



United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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P.O. Box 541027,
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027
(513) 576-9796

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June 2002

News At a Glance

Internet Traffic Up 277 Percent

Comparing March 2001 with March 2002, we see some significant growth on our Web sites. At ucg.org we had a 277 percent increase in monthly data transfer, from 4.7 gigabytes to 13 gigabytes.

Similarly, gmmagazine.org increased 265 percent, from 2 gigabytes to 5.3 gigabytes.

The UCGIA Web site contains much more information than it did a year ago, and so the number of distinct files requested is up as well. The weekly news updates and relevant news stories have been very well received.

Peter Eddington/Michelle de Campos

Perth Feast Site Announced

A fourth Feast site has been added in Australia for 2002. Perth is a small but beautiful city on the Swan River in Western Australia. Perth claims to be the sunniest capital in Australia, with temperatures ranging from 20 to 26 degrees Celsius (68 to 79 Fahrenheit) at Feast time. From the beautiful white beaches of the Indian Ocean Feastgoers can watch the sun set into the sea while enjoying the beachside cafes.

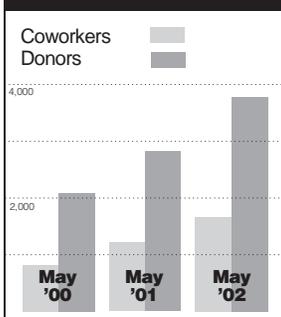
Kings Park overlooks the city of Perth, providing superb views. The park has 400 hectares (1,000 acres) of botanical gardens and natural bushland. Bikes are available for hire and the restaurant and coffee shop are famous for the view.

The Port of Fremantle, where the Americas Cup was held in 1987, is filled with outdoor cafes, old buildings, markets and entertainment.

The Perth Feast venue is 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the city, and 3.5 and

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics



Bible Study Course Graduates Get New Offer

A group of *Bible Study Course* graduates is now entering the third phase of the program, receiving a card that offers local sermon tapes, the address of the UCG pastor and congregation nearest them, contact by the pastor and a subscription to *World News and Prophecy*.

The first 229 responses came in during May, and over half checked more than one choice. Seven checked all four boxes and 41 checked three choices. Of this limited sample of respondents, 90 percent asked for a subscription to *World News and Prophecy*, 58 percent requested tapes from a local congrega-

tion and 31 percent asked for the address of the UCG pastor and congregation nearest them.

These graduates have already completed the 12-lesson *Bible Study Course* and last year were offered 12 months of audiotapes of fundamental beliefs sermons and radio programs. About 3,500 graduates have been receiving those tapes, and as they finish the 12 months, they will also receive the offer pictured at right.

Currently there are 11,838 U.S. households receiving the printed *Bible Study Course* lessons. UN



This card is being mailed to *Bible Study Course* graduates who have also completed 12 months of fundamental beliefs tapes, giving students four choices, including tapes from and the address of a local congregation

New Council Chairman Shares Goals



Clyde Kilough chairing Council meeting; right, former chairman Roy Holladay passes on the agenda

United News: What roles and responsibilities have you had in United?

Clyde Kilough: I served in Akron and Youngstown, Ohio, in 1995 to 1996, then in Sacramento and Santa Rosa from 1996 to 1998 and Sacramento-Stockton from 1998 to now. I was also the regional pastor in this area from 1996 to 2001, and was the Council reporter from 1997 to 1999.

Two extra opportunities were to serve on the group that met to seek reconciliation with the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, and to work on the Christ-Centered Servant Leadership Task Force for the last year and a half. I have been on the Council since last year.

See "New Chairman," page 2

Council Meets With Regional Pastors

During its three-day meeting May 7 to 9 after the General Conference of Elders annual meeting, the Council of Elders was able to hold a combined meeting with the U.S. regional pastors, as well as hear extended reports from New Zealand and Australia and cover a number of other key issues.

The Council and regional pastors had wide-ranging discussions about the GCE meetings, the health of the Church and of the ministry and other issues. The group discussed upgrading speaking skills, as well as the strain of responsibilities on the pastors, the non-salaried elders and many members.

On behalf of the Council, chairman Clyde Kilough thanked the regional pastors for their participation in what

promises to be the first in a regular pattern of contact.

Some of the other things the Council discussed included:

- Honoring elders and wives who have died.
- The Council's role in leadership of the Church.
- How to continue to increase the share of the "budget pie" for preaching the gospel. (The approved budget for 2002-2003 contains \$3.2 million for media, or 17.44 percent of the budget, up from \$2.8 million, or 16.35 percent last year.)
- A report from the Ministerial Education Task Force.
- Establishing an advisory committee to plan the 2003 GCE, with Dave Register as chairman.

Rescinding a January 1997 Council resolution forbidding Council members from publicly discussing issues before the GCE. This caused difficulties in explaining a proposed amendment this year, for example. The ballot was unanimous by the quorum of 10 members present.

- A report by Darris McNeely on a proposed application for a grant from the Lilly Endowment for sustaining pastoral excellence. The application is due June 15.
 - Presenting gifts to Don Ward and Roy Holladay for their years of service on the Council.
 - Choosing Clyde Kilough as new chairman for the next two years.
- For complete Council reports, see www.ucg.org/a/council/council.htm. UN

Church Serves People in More Languages

■ A Dutch supplement to *The Good News* and a team of Portuguese-speaking volunteers are helping the Church serve more people in their own languages.

Dutch Supplement

The last four issues of *The Good News* sent to readers in the Netherlands have included a Dutch-language supplement. This supplement is put together by Marcos Rosales, the treasurer of the Church in Holland.

"It is based upon the one we produce in the U.K.," said John Jewell, CEO of the Church in the British Isles, who also pastors the Church in Holland. "Articles are picked up from elsewhere, such as the German newsletter and other sources, and then translated locally into Dutch.

"The goal is very much the same as that of the British supplement to *The Good News*," Mr. Jewell said. "Rather than try to have a regional edition of *The Good News* or a Dutch-language version of *The Good News*, which would entail additional cost to Cincinnati and a greater workload, in Britain and in Holland, we felt that the supplement

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News At a Glance

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12 kilometers (2 and 7.5 miles) respectively from the domestic and interna-



Perth as seen from Kings Park

tional airports. Perth has the cheapest car rental rate in Australia. There is a wide variety of accommodation catering for all tastes and price brackets.

Location of Services: Cocos Room, Bel Eyre Motel, 285 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, Western Australia.

First Service: Saturday, Sept. 21, at 2 p.m.

Reservations: If you would like assistance, contact Murray Barker by e-mail at mlb@inet.net.au or telephone +61 8 9358 2828.

For more information about the site, visit the Bel Eyre Motel Web site at www.beleyremotel.com.au/main5.htm.

Pentecost Offering Up 10 Percent

The preliminary figures for the Pentecost U.S. Holy Day offering were \$669,095.51, and when individually mailed offerings are processed, this is expected to reach \$680,000. This was a 10.5 percent increase, while attendance rose by 4.6 percent to 11,758. The average per person was \$56.91, up from \$53.89 in 2001.

GN Circulation Plans Announced

The print run for the May/June *Good News* magazine was 517,423. This is a 43 percent increase over the same issue last year. We had planned for a print run of 425,000 by this time this year, and have exceeded that by 22 percent.

Just a year ago, waiting rooms made up 50 percent of the print run. Now, including the international waiting rooms, they only represent 26 percent. Adding in the newsstand copies, this comes to around 40 percent. Therefore, the number of individual subscribers has gone from less than 50 percent of our print run, to around 60 percent. Over the next year it will increase to about 72 to 75 percent because of the waiting room renewal program.

"Our goal is to have a balance of publicly displayed copies and a high percentage of individual subscribers," said Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager.

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New Chairman Discusses His Background, Plans and Goals

Continued from page 1

What are the biggest things you have learned from the previous Council chairmen, Bob Dick and Roy Holladay?

Have you ever watched a skilled craftsman—say, a carpenter—at work? He makes it look so easy you think, "Oh, I can do that." Then you try it, fumble around, and discover it's not as simple as it looks. After flying by the seat of my pants chairing the May meeting, I came away with a newfound appreciation for the way they handled the job. Of course, I didn't see either of them in action the first year they were on the job, so I know they had a learning curve as well. But I admire the way they were both cool under pressure, were measured with their words and level with their emotions. They did things decently and in order, and that wasn't by accident—it took thorough preparation and attention to detail. We all bring different personalities to the table, but it is the work ethic and integrity that counts, and they set an excellent example that I want to emulate.

What are your priorities as you begin serving as chairman?

These are not necessarily in order of importance, but several come to mind: know the Constitution and Bylaws inside out (we must have respect for our governing documents in order to operate methodically and fairly); be well-organized; become much more familiar with all the international areas; digest the job description and let nothing I am responsible for fall through the cracks; develop a close working relationship with the president (we already know each other very well and work well together on a personal level—our relationship now broadens to impact the Council and home office).

What are the major issues the Council will be facing in the next year?

The biggest issues will always be the same—how do we more effectively take

the gospel to the world and how do we become better prepared as the people of God for our work now and in the Kingdom? That is our God-given mission and we can never be sidetracked from that. At this time in history we find ourselves having struggled through a difficult decade, but in God's patience and mercy He has helped us learn and given us spiritual growth, individually and collectively. I am convinced that God has been preparing us to step through some doors He will soon open and that we are standing on the brink of some remarkable times for the Church. I think we will be able to expend much more energy now in constructive efforts and that is exciting.

The Council's biggest job is to have the clarity of vision needed to foresee the opportunities, challenges and problems in order to creatively lead in a world of rapid change. We must also be vigilant, knowing that if God opens doors, Satan will turn up the heat.

There are other specific goals we want to accomplish in the coming year, such as having Council members visit more church areas and having a clearly defined theme that we consistently deliver. We also plan to continue the project of having one or two international representatives sit in on each Council meeting so we have a better mutual understanding of each other's worlds. But we are a spiritual body, and we can therefore anticipate the big issues this year being spiritual in nature—recognizing and prioritizing the many opportunities that we are going to have to further God's work, and recognizing and providing for the spiritual needs of the Church.

How do you see the role and responsibility of the chairman?

The easy part is that the roles and responsibilities are already clearly spelled out in the job description, so it's not my job to define the job. The hard part is to carry out everything. Without going into all the details, the job description broadly defines it as overseeing the activities of the Council, presiding over all meetings of the Council and Gener-

al Conference of Elders, being familiar with the work of all of the Council committees, keeping an eye on organizational priorities and governmental con-



Clyde Kilough at the home office dedication (photo by Sonja Kirellis)

cerns and bringing the relevant issues to the Council, working with the president to achieve our mission and strategic plan, representing UCG in certain legal or business situations and communicating on behalf of the Council to the Church members and/or the ministry. There are other technical duties prescribed in the Bylaws, particularly in bylaws 7, 8 and 9.

How can the Council and the home office work together most effectively?

It's not as though we're not working well, but we are really still a young and developing organization, still learning our way toward greater effectiveness. Some of the most important things we are learning (and are still in the early stages, by the way) are the deep principles of godly servant leadership. In that lie the core values that govern all relationships and teamwork.

In addition, the right hand has to know what the left is doing in order for their movements in the body to be coordinated. Good communication is therefore essential. There is a fine balance in knowing where and to what degree the Council should be involved in issues and where it should leave them to the home office. Our governing documents allow

and sometimes require the Council to manage some things, but we also have to guard against being too hands-on.

I believe that the more thoroughly I understand the issues the home office staff is dealing with, the better I can be a liaison with the Council; and the better the home office understands the thinking of the Council, the more effectively it can follow the Council's lead.

What do you do to keep in mind all the various facets of the Church (young and old, U.S. and international, etc.)?

What were Paul's words—be all things to all men! The challenge is to stay personally interested and involved with all groups, without getting so tied down that someone or something gets excluded. The goal is to keep eyes and ears open to pick up on the needs of any group and see if the Council or GCE can help fill those needs. One of the beauties of godly servant leadership is that it trains us to think outwardly, and as we ask God for that help I know He will give us the capacity to keep in mind those various facets of the work.

What are you most looking forward to as chairman?

The work, the challenge, contributing in some meaningful way to help this body continue to grow in its capacity to serve God's people and do His work. We have been maturing as a Church, and if God can use me to some degree for a couple of years to contribute to that process, then I will be grateful for that experience.

What do you think will be your greatest challenge as chairman?

My job is two-fold: to serve as effectively as possible both the Council and the General Conference, and both present particular challenges. There will be all sorts of tests—keeping a handle on all the details involved while keeping a personal touch and, at the same time, not letting my responsibilities slip as pastor of Sacramento and Stockton. I've

See "Chairman," page 8

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Editor: Peter W. Eddington Managing editor: Mike Bennett Copy editor: Becky Bennett UCG/IA Council of Elders: Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick, Roy Holladay, John A. Jewell,

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

International addresses:

AFRICA (except as listed below): United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

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, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 876-9966, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 876-6669

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

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie—France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@guetenachrichten.org

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy. Phone/Fax: 0039-035-582140 E-mail: redazione@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitewe, Zambia. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

MAURITIUS: P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius. E-mail: mauritius@ucg.org

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: (+63-82) 241-0150

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Forenade Kyrka, Mailbox 144, 111 73 Stockholm, Sweden.

SOUTH AFRICA: United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694. E-mail: rsa@ucg.org

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.

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitewe, Zambia. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 3393, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

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Clyde Kilough, Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seiglie, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker, Donald Ward

President: Roy Holladay

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News From **Around the World**

Elder Visits Singapore Members

by Don Goodger

This Passover season brought an unexpected pleasure for my wife and me when we were asked to travel from Australia to share it with the brethren in Singapore. The small group consists of five ladies and one gentleman, but they compensate for their size with their hospitality, friendliness and enthusiasm for God's Word.

On the Sabbath before the Passover we all met in the home of Rosalind Yong on the rooftop of an apartment overlooking the ocean, with Indonesia on the horizon. The cool breeze from the sea was greatly appreciated. One does not wear a suit to services in the tropics—not more than once anyway!



The brethren in Singapore welcome Dawn and Don Goodger

Man From Malaysia Baptized

On Tuesday evening we kept the Passover together. By the Night to Be Much Observed our number had increased by approximately 16 percent with the baptism that afternoon of Wilson Ling, who had traveled down from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to meet with us. Congratulations Mr. Ling and welcome to the United Church of God!

We enjoyed the Night to Be Much Observed at a Jewish restaurant—the Kibbutz. There are so many wonderful places to eat in Singapore and between Ros and her husband, Sam, Anita, Lily, Clarise, Lillian and Wilson we certainly sampled a number

of them. We wish to thank them very much for their company and hospitality.

The first Holy Day was held in Clarise's lovely apartment where two members from another group joined us for the Bible study and, after lunch, the sermon. The following Sabbath we met in Sam's offices again for a Bible study, followed by another delicious lunch and, again, a sermon in the afternoon.

In between we had the opportunity to see some of the sights of Singapore. It is an amazing city covering the whole island, which can be traversed in 45 minutes. We were so impressed with the cleanliness, order and friendly, helpful people. Young people offer

their seats to the elderly in the trains, there is no graffiti and Singapore has a low crime rate.

If you had limited time in Singapore, the two things we would recommend experiencing are the Jurong Bird Park and taking a watertaxi ride from North Quay up the Singapore River to have dinner at one of the numerous cafes. The return trip is stunning with the restored shop houses on the right and the imposing high-rise towers in front of you as the river sweeps to the left.

It was overall a very memorable experience, resulting in a further deepening of our friendship with the Singapore brethren.

All the articles on this page are from United News Australia.

Members Get Involved in Spreading the Gospel in Australia

United News Australia featured stories of member involvement in spreading the gospel, excerpted here:

Toowoomba Newsstands

Anne and Tom Burchard report from Toowoomba:

Deteriorating world conditions constantly impress upon us that time is running out to preach the gospel to the world as a witness.

Consequently, an increasing sense of urgency compels us to ask, "What can I do?" In the Jan./Feb. 2002 issue of *United News Australia* we read of a fledgling individual newsstand program. We contacted the Australian National Office and Toowoomba was given the green light to establish suitable sites for the newsstands. Now came the challenge!

Approaches were made to seven premises without success. At the eighth establishment a stocked newsstand was left at the site with no guarantee it would be accepted.

At this stage a sense of discouragement set in and members were requested to pray for favor. Two days later the manager rang to say, "The stand is where you left it and nearly all the magazines are gone. You had better come and replenish it." God had heard and brought about a complete change of attitude! Additionally, another manager immediately accepted a newsstand and even suggested a placement site, chosen for maximum effectiveness.

To date the *Good News* magazines from these two stands are taken at a rate

of 200 per month per stand. We are now planning to place a third stand and hope that others will be inspired to pick up the ball and become involved.

Preach the Gospel, Get Fit

A member of the Wide Bay congregation, who wishes to remain anonymous, writes of the members' resolve to blanket their town with letterbox cards:

For some members of the Wide Bay congregation, the letterbox drop program is proving a wonderful chance to love our neighbor as ourselves. Hearing that people have responded to the cards and realizing God is blessing your efforts is very rewarding.

Our goal is to present to each person in our city of 35,000 people the opportunity to learn God's way of life. As part of the letterbox drop in 2001 we dropped 7,500 cards, which covered about half the city population. This time we have a goal of dropping 15,000 cards, of which 10,000 have already been delivered, leaving us with 5,000 cards to distribute.

The Australian National Office reports that to date we have received 76 subscription requests and, with lots of prayer and a bit more effort we hope, God willing, to be blessed with 100 new subscribers in our area this year.

Everyone in our wonderful little congregation contributes what they are able.

There are very few prerequisites, just determination and a good pair of walking shoes. All you need in addition is to pray that God will bless the effort, as He has seen fit to do so far. **UN**

Stephen Clark Selected to Serve in Australia

The Council of Elders, meeting in Cincinnati on May 8, approved an Australian National Council recommendation that Stephen Clark be ordained an elder to serve the brethren in Australia. The ordination is scheduled for June 8 at a combined Tasmanian Sabbath service.

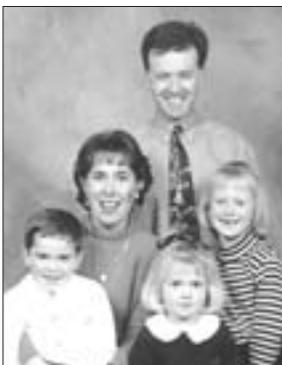
Mr. Clark's ordination will be a major step towards meeting the needs of a geographically spread-out membership in Australia, *United News Australia* reported. Initially, Mr. Clark and his family will move from Tasmania to Brisbane, where he will assist the pastor, Bill Bradford, in serving the brethren in the Queensland area.

Family History

Mr. Clark grew up in the Church in Queensland. He got to know his future wife, Cathie Evans (who grew up in the Church far to the south in Tasmania), at the Church's summer camps.

Mr. Clark attended Ambassador College for five years before return-

ing to Australia. He moved to Tasmania to be near Cathie and her family,



Cathie and Stephen Clark with their children Jordan (5), Maddison (4) and Shannon (7)

and in June 1993 Cathie and Stephen were married. They have three children: Shannon, age 7; Jordan, age 5; and Maddison, age 4. **UN**

Liaw May, Lone Member in Indonesia

by Elizabeth Barber

The people of God have, historically, been a small and scattered group, and this remains true today.

Some members face the additional challenge of being solitary, called, not only as one of a family or two of a city, but as their country's sole representative of God's way of life. Indonesia is probably a part of the world about which most of us know little, apart from information gleaned from news bulletins. One surprising fact is that in this populous and predominantly Muslim country lives one member of the United Church of God.

Liaw May, who is of Chinese ethnic origin, was born in Medan in 1950. She grew up in this city, the middle child and only daughter of parents who were both teachers. May first came into contact with God's Church at the age of 19 when one of her classmates requested for her a gift subscription to *The Plain Truth*. May's interest in the truth of God was kindled, and she wrote to the Australian Office asking for more booklets and the Bible Correspondence Course.

In 1980 she requested baptism, and the following year the Church sent Bill Sidney to Medan so that May could receive personal counseling. She was baptized in August 1982.

May had been employed as a teacher for 13 years in a Methodist school, which held classes six days a week, including Saturday. Realizing that she could no longer continue working at the school on these terms, May was about to resign when she received a letter from Mr. Sidney reminding her of God's promise of intervention for His faithful servants. Armed with this encouragement, May had an interview with her school principal in which she stated that she could no longer work on the seventh day of the week. Imagine her joy and gratitude to God when her principal's response was to allow her to keep her job—and keep the Sabbath!



Liaw May, the lone United member in Indonesia

May's father died in 1986. In 1993, with her mother's health also failing (she died in 1998), May decided to quit her teaching job at the school and work from home, giving private lessons to primary school-age children. This she still does.

Observing God's Holy Days has been a largely solitary exercise for May, although she has managed to get to the Feast of Tabernacles several times in Malaysia, and once in Pasadena. She has not yet had the opportunity of observing the Feast as a member of United, but is hoping to attend a Feast site in the Philippines this year.

Since the death of her parents, May has shared accommodation with and had sole responsibility for her elder brother, Phin, who from birth has had problems with mental illness. His condition has unfortunately grown worse in recent years. Coping with her brother's condition has taken its toll on May, whose own health is affected because of this lengthy and heavy trial. Your prayers for May and her brother, Phin, will be of immeasurable help in sustaining and encouraging our sister in Christ in Indonesia. **UN**

Philippine Youth Camp 2002 "Goes Higher"

by Daniel Roy G. Macaraeg

Thirty campers and 27 staff members from 11 congregations nationwide gathered in Davao City April 14 to 21 for the annual United Youth Camp. Due to the increase in Church membership, about half of the campers and some of the staff this year are new.

Camp was held at Eden Nature Park—a cool and beautiful 80-hectare (200-acre) mountain facility cradled 2,630 feet up the slopes of Mt. Talomo. It is located between two breathtaking views: Davao Gulf below and



Carl Lowell Mantalaba prepares bikes for the day's activities (photo by Charles Macaraeg)

the majestic Mt. Apo behind. Now in its fourth year, the camp continues with exciting challenges, learning opportunities and fun-filled activities designed to impart principles for character-building based on God's laws and way of life. The theme this year was "Go Higher!"

Day activities included badminton, confidence course, campus service, cycling, first aid, fishing, hiking, mountaineering, riflery, softball, in-line skating, swimming, table tennis and volleyball.

Besides sports activities, campers participated in various workshops, such as art illustration, culinary arts, electricity, journalism, kite-making and public speaking.

In the evenings, campers and staff enjoyed an orientation night, bonfire, Bible studies and forums, a buffet banquet with after-dinner speeches and a talent show.

Sabbath activities included a Bible bowl, fellowship and Sabbath services.

Due to a donation from LifeNets, a nonprofit organization founded by Victor Kubik, we were able to conduct five new activities this year: badminton, cycling, riflery, soft-



Group enjoys an extension of camp at Paradise Resort, Samal Island (photo by Charles Macaraeg)

ball, in-line skating and swimming.

Because of God's blessings—including excellent weather throughout camp—campers and staff unanimously consider this year's camp to be a vast improvement over last year—and a very memorable one at that. Following are some comments:

"The camp went great! It definitely was a blast! I've been attending camp for four years now, but this year was one of a kind. I really enjoyed it and

learned a lot of lessons—aside from me falling off the ravine because I wasn't cautious enough of what I was sitting on—but it was a miracle that nothing happened to me. Indeed God blessed this camp and made it a successful one. And I thank Him for that. So, all I can say is . . . Thank you very much!"—Meryl Macaraeg, 2G camper

"This year's camp taught me many new things that I had never known before. Some of the things that I learned are how to swim better, play table tennis, volleyball, badminton and others too. They also added spiritual analogies in every activity that I

can apply in my daily life. If I would have an opportunity to join the camp next year, I would be very happy."—Gino Dizon, 1B camper

"This year's camp was really great! We experienced new challenges . . . memorable hiking experiences just to reach each activity—with loud chants and singing. Even though it was hot and tiring, we still enjoyed the hike. Serving as a staff for the first time, it was a new challenge sharing my talent with the campers . . . And I don't regret being a staff this year . . . It really was a good camp!"—Cheryl Igloria, volleyball and swimming instructor UN



Campers and staff at the 2002 Philippine camp (photo by Rene Balugo)

Child's Faith Teaches Lesson of Priorities

by Manuel Quijano, Lima, Peru

Last March 14 we were driving to visit one of the congregations we serve, and my wife and I were talking and worrying about our future. Some of our relatives had asked us what we were going to do when I became old and could not work. We finally decided that we had to cut some expenditures in order to save.

After driving for about six hours we were surprised when we saw hundreds of people blocking the road. They did not want to let us go through. After waiting there for about two hours, we were approached by policemen. They assured us they were going to escort us about five kilometers down the road where it could be safe to continue our trip.

We went with them, but the problem was that after one kilometer the policemen got scared and left us alone. I told my 7-year-old son to lay down and cover his head with my briefcase. I was very

scared and praying to our God for protection. I could see the angry faces of these farmers throwing stones at us. They broke almost all the windows of the other cars, but a miracle happened and, even when I saw stones flying toward us, not one of them hit us.

After we got to a safe place, I heard the voice of my child asking me if he could now sit up. He told me, "Dad, I had no doubts whatsoever that God was going to protect us from those stones. I was praying for Him to send His angels to stop all those stones, and you have always told me that He will always be watching over us."

My wife and I were touched by his words. We realized that we need that kind of confidence in God's promises. We still think that we need to save for the future, but we are not as concerned as we were before. We have talked about the miracles God has performed in our life and in the lives of His children in Peru,

and that has given us another perspective.

God will take care of us and His work. This is a work based on faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), this is the work of the Living God, not a business which is going to succeed by the capability of men (Judges 7; Psalm 20:7). When the people of Israel were disobeying God or went into battle trusting in their own power, they were defeated. When they went obeying and trusting God, they were victorious.

We should do our part and work hard and smart, but let us not forget who is the one who opens the ears and eyes, who is the one who gives us the money and the strength and the life to do whatever we do (1 Chronicles 29:10-15).

My son reminded me that we should go to God with our concerns. He is the one in charge here and He is faithful (Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Hebrews 10:23). He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). UN

Spanish Area Statistics 2001

Country	Members	Attendance	Baptisms
Argentina	27	39	
Bolivia	19	42	2
Brazil	7	15	1
Chile	232	425	15
Colombia	63	102	2
Costa Rica	2	2	
Ecuador	18	18	
El Salvador	108	225	13
Guatemala	210	525	14
Honduras	4	9	
Mexico	177	409	9
Nicaragua	1	5	
Peru	122	293	
Spain	2	2	
Uruguay	1	3	
Venezuela	1	2	
TOTAL	994	2,116	56

This is a 4.4 percent increase in membership over the 952 members in 2000, and a 15 percent increase over the 1996 figure of 865 members. Attendance was up 3.5 percent over the previous year (2,045 attending) and 20 percent over the 1996 figure (1,754 attending).

"Languages," continued from page 1

ment sent out with each copy of the English-language *Good News* would give that European element that might otherwise not be in *The Good News* itself.

"In the case of the Dutch supplement it supplies a regular publication, albeit only four pages at the moment, which is in the Dutch language," he said.

Almost all the Dutch people can read English, Mr. Jewell said, "but it does make a better contact with people if

there is something in their language."

There have now been four issues of the Dutch-language supplement now going out with the 921 copies of the English-language *Good News*. Circulation in the Netherlands is up 10 percent over the previous year, according to Marcos Rosales.

Portuguese Volunteers

A team of volunteers in four countries is working to translate the Church's literature into Portuguese, a language spoken by 200 million people around the world.

An offer will be sent to about 200 people—all those receiving *The Good News* in English or Spanish in Brazil, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau. There are currently 20 to 30 Portuguese-speaking members in southern Brazil, served by Saul Langarica. Mr. Langarica lives in Chile and also serves Argentina and Bolivia, so isn't able to visit very often.

Alec Surratt, who works in the mail processing area of the home office, previously worked for Leon Walker in the Spanish area of the work and is coordinating the effort for Mr. Walker. Don

Walls, managing editor of the Spanish literature, is also assisting in the production of the black-and-white literature.

The volunteers, who help with both translation and proofreading, are: João Carvalho and José Luis Andrade in California; Jorge de Campos in South Africa; Wanderson Esquerdo in Bolivia; and, in Brazil, Jair and Neily Vasconcelos, José Luis Fernandes and Giovane Macedo. Mr. and Mrs. Vasconcelos have completed translating about half of the *Bible Study Course* lessons. Other volunteers are working

on booklets and reprints of select *Good News* articles.

The two men in California will be translating the letters from the president and the chairman of the Council for the Portuguese-speaking members, and will also record sermon translations to send the brethren in southern Brazil.

The first items ready for printing are a president's letter, the booklet *Managing Your Finances* and a reprint, *What Is True Repentance?*

Portuguese readers who are not already on the list can contact the home office to be included in the future. UN



From the Word

The Message to Sardis: Remain Spiritually Alert

■ Christ warns all of us of spiritual drowsiness and emphasizes the need to be vigilant and watchful.

by David Treybig

Jesus Christ's fifth message to the churches of Revelation 2 and 3 was poignantly illustrated by first-century Sardis. This city had been one of the foremost cities of Asia Minor for two centuries earlier, but now it was in obvious decline. While the previously mentioned cities of the area were bustling with growth and activity (Pergamum as the capital city of Asia Minor, Ephesus as the largest city, Thyatira with its famous manufacturing center and Smyrna with its magnificent natural harbor and trade), Sardis was a relatively quiet city only able to reminisce upon past glory.

"Sardis was situated on the east bank of the Pactolus River about 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of Smyrna; it occupied a rocky spur of Mount Tmolus and a valley at the foot of this mountain. In ancient times Sardis was well fortified and easily defended. It became the capital of the ancient Lydian empire, then passed successively to the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans during their respective dominance of the ancient world . . .

"The most impressive building of ancient Sardis must have been its magnificent Temple of Artemis, built in the fourth century B.C. The temple was 100 meters (327 feet) long and 50 meters (163 feet) wide and had 78 Ionic columns, each 17.7 meters (58 feet) high. Some of these columns remain standing until this day" (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, 1986, article "Sardis").

Another source adds, "This important city was . . . located on important commercial routes running E and W through the rich kingdom of Lydia, of which it was the capital. It was also made wealthy by textile manufacturing and jewelry making. Here are said to have been minted the first coins under the opulent Croesus" (*New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1988, article "Sardis").

"It was moreover one of the oldest and most important cities of Asia Minor, and until 549 B.C., the capital of the kingdom of Lydia. It stood on the northern slope of Mt. Tmolus; its acropolis occupied one of the spurs of the mountain. At the base flowed the river Pactolus which served as a moat, rendering the city practically impregnable. Through the failure to watch, however, the acropolis had been successfully scaled in 549 B.C. by a Median soldier, and in 218 by a Cretan (compare Rev. 3:2-3) . . .

"The ancient city was noted for its fruits and wool, and for its temple of

the goddess Cybele, whose worship resembled that of Diana of Ephesus. Its wealth was also partly due to the gold which was found in the sand of the river Pactolus, and it was here that gold and silver coins were first struck. During the Roman period its coins formed a beautiful series, and are found in abundance by the peasants who till the surrounding fields.

"The ruins of the buildings which stood at the base of the hill have now been nearly buried by the dirt washed down from above. The hill upon which the acropolis stood measures 950 ft. high: the triple walls still surround it.

The history of Sardis was a perfect illustration of the timeless message Jesus delivered to His people: "Don't go to sleep. Remain spiritually alert!"

The more imposing of the ruins are on the lower slope of the hill, and among them the temple of Cybele is the most interesting, yet only two of its many stone columns are still standing" (*International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, Electronic Database, 1996, article "Sardis").

"Only twice in the history of Sardis was its fortress ever captured, though attacks on it were frequent. When Cyrus attacked it in the sixth century B.C., a shrewd Persian soldier observed a Sardinian descending the southern winding path to retrieve his fallen helmet. Unknown to the soldier, the Persians followed his path back up to the summit and captured the whole city, taking them quite by surprise. There was a similar occurrence when Antiochus attacked Sardis about two hundred years later . . . Sardis retained its wealth into the first two centuries of the Christian Era. But its political brilliance as the capital city of Asia for Persia lay in the past" (*Expositor's Bible Commentary of the New Testament*).

There is an ominous lesson to the history of Sardis: Even though it once had great prosperity, it now lies desolate. It did not endure. Its citizens lacked the foresight to look ahead and preserve their future. At the end of the first century, this city was a sad contrast between past splendor and present decay.

Christ's Warning

The history of Sardis was a perfect illustration of the timeless message Jesus delivered to His people: "Don't go to sleep. Remain spiritually alert!" Even though the Sardinians had enjoyed great success, their failure to remain alert had twice led to military defeat—they were overtaken by surprise attacks. Noting the similarities between this city's history and the congregation's spiritual condition, Jesus said, "You are alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1).

Jesus then warned them and us today to "hold fast and repent" (verse 3) of

spiritual drowsiness. And how did Jesus say this should be done? He twice referred to watching—"be watchful" (verse 2) and "if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief" (verse 3).

The Meaning of "Watch"

The Greek word *gregoreo*, translated "watchful" and "watch" in these two verses, "is used (a) of 'keeping awake,' . . . (b) of 'spiritual alertness'" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, 1985, article "Watch (noun and verb), Watchers, Watchful, Watchings"). This word thus combines the sense of being physically awake with

spiritual discernment. It is a spiritual condition of readiness and being alert. Those who do not maintain this approach will be surprised by Christ's return. Just as a thief is able to steal from unsuspecting victims, Christ's second coming will surprise those who are not spiritually alert (verse 3).

Earlier in His earthly ministry, Jesus addressed this concept via several parables. After listing some of the signs of His return (Matthew 24:3-31), He likened these to the signs of a fig tree identifying the season of the year. When leaves began to appear, everyone knew summer was near. His point in relation to His return was: "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!" (verse 33).

Jesus then explained that His return would surprise many people just as the Flood had done in Noah's day (verses 36-41). His advice? "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (verses 42-44).

The parable about 10 virgins also illustrates this important principle (Matthew 25:1-13). Five were wise and five were foolish. All went out to meet Christ, the bridegroom, but only five had the foresight to take sufficient oil for their lamps. Because Jesus was delayed, "they all slumbered and slept" (verse 5). When the announcement came of His coming, the foolish had to go buy oil for their lamps and only the wise who had made ample preparations were admitted to the wedding supper.

Jesus' moral to the story? "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (verse 13).

Like the parable of the 10 virgins, the message to Sardis shows the importance of spiritual preparedness. If we

go to sleep spiritually, become lackadaisical or lose our zeal for God's way of life, we must repent and become spiritually alert once again.

Christ's instructions to Sardis emphasize this lesson. Some of the members in Sardis had become lethargic—lacking a spiritual focus—and Jesus warned them to "be watchful" so they would be prepared for His return (verse 2).

The Reward for Watching

After giving the instruction to be spiritually alert, Jesus said, "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Revelation 3:4-5).

This passage also appears to reflect Christ's intimate knowledge of this first century congregation. *Expositor's* explains, "While the majority had departed from faithful obedience to Christ, a few at Sardis remained true. Here an allusion to the wool industry at Sardis intensifies the image of soiled and defiled garments. Those with soiled garments were removed from the public lists of citizens in Sardis. In the pagan religions it was forbidden to

approach the gods in garments that were soiled or stained (Barclay, *Seven Churches*, p. 77). Soiling seems to be a symbol for mingling with pagan life and thus defiling the purity of one's relation to Christ."

Just as clean garments were required for those in Sardis to be included in their local census, clean garments (representing righteous actions, Revelation 19:8) are required of all who will be included in "the Book of Life."

Paul also likened Christianity to clothing that must be put on when we commit ourselves to God's way of life. We must set our minds "on things above" and "put on the new man" with its accompanying actions (Colossians 3:2, 10). Continuing, he wrote, "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering" (verse 12).

Jesus Christ's instructions to Sardis are universal instructions for God's people throughout the ages. As the message concludes, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 3:6).

On the eve of Armageddon, "the battle of that great day of God Almighty," Jesus again cautions all, "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments . . ." (Revelation 16:14-16). **UN**

How to Watch and Be Vigilant

In support of Jesus' instructions on spiritual alertness, other New Testament passages explain how Christians can be watchful.

In his last meeting with the elders at Ephesus, Paul said, "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:29-31). Paul's admonition to "watch" meant to be obedient of doctrinal matters. In order to faithfully watch, we must study our Bibles so we will be able to discern contradictory messages. Regular Bible reading and study is part of the watching Jesus expects of His followers.

In 1 Corinthians 16:13, Paul linked watching with standing "fast in the faith" and being "brave" and "strong." He was encouraging the brethren to live their lives in accordance with the inspiring hope of their calling. Our lives must reflect our spiritual convictions.

Vigilance

The command to "watch" also entails vigilance. The Greek word

gregoreo is also translated as such in several passages. Colossians 4:2 admonishes us, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." Earnest prayer while remembering to thank God for His blessings is another way we can stay spiritually alert.

In 1 Peter 5:8 we are told to be sober and vigilant ("watchful," according to some marginal references) "because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." If we are not vigilantly on guard, Satan will deceive us.

Our spiritual vigilance can also be described as sobriety. The apostle Paul links this attribute with being watchful in 1 Thessalonians 5:6-9: "Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Watchfulness clearly entails watching prophesied world events unfold before Christ's return as well as living godly lives.



Local Church Updates

Charlotte Teen Selected Top Area Senior

Beth-Erin Springer, an 18-year-old senior who attends the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation, was named the *Cabarrus Neighbors* Senior of the Year for 2002. *Cabarrus Neighbors* is one of six regional editions of *The Charlotte Observer* newspaper. Beth-Erin was chosen by a panel of community leaders from among seven seniors of the year nominees from the seven high schools in the area. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from *The Charlotte Observer*.

Beth-Erin was mentioned in four articles in the papers, and her picture appeared twice. The articles highlighted her school and community activities, such as her involvement in her church youth group and her attendance at the North Carolina Governor's School (also covered in the November 2001 issue of *United News*).

"Beth-Erin Springer of South Rowan High, who wants to attend Wake Forest University and become an oncologist, has organized a collection of various medicines for a mission to Haiti, served on food drives, was involved in a learning project on homelessness, and helped write an international service project grant for an orphanage in the Philippines. It's important to build



Beth-Erin Springer

bridges between cultures, she says," reported *Cabarrus Neighbors* April 25.

Beth-Erin is the daughter of Mark and Marti Springer of the Charlotte congregation. "Beth-Erin has excelled both in academic and extracurricular achievements, as well as community activities, without compromising her religious beliefs," said David Mills, pastor of the Charlotte, Asheboro and Raleigh congregations.

"She has also been very active in the Charlotte church youth and family activities, including special music, United Youth Camps and putting together a church album. The Charlotte church will miss her greatly and wishes her much success as she heads to Wake Forest University," he said.

Women's Focus Weekend Held in Melbourne

What do lobsters, survival in the Canadian wilderness and a pair of plastic ears have in common? They all featured in the Melbourne (Australia) Women's Focus Weekend, of course!

The weekend began with a Bible study conducted by Barry Williams, pastor of the Melbourne East congregation. He explored some of the New



After the Melbourne Women's Focus Weekend, a group gathers at Harold and Barbara Ingham's residence to discuss future plans

Testament scriptures about women that have often been misinterpreted, pointing out that Paul said wives should submit themselves to their own husbands, not that women in general were to be subject to men in general.

After lunch Dawn Goodger and Betty McQueen looked at some of the women of the Bible. Dawn spoke about Claudia, one of the founding members of the Church in Rome. Betty spoke about Deborah and Jael, two women who were instrumental in gaining an Israelite victory over the Canaanites.

Merron Thomson and Heather Eisermann then conducted a workshop that uncovered several surprises. Did you know that King Josiah consulted Huldah the prophetess, even though such prominent men as Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Habbakuk were around at that time? Later Lorraine Watson introduced a segment in which some of the most experienced women in the Church shared lessons life had taught them.

Next Martha McQueen spoke about our role as nurturers in the Church, and the need to use our ears, eyes, tongues and hands wisely for the edification of everyone. A pair of large plastic ears helped to illustrate her point!

After a short break



Martha McQueen holds up plastic ears to emphasize the need to listen

Ruth Root gave a presentation on using our talents, with an emphasis on the need for us to take risks. She told us to become lobster-like. As a lobster's shell does not grow with its body, the lobster must allow the shell to be broken, exposing itself to predators and the elements while a new, larger shell grows. We then identified the talents of the whole group, and discussed ways in which these talents could be used to build the Church.

Two book reviews followed. Sofie Banham spoke about the remarkable biography of Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, a woman whose determination and intelligence enabled her



Gregory Ames

recommendation of teachers. The criteria are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit and dependability.

Greg is the son of Dean and Tracy Ames who attend in Dallas.

Tracy Ames

A Year After Accident, Member Sewing Again

On May 13, 2001, Lucy Werst was accompanying her husband, Jim, on a trip through Denver, Colorado. He was pulling a manufactured home approaching an overpass when another large truck veered into his lane causing him to swerve to avoid getting hit. As it turned out, Jim's truck hit the bridge abutment, which tore through the passenger side of the truck and the side of the manufactured home.

Lucy's hand was severed and, unfortunately, the doctors were unable to save it. But Jim and Lucy believe it is a miracle they both survived. The police officer who wrote the accident report expressed amazement that the truck didn't go over the guardrail to the freeway below, which would have been even more tragic.



Lucy Werst with some of her recent creations

Word spread quickly through the Internet about the accident and they received more than 300 cards and let-

ters from thoughtful people all over the world, mostly brethren.

The loss of her hand did not stop Lucy from doing what she truly enjoys—sewing. In fact, at the time of the accident Lucy was crocheting a baby dress.

Sometime after the accident, while struggling to sew with one hand, a friend in the Portland East, Oregon, congregation, Nick Weiss, decided to design a "thingamajig" to help her. Since then she has finished the baby dress, a large crocheted blanket, a beautiful quilt, a dress for her daughter and matching Western shirts for her son and grandson. Wow!

Lucy gives total credit to God for what she is able to do and truly appreciates and thanks all the brethren for the prayers and many cards sent while she was in the hospital and recovering.

Lucy still has quite a lot of pain and recently had to go back for another surgery. The skin that had been stitched around the end of the bone had broken and the bone was beginning to protrude. The surgeon cut about 3/4 of an inch of bone off and reclosed the wound. "Lucy would appreciate prayers that the wound will heal properly and permanently," said minister Noel Hornor. "Lucy has shown real courage. She is a good example."

Ruth Oliver

Farewell Luncheon Held in Florida

A farewell luncheon was given in honor of Don and Donna Waterhouse, who have been pastoring the Tampa and Ocala, Florida, congregations, by the Spring Hill, Florida, in-home Bible study group before Mr. and Mrs. Water-



Rudy Anderson and Marjorie Cleveland with Donna and Don Waterhouse at a farewell luncheon for the Waterhouses in Spring Hill, Florida

house left for their new assignment in South Carolina.

Rudy Anderson, 97, the oldest member in either the Tampa or Ocala congregations, and Marjorie Cleveland, 80, were also honored at the luncheon. Mr. Anderson was baptized in 1973 and Mrs. Cleveland has been a member since 1980.

People did not want to see the luncheon end, a reflection of the strong bond developed between the members and the Waterhouses.

William Weber

Announcements

Births

Bob and Gail (Whetson) Iacobucci and big brother Jordan are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Victoria Adelina. She was born Nov. 26, 2001, and weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.



Victoria Adelina Iacobucci

Proud grandparents are Fernanda Iacobucci of New Jersey and Mary and Charles Whetson of the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation.

Javier and Cheryl (Howell) Riquelme of Dallas, Texas, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Kimberly Jeannette. Kimberly was born March 30, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds and was 19 inches long. The proud grandparents are Clyde and Donna Howell of West



Kimberly Jeannette Riquelme

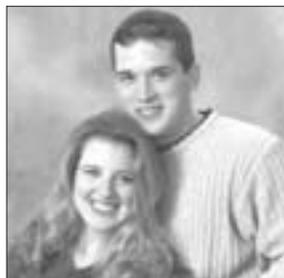
Milton, Ohio, and Luis and Sonia Riquelme of Santiago, Chile.

Engagements

Dave and Kathy Hoffart of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Bob and Pat Freeman of Jefferson City, Missouri, along with other family and friends, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Jeannette Carolyn Hoffart and Mark Edward Freeman, both of Jefferson City. A small August wedding in Missouri is being planned.

Matthew and Diana Zollner and Edward and Claudia Brunick are happy to announce the engagement of their children, Kimberly Marie and Jason Leroy Brunick. Kimberly, a 2000 graduate of Washington University in St.

Louis, Missouri, is presently employed as a research biologist. Jason, a 1996 graduate of Watertown High School in South Dakota, is attending Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, majoring in computer science. Jason will be



Kimberly Zollner and Jason Brunick

employed as a programmer intern this summer in St. Louis. The couple will be married Aug. 11 in St. Louis.

Wedding

Nathan Schroeder of Watford, England, and Lori Higgs of Norwood, Georgia, were very happily united in marriage on April 27, 2002, in Jefferson, Georgia. Their parents, Larry and Virginia Higgs and John and Jan Schroed-



Lori and Nathan Schroeder

er, were present, as were the groom's brother Walter Schroeder and sister Stephanie Faulkner. Lori's attendants were Melissa Detter (maid of honor), Michelle de Campos (bridesmaid), Leah Wilson (matron of honor) and Breana and Amberly Walton (flower girls). Groomsmen were Walter Schroeder and Mark Webb, along with best man Aaron Taylor. Lori and Nathan live in Commerce, Georgia.

Anniversary

William and Mary Norrod of San Antonio, Texas, celebrated their 55th anniversary April 4.

Bill, a World War II veteran, met Mary in San Antonio, where she

worked. They were married six months later, the day after she turned 18. They began attending the Radio Church of God in 1959. Bill was ordained a deacon in 1973 by Roy Holladay and serves in the San Antonio congregation.

Their kids include: Janice Burgess (niece they raised), who is married to Charles Roemer and lives in Los Ange-



William and Mary Norrod

les with their son, Charles Jr.; Teeka, who is married to Richard Glasgow, lives in Dallas with children Justin and Chelsea; Byron, who is married to Cathy (McNiel), lives in Los Angeles with children Byron Jr. and Caylee; Rebecca who lives in New York City; Rachel, who is married to Rich Kendziorski, lives in New York City; and Laura, who is married to Tim Alcott, lives in Houston.

Tribute: Eugene A. Noel

Eugene A. Noel died of cancer on April 12, 2002. He was born July 4, 1936, the second of five children, and grew up in Ohio, northeast of Dayton. He met his wife Jan in high school. They married on August 14, 1954, and enjoyed 47 happy years of marriage. They had six children, and eventually their family grew to include 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Gene was an outstanding family man who was deeply devoted to his wife and family.

He is survived by his wife, Jan; three sons, David Noel, Daniel Noel and his wife Vicky, Robert Dean Noel and his wife Jane; two daughters, Elizabeth Kuhns and her husband Dennis, and Amy Noel; and by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were devoted to their "PaPa."

After graduating from high school, Gene worked as a machinist. He heard the *World Tomorrow* radio program and began receiving the Church's literature not long after he and Jan were married. In 1956 he first attended Holy Day services in Chicago, which was the nearest congregation to his home in Ohio. Later, as more congregations were started, he attended services in Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Dayton. Gene was baptized in the spring of 1957, and in 1965 Jan was also baptized. Gene was enthusiastic about understanding the Bible and became very involved in all aspects of the

Church, including Spokesmen Club. He was ordained a deacon in September 1964 and ordained an elder in Octo-



Eugene A. Noel

ber 1965. It was evident that Gene's heart was deeply involved in serving the Church as an elder, and he was hired by the Church to serve in the ministry in 1966.

He and Jan served in the ministry in the Dayton and Columbus, Ohio, churches from 1966 to 1972. Gene and his family then went to Ambassador College to give Gene the opportunity to attend a year of classes. Following that year, the Noels were sent to pastor churches in Youngstown, Ohio, and Franklin, Pennsylvania, from 1973 to 1984. Successive pastorates were Milwaukee and West Bend, Wisconsin (1984 to 1991), Toledo and Findlay, Ohio (1991 to 1994) and Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio. Gene continued as the pastor of the United Church of God congregations of Columbus and Cambridge until shortly before his death.

As part of his service to the Church, Gene was involved in working with the youth of the Church for many years. He served as both a YOU district and regional coordinator. He was enthusiastically involved in the teen summer camp program, teaching archery and Christian living classes.

Gene's heart was in serving the brethren, and he was a faithful shepherd to those he served. He worked many long days during his 37 years in the ministry and was generous with his time and energy. Over the years he and Jan took into their home 26 different people to live with them until these brethren and friends were able to live on their own. The stays of these people lasted from a few days to a few years.

Gene was well known for being generous, warm, gentle, kind and loving. He had all these qualities to a degree that is rare to find in one individual. He enthusiastically enjoyed and lived life. As an outdoorsman, he delighted in spending time in God's creation.

Gene was faithful to his calling. He loved God, God's plan, God's Word, God's truth, God's way and God's people. He lived the "give way" of life. He was a bright light and beaming example all the way to the end of his life. Gene's life was a true success. He finished his spiritual race, and he's awaiting the resurrection, at which time he will enthusiastically continue to lead more people to God and God's family.

Funeral services were conducted on April 16 by Roy Holladay, the new president of the United Church of God.

Lyle Welty

Tribute: Garland Berg

For the last few weeks of her life, Garland (Gay) Berg was able to be at home to enjoy the inspiring view of the magnificent Absaroka Range from the picture window of the Bergs' home near Dubois, Wyoming. On April 18, she died peacefully from lymphoma cancer, with Mr. Berg at her side. Both Mr. and Mrs. Berg were grateful she was not killed in a devastating, near-fatal auto accident in 1987 and was able to live an additional 15 years.

Mrs. Berg was born in 1929 in The Dalles, Oregon, grew up in Casper, Wyoming, and attended Colorado College, where she met Mr. Berg. She is survived by her husband, Wilbur, and by three children, Ruan, Nathan and Sarah. Another son, Geoffrey, died of cancer in 1998. There are six grandchildren. She was baptized in 1955 and served with her husband in the ministry for 41 years, much of it in Pasadena and Southern California.

Graveside services were held April 23 at the Dubois Cemetery. A stiff Wyoming spring wind did not diminish the honor shown to Mrs. Berg. She was extremely well-loved and respected. Four speakers gave tribute to a fine lady and wonderful example of a wife and mother.

Ben Whitfield spoke first, emphasizing the hope of the resurrection, and recalling his closeness to the Bergs going clear back to his student days at Ambassador College. Larry Neff also

recalled a long and enjoyable acquaintance and read verses from Proverbs 31 that reflected the character of Mrs. Berg. Richard Pinelli then emphasized her outstanding trait of a meek and quiet spirit. Mr. Berg himself spoke last and reflected on the blessing of their



Garland Berg

marriage and the close relationship they had of 50 years, echoing again the meek and quiet spirit displayed by his wife throughout her life.

The knowledge of God's plan is a great comfort to Mrs. Berg's friends and loved ones, most especially to her husband. She was a great help to him, her children, grandchildren and to the Church. She was a true example of faith and perseverance and maintained her convictions to the end. Garland Berg will be greatly missed by all, but she will not be forgotten.

Because there are so many friends and long-time acquaintances in Southern California, a special memorial service was planned for June 2 in Eagle Rock, California.

Larry Neff

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

"Holding our print run at around 500,000 copies is not a step back, or status quo, but a concerted effort to raise the number of individual subscribers—those people who we hope will eventually begin making a commitment to God's way and His Church."

Canadian Camp Canceled for 2002

"Regrettably circumstances have dictated the postponement of the summer camp in Alberta this year," announced Glen White, Calgary, Alberta, pastor on May 17. The camp in Coleman, Alberta, which the Church has used for a number of years, was forced by many cancellations to close its operation this year. "This caught us by surprise and left very little time to relocate."

Mr. White reported that they did find a suitable location north of Calgary in the foothills of the Rockies, but that the time needed for the camp was not available.

"We will let you all know of future plans as they unfold. Thank you again for your support and understanding in this matter. See you all in 2003," he said.

Quebec and Florida Feast Sites Full

The Festival site at Mont-Sainte-Anne, Quebec, is at capacity. No further transfers to this site can be accepted. All other U.S. and Canadian sites remain open except Panama City Beach, Florida.

New Radio Stations to Be Added

The *Good News* radio program is currently on eight stations, which will increase to 14 or 15 in the new fiscal year. Four new stations will begin airing in Arizona this month.

"Chairman," continued from page 2

already been taking off as many other hats as possible in order not to be stretched too thin.

Roy Holladay has told me that overseeing the annual meeting of the GCE is very challenging, but with the Council's establishing of a conference planning task force, I think that job will be eased somewhat.

I see another unique and intriguing challenge regarding the Council. There we see a group of 12 individuals who work as one body. There is not a man in that group who is not dedicated to the Church and who does not have remarkable strengths and much to give. The chairman's job often involves delegating jobs to these individuals and gleaning counsel and advice from them. When that job is done right, he is in a position to draw the best out of each one and to capitalize on each person's strengths, but in such a



What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

■ See new sermon transcripts: "Countering the Culture," by Ralph Levy; "Positive Prophecies About Christians in the End Time," by Dennis Luker; and "God's Great Promises—Twenty Chickens," by Randy Schreiber.

<http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html>

■ See video and audio versions of split sermons by Mario Seiglie ("Unity of Faith Through God's Spirit") and Richard Thompson ("The God of Faithfulness"). Also see "The Gift of Camp."

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

On vcmagazine.org

■ The June *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on "The Windmill Mystery," "Would You Believe...?" "Prayers for a Prisoner," "To My Loving Children (to Be Opened If I Die)" and "Taking Responsibility."

<http://vcmagazine.org>

Since the radio program began in August 2000, a total of more than 4,300 calls have resulted in new subscribers. A full schedule can be seen on the Web at www.ucg.org/radio.

21 Apply for Candidate Program

Applications for the new Ministerial (Pastoral) Candidate Program (see May issue, page 1) have been received from eight ordained elders and 13 non-ordained men, according to a report from Ministerial Services May 30. Pastors, regional pastors and elders in those areas have been asked to make recommendations and, through the middle of July, Ministerial Services will be visiting candidates to interview them for potential admission into the program.

Men and their wives will be selected to attend a three- to five-day retreat/seminar in late-August/early September at the home office. The goal of this

way that the individuals work as one. My personal goal in my two-year term is to do this job in such a manner that we will function as a well-oiled machine, efficiently and powerfully doing the work we have been given.

Is there anything else you'd like to say or add that we haven't covered?

Yes! I am deeply indebted to my wife, Dee, for the support she has given me, so often through her intuition and wise advice. I know every Council member treasures his wife's influence and I think it is right to frequently acknowledge and appreciate all of them. And, as always, on behalf of the Council, we are grateful for and continually ask for everyone's prayers that God will be honored by all of our efforts. With God's Spirit working powerfully in all of us, there is no limit to what His people can do together. **UN**

On youthmagazine.org

■ The next issue of *Youth United* is scheduled to be available July 1 and will have articles on family, when parents and friends clash, getting along with brothers and sisters, managing money and more.

<http://youthmagazine.org>

Other Helpful Links

■ **Good News radio program site.**

Listen to Real Audio files of the program and see the radio log.

<http://www.ucg.org/radio>

■ **Youth and young adult site.**

<http://ucgyouth.org>

■ **Singles' Web site** dedicated to items of interest to singles in the Church.

<http://www.ucgsingles.org>

■ **UCG Race Relations Committee site.**

<http://www.ucgrace.org>

retreat/seminar will be to assess the attendees' potential for the full-time ministry as well as provide specialized training in the area of leadership. The plan is to have three or four candidates entering the program each year.

ABC Sampler and Mini-Samplers Set

This year's ABC Sampler at the new home office will be Aug. 12 to 16. At the sampler, ABC faculty members present topics chosen from their regular classes. If you are interested in this program, please call the home office at (513) 576-9796 or send a letter of intent to ABC, P.O. Box 54992, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0992, attention Gary Antion. The cost of the program is \$50, which includes snacks, a certificate and an ABC mug.

Three mini-samplers are also scheduled. These are weekend events in which two ABC faculty members come to an area and conduct classes on Sab-

bath and Sunday. One attendee said, "It was so thrilling to sit and have hour after hour of God's Word explained. It just reinforced what we already believed and were taught and also some new thoughts, explaining more in detail."

Here are the dates and locations for this year's mini-samplers.

- Beloit, Wisconsin, Oct. 19-20. Contact Steve Nutzman at (608) 758-9228.
- Newark, New Jersey, Nov. 16-17. Contact Kevin Epps at (732) 873-0781.
- Phoenix, Arizona, Dec. 20-21. Contact John Elliott at (480) 380-2311 or Randy Schreiber at (480) 513-6085.

Gary Antion

Council Approves Four New Elders

The Council of Elders credentialed two men and approved ordination of two others at the May meetings.

Credentialed were Garry Lucas, who serves in the Toronto, Ontario, area with his wife, Emmy, and Leeford

■ **Good News Bible Reading Program** PDFs and HTML with Bible readings and commentary.

<http://www.ucg.org/brp>

■ **Good News Web site.** Sign up for e-mail notification!

<http://gnmagazine.org>

■ **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 the Isle of Man.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/localc/multimedia.htm>

■ **News page** with Council of Elders meeting reports, President's Letters, Home Office Updates, etc.

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

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

Burke, who serves in the Kingston, Jamaica, area with his wife, Carol.

John Massie was ordained on Pentecost, May 19. He and his wife, Rosalee, serve the Lewistown, Pennsylvania, area. An ordination was also approved for Australia (see page 3).

A correction on an ordination printed in the May issue: Dan and Peggy Ann Good serve the Greensboro, North Carolina, area. We regret the error.

Media Area Plans Two New Hires

With the approval of the 2002-2003 budget by the General Conference of Elders, Media and Communications Services is now moving forward to hire two new employees in the coming fiscal year. A new employee is needed in the Internet area as a managing editor of the Church's overall Internet presence. Additionally, an experienced video editor is being sought to help with the Church's growing multimedia work.



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