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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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News At a Glance

Treasurer Gives Financial Update

In the current fiscal year, the income of the work has been fairly flat. We budgeted for a modest 2.4 percent increase over last year in Category One income (consisting chiefly of first tithe and assistance fund donations). For the first five months of this fiscal year, actual income has been growing at only about half that rate.

We are grateful for what God has given, especially in light of the weakened state of the economy and the resultant challenges some of God's people have faced. We are doing what is necessary to live within the means God gives us. We of course ask that He will provide us with more, as it is His will. (See article, page 8.)

Tom Kirkpatrick

Council to Meet Dec. 11 to 17; Regional Pastors Meet Dec. 8 to 10

The Council of Elders will hold its quarterly meetings Dec. 11 to 17 at the home office in Milford, Ohio.

Before the meetings, Council members will have committee meetings Dec. 9 and 10. They will also participate in a seminar presented by the Christ-Centered Servant Leadership task force Dec. 9. The U.S. regional pastors and the home office staff will also participate.

The regional pastors will meet Sunday through Tuesday, Dec. 8 to 10. One topic of their meetings will be the mentoring program for new ministers.

To receive E-mail reports of the Council meetings, subscribe to the new member update at www.ucg.org/a/update.

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics



More Translation of Literature Planned

United continues to expand its offerings of literature in an increasing number of languages. Within the last year, translations into Swedish, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian have been announced, in addition to the core languages of Spanish, German, Italian and French. In this issue, plans for translation into Fijian (see page 5) and Afrikaans are announced.

Afrikaans

André van Belkum, chairman of

UCG-Southern Africa, asked Joyce Swart to assist with translating literature into Afrikaans. (Translation into other languages is also being explored.) She has previous experience translating Church literature, and is working with Barry Strydom, who edits her translations.

"The plan is to translate the *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet into Afrikaans and to put it on the South African *ucgrsa* Web site," she said. "At the end of each short chapter, there will be an invitation in Afrikaans, saying something like, 'If you'd like to know more

about this subject, you can download our free booklets (with the name of the booklets in English and a link directly to the booklet) or request the printed literature on this site.' This, we trust, will hold the Afrikaans-speaker's interest while we're translating the other booklets, as most Afrikaners understand English, but prefer Afrikaans.

"We started a month ago, and the *Beliefs* booklet is almost done. We're very excited and can't wait to see the results! We'll probably tackle *The Ten Commandments* booklet next," she said.

Spanish

By far the largest non-English-speaking group in United is in the Spanish area. *Las Buenas Noticias*, the Spanish *Good News*, has a print run of 15,600. The hymnal and 13 booklets and brochures have been published in Spanish. This year *The Book of Revelation Unveiled, Heaven & Hell* and *Does God Exist?* were translated and will be printed by the end of the fiscal year.

Plans for next year include translating

See "Translations," page 3

Minister Visits Malaysia



Philippine minister Florante Siopan, second from left, visited this family in Tawau City, Sabah, Malaysia, Nov. 3 (photo by Sarah Jane Beto)

After explaining that all ethnic Malays are Muslim, the Chinese there are predominantly Buddhists

See "Malaysia," page 4

Faster and Faster: Data-Entry Efficiencies Save Thousands

How have the same number of data-entry people been able to handle the growing demands over the last couple of years? A big part of the answer is in the smart use of technology. In some cases new methods and new programming have saved half, two thirds or even more than 90 percent of the data-entry time.

For example, the subscriber development letter sent to *Good News* subscribers in October brought in more than 15,000 requests for the *Bible Study Course*. "Our experienced data-entry people can enter about 500 of these cards by hand an hour," said Richard Kennebeck, Information Technology manager. But since the cards were bar-coded with the subscribers' information, the requests can now be processed much faster.

Matthew Eddington, a high school student who is a part-time employee, does most of the scanning and averages about 6,000 an hour. "So as you can see, we can do in about five minutes what it would take an experienced person an hour to do," said Mr. Kennebeck.



Matthew Eddington scans 6,000 reply cards an hour (photo by Janet Treadway)

Most of the *Good News* renewal cards have been bar-coded as well, which cuts the data-entry time for these by two thirds.

Another example of increased efficiency is in the use of forms on the

Church's Web sites. Paul Wasilkoff worked on redesigning the forms so it wouldn't be necessary to retype the information entered on Web forms for literature requests, renewals and address changes.

People in other countries also use the literature request form on the Web "which automatically sorts the requests and forwards them to the appropriate national office for fulfillment," said Mr. Wasilkoff. "We are also going to add another form that will allow external helpers to input data into the system," he said. This will be used initially by members in the Portland, Oregon, area to enter requests from the *Tomorrow* television program.

"When we moved to information flowing from the Internet into our data-entry system, we were able to cut the entry time for Web requests in half," said Mr. Kennebeck.

"We also use a service called Address Change Service which is provided by the U.S. Postal Service to have address changes electronically return to us instead of physically returning a copy of the address change to us. This allows us to make most of the changes automatically without having to manually change the address.

"Prior to July 2001, we had to manually enter the changes into the computer system. Each *GN* mailing generates over 7,000 mail returns or address

See "Efficiencies," page 2

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News At a Glance

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Elder Heard on "Religious Hard Talk" in Jamaica

Paul Fisher, elder in Jamaica, recently reported:

"I was invited to and did appear on the most widely listened to radio station in Jamaica on a program called 'Religious Hard Talk' to present UCG's position on the questions of the immortal soul and the ever-burning hell. It was aired on the 1st, 8th and 15th of September 2002. A minister from the Church of Christ was there also presenting their position and questioning ours.

"The UCG got good national expo-



H. Paul Fisher, elder in Jamaica, was invited to speak on the most widely listened to station in Jamaica

sure from these programs; if all goes well I should be on again in the future to put forward our position on the Sabbath.

"The response so far from many persons has been very positive. I have even heard from individuals who I never thought would be interested in religious issues."

Instructors Present Mini-Samplers

Two of the three ABC mini-samplers for this year have been presented. About 140 brethren attended a mini-sampler in the Beloit-Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, area in October (see page 8 for details).

Ralph Levy and Jim Franks completed the second of this year's presentations in Newark, New Jersey, Nov. 16 and 17. This sampler reached 115 on the Sabbath with 105 returning for Sunday's portion. Brethren attended from several adjacent congregations. Kevin Epps and his congregations sponsored this presentation.

It has been the goal since the inception of ABC to try to bring some portions of ABC "live" to the brethren throughout the United States. We try to vary the locations and cover different geographical areas. This year we will have gone to the Midwest, the East and the Southwest (Phoenix, Ari-

See "News at a Glance," page 15

Good News Promotions Reach Millions, Involve Members

by John LaBissoniere

We are essentially in just our third year of vigorous testing of numerous *GoodNews* print promotion programs. In the past two years we have tested member brochure distribution, supermarket distribution, saturation mailings, newspaper inserts, shopper inserts, display ads, direct mail, newsstand distribution, card packs, package inserts and college inserts.

We have also actively tested various

AM and FM radio formats, shortwave radio, television commercials on various network formats and have widely used the Internet. We are looking into the possibility of testing digital satellite radio.

Currently we are testing a *GoodNews* "gift copy" project in 35 congregations. Although testing will always be a part of any advertising/marketing effort, during the past two years we have learned much about what works and what does not.

"Efficiencies,"

continued from page 1

changes alone," said Mr. Kennebeck. "We can now enter all but several hundred of these electronically with no manual intervention. We are able to save almost 20 hours a week using this

new system. Not only do we save time in manpower, but we save two thirds the cost of each address change, which amounts to tens of thousands of dollars each year."

All the above projects have been implemented in the last year and a half. Connie Seelig, who coordinates the

mail processing area, said, "We deeply appreciate all the efforts that Richard Kennebeck and Paul Wasilkoff have put into constantly upgrading our data-entry system. We have not added more employees to our data-entry staff in two or three years, so the only way we are able to keep up with the volume of mail

is with the improvements that have been made to the data-entry system. Adding the scanning capability has helped immensely. Richard has also been upgrading the way we post information to our master file, which has also helped us keep pace with the mail volume." UN

will fall as we advance through the year.

Another effective program is the *GoodNews* Brochure Program. In just over two years, the brethren's efforts have resulted in over 90,000 brochures being distributed. As a consequence, 2,875 new subscription requests have arrived at the home office. This equals an excellent 3.2 percent response at a cost per response of only \$1.20.

Due to God's blessing and the members' diligence, this program is very successful. UN

Letters

Correction

In the November *United News*, "Announcements" section (page 22) under "Births," Michael Eric Wilson's grandparents Raymond and Paulette Duncan are not from Lula, Missouri, but from Lula, Georgia. We regret the error.

Translating Into Polish

There is a lack of articles and booklets about God's festivals in Polish (in fact, there is only one very small church which observes them). I'd like to translate your booklet *God's Holy Day Plan*

and publish it on my (quite popular) Web site <http://www.wolnosc.w.pl>.

All I need is your permission. (This is not the first text I'm translating from English.)

A few words about myself: I'm 25. I'm married. I [have kept the] Sabbath for eight years. This year I started keeping the festivals.

Poland

We gave him permission, but asked him to add the disclaimer that we have not reviewed the translation and asked him to include a link to our UCG site.

Off-the-Street Request

Home office receptionist Laura Peabody reported Nov. 19:

"This morning as I was sitting at my desk preparing for the day, a trucker walked into the office and asked if we had any Christian material on marriage. I pulled out the July-August

Good News. Then he said that he and his wife were new 'Christians' and things seemed to be falling apart so I whipped out *Making Life Work* and handed it to him and his reply was, 'Oh, there we go. I knew God sent me in here for a reason!' And then he left with literature in hand."

Found Good News on Floor, Now Lost Without It

I was traveling the approximate 100 kilometers from Cape Town to Wellington in the Boland. We stopped at a truck stop for cool drinks and I picked up my first *GoodNews* on the floor there. I was strangely elated, kept the publication close to me and devoured it at the first opportunity. I read it from cover to cover, starting with the editorial which was so powerful. I find the style and standard of writing and research top quality, and wait impatiently for my next publication. You guys are right on top of everything—the insights are spot on and totally relevant to everyday living.

I am a single parent with a 16-year-old son. I work for commission only and things are tough out there. I am so sorry I cannot afford to donate to your most worthy of causes.

Would it please be possible to renew my subscription to *The Good News*? I

think I would be lost without it.

South Africa

More Interest From Africa

We are now very well informed about the United Church of God, and we know more from the contact we have had for the past 12 months. We would like the church to be organized in our country, and we also want you to send to us the Feast of Tabernacles 2002 sermon video titled "Being Equipped as Saints in Service to God."

Until then, remain blessed!

Democratic Republic of Congo

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* are welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or E-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

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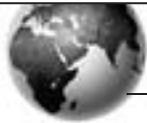
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John A. Jewell, Clyde Kilgough (chairman), Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seigle, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker

President: Roy Holladay

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News From **Around the World**

British Isles Holds Annual General Meeting

On Sunday, Nov. 17, UCG-British Isles (a registered charity) held its annual general meeting. About 27 members of the charity attended with a couple of guests—all members of UCG. (You can be a member of the Church without opting to be a member of the charity.) The charity was set up to enable us to claim tax rebates on the tithes and offerings of those who join the charity. The National Council was set up to run the charity and is required by law to hold a general meeting once a year.

Victor Kubik, a member of the UCGIA Council of Elders, who was an invited guest, gave the opening prayer.

The chairman, Frank Jarvis, gave a report of his first year as chairman. He said he came onto the National Council along with four other new members. Mr. Jarvis said he was sure that they would agree with him that it had been a "steep learning curve." On behalf of the council, the chairman expressed their appreciation for the help given by the UCGIA Council of Elders.

During the year the National Council worked together on a mission statement

for the charity, which the chairman read.

"The Gospel is the good news brought by the messenger, Jesus Christ, from the Father of the future establishment on this earth of the Kingdom of God, with Christ as king, earth as territory, humans as subjects and God's law as the way of life! It includes a warning and witness to all nations and an understanding of world conditions today, and prophesied events leading to its establishment. It includes repentance of sin, acceptance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and teaching those things that He taught—taking these truths to all nations."

Other functions of the National Council have been selecting Feast sites and setting up a grant in order that each year one of our youths could attend summer camp in the United States.

The chairman then expressed thanks to the former secretary Mark Webb for all his hard work and support and presented him with a cue to play snooker (a sophisticated version of pool!).

The chief executive, John Jewell, then gave his report. He also remarked that



John Jewell addresses those attending the annual general meeting Nov. 17; inset, Kira and Paul Spenser (photos by Vic Kubik)

there had been a learning curve with the use of media to witness the gospel.

The treasurer, Brian Penheiro, reported that the income was running at 23 percent above budgeted income.

Balloting then took place to confirm the position of Mr. Penheiro as treasurer (this was unopposed). Approval was

also sought for the accounts ending June 30, 2002, and the budget for the coming year. All three resolutions were passed overwhelmingly.

The chief executive officer then presented the business plan for the next financial year. Mr. Jewell stated that the radio program, *The World Tomorrow*



Ray Bunting, a deacon in the Gloucester congregation, talks with Chairman Frank Jarvis; inset, new treasurer, Brian Penheiro

presented by David McDermott, was a witness statement of the Church, and that it would be wrong to judge it on a cost per response. There is a possibility that radio could become a very big witness quite cheaply. New technological advances are making radio on the Internet more feasible.

The meeting concluded with Mr. Jewell saying that two public lectures were being planned for the Isle of Man in early spring.

Frank Jarvis

Toronto Organizes Open House

There was a buzz of excitement in the Toronto, Ontario, congregation on Oct. 19. A total of 682 letters had been sent to the area subscribers of *The Good News* inviting them to an open house with Richard Pinelli as the featured speaker. While the letters did not directly produce any extra people, members of the congregation did extend invitations to friends. This resulted in an attendance of 137 with around half a dozen new people. Some have continued to attend with us since that time.

Richard and Mary Pinelli lived in Canada for many years. They arrived in Vancouver in June 1961 and served in the Canadian ministry until June 1984. During that time they pastored in the Vancouver, British Columbia; Edmonton, Alberta; and Toronto, Ontario, congregations.

Needless to say, this most recent visit was an occasion of many happy



Richard Pinelli speaks at open house in Toronto Oct. 19 (photo by Ed van Pelt)

reunions! One lady explained that Mr. Pinelli had baptized her and performed her marriage. This was the first time she

and her husband had seen him in a long time. For a lot of folks, the day brought back fond memories of the "good old days."

Mr. Pinelli's sermon compared spiritual commitment to marital commitment. In marriage, as in baptism, we have to count the cost, make a commitment and pursue it with determination. There were a lot of very positive comments about the message, so much so that it has been sent to all the Canadian congregations.

The Toronto brethren appreciated that the Pinellis were willing to make the eight-hour drive to visit and hope they will be able to work us into their schedule again next year.

Linda Wasilkoff

"Translations," continued from page 1

ing *Transforming Your Life, Is There Really a Devil?* and *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* into Spanish.

Spanish translators include Maria Hernandez in Bogota, Colombia; Dionisio Velasco in Gladewater, Texas; Katy Seiglie in Garden Grove, California; and Pablo Dimakis in Mexico City, Mexico. Don Walls is the managing editor.

Las Buenas Noticias is 20 pages bimonthly, while *The Good News* is 32 pages. This allows the staff to choose the most suitable articles for the Spanish area. Rather than social or cultural issues

that may be addressed from a U.S. viewpoint. "Our focus has been on biblical topics as much as possible," said Mr. Walls. "For example, the series of articles on archaeology and the Bible was excellent because it helped to build a foundation of trust in the validity and accuracy of the Scriptures."

German

In the German area, there are currently 4,050 subscribers, reported Paul Kiefer, the pastor for the German-speaking areas. Jesmina Allaoua assists with the translations and editorial efforts.

Currently 15 booklets have been translated into German, of which 13 are

in print. Also, 11 *Bible Study Course* lessons have been translated, and eight of those should be printed by year end.

In the past year, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* and *Does God Exist?* were translated, along with 96 pages of the German *Good News* (*Gute Nachrichten*) and 120 pages of the German *United News* (*Intern*).

Plans for next year include translating *Creation or Evolution* and *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*.

See "1,000th Subscriber in Holland" on page 4 for an update on Dutch translation plans. Plans for other language areas will be announced as they are received. **UN**

Volunteers See Growth Despite Tough Times in Zimbabwe

André van Belkum passed on the report below from Mike Mukarati and his wife, Primrose, volunteers who run the small office in Mutare, Zimbabwe.

GN Circulation

Our mailing list has reached 1,470 and is continuing to grow. To ensure quality readership, we have sent out subscription renewal notes to 420 subscribers who have been receiving *The Good News* for just over a year. This is to trim out those who are not interested or have moved, etc., to create capacity for fresh subscribers who may bear fruit. We have received renewal requests from 35 subscribers so far. We expect a renewal rate of about 20 percent or 102.

Many are writing in stating how they appreciate and value *The Good News* and wishing God's blessings on the work. One wrote, "I would like to express my appreciation for the gospel you preach. This is the gospel which drew me into the Worldwide Church of God. The changes threw me into the deep hole of confusion. I need this gospel to redirect me to God."

We promote *The Good News* to new people mainly via the subscription brochures distributed through selected bookstores and pharmacies.

Booklets

In the past three months, we have posted a total of 360 booklets.

Finances

So far we have been able to meet

expenses from our local funds, but owing to the increasing number of subscribers and the high rate of inflation (now 140 percent) we may soon need assistance. For example, the price of plastic wrapping increased from Z\$3,650 per thousand a month ago to Z\$7,708 per thousand.

I will attempt to give an estimate of our financial needs for the next six months:

Postage (about 1,500 copies @ \$35 each)	Z\$157,000
Booklets postage	17,500
Photocopying (mainly newsletters to members)	10,000
Plastic wrapping	38,540
Customs duty	9,000
Internet subscription	29,426
Total	Z\$261,466

This gives us a round figure of Z\$300,000. Sounds like a lot of money, but please note that one Zimbabwe dollar is currently worth less than two U.S. cents.

Registration of GN as a Newspaper at the GPO

We sent in our application some two months ago. Currently we fail to meet one of the conditions for registration, that is, that our publication should be at least monthly. However, the matter has been referred further up the Post Office hierarchy for a discretionary decision based on our volume of pieces posted. We request prayers for favor, as registration will reduce the cost of postage from Z\$35 to Z\$15 per copy.

Mike and Primrose Mukarati

1,000th Subscriber in Holland

Following the Sabbath service on Nov. 2, a barbecue was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rolf de Jong in Steenberg in the south of Holland. This was to celebrate the addition of the 1,000th subscriber to the *Good News* mailing list held in Holland. The mailing list in fact is 1,024!

This is an amazing increase over the last 18 months or so and has come almost entirely from the Web site. Subscribers receive the English *Good News*, but the Dutch brethren translate and produce their own supplement, which they send out in the same way the British and European supplement is sent.

Dutch National Council Meets

On Sunday, Nov. 3, the Dutch National Council held its regular meeting. The council is composed of Marcos Rosales, treasurer; Arthur Bertinus, secretary; and John Jewell, chairman.

At this meeting the speaking schedule for the Dutch church was reviewed for the coming year of 2003. The United Kingdom will be once again assisting with the supply of speakers. The

expenses of doing this are shared. Other subjects included the establishment of bylaws, a strategic plan, financial matters, the Feast of Tabernacles and an annual general meeting.

Also reviewed was the progress of translating and publishing Dutch language booklets. Already printed are: *What Is Your Destiny?*, *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*. To be printed in November was *The Road to Eternal Life*, and to be printed in December is *Holidays or Holy Days? Right behind these are Does God Exist? Creation or Evolution and The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. These have already been translated but still need to be paginated.

Also translated are lessons 1, 2 and 4 of the *Bible Study Course* with lessons 3, 5 and 7 in progress. The intention is to complete the translation and publication of the entire course this coming year.

The annual general meeting of the Dutch church is provisionally planned for February.

This material first appeared in the United Church of God—British Isles National Announcements, Nov. 9.

"Malaysia," continued from page 1

and the Indians are predominantly Hindus. Mr. Kilough pointed out, "But Christ is not bound by ordinary circumstances. We just have to be willing servants, praying for God to open the doors and ready to do our job when He does the extraordinary."

Such a door began to open during the Feast this year. The plan for a United minister to go to Sabah, Malaysia, started during the Feast in Iloilo City, Philippines. Clyde Kilough and Florante Siopan baptized Ruperta V. Beto of Sempoma, Sabah, Malaysia.

Mrs. Beto, a former member of the Jerusalem Church of God in Sabah, started attending United in June 2002 in Leyte in the Philippines. She is the widow of the late Bienvidido Beto, pastor of the Jerusalem Church in Sempoma, Sabah, and she is also the older sister of Raul Villacote, a deacon in Leyte. After Mr. Villacote explained to her how the Jerusalem Church of God in Leyte joined United (see August 2001 *United News*), Mrs. Beto, also a former *Plain Truth* subscriber, asked for baptism.

Mrs. Beto discussed with Mr. Siopan the problem of their church in Sempoma, Sabah. She asked if it was possible

for him to visit her family and the brethren in Sabah and explain to the members the teaching of United Church of God. She wondered if perhaps it could help keep the members from falling away, since their church no longer has a leader to guide the flock. Her husband, who was their pastor, died March 30, 2002, at the age of 53 years, which caused the membership to become discouraged and many were looking for other groups to join.

Mr. Villacote and Mr. Siopan left the Philippines for Sabah on board M/V *Mary Joy 2* at 6 p.m. from Zamboanga (in the southern part of the Philippines). After 19 hours of cruising, they reached the port of Sandakan and took a bus ride to Sempoma, arriving late in the evening.

The following day, Friday, Mrs. Beto and other members of the church met them for an open forum, which was held in her residence. This group was different from the Jerusalem Church of God in Leyte, because they did not keep God's annual feast days.

On the Sabbath we held services and a Bible study. As requested by the members, the services were conducted according to the UCG manner. Mr. Villacote gave the first message, tracing the history of Jerusalem Church until this

time. Mr. Siopan gave the second message about God's annual Holy Days. After hearing the messages, they began to ask each other why the need to keep the annual Holy Days was not taught to them before when all the time it was there in the Bible. Although all the members were not able to attend (since the members are scattered), the attendance was 9 adults and 7 children—16 in all.

Before the Sabbath was over, the unanimous request of the membership was for us to continue to visit them as often as possible and be with them for two Sabbaths in a row, so that they could learn more about United and be fed with spiritual food which was not available to them before. At present, there are more than 30 members, including the children, in Sempoma, Sabah, Malaysia, mostly Filipinos and one Chinese.

We would like to ask all the brethren in the Church to pray that God will extend His love and mercy to these people. I believe that God is opening another door for the preaching of the gospel of His Kingdom in Sabah and maybe in the whole of Malaysia in the future. I was touched to know their situation and their desire for the United Church of God to attend to their spiritual needs.

Florante Siopan



The Feast of Tabernacles

Brazil

Moscou

Moscou, Brazil, is an Amerindian village in northern Brazil near the Guyana border. Arnold Hampton and Kingsley Mather first made contact with the group in May 2000. The two elders made three trips to the village, but 2002 was the first time that an elder visited the congregation during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The brethren in Moscou were busy in late July and August 2002 building a dining hall and other structures to accommodate the members of the local congregation and visitors that were expected from Guyana.

July 29 God began to work a series of miracles that made it possible for the congregation to have a visiting elder and dedicated member serve them during the Feast. Leon Walker wrote a letter to Kingsley Mather introducing João Carvalho. João uses the name John for the benefit of his English-speaking friends. He is a citizen of Brazil but has lived in the United States for the past 22 years. John offered to assist Mr. Mather in arranging flights and hotel accommodation in Boa Vista, a city about 75 miles from Moscou. He also left his wife and two young children with family members in the south of the country so that he could spend the entire Feast serving the brethren.

Despite flight delays and hotel mix-up, 60 of God's people met for services in the Church's hall in Moscou, Brazil, Sabbath, Sept. 21. It was obvious that the brethren had been busy preparing for the Feast. A large banner (in English) was erected outside the auditorium wel-

coming brethren to the Feast of Tabernacles. The hall was gaily decorated with balloons, streamers and a welcome to the Feast banner in Portuguese.

This was the third Feast that brethren in Brazil met as part of United. There were attendees from Guyana, Brazil, Bahamas and the United States.

The sermons were powerful and reminded brethren of the coming Kingdom of God when the world will be at peace and the government of

a tape player. A number of children were blessed during services on Monday, Sept. 23.

The ladies prepared meals that were served family style in the new dining hall that the men built for the occasion.



Scenes from the Feast in Moscou, Brazil (photos by João Carvalho)

God will rule the entire world. Sermons were given by Robert Mateus de Silva (leader of the group), Mr. Carvalho and Mr. Mather. Sermonettes were given by Geraldo de Souza, Gary Atkinson and Mr. Carvalho. The congregation sang from the Church's hymnal and was accompanied by taped music. The hall does not have electricity, but the brethren charge large batteries that provide power for a light, a public address system and

Mr. Carvalho had never given a sermon before, but God used him in a number of ways. He translated some of Mr. Mather's sermons and also gave some of his sermons and sermonettes switching from Portuguese to English. After Mr. Mather left he organized several sessions of Spokesman Club and gave the men basic training in speaking, song leading and serving the congregation. Several of the men also gave their first Spokesman Club-type speeches.

The activities included an array of games for the children. They delighted in climbing a greased pole to retrieve prizes. The adults also played volleyball, soccer and other games. In place of one sermon an interactive Bible study on peer pressure was organized. The congregation was divided into groups and each had a group leader. They were given a number of questions to discuss and each group leader went up and presented the group's answers to the question

that was posed. This was enjoyed by the brethren.

A highlight of the Feast was the day that Mr. Carvalho decided to give sneakers to all of the children and some of the adults. It was a joy to see the faces of the children as they received their sneakers. It was the first pair of shoes some of them had ever had. It was a delight to see the face of one of the men from Guyana who received his first pair of shoes. On the Last Great Day Mr. Carvalho wanted to impress on the minds of the congregation the blessings that the world will have when Christ is ruling as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, so he gave the children socks and clothing.

Here is how Mr. Carvalho summed up his Feast experience: "It has been a great Feast—extremely exciting, rewarding and different."

As Gary Atkinson, a member in Aishalton, Guyana, put it, "All in all it was a marvellous experience. We all wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Mather for making the trip possible. Thanks to Mr. Carvalho for all he did for our children and to the wonderful loving brethren of Moscou. We love you all." *Kingsley O. Mather and Gary Atkinson*

New Zealand

Tauranga

Seventy-nine brethren from New Zealand, Australia and the United States enjoyed a peaceful, inspiring Feast along the eastern coastline of the North Island.

David Register, the regional pastor from the San Diego, California, area, was our guest speaker for the entire Feast

in Tauranga. His messages focused the brethren on physical and spiritual aspects of the coming Millennium, how God is specifically and individually training each of His people now for service in the Kingdom, and the importance of having our names and deeds written in the Book of Life. Many members and youth expressed how encouraging and personally beneficial the Festival messages were for them this year.

A progressive dinner for older teens and young adults at the start of the Feast drew the young people together. A fearless group tried the Kiwi outdoor adventure sport of "zorb." One climbs into a large inflated, double plastic sphere, or zorb, which is held together by stretchy cords. You strap in, roll down a hill for about 150 yards while rotating inside the clear sphere, until you finally come to a stop at the bottom. Not for the faint-hearted, but great fun. Others tried the safer sport of blo-karting—a type of small land yacht.

Brethren young and old traveled to nearby Rotorua, famous for its Maori cultural presentations and the geothermal geysers, hot pools and boiling mud. The annual congregational Feast dinner and the special afternoon tea for the "over-50s" members were well-attended events. And our younger children especially enjoyed the Sabbath school activities, swimming in the hot pools and meeting new friends from overseas.

New Zealand brethren live in widely dispersed areas throughout the country. This Feast was an encouraging opportunity for the youth and adults to fellowship and be rejuvenated spiritually.

Jeff Caudle

Walkers Visit Brethren in Fiji, Tonga, New Zealand and Singapore

by Leon Walker

Several months ago Jeff Caudle (pastor of the churches in New Zealand) and I began to work on our visit plans for New Zealand and other areas under his administration. As one of the two trustees of the Church in New Zealand, I had already planned to make a trip there so that Art Verschoor, the other trustee, and I along with Jeff could discuss issues that needed to be addressed regarding the Church and work in New Zealand.

Since we would be flying to New Zealand, Jeff asked if I would be willing to stop over and help him with Fiji and Tonga. I had been to Tonga twice before, and I had developed a warm relationship with the ministry and members there. Since there was a flight available which stops over in Fiji, this was not a problem. The extra short flight from Fiji to Tonga also was not a problem.



Dewita and Mele' Tuikolovatu in Tonga Oct. 19 (photo by Leon Walker)

Jeff also asked if I could go to Singapore. He is the pastor of Singapore and since very few ministers are able to visit the brethren there, he felt it would be encouraging if I could work this into our schedule as well. We were able to obtain a good fare and our itinerary was: Dallas to Los Angeles to Fiji to Tonga to Fiji to New Zealand to Australia to Singapore to Dallas.

Four Members in Fiji

My wife and I left Los Angeles Tuesday night, Oct. 15, for Nadi, Fiji. We arrived Thursday morning at 5 a.m., "losing" a day by crossing the International Date Line. We were met at the airport by Jeff Caudle, who had flown from his home in Auckland, New Zealand, the night before.

We checked into our hotel, had breakfast and were able to rest a couple of hours before meetings began with the Fijian members. At 10 a.m. we met in a conference room at our hotel with Dick and Rose Marr and Apenisa Naigulevu.

We spent most of the morning getting acquainted, reviewing the history of the Church in Fiji and familiarizing ourselves with the current status of the Church in Fiji. We learned that the Church at one time consisted of about 200 members and prospective members. There are now four members in UCG—Dick and Rose Marr, Apenisa Naigulevu and Emori Toloi. Dick Marr and Emori Toloi were deacons in WCG and Apenisa Naigulevu was choir director.

Currently there are nine individuals who meet each Sabbath in Suva, which is on the other side of the island from Nadi. Tapes for services are sent from

the home office. *The Good News* has 210 subscribers in Fiji. It has grown from 130 a year ago. The list has been trimmed, but it still grows without any promotion at all.

We also discussed the need to register the name of the Church, both the English version of the name and the Fijian version. Legal documents are not required at this time, but registration will protect the names and prevent anyone else from using them. We also discussed briefly the best way to set up the Church as a legal entity in Fiji.

At the close of our meetings, the members presented to us a draft of a corporate plan for the Church in Fiji in order that we might review it prior to discussing it in detail the next day. The three members joined us for dinner that evening.

On Friday the group was joined by Emori Toloi and Cathy Wakeman, Rose Marr's sister. They were unable to join us on Thursday, but spent the day with us Friday.

Plans: Possible Feast in Fiji, Fijian Literature and Radio

The main focus of our discussion Friday morning was a review of the corporate plan which had been given to us the previous day. It was obvious that a great deal of thought and preparation had gone into the plan. It was thorough and complete, with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and concluding with four "Key Result Areas" which outlined the desired objectives for a five-year time frame.

This, of course, was a draft document. The members' desire was to present concepts for our review and discussion and to seek direction for the future of the Church in Fiji.

One of the desires of the group was to have the Feast of Tabernacles in Fiji. The members do not have the funds to go to Australia, New Zealand or even neighboring Tonga for the Feast. We felt this objective could be achieved either in 2004 or even in 2003 if there is sufficient interest on the part of visiting members and if a few elders could attend from the U.S. or other countries. Jeff Caudle plans to run a survey in *United News* to see if there is enough interest on the part of members and elders to hold a Feast in Fiji.

Another of the desires of the Fijian members is to have literature in their own language. In the past the work in Fiji was totally in English. However, the Fijian members have the ability to translate literature into their language. In fact, one of the members has made a translation of the New Testament into the Fijian language. He also has translated many of the hymns into the Fijian language. We encouraged the members to proceed with translating UCG's booklets into the Fijian language. Such literature could be produced in Microsoft Word and printed inexpensively as the need arises.

The topic of a radio broadcast in the Fijian language was also discussed. In the past Emori Toloi had such a broadcast until the Fijian Council of Church-

es brought pressure on the radio station and his contract was not renewed. We encouraged him to look into this once again and see if it is possible and what the cost would be.

Several other aspects of the proposals were discussed, including the strong desire for Jeff Caudle to make at least three to four visits to Fiji each year. He has not been able to do this so far because of a lack of funds.

Since we would not be in Fiji for the Sabbath, I conducted a Bible study with the group that evening. After the Bible study we went to dinner with the members.

Tonga: a Last Visit With Mr. Ha'angana

We left the next day, Sabbath, Oct. 19, for Tonga, arriving about 1 p.m. We went to services at 3 p.m. I gave the sermon and then we fellowshiped with the members after services. We also went to see Mr. Ha'angana, who was the pastor of the Church in Tonga for about 30 years, but was now no longer active because of failing health. The Church hall is on his property and his home is only a few steps away. He was in bed, very weak and not able to speak any words that were discernible. He could open his eyes, but I was not sure that he recognized anyone. We only spent a few minutes with him, as it was obvious he needed rest.

The next day the Church invited us to an *umu*, which is prepared much like the Hawaiian luau and we went to see Mr. Ha'angana once again. This time he was more alert and seemed to recognize us. However, he was still not able to speak and was obviously in a very weakened state. We spent a few minutes with him, speaking with his wife and encouraging her.

At about 3 a.m. on Tuesday, Mr. Ha'angana died peacefully in his sleep. That day happened to be the Ha'angana's 50th wedding anniversary. I was informed of his death about 8:30 that morning. Reba, Jeff Caudle and I went immediately to the Ha'angana home with Heamasi Ta'ufo'ou, the current pastor of the Church in Tonga. I had already determined that I would preach a funeral ceremony should Mr. Ha'angana die while we were in Tonga. I did this in the living room of the Ha'angana home with Mrs. Ha'angana and other members of the family present. Mr. Ha'angana's body was on a bed in the living room, draped with a beautiful white cloth.

The actual funeral ceremony was given by Heamasi Ta'ufo'ou on Friday. Neither Jeff Caudle nor I could do so as we are not licensed in Tonga to perform funerals. Furthermore, we were scheduled to leave Tonga Tuesday night and our tickets could not be changed. The family understood this and was grateful that we were there at that time and that I was able to speak to the family members that were present.

Heamasi informed me later that the funeral went well on Friday. He estimated that 1,000 people attended the funeral service. Among those in attendance were the chairman of the legisla-



Heamasi Ta'ufo'ou, pastor in Tonga (photo by Leon Walker)

tive assembly and a representative from the prime minister's office. The Ministry of Police band escorted Mr. Ha'angana's coffin to the burial site, which is just across the road from the Ha'angana property.

Reba, Jeff and I left Tonga Tuesday night, or more accurately, Wednesday morning, arriving in Fiji about 5 a.m. We then caught the 1 p.m. flight to Auckland.

New Zealand and Australia

The next day, Thursday, we drove to Tauranga in order to visit Mrs. Dallas Morreel. She is a deaconess and her husband, Marcel, a deacon, had died earlier in the year. We arrived that afternoon and invited her to dinner. She was encouraged by our visit and our conversation with her at this difficult time in her life. This was especially helpful to her as she and her husband would have celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary shortly after our visit.

On Friday we drove to Napier. We held services with the members in the area on the Sabbath and I gave a Bible study for the small group. While in Napier, Jeff and I had discussions with Art Verschoor regarding the Church and work in New Zealand.

From Oct. 28 until Nov. 5 Reba and I, along with the Caudle family, toured the South Island of New Zealand. This was personal time off and we enjoyed driving through this beautiful region.

On the Sabbath, Nov. 9, we attended with the Auckland brethren. Jeff Caudle gave an update regarding our trip to Fiji and Tonga and I gave the sermon.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, Reba and I flew to Sydney, Australia. We remained there until Thursday, Nov. 14.

While in Sydney we learned that Mrs. Ha'angana was there. Three of her children live in Australia and she was staying with one of her daughters in Sydney. Reba and I, along with Bruce Dean, visited her and her daughter, who attends the Sydney congregation. She and her daughter were pleased to see us and I feel she is doing well, especially now that she is with her family.

Singapore

We left Sydney about 7 p.m. on Thursday, arriving in Singapore around midnight. Reba and I were met at the airport by Jeff Caudle, who had arrived the night before, and by Dave Baker, who had arrived earlier the same day. Dave had been to the Philippines, Sri Lanka and India and was on his way to Thailand (we hope to have more about his trip next issue). He was able to be with us and the Singapore members for Sabbath services before departing Sunday morning for Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

Reba, Jeff, Dave and I were able to spend some time with a few of the Singapore members on Friday and then we spent all afternoon with them on the Sabbath. There was a total of 20 in attendance, not only from Singapore, but also from neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia. I gave the sermon and then we had a buffet meal with the members in the home of Rosalind Yong, where we also had assembled for services. After the meal I conducted an informal question-and-answer session. Most of the members then joined us for dinner that evening.

The members in Singapore very much appreciated having a visit from three ministers at the same time. As mentioned before, the visits the Singapore members have during the year are few and far between. It is clear that Jeff needs to go there at least four times a year.



The group that assembled for Sabbath services in Singapore (photo by Dave Baker); above, Reba Walker and Rosalind Yong (photo by Leon Walker)

Reba and I returned home on Tuesday, Nov. 19. We left Singapore at 8:30 a.m. for a six-hour flight to Tokyo. After a three-hour layover we proceeded non-stop to Dallas, which was an 11-hour flight. We arrived home about 7 p.m. that same Tuesday, gaining back the "lost" day from crossing the International Date Line.

Obviously, we were exhausted from the flights and the long trip, but delighted that we had been able to represent the Church and visit old friends and make new ones. UN



From the Word

Descent to Greatness

■ These great (and not-so-great) examples help us see how abasement and humility lead to true greatness.

by Todd Carey

Sammy Morris was an unassuming young man from Africa who came to the United States to go to school. The road he chose for himself was a difficult one, but he never let it stop him from succeeding.

When he arrived at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, the school's president asked him what room he wanted. Sammy said simply, "If there is a room nobody wants, give it to me." Later the president commented, "I turned away with my eyes full of tears. I was asking myself whether I was willing to take what nobody else wanted."

The president of Taylor University posed a good question, and I must admit it is one that would test my mettle. I mean honestly, who would willingly take shoddy accommodations? It is human nature to want to take the best seat in the house.

How many times have we watched sporting events on television only to see the cameras pan to the luxury sky-boxes where the owner and his guests were enjoying the game in their plush, fully functional home away from home? These seats command the best view and the highest price.

A desire to get the best is not reserved just for sporting events. Have you ever watched people vying for the closest parking space near the grocery store? People sometimes risk collisions in a desperate effort to walk a few less paces to the door. The far-

away parking spaces remain vacant and are seldom used unless the employees are required to park there. Human nature says, "Take care of me first, then I'll look to the needs of others."

Whether it is Hollywood or the world of sports, greatness is measured in a number of ways. Popularity, money, awards and physical attractiveness are but some of the ways people are ranked. But the few stars who are given instant status and receive special treatment aren't always good role models (to put it mildly).

What is true greatness, and is there a formula to achieve it? Though Sammy Morris may not have realized it, his example of giving preference to others while willingly taking what remained, made him great. He displayed greatness through abasement.

Jesus Abased Himself

There is no better example of greatness through humility than the one set by our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. As the God of the Old Testament, Jesus certainly was great. Jeremiah refers to Him as "Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the LORD of Hosts" (Jeremiah 32:18). Yet for our sakes, Jesus abased Himself and was born of a human mother. Defenseless and in need of care, the Son of God submitted Himself to His earthly parents.

We see this willing attitude of humility following the spring Holy Days when Joseph and Mary found Jesus listening and asking questions in the temple. After returning home with His parents, Luke tells us, "Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them" (Luke 2:51). Jesus knew why He was born and had already begun doing His Father's business, yet He still subject-

ed Himself to His earthly parents and, of course, to God the Father.

Jesus Christ, who was the greatest teacher to ever walk this earth, appears to have led a very normal life as a child. In the eyes of the neighbors and friends He was just the son of a carpenter, not of a great person like a high priest or rabbi.

Though Christ had all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18), He modeled a form of greatness that was totally different from what His disciples envisioned.

Jesus was willing to enter into conversations with people the Pharisees totally shunned. The Samaritans were "dogs," tax collectors were subhuman, and people with physical maladies were constantly avoided. To the Pharisees, all tragic situations were a result of sin.

Jesus encountered such a case as He was approached by a leper—who in the eyes of some, was a walking dead man. Jesus, however, was willing to abase Himself in the eyes of the people to help this unfortunate person.

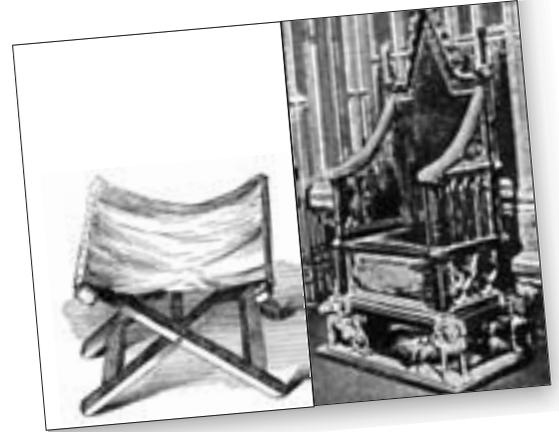
"And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' Immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matthew 8:2-3).

Jesus wasn't looking for any reward for doing this; He simply sought to help this man. The man was probably poor, and had nothing he could offer Christ (healing wasn't something that could be bought anyway) except to say thank you. Christ wasn't looking for recognition for doing the right thing, and this is the point He tried time and again to get across to His disciples. Doing the right thing sometimes means doing a thankless or difficult thing. It means descending into situations others might not be comfortable with.

Caring for Kevin

When I worked part-time at a private institution for children with mental retardation, autism and mental illness, three mornings a week it was my job to wake up Kevin. Kevin was a nonverbal teenager with autism, and he did very little to help himself with his social skills. Each morning when I saw Kevin I could count on him having soiled his Depends (adult diaper), and it fell to me to clean him up and dress him for school.

I will spare you the unpleasant details of some mornings, but suffice it to say this was sometimes a thankless job. Some people wouldn't touch Kevin until he was clean. Some of the overnight workers neglected to wake him up at 2 a.m. to take him to the bathroom, for they



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hoped that someone else would be in and see to this unpopular duty.

Why tell this story? Perhaps there are some in our congregations who are social misfits and emotionally needy. We know if we approach them, they will take up a great deal of our time, and we think it is unlikely we

Jesus as He healed 10 men shackled with leprosy.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found

"When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place," Jesus said. I think it's quite clear that Jesus had more on His mind than just the seating arrangements at a wedding.

will really be able to help them. It would be so easy to leave it to someone else to serve them, while we spend our time with those who like us. There were some days when my attitude was just as smelly as Kevin's soiled pajamas. Sometimes I didn't want to take on the task nobody else wanted to do, yet I did it because it was the right thing to do.

Jesus Christ went out and cleansed people. He willingly descended to where they were to help them. He made people whole so they would have an opportunity to lead a normal life, and He never gave up on anyone. There were times when it appeared people took advantage of Christ's willingness to descend. Luke recorded a wonderful miracle performed by

who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, 'Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well'" (Luke 17:15-19).

Again, Christ wasn't looking for prestige or status; He wanted all glorification to go the Father. His work was solely based on love. My teenage buddy Kevin never gave me one thank-you for all those fresh changes of clothes, and that was fine. I just wanted him to be clean. The major difference is that Jesus Christ's attitude was always right, whereas mine needed a major overhaul at times.

Perhaps this is why Christ's disciples had difficulty processing the importance of greatness through abasement, for they looked around them and viewed those who wielded

"Don't You Know Who I Am?" (What Greatness Isn't)

A couple years ago, a well-known professional football player was caught trespassing and fishing without a license near Washington Dulles Airport. Due to his status, he was given a warning. About a month later, he was caught a second time breaking the same laws at the same location. This time he was arrested. Seemingly surprised by the action of the police, the young man accused the police of picking on him because he was a star. Perhaps in this man's eyes, greatness put you above the law.

This is nothing new. The Bible reveals examples of those who felt they were exempt because they had authority.

King Uzziah had all the makings of one of the best kings of Judah. At 16 he became king, and lifted his nation to new heights. Not only was he successful in civic duties, but he also petitioned God for help in ruling the people. God gave him success on the battlefield and within his gates, and we are told Uzziah's fame went out far and wide.

Uzziah was great—as long as he submitted himself to God. His mistake was that rather than continuing to abase himself, "his heart was lifted up" (2 Chronicles 26:16). His selfish attempt to achieve further greatness cost him everything. Examining what we are and remembering where we came from does make a difference.

"But They Feared God" (What Greatness Is)

Consider the story of two women who became great because of their obedience to God. Shiphrah and Puah helped extend the nation of Israel by refusing to obey the evil command of the king of Egypt. "But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive" (Exodus 1:17).

Rather than look good in the eyes of Pharaoh, these women obeyed God, knowing it could have cost them their lives.

What was the end result? Greatness.

God remembered them and raised them to a level of greatness. "Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them" (Exodus 1:20-21).

God lifted these women up and rewarded them. Perhaps they are not great by worldly standards, but they are great in God's eyes because they went into the trenches and served without trying to advance themselves.

authority with distinction and style. To the disciples, those who sat in the seats of power and prestige were great. Jesus, knowing this, used examples and stories to make the point of what greatness truly is.

Where Is the Best Seat in the House?

In Luke 14:7-11, Jesus is teaching the opposite of nearly everything we hear today about greatness and success. This must have perplexed His disciples, for it is not easy information to digest. Where does Jesus say the best seat resides?

"When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you." I think it's quite clear that Jesus had more on His mind than just the seating arrangements at a wedding.

If we stopped for a moment to realize what we really are apart from God, then perhaps we would more readily humble ourselves and count it joy when we are not on the top in the world's eye.

A good mission statement for this new way of achieving greatness is found in Mark 9:35, where Jesus said, "If anyone desires to be first [the greatest], he shall be last of all and servant of all." Christ did not take away their power. On the contrary, He was enhancing their power and greatness through service to others. By choosing to abase themselves, they would be great in the eyes of God, and

He would advance them to higher offices.

Driving the Point Home

Jesus Christ prepared His new leaders by telling them that although they would have power and authority as leaders, they would be serving as if they had none. To drive the point home, we have the example of the young rich man who inquired of Christ what he must do to inherit eternal life. Christ's answer, and the dejection on the face of the young man as he strode away, baffled the disciples.

Jesus again reminded them of the type of leadership He wanted and the rewards for obedience in following this method. "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first" (Matthew 19:24-30).

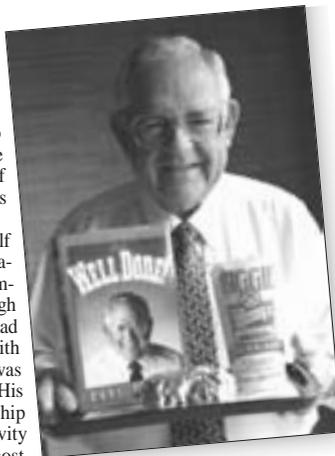
Jesus assured His disciples that they would be great, but the formula for greatness would be unlike anything they had ever experienced. They had already begun that journey, which

is probably why Peter asked his question, perhaps thinking, "How low must we go?"

What person would they be unwilling to help? What job would be too beneath them? To what degree would they abase themselves? As the children of God, these are all good questions to ask ourselves.

Jesus Christ submitted Himself to what I call "positive humiliation." He willingly emptied Himself and came as a servant although it would have been fitting if He had brought His portable throne with Him. Though He was God, it was the example He set that helped His disciples assume their leadership roles with humility and sensitivity following the Feast of Pentecost. They willingly faced thankless situations and grew because of them, all the while descending into greatness.

On the night of the Passover, Jesus told Peter and the other disciples they would not understand until later why it was so important that He wash their



feet. We see that influence of Christ's teachings as we see John adopting the mother of Christ at the crucifixion site, and Peter telling the Church of His soon-coming demise, yet serving, teaching, preaching and enduring until that time should arrive (2 Peter 1:13-14).

Dave Thomas was a successful man, but his greatness stemmed from the fact that he was not too proud to put on an apron and clean where no one else wanted.

feet. We see that influence of Christ's teachings as we see John adopting the mother of Christ at the crucifixion site, and Peter telling the Church of His soon-coming demise, yet serving, teaching, preaching and enduring until that time should arrive (2 Peter 1:13-14).

Getting Our MBA

The late Dave Thomas, founder of the Wendy's restaurant chain, illustrated the example of greatness through abasement in his biography

entitled: *Well Done: The Common Guy's Guide to Everyday Success*. He wrote, "I got my MBA long before my GED" (Mr. Thomas never graduated from high school). He continued, "I even have a photograph of me in my MBA graduation outfit—a snazzy, knee length work apron . . . It was a case of leading by example. At Wendy's MBA does not mean Master of Business Administration. It means Mop Bucket Attitude. It's how we define satisfying the customer through cleanliness, quality food, friendly service, and atmosphere."

Dave Thomas was a successful man, but his greatness stemmed from the fact that he was not too proud to put on an apron and clean where no one else wanted.

When it comes to the care and treatment of our fellow laborers, the children of God should be no different. Are we making sure our spiritual house is clean and of good quality? Are our personal example and conversations promoting the health and spiritual growth of the Body of Christ?

Is our service to the people of God friendly? These are questions in need of honest answers, for they strike at the very heart of what we have been called to do.

The apostle Paul understood that it was to abase himself in order to serve God and His people. He said, "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Philippians 3:7)

It is important to note that in abasing himself, Paul never surrendered his authority as the person in charge of shepherding the flock of God. By using the formula for leadership established by Jesus Christ, Paul actually enhanced his office and was able to reach out to a wide variety of believers.

Paul went out and got his "MBA" that took him down the road to true greatness. He was willing to pursue a path that sometimes was unpleasant and had few rewards physically speaking, but to God it was very important and not overlooked. This is similar to the willing sacrifice Sammy Morris made to take the least of all rooms at the university.

Greatness through abasement may not give us physical riches, special titles or even milk commercials. It's about giving preference to others while working through the tough times together.

What a winning formula! Descending into greatness! The words of James ring true, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10). **UN**

Judge Righteous Judgment

by Jay Turner

How often do we leap to conclusions and mount a frontal assault on evildoers, only to be embarrassed later when the real facts come out?

In an incident mentioned in John 7, Jesus' adversaries had condemned Him as a Sabbath-breaker. Jesus had indeed transgressed their notions of Sabbath propriety by healing a man (John 7:23), but the real fault lay in the hearts and minds of the accusers. Jesus' reply was, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). In other words, stop making superficial judgments, but look at the situation objectively.

We hold God's truth to be very dear, and seeing a brother or sister in the Church doing something that offends our sensibilities—like failing to properly respect the Sabbath—can trigger an emotional response of indignation. It is natural to want to

defend our notion of what is right and proper, especially when it is connected with holy things.

We can easily fall into the same trap as the Pharisees and accuse an innocent person. And this is not a laughing matter. It hurts deeply when one brother falsely accuses another, and it can even contribute to the sort of despair that causes some to give up on the Church. Doing this does not demonstrate godly love. We don't want to come under the condemnation of the bad steward who beat his fellow servants (Luke 12:45-46).

When you see something that is out of step with what you expect, don't leap into action to correct the offending person. First, take a look at your own attitude: Why do I feel this way? Am I having a bad day? Is my motivation that of helping the apparent offender or of satisfying myself? Am I reacting emotionally?

Second, ask yourself if you can realistically hope to do any good by saying anything. If you think you can help, be sure that your help is welcome and that you get the real facts of the matter. Don't judge on outward appearance alone. For every action there is a cause. It might be ignorance, which you can easily correct. The offender might just be having a bad day, and a gentle reminder might be welcome. Galatians 6:1-5 admonishes us to be humble in our approach.

It's also possible that your initial perception was dead wrong—we are all vulnerable to misunderstanding, and we never have perfect knowledge. Ask tactful questions first to understand the situation. For example, an apparent Sabbath indiscretion might be due to a real physical need or "the ox in the ditch," and help and comfort might be what is called for, and not a painful assault on a person who is already hurting.

When we do have an occasion to offer helpful correction, we should follow the guidelines in Matthew 18:15-17 and do our brother or sister

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the kindness of being discreet. Taking great care in giving out any admonition has the added benefit of avoiding embarrassment when we are wrong. It contributes to a climate of outgoing concern and respect in the Church.

Don't put a stumbling block in the way of a struggling brother or sister. We ought to do all that is in our power to cultivate a respectful, caring environment in the Church. To God, the welfare of His children is a dead-

ly serious matter. You don't want God's anger to be burning against you because of your offensive conduct. "But whoso shall offend one of

these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:6, KJV).

Check your attitude, step cautiously, get the facts and be discreet. Be a loving helper and not a hurtful accuser to your brothers and sisters in the Church. Don't be a tool of the accuser of the brethren. Reach a right conclusion—judge righteous judgment! **UN**

"Is the United Church of God Active in Doing God's Work?"

■ Some have concluded that United does not put a high enough value on preaching the gospel. But take a closer look at what the work is and what we are doing.

by Tom Kirkpatrick

The mission of the United Church of God, an International Association, is to "preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples." This reflects the same imperatives that the Church has long recognized in the Bible: show the seed and care for those whom God calls and enlightens.

In our past, we have often talked about the two commissions: (1) preach the gospel and (2) care for and feed the flock. However it is stated, the job remains the same. The Church is committed to continuing on with this work, all the while looking to God for His power and wisdom. The Church looks to God the Father and Jesus Christ to energize and endow us as human instruments in doing our part of God's great work.

God's Plan and the Little Flock

God has miraculously opened the minds of only a few—the "first-fruits"—down through the ages to His truth and His plan. In God's sovereign wisdom and according to His plan, He has let the majority of mankind live their lives without spiritual enlightenment (John 6:44; Revelation 12:9; Matthew 22:14; 7:13-14). The Bible reveals that these masses will have their opportunity for spiritual enlightenment in a resurrection following the millennial rule of Christ.

In this time of Satan's sway over mankind, a very few have their minds opened to understand God's truth and plan. Those few who are enlightened, not through any inherent superiority of theirs, but because of the gift of God's calling, have in turn great responsibilities before God. They are in their time of judgment (1 Peter 4:17). God expects them to respond to their invitation to eternal life by growing spiritually, overcoming sin and becoming like the captain of their salvation, Jesus Christ.

In addition, God expects them to represent Him and His plan and His will, even if only as a witness to the world in general. God's servants are called to be His "witnesses." It is natural and understandable that God's servants have wanted the people to respond, but have recognized that it is God's sole prerogative to open the masses of otherwise closed, blinded and deceived minds according to His time schedule, not theirs (consider John 6:65; Romans 9:3; 10:1-2).

We see this pattern from earliest times. Noah represented God and His

truth and His will as he witnessed to his generation as a "preacher of righteousness" for a considerable period of time. It seems apparent that many heard Noah's preaching and saw the ark during its preparation, but only Noah and his immediate family were saved alive on the ark.

Later, God sent the prophets to Israel with His words. Usually, the nation did not respond and repent. On occasion, God would even declare in advance to the prophet that the people would not respond to the prophet's message from God. They would greet the prophet's message with either indifference or resistance—sometimes harsh resistance. God's words to Ezekiel are noteworthy in this regard (note Ezekiel 2:1-3:7).

The experience of Jesus was the same. He came to His own and His own received Him not. Some were openly hostile to His message, while others were receptive to His person and certain aspects of His ministry. But, after 3 1/2 years of preaching, accompanied by miracles, very few actually followed Him.

The same was true with the apostles and the early Church. They went forth preaching the gospel, but God only added a relative few to their numbers. Before long, heresy, schisms and persecution further diminished their numbers. They were, and have been ever since, a very "little flock." Down through the ages, much seed has been sown, but precious little harvest has been gathered.

Jesus foretold that it would continue in this same vein right up till the end of the present world order. As it was in



Noah's time (when most people went along in their everyday lives, unmoved by the witness of Noah), so will it be in the time of the end, just before Christ returns (Matthew 24:37-39).

Compelled to Keep Doing the Work

The United Church of God believes that we are near the end of this age. We certainly do not set dates, but the signs all around us indicate that the crisis at the close of man's age is not far off. We

are compelled to keep doing the work that we have been called to do as long as God provides the resources and freedom to do so.

We, like the early disciples and Paul, are compelled to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world, regardless of how many respond to it or how they respond (Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 9:16). That we must leave in God's hands, as God's people have done through the ages. We also believe that God expects us to continue on with the spiritual feeding and care of those God has called.

In short, we are committed to continuing on in the path that has been cleared for us by God's servants for thousands of years. We believe that we must both preach the gospel and care for those whom God calls. Our prayer and desire is that God will empower and enable us to do both.

In carrying out these mandates, it becomes necessary to allocate resources in a decent and orderly manner. First and foremost, we look to God and Christ for guidance in being used to do a work. In addition, as an organization we have processes to establish an operating plan and budget every year to carry out our part of God's work, including both of these vital dimensions discussed above. It is not one or the other, but both in tandem.

Synergy Between Preaching the Gospel and Preparing a People

We believe there is a synergy associated with both of these aspects of doing a work of God. In simplest language, having a stable and well-nurtured church provides motivated laborers to help sow the word of God's truth. Further, having established an infrastructure of on-site pastors and stable congregations means that there will be a place to attend and be nurtured for those who do respond to the message and are added by God to the Body of Christ.

In turn, sowing the Word of God's truth in the world involves the people of God in something bigger than just their own individual lives and their personal salvation, though that is certainly not a small or unimportant consideration. One of the fruits of the work of the pastors of the United Church of God in the local congregations is a stable dedication on the part of the members in supporting the work of preaching the gospel. Herbert W. Armstrong often shared his belief that individual Christians grow spiritually in large measure according to how involved they are in a work bigger than themselves—reaching out to the world with the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

In the earliest days of the United Church of God, a commitment was made by its leadership to establish and stabilize the Church and its congrega-



The Good News magazine circulation has increased dramatically during the last four years. Tens of thousands of new subscribers have been added each year.

tions from the conditions of tumult that existed in the mid-1990s. Having regular Sabbath services and stable congregations in as many areas as possible was a top priority. To the degree possible, the leadership of the Church set about to have local congregations overseen by full-time, trained pastors. Experience has shown that this is the best way to nurture, care for and assist in the spiritual development of the people God has called and chosen.

That decision obviously has ramifications when it comes to our budget. Simply put, it takes a considerable amount of money and human resources to establish and maintain stable congregations (and Feast sites) all around the world. That is not an inexpensive endeavor. Nor is it likely to be relatively less expensive if time goes on many more years, since new pastors will need to be trained and put in place to take over for those who reach retirement age.

In the short run, considerable resources could be freed up to do other things if the United Church of God's leadership decided to discontinue local, pastored congregations in all but a few areas (perhaps only those with fairly large concentrations of members). But that would not be wise.

If United were to switch to an "either-or" approach—either preach the gospel or take care of the Church—considerable resources could be freed up to do

other things. That is, if we were to turn our backs on preaching the gospel, and turn all our resources in on ourselves and our local congregations and our individual salvation, then considerable reallocation of funds would result. The same would be true if we decided that nearly all our efforts should be expended in preaching the gospel, with little or no effort to establishing and maintaining local congregations.

We do not believe that this would be wise. Reasonable people of good faith and intentions may disagree, but the leadership of the United Church of God believes strongly that the current model (doing both) is best for the long-term interest of our being used by God to "do the work." We believe that we are following the biblical model in this regard.

More to Public Proclamation Than Meets the Eye

Some may look at the published financial reports of United and conclude that it does not put a high value on preaching the gospel. That is not a correct conclusion. There are other ways to measure the amount of seed being sown, besides just the absolute number of dollars or percentage of total dollars apportioned in an accounting report to a cost center called "Public Proclamation."

As an example, much of the work of writing and editing articles that appear in United's flagship publication, the

Good News magazine, is done by individuals who pastor local congregations. The salaries of these men, for simplicity sake, appear in our published financial and budgeting reports under "Ministerial Services," as opposed to "Public Proclamation." The same is true for other publications, such as *World News and Prophecy*. We could engage in somewhat arbitrary and highly subjective cost allocations, resulting in a shift of dollars from "Church" to "Preaching the Gospel," but this is not a useful or helpful endeavor.

The same is true for a large portion of the budget that is designated "International Subsidy." That is an accounting convention. Much of the money that is spent in this area actually supports the preaching of the gospel in areas outside of the United States. It would take an inordinate amount of time, and in the end would result in highly subjective and arguable numbers, to subjectively apportion these funds between "Church" and "Preaching the Gospel." We choose not to do so.

Other Measures Beside Money

It is helpful to consider other metrics beside money in ascertaining the effort being spent on sowing the seed—preaching the gospel. The *Good News* magazine circulation has increased dramatically during the last four years. Tens of thousands of new subscribers have been added each year. Many read the magazine for a while, and then do not renew their free subscription when it is time to do so. These individuals are more than replaced by new subscribers. As a result, even in a year when the print run does not increase by much, tens of thousands of new subscribers are added.

Hundreds of thousands of copies of our booklets have been distributed in the same period of time. In addition, thousands of individuals have subscribed to and completed the 12-lesson *Bible Study Course* in the last few years. These individuals are then offered the chance to receive sermon and doctrinal tapes, further feeding them in spiritual

ways. These individuals represent the most "fertile soil" we currently are working, as we look to God to provide fruit from the sown seed.

This is not even to mention the work of preaching the gospel by personal example and otherwise by brethren all over the world. A significant amount of the monies budgeted to "Subsidy to Local Congregations" has to do with representing God and His truth. It would be highly subjective to make sub-allocations of this total, so we don't choose to do so, but the point remains.

The Need for Stick-to-itiveness

All of this is to say that the leadership of the United Church of God is committed to carrying on the twofold work that has been the hallmark of those who have preceded us in the faith and work once delivered.

These two aspects are inextricably intertwined and interrelated. We ask for God's help, inspiration, power and resources to carry on with our part of His work, in a balanced and mutually reinforcing way.

We have only a fraction of the human, physical and financial resources we once did, as recently as a decade ago. Growth in the last four years has been characterized by slow and steady increases. This requires patience and

"stick-to-itiveness." May we never become weary in well doing. May we always look to God for what we need—not the least of which is wisdom.

In the current fiscal year, the income of the work has been fairly flat. We budgeted for a modest 2.4 percent increase over last year in Category One income (consisting chiefly of first title and assistance fund donations). For the first five months of this fiscal year, actual income has been growing at only about half that rate.

We are grateful for what God has given, especially in light of the weakened state of the economy and the resultant challenges some of God's people have faced. We are doing what is necessary to live within the means God gives us. We of course ask that He will provide us with more, as it is His will. That will enable us to do more in both properly caring for the spiritual needs of the Church and sowing the seed of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. **UN**



Law and Grace—an Incredible Marriage

■ Many see it as law or grace. Are you prepared to show how law and grace together demonstrate the love and mind of God?

by Dale Schurter

Almost all of us have dealt with the issue of law and grace in the past (and many of us were challenged with it again about eight years ago). But it can be helpful to have a refresher from time to time. Prepare now, for you almost surely will be asked about this important subject.

How Sin Fits In

God's law provides for the good life and identifies sin, while grace provides for the forgiveness of sin and assistance to obey the law and reap the benefits.

Understanding and identifying sin, then, becomes central in understanding the law and grace relationship. Biblically, we find no definition of sin without law.

"For by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20). It is the law, then, that identifies sin: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4, KJV). Does this mean that under grace there is no more sin—no more law? But, since grace involves forgiveness of sin—"through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved" (Acts 15:11)—how would this be possible? And how do we deal with Paul's statement in Romans 3:31, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law?"

As we search the Scriptures together, we should find a clear answer from the Word, Jesus Christ, who made grace possible. He also gave the law—the guidelines for a wholesome way of

life, the opposite of sin. So what does this statement mean: "He will magnify the law and make it honorable" (Isaiah 42:21, KJV) or "The Lord was pleased for His righteousness' sake to make the law great and glorious" (same verse, NASV)?

End Result—a Big Difference

Let's begin by looking at the end result of not obeying God's law, without grace included. Then we will look at grace and the end result of breaking the law if one is under grace. There is a difference—a big difference!

For an example, let's use the law of the Sabbath:

The Sabbath law says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8; compare Hebrews 4:4, 9-10). Not observing the Sabbath led to death by stoning (Numbers 15:32-36).

However, under grace it is different. Those who do not observe the Sabbath can repent (be truly sorry from the heart and show it by their actions). Upon repentance, God forgives and the death penalty is removed, having been paid by Jesus Christ.

If, however, someone begins to "obey" physically just to save his skin—an outward pretense of repentance only, not with a repentant heart, not truly sorry—this one is actually choosing the penalty of death, removing himself from grace. Obeying now cannot wipe out past sins—only after real repentance will Christ's blood cover those sins and remove their penalty.

On the other hand, one who chooses to repent of sinning and begins to keep the law (in this example, the Sabbath), chooses and receives grace—not death. This, then, is "the law of grace," to repent, receive forgiveness and to immediately start obeying the law one has disobeyed. This means to return to a life of obedience to God's royal law.

However, if, after returning to a life of obedience, one again chooses to break the law (to sin) as a way of life—that one is choosing death—eternal death. That is because he has already been under grace and now rejects it through unrepentant disobedience and a decision to not change (to not stop sinning).

In Romans 6:1 the apostle Paul asked the question, "Shall we continue in sin [disobeying God's law—keeping on sinning] that grace may abound [an attitude that more sinning will summon more grace]?" God, through Paul, gives a quick and decisive answer, "Certainly not!" (verse 2).

The Bible here is emphatic about the need to quit sinning—to repent—to stop disobeying God's law and immediately begin obeying it—through grace. Again, grace includes God's forgiveness and faith-filled help to obey.

Jesus paid for all sin! In short, He purchased sin. He bought sin with His life. He therefore owns sin's penalty—death. So He has the right to forgive sin and its penalty. Thus He also has the right, the authority, to set the conditions for forgiveness and the removal of the penalty. This He has done, according to His Father's will, through grace!

Choose Life

Jesus, the Word, summed it up profoundly in the last part of Deuteronomy 30:19: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

All sin, unrepented of, results in death. Grace is undeserved pardon of the sin of which one has repented. But there is no forgiveness if one chooses not to repent. In this way Jesus' condition for forgiveness provides each individual with the choice of eternal life or eternal death.

Grace is available, and as a free gift,

but one must choose to receive grace and continue in it. God's love is unconditional: "For God so loved the world [humanity] that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God's love is unconditional; His grace demonstrates His merciful love. The unspeakable opportunity God provides comes through belief in Him and His salvation. Sincere belief in God includes obedience—for even the demons believe, but do not obey (James 2:19).

If someone says that it is impossible to obey and please God, that person makes Jesus and the Father out to be liars, for it is written, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27).

Those Who Have Never Received Grace

Those who have never heard of, received or lived under grace will die in their sins, dying under the Scriptures indicate is the first death. However, according to God's grace, those who die in this condition, if they have not known and completely rejected grace, will be resurrected to another physical life to be given their first real opportunity to understand, receive and live under salvation grace (Revelation 20:5; Ezekiel 37). And then, if they do choose the way of grace, they can receive true life—eternal life in the family and Kingdom of God.

However, during their second physical life, if they do not choose the way of grace and live it from the heart, they will again die in their sins. This is the second death from which there is no return. Any future life is forfeited by individual choice—no eternal life—no life at all! "The dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their

love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevertheless will they have a share in anything done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6).

We have looked at the law of the Sabbath as an example of how God's law provides for the good life, while disobedience to His law is sin; and how God's grace provides for the cancellation of sin and for obedience to the law. This reality is applicable to all of God's precious laws.

Life Giving—Not Burdensome

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome," though many are deceived into believing the lie that they are grievous and burdensome (1 John 5:3). In reality, the fruits of obeying them from the heart produce love, joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, patience and faith—against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23). Surely to have, live and enjoy such a life is an inner desire of all of us.

The Word of God speaks plainly. The truth of salvation deals with law and grace, not law or grace! Saving grace includes obedience to God's holy and righteous laws, without which we cannot even come to know God. For "He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected [made mature] in him . . . Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments" (1 John 2:4-5, 3). It is God's Word, and as such, it is uncontestable!

Law and grace—together it is an incredible marriage that demonstrates the love and mind of God, fully available to all who have ears to hear and a heart to heed. **UN**

Angel Worship and the First Commandment

■ Angels are in the movies, on cards, everywhere—at least the popular conception of angels are. But what does the Bible really say about how we should think about angels?

by Joe Camerata

“Stars are the windows of heaven, where angels peek through,” says a “cute” old song.

Some time ago I received an E-mail saying, “When you find a penny, an angel has tossed it to the ground when you’re frowning to give you a smile.” At the end of the message it said, “I hope that you feel as lucky as I do, as I am so very fortunate to be graced with angels such as you in my life.”

some truth but also many misconceptions in these.

What Are Angels?

What is an angel? When we review the Bible we see four main words used to describe angels. In *The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* we find the words *cherubim* (Strong’s Hebrew [H] number 3742) or *seraphim* (H8314) refer to powerful winged creatures that do God’s bidding. Also in the Old Testament the word *malak* (H4397) appears about 195 times and most often is translated as “angel or messenger.” In the New Testament we primarily see the word *angelos* (Greek 32), which also is primarily translated as “angel.” Some of the purposes of angels are to proclaim key events, provide protection and enforce God’s wrath.

Generally, throughout the Bible when the word *angel* occurs, the

Some people have a near obsession or near worship of angels. Angels are real, but one must be cautious about giving the credit to angels when the real credit for miracles and answered prayers should go to God!

Angel worship has been around a long time. Colossians 2:18 (KJV) states: “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” (see also verse 8).

As Christians we adhere to the Commandments and should be reminded of the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3).

The apostle John records this caution about bowing down to or giving more credit to angels (or anyone) than is due: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that!

all evil, but is all too often a blend of good and evil. There is often a dark side to the “cute” and “comical” of the world.

Each of us needs to beware of deception that can come in many forms, for our adversaries are powerful.

People perceive Satan as a funny caricature with a pitchfork or as an ugly, fearsome-looking creature. Most images we have are from art and Hollywood. Yet the Bible says Satan appears as an angel of light to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14).

In the book of Daniel we see a great struggle between good and evil in the spirit realm. In Daniel 10:12-14 (New Living Bible) it says, “Then he said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.’”

Man—a Special Creation

God created angels and sometimes they are referred to as sons of God, but what about man? Does a man become an angel? The answer is a resounding, No!

At this time we barely comprehend our future glory (1 Corinthians 13:12). We have been made a little lower than the angels, but will be changed in the twinkling of an eye at the resurrection and will truly be made glorified sons of God (Hebrews 2:6-8; 1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52).

Angels Bring God’s Wrath and Protection

Angels are messengers. Angels are used to announce great events such as the pronouncement to

rounding them. But Elisha knew God’s protection was already there, saying, “‘Do not fear, for those who

are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” Then the Syrian army was struck with blindness and sent back toward Samaria without capturing Elisha.

Each one of us can call upon God and pray to God for protection through His Spirit and His ministering angels. We have a promise from God in Psalm 91:10-11, “No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.”

Many of us have our personal stories to tell about how we feel God sent angels to deliver us from dangerous situations. These were situations where someone inadvertently got into trouble. We would never want to foolishly do something just to tempt or test God (Matthew 4:7).

The Truth About Angels

God created angels as ministering spirits, but some rebelled at the behest of Satan. However, most remained loyal. God’s angels truly bring protection, announcements of great events and warnings before enforcing God’s wrath. They are powerful beings who do God’s bidding and are never to be worshiped.

The truth about angels has been twisted and distorted into a confusing assortment of fables and myths. People have wanted their senses titillated and they like to hear smooth things that lack true spiritual substance.

So often there is a constant barrage of falsehood that even true Christians must guard their thoughts, actions and beliefs. God alone is worthy of worship (Isaiah 37:16)!

Do not let anyone take your crown through false religion, philosophy or the inordinate esteem or worship of angels.

So often there is a constant barrage of falsehood that even true Christians must guard their thoughts, actions and beliefs. God alone is worthy of worship (Isaiah 37:16)!

Joseph and Mary concerning the birth of Christ. God also warns and punishes the nations using angels throughout the book of Revelation.

God also uses angels to give protection. In 2 Kings 6:15-17 we read that the servant of Elisha was terribly afraid of the Syrian army sur-

Idolatry, carelessness, neglect and disobedience to God’s commands can prevent us from entering the Kingdom of God (Revelation 22:14-15). **UN**

Joe Camerata is a deacon in the Phoenix Northwest, Arizona, congregation.



Generally, throughout the Bible when the word *angel* occurs, the angel has the appearance of a man. This is unlike the world’s concept that angels appear as women or cute winged babies.

This too would be viewed as cute by many, and most realize that the fact that it is cute does not mean it is true. Still, too many people carelessly base their beliefs on what they’ve always heard or what sounds good.

If you explore the subject of angels in literature and on the Internet, most of what you find is based on fables, myths and popular suppositions (1 Timothy 1:4).

We hear stories about guardian angels, angels of protection in time of war and people being helped by angels.

There are movies like *Angels in the Outfield* or *Michael* or TV’s *Touched by an Angel*. There are collectible angels, angel booklets and sand pictures of angels. There is

angel has the appearance of a man. In addition, there are only three angels mentioned by name: Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer. This is unlike the world’s concept that angels appear as women or cute winged babies. Actually, the Bible indicates angels have no gender (Matthew 22:30).

More Credit Than Due

Many people want to give angels credit. It is as if people want their own little cherub, baby cupid or powerful angel with wings to lift them from adversity or to do their own bidding in personal affairs. They often do this without ever calling on God for help. Some people look to angels almost as their own personal geniuses.

I am your fellow servant . . .” (Revelation 19:10, see also Revelation 22:8-9).

Gnosticism teaches that angels are necessary intermediaries between God and man. This false teaching claims that knowing about angels enables “one to gain blessings in this life and attain the level of divine in the next” (*Holman Bible Dictionary*).

Let us never forget that Christ alone is our mediator before God (1 Timothy 2:5).

We Are in Spiritual Warfare

As Christians, we know we are in a spiritual warfare and our battle is not against flesh and blood, as the apostle Paul warned (Ephesians 6:12). Deception is never blatantly

Treasure Digest

In Search of...

Welcome to a new column designed to feature short items of wisdom, humor and practical information. As part of the "From the Word" section of *United News*, these pieces are intended to provide brief biblical bits in a way that readers can relate to, readily apply and remember. We hope some of them will be valuable to you.

If you would like to share something or have any suggestions, please contact *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 or mike_bennett@ucg.org.

The column title is based on the "hidden treasures" of Proverbs 2:4.

Refining Our Character

In our trials we can take comfort in knowing that God is watching closely. The analogy of the refining of silver and gold illustrates this. During the refining process the heat of the furnace is critical. If it is too severe, the silver or gold will be vaporized and lost. If it is not hot enough, some of the lead will remain and the metal will be impure. During the refining process the smith watches the temperature closely, making sure that it stays exactly right.

In the same way the severity of our trials is important to God. He wants us to be pure but never to be lost. God promises He will not test us beyond what we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13).

As the silver or gold nears the final stage of refining it experiences a reaction known as brightening. When the last of the impurities are consumed, the now pure molten metal emits a bright flash of light and solidifies. Similarly, as Christians, we all eagerly look forward to the brightening of God's chosen people.

(This is excerpted from *United News—Australia*, October-December 2002, page 17—download the PDF at www.ucg.org.au/content/una.asp. The author, Russell Barnett, attends the Brisbane, Australia, congregation and is completing the final year of a Ph.D. in aluminum casting.)

The Prayer of Jabez: a Nugget

There is an interesting nugget hidden in the genealogies of 1 Chronicles 4. Verse 10 records what has become famous as the prayer of Jabez, because of the best-selling book. Though the book may have its biblical inaccuracies, the prayer itself is instructive. At first glance his four requests seem selfish, but a deeper reading shows why God honored his request.

God does want us to diligently seek His blessings, especially the spiritual ones (Matthew 7:7-8; James 4:2). God had also promised to enlarge Israel's territories, and Jabez was claiming that promise (harking back to Genesis 28:13-22). Jabez also recognized his need for God's gracious hand to be with him (as did Ezra in Ezra 7:9).

These requests build to his final one: "That You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" Considering that Jabez's name means "He Will Cause Pain," this was an honorable request, to

become different than he started. Instead of causing others pain, we can seek God's help to heal, to serve and to bless others.

(This material is from a sermon Richard Pinelli gave July 20, 2002, in Cincinnati East, Ohio. The video and the audio of the sermon and the transcript are all available on the UCG Web site through www.ucg.org/RealAud/.)

About Messianic Judaism

Do Messianic Jews believe and live as we do in the Church of God? Although their beliefs are quite varied, research by ABC instructor Ralph Levy showed three of the main areas where their teachings differ from the Church of God.

The Godhead: All of the Messianic groups Dr. Levy examined accept the classic Trinity doctrine.

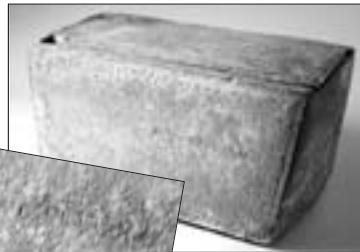
Ambivalence about the law: Dr. Levy found a lack of clarity among various Messianic groups about the law, which led to a variety of practices. Some go to church on Sunday, some observe the weekly Sabbath and Holy Days, and some feel the Holy Days are recommended, not required.

The identity of modern Israel: Dr. Levy found Messianic Jews generally do not accept the Church of God's understanding of the identity of the United States and Britain as Manasseh and Ephraim.

The article "About Messianic Judaism" appeared in the Fall 2002 issue of *Ministerial Quarterly*, pages 2-4. To read a copy, check with a UCG elder in your area, or write mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Surprising Archaeological Find: Proof of Jesus' Existence?

A limestone burial bone box, called an ossuary, has come to light bearing the names of Jesus, James and Joseph—three of the most prominent persons



Archaeological find has Aramaic inscription

"James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus" (photos courtesy Biblical Archaeology Society, Washington, D.C.)

in the New Testament. The ancient Aramaic words inscribed on the limestone box state that it belongs to "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus."

In late October 2002, André Lemaire, a specialist in ancient inscriptions and professor at the Sorbonne in Paris, announced the discovery.

Much to the chagrin of archaeologists and scholars, the box was not excavated by a trained archaeologist from its resting place for the last 2,000 years. Instead it was illegally removed and sold on the antiquities market. Regrettably, this prevents the box from being analyzed in its proper archaeological context and eliminating all possibilities of it being a fake.

Prior to the announcement of the discovery, the limestone box was subjected to rigorous scientific

tests to rule out the possibility of fraud. A team of experts of the Geological Survey of Israel examined the box and the inscription under a microscope and found no evidence of modern tools or tampering.

For more details, read Mario Seiglie's article on this find, scheduled for the January-February 2003 *Good News*.

Danger Sign

This notice was posted in a field:

The Farmer Allows Walkers to Cross the Field for Free, but the Bull Charges.

Reminds you of Proverbs 22:3: "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished."



Shopping for Faith—a Longing for Belonging

Religious trends in society can be fascinating, if contradictory. They have an impact on those who are hearing the gospel preached and coming in contact with United. Richard Cimino and Don Lattin wrote about these trends in their book *Shopping for Faith: American Religion in the New Millennium*:

"Many Americans say they want to become 'more spiritual' but have little interest in 'organized religion.' Nevertheless, many of today's spiritual seekers do get involved in religion that's organized; it's just organized differently, or may be another religion . . .

"Some things do not change. Now, as before, the spiritual quest is often a search for community, a longing for belonging" (1998, page 5).

The book highlights trends toward do-it-yourself religion, but also toward more-demanding (and perhaps more satisfying?) groups.

The Warmest Church

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Bible Study Course lesson 10 tells the readers, "The United Church of God prays eagerly for new people to become part of the divine fellowship that exists between God and His Church . . . [We extend] a warm welcome to all those who honor God and His living principles of life."

Many congregations are warm and welcoming examples, and are praying and seeking growth. If a stranger came through judging for the "Warmest Church" award, which congregation would win? Make it yours!

Belief in Three Resurrections: A Long History

We have record of very few groups throughout the years teaching about three resurrections (covered in the *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet). However, an article in *Biblical Archaeologist* sent in by George Meeker showed the long history of this belief. Eric M. Meyers wrote about the development of Jewish-Christian groups in the early centuries after Christ's death.

"These Jewish-Christian groups, referred to by Epiphanius (see Williams 1987) as Nazarenes or Elkasaite, professed the following beliefs: They proclaimed Jesus as prophet-Messiah; insisted upon the validity of the Torah and laws of ritual purity; spoke of three resurrections; professed a mil-

lenarian eschatology; looked forward to the restoration of the Temple; observed the feast of Sukkoth (Tabernacles), celebrated Easter at Passover, and observed the Sabbath..." ("Early Judaism and Christianity in the Light of Archaeology," *Biblical Archaeologist*, June 1988, page 71).

Fight the Good Fight

Author Charlie Shedd shared his marriage counseling advice with his children in the best-selling books, *Letters to Karen* and *Letters to Philip*. Since disagreements are inevitable in marriage, he revealed what he and his wife called "Our Seven Official Rules for a Good, Clean Fight."

1. Before we begin we must both agree that the time is right.
2. We will remember that our only aim is deeper understanding.
3. We will check our weapons often to be sure they're not deadly.
4. We will lower our voices one notch instead of raising them two.
5. We will never quarrel or reveal private matters in public.
6. We will discuss an armistice whenever either of us calls "halt."
7. When we have come to terms, we will put it away till we both agree it needs more discussing. (*Letters to Philip: On How to Treat a Woman*, 1968, pages 84-87.)

Anyway

At the Feast in France, Joel Meeker explained that developing godly character requires that we do what is right *anyway*—no matter what others do. We want things to be fair, but life in this world is not fair. We are called on to do what is right anyway—whether others slap us, curse us, spitefully use us or persecute us (Matthew 5:39-44).

Mr. Meeker illustrated this with a list of "Paradoxical Commandments" written by Kent M. Keith of Harvard University. Here are a few of them:

- People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. Love them anyway.
- The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
- Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.
- People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.
- Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

Without God's help, this can seem a depressing and impossible task. But in the end doing things God's way—anyway—builds in us the beautiful, godly character—God's way of thinking and acting—that will last forever. Eventually all will practice God's way, and everyone will treat everyone right. But in the meantime, we must try to treat everyone the right way—anyway.

It's Funnier in the Old King James

Helping his wife wash the dishes, a minister protested, "This isn't a man's job!"

"Oh yes, it is," his wife retorted, quoting 2 Kings 21:13 (KJV): "I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down."

(Source: www.cybersalt.org/cleanlaugh.)





Local Church Updates

140 Attend Beloit ABC Mini-Sampler

An Ambassador Bible Center mini-sampler was held in the Midwest on Oct. 19 and 20, much to the delight of over 140 brethren who attended the 10 classes, presented by ABC coordinator Gary Antion and ABC instructor Melvin Rhodes. The instructors were accompanied by their wives, Barbara Antion and Diane Rhodes.

The Beloit and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, congregations hosted the mini-sampler. The special weekend began with split sermons by Mr. Antion and Mr. Rhodes. After that 200 brethren enjoyed a turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, hosted by the local brethren.

Mr. Antion's classes included material from Acts 8 and 9 and "Your Personal Relationship With God." Mr. Rhodes' classes were "Joseph's Revolutionary Empire," "Joseph's Sad Decline," "A Peace to End All Peace," "From Dawn to Decadence" and "Daniel 7—An Overview of History."

Four ABC classes were presented Sabbath afternoon and evening. Sandwiches and snacks were served during breaks between classes.

On Sunday, six classes rounded out this special weekend of growth, learning and fellowship. Many brethren enjoyed a catered lunch adjacent to where the classes were conducted. Special certificates were awarded to the youngest student who attended all 10 classes (age 9), the oldest student who completed all 10 classes (age 80) and the student who traveled the farthest (from Phoenix, Arizona).



Students listen to one of the 10 ABC mini-sampler classes sponsored by the Beloit and Wisconsin Dells congregations (photo by Gary Antion)

ABC mini-sampler certificates were awarded by Mr. Antion to about 115 students who completed the entire 10 classes of instruction.

Steve Nutzman

Cincinnati North Young Adults Serve at Ronald McDonald House

Nov. 10, 2002, 16 young adults from the Cincinnati North, Ohio, congregation, along with Mr. and Mrs. Earl

Williams, cooked and served breakfast for the families at the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati. They brought



Cincinnati North young adults serve at Ronald McDonald House

fresh fruit, oatmeal, homemade breads, eggs and much more.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide a home away from home for families of sick children who are in the hospital for various reasons. One mother and her 7-year-old daughter from Central America have been staying at the Ronald McDonald House for almost four years. The daughter, Vianca, has a muscle disease that could destroy her ability to walk. She must undergo treatments at the children's hospital, located across the street, every single day. Because of those treatments she is now able to walk, run and play like other little girls. Vianca and her mother must stay here until the treatments are offered in her country.

The young adults learned that Ronald McDonald House serves over 1,000 families a year and only charges \$15 a night, and that no one is ever turned away because he or she cannot afford it.

Carmen Kincaide, the young adult who organized the project, has been donating her time for more than a year now at the Ronald McDonald House. She also brings her kids along because she wants her kids to feel for others. Her kids play with the children there.

Janet Treadway

Kick-off Leadership Seminar in Tampa Bay

Members of the St. Petersburg and Tampa, Florida, congregations gath-

ered on Nov. 3, 2002, to begin a series of seminars on leadership. The keynote speaker was Richard Thompson, member of the United Church of God Council of Elders, Ambassador Bible Center instructor and pastor of the Ocala, Orlando and Jacksonville, Florida, congregations.

David Treybig, pastor of the Tampa Bay congregations, began the afternoon seminar by explaining the purpose for these meetings—to help those ordained, as well as any others within the congregation who wished, learn leadership skills. Meetings will be held every four to six months.

In his presentation, Mr. Treybig showed the importance of learning these skills now because we are called to be leaders in the coming Kingdom of God and lights in this present age. Citing Proverbs 29:2, which says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice," he also explained that members in our congregations would likewise rejoice as our leadership drew closer to God and practiced godly principles of leadership. Before concluding, Mr. Treybig explained that the dress for these seminars is Sabbath wear because the way we dress reflects



Richard Thompson speaks about Christ-centered servant leadership at seminar in the Tampa Bay area

and affects the way we think about an event.

In his keynote address, Richard Thompson explained how the subject of Christ-centered servant leadership has become so prominent within our organization. As a member of the initial task force studying this subject, Mr. Thompson said that the group immediately saw that Christ was the greatest leader (with the exception of the Father) and that He was a servant. As a result, we have servant leadership. Mr. Thompson also emphasized that the foundation of godly leadership is personal righteousness.

Explaining the plan to share information gathered by the task force, Mr. Thompson reported that in December the Council of Elders and regional pastors will meet at the home office for a workshop on this subject. After this initial workshop, the information will be disseminated to the field ministry. In closing, Mr. Thompson expressed his

appreciation for the invitation to address the group and remarked that he was sure leadership meetings such as these would be beneficial to those attending and the Tampa Bay congregations.

Following Mr. Thompson's presentation, the group took a short break to enjoy some special refreshments including home-baked pastries, stuffed mushrooms, fresh fruit kabobs, coffee, apple cider and first-of-the-season, fresh-squeezed orange juice. Maintaining the focus on quality, the refreshments were beautifully presented in silver serving dishes.

The seminar then resumed with a presentation by Gordon Hannaway, deacon in the Tampa congregation, on principles of leadership used by the founding fathers of the United States. Using PowerPoint slides, Mr. Hannaway covered material from the book, *The Founding Fathers on Leadership* by Donald T. Phillips. It quickly became apparent that the principles used by the leadership of the United Church of God at its foundation were similar to those used by the founding fathers.

Mr. Treybig took the final portion of the seminar to cover local items of business and planning. At the conclusion, many of the 53 attendees expressed their appreciation for the seminar and said they are looking forward to the next one.

David Treybig

Cincinnati Hosts Welcome Dinner for the Holladays

Elders and deacons from the Cincinnati area, along with the staff from the home office, gathered at the home office Nov. 17 to formally welcome the new president, Roy Holladay, and his wife, Norma, to the Cincinnati area. The evening had an Italian theme, complete with music, lighting and decorations. Everyone contributed to the meal, featuring a wide variety of Italian specialties.

Even though the Holladays have been here for six months, this evening had to be delayed until now, due to various other scheduling conflicts. Approximately 60 guests were in attendance.

Not only did the evening provide a warm and friendly atmosphere for fellowship and eating, but also an opportunity for everyone to get better acquainted with the Holladays. This welcome dinner was also conducted on behalf of the Council of Elders, who

had requested that a formal reception or dinner be held to welcome the new president.

After the meal, Gary Antion presented Mr. and Mrs. Holladay with a gift, a set of fine wines nestled in a beautiful ice bucket. Mr. Holladay said that he was looking



Gary Antion presents gift to Roy and Norma Holladay at welcoming dinner Nov. 17 (photos by Janet Treadway and Peter Eddington)

forward to getting to know everyone and working with the staff. He expressed his appreciation for the gift and ended by thanking Terri Eddington, Lisa Fenchel and others who worked so hard to put together such a wonderful evening.

Janet Treadway

St. Louis Helps Member Celebrate 100 Years

The St. Louis, Missouri, congregation of the United Church of God celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs. Ada Neoma Padolsky after Sabbath services on Oct. 19, 2002, with a cake wishing her a happy birthday. Mrs. Padolsky was in attendance and was very pleased with all the attention.

Mrs. Padolsky was born in Athens, Ohio, on Oct. 17, 1902. She was married to John Padolsky at the age of 16 in Columbus, Ohio, on April 5, 1919. They lived in numerous places in Ohio and about 12 years in Detroit, Michigan, finally settling in Toledo, Ohio.

She was baptized into God's Church on March 18, 1964, attending services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, until a congregation was established in Toledo in 1977. She depended on her husband and others to get her where she had to go until 1977 when at the age of 75 she took a driver's test and got a license. She also got her own automobile, which she drove until she could no longer see because of glaucoma.



Ada Neoma Padolsky

In 1997 she moved to St. Louis to an apartment where she lived alone until June of this year. She is now living in a nursing home in Florissant, Missouri. Mrs. Padolsky had two daughters, seven grandchildren and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Those in Toledo will remember Mrs. Padolsky for her generous sharing of the fruits of her garden. She used to load up the trunk of her car and open it after church for brethren to help themselves to all the goodies.

Tom McCrady

Richard Duncan Retires After 33 Years

Aug. 10, 2002, was a very eventful Sabbath for the Salem (Jefferson), Oregon, congregation. It was a day to say thank you to Richard and Betty Duncan and acknowledge them for their years of faithful service. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have semi-retired after serving God's children for 33 years.



Richard and Betty Duncan

In a short but moving ceremony after services, regional pastor Dennis Luker presented them with a beautiful crystal plaque. Their years of service are deeply appreciated by the congregations they have served in Salem, Albany and Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Everett, Sedro-Woolley and Olympia, Washington.

The following Sabbath, Aug. 17, was a time to say good-bye to the Duncans and welcome the new pastor and his wife, John and Sandy Cafourek. Mr. Duncan and Mr. Cafourek brought split sermons to the congregation. Mr. Cafourek commented that he, as the incoming pastor, really appreciated being present for the Duncan's farewell Sabbath.

After the closing prayer, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan were asked to come for-

ward, and they were presented with a picture album. Each family in the congregation had made a page with pictures of their family and each was uniquely decorated. They were also given a beautiful water fountain.

Everyone enjoyed a slide presentation highlighting the Duncan's time in the area. It brought tears and laughter as we looked back and remembered all the wonderful times shared.

The children of the congregation had each prepared cards for the Duncans and Cafoureks. In a very sweet ceremony they lined up and one by one handed their farewell cards to the Duncans and then presented welcome cards to the Cafoureks.

A bounteous potluck stirred together with lots of fellowship was then enjoyed. Following the meal, a cake prepared by Elsie Pate in honor of the occasion was cut by the Duncans and served.

Elizabeth Janicich



Harold Rhodes presents plaque to Bob and Mary Jones in Jacksonville, Florida. An article about the Jones' retirement appeared in the November issue

Ray and Norma Dick Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Friends of Ray and Norma Dick joined grandson Phil and his wife, Jenny, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, to help Ray and Norma celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a special reception on Saturday, Aug. 31, in Gilmer, Texas.

The affair, arranged by Sarah Baker of Hawkins, Texas, took place at the Gilmer Civic Center immediately after Sabbath services.

After Phil read a brief history of his grandparents, Penny Urwiller presented the Dicks with a beautifully colored quilt she had designed featuring signatures of friends and children's illustrations.

Ladies of the congregation served a special cake and other refreshments.

Earlier, Aug. 21 to 23, other family members had gathered in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to visit with Ray and Norma and help them celebrate this milestone in their lives.

Among the attendees in Tennessee were the Dicks' three sons, Bob, Ron and Randy, and their families.

The Dicks said this was the first time their whole family had gotten together for such an extended period (three days), with all 16 eating at the same table.

"It was such a pleasure to have time to really bond again as a family," said Mrs. Dick.

According to Phil Dick's history, Ray Dick and Norma Porter met in 1940, near the end of the Depression, at



Norma and Ray Dick (photo by Don Bjoraker)

a government migratory-labor camp in Nyssa, Oregon. She was 14, and he was 17.

Later Norma went to high school in Caldwell, Idaho, and Ray went off to work as a welder in the shipyards at Portland, Oregon. After their geographic separation, their friendship grew, and they got engaged.

Eight months later, on Aug. 29, 1942, Ray and Norma were married.

In January 1955 Ray and Norma, along with their three boys, began listening to the *World Tomorrow* radio broadcast and became interested in the sponsoring Radio Church of God.

The Dicks credit God for the healing in the ensuing years of Ray's polio and Randy's cystic fibrosis.

Ray and Norma were baptized in the summer of 1957 and moved to Pasadena, where Ray attended Ambassador College, graduating in 1962.

The Dicks' areas of service in the Church are numerous. Ray worked in various operations of the mailing department in Pasadena and later managed the mailing and personnel departments at Big Sandy.

He later set up the Church's offices in Jerusalem and Greece and for a short time was stationed at Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England.

The Dicks served in the Feast-housing operation in Big Sandy and Wisconsin Dells for 15 years. At the time of Mr. Dick's retirement from employment with the Worldwide Church of God in 1987, he was an Ambassador faculty member and assisted in the business office at the college in Big Sandy.

The Dicks live in Hawkins, when they are not out of town attending family activities. They attribute their long marriage and many notable experiences to God's blessings.

Ellis W. Stewart

Gatlinburg Singles Enjoy Variety of Feast Activities

The singles attending the Feast in beautiful Gatlinburg, Tennessee, this year now have over 50 new friends. We started the Feast off with an excellent breakfast at a local pancake house, hugging old friends, shaking hands and

chatting as we met some for the first time and new friendships began.

The Feast is such a special time, and it was obvious in the love and service of the singles in God's Church. The weather outside wasn't perfect, but the fun and laughter during our activities made us forget the rain.

Every day started in the hospitality area, visiting and planning activities. We enjoyed lunch at the Smoky Mountain Brewery, a country dance, dinner at a very nice restaurant, a formal dance and an excellent picnic provided by Subway, complete with wonderful weather for tennis and basketball.

Our kind and friendly minister, Fred Kellers, and his adorable wife attended several of the activities and then provided a Bible study with a focus on singles serving in their local congregations. On the Last Great Day we hugged for the last time and promised to stay in touch. And we're doing that.

See photos on the Singles' Web site at www.ucgsingles.org.

Trish Allen

Katrina Maranville: Triumphant Against Adversity

Katrina Maranville is a member of the United Church of God in Phoenix, Arizona. Like most

young women her age, she plans to have a career, marriage and family. But, she faces some unusual challenges. She suffered a severe brain injury in a surfing accident in the early summer of 1997. Three years later, another event (likely emotional stress) triggered latent brain damage.

Suddenly, she could not walk or even stand,

Katrina Maranville with Duke; above, Katrina's artwork titled, "A Father's Touch"



Salt Lake City Ski Weekend Set for Presidents' Day 2003

The Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation is excited to host our seventh annual ski event! If you are an experienced or novice skier, please join us at the site of the 2002 Winter Olympics and the greatest snow on earth.

The event will be held over Presidents' Day weekend, Feb. 15 to 17, 2003. Costs are \$45 a day to ski, and we have arranged a special rate of \$65 a night at the Best Western Cottontree Hotel, where services and our chili feed take place. Free skiing lessons by

a local member will be provided if you just want to come and learn. There will also be special Bible lectures and a guest speaker.

If you would like to get more details, you can check our Web site at www.ucgskislac.org. To register or for more information, you can also contact Larry Salyer at 801-495-0412, E-mail larry_salyer@ucg.org, or Rachael Cooksey at 508-393-5737, E-mail rachaelac@hotmail.com.

Rachael Cooksey

Your Congregation's News Here!

If your congregation's news and events are never covered in *United News*, why not check with your pastor and send something in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Include the

author's and photographer's names and your phone number.

Send to: mike_bennett@ucg.org or mail to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45354-1027. We look forward to hearing from you!

Announcements

Births



Keith Daniel Porteous

Daniel and Linda (Barnum) Porteous of Auckland, New Zealand, are pleased to announce the arrival of Keith Daniel Porteous. With just four hours of labor, Keith was born at 10:44 a.m. on July 7, 2002. He weighed 3.91 kilograms (8 pounds 10 ounces) and measured 53 centimeters (21 inches). His sister, Bree-Anne, adores him. His doting grandparents are Maynard and Cherry Barnum of Raymond, Washington, and Ron Porteous of Auckland, New Zealand.

David and Robin (Japhet) PerMar of Orlando, Florida, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Jared Michael, on Aug. 4, 2002. Jared weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He is the fifth grand-



Jared Michael PerMar

child of Dey PerMar and the sixth grandchild of Ted and Johanna Japhet.

Ted and Beth (Schwartzrock) Wilson proudly announce the arrival of their son, Taylor Henry. Taylor was born at his home in Killbuck, Ohio, on June 10,



Taylor Henry Wilson

2002, weighing 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long.

Taylor's proud grandparents are Tom and Regina Wilson, who attend the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation, and Gerald and Ardelle Schwartzrock, who attend in Fargo, North Dakota.

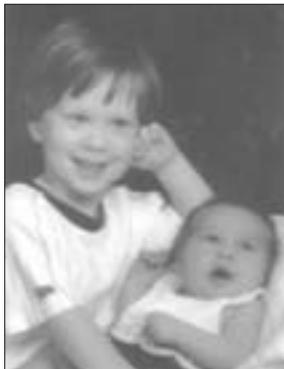
Steve and Annaleigh Novak of California are very happy to announce the birth of their son, Joshua David, on Aug. 29, 2002. He was 21 inches long and weighed in at 9 pounds 11 ounces. Liana (8) and Rebecca (5) are so excited to now have a baby brother. Joshua is the 22nd grandchild of Steve and Svatava Novak of the Czech Republic and the



Joshua David Novak

11th grandchild of Nola Neither of New Zealand.

Larry and Natalie (Orsak) Neff and big brother William (3) of the Sacramento, California, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Emily Olivia Neff. She was born on July 3, 2002, weighing 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. She was named after her Aunt Emily (Orsak) of Houston, Texas.



Emily Olivia Neff with big brother William

The proud grandparents include Larry and Linda Neff of Denver, Colorado, congregation, Regina Orsak of the Houston North, Texas, congregation and Mike Orsak. Paternal great-grandparents include Leroy and Maxine Neff, and maternal great-grandparents include Eric and Winn Tate of the Houston North congregation.

Tom and Tracy Bulharowski are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Ryan Phillip, on Sept. 16,



Ryan Phillip Bulharowski

2002, in Ventura, California. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Ryan is the first grandchild for Clay and Stephana Thornton, and the sixth grandchild for Jack and Bobbie Bulharowski.

Philip and Sarah (Riedel) Aust of Normal, Illinois, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Jasmine Sarah Alexis. Jasmine was born on Jan. 11, 2002. She weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. Big brother Jordan is very proud of his new sister. Their grandparents are Jerry and Mary Ann Aust of Mobile, Alabama,



Jasmine Sarah Alexis Aust with big brother Jordan

and Lyle and Donna Riedel of Macomb, Michigan.

Anniversaries

Carl and Mary Carmichael of Dubois, Wyoming, were married in November



Carl and Mary Carmichael

of 1952, but celebrated their 50th anniversary in August so that their children and grandchildren from Texas, California and Iowa could be with them. Their youngest son, Tom, made a beautiful three-tiered cake. The other children conducted a *Newlyweds*-style game show in which similar answers earned them prizes. As grand prize their children awarded them an Alaskan cruise of the Inland Passage. Dubois brethren and many friends in the community attended the celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. George K. Arnold of the Athens, Ohio, congregation observed their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct. 14, 2002. They were married on the day Mr. Arnold's great-grandmother turned 100 years old. Mr. Arnold is past 90, his



Mr. and Mrs. George K. Arnold

wife past 87. They were baptized in 1967 and 1968 respectively. They have four children, Betty, George R., James and David. They have eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, so far.

Mr. Arnold worked for the railway mail service from 1936 to 1962, resigned because his job worked every other Sabbath, and entered a machine shop for 13 years. His wife was head of a school cafeteria for some time. Then both went to painting and papering for people, finally retiring in 1983.

They live in the country and enjoy gardening and canning. Mr. Arnold works on a model railroad that's never finished.

Obituaries

Frank Linke Sr. passed away at the age of 87 on Oct. 21, 2002. He was born July 27, 1915, in St. Paul, Minnesota. He married his wife, Cora, in 1937. They raised two sons, Wayne and Frank Jr.

The elder Mr. Linke had a varied career, as truck driver, truck and trailer equipment builder, welder and farmer. As a builder he opened the Evergreen Trailer Company in Seattle, Washington, and later opened a branch of the company in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mr. Linke was one of the first members of the United Church of God—Canada, and later a member of the congregation in Jefferson, Oregon. In failing health, he moved to a care home in Surrey (a suburb of Vancouver) in December 1999.



Frank Linke Sr.

While in the Surrey Care Home he was unable to attend Sabbath services on a weekly basis, but was able to attend Passover and some Holy Days. Despite not being able to be with the congregation on a weekly basis, he was an avid listener of audiotapes, consuming hundreds of hours of sermon material.

He is survived by his wife, Cora, and two sons, Wayne and Frank Jr., several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Clifton Demarest Jr. passed away on Aug. 28, 2002, just one month short of his 92nd birthday. He suffered a heart attack just prior to scheduled surgery on the previous Sunday and then suffered a major heart attack on the Wednesday of that week. Clifton is survived by his three children: Gary Demarest (Wisconsin); Roy Demarest (Florida) and Lynn Sandland (Queensland, Australia). He is also survived by eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

His wife, Edna, preceded him in death in March 1980 along with his great-grandson Benjamin Sandland in November of 1985. Mrs. Demarest was a founding member and deaconess of the New York area Radio Church of God back in the mid-1950s. Clifton supported the Churches of God for many decades with faithful belief in the Church Mr. Armstrong began. He will be greatly missed in the Demarest and Sandland families.

Wilbur Harvey Unger, 84, died of heart failure on Oct. 14, 2002. Wilbur



Wilbur Unger

lived in Severna Park, Maryland, and attended the Baltimore, Maryland, congregation for many years. He was born Jan. 21, 1918, and raised in Baltimore.

He served in the army in Europe during World War II.

Wilbur (or "Wib" as he was known), retired after a lengthy career as a General Motors worker at the Broening Highway plant in Baltimore. His interests included fishing, gardening, photography and music, especially the big band style.

He is survived by his sister, May Hardesty of Severna Park, and longtime companions, Kenneth and Edith Kralick of Severna Park, who took care of Wib in his later years and with whom he resided. He was the brother of the well-known Bible commentary author, Merrill Unger, who wrote, *Unger's Bible Handbook*. Wib was buried at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville, Maryland.

Pearl V. Richey, 64, of Leesburg, Florida, died Oct. 17, 2002, after about a year of illness. She attended the Orlan-



Pearl Richey, pictured with her husband, Dale

do, Florida, UCG congregation for nearly six years after attending God's Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, from late 1963 until 1996.

She was loved by many. She served in Orlando as head of refreshments, potlucks and other get-togethers,

doing so until she was no longer able.

She will be missed greatly by her husband, Dale Richey, married 46 and half years, and by their seven children, Teresa, Diana, Juanita, Linda, Mark, Michael and Brenda in age order, and her 15 grandchildren and soon to be two great-grandchildren, one of whom she got to see before she became ill. Diana and Michael reside in Cincinnati, and the rest are in Florida.

Mary Kelenske, 79, died Sept. 11, 2002, in her sleep. She suffered a severe stroke in May 2000, which left her mainly bedridden. In July of 2002 she learned



Mary Kelenske

that she was in the advanced stages of ovarian cancer.

Mary was baptized in 1971 in Detroit, Michigan, and will always be remembered for her kindness, warmth and ready smile. She is survived by her seven children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Grace Holladay died on Aug. 22, 2002, two weeks after suffering a stroke. She was born in Evansville, Indiana, on July 29, 1916, to Roy and Amelia Rosenbaum Spayd.

She was a homemaker and very active member of the United Church of

God. She first heard the *World Tomorrow* in February 1958 on WLAC and WCKY radio stations. She was baptized in 1961 at the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Texas. She attended the Atlanta, Georgia; Knoxville and Chattanooga, Tennessee; Louisville and Somerset, Kentucky, congregations. She worked with the church youth all her life and taught Sabbath classes for many years. She was always known for her smile, friendliness and positive attitude. She had a major impact on the lives of her five children—her three sons were ordained to the ministry.

She is survived by her three sons, Roy O. (and Norma) Holladay, Cincinnati, Ohio; Leonard W. (and Sandy) Holladay, Anchorage, Alaska; and Charles E. (and Linda) Holladay, Belle Plaine, Minnesota; and by two daughters, Roberta L. (and Charles) Waddle, Somerset; and Linda L. (and Richard) Daffron, Calhoun, Tennessee; and by 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Mark Winner the pastor of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation.

Grace Holladay had an impact on everyone she met. She will be greatly missed.



Grace Holladay

building a hi-fi cabinet in his basement. He regularly listened to the comedians Bob and Ray on the radio while working. He hated religious programs. Normally he snapped the radio right off when one came on.

This Sunday, he was gluing some wood together that had to be held by hand as Bob and Ray came to an end, and Herbert W. Armstrong came on the radio. He was unable to reach the radio or let go of the wood to turn it off. After 10 minutes the wood had set, but he was now intrigued with what Mr. Armstrong was saying. It was different from anything he'd ever heard before and he was hooked. His family began attending with him in 1958.

Ken was ordained an elder in October of 1965 by Mr. Armstrong. He was an elder with the Church of God for 37 years.

He was a tower of strength, a bastion of fidelity and a fountain of wisdom to his family and so many of God's people over the years.

Kenneth Graham dedicated his life to God and the congregations of the Church of God. He will be greatly missed by many.

Kenneth A. Graham III



Kenneth A. Graham, with wife, Polly, in 1993 50th anniversary photo

Chrysler in the advanced development department, designing products for cars many years before they reached the production stage. He retired in 1985 after 39 years with the company. He had 17 patents to his credit while working at Chrysler. Many are still used today in all vehicles with alternators or automatic transmissions.

Shortly after his retirement Ken and Polly moved to Noblesville, Indiana, to be near Kristine and her family.

One Sunday in 1956, Ken was

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

zona, is our final presentation for this year).

Gary Antion

ABC Ready for Its Fourth Year

Preparations are ongoing for ABC 2003. There have been 43 students accepted, with a few more applications trickling in. Dec. 16 is the last date to accept applications for 2003. The class appears to be well-balanced with 19 males and 24 females. Several in the class have graduated from a university, while others have had some university training. A few are above the typical college student age and will add some stability to the class. We have four married couples, including an elder and his wife.

Ralph Levy has been taking some Hebrew classes to be more competent in that language. Gary Antion has been converting his Comparative Religion files into Powerpoint presentations.

Orientation plans are set for Jan. 5 when we will welcome the students to ABC. Classes will begin on Jan. 6.

Gary Antion

Staff Seeks Class Credit for Students, INS Approval for ABC

On Nov. 12, Roy Holladay, Ralph Levy and Gary Antion journeyed to Mountain State University (MSU) in West Virginia (4 1/2 hours east of Cincinnati) to discuss ways ABC students could gain credits for some of the classes taught by credentialed faculty at ABC.

After a profitable discussion regarding the two institutions and various policies of accrediting bodies, Mountain State is to send us a revised agreement that we will look over and decide whether to sign. We were hoping to be able to have the students gain some credits for transfer by writing to MSU and by paying a lower fee be able to have MSU grant credits for those specific classes. It looks now like they will not be able to do that without a student enrolling in their university for at least one semester.

In the meantime, we continue to seek recognition of our institution for the benefit of students and for support to receive permission to accept international students. Application is being made to U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials to recognize ABC as a legitimate school of learning. Having accredited institutions value our instruction is one stipulation to being recognized.

We will report more of the details as they become available.

Gary Antion

Assistance Fund Down

Roy Holladay reported in the Nov. 7 "Home Office Update":

"We have seen a sharp decrease in the amount of donations to our general assistance fund. This category is down 21 percent when compared with the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

"Undoubtedly this is also due to our brethren seeing a downturn in their personal income, due to the economy, and simply being unable to donate as they did last year. However, in difficult times, requests from brethren needing aid from the assistance fund increase as more people find themselves in need. Therefore, if you are able to give a small amount each month to this fund, it would be much appreciated and would help us to help our brethren at this time."

Results of Festival Questionnaire Announced

Heads of household, age 18 and older attending the 2002 Feast in the United States and Canada, were asked to fill out an anonymous questionnaire. The nine-question survey was designed to seek information that would be valuable in planning future Festival locations and activities. Using specially designed survey software, over 2,600 questionnaires from eight sites were compiled.

In a question asking brethren if they transferred or attended their assigned site this year, almost 49 percent said they went to their assigned site, while 51 percent said they transferred. In a query about travel distance to the Feast, just over 70 percent of the brethren said they journeyed up to 750 miles to the Feast. In a related question, nearly 51 percent said their ideal travel distance would be under 750 miles. Interestingly, 47 percent of the brethren said that it "doesn't matter" how far they have to travel.

In questioning members on their preferred type of Feast site, about 19 percent enjoyed a mountain location, 39 percent favored an oceanfront site, 13 percent liked inland sites and 26 percent said they had no preference.

Regarding preferred accommodations, approximately 37 percent of the brethren said they liked staying in hotels while almost 50 percent favored residing in condominiums. Just 2 percent said they enjoyed camping during the Feast!

Asked about their ideal Festival site attendance, almost 44 percent said they preferred a site where fewer than 1,000 brethren attended, while over 52 percent desired a site that accommodated more than 1,000 people.

The survey also indicated that 26 percent of the brethren said they were the only ones from their households attending the Feast. About 40 percent said that two people were attending. Almost 12 percent said that three people in the family came to the Feast, while nearly 23

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Tribute: Kenneth A. Graham

Kenneth A. Graham, an elder in the United Church of God, passed away on Nov. 9, 2002, shortly after heart valve replacement surgery. He was born on June 16, 1920, in Detroit, Michigan.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Pauline, after more than 59 years of marriage. They met on a blind date in 1942 and were married on July 3, 1943. Shortly thereafter he was sent overseas to India and the China-Burma-India theater of war. He was discharged in 1946 as a captain in the Army Signal Corps.

Ken also leaves behind two children, Kenneth A. Graham II, pastor of the Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Cadillac, Michigan, congregations, and Kristine C. Vincen, and three grandchildren, Nicole and Lauren Graham, and David Vincen.

Ken Graham received his B.S. in engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1947. He went on to achieve a master's degree in automotive engineering from Chrysler Institute in 1949. He worked for

News At a Glance

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percent said that four or more people attended from their households.

Another question asked about the ages of Festival attendees. Nearly 13 percent were 10 or younger. About 14 percent were age 11 to 20 and 19 percent were between the ages of 21 and 40. Almost 55 percent were age 41 or older.

Finally, the survey found that 95 percent of those responding to the questionnaire said they regularly attended Sabbath services with United.

John LaBissoniere

Sign Up for New E-mail Updates of Church News!

A new electronic communication tool is now available for Church members to use! Those who subscribe will automat-

UCG Member Update Notification

ically receive E-mail updates of Church news and any other important developments. These updates will include letters from the chairman, letters from the president, "Home Office Updates" and any breaking news or important announcements.

You can sign up today by simply going to our Web site at www.ucg.org/a/update or visiting our Life and Resources section at www.ucg.org/a. Sign up today and begin receiving news of the Church directly to your E-mail inbox!

Peter Eddington

If Someone You Know Isn't Receiving United News

Maybe someone you know wonders, "Why don't I receive member publica-



What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

■ See the streaming video sermon "Seven Attributes of a Childlike Attitude" by Roy Holladay.

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

■ See the new sermon transcript "What Does the Bible Say About Hell?" by Robin Webber.

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

■ Deaf and hard-of-hearing members can now join a private chat group.

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

On [vcmagazine.org](http://www.vcmagazine.org)

■ The December *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on "Dispelling Myths of Christ's Birth and

Childhood," "Gifts We Fail to Use," "Does Your Light Shine—or Glare?" and "Life Is Too Short!" <http://vcmagazine.org>

On [youthmagazine.org](http://www.youthmagazine.org)

■ *Youth United* has articles on "How to Treat the Opposite Sex," pornography, "What Your Appearance Says About You," body piercing, "Predicting Your Success," "One, but Not the Same," questions and answers and more.

<http://youthmagazine.org>

Other Helpful Links

■ **Youth** and young adult Web site.

<http://ucgyouth.org>

■ **Singles'** Web site for singles in the Church.

<http://www.ucgsingles.org>

■ **UCG Race Relations** Committee site. <http://www.ucgrace.org>

■ **Good News Bible Reading Program.** <http://www.ucg.org/brp>

■ **Good News Web site.** <http://gnmagazine.org>

■ **Local multimedia efforts.** <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

tions like *United News*?" The answer may be a matter of assumptions.

At some point either the pastor or the attending member would need to let the home office know so the member can be added to the list to receive member publications. However, perhaps the pastor and the member assume the other has contacted the home office, yet no one has.

There is a solution. In the United States, the person can contact the home office directly by mail or telephone (see top of page 1) or E-mail (info@ucg.org). Or the person can ask the pastor to fill out a Member/Associated Form that is designed for baptized members of the Church of God who want to belong to United as an organization. When this form is received at the home office, that person's file status is changed to member. This puts the person on the member list, and he or she will receive all member communications.

That Member/Associated Form is not what determines your spirituality (God does that!). The form is merely a tool for us to use to know those who want to be members of United Church of God.

In the United States, those who receive *United News* will also receive the *Festival Planning Brochure*, *Festival Activity Announcements* brochure, *Camp Magazine*, *World News and Prophecy*, new booklets, Holy Day offering envelopes and other items.

Of course, you don't have to be a member to receive any of these publications—just let us know you want them.

Gary Antion

The Good News Radio Log

* new station

City	State	Call Letters	Station Frequency	Power (watts)	Scheduled Airtime
*Augusta	GA	WFAM	1050 AM	5,000	Saturdays 7 p.m. EST
*Asheville	NC	WSKY	1230 AM	1,000	Sundays 9 p.m. EST
Buffalo	NY	WBEN	930 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. EST
*Chattanooga	TN	WLMR	1450 AM	1,000	Sundays 9:30 a.m. EST
Chicago	IL	WJMK	104.3 FM	4,100	Sundays 11 p.m. CST
Cincinnati	OH	WKRC	550 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. EST
Douglas	AZ	KAPR	930 AM	2,500	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. PDT
Globe	AZ	KFAA	1240 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. PDT
Greenville	SC	WORD	1330 AM	5,000	Sundays 8 a.m. EST
*Greenville	SC	WELP	1360 AM	5,000	Saturdays 8 p.m. EST
*Huntsville	AL	WBXR	1140 AM	15,000	Saturdays 8 a.m. EST
Indianapolis	IN	WIBC	1070 AM	50,000	Sundays 7 a.m. EST
Kansas City	MO	KCMO	710 AM	50,000	Sundays 9 a.m. CST
Memphis	TN	WREC	600 AM	5,000	Sundays 9 a.m. CST
New Orleans	LA	WWL	870 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9:30 p.m. CST
*Omaha	NE	KLNG	1560 AM	10,000	Saturdays 4 p.m. CST
Pittsburgh	PA	KQV	1410 AM	5,000	Saturdays 7 p.m. EST
Sierra Vista	AZ	KNXN	1470 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. PDT
Tucson	AZ	KGMS	940 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. PDT
Tulsa	OK	KHJM	100.3 FM	6,000	Saturdays 11:30 a.m. and Sundays 1:30 p.m. CST

After-Death Donations to the Church

What will happen to your possessions after you die? Don't be like the over two thirds of adults who have no will or estate plan! And you may want to consider including the Church as a beneficiary.

The Legal Services Office at United Church of God, an International Association, has information available regarding making gifts to the Church, either during your lifetime or effective upon death, through wills, trusts, insurance or other means so that you can continue to give to the Church even after your physical life has ended.

If you desire information regarding such gifts, please write or E-mail Larry Darden c/o Legal Services at United

Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027; E-mail: legal@ucg.org.

All gifts, bequests or other donations should name as beneficiary, or be made payable to: "United Church of God, an International Association, a California Nonprofit Religious Corporation."

Since the laws of other countries vary so widely, we may only be able to give legal information regarding after-death donations to residents of the United States. However, we welcome inquiries from United brethren the world over and we will supply any information we can.

Larry Darden



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at Milford, Ohio, and at
additional mailing offices