The most important ones are called the Alexandrian text type because most come from Egypt or the Sinai. Three of them are very old, dating from as early as the third century A.D. Most of this world's textual critics feel that because these are the oldest copies known, they should be considered “more original” than any of the Byzantine text types. And at first we might be inclined to agree. But if we consider this carefully, several questions arise. Is older always better?

What about the care and discipline of the scribes who did the copying? There were strict standards in Asia Minor, but archaeological evidence today indicates that the discipline of copying in Egypt was not strict. There was less structure, fewer scribes and copies were not handled, maintained or destroyed properly. Also we find that there are many variants between the three most complete Alexandrian manuscripts that we have today. So it is clear certain liberties (or laxities) in copying were allowed rather than faithful, precise reproduction to the letter.

In addition, we find that thousands of words are missing from the Alexandrian text types of the New Testament when they are compared to the Byzantine text types. There is much more we could say, but my conclusions are that the Alexandrian text types have

been edited and are not as reliable as the Byzantine text type. But I am in agreement with only a few of this world's textual critics. Most textual critics feel that because the Alexandrian text type is older it must be better or more accurate. Many feel that the church edited and added to the Byzantine text type manuscripts. Of course, no proof of this has ever been found or shown.

So where does this leave us in our search for the most accurate English version, the one closest to the original? If you look into the front of most English Bibles they will tell what Greek text they are based on. Today, sadly, most modern translations come to us from the Alexandrian text type because this is where most scholars have chosen to go. As I stated before, the only two translations not based upon the Alexandrian texts today are the King James and the New King James translations. So for your research and study, these are probably the best translations to use.

However, the numbers of variants of any real significance in the New Testament between the Alexandrian text type and the Majority Text or the *Textus Receptus* are relatively few in an overall sense. These variants would involve less than one tenth of 1 percent of the text of the New Testament. The numbers of variants that actually affect the meaning (not just spelling) of the text are very few. And many of these are not a significant change in meaning.

God is ultimately responsible for His Word. He chose to preserve it in Hebrew and Greek. No one English translation preserves the essence of God's thought completely. In moving from any language to another, something is lost. But in the process of examining several translations, we can grasp more of it than by simply reading one. And God has seen to it that we have several English translations from which to obtain understanding; each with different uses and purposes. God's Holy Spirit will guide the true believer into understanding the essence of His Word.

So for simple reading of the Bible, feel free to explore other translations. The King James and New King James provide a good base for study and research. I find that the New International Version is an excellent children's Bible, in modern English they can understand. I also like the New Revised Standard Version for the English it uses. For those in Great Britain the Revised English Bible has excellent English in it.

It's a good idea to have several translations available in order to gain perspective on the meaning of some verses. The Amplified Bible tends to add a lot of extra words in order to *amplify* the meaning, so it is a good source. *The New Testament From 26 Translations* is also an excellent reference to grasp more of the subtle meanings lost in translating from Greek to English. Learn to use them all—when each is appropriate—and enjoy the Word of God. *UV*

# Emotional Healing—A Biblical Perspective

*What does God say about how the pain and suffering experienced in today's world can be healed? The third part of a series by the Focused Education team on abuse.*

by John W. Cafourek and Larry Scher

From the extremes of war and genocide, to the passive neglect of the elderly and children, this sinful world has foisted upon all of us a vital need for emotional healing. Indeed, emotional pain and suffering abound in a world described by the Bible as “this present evil age” (Galatians 1:4).

## Understanding Our Nature

Human nature is self-centered rather than God-centered. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be” (Romans 8:7). Such self-centeredness can blind us to the causes and effects of our own words and actions. It can also block our sensitivities to the pain we inflict upon others.

In addition, the wrong choices of others—parents, spouses, children and friends—can bring us pain as well. God addresses this phenomenon as He gives the Ten Commandments. “For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments” (Exodus 20:5–6). We need to earnestly seek God’s merciful emotional healing.

Scripture expresses the enormous scope of abusive thoughts and actions. “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:19–21).

Painful consequences of these abuses may be physical, mental, spiritual and/or emotional. Whether we have abused others, sometimes even repeating what has been done to us, or have been a victim of abuse, our thought processes may hold us in bondage to repetitive behavior and unresolved emotional suffering.

## Thoughts and Emotions Produce Our Actions

Thoughts and feelings play an important role in our lives. As our feelings connect with our thoughts, emotions are formed. “God created us with emotions so that our lives might be enriched. God could have created us without emotions; we could be intelligent, calculating, insensitive machines. But life would be exceedingly dull” (*Managing Your Emotions*, Erwin Lutzer, p. 18). Instead, God has given us an astonishing capacity for emotion in seemingly infinite combinations of types and intensities. Unfortunately, emotions and feelings are often viewed in negative terms. As a result, we may attempt to ignore some of our emotions and their effects in our lives.

Science is only beginning to understand the emotional component of our mind. “Only in recent years has there emerged a scientific model of the emotional mind that explains how so much of what we do can be emotionally driven—how we can be so reasonable at one moment and so irrational the next—and the sense in which the emotions have their own reasons and their own logic” (*Emotional Intelligence*, Daniel Goleman, p. 291).

The insightful wisdom of Solomon reminds us that “...as he [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). Seeking godly wisdom is paramount. “He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding will find good” (Proverbs 19:8). The process of emotional healing requires following God’s instructions about how to manage our emotions, not deny them. God actually gives us permission to feel anger. He also enjoins us to express it properly. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26–27).

The first step is the acknowledgement of our true thoughts and feelings—and their validation in the Bible. Self-condemnation can damage our faith and confidence in God. “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God” (1 John 3:20–21). The next step is the expunging of negative, destructive thoughts and attitudes such as futility, depression, unresolved anger and bitterness. This necessitates a new attitude and a new mind, motivated by forgiveness and love.

## Spiritual Healing

Our healing process begins with our calling on God. This calling imparts to our minds spiritual understanding previ-

ously unavailable to us. God removes our spiritual blinders, enabling us to see ourselves more as we really are. He also imparts to us an understanding of His laws and the recognition of our need to repent and to receive His Spirit. This is a vital part of the process of spiritual healing. Jesus said, “Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

Another scripture identifies mental and emotional healing as a crucial part of Jesus Christ’s ministry. “...He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18).

The Bible also explains the complete healing process in terms of the transformation from “the old man” to “the new man.” We are exhorted, “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). Paul explains how this process of transformation works. We must “put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:22–24).

## God’s Love

God is love. This is what He is, how He thinks, what motivates Him and what He will always be. “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16). It is God’s desire for us to also be motivated by His love. He wants us to love Him, to love His truth and to love one another even as we love ourselves. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Romans 13:9). This passage is also reminding us how a proper love for ourselves is important. We must yield ourselves to God—to His Spirit, allowing His love, not a negative self-centered spirit, to motivate us. Thus *agape* or a God-plane level of love becomes our code of conduct throughout the process of emotional healing.

## A Biblical Anger Management Program

Anger is often a major impediment to emotional healing. “If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.” While the exact statistics of this ancient Chinese proverb may be debatable, modern researchers agree with its basic sentiment—that anger can affect our lives in powerful ways. Some specialists call anger potentially lethal. One medical doctor expresses it very bluntly when he writes, “Anger

kills” (*Anger Kills*, Redford Williams, M.D., Virginia Williams, Ph.D., p. 3).

“Hostile people—those with high levels of cynicism, anger, and aggression—are at higher risk of developing life-threatening illness than are their less hostile counterparts. Hostile people are also more prone to engage in a number of risky behaviors—eating more, drinking more alcohol, smoking—that could damage their health” (*ibid.*, p. 60).

Anger is an often-misunderstood emotion. Many misconceptions and myths masquerade as truth. Perhaps many of us would benefit from an intensive, in-depth study of the subject. It is a mistake to deny that we do get angry or to believe that getting angry is always wrong. “Angry feelings can go underground. They often don’t display themselves in active forms such as hitting, pinching, throwing things, or slamming doors. They take more subtle forms like silence, irritation, resentment, bitterness, and hatred” (*Anger Is a Choice*, Tim LaHaye, p. 13).

Learning how to recognize and effectively deal with anger is an essential part of emotional healing. Failure to properly manage or control our anger can result in disastrous consequences. “Damage to personal relationships is one of the most common costs of anger, and probably the worst. The relationships that are damaged are often your best... The most frequent targets of anger include spouses, children, coworkers, and friends” (*How to Control Your Anger Before It Controls You*, Albert Ellis, Ph.D., p. 3).

“Another reason to curb anger is that it can easily lead to aggression... It is estimated that in the United States about a million and a half women are battered by their partners each year. Approximately 40 percent of all the women who are murdered in this country every year die at the hands of their husbands” (*ibid.*, p. 9).

Clearly, uncontrolled anger is a powerful force, capable of wreaking great destruction—and even death. “Deciding to live your life with less anger may be one of the most important decisions you will ever make” (*ibid.*, p. 17).

As we noted earlier, the Bible provides excellent advice on how to deal with anger. “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26–27).

Notice the example of how Jesus Christ, as He cleansed the temple of wrongdoing, expressed righteous anger—yet without sinning. “And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the tem-

ple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up" (John 2:14-17).

In contrast to Christ's example, mankind's history is replete with cases of uncontrolled anger resulting in sin. Explosive anger shattered the first human family. Cain's unbridled anger erupted into the murder of his brother, Abel.

"And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.' Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him" (Genesis 4:4-8).

Uncontrolled and unresolved anger prevents us from healing emotionally. When we have been hurt or offended by others, God wants us to forgive, and pray for the offender. Harboring our anger makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to forgive others.

### Forgiveness

God's forgiveness of our sins is not unconditional. It is predicated upon our repentance. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

When we repent, God our Father applies the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Through this process, the penalty incurred by our sin is paid for us. Our sins are forgiven, and the slate is wiped clean. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

Forgiving others in our human relationships may often seem more difficult. Relationships that have been strained or broken are not easily repaired or reestablished. Indeed, sometimes it may be unwise to reestablish the relationship. Anger, hurt, resentment and desire for revenge are very potent forces.

Jesus Christ has given us specific instruction that helps us understand that forgiving others is not merely a recommended course of action. Rather, it is absolutely essential, if we ourselves are to continue being forgiven by our heavenly Father. "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in

heaven may also forgive your trespasses. But, if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses" (Mark 11:25-26).

Our willingness and our efforts to forgive others are a pivotal part of the process of emotional healing. If we refuse to forgive others, our own emotional healing becomes short-circuited. It is only through forgiving others that we ourselves begin to heal from the effects of our anger, turmoil, grief and pain. We must be willing to deal constructively with our past—and then move forward with confidence in God.

As Paul eloquently expressed it, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead" (Philippians 3:13).

As we move forward, the next step entails doing something else that is contrary to our human nature. This step is the godly action of praying for our enemies.

### Praying for Our Enemies

Enemies are the people who have been the most hurtful, caused the most suffering and produced the most devastating effects in our lives. They are often those who have been close to us. They may be people who have had considerable influence over us in some way. Their words and actions have created deep scars or left gaping wounds in our heart and mind.

Even as we strive to forgive them, we can be overwhelmed by the havoc and anguish that still remains. God's solution may seem untenable or irrational to us. "Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head" (Romans 12:20).

The instruction becomes clearer when we consider the exhortation of Jesus Christ. "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.... Therefore you shall be perfect [Greek *teleios*, complete, mature], just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:44, 48).

When we begin to pray for our enemies, we begin to diminish their effect upon our lives and end an adversarial relationship. Through the process of asking God to bless and forgive them, our revenge and hurtful feelings begin to leave. The more we pray for them, the more the negative feelings towards them diminish. As we request blessings and healing for our enemies, our own healing will begin to take place.

In certain cases of personal injury, anger or rage, we may feel the need to ask God to remove the pain from our life and grant us His peace. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your

requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

### Reconciliation

Becoming reconciled to God is a good starting point in our quest for reconciliation in all of our relationships. As Paul exhorted, "we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are "reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (Romans 5:10).

Reconciliation in our human relationships can be a difficult process. It must begin with each person accepting accountability for his own behavior. Next, there must be an acknowledgement of wrongdoing. This must be accompanied by the replacement of deceitfulness with openness and honesty in the relationship. Finally, a firm verbal commitment must be made to take the specific steps necessary to discontinue all inappropriate behavior.

Obviously, not everyone is willing to do his or her part toward reconciliation of the relationship. Indeed, attempting to reconcile with one who continues to be an abuser is not wise, nor is it God's will. On the other hand, even when the relationship cannot be reconciled, we can still know that it certainly is God's will for us to experience His emotional healing. Jesus Christ gives us great encouragement. "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Our next article in this series will discuss sexual abuse. UN

*John Cafourek pastors congregations in Olympia and Tacoma, Washington, and has been in the ministry for 31 years. He has an M.A. degree in counseling psychology. Larry Scher is an elder in Columbia, Missouri.*

*The first article in this series, "Understanding Abuse," ran in the January 1999 United News. The second article, "Answer to Child Abuse: Emotional Health," ran in the January 2000 issue.*

### Recommended Books

Albert Ellis, Ph.D., *How to Control Your Anger Before It Controls You*, Carol Publishing, Secaucus, New Jersey, 1999.

Daniel Goleman, *Emotional Intelligence*, Bantam, New York, 1995.

Tim LaHaye and Bob Phillips, *Anger Is a Choice*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1982.

Erwin Lutzer, *Managing Your Emotions*, SP Publications, Wheaton, Illinois, 1983.

Redford Williams, M.D. and Virginia Williams, Ph.D., *Anger Kills*, HarperCollins, New York, 1993.

"MEDIA," (Continued from page 1)

trends. This included a presentation by Julie Zutz, alliances director for Groove Networks, who has studied the 2- to 20-year-old age group known as the "Net Generation."

Discussion of the "seed" centered around the need to strengthen the warning aspect, to be challenging but not confrontational. The group discussed ways to increase the synergy of home office and local congregations' roles as "sowers."

The discussion of the implements was enlightening. "When you see all the booklets, letters, Bible Course and allied materials laid out on a table, it's quite impressive," said Les McCullough. "But there is always more that can be done."

The "growing season" includes the strides made in the subscriber development area, offering more literature to subscribers.

"We want to leave no gap in the harvest process, so that new people feel welcome when they come to church," said Mr. Kubik.

This Media Oversight Committee will meet at least four times a year, and with some additional media personnel, will also make up an Editorial Board to discuss specific content of future publications. UN

## Council Statement on Public Proclamation of the Gospel

Jesus Christ commissioned the Church to make disciples of all nations and to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness (Matthew 28:19; 24:14). In serving as witnesses, the apostles were commanded to preach the good news of the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God (Luke 24:47-48). The Greek word *kerusso* means to preach as a herald. It connotes formality, gravity and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed. As Jesus came preaching, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent you and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

The messages of Jesus Christ and the apostles were highly focused and challenging. Moreover, their messages contained a warning to the listeners that their refusal to repent would result in punishment (Colossians 1:27-28). Furthermore, the Old Testament prophets admonished God's servants to stand in the gap and serve as watchmen (Ezekiel 22:20; 33:1-10).

In view of all the biblical examples, the Council of Elders of the United Church of God believes that it has the responsibility of making disciples of all nations and feeding the flock, while proclaiming a warning that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Therefore, the Council of Elders is determined to fulfill these responsibilities in carrying out the mission of the Church. This determination will be reflected in the Church's public proclamation of the gospel. Thus the Council intends to provide the policies and oversight toward this end.

# Local Church Updates...

## Cincinnati North Hosts Winter Family Weekend

This was the fourth consecutive year for the Cincinnati Family Weekend and each year it has grown in attendance and variety of offerings. This year Kings Island Resort and Conference Center, home for all Sabbath activities, completely sold out of rooms and made arrangements with a nearby Holiday Inn to house the overflow. In all, more than 300 rooms were rented on Friday night, several housing as many as seven people.

About 600 free pizzas, contributed by the hosting congregation, were consumed on the opening night after Bible studies ended. A lot of fellowship occurred as people from far-flung areas that had not seen each other for some time renewed friendships.

Sabbath morning offered a choice of 11 seminars ranging over a broad spectrum of topics. After it was over, the most frequent criticism heard was, "I wish I could have attended more than two." It's one of the most welcome criticisms the Church can hear.

Walking through the parking lot, Gary Antion, ABC coordinator, remarked, "It looks like Disney World with cars from all over the country." He also pointed out that the attendance reflected about 10 percent of the population of the Church. People came not only from the United States, but also from countries such as Italy, South Africa and Guatemala. A variety of fellowships within the Church of God tradition were represented.

Many people responded with glowing comments after the event ended. Richard Thompson, pastor of the Atlanta and Jefferson, Georgia, congregations, said, "A group of teenagers came back to Atlanta and talked about how good the seminars were! It's been a long time since teenagers returned from a tournament and talked about the seminars."

It was hard to get an accurate count, but we estimate as many as 1,500 people may have attended.

*Jim O'Brien*

## Young Entertain at Salt Lake Winter Social

The fourth annual winter social of the Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation was held after services on the evening of



*Sabbath services, sports and seminars highlight the fourth Cincinnati Family Weekend December 22 to 25 (photos by Peter Eddington and Victor Kubik)*



December 30. The spiritual tone for the evening was set during Sabbath services with messages on the true history of New Year's and the power of prayer. Afterwards, the congregation enjoyed a fine potluck meal.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by many of our children, ranging from classical to improvisation. Acts included piano and violin solos, vocal routines, including a father and sons routine, two memorable dance routines and an original story reading. The final participant sang "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings"



*Nicole Plancken and Alex Heine entertain at the Salt Lake City winter social*

and the entire gathering sang the final verse.

The evening was completed by games in which prizes were awarded to all participants. The teens and young adults also helped, and many in the entire congregation were involved. We are grateful to all our children for their participation in a wonderful evening, and we also wish to thank those special people whose silent behind-the-scenes service helped make the evening a joyous occasion for all.

*John Fox*

## Tampa Hosts ABC Mini-Sampler

Over the weekend of December 23 to 25, 2000, brethren gathered in Tampa, Florida, for the privilege of participating in an ABC mini-sampler.

The afternoon Sabbath service, with 337 brethren present, offered two split sermons by Ralph Levy and Jim Franks. Dr. Levy gave us guidelines for studying the Bible along with an overview of the use of study aids. He encouraged us to have a plan for studying and to create a definite time to study.

Mr. Franks spoke on the compelling direction a Christian must follow in this life. He pointed out that a person cannot serve two masters and that, in the Christian life, we must follow the way of God, rather than the way of the world. Standing "against the tide" is not always easy, but it is necessary if one is to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

After Sabbath services, white covered tables and festive flowers were the backdrop for a lavish finger food supper. Then, the learning began in earnest. Over Saturday evening, and the next two complete days, 16 hours of biblical instruction was presented to an average of 176 eager listeners, with a high attendance on opening night of 191. These attendees were not only from Florida, but from California, Michigan, Indiana and the Bahamas.

Eight hours were presented by Dr. Levy on the life and times of Jeremiah; eight hours were present-

ed by Mr. Franks on the Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, Introduction to Doctrine, the background of the Sabbath and the New England Sabbatarians and the book of James. In addition, two hours were devoted to questions and answers for a total of 18 hours of class time. These lectures were presented in 50 minute segments, separated by 10 minute breaks. On Sunday and Monday, there was an hour and a half lunch break.

Dr. Levy's presentation on Jeremiah gave an added dimension to the personality and attitude of the prophet, when placed in the background of his contemporaries and historical events. It was noted that Jeremiah lived during the reigns of five kings on the throne of Judah, most of whom had many problems in following God's way, which gave Jeremiah, a reticent youth, the huge job of trying to admonish the kings and the people of Judah for their disobedient lifestyle.

For his efforts, Jeremiah wound up in prison, sinking down into the miry bottom of his cell, and occasionally sinking into depression as well. But God did not leave him in that condition, and did provide him rescue. Jeremiah was shown to be a very real person, with strengths and weaknesses just like the rest of us, whom God was able to use as a powerful tool.

Dr. Levy also provided a discussion of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, and the correlation of the two. There was also a lively discussion led by Dr. Levy on the parallel lives of Jeremiah and Jesus Christ.

Mr. Franks discussed the method by which the United Church of God arrived at the Fundamental Beliefs which have been published. He noted that statistics show that churches break apart due to three main reasons: buildings, money and doctrine. He noted that doctrine, if not delineated properly, can easily be misunderstood and we wanted to avoid that problem by a careful explanation of just what our beliefs are. He also noted that the 20 official Fundamental Beliefs do not cover all that is believed by the United Church of God. They are merely a foundation for what is believed.

Mr. Franks' discussion of the Sabbath brought out that throughout history, all Sabbath keepers were not part of God's Church, but God's Church was always found among the Sabbath keepers. All of Mr. Franks' classes used PowerPoint presentations including the one on the coming of Sabbath keepers to America.

Mr. Franks' discussion on the book of James brought out the fact that Martin Luther wanted to eliminate the book of James from the official canon as it clearly proclaimed that one needed works along with faith, a point the Protestant Reformation found disturbing. The sig-



Tampa, Florida, provides physical food to go along with the spiritual diet of the mini-sampler December 23 to 25 (photos by Solomon Downing and Tom Kosharek)



## Portland Puts on Northwest Weekend for Teens and Young Adults

While the city of Portland, Oregon, was involved in last minute shopping for the season, the Portland churches were abuzz preparing for the annual Northwest weekend. Behind the scenes a core of dedicated members worked to make possible another exciting weekend for teens and young adults, many taking time out of their busy schedules to set up and staff this Portland tradition.

Activities filled Saturday, Sunday and Monday, December 23 through 25, starting with a special teen Bible study

Saturday morning on the topic of purity. The 104 attendees saw the video, *Searching for True Love: Purity*, by Joshua Harris. The presentation focused on three important aspects of living a lifestyle of purity.

A lifestyle of purity respects the beauty and sacredness of God's plan for sex within marriage. A lifestyle of purity must be motivated by an awareness of God's holiness and His hatred of all sin. A lifestyle of purity makes the purity of others a priority. These aspects were supported by a number of scriptures.



Dancing, special music and young adult seminars at the Northwest Family Weekend December 23 to 25



nificance to the reader would be that a Christian must be a doer of the law, in addition to being a hearer, that faith is required and that a mature Christian must show his faith by putting it into action.

The entire presentation of the lectures at this seminar left the attendees reeling with the information they had gained. Even though most of the brethren have logged 30 (or better) years in God's Church, all this extended information brought their understanding of God's Word to a new depth.

Most of the brethren attending the seminars stayed at one motel in the area. In the reuniting of old friends, and having the continental breakfast at the motel together daily and the traveling back and forth to the hall, there developed an immediate air of a mini-Feast of Tabernacles.

An additional perk was the availability of an entire set of the sampler audio tapes, which could be brought back to individual congregations to be checked out by those who could not attend. The handouts, which were such an important part of the lectures, were included with these tapes.

Comments among the brethren were all extremely enthusiastic and positive. Everyone was absolutely thrilled by this experience. One lady, who is a long-time Church member, was inspired to seriously plan to attend ABC.

The efforts put forth by the Tampa, Florida, congregation were tremendous. In addition to the Sabbath meal there was a constant flow of refreshments, and a choice of lasagna or beef stew for lunch on Monday. All of this was part of the package, and was the "wind beneath the wings" of this exciting learning experience.

Janet Hendershot



That afternoon 352 were in attendance for Sabbath services, where John Cafourek explained how through our words, example and giving we can be encouraging to others. Clyde Kilough in the sermon showed the heart and core of godly leadership. One of the keys to developing godly character lies in our willingness to take on a challenge for the sake of others. He explained how serving fills needs. He said servants make better and smarter decisions, for their decisions come through concern of others rather than themselves. Servants live happier lives, valuing things that last.

Saturday evening teens and young adults enjoyed a dance with the theme, "A Night in Paris." The decorations were wonderfully done with street lamps surrounding the dance floor, chairs and tables on the outskirts, a footbridge over a sparkling stream and an Eiffel Tower, which sectioned off a corner for pictures. The servers for the dance dressed the part with French berets and friendly smiles.

Sunday afternoon and evening the focus shifted to the annual young adults' Bible seminars. Sunday's topics were: "The Ladder of Peace" by Mr. Kilough; "Biblical Geography" by Noel Hornor; "Temper Your Temper" by Mr. Cafourek; "Military Service, War and Violence" by Randy Stiver; "Song of Solomon" by Mark Mickelson; and "Identity of America and Britain" by Howard Davis.

Monday the seminars continued with 75 in attendance. The days' topics were: "The Gospel Jesus Taught" by Richard Duncan; "The Glory of God" by Rex Sexton; "True Christian Femininity" by Dyanne Dick; "True Christian Masculinity" by Mr. Stiver; and "Overview of End Time Prophecy" by Bob Dick.

Tina Slocum

## Rocky Mountain Region Has Family and Young Adult Weekend

The Colorado Front Range congregations hosted their second annual Rocky Mountain Regional Family and Young Adult Weekend December 23 and 24. Though members in the region are widely scattered, those who came enjoyed a

busy and fulfilling weekend. There were two Sabbath seminars for the young adults (with a brunch in between), a teen Bible study and a parent-ing seminar.

Sabbath services followed, with Bill Jahns giving the sermon on families and children. Mr. Jahns pastors five congregations—Salt Lake City, Utah; Boise and Twin Falls, Idaho; Baker City, Oregon; and Grand Junction, Colorado.

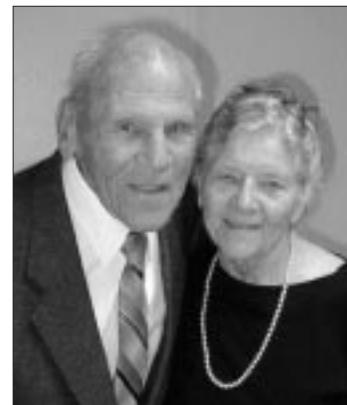
Following this, all enjoyed a delicious dinner of barbecue beef and chicken. Then there was a variety dance for the entire Church. There was something for every age group.

On Sunday, a number went skiing at Loveland Ski Resort, near Eisenhower Tunnel. Several commented positively about the weekend and felt it was both educational and enjoyable from a recreational standpoint.

Larry Neff

## Camp Verde Recognizes Member's 95th

On December 30, 2000, the Camp Verde, Arizona, congregation recognized Will Haines on his 95th birthday. Mr. Haines and his wife, Madeline, attend in



Will and Madeline Haines

Camp Verde, and still drive to services each week, which takes them about an hour and a half, one way. They reside in Prescott, Arizona.

Helen Braman

# Announcements...

## Births

John and Rachelle (Henry) McGowen, along with big sister, Chelsie, and big brother, Kyle, are

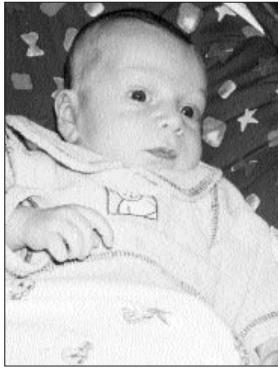


Dillon John Dale McGowen

thrilled to announce the birth of their new son and brother, Dillon John Dale McGowen. He was born November 27, 2000, weighing 9 pounds 2 ounces and was 21½ inches long. Grandparents are John and Korean McGowen of Westville, Oklahoma, and Dale and Charlotte Henry of Sims, Arkansas. The family lives in Westville, Oklahoma, and attends the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation.

Jeff and Jackie Peterson, along with big brother Alexander, of Salemburg, North Carolina, are pleased to announce the birth of Zachary Lee Peterson on December 6, 2000, weighing in at 7 pounds 11 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Jack and Marie Williford of Clayton, North Carolina, and Delbridge and Judy Peterson of Salemburg.

Tracy and Valerie Davidson of Helena, Alabama, are thrilled to



Matthew Blake Davidson

announce the birth of their first child, Matthew Blake. Matthew was born November 6, 2000. He weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Robert and Anita Davidson of Oceanside, California, and Bruce and Phyllis Gore of Birmingham, Alabama.

## Wedding

Raymond and Paulette Duncan of Lula, Georgia, and Roger and Sheila Wilson of Jefferson City, Missouri, are happy to announce the marriage of Leah Isabella Duncan



Mark and Leah Wilson

and Mark Eric Wilson on September 24, 2000, in Gainesville, Georgia.

The maid of honor was Lori Higgs, cousin of the bride, with bridesmaid Melissa Dettler. The best man was Brent Wilson, brother of the groom, with groomsman Marc Comstock. The flower girls were Elizabeth Macchia and Hannah Tew.

Jeannette Emily Gordon, daughter of John and Cynthia Gordon of Nashua, New Hampshire and Pedro Aquiles Reinoso Rosales, son of Aquiles and Nilda Reinoso of Lima, Peru, were married on December 24, 2000, in Nashua, New Hampshire. The bilingual cere-



Jeannette and Pedro Reinoso

mony was performed by Reginald Killingley. The maid of honor was Karen Potter and the best man was Sam Sweat. The flower girls were Nicole Mathewson and Alexis Buonapane. The ring bearer was David Manso and the ushers were Nathaniel Gordon and Angel Colunge. The couple lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

## Obituaries

Eileen Sexton, 71, died December 17, 2000, of an apparent heart attack. Mrs. Sexton was a

member of the UCG congregation in Canton, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thurston "Pete" Sexton on May 1, 1997. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Mitch (Anita) Showers and Mrs. Daniel (Yvonne) Johnson; two sons, Thurston Leon (and wife, Gloria) Sexton and Dennis (and wife, Lori) Sexton; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted December 21 by Walter Hawk, an elder in the Canton congregation.

Homer Sexton, 60, of Sugarcreek, Ohio, died November 8, 2000, of a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Molly, also a member; five children, Bruce, Caroline, Quint, Susan and Nancy; and three granddaughters. He had been an avid bow hunter and outdoorsman. He was a member of the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation and had been baptized in November 1993 in Canton, Ohio.

Lt. Col. James J. Querns III, USAF (retired), 77, died November 13, 2000, in Mesa, Arizona, of complications of pneumonia. Survivors are his wife, Jacqueline; four sons, John, James W., Jerry and Kevin Capper; three brothers, Robert, Herbert and Paul; one sister, Josephine; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He served as a fighter pilot in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. After retiring from the Air Force, he was an options and commodity broker, real estate investor and paralegal. He was a long-time member of the Church, attending the Phoenix East, Arizona, congregation. He was baptized in 1971.

Jerald J. McLaughlin, 75, of

Dayton, Ohio, died December 7, 2000. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Vina, and his children: Jerry McLaughlin and his wife Cathy; Joan Bornhorst and her husband Bart; and Jana Reed and her husband Gus. He had eight grandchildren: John and Neil McLaughlin; Sarah, Kyle, Bradley and Jacob Bornhorst; and Zachary and Chelsea Reed.

Mr. McLaughlin was a World War II veteran. He served in the Navy aboard the USS *Wainwright*. It seemed fitting to his family that he died on Pearl Harbor Day, a day he truly honored. He shared many of his wartime stories and life experi-



Jerald McLaughlin

ences with his congregation where he was a longtime member, since being baptized in 1964. He served as a local elder since 1975.

He will truly be remembered by all as a man with a golden heart. He gave so much and took so little. He had a tremendous measure of faith that helped him and that will continue to help others endure to the end. His strength in trials, his humorous stories and his desire to help others will be remembered and loved.

He served his God, his family and his country. He will be missed.

Funeral services were conducted by Matthew Fenchel.

# Letters...

## Bible Study Course "Absolutely Right"

We just wanted to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to those responsible for the writing and all the other preparation which goes into the *Bible Study Course*. We go back a good many years, to the time of the 50-plus lessons of the old *Correspondence Course*, which of course provided an excellent foundation for its time. But we feel that the new *BSC* is absolutely right for the era in which we now find ourselves. Its balanced, sound-minded approach

and presentation is truly inspired. Could you express our gratitude to all concerned?

Tasmania, Australia

## "Sensational"

I would be grateful to you if you have a Bible study program available. A home study course—I would gladly pay for it. Thank you. Your magazines are sensational. I look forward to receiving them. Very instructional and informative. Bravo.

Ontario

## Baptist Pastor Appreciates Clear Presentation About the Sabbath

I am pastor of a Southern Baptist Church and one of my members e-mailed me some of your articles that appear on your Web site and, even though I have had time to read only a few of them, I have found them to be very interesting. I was particularly interested in the article concerning keeping the Sabbath. I have studied this several times before, using information from the Seventh-Day Baptists and

the Seventh-Day Adventists. I must agree with you that there is much more biblical support for keeping the Sabbath than keeping the first day of the week. Thank you for a clear presentation on this subject.

Internet

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

# News at a Glance...

## What's New on the Web?

- Listen to Real Audio files of the *Good News* radio program.  
<http://www.ucg.org/radio>
- An astounding, eye-opening new booklet, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*, is available in PDF (1.9MB) format.  
<http://www.ucg.org/articles/booklets>
- The January edition of *El Comunicado* is available in HTML format in our Spanish section.  
[http://www.ucg.org/html/espa\\_ol.shtml](http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml)
- Check out the new United Youth Corps projects for 2001 in South Africa, the Philippines and Ghana.  
<http://www.ucg.org/youthcorps>
- The February *Virtual Christian Magazine* is available.  
<http://vcmagazine.org>
- Watch a RealPlayer file of a sermon given by Roy Demarest titled, "Philemon's Instructions on Right Choices."  
<http://www.ucg.org/RealAud>
- Ambassador Bible Center class of 2001 hosts a potluck lunch for the home office staff. View new photographs in our ABC section.  
<http://www.ucg.org/abc>
- Check out the local multimedia efforts by United congregations: *Tomorrow* television by Portland, Oregon; *Good News* television by Beloit, Wisconsin; *World News and Prophecy* radio by Donald Ward; and *The World Tomorrow* on MANX radio on the Isle of Man.  
<http://www.ucg.org/a/local/multimedia.htm>
- 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>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:  
[webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)



Unloading the truck and preparing for mailing of United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy in home office (photos by Dale Puermer)



## Thousands Requesting New Booklet

Responses are pouring in to the January subscriber development letter offering the new *United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* booklet and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* booklet. Through the end of January, more than 7,500 of these reply cards had been received.

A total of 130,933 subscriber development letters were sent out to *Good News* readers in January. This is nearly double the 69,885 who were sent the semiannual letter in July 1999, just a year and a half ago.

ABC students have helped the home office staff deal with the influx of mail by volunteering their time to open envelopes, sort the cards, do data entry and stuff the two booklets into envelopes, which must be done by hand. Several students also helped unload the truck when the new booklet arrived January 31.

Total mail received for January was 33,069 pieces, up 46 percent over the previous January. Internet responses were up 218 percent.

## Three Ways Congregations Can Promote *The Good News*

The home office currently has three *Good News* promotional programs available for local congregation participation.

**Brochure Display Program.** Information on this program was recently published in the *Home Office Update* and *United News*. Also, many pastors received samples of the displays and brochures for exhibit at services.

**Newsstand Distribution.** After testing this program for several months, we have now opened it up on a limited basis to interested congregations. We have attractive counter-top displays available

for brethren to distribute magazines in local stores.

**Brochure Mailing Test.** One congregation recently test-mailed 10,000 *Good News* brochures to local postal customers. The home office supplied the brochures and the local congregation handled all mailing arrangements and paid the postage. So far, 224 subscriptions have been received. We have brochures available for four or five congregations to participate in this test at this time.

If you are interested in participating in these programs, check with your pastor or the person who was the Waiting Room Program coordinator in your congregation. Or contact John LaBissoniere by e-mail at [john\\_labissoniere@ucg.org](mailto:john_labissoniere@ucg.org) or by phone toll free (888) 369-9940.

*John LaBissoniere*

## Alcoholism Videos Sent Out

In January a set of three videotapes was sent to all pastors. The special five-hour series on alcoholism was recorded during the first session of Ambassador

Bible Center last year. The videotapes are part of the Focused Education series being worked on by the education committee of Ministerial Services. The three tapes cover: 1) The Biblical Perspective on Alcohol, 2) What Is Alcoholism? and 3) Getting Help for an Alcoholic. Each tape is approximately 90 minutes long. The presentation was coordinated by Dennis Luker. Several handouts are designed to accompany the presentation, and they will be mailed to the pastors.

*Peter Eddington*

## Good News in the South Pacific

In addition to the countries listed in the January issue, page 6, we also have *Good News* subscribers in the following areas of the South Pacific:

American Samoa	1
Cook Islands	2
Nauru	2
Niue Island	3
Solomon Islands	9
Tahiti	1
Vanuatu	10

## The Good News Radio Log

Schedule for February 10-11, 2001, through May 5-6, 2001. \*New station.

Arbitron Market	State	Call Letters	Station Frequency	Power (watts)	Scheduled Airtime
Akron	OH	WAKR	1590 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. EST
Albany	NY	WGY	810 AM	50,000	Sundays 10 p.m. EST
Chicago	IL	WJMK	104.3 FM	4,100	Mondays 12 a.m. CST
Dallas	TX	KRLD	1080 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9 p.m. CST
Detroit*	MI	WOMC	104.3 FM	190,000	Saturdays 5:25 a.m. EST
Las Vegas	NV	KDWN	720 AM	50,000	Sundays 8:30 a.m. MST
Memphis	TN	WREC	600 AM	5,000	Sundays 9 a.m. CST
Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood	FL	WAXY	790 AM	25,000	Sundays 7 a.m. EST
Milwaukee-Racine	WI	WLTV	97.3 FM	15,500	Sundays 6:30 a.m. CST
New Orleans	LA	WWL	870 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9:30 p.m. CST
Tulsa*	OK	KHJM	100.3 FM	6,000	Sundays 1:30 p.m. CST

## United News

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