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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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November 2010

News At a Glance

UCG-Hong Kong Web Site Launched

The United Church of God congregation in Hong Kong has made a groundbreaking effort in extending the reach of the gospel message.

The Hong Kong congregation recently established a new UCG Web site at www.ucghk.org. Project manager Peter Forster engaged a local Web design firm to build the site for them, with the written content coming from our official UCG literature and Web sites. The difference, and the reason for building the site, is that in addition to English, the Web site can also be read in traditional and simplified Chinese characters, providing the gospel message to the Chinese-speaking world!

They have started translating the Frequently Asked Bible Questions on www.ucg.org and other selected, short pieces of literature for initial Chinese translation. All the content has been professionally translated and reviewed by members in Hong Kong and is approved under the supervision of UCG senior pastor for Asia David Baker.

As time progresses, our literature library of proclamation and doctrinal material in the Chinese language will expand dramatically.

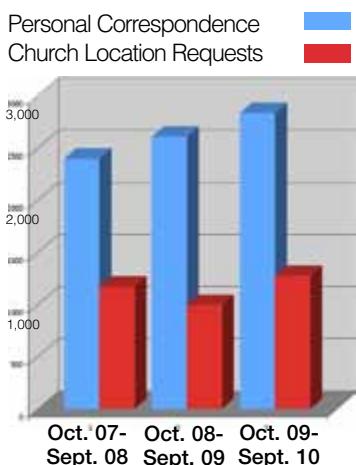
Despite being such a small group in Hong Kong, the local congregation is able to fund this project; but the project is challenging, and they are still gaining valuable experience.

Please pray for the success of this very important effort to preach the good news of God's Kingdom in this culturally rich, yet often spiritually poor, region of our globe.

Peter Eddington

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics



Brethren Keep the Feast at 60 Sites



THE TEEN CHOIR at the Feast site in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, performs special music under the direction of Skip Myers (photo by Joe Jacoby). See "Nearly 20,000 Keep Feast of Tabernacles With United," page 8.

New Ministerial and Member Services Team Formed

■ On Oct. 15 a new ministerial team consisting of Victor Kubik, Roy Holladay and Gary Antion was established.

by Elizabeth Cannon

"We have modified the regional pastor structure of Ministerial Services to more realistically reflect the size of our current ministry," said operation manager Victor Kubik.

As of Oct. 15, the U.S. regional pastor structure has been replaced by a newly appointed ministerial team consisting of Roy Holladay, Gary Antion and Victor Kubik. The department name, *Ministerial Services*, has also been changed to reflect how the department serves not only the ministry but also the members. Members of the new Ministerial and Member Services team will function as regional pastors, carrying out many of the duties of former regional pastors. Policies that related to the regional pastors will not be changed.

"As the current administration has changed, we thought it would be a good time to reevaluate the regional pastor structure. We do not need 10 regional pastors plus a ministerial team to oversee an experienced ministry totaling about 90 full-time pastors and 300 local church elders," Mr. Kubik continued.

The former U.S. regions, which were previously divided among 10 regional pastors, will now be divided among the three members of the Ministerial and Member Services team as follows:

Northeast, Southeast, Florida, South Central: Roy Holladay.

Northwest, Southwest, Mountain: Gary Antion.

North Central, Central, Great Lakes: Victor Kubik.

In addition, United Youth Camp directors and Feast of Tabernacles coordinators will report to Mr. Holladay. Mr. Antion will oversee all areas of education, including Ambassador Bible Center, ministerial education as well as general education programs. Mr. Kubik will oversee the international senior pastors, United Youth Corps, retirements, the Good Works program and the Personal Correspondence Department.

History of Regional Pastors

The regional pastor structure for UCG ministry in the United States had been in existence for the past 15 years. "When I worked in Church Administration before the United Church of God was formed," Mr. Kubik said, "I helped establish the forerunner of our regional pastor system in 1993. Fourteen regions were started, each headed by a regional pastor. They were put in place to help Church Administration better serve the pastors in the field."

According to Mr. Kubik, when the United Church of God was formed in 1995, 12 of those 14 regional pastors were part of United, and the entire structure was carried over as well. Over the course of 15 years, the 12 regional pastors were reduced to 10.

Mr. Kubik reflected on the regional pastor structure in our former association when there were nearly 300 full-time pastors along with 700 local church elders.

"I remember well the day when we crossed the 1,000-elders mark," he said. "Each regional pastor had an average of 21 full-time men and 50 local church elders to serve. In the United Church of God with about 90 pastors, each regional pastor oversaw an average of only nine pastors."

"When United began in 1995, not only was the regional pastor system put in place but a Ministerial Services team was added as well. It was recognized then that both amounted to perhaps too much structure; but we hoped that the Church would 'grow into' it.

"But, today, 15 years later, we have not grown," he continued. "In fact, we have fewer full-time pastors than we did in the beginning, yet we have continued with this top-heavy structure. It served a much-needed function in its first years by helping write some of the Ministerial Services policies that are now more or less complete." UN

Over 15,000 E-Books Downloaded in Two Months

by Aaron Booth

In September we reported that UCG booklets are now available for download from the Apple iBookstore. As of Nov. 1, a total of 15,293 e-book copies of the Church's literature have been downloaded to readers' iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch devices. This averages to more than 300 downloads a day in the past two months!

The number of initial downloads has surpassed our expectations. It is really exciting to know our literature is being accessed on these newer mobile devices.

Currently, a total of 27 booklets and one issue of *The Good News* magazine are available. This week three more booklets have been made available for download within the iBookstore: *Who Is God? Managing Your Finances and Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*. We will continue to add more literature to the iBookstore over the upcoming weeks and months.

The top five booklet downloads from the Apple iBookstore and the number of times they have been downloaded are as follows:

1. *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*, 1,764.
2. *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*, 1,629.
3. *What Happens After Death?* 1,217.
4. *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* 1,084.
5. *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*, 994. UN

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News At a Glance

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Beyond Today Has Record High Response

The *Beyond Today* episode "Will I Go To Hell?" which aired Sunday, Oct. 16, on cable superstation WGN America, produced the highest response so far. A total of 1,001 responses were recorded as a result of this program at the excellent cost per response of \$11.99.

After airing programs for just 15 weeks on WGN, 10,285 telephone and Internet responses have been generated—at an overall \$17.50 cost per response. We are very pleased and encouraged by these fine results, and we hope you are too.

As time goes on and more viewers become familiar with our programs on WGN, we expect response to continue growing. In the meantime, our young, creative media staff members are working very hard to improve each program. Interviews, film clips, special video effects and improved graphics are helping make each program stirring, attractive and inviting. Additionally, presenters Darris McNeely, Steve Myers and Gary Petty are driving themselves to prepare messages that are not only informative but also relationship-building.

Peter Eddington

ABC Leaders Chosen

On Oct. 25 the student officers for the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2011 were announced:

- Student body president: Brett Diggins.
- Social activities coordinator: Brittany Ballo.
- Service projects coordinator: Sabrina Clore.
- Message board coordinator: Lauren Kelly.
- *ABC Times* editor: Amber Duran.
- Music coordinator: Brett Diggins and Sabrina Clore.
- Technical coordinator: Chris Deonier.

Brett Diggins chose Brittany Whynaucht to serve as secretary; Antonio Lombardo, as treasurer; and Timothy Sipes, as class monitor.

Gary Antion

International Mail Clerk Hired

"We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Bates to the international mail processing department," said Alec Surratt, supervisor of the department. "With her background, we are

See "News at a Glance," page 28

Profile: Charles Oldroyd

by Charles Haughee

Close to 100 friends and family members met at the Tampa, Florida, congregation hall on June 13, 2010, to mark the beginning of Charlie Oldroyd's 100th year of life.

Charles Earl Oldroyd was born on June 10, 1911, in Elmira, New York. He was a firsthand witness to many of the things we take for granted today. He was born before mass-produced automobiles, talking and full-color motion pictures, commercial radio and television programs, air-conditioning and women's suffrage.

He also saw less earth-shaking events during his life: four new states were added to the Union, Daylight Savings Time was generally adopted; Oreos cookies and bubble gum were made available; and the hand-cranked telephone disappeared. The life expectancy for a baby born in 1911 was just over 48 years.

But the year of his birth marked the last relatively peaceful period for mankind. Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914, which led to "the war to end all wars." Charlie was inducted into the U.S. Army in June 1941 and was sent to school to learn to drive a Sherman tank.



Charles and Betty Jean Oldroyd

Charlie's tank commander was positioned over him as he drove, and when he wanted the tank to turn to the left or right, he would kick Charlie in the appropriate shoulder. To go faster meant a kick in the back, while kicking him in the head meant stop!

While Charlie had a slight build, the tank commander was much larger and Charlie had to be hospitalized for back surgery as a result of the physical way directions were given. After recuperation, he received training as a message center

clerk, was sent home to Elmira and placed in the enlisted reserves.

Within a month of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Charlie was recalled to active duty. He eventually was sent to Europe and engaged in the famous Battle of the Bulge.

He returned to civilian life and began working as an automobile mechanic, specializing in automatic transmissions. He still drives and even continues to perform routine maintenance.

He met Betty Jean Miller in Elmira in 1950 and two years later they were married on June 7, so this day coincidentally marked their 58th wedding anniversary.

The Oldroyds were baptized on June 7 when Richard Pinelli and Roger Foster were on a baptizing tour to Florida in 1959. A slight inconvenience arose due to the fact that Betty's employer would not grant her time off, so she was baptized by Mr. Pinelli while Mr. Foster visited Charlie at their home and baptized him there. So the day also reflected their 51 years in the Church of God!

At the birthday commemoration people enjoyed a delicious meal, renewed past acquaintances and reminisced about their own special experiences with Charlie and Betty. **UN**

FORWARD! Rhetoric or Reality?



by Aaron Dean

Promises, promises, promises. Promises are all we hear as we enter another political election. How many promises have been kept over the years? Sadly very few, even with those who intended to keep them. Most are made for selfish reasons with no intention or expectation of fulfilling the promise. Others are just forgotten.

I was in Tokyo, Japan, when at 1 a.m., I received a call from the nurse. Mr. Armstrong was ill with vomiting and diarrhea, which at the age of 90 could be deadly. When I arrived, he apologized for having to wake me up to anoint him; but he had been sick for over two hours and he knew he needed more than physical help. He made a promise to God that if He would heal him, he would finish a booklet that he had been putting off.

He was so frail that when I anointed him I asked God to not only heal him but to give him sleep. I kept it short and to the point, as I had learned that he didn't like long flowery prayers when he was hurting. I remember him telling one evangelist, "God knows all that. I hurt, so get to the point."

When I finished the prayer, he immediately vomited; but then he went to sleep. He didn't wake till about 11 the next morning. When he awoke, he drank a little juice and stated, "I'm still sleepy." I told him to go back to bed.

He awoke around 5 p.m., ate soup and was upset with me for letting him sleep so long. "I'll be up all night now," he complained. But then he said he still felt sleepy. I suggested he go back to bed. He slept through the night and I was beginning to wonder if I would need to ask God to wake him up.

But God did indeed heal Mr. Armstrong. Unfortunately, he got involved in meetings the rest of the trip and forgot his promise. A few months later the income took a dip and

he was concerned. He queried me, "Have I done something wrong to cause the income to drop?"

He had asked this before a few times, and I never knew what to say. Was it a rhetorical question or did he really want to know? How can a young man know what to tell a man of God 60 years older than himself? Even if I did know something, did he really want to hear it?

Timidly I stated he had not kept his promise to God he had made when he was sick. He thought for a moment, and then said, "You are right. Let's work on it right now." We did, and the income rose.

I learned two lessons from this experience. The first was to be willing to ask and then listen for the answer from whomever God uses to make the point. The second was to keep your promises, especially the ones you make to God. He always holds up His part. Do we? Or is the promise we made at baptism to yield ourselves totally to God rhetoric or reality? **UN**

Aaron Dean is the treasurer of UCGIA.

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News From **Around the World**

Four Members Baptized in Ghana

by Tom Clark

During the Feast of Tabernacles this year in Ghana, four baptisms took place. One couple from Tamale had discovered the Church via the Internet and had been visited a couple of times by the nearest pastor. This year was their very first Feast of Tabernacles, and they were excited to be there—and very desirous of being baptized.

Michael and Joanna Azungah are now our northern-most members in Ghana and are expecting their first child in the spring. The nearest congregation to them is in the fishing village of Makongo, and it will take most of a day to make the trip down and back home. But they are committed to making that trip as many Sabbaths as possible and certainly on the Holy Days.

Two young men from the Accra area were also keeping their first Feast of Tabernacles after likewise discovering the Church via

the Internet. They were friends and roommates in university and have both just graduated. Billy Adamu Jr. has a degree in statistics and marketing. He is fluent in English, French and Twi and speaks some German and other native Ghanaian languages. Alex Kwame



Alex Kuodezi, Tom Clark, Billy Adamu Jr., Mary Clark

Kuodezi has a degree in biochemistry and is likewise fluent in English and local dialects.

Both men counseled during the Feast for baptism, and they were both baptized on the Sabbath immediately following the Feast back in Accra. **UN**



Michael Azungah, Tom Clark, Joanna Azungah, Reuel Dima

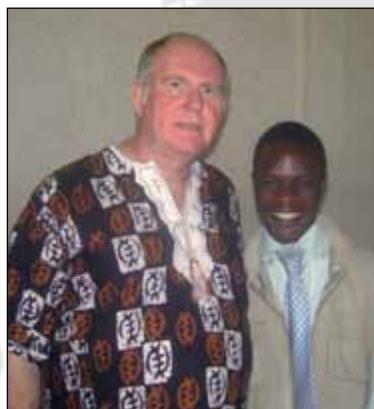
Five Added to the Church in Zimbabwe

While in Zimbabwe for the Feast with his wife, Diane, Council of Elders chairman Melvin Rhodes was able to baptize five people. One of these was a very special baptism. After baptizing Donald Dube, the 34-year-old told Mr. Rhodes that he was born in Essexvale (now Esigodini) where Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes lived when they first got married.

At the time, both Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes worked for the Rhodesian government. One of Mr. Rhodes' responsibilities was the

issuing of birth and death certificates for the people of the district. When Mr. Rhodes asked Donald his date of birth, he replied Jan. 19, 1976. This coincided with the time the Rhodes worked there.

So, 34 years after issuing Donald's birth certificate, Mr. Rhodes now had the opportunity to baptize him. He told Donald that he would like to make it back whenever he needed somebody to officiate at his wedding, as he would be delighted to be there when he takes the next major step in his life! **UN**



Melvin Rhodes and Donald Dube

New Canadian Council Member Chosen, Two Elders Hired Full-Time

by Linda Wasilkoff

The annual September teleconference for the National Council took place on Sept. 13, 2010. The minutes from a teleconference in July were approved as recorded.

Graemme Marshall resigned as pastor and from the Council in August. As a result, Mike Erickson will finish off his term on the Council. Larry DeLong coordinated the Feast in Moncton this year in his place, and Dennis Horlick was appointed interim pastor for Ottawa, Ontario, as well as Montreal, Quebec and Sussex, New Brunswick. Paul

Wasilkoff volunteered to do the layout for *United News-Canada*.

The director of operations also informed the Council that two part-time salaried elders, Michael Erickson and Patrick Read, have now been hired full-time.

The task force for office relocation continues to look for an improved location for the national office. Since July, several locations have been checked out, with one rating serious consideration; but nothing has been found thus far. Prayers for this search are appreciated.

The Council discussed an estate that has been left to the Church and gave further instruc-

tions as to what the next step should be in trying to sell the property.

The 2011-2012 Strategic Plan was reviewed and approved to be placed on the March 2011 National Conference ballot for ratification. Some proposed amendments were also discussed and are to be forwarded for congregational input in the next step of the amendment process.

The Council had sent a letter of support to the Council of Elders in August and has received notes of appreciation for that. The next meeting will be held in the beginning of December in Toronto. **UN**

International News At a Glance

Second Translator Helps Complete Serbian Bible Study Course

Plans are underway to translate all 12 *Bible Study Course* lessons into Serbian by the end of this fiscal year. So far two lessons are completed and uploaded to the Serbian literature Web site.

Sasha Veljic from Belgrade has agreed to begin translating, in addition to proofreading, beginning in May. Up to this point, he has been proofreading only.

We are currently translating lessons 3 and 4 of the *Bible Study Course*. With both of us translating, the process should begin to move much faster now. Now, I may be able to translate one or two *Good News* articles, which I wasn't able to do while focusing all my energy on the Bible study lessons

Due to 12-hour workdays (including commuting) each day, translating is slow. But now with Sasha also translating, the work should speed up. Once the Bible study lessons are translated, then we'll begin translating booklets that support the lessons with deeper information. Hopefully the demand for Serbian literature will begin to pick up.

Check our Web site at http://ucg-nwashington.org/serbian_literature.htm.

John Marinkov

New Spanish Hymnal Distributed

The United Church of God has completed a brand-new hymnal for our Spanish-speaking brethren. The new hymnal is a direct copy of the hardbound English hymnal. Up until now, Spanish-speaking brethren have been using the slim purple hymnal from the late 1990s. The new hymnal has all 191 songs, compared to the only 74 hymns available to them in the past.

Shipments of the new book were sent to UCG Feast sites in Latin America for distribution to the brethren. Copies will also be distributed to our Spanish-speaking members in various cities in the United States.

Peter Eddington

Rustic Feast Site in Brazil Planned for 2011

Jorge de Campos, who coordinates the work in the Portuguese

language, is planning a Feast site in 2011 near Boa Vista or Manaus, Brazil, which is in the Amazon jungle area. This would allow the brethren from Maloca de Moscou, where the Feast is currently held, to mingle with other brethren in United who live in a different part of Brazil, bridging a gap never closed before.

This site would be rustic, with simple but practical amenities, suitable for the local brethren. The site will hopefully be open to any overseas travelers who wish to attend the Feast with their brethren in Brazil.

Zambia LifeNets Projects Show Signs of Success

After the Feast of Tabernacles this year Victor Kubik and his wife, Bev, took two days to travel to Kasumpa, Nalubanda and Mapoko, Zambia, to see the progress of the various LifeNets livelihood projects.

They were pleased to see that the cattle herd has grown to more than 135. This past year, our brethren who had maize to sell received a high price for their maize. The price has remained high, as there are great shortages in the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has paid well for maize. It was not even necessary to store it to hold out for a better price this year.

Maize shellers donated by LifeNets in Australia were put to good use for two of our church communities.

Estonian Team Busy Translating Booklets

United is continuing to build a solid collection of booklets and articles in Estonian. Toomas Schvak, Imbi Kuusksalu and Estonian prisoner Valdur Vesingi translate the literature. Imbi is currently translating *Managing Your Finances*, while Valdur is translating *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and has recently finished *What Happens After Death?*

We also have translated the entire *Bible Study Course* and the following booklets into Estonian: *Is the Bible True? The Gospel of the Kingdom, God's Holy Day Plan, The Road to Eternal Life, Heaven and Hell, Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest, Why Does God Allow Suffering? Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God, Who Is God? Marriage and Family, What Is Your Destiny?* and *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.

Victor Kubik

United's Financial Statements Show God's Continued Blessings

■ Independent auditors approve United Church of God's financial statements for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

by Aaron Dean

Each year in the November issue of *United News*, we include a copy of the audited financial statements of the United Church of God, an International Association, and the audit report of our independent auditors—Clark, Schaefer, Hackett and Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. This year's report is for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2010. You will also see an accompanying table that summarizes the year-to-year changes in certain key financial indicators.

As in previous years, we are pleased to receive an "unqualified" opinion on the financial statements in reflecting generally accepted accounting principles. In this context, the term "unqualified" refers to the absence of any expression of concern by the auditors as to the continued viability of the Church, or any failure of the statements to represent generally accepted accounting principles.

We are thankful for and appreciative of the faithful and generous members and others who support the work of the Church by giving tithes and offerings. Most especially, we are grateful for and give thanks to God for blessing the Church with the financial stability that we currently enjoy even amidst the difficult financial times facing this world today. We recognize that it will only be by His grace, mercy and continued blessing that we continue to experience sound financial health in the future.

Both the Council and administration ask for God's wisdom and guidance in helping us be good financial stewards of the resources that He makes available to us to do His work. We thank all for your continued support and prayers. UN



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Council of Elders
United Church of God, an International Association:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of United Church of God, an International Association (a not-for-profit organization) as of June 30, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Church's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United Church of God, an International Association as of June 30, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The Schedules of Functional Expenses on pages 11 and 12 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Clark Schaefer Hackett & Co.
Cincinnati, Ohio
September 13, 2010

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association Statements of Activities Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Unrestricted net assets:		
Revenues, gains and other support:		
Contributions - individuals	\$ 16,439,421	16,923,602
Contributions - local congregations	502,315	453,334
Property contributions	55,033	800,000
Holy day offerings and festival fund contributions	6,388,772	6,317,017
Estate/personal property donations	184,759	15,799
Dividend and interest income	8,274	50,316
Other income	208,385	103,331
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of restrictions	83,148	72,300
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>23,870,107</u>	<u>24,735,699</u>
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Field Ministry / Local Congregations	9,877,777	10,675,476
Festivals	1,117,786	1,087,247
International	2,424,914	2,310,007
Public Proclamation	5,368,289	5,649,925
Total program services	<u>18,788,766</u>	<u>19,722,655</u>
Management and general:		
Council of Elders / Home Office / Insurance & Benefit Plans	4,942,011	4,162,952
General Conference	50,340	60,297
Total management and general	<u>4,992,351</u>	<u>4,223,249</u>
Total expenses	<u>23,781,117</u>	<u>23,945,904</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>88,990</u>	<u>789,795</u>
Temporarily restricted net assets:		
Contributions	95,644	161,060
Net assets released from restrictions:		
Satisfaction of restrictions	(83,148)	(72,300)
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>12,496</u>	<u>88,760</u>
Change in net assets	101,486	878,555
Net assets at the beginning of period	11,850,288	10,971,733
Net assets at the end of period	<u>\$ 11,951,774</u>	<u>11,850,288</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements. 3

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,437,977	6,454,086
Cash designated for retirement fund	1,206,605	1,215,329
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>7,644,582</u>	<u>7,669,415</u>
Prepaid expenses	52,139	72,949
Property and equipment, net	5,808,661	5,751,987
Total assets	<u>13,505,382</u>	<u>13,494,351</u>
Liabilities and net assets:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	197,828	220,899
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	770,300	847,062
Accrued matching thrift plan obligations	56,188	45,589
Accrued insurance obligations	202,321	188,760
Mortgage payable	326,971	341,753
Total liabilities	<u>1,553,608</u>	<u>1,644,063</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	10,641,733	10,544,019
Unrestricted - designated by Council of Elders	1,206,605	1,215,329
Temporarily restricted	103,436	90,940
Total net assets	<u>11,951,774</u>	<u>11,850,288</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 13,505,382</u>	<u>13,494,351</u>

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association Statements of Cash Flows Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

	2010	2009
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets		
Adjustment to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	101,486	878,555
Contributed property and equipment	214,892	188,730
Effect of change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	(55,033)	(800,000)
Accounts payable	20,810	(22,134)
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	(23,071)	(3,897)
Accrued matching thrift plan obligations	(76,762)	84,966
Accrued insurance obligations	10,599	(11,685)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>13,561</u>	<u>106,980</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	206,482	421,515
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(216,533)</u>	<u>(416,588)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from mortgage payable	(216,533)	(416,588)
Principal payments on mortgage payable		
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	<u>(14,782)</u>	<u>350,000</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(14,782)</u>	<u>(8,247)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	(24,833)	346,680
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>7,669,415</u>	<u>7,322,735</u>
Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosures:		
Interest paid	\$ 21,868	13,133

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements. 4

Fiscal Year 2009-10 Fiscal Year 2008-9

Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,437,977	\$6,454,086
Total assets	13,505,382	13,494,351
Total liabilities	1,553,608	1,644,063
Unrestricted net assets	11,848,338	11,759,348
Total income	23,870,107	24,735,699
Change in net assets	101,486	878,555

Financial statements continue on next page

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association							
Schedule of Functional Expenses							
Year Ended June 30, 2010							
	Program Services				Management and General		Totals
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,529,106	633,489	-	1,408,732	1,316,006	-	8,887,333
Contracted services and fees	30,753	2,798	-	254,137	202,729	6,753	497,170
Broadcast media and advertising	-	-	-	615,038	-	-	615,038
Print media and advertising	13,661	21,094	-	1,063,356	20,498	3,526	1,122,135
Postage and shipping	25,719	11,975	-	1,006,217	6,562	2,461	1,052,934
Building and equipment lease/rental	6,981	146,443	-	13,095	12,196	339	179,054
Telephone and utilities	74,282	820	-	6,258	124,465	-	205,825
Supplies	73,333	19,528	-	42,483	63,540	3,543	202,427
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	1,246,100	90,932	-	44,114	138,013	31,591	1,550,750
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	214,892	-	214,892
Grants and charitable support:							
International support	5,832	1,202	2,424,914	907,106	439	-	3,339,493
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	1,013,682	183,127	-	-	-	-	1,196,809
Allocations to local congregations	1,785,430	-	-	-	-	-	1,785,430
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	2,802,525	-	2,802,525
Other	72,898	6,278	-	7,752	90,146	2,127	119,297
Total expenses	\$ 9,877,777	1,117,796	2,424,914	5,368,289	4,942,011	50,340	23,781,117

11

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association							
Schedule of Functional Expenses							
Year Ended June 30, 2009							
	Program Services				Management and General		Totals
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,974,666	670,076	-	1,328,159	1,390,777	-	9,363,678
Contracted services and fees	7,337	-	-	83,639	196,079	9,075	293,130
Broadcast media and advertising	-	-	-	754,324	-	-	754,324
Print media and advertising	57,443	16,591	-	1,101,246	6,922	6,720	1,189,922
Postage and shipping	44,628	7,772	-	1,162,014	17,076	2,067	1,233,557
Building and equipment lease/rental	4,411	145,859	-	11,657	15,711	249	177,887
Telephone and utilities	74,135	1,133	-	5,212	102,293	-	182,773
Supplies	69,539	6,152	-	57,436	57,679	1,449	192,246
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	1,451,348	75,867	-	56,994	146,520	40,707	1,771,436
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	188,730	-	188,730
Grants and charitable support:							
International support	6,517	7,405	2,310,007	1,076,287	232	-	3,400,448
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	911,175	132,911	-	-	-	-	1,044,086
Allocations to local congregations	2,013,001	-	-	-	-	-	2,013,001
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	2,038,067	-	2,038,067
Other	61,276	23,481	-	15,957	2,875	30	103,619
Total expenses	\$ 10,675,476	1,087,247	2,310,007	5,649,905	4,162,952	60,297	23,945,964

12

Ready to Answer

by Jeremy Lallier

The first winter in the New World came quickly for the 102 Pilgrims who stepped off the *Mayflower*. With no time to plant crops or establish a town or community on land, 45 settlers succumbed to malnutrition, scurvy or other diseases that first winter as they lived aboard the *Mayflower*. Sick and weak, and with insufficient food supplies, the survivors struggled on.

The next year was a different story. With the help of the nearby Wampanoag tribe, the remaining settlers were able to supplement their food stores with crops and hunted animals. As the harvest drew near, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans held a three-day-long celebratory feast. Two years later, Governor William Bradford declared the harvest festival a day to “render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.” Recognizing a divine hand in the colony’s prosperity and survival, Bradford dedicated time to thank Him for it.

More than 200 years later, embroiled in the midst of the U.S. Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national celebration, to be “a day of

Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” In the middle of a war that divided a country, Lincoln, like Bradford, set aside a day for praise.

And now, 147 years after Lincoln’s proclamation and 389 after Bradford’s, Americans find themselves again approaching a day established to give thanks to God for His blessings in their lives. These two men challenged the people to count their blessings in spite of harsh conditions and war, and this issue’s “Ready to Answer” challenges you to do the same, in spite of whatever trials you may be facing.

So, what are you thankful for?

Send in Your Response

Send your 100- to 300-word answer, along with your name and congregation, to your local pastor and ask him to forward it to *United News*. You can also e-mail them to UN@ucg.org. We may use your response in an upcoming *United News*!

June Ready to Answer Question:

Your coworkers ask you one day what makes your church so great that you go back every week? There are plenty of reasons, but you’ll need to keep your response brief and to the point or risk losing your coworkers’ attention. How do you answer?

“I have had similar conversations and have had people comment that they would never make a long drive to church. ‘Been there. Done that!’ I have heard some say.

“After one such conversation, my husband and I were in a retail establishment. At one point during our shopping, we found ourselves behind another customer in the same aisle as us. When he turned around, the back of his T-shirt had a profound statement written on it. This statement has become my motto: ‘The church that is alive is worth the drive.’ That is the end of it. No more needs to be said.

*Pam Redline
Bismarck, North Dakota, congregation*

“Well, some 20-plus years ago, when President Ronald Reagan declared it to be the ‘Year of the Bible’ in America, I decided to read the Bible cover to cover. It took me nine months to do it, but I discovered right there in the second chapter of Genesis, the very first book in the Bible, God blessed and made the Sabbath on the seventh day of creation in verses 2 and 3! I used to think it was just for Israel, but Israel didn’t come along until more than 2,000 years later.

“So I started wondering if any Christian church anywhere was keeping God’s commands the way He made them. A few weeks later I found the Church and learned there were congregations in many countries! I found the closest one and started going every Saturday. I thought if they knew the truth about the Sabbath being made in the beginning for all mankind, maybe they knew the truth about lots of other Bible things too. I’ve been going ever since.”

*Jeanette Cristoforo
Saginaw, Michigan, congregation*

“Let me answer it this way. You all have, or desire to have, families and want those families to have the best you can provide for them. This means teaching them good values by which to live and be successful in life. Well, God is our Creator and Father, and He desires that for us as well. That is why He left us with His instruction manual, the Bible. I go to church each week to hear the lessons and instructions in that manual in order to apply them in my life. It provides the purpose for life and a vision to a wonderful future.”

*Aylen Gray
Tacoma, Washington, congregation*

“From the beginning, what impressed me about my church was that its teachings are rational. Sure, emotion does have a place in religion, but not first place.

“One example of a rational teaching is that my church does not believe in eternal hell fire torture for sinners. All churches teach that God is love. But then they say that if you don’t give your heart to the Lord, or if some priest doesn’t reach you in time on your deathbed, you’ll burn forever in hell.

“To die is one thing. To be tortured forever is worse than what Hitler, Stalin or any murderer could ever contemplate, and that makes God a monster. To believe God is both love and a monster is a contradiction.

“Another rational teaching of my church is that all humans who have ever lived will have an equal opportunity for salvation. In other words, God is fair. Most if not all of the churches I’ve studied believe that unless you accept Christ as your Savior before you die in this life, you lose salvation.

“What about the billions of people who have never heard of Christ? Are they lost forever? To believe God is love and not fair is also a contradiction.

“Finally, my church believes that the Bible and the examples found in it best express the will of God. There are many varied and contradictory teachings in the world today, but what Christ and the apostles taught does not change with time.

“So my church tries to follow Paul’s admonition: ‘Follow me as I follow Christ.’

“If you’re trying to please God with your worship, this seems the logical thing to do.

“For these reasons, and much more, my church is worth a two-hour trip.”

*Helmut Rudajs
Los Angeles, California, congregation*

“Hmm, I go to church every weekend because it makes my week complete when I go to the family gathering God the Father planned. After a hard week, it is great to hear His encouraging words and have fellowship with the brethren.”

*Phyllis Newton
Eau Claire, Wisconsin, congregation*

United Youth Corps: Elders Visit Project in Jordan

by David Register

The United Youth Corps project in Jordan is off to a great start! Before the Feast in Jordan, Cory Erickson, United Youth Corps Jordan project liaison and Jordan Feast coordinator, and I met with the four Jordan volunteers and officials at the schools in Jordan where the volunteers serve.

The four volunteers for the 2010 to 2011 academic year are Darren and Amber Henke, from the Seattle, Washington, area; Stella Helterbrand, from Cincinnati, Ohio; and Amanda Hendee, from Dallas, Texas. All four are ABC alumni and were selected for this 10-month project from a dozen applicants.

Darren and Amber serve at the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) School for the Mentally Challenged, while Stella and Amanda serve at the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS). Darren teaches classes in woodworking shop, and Amber teaches art classes. They have also begun to teach English classes to mentally challenged students at the YMWA.

Stella and Amanda work in the administrative office and serve as coaches for the volleyball team at ABS. They also serve as English instructors for refugees, as



Dave Register, vice president of the YMWA board of directors Khadijeh Siraj, Princess Rahma bint El Hassan and Cory Erickson

part of the ABS's community outreach and service project.

We shared the Day of Atonement with the volunteers, and everyone broke the fast at a traditional Jordanian restaurant in Amman. The following day we visited with officials at ABS and toured the school. The principal of ABS, Bryan Stuart, was very

enthusiastic about our volunteers and said they have made significant contributions to ABS and the students at the private school over the past four years. He also mentioned the fine examples our volunteers provide for the students and faculty at ABS.

The next day we visited the YMWA and met with officials and teachers from the

school and the Jordanian royal family. The royal family has been a sponsor of both schools for over 25 years. Princess Sarvath El Hassan requested volunteers from the United Youth Corps in 2007 because of the long relationship the Church has had with the projects in Jordan.

The princess has now turned over the board responsibilities at YMWA to her daughter, Princess Rahma bint El Hassan. We had a very cordial visit with the princess, YMWA board members and Rasha Nasrallah, director of the YMWA. Princess Rahma, board members and the director all expressed appreciation for our volunteers and hope we can continue our involvement with the YMWA.

We feel that God has opened a door for us to serve and set an example of Christian service in Jordan. We reiterated with all the officials at the schools that we have many young adults who are enthusiastic about serving abroad and that we are committed to long-term involvement with our project in Jordan.

If you are interested in serving on one of our Youth Corps projects, please check our Web site, www.ucgyouthcorps.org, for more information and an application. **UN**

David Register is the coordinator for General Education.

United Youth Corps: Fun, Fellowship and Furthering Relationships in Nigeria

by Bobbi Kitts

The fifth annual United Youth Camp in Nigeria kicked off on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010. Program director Mark Mickelson and his wife, Michelle, along with Caleb Janicich and Cody and Bobbi Kitts arrived from the United States the previous Tuesday, Aug. 10.

We had five relaxing days, including a wonderful Sabbath, to adjust to our surroundings before camp began. Caleb, who was in Nigeria for the first time, used this time to begin to explore the food, language and culture of the country; and we all quickly realized that with his adventurous spirit, he was going to fit into the program quite nicely.

On Sunday, Aug. 15, our work began in earnest. Sixteen campers and 14 staff members from the Benin City, Lagos and Owerri congregations, as well as the five Youth Corps participants, arrived at the Afobaje Hotel near Ayetoro, Ogun state, for a week of fun, fellowship and furthering relationships with God and each other.

Camp director Oludare Akinbo, assisted by his wife Tohun, had planned an exciting week for all of us. Activities included computer appreciation, crafts, dance, rock climbing, rope bridge traversing, softball and volleyball. After breakfast and a "Compass Check" to start each day off right, campers split into two teams of eight—the blue team and the green team—for the day's events.

Highlights for many campers were rock climbing and the rope bridge since such activities are quite rare in Nigeria. As you might imagine, both activities gave some campers the opportunity to face fears and grow more courageous!

Softball was a new activity this year. Most of the campers had never before picked up a bat, ball or glove. It was quite a challenge for the staff to explain and demonstrate the



The blue team celebrates victory

rules of this brand-new game, but by the end of the week the campers understood the basics and had begun to develop their fielding and hitting skills.

Throughout the week, anticipation had been building for Friday—the day of team challenges.

After lunch that afternoon, the whole camp gathered at the softball field for the championship game. After five innings, the blue team emerged victorious.

Next, we gathered at the site of the rope bridge activity. The campers had practiced setting up a Tyrolean traverse between two 15-foot-high platforms that had been built

around two trees some distance apart. Their goal was to set up the traverse and transport all the members of the team from one platform to the other—and to do it all faster and with fewer mistakes than the

for the Bible bowl that would take place during dinner that evening.

For our last meal together, the Akinbos and the Mickelsons had planned a cowboy-themed banquet. The Akinbos and the five Youth Corps members donned their best cowboy jeans and kerchiefs and served the meal to the campers and staff while music from the Bar J Wranglers played in the background. Each team created short videos during computer appreciation class to illustrate the camp experience, and they had the opportunity to show their work after the Bible bowl. To wrap up the evening, campers got to use their newly acquired line, waltz and swing dancing skills during a camp dance.

The next morning, it was time to say goodbye. Though there were a few tears, campers and staff reminded each other that they would be together again in a few short weeks at the Feast of Tabernacles. By 8 a.m., all the campers and most of the staff had begun their journeys home. Mr. Akinbo and several of the local staff then treated the Youth Corps participants to a

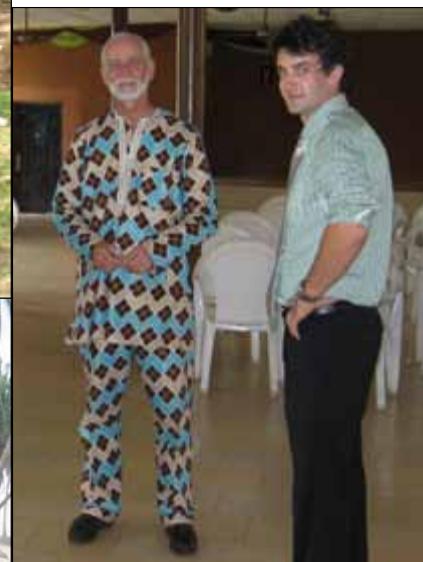
trip to a secluded part of the beach on the Bight of Benin for an immensely enjoyable last day in Nigeria.

The following evening we boarded a plane to head for home, already missing our Nigerian family, but thankful for the opportunity we had had to spend time with them. **UN**

For more photos from the United Youth Corps project in Nigeria, go to the United News Facebook fanpage at www.facebook.com/UCGUnitedNews. For more information about the United Youth Corps, visit www.ucgyouthcorps.org.



Bobbi and Codi Kitts



Mark Mickelson and Caleb Janicich

other team. In the end, the green team won this contest. The volleyball championship followed; and after three tough games, the green team

again prevailed.

That evening brought the Sabbath, which gave us all a welcome chance to slow down a bit from the fast-paced week. Sabbath services the next day were followed by several hours of downtime during which campers reviewed their notes from the Bible studies given throughout the week in preparation

Camp Heritage Wraps Up 2010 UYC Season



Campers scramble to win possession of the basketball

by Doug Johnson

Our 15th consecutive year conducting a United Youth Camps program at the Heritage Reservation, a 2,000-acre Boy Scout complex near Farmington, Pennsylvania, took place Aug. 15 to 22. We had a smaller attendance than usual this year, perhaps partly due to the fact that our UYC “neighbor to the west” (Camp Pinecrest, Missouri) had to reschedule its operation for August in 2010 as well.

The weather was perfect all week, with temperatures near 80 degrees for daytime highs, dropping into the 60s for overnight lows—great weather for tent-camping in the Laurel Highlands of western Pennsylvania. However, on the last night of camp, we did

have 1.2 inches of rain—which meant a slightly soggy end to camp—but it wasn’t enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the campers or staff.

Daily Christian Living classes focused on the theme of “camp supports parents,” with presenters approaching the topic from different angles. We enjoyed a fine presentation on the Ambassador Bible Center given by one of the ABC instructors, David Johnson, on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

The media class produced both the annual slide show (with video clips) for the Saturday night dance and volume 4 of *The Heritage Herald*, the camp newspaper for the Camp Heritage program. Campers and staff were able to take copies of both DVD and newspaper home with them when they

checked out Aug. 22.

Our Adventure campers (aged 12 to 15) revisited the Discovery program at Heritage after a three-year hiatus and enjoyed the challenge of trap shooting and wall climbing. Challenge campers (aged 16 to 18) once again successfully took on the Lower Youghiogheny River for an 8-mile whitewater-rafting trip.

Softball, speedway, volleyball, wilderness skills, archery, riflery, basketball, water polo and kayaking rounded out the days for our campers. Oh, and don’t forget “campus improvement”!

Heritage’s annual camper all stars vs. staff softball game was the most thrilling on record, ending in an extra-inning tie when the game had to be called on account of darkness. Now that’s going to be hard to beat next year!

Once more we were grateful for God’s protection and guidance. Thankfully, injuries were mostly of the sprains, bumps, bruises and scratches variety.

The overall atmosphere was great—a testament to both staff and campers for their participation and desire to build and nurture “the Zone.”

Next year’s camp is set for Aug. 14 to 21, 2011. That will mark a milestone in our excellent relationship with the Boy



Campers practice campfire building skills



Campers show their enthusiasm for the day’s activities

Scouts of the Greater Pittsburgh Council. Heritage Reservation will mark its 32nd summer next year, and 2011 will be our 16th consecutive year at the facility—meaning we will have shared this beautiful site with our gracious hosts for half the years it has been in operation. See you there! **UN**

Letters

Beyond Today Viewer Is “Understanding More Than Ever”

I’ve been watching your TV program for about a month now. I never really was into that stuff until I saw your program.

I’ve ordered literature and I’m reading all of it. I’m understanding more now than ever about the Bible and life itself. I want to thank you for opening my eyes to the truth and helping me understand.

Internet

Free Bible Study Guide Students Thankful for “Armor of God” Series

A very enlightening, instructive and relevant topic for sobering Christians who are always seeking knowledge and ways on how to overcome the daily trials we encounter in our path so that we may remain standing until the coming of our Savior. Thank you for this course and for having satisfied the seventh part of the armor, denoting completion in God’s plan. The seventh part, the sword, was a new understanding for me.

I have studied this on my own in the past but was unable to satiate

my hunger the way your program was able to. Thank you, and I will continue to be a heavy user of this program.

Internet

Wow! Your Web site is such a blessing to me in my study of the armor of God.

The information is concise and clear and abounds with the truth of God. The Web site itself is very well done. I thank you so much for the obvious dedication that went into it and for helping me to understand God’s Word. May He bless you thoroughly.

Internet

Member’s Eyes Filled With Tears of Joy Reading What Is Your Destiny?

I am on page 18 of the new *What Is Your Destiny?* booklet sent with the Aug. 31, 2010, member letter.

I had to stop and let you know how great it is. It took me back 45 years ago when I read *Why Were You Born?* How magnificent to contemplate the plan the eternal God family has for us! What a privilege to have a part in making that incredible good news available to the world!

My eyes were filled with tears of joy, my lips with thanks to the

Holy Father and Son who lead us.

Thank you all who have a part in making such wonderful tools to preach the gospel possible. God bless and help you to continue to do so.

Internet

Readers in Australia Comment on UCG Booklets

Your work on *Jesus Christ: The Real Story* was fantastic. I really enjoyed the in-depth analysis of His life. I will continue now to learn the Bible with more joy, thanks to your publications. Please send me the booklets *Sunset to Sunset: God’s Sabbath Rest* and *The Ten Commandments*.

Brunswick, Victoria

Thank you very much for your insightful *Bible Study Course* and your great magazine and booklet *Holidays or Holy Days*. I learned a lot, and it really opened my eyes to the truth behind the Festivals. Keep up the great work.

Manjimup, Western Australia

I received *Does God Exist?* and have found it a wonderful and brilliantly written piece of work. It has given me a new meaning in life and a new search for God...

I thank you for your wonderful contribution.

Glenwood, New South Wales

Would you please send me at your earliest convenience some of your literature, which I have listed below? I have a copy of the book *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy* and have read and reread it and lent it to friends. It is now a little battered and worn as I use it as a source of reference. I can never understand why the information in this book is completely overlooked, as I have been a churchgoer for most of my life and have never heard this subject taught or preached about.

Severnlea, Queensland

United News Article Touches Grieving Citizens

If you notice a lot of extra hits for one article in the September-October *United News*, I can explain the reason why.

I posted a link to the article “Why Bad Things Happen to God’s People” on my main blog Friday, in the wake of a stunning murder in my city.

A worship leader and morning host at a contemporary Christian radio station was found dead in his driveway at age 25—shot after

he came home from lunch and found a burglar in his house.

That link was picked up over the weekend by *TheRiverCityReport.com*, a local version of the *Drudge Report*. The woman behind that Web site is a friend of mine and said she found the article helpful.

This killing has touched quite a nerve in Columbus, so interest in that article is likely to be strong. Whatever inspired Jeremy Lallier to write it, his timing was superb.

Columbus, Georgia

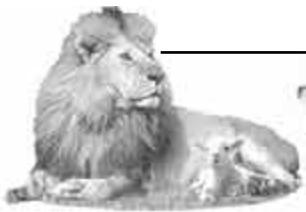
GN Reader Online Survey Comments From the July-August 2010 Issue

You have changed my thinking towards the Word of God by making me realize that every word of God is true, and this has given me more confidence in reading and studying the Bible. I thank God for giving you the knowledge and pray that He continues to empower you.

Anonymous

I very much appreciate the great job done by the *GN* magazine team. I’m always eagerly waiting for the next issue. I am in India. How can I pay the subscription or any contribution in Indian rupees?

Anonymous



The Feast of **Tabernacles**

Nearly 20,000 Celebrate the Feast With United Church of God

Feast Attendance

Australia	
Merimbula, N.S.W.	207
Rockingham, W.A.	100
Sunshine Coast, Qld.	411
Ulverstone, Tasmania.	66
Bahamas	177
Barbados	156
Bolivia	27
Brazil	65
British Isles	207
Burundi	112
Canada	
Collingwood, Ontario	215
Kelowna, British Columbia.	227
Moncton, New Brunswick.	54
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..	75
St. John's, Newfoundland.	9
Chile	183
Colombia	52
Congo	35
Estonia	32
Fiji	9
France	130
Germany	223
Ghana	400
Guatemala	166
India	19
Italy	281
Ivory Coast	153
Jamaica	391
Jordan	116
Kenya	290
Malawi	158
Malaysia	60
Mauritius	20
Mexico	41
New Zealand	101
Nigeria	117
Philippines	
Baguio City	163
Davao City	400
Iloilo City	125
Portugal	178
Rwanda	64
South Africa	
George	75
Uvongo	193
Sri Lanka	50
Tobago	59
Togo	74
Tonga	10
United States	
Anchorage, Alaska	450
Bend-Redmond, Oregon.	1,028
Branson, Missouri	1,472
Bushkill, Pennsylvania.	548
Daytona Beach, Florida ..	2,437
Escondido, California	854
Kerrville, Texas	775
Panama City Beach, Florida.	1,399
Snowshoe, West Virginia	853
Steamboat Springs, Colorado.	737
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.	1,576
Zambia	280
Zimbabwe	97
Total Attendance	18,982
Shut-ins who received Feast sermons from the home office.	680
TOTAL	19,662

Note: Highest daily attendance figures. Webcast connections (maximum connections, 430) are not added into this total.

Australia

Merimbula, New South Wales

Over 200 people enjoyed another happy and hospitable Feast at Merimbula. With mild, sunny weather throughout the Feast, fellowship opportunities and activities were available day and night. As usual, open-house gatherings, dinner parties, barbecues and eating at restaurants kept everyone in close touch throughout the Feast. The energetic enjoyed a bike-hike and a bushwalk, while the seniors enjoyed lunch at the historic Grange Restaurant. The games night and Last Great Day luncheon continued the fellowship generated during services.

The theme of preparing for entry into the Kingdom of God began



Mae Smeed with Bruce and Jeanette Dean in Merimbula, New South Wales

on the opening night with Festival coordinator Bruce Dean's message "Who Does God Want in His Kingdom?" Steve Clark discussed the prospect of peace in the Kingdom and how it begins with forgiveness.

Mr. Dean gave a heartfelt sermon on the difference for children in Satan's world and God's. He introduced his sermon with the blessing of Emily Ryan and Oliver Dean. With families from Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Wollongong it gave all family members the opportunity to share the occasion.

On the Last Great Day Steve Clark cautioned us never to take our understanding for granted, to stay the course and exhibit the mercy and love of God in our lives. He said that the greatest blessing demonstrated in the parable of the prodigal son was that the son could return to his Father.

One of the highlights was a sermonette by Kel McFadden from the Newcastle congregation. Kel has experienced some terrible health issues this year when he lost his right eye and his nose to skin cancer. He has endured very difficult treatments and partial face reconstruction. On top of this, Kel's wife, Merly, fell and broke her knee during the Feast. She had to have an operation to repair it. Merly still attended the last three days of the Feast.

In the sermonette Kel described his year and the trauma of it all. Then Kel recounted three major lessons he learned: Allow God to help carry the burden of the trial; talk more to God and He will give the right words at the right time; be still and know that God is God. Finally, the sermonette gave Kel the opportunity to thank everyone personally for their prayers and support. After his sermonette the audience broke into applause, and there were many tears in the hall.

Mavis Stucci

Rockingham, Western Australia

Around 100 members gathered together in Rockingham, Western Australia, to celebrate the wonderful plan of our great God. This beautiful seaside location, along with the inspiring messages, made it the perfect place to come together to worship God and enjoy His bountiful blessings.

Feast coordinator Matt Sieff set the theme for the Feast by presenting each member with a ticket that provided admittance to a Millennial Tour. Throughout the next eight days we

enjoyed a glimpse into many different aspects of God's Kingdom. The speakers were certainly inspired and the members were certainly uplifted.

The addition of visitors from the eastern Australian states, along with members from Malaysia, Canada and the United States, added to the unity and love that was so evident here.

The activities began with a meet and greet following the service on the first day, offering an opportunity for everyone to get acquainted. Chocolate Bingo satisfied the need for chocolate, and the quiz results proved that God certainly hasn't called the wise. A beach barbecue gave families the chance to not only enjoy a picnic and chat together, but to test their skills in games such as marshmallow and spoon races, quoits, cricket and the traditional tug-of-war.

Many added to the fun at the Disney-themed family dance by coming in costume. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes, and all enjoyed a great night of dancing and games.

Rene Balugo's sermonette on the existence of God and the marvels of His creation set the perfect tone for the scenic bus trip. Many were able to enjoy the wonders of God in the deep at the underwater aquarium, followed by the beautiful

display of wildflowers at Kings Park.

The ladies enjoyed a special treat in the form of a high tea. Diane Younger from the Perth congregation prepared beautiful gifts and treats for the 40 ladies that attended. Eve Gray from Sydney gave an encouraging talk on love languages as tea and coffee were enjoyed by all.

The Last Great Day provided not only a physical feast, with a catered buffet luncheon, but also a spiritual feast as we looked ahead to the reality of God's Kingdom for all mankind.

A fitting ending to a wonderful Feast was the final hymn "Till We Meet Again!"

Matthew Sieff

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

The Sunshine Coast opened the Feast of Tabernacles on the eve of the first Holy Day by singing the inspiring hymn "The Lord God Reigns!" The 411 people in attendance, from Australia, United States, New Zealand and South Africa, united their voices in song, creating a wave of excitement at being together to celebrate God's Holy Days, and this excitement continued to the last hymn on the last day. We again had people attending for the first time who went away deeply inspired with the meaning of the Feast.

The messages we heard were inspiring and encouraging, focusing on the Kingdom of God, the Millennium and how we can allow God to work in our lives and give us the strength to grow spiritually and live in "the mind of the Kingdom."

All of the Australian and international guest speakers brought their passion for God's Word and truth to their messages, giving us many things to think about and to take home and apply in our lives. And we soaked it up! Our international guest speakers also learned how to speak Aussie and in turn relayed to us their Australian experiences that were very amusing!



Children in Sunshine Coast listen to surfing and beach instruction

The wide variety of special music that we heard throughout the Feast was incredibly beautiful and very moving, giving us goosebumps or bringing a tear to our eyes. The children's choir was, as always, a highlight, showcasing their sweet young voices and their gorgeous, big smiles.

The Young Adults Welcome on the evening of the first day facilitated the meeting and fellowship of those from other countries. Other activities were barefoot lawn bowling for the seniors, surfing and beach instruction for the teens, a barbecue and maze activity also for the teens and families, Family Day and, by popular request, an Aussie Bush Dance.

On the Last Great Day, after singing the beautiful, concluding hymn, "One Faith, One Love," we said good-bye to many new and old friends, looking forward to when we can see them again on the Sabbath or during other Holy Day seasons. Many comments about the warmth and friendliness and joy of the Feast were heard. Our people, who enthusiastically attended from all over led by a spirit of love, really made this Feast.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this a wonderful and positive Feast of Tabernacles. We look forward to keeping many more Holy Day seasons with our brethren, and we welcome everyone to the beautiful Sunshine Coast again next year.

Leah Shallcross

Ulverstone, Tasmania

This year in Tasmania we observed the Feast in a new venue. After some minor adjustments, it worked very well for all.

We greatly appreciated having Bob Berendt, a Council of Elders member from Canada, as guest speaker at the Feast site in Ulverstone, Tasmania. Mr. Berendt spent the first half of the Feast in Tasmania before traveling to Perth, Western Australia, for the second half of the Feast.

The messages were directed toward the coming Kingdom of God, our part in it and what is required of us to be there, along with the enormity and importance of the resurrection of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium.

The Tasmanian Feast site was small with 66 people, but the members took to heart the admonition to come together to rejoice and



Lesby and Trevor Huthnance

learn. Small sites allow the opportunity to meet and fellowship with all present, and this was done at every chance. There was good response to the available activities, which gave further occasion to get to know one another; and positive feedback was received. Over half of those at the Feast site this year were visitors from other Australian states.

Thanks to the hard work of those involved, we enjoyed the benefit of special music each day of the Feast. As usual, all who had service opportunities carried them out quietly and efficiently to the benefit of all.

Barry Williams

Bahamas

Nassau

This year marked the third time that the Feast of Tabernacles was held in the Bahamas and the first time it was held on the island of New Providence under the banner of the United Church of God. Over 160 brethren gathered at the Sheraton Cable Beach Resort for eight days of spiritual and physical feasting and fellowship. The ambiance of the resort as well as the warm sunshine and beautiful blue waters surrounding the island provided a perfect setting for this year's Feast.

The opening night's message set the tone by asking, "Why are we here?" This was followed by a banquet of sermons and sermonettes admonishing us to have the best Feast ever, to ensure that we will not only be at the next Feast but that we make our calling and election sure, to be a part of the millennial reign of Christ, while ensuring that we glorify God and let our lights shine in our daily lives.

It was clear from the beginning that this Feast was going to be a special one as, on the second day of the Feast of Tabernacles, brethren were hosted to a delightful afternoon tea at Government House. This event was hosted by the wife of the gov-

ernor general of the Bahamas, Lady Joan Foulkes and sponsored by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. Brethren were treated to old Bahamian storytelling and beautiful jazz music while sampling delicious teas and goodies from the Bahamas. By all accounts it was a delightful afternoon for all.

Other planned events held were a Family Day held on the hotel's beach, a trip to Blue Lagoon Island and a family dance that had persons of all ages on the dance floor, as the deejay played a variety of music that allowed everyone to have a great time.

Additionally, some of our brave brethren organized a scuba diving and shark-feeding expedition and showed a DVD of their adventure one afternoon after services. A video presentation of the congregations in the Caribbean was also shown after some services.

The Last Great Day messages focused on the second resurrection and its importance for all mankind. Between services, brethren were able to enjoy a scrumptious buffet luncheon.

At the beginning of the Feast, we were asked to pray for the best Feast ever. Our prayers were answered, as this first Feast of Tabernacles here in Nassau proved to be a great success, with brethren requesting that the Feast be held here again next year.

Sharlene Johnson

Barbados

The Feast in Barbados was held at DIVI Southwinds Beach Resort on the beautiful south coast of the island. Although we were experiencing higher than average rainfall this year, God blessed us with beautiful sunny weather throughout the Feast.

The majority attending were from Barbados and the United States, in addition to members from Canada, England, the Netherlands and the Caribbean islands of St. Croix, Dominica and St. Vincent. The average attendance per service was 142 and the highest 156.

God inspired the messages so that the material, while delivered by very different personalities, often complemented each other. Two general themes that emerged were hope for all mankind and the need for greater urgency in preparing for the Kingdom.



The Soto family in Barbados

Youth workbooks received from the home office were handed out at the Feast.

Four planned activities came off successfully. There was a dance held Saturday night at the conference center with live music on steel pans and additional music played by a deejay. The bus tour of part of the island on Sunday included a visit to Harrison's Cave.

The Family Day picnic on Monday was held at Miami Beach, a 20-minute drive from the convention center. Most spent the time swimming or sitting in the shade and fellowshipping. The more energetic played volleyball.

The catamaran cruise on Tuesday was the highlight of the activities. This included a cruise along the west coast of the island, a swim with the turtles, swimming and snorkeling over a shipwreck and reef, a fine meal and our returning to port as the sun set.

Other events included a Friday evening Bible study, a teen bowling outing and a musical appreciation session with hymn singing, selections on piano, duets and other pieces.

There was special music every service at the Feast, and as usual it was outstanding. There were selections by the Festival choir and children's choir, a small group, a duet and four solos.

God poured out His blessings on us at His Feast—great weather, inspired messages, everything good and in abundance. It was truly a foretaste of God's coming Kingdom.

Stephen Crosby

Bolivia

Coroico

The Feast in Bolivia was held in a beautiful tropical paradise called Coroico. Attendees hailed from Bolivia, Spain, Argentina and the United States, all traveling in a bus from La Paz to Coroico along a new road that replaced the famous El Camino de la Muerte ("Death Highway"). We traveled to a height of 15,420 feet and then down to 3,937 feet while enjoying the many breathtaking views of this mountainous journey.

The hotel, "El Molino Viejo" (The Old Mill), is located in the peaceful and millennial setting of the country. Colorful birds can be seen soaring

at least 1,000 feet overhead. A flock of parrots would come fluttering by while one rested in a chair. The mountains were covered with thick vegetation, including trees such as tangerine, lemon and banana. The view of the mountains and valley is like overlooking the Grand Canyon—



Coroico, Bolivia

it is immense and one can see for miles!

The brethren rejoiced as one large family by eating three meals a day together at one long table. This allowed plenty of time for conversing, lengthy biblical discussions and enjoying each other's company.

Services were inspiring as all learned about living in peace and harmony, the throne of God, having faith built on the Rock, Christ's service-based leadership and God's soon coming Kingdom. The high attendance was 27.

Relaxing afternoons were spent swimming and conversing around the pool. This was especially popular with the children. Some took taxis into the village to enjoy ice cream or coffee. Others enjoyed tea on the terrace while playing cards, and some played basketball or volleyball.

One evening, eight local musicians played typical Bolivian music for our listening and dancing enjoyment. Another night, there was a dance with music from the '80s, and other nights were free for activities like watching videos, playing cards or relaxing.

The highlight of the Feast was the evening after the Last Great Day. All 27 brethren piled into taxis for a trip into town to have pizza, beer and coke. We exceeded the maximum seating capacity of the cozy pizzeria, but the volume of the conversation and laughter was evidence of the joy and camaraderie of everyone eating together at the conclusion of God's Feast.

The seclusion, peace and tranquility of this place led to a millennial feeling. It was a time where everyone could share, rejoice, be at peace with one another and look forward to this time being a reality. The Spirit of God was evident all through this Feast.

Scott and Gayle Hoefker

Brazil

Maloca de Moscou

An unforgettable Feast of Tabernacles was celebrated in the indigenous area of Maloca de Moscou. It is located some 40 miles southeast of Boa Vista. These Brazilian brethren are from the indigenous reserve of the Wapixana tribe, and they were deeply involved in the preparation and organization of this Festival site.

The total attendance was 65, including a large number of young people. The site had various activities for everyone's enjoyment.

The theme was the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth upon the glorious return of our savior Jesus Christ. The messages were from Geraldo de Souza (deacon), Nelson Mateus da Silva, Ricardo Mateus da Silva and Benedito Gomes da Silva, all members of the local congregation. Other messages were given by Clyde Chinian and Wanderson Esquerdo, members from Guyana and Bolivia, respectively.

During services it was especially interesting to hear the music presented by the children and ladies in Portuguese, English and Wapixana.



Maloca de Moscou, Brazil

Nearly all Festival attendees participated in the talent show with songs in the three languages, accompanied by a guitar and electronic organ. Additionally there were dance presentations. To conclude the talent show, the brethren broke out into a spontaneous dance with live music.

Other activities included games and various children's activities in which the adults were also involved.

In addition, there were a number of Bible studies covering various topics, such as the church eras.

Overall, the Feast was full of inspiration, underscored by brotherly love and a commitment to individually strive for the Kingdom of God.

Wanderson Esquerdo

British Isles

Stirling, Scotland

The venue for this year's Feast of Tabernacles in the British Isles was the historic city of Stirling in Scotland. Thus the Feast had a uniquely Scottish flavor: a piper played before services on the Sabbath and Holy Days. Those of Scottish descent wore their traditional kilts; and we had two evenings of Scottish dancing, the first to practice and the second to try out those new skills to the accompaniment of a full *ceilidh* band.

With 225 Feastgoers registered, the highest attendance was 207. Visitors from the United States, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium and Sweden joined members from the several nations comprising the British Isles.

The program included 10 services, two interactive Bible studies and a leadership seminar. Visiting pastors Greg Sargent and David Dobson contributed sermons and Bible studies, with additional messages from British Isles senior pastor Paul Suckling, as well as David Witt, Laurie Nyhus, Bruce Rivers, Daniel Berendt, David Payne, John Ross Schroeder and David Fenney.

From the opening night message focusing on the need for a complete restoration of God's ways in all aspects of human life, speakers wove a tapestry of retrospective, introspective and inspirational topics that highlighted the need for the Kingdom of God on earth and concluded with the imperative that we as Church members continue to live the meaning of the Feast after we get home, secure in the foundation of God's Word.

Away from the meeting hall, a party occupied the attention of the children and their parents with an afternoon of fun, cakes and face painting, while the seniors relaxed at a special afternoon tea. The teens and young adults enjoyed a group meal in one of Stirling's many restaurants.

Bus tours took members to St. Andrews, renowned as the home of golf as well as Scotland's oldest university; to Scone Palace, which

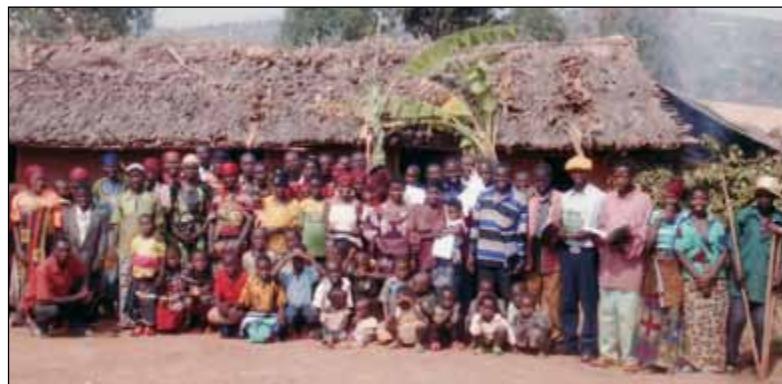
many regard as the rightful home of the celebrated Stone of Destiny; and to Loch Ness, Glencoe and the Highlands. Some went fishing; others hiked in nearby Trossachs National Park or spent an afternoon of shopping and sightseeing in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city.

David and Barbara Fenney

Burundi

Mugina

A total of 112 people gathered in the rural village of Mugina in northern Burundi to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2010. Services were held in the congregation's mud-brick hall, which was transformed into a dormitory each evening for those whose homes were too far away.



Feastgoers in Mugina, Burundi, stand in front of the building that doubles as church hall and dormitory

Sermons and sermonettes were translated from French into Kirundi for those who didn't understand French well. All were excited to hear the Bible truth about the Kingdom of God and the millennial reign of Christ on earth. This is still a fairly new understanding for many of those who attended. On many afternoons there were additional Bible studies based on either church literature or French-language sermons on CD. We also had additional training meetings for our congregational leaders.

Meals were prepared and served in common. We very much appreciate the assistance sent to us from the United States through the French Department. It allowed us to truly rejoice.

It was the start of the rainy season; and even though we had much rain, it did not dampen the joy and enthusiasm of the Feast. We send you our sincere thanks.

Moïse Ntiginzigo

Canada

Collingwood, Ontario

The beautiful full moon that shone over Georgian Bay was in clear view on the opening night of the Feast as 215 attendees met in our new meeting location at the Bear Estate Conference Centre at the Cranberry Resort. Robin Webber, pastor from California, got the Feast off to a good start with his message "Why Are You Here at the Feast?"

At spiritual mealtime throughout

the Feast we received a smorgasbord of messages on themes such as focusing on Christ, our part in the Kingdom, learning to sacrifice, endurance and many other meaningful messages. On Friday afternoon 110 brethren were treated to a *World News and Prophecy* seminar titled "Jerusalem: Past, Present and Future." In it, Mr. Webber enthusiastically showed through the Scriptures God's great love for Jerusalem and its importance in the future establishment of God's government.

The Feast video messages by Dennis Luker and Melvin Rhodes were very timely and topical and were very well received.

Sabbath morning emcee Patrick Read ushered in our annual seniors' brunch to honor our seniors' loyal dedication and steadfast endurance

Special music once again added much to our praise to God with a full choir, vocal, instrumental and clarinet ensemble for hymns. Many of our young people also helped out with ushering and the information table on youth day.

The positive attitude and cooperative spirit of those in Collingwood was much appreciated. It was so wonderful to see our American and Canadian brethren work together to help provide a smooth-running Feast for everyone to enjoy.

Dennis Horlick

Kelowna, British Columbia

About 227 rejoiced before God in Kelowna, British Columbia, for the Feast of Tabernacles. This has been United's Western Canadian Feast site since 1997. The messages were solid meat in due season with a lot of emphasis on Christian growth and development in order to become the perfect bride for Jesus Christ.

The Festival choir grew in size as the Feast progressed. Beautiful selections of music were sung, in praise to our God, enhanced by the wonderful acoustics in the Kelowna Community Theatre, where services were held. The staging was elegant with fine lighting. The weather was ideal, with mainly sunny skies and warm temperatures. The selection of accommodations available in the area suited all budgets, and many



Kelowna, British Columbia

were even able to walk to services in downtown Kelowna.

Activities included a golf tournament, a boat cruise, a ministerial dinner, Family Day at the Energyplex, a seniors' luncheon, teen and young adults' Bible studies as well

as some self-organized barbecues. Stuffed animals were handed out to the children on Youth Day. As usual, a collection was taken for the local food bank.

This year, we had a "Social Corner" where attendees could gather to meet and to make plans. A coffee bar ran in the foyer throughout the Feast, giving everyone a good place to fellowship before and after services. One visiting member commented that this was the friendliest site that he has attended since 1972!

Rainer Salomaa

Moncton, New Brunswick

This year the Feast was held in Moncton, New Brunswick. Throughout the Feast we experienced mostly mild days with a mix of sun and clouds.

The members attending represented seven of Canada's 10 provinces with a high attendance of 54.

As each day of the Feast passed, friendships and teamwork grew as we learned about our hope and vision of the time when we would be living with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God.

The Feast video message from Dennis Luker and Melvin Rhodes was very much appreciated and well-received.

The brethren enjoyed inspiring special music each day and the choir (consisting of 30 percent of the congregation) performed on three different occasions.

In addition to the spiritual food, the brethren were treated to two trips on a member's fishing boat into the Northumberland Strait to see the seals and beautiful scenery.

The brethren enjoyed a Festival dinner one evening and entertained each other with an evening variety show on another. The ladies learned about fine teas and enjoyed dainty pastries at an afternoon tea.

The musically talented among us organized a "jam session" one evening, inviting everyone to come and enjoy the music and have a sing-along while we ate "jam jam" cookies.

As we all said our good-byes at the end of the last sermon, we all knew that this year's Feast of Tabernacles had strengthened us to move ahead in our service to Jesus Christ and our Father in heaven.

Larry DeLong

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Summer lingered as 75 of God's people observed the Feast of Tabernacles in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, under warm sunshine and clear blue skies throughout the entire Festival.

The messages were well-received, with a strong theme related to our personal relationship with God, His Son Jesus Christ and our fellow brethren.

Three elders were present, including Barry Dubkowski and his wife, Carol, from Boise, Idaho; Steve Shafer, pastor of Seattle and Sedro-Woolley, Washington, and his wife, Evelyn, who spent the last half of the



Seniors in Collingwood, Ontario, enjoy their brunch on Sabbath morning



Saskatoon Festival choir performs on the Last Great Day

Festival in Saskatoon after spending the first portion in Kelowna; and Festival coordinator David Palmer, pastor of Vancouver and Vancouver Island, British Columbia, congregation, and his wife, Ghyslaine. Also assisting with speaking and song-leading assignments was Dale Cranford of Vancouver.

Although Saskatoon was a smaller Feast site, we did enjoy special music each day, including the pieces performed by the Saskatoon Festival choir. Since the meeting room where services were held was available to the Church all day, attendees had extra time for plenty of fellowship and activities, including a luncheon provided by the hotel between morning and afternoon services on the Last Great Day.

One of the activity highlights included a visit to Saskatoon's popular tourist attraction, the Berry Barn. Located just outside the city, the barn is famous for delicious home-cooked food, including Saskatoon berry pie, as well as a great view of the South Saskatchewan River. During our visit we were treated to a common site, hundreds of Canada geese heading south for the winter.

In addition to visitors from the prairie provinces—Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan—we also had visitors from as far away as Newfoundland and Kansas.

We extend a special thanks to Saskatoon members Jerry and Darlene Buck who, along with several other volunteers, had the site extremely well-organized.

Along with strong "meat in due season," God blessed the Feast in Saskatoon with warm harvest sunshine, beautiful blue skies and a wonderful spirit of friendship and fellowship. Hugs and tears were in abundance as the Feast came to a close and members departed, looking forward to the Feast of Tabernacles 2011.

David Palmer

St. John's, Newfoundland

A mini Feast of Tabernacles was held at the Hotel Mount Pearl in the St. John's, Newfoundland, area for those who were unable to travel to Moncton. We also had one visitor from the United States. High attendance was nine. Most of the services were via webcast from Snowshoe, West Virginia. The sermons were

excellent and enjoyed thoroughly by everyone.

One day before the Feast started Hurricane Igor wreaked havoc throughout the province of Newfoundland and caused many power outages. Roads and bridges were washed out, and houses were flooded and washed away. One man in a rural area lost his life when he was swept away in the flood. Many people lost everything they owned. It was the worst hurricane anyone could remember in the province.

Thankfully, the St. John's area didn't get as high winds or heavy rainfall as some other areas. Electricity was restored to almost all of St. John's area in a relatively short time. After the storm, we were blessed with beautiful weather all during the Feast, and the electricity was on in the hotel where we met. Since there was no Internet connection at the hotel for a time, two meetings were held at the home



Special music in St. John's, Newfoundland

of elder David Smith and his wife, Blanche.

Although the highlight was the sermons, we did enjoy many meals and fellowship as a little group of God's people experiencing a taste of the wonderful world tomorrow.

David Smith

Chile

Tongoy

The 2010 Feast in Chile was celebrated at the beautiful beach resort, Playa Blanca (White Beach), in Tongoy, a five-hour drive north from Santiago. There was a high attendance of 183 persons from four nations—Chile, Argentina, Brazil and the United States.

The days were sunny, and all the activities were carried out without a hitch. There was a tea for the elderly, a talent show, a folkloric night to welcome the visitors, a family dance and a beach party. Guest ministers were Peter Eddington and Matt Fenchel, who attended with their families.

We were able to enjoy the mild weather and beautiful scenery of the area and delight ourselves with the fine fellowship. We know that words cannot adequately express



Feastgoers in Tongoy, Chile

the spiritual uplift, unity, warmth and joy felt during this wonderful Feast.

Jaime Gallardo

Colombia

Chinauta

In the verdant, warm, mountainous region of Chinauta, two hours from Bogotá, Colombia, 52 brethren, including a few from the United States and Canada, joyously celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles. We met at the same meeting hall where the Colombian church had its first Feast 35 years ago—Hotel El Castillo.

This Festival may be remembered as the Feast of brotherly love due to all the strong friendships forged. The majority of the brethren stayed at Villa Gabriela. They were together, sharing the pools, gardens and dining room of the Villa, which prompted informal discussion, fellowship, laughter and bonding.

The men who attended enthusiastically joined in a songleading class. Many men led songs for the first time at church services and gave their first sermonettes with amazing polish. Instead of the usual tapes, hymns were backed up by piano, violin and guitar every day.

Members were delighted to hear their first children's choir, led by Margarita, a singer who is blind. The children had several Bible lessons on millennial themes and

were surrounded with attention and love. They relished in painting baseball caps in the kiosk, making and shooting off rockets, as well as "showing their stuff" at a kids' Bible bowl one evening.

The sermons and sermonettes were meaty, focusing on the details of the coming Kingdom and the type of character we must develop first. Dennis Luker's representative, Mario Seiglie, gave two sermons when he and his wife, Caty, visited us for two days.

The talent night was a big hit with acts ranging from colorful folkloric dances to poetry, singing, instrumentals and even bagpipes! Families had fun painting umbrellas with acrylics outside in the beautiful weather, and the church dance had young and old moving to Latin beats.

For the first time, we hired a cook, which freed up time for the women to swim, relax, play with their kids, fellowship, learn to make woven cards and attend a scrapbooking workshop. Also, we had a lot of fun and laughter at another workshop on how to make Bible games at home for your family.

The Colombian congregation had an encouraging growth spurt when Mr. Seiglie and Braden Veller baptized six people who had been waiting years for this day. God surely smiled on this Feast, and we shared His pleasure, full of thankfulness. This warm, enthusiastic and talented group invites you to join them next year at the Feast for a richly rewarding experience.

Braden Veller and Jaime Castro



Children in Chinauta, Colombia, show baseball caps they painted

Congo

Kinshasa

A total of 35 people celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in peace, joy and love in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Several former members of our former church association attended with us for the first time. They were very joyful to attend the Feast once again and savored the unity and the brotherhood that they had lost for several years.

We thank the French department for the CD of Festival sermons, and the financial assistance that allowed us to keep the Feast all together in one place. Our thanks to our pastor, Joel Meeker, for his never-ceasing efforts for the edification of the Church in Kinshasa.

A high point of the Feast was when Jacques Giyama, Sion Lukubama, Charles Wasalulu and Jules Lupepe, all longtime members of the former association sang special hymns to the glory of God.

We are very thankful to our God for permitting us to spend these moments together without any incident.

Jacob Pempelongo

Estonia

Saaremaa

A total of 32 people from six nations gathered on the island of Saaremaa, Estonia, to witness the future coming of God's Kingdom. Twenty of our 32 hailed from the nation of Latvia.

Recognizing that we have been ordained to become kings and priests in God's Kingdom, this Festival was our chance to train for and experience a taste of our future destiny. The peaceful setting of this island in the Baltic Sea, along with mostly warm and sunny weather, seemed also to be witnessing to the nature of God's coming Kingdom.

Britton Taylor, who traveled from Texas with his wife, Donna, was our guest speaker. Mr. Taylor spoke four times, providing instruction in his sermon "The Thin Red Line" about the necessary traits God's elect people must acquire in order to enter into God's Kingdom as kings and priests. The message most remembered was "The Heart of a Winner,"



Feastgoers in Saaremaa, Estonia

in which he explained that, like the champion racehorse Secretariat, we need to have a similar heart to finish our race. John Trotter and Robert Schultz provided excellent sermonettes. With Victor Kubik, who is the senior pastor in Eastern Europe, and his wife, Beverly, attending the Feast in Africa, the contributions of these men were critical.

An important lesson was how we can have large advantages at a small Feast site. In addition to marvelous group meals, we had a chance every day to be together with everyone in fellowship. Activities involved almost everyone every evening, from bowling and sharing personal stories to a musical presentation and Bible studies. Even daily language differences can necessitate closeness and provide opportunities for serving as we develop affection for each other in working together. This is a part of the witness from our very small Feast site.

At the luxury hotel GO Spa, where we kept the Feast, there were saunas, several large and small pools of various temperatures and various other facilities all in-house. The young people really enjoyed the pools every day, and so did some of the "not so young." Massages were available, and were popular as well.

We began the Feast with the purpose of learning to fear the Eternal in an attitude of rejoicing. All left feeling that we had been faithful to our purpose.

Johnnie Lambert

France

Portbail

A total of 130 brethren from nine nations gathered in Portbail, on the coast of Normandy in France for the Feast of Tabernacles 2010. Solid spiritual food in the form of well-prepared sermonettes and sermons set the tone for the Feast. Services were held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation provided.

Visiting elder David Evans, from the home office gave three excellent sermons as well as an interactive Bible study, all of which were much appreciated.

As it is each year in France, room, board and church services were at the same site. Meals were taken all together in the family-style restaurant. This meant more time for fellowship and getting to know one another. The four-course lunches and dinners included wine in the usual French fashion.

Other highlights included the Family Day, which included games for all ages and a special sampling of appetizers and aperitif drinks prepared and provided by our brethren from the French Caribbean island of Martinique. There was a French folklore show by a local troupe demonstrating traditional Norman music and dance. We also enjoyed the fun show evening, which included a "prestidigitation act" by a mysterious Chinese magician (who looked suspiciously like one of our brethren from Belgium).

Normandy's long and colorful history provided fascinating excursions to Omaha Beach and the American military cemetery that overlooks it; Utah Beach, including two D-Day museums; Mont Saint Michel, a medieval walled village that becomes an island at high tide; and Bayeux, a town known for its 900-year-old tapestry depicting the Norman conquest of England in 1066.

We ended with a Last Great Day *au revoir* aperitif toast. In French *au revoir* means "until we see each other again."

For 2011 we have reserved a similar vacation colony site in Collonges-la-Rouge, on the edges of the Limousin and Dordogne regions in south-central France. Please come and join us in 2011!

Joel Meeker

Germany

Schluchsee

A total of 223 people from 15 countries gathered to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful village of Schluchsee, Germany, in the heart of the Black Forest in unity and a peaceful atmosphere.

Messages throughout the Feast focused on God's beautiful plan and the hope for the time when all people will be able to live in a secure



Herridge family in Schluchsee, Germany

and happy world. Two interactive Bible studies were conducted for the teenagers, and children participated in special Bible classes. Guest speaker Gary Antion also gave an ABC seminar about the book of Jonah. The seminar was very much appreciated by a large audience.

During the Feast two baptisms took place, and the new members were joyfully welcomed by their spiritual family.

A variety of activities offered brethren plenty of time for fellowship and enjoyment, starting with a welcome evening after the first Holy Day. For the children, there was an afternoon of *Kegeln* (nine-pin bowling). The teens once again tested their driving skills with go-karts and also competed in a friendly round of *Kegeln*. Seniors enjoyed each other's company with a traditional *Kaffee* and *Kuchen* ("coffee and cake") social. Special treats for the ladies were the women's breakfast and an afternoon interactive Bible discussion. The family dance was once again a major highlight for all ages, with live music representing nearly every genre.

This year's bus trip was an excursion to the beautiful flower island Mainau at Lake Constance. For the athletically able, volleyball provided an opportunity for recreation and camaraderie. The week wrapped up with a farewell evening after the Last Great Day.

Jesmima Allaoua

Ghana

Elmina and Abrem-Agona

The Feast of Tabernacles 2010 in Ghana began with unseasonably heavy rains that knocked out power, washed out roads and delayed some members in arriving at the Feast sites. The brethren in Ghana gathered in the southern part of the country in the coastal town of Elmina and the nearby village of Abrem-Agona.

The Church owns buildings in both towns, but neither was large enough for the average daily attendance of over 400. With these two sites brethren were afforded the opportunity to choose either the more rural setting of Abrem-Agona, or the more tourist-oriented setting of Elmina.

The dedication of many of the members to keep the Feast and obey God's laws is quite inspiring. One lady, whose name is Charity, made a special effort to keep the Feast this year. As part of her compensation, the lady for whom she works also provides a place for Charity to live. Charity was determined to keep the Feast, but was concerned that she might have work issues arise if she stayed in her normal room.

Since it is very difficult to secure the church building in Elmina, they have built a small 8-by-10-foot storage room on the side that can be padlocked. Chairs and sound equipment can then be stored there securely for the next Sabbath. In order to keep the Feast of Tabernacles unencumbered by work, Charity asked if she could move into the storage room and use that as her "booth" during the Feast. No power. No water. No

boat on the gorgeous Lake Atitlan.

Our guest minister and his wife were Fred and Lydia Nance, from Little Rock, Arkansas. We were also visited for two days by Mario and Katy Seiglie. All the meetings and activities were held in an atmosphere of peace, harmony, fellowship and a lot of participation from the members.

We are thankful to our God for all His many blessings and for the



Members fellowship just before services in Elmina, Ghana

bed. But it was a place for the Feast, and she quite happily put a mat on the floor and kept the Feast as God has instructed!

We were also blessed to have four baptisms during the Feast this year.

The Church in Ghana is very grateful for the financial assistance from brethren in the United States, since without their support it would be impossible for many of them to travel to the Feast sites. They send their love and greetings to their brethren around the world!

Tom Clark

Guatemala

Panajachel

With the blessings and protection of our Creator, we were able to carry out the Feast of Tabernacles 2010 on the shores of Lake Atitlan in Panajachel, Guatemala. High attendance was 166, and brethren came from Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, United States, Canada, Australia and Guatemala.

The Feast messages were inspiring and comforting, and the activities included the following: ladies' tea, talent show, Family Day, youth seminar, family dance and a trip by

instructions we received during this Feast that strengthened our faith.

Israel Robledo

India

Hyderabad

Located just outside the city of Hyderabad, the Golkonda Resort and Spa was once again the venue for the Feast of Tabernacles in India. The facility served as an ideal location for the Feast, with its beautifully landscaped and maintained grounds. The warm, tropical weather added even more in making it truly a millennial setting for the Feast. All of the members were able to meet, eat and sleep at the same facility, which allows for lots of fellowship with the brethren at meetings, meals and activities.

The sermons during the Feast focused on the Millennium, God's Holy Day plan, our preparation and training to reign with Christ, when nature will change in the Millennium and the final last great day of salvation for mankind. There was also a question-and-answer Bible study on the afternoon of the weekly Sabbath. Everyone made positive comments about the messages.

There were several activities during the Feast: A Family Day with games and swimming and two sightseeing trips into Hyderabad to see the downtown area, the museum, Golkonda Fort and go shopping. There were also get-togethers in the rooms of the brethren.

Since some are not able to attend services except at the Feast, brethren really appreciate the opportunity to get together and fellowship. The brethren



Lake Atitlan at Panajachel, Guatemala

were together a lot throughout the day from breakfast in the morning to dinner in the evening.

Some of the Indian leadership gave the sermonettes and shared in the songleading. Most of the brethren

wishes to them! During the Feast we were nourished with delicious food and very edifying messages, including the sermons from the Feast video, which were very uplifting and very well-received by all.



Attendees in Hyderabad, India

ren participated in special music, featuring some solos, trios and family groups.

We had a perfect attendance of 19 except for two services—the first service on Wednesday night (a few had not yet arrived) and the last service on Thursday morning (two had to leave early and one was sick).

Overall, it was a very memorable Feast for everyone.

David Mills

Italy

Sabaudia

Joyful fellowship and spiritual unity permeated all eight days of the Feast in Sabaudia. For us Italian members, the Feast is always a special occasion to personally meet and encourage one another while rejoicing in God and fellowshiping together with many other brothers and sisters coming from various nations, especially from the United States and the United Kingdom. Overall, there were 281 in attendance, including children. Their presence was a source of great encouragement to each one of us.

Our Feast site is indeed contributing to make the Church grow numerically, as we witnessed two new engagements and the returning of two newlyweds who were engaged in Sabaudia last year. Others have returned with new babies. Our best



Brethren in Sabaudia, Italy

Several brethren participated in cultural tours to famous historical places like Rome, Pompeii and the Vatican museums. We had also a very relaxing Family Day on the beach and memorable social activities, like the talent show and the evening dance, for the enjoyment of all Feast participants. Except for one day when we had a little rain, we were blessed with wonderful ocean views and warm weather throughout the Feast.

We would like to thank the non-Italian brethren who helped to make the Feast flow smoothly and supported God's small work in Italy. Our heartfelt thanks go to the choir and the special music performers and the pianists. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you brethren who left your respective countries and honored the living God with your Italian brethren in Sabaudia.

You left Italy, but your love for us has remained with us. Being part of God's family is a priceless and undeserved gift indeed. We are already looking forward to next year's Feast.

Carmelo Anastasi

Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

La Mé, Man and Yapeu

Due to the poverty and size of Ivory Coast and the distances separating Church members in the country, there were three Festival sites in 2010.

Twelve people observed the Feast in a rural village near the city of Man in the rebel-controlled northwestern zone of the country.

Another 111 attended the Feast in the rural village of Yapeu (also in the rebel zone) near the Liberian border west of Man. For many people this was their first Feast of Tabernacles, and they were overjoyed to learn the truth about God's plan of salva-

tion for mankind.

About 30 people attended the Feast in the village of La Mé about 20 miles (32 kilometers) outside of the commercial capital Abidjan. Services were held in the Church-owned hall.

In each site attendees listened to prerecorded sermons and sermonettes in French. Follow-up Bible studies were held in local languages to make sure everyone understood the teaching.

Everyone rejoiced to feast on rice and beef we were able to purchase in local markets with the help of assistance sent from the United States through the French department. We sang and danced before the Eternal in our rejoicing.

Many people are waiting in Blolé and Yapeu to be baptized. We look forward to the next visit of our pastor, Joel Meeker, so he can continue this work.

We thank all those who helped us have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles.

Paul Tia

Jamaica

Ocho Rios

A total of 391 brethren from North America and the Caribbean gathered in Ocho Rios to celebrate another great Feast of Tabernacles.

The sermons and sermonettes centered around the condition and character of the Church being prepared for leadership: receiving instruction in order to teach well; being compassionate, forgiving, self-controlled and prayerful; remaining connected to God; and being honed by trials so we can emerge as the very bride of Christ. Instruction continued in Bible studies for young adults and teens.

We enjoyed special music performed by the Festival choir under the able direction of Paul Shemet, as well as by the children's choir, the Jamaican adult and youth choirs, soloists and a duet. The daily service by accompanists, the hymn projectionist and the trumpeter also did not go unnoticed.

Family Day on the beach dawned hot and sunny as rival teams, hopeful of acquiring deeper tans (and oblivious to the storms brewing in the area), competed against one another at the very enjoyable games coordinated by the hotel staff.

The talent show, featuring folk songs, dialect verses, dances, songs and items of comic relief, brought new meaning to the term "Jamaica time," ending earlier rather than the usual hour or so later than originally scheduled.

Visitors saw a little of the countryside on the Ocho Rios half-day excursion to the Dunns River Falls and the Wassi Art Pottery factory; and although rain threatened, many were able to go on the catamaran snorkeling cruise, while youngsters enjoyed a pool party at an idyllic spot with a waterfall.

All too soon it was the Last Great

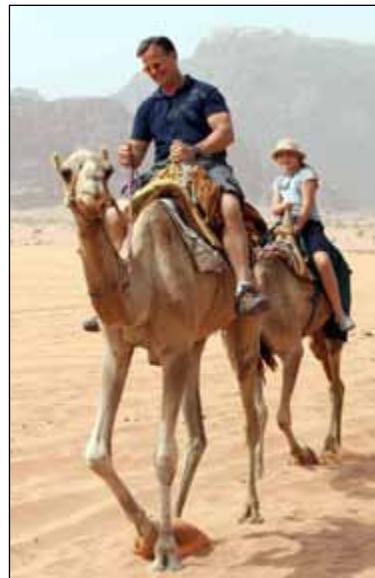
Day, heralding another round of prayers for God's Kingdom to come.

Madge Thompson

Jordan

Just over 110 "Ambassadors for Peace" enjoyed a fun-filled, educational and spiritually inspiring Feast of Tabernacles in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Jordan site had a real international flare, with the following countries represented: Canada, France, Australia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. The messages focused on preparing for the Millennium, which was underscored by our Festival mission to be "Ambassadors for Peace" in Jordan, to the world and for God's future Kingdom.

The Feast began in Amman, the capital of Jordan and the ancient area of Ammon. Following the first day of the Feast, the group spent the day in Jerash, one of the 10 ancient cities of the Roman Decapolis. Feastgoers enjoyed the Sabbath sunset at the Dead Sea, where they stayed for two nights.



Cory Erickson and his daughter ride camels in Jordan

The Feast featured three inspiring outdoor services in Pella, an early morning service at the Mövenpick Hotel's amphitheater in Aqaba and a service atop Mount Nebo on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. The messages emphasized lessons from the biblical history surrounding these meaningful sites.

After spending an inspiring day in Petra, the ancient Nabatean city and one of the seven ancient wonders of the world, the group traveled to Aqaba, which is located on the Red Sea. The group stayed on the Gulf of Aqaba three nights and enjoyed God's creation while snorkeling and scuba diving. Many also enjoyed relaxing around the beautiful pools and beachside location of the Mövenpick Hotel located in the newly developed Tala Bay of Aqaba.

While staying in Aqaba, the Feastgoers toured the mystical and ruggedly beautiful Wadi Rum desert. The tour included aggressive

four-wheel drive tours in the desert, a visit with the Bedouins of the area and a lunch in a traditional Bedouin tent.

Every day provided a new experience and opportunity for growth as an "Ambassador for Peace." After the Feast, nearly 90 of the Feast participants went on an exciting and interesting tour of Israel led by David Register. The tour included the traditionally fascinating and inspiring locations of Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee region. It also included visits to sites such as Masada and the plains of Megiddo and many new sites in and around Jerusalem.

Cory and Colene Erickson

Kenya

Migori and Nakuru

Your brethren in East Africa joined you as part of God's developing family, as members from seven tribes across Kenya and Tanzania celebrated God's coming Kingdom at two Feast sites this year.

A total of 185 brethren gathered near the Tanzanian border at Migori, Kenya. A five-year project of developing our local church property into a self-contained Feast site was completed this year and tested with a singles' event there last April. Recent donations enabled us to install running water, warm showers and flush toilets to our facilities, which were greatly appreciated by the brethren during Feast. Professional cooks from the local community provided everyone with three hot meals daily, which were enjoyed by all.

The spiritual food was inspiring and motivated us to grow in the love and service to God and each other. Another 105 brethren rejoiced simultaneously at our Feast site in Central Kenya near Nakuru. Lodging at both sites was provided in the form of camping tents that were purchased and transported from the United States via senior pastors, international visitors and United Youth Corp members. Located in the heart of the Great Rift Valley, this 40-acre rented camping facility provided a serene and secure environment for all our festivities.

Sporadic rains were a welcome reminder that the drought and famine of recent years had passed.



A toddler in Nakuru snacks on treats given to the children

Lush landscapes and catered food—a-plenty, combined with fellowship and spiritual messages, brought us a foretaste of the coming world tomorrow. A bus trip to a nearby mountain lookout was enjoyed by many, as was a photo safari that took the internationals into a world-renowned African jungle preserve at Lake Nakuru.

Your East African brethren greet you with waving arms and a warm welcome of “Karibuni Sana” and look forward to the day when we shall all be together forever.

John Elliott

Malawi

Cape Maclear

This year in Malawi 158 brethren celebrated the Feast at Cape Maclear along Lake Malawi. We used to go to this place for the Feast in the 1970s and '80s. The scenery is some of the most beautiful in Malawi.

This year's Feast was the best spiritual Feast ever. There were a lot of lessons learned through sermons addressing a lot of areas where we are weak. The opening message was a DVD sermon by president Dennis Luker, covering how trials could help our spiritual growth. The other messages were given by Victor Kubik from the United States as well as Gracious Mpilangwe, Henry Khembo and Elifazi Salawila.



Cooks in Cape Maclear prepare a meal for the brethren

The messages addressed pride, the need for us to be obedient to God, being faithful in tithing, our zeal to God, our awareness of the existence of God at the Feast, and our part in talking to Him through prayer. Other messages discussed how we don't have instincts like animals, how we were created to learn to remember and practice what God commands us, how the annual festivals are God's program to save mankind and, finally, how salvation will be offered to everyone.

We also had very interesting activities like swimming, football (soccer) matches, boat riding and a talent show. Very often we ate as a group, which enabled us to have rich fellowship with one another.

During the Feast we had two baptisms, which made the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles unique.

Elifazi Salawila

Malaysia

Melaka

The Feast of Tabernacles in Melaka, Malaysia, was attended by a small group from seven coun-



Brethren in Melaka, Malaysia

tries around the world: Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Australia and the United States. The nearly 20 attendees gathered in the Tiara Hall of the Mahkota Hotel located in the southern part of the city about four hours from Singapore. The weather was a blessing—sunny during daytime and short showers in the evenings.

Two ministers, Kenneth Giese from California and Art Verschoor from New Zealand, served the spiritual table. The focus of the spiritually uplifting messages throughout the Feast was the soon-coming

of Our Adversary,” “Strengthen Our Relationships With One Another” and “Come Out of This World.” The reporter of each group reported the results of their discussions that were focused on answers found in the

Scriptures, including answers to the question, “What can we do to stay ready for Christ's return?” Some members commented that it was a true faith-strengthening time.

Another highlight was the historical city tour during which we visited the historic sections of Melaka, recently listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Many of the sites were built by the Dutch in the 17th century, and a few remaining sites were built by the Portuguese before that. An interesting experience to note was that before leaving the hotel it was cloudy with rain threatening. Some members were worried about getting wet. Surprisingly, the clouds soon cleared and the sun came out. It was truly a blessing!

We also enjoyed the performances of a sextet Mr. Giese organized, which provided most of the special music during the latter part of the Feast as well as on the Last Great Day.

Edward Simanjuntak

Tawau

The United Church of God members in Malaysia's eastern state of Sabah joyously celebrated the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day in the city of Tawau. The memorable celebration and its activities were held for the second time in Shan Shui Golf and Country Club Resort.

A total of 40 participants (17 adults, 6 young adults and 17 children) attended this year's Feast, including three from New Zealand



Teen choir in Tawau, Malaysia

and three from the Philippines. We were fortunate that six families in the area attended throughout the Feast, and we had a great family reunion.

We had warm fellowshiping and inspiring messages, reminding us of various aspects of the Kingdom of God and how we are being molded and shaped to assist Jesus Christ in His coming millennial reign. Messages throughout the Feast focused on God's overall plan and the importance of our relationships.

Our Youth Day activities were held on the fourth day of the Feast. Children's activities included a variety of games that the adults enjoyed just as much as the children.

On the sixth day was the Family Day outing at a water park more than 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) from the Feast site. A variety of activities offered brethren plenty of time for fellowship and enjoyment.

On the Last Great Day we sang “For the Beauty of the Earth,” and at the end of the song we bade farewell to each other, looking forward to next year's Feast.

Raul Villacote



Brethren in Port of Veracruz, Mexico

Mauritius

Flic-en-Flac

Like a pearl lying in an emerald case, the island of Mauritius, surrounded by the Indian Ocean, was a Feast of Tabernacles site for 2010. Brethren from the United States and Reunion Island gathered together with Mauritian brethren in the seaside resort of Flic-en-Flac.

A total of 20 brethren attended the daily services and enjoyed eight days of fellowship and spiritual nourishment. Visiting French-speaking elder Bernard Hongerlot from the United States brought warmth to the heart and great encouragement, especially to the Mauritian brethren by giving 10 very instructive sermons centered on the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment, subjects to reflect upon for the whole coming year and beyond.

During the whole Feast Mauritius was bathed in brilliant sunlight, which allowed us to make excursions to

different parts of the island and help the members to bond to one another.

We visited the botanical garden of Pamplémousses, the central market in the capital city of Port Louis, the Glass Gallery, the Black River Gorge and the famous “seven-colored earth” of Chamarel.

We also admired and reflected upon God's creation while on an excursion on a catamaran, visiting beautiful small islands that shelter different kinds of sea birds. We were also blessed to spot a whale that was on its way to Australia.

Everyone is looking forward to keeping next year's Feast again in Mauritius, for it was truly a wonderful Feast.

Jocelyn Prodigue

Mexico

Port of Veracruz

Church members celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in the Port of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico. Services took place in the Hotel Mar y Tierra on the edge of the Gulf. Warm weather prevailed, with some rain. Members stayed and ate in the

same hotel, enjoying breakfast and the main meal of the early afternoon together.

Feast activities included a boat trip to a sand bar in the Gulf where people could walk on the bar in waist-deep water. Other activities were a trip to the largest aquarium in Latin America, a youth dance, a seniors' meal, a ladies' evening, a beach day, a family night dance and a talent show. The display of talent in singing and dancing was impressive.

Tropical storm Karl had moved inland north of the Port of Veracruz a week before the Feast; and although it caused serious damage inland, it did not affect the Feast site itself. A collection of food was donated during the Feast to help to those affected by the storm.

Sermons were given by Mario Seiglie and Mark Rorem, with a number of men from Mexico giving split sermons and all of the sermonettes. A dubbed version of the Feast video was also shown. Members commented that they appreciated the focus on the meaning of the Feast and lessons about the coming Kingdom of God. Everyone seemed to be happy and rejoicing in the meaning of the Feast.

Responsibilities for activities, needs and facilities were distributed among the members, who showed a great spirit of cooperation and service.

Attendance reached a high of 41, with members coming not only from Mexico City but also the southern and northern areas of Mexico. The joyous atmosphere and fellowship were the highlight of the Feast, with some saying it was their best Feast ever.

Mario Seiglie

New Zealand

Napier

A total of 101 brethren from the Pacific region and other parts of the world celebrated the Feast in Napier, New Zealand. Services were held at the Mission Estate, a historic facility overlooking vineyards and the Pacific Ocean. The seaport city of Napier, reputed to be the Art Deco capital of the world, is situated in the country's oldest and most diverse wine-producing region. The diverse group of attendees came from at least a dozen national backgrounds.



Teens attending in Napier, New Zealand

Two unique choirs formed during the Feast. A Tongan choir comprised of nearly 20 adult and teen members presented choral pieces in the Tongan language. Another choir, comprised of eight nationalities, sang English language hymns.

Sermons focused on our ongoing responsibility to prepare for service and rulership in the Kingdom of God. Activities for brethren young and old included indoor rock climbing, swimming in geothermal hot pools, rollerblading, miniature golf and winery tours.

Other highlights included a Feast dinner at the Mission Estate, New Zealand's oldest and most scenic winery. Tongan youth from the Auckland congregation performed traditional Tongan dances for all guests. A three-course luncheon for the over-50s was held at the Hawke's Bay Club, founded in 1863.

With so many activities to enjoy and share with one other, along with encouraging messages expounding the various prophecies of a coming utopian world, the Feast of Tabernacles at Napier

truly reflected the spiritual meaning of this important festival.

Jeff Caudle

Nigeria

Aiyetoro

A total of 117 brethren enjoyed the Feast, sharing meals, participating in exciting and wonderful activities and listening to uplifting, encouraging and inspiring messages at the Feast site at Afobaje Hotel Aiyetoro, Ogun State, Nigeria. Mark Mickelson, the senior pastor for Nigeria, and his wife, Michelle, were the only international brethren at the Feast. Oludare Akinbo, the local elder, was the Feast coordinator. Average daily attendance was 105.

Aiyetoro ("The world is peaceful/orderly") is a small rural community about 180 kilometers (112 miles) to the northwest of Lagos. The hotel complex, about 2 miles out of town, was built like a cocoon and provided a truly great setting for focusing on the world tomorrow's personal and global peace, unity and loving fellowship and a truly great time for all—children and adults alike.

An extra spark to the Feast was the new 15-seat Toyota Hiace bus

learned, and the church library, which was kept open in the hall throughout the Feast. Books were borrowed, read and returned at a very encouraging rate and not just by the children, for whom the library project was initiated, but by young adults as well! On Youth Day, the children aged 6 to 12 served as ushers. One served as songleader and another gave the opening prayer.

With everyone in a single location and minutes away from each other's rooms and meeting hall, the Feast of Tabernacles 2010 in Nigeria was indeed a feast of love, spiritual edification and encouragement in messages, great rejoicing and fellowship. It was made more so by the generous gifts from our spiritual families in sister congregations in the United States.

Oludare Akinbo

Philippines

Baguio City

Baguio City once again was one of three Feast sites for the United Church of God in the Philippines. For the 10th consecutive year, the Feast was held at the conference hall of the Ang Ating Tahanan grounds of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines located in Baguio City.

The Feast started out with our traditional opening night service with a message delivered by our pastor for Baguio and Dagupan City, Eriz Dizon. We were expecting an attendance of only about 150 this year, due to a number of families in Manila who transferred to other Festival sites. Although our attendance this year was lower than that of last year, we were surprised to have our highest attendance reach 163 in spite of the transfers! We had a good number of overseas brethren who rejoiced and kept the Feast with us.

We were blessed this year with wonderful weather conditions during the entire Feast with very beautiful sunshine and only a few scattered rain showers just to cool the day.

We were privileged to have senior pastor for Asia and Council of Elders member David Baker for the first two days of the Feast. On the first day of the Feast he expounded on what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures and what we are going to



Ladies sing hymns during services in Aiyetoro, Nigeria



Brethren in Baguio City, Philippines

do when God's Kingdom is established here on earth. The following day, Youth Day, he reminded us to focus on three things we need to guard against: a root of bitterness, sinfulness and falling away from the truth. Mr. Baker was joined by his wife, Dorrie, and their two children, Hannah and Jonathan.

The messages were all uplifting, inspiring and encouraging, especially the Festival sermon video on trials, relationships and preparing for the Kingdom of God as delivered by UCG President Dennis Luker and Council Chairman Melvin Rhodes.

The Festival show this year featured songs and dances from a num-

They were also able to visit the Feast sites in Baguio and Iloilo.

Beginning with the opening night service featuring the Festival video, the momentum of powerful and inspiring messages continued to encourage and edify the brethren to the last day. God blessed us with good weather throughout, beautiful stage setting with creative daily arrangements of fresh flowers, live piano accompaniment and warm and joy-filled camaraderie and fellowship among brethren— young and old—in the serene atmosphere of the camp.

Afternoon activities included tours, livelihood workshops, varied



Children take part in bonding activities in Davao City, Philippines

ber of countries around the world. Various activities were likewise prepared for both the young and old alike. Among the activities were the Youth Day activities for the preteens and teens, Family Day, a city tour and the seniors' dinner. For those who loved to sing and dance, we also had a videoke night and a surprise dance night as well.

With all the fine fellowship, enjoyment and the spiritually inspiring messages we received during this Feast, everyone present felt they experienced a greater level of cooperation, love and closeness among the brethren in this Festival site. And so, this Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day still stood out as the best so far in recent years.

Rey Evasco

Davao City

The Festival site in Davao City, Philippines, hosted about 400 attendees, including 17 overseas guests from the United States, Canada and Australia. David Baker, senior pastor for Asia (accompanied by his family), was our guest speaker for the middle two days of the Feast.

games and balloons for children, bonding activities for youths and singles, a relaxing seniors' social, an enjoyable family sports day with a sampling of Davao City's best fruits, as well as an informative Bible Q-and-A session on the Sabbath afternoon conducted by Festival coordinator Edmond Macaraeg.

Evening activities included a fellowship night, a colorful and entertaining variety show and a Church leaders' dinner in appreciation for their help in serving the 18 active congregations in Mindanao. For the fourth time, Mr. Macaraeg conducted four evenings of Practical Christianity for teens, singles, and married couples plus a bonus seminar on practical parenting.

Due to some donations from several unnamed brethren, we had special blessings, such as a free daily lunch for everyone, two roasted calves served on the first and last day, breakfast food items distributed to all families and individuals, care packages for the widows and used clothing plus gift items for children and adults alike.

Some highlights included the baptisms of 11 individuals: Joseph Amarille, Rudy Ric Trabel, Rex Hart Valdez, Vincent Wong, Victoria Elizabeth Gervise, Hazel Beth Jamil, Saraine Gem Nagtalon, Didith Brown, Norilyn Caube, Emily Ballerda and Ninielita Chua-Gorden.

In summary, the inspiring messages, the fun-filled activities and the warm family atmosphere created an inviting foretaste of the coming Kingdom of God, when all mankind will be at one. We are very thankful to God for all these great and wonderful blessings. A few have even said that this was their best Feast ever. As we strive to continuously improve, we look forward to another "best Feast ever" next year.

Edmond and Daniel Macaraeg

Iloilo City

The excitement had brewed long before this year's much-anticipated Feast of Tabernacles held at Punta Villa, Iloilo City, Philippines. This Feast site gathered 125 brethren coming from various parts of the Philippines and abroad. Mr. and Mrs. David Baker and their children, Hannah and Jonathan, attended the occasion on the last two days of the Feast and on the Last Great Day.

Sermons and messages in the daily services centered on the theme "Trials, Relationships and Preparing for the Kingdom of God." The speakers reminded the brethren of the significance of the Feast and the reasons why it should be observed by everyone in the family of God.

Scheduled activities included the Youth Day, Bible study and seniors' night, festival video and Family Day, and the family entertainment and dance night.

The youth had their share of enjoying the whole day on Friday with their rendition of special music in the morning service and a pizza treat for everyone in the afternoon.

A Bible study was conducted on Sabbath afternoon. In the evening of the same day, the seniors' night was held. Participants enjoyed the evening of bonding, eating delectable food and videoke singing.

On the fifth day of the Feast, the Festival video was shown. In the afternoon of the same day, the faces of all exuded excitement as they prepared for the Family Day. The

brethren enjoyed the place, the food and the games for all ages.

One of the highlights of the Feast was the family entertainment and dance night where an array of presentations in the form of songs, dances, instrumental renditions and comical skits were paraded. The show not only provided entertainment for everyone, but it also provided the participants an avenue to harness their talents and build confidence.

The Last Great Day was quite a sentimental day for many who were thinking that parting moments were fast approaching. But this feeling was offset by the thought of the coming of the wonderful world tomorrow and the eternal glorification of the living saints and believers.

On the whole, the activity was a great experience for everyone to rehearse and prepare for the reign of the Lord in His Kingdom on earth.

Reuel Cainglet

Portugal

Costa da Caparica

A total of 178 brethren joined together in the quaint little fishing



Melody and Jeremy Hess sip coffee in Portugal

village of Costa da Caparica to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in Portugal. Members journeyed to Portugal from the United States, England, Australia, Netherlands, South Africa and Germany.

God provided a spectacular sunset on the opening night that seemed to set the tone for the entire Feast. God blessed the Feast in every way.

Services were held each day on the eighth floor of the hotel in Costa da Caparica. Although most of the messages were given in English,

messages were translated into Portuguese for the Portuguese brethren.

Inspirational messages provided exciting glimpses of the Millennium and a foretaste of God's Kingdom. Messages expounded on the Kingdom and how all nations will know the Lord. Other messages taught how it is the removal of pride that will turn the world upside down and how we are one year closer to our spiritual dream. A three-point action plan was given to stay focused on overcoming.

The Feast concluded on the Last Great Day with the message that "now is our time to make the Kingdom happen in our lives. Make this a year of decision, when we repent of indifference and inattention to our spiritual duties. Be back here next year; don't let the root of bitterness keep you from keeping the Feast."

The skillfully conducted choir sang "The Creation," "The New Heaven and New Earth," "River in Judea," "King All Glorious" and "Living Waters," which so brilliantly intertwined with the Feast messages.

Tours of Lisbon and the surrounding areas were provided during the afternoons. Members were also able to attend a dinner evening to hear fado, a typical form of Portuguese music, and enjoy Portuguese cuisine. A trip to the oceanarium also added fun for the entire family.

The Feast came to an end all too quickly. We all gathered on the pier on the beach on the Last Great Day to watch the sunset and to say our good-byes. The Feast was so well summarized by one member who said, "The inspiring messages, special music, the children's activities, ladies' breakfast, special events

and even the lovely flowers have made this one of the best Feasts ever!" Viva Portugal!

Kathy de Campos

Rwanda

Lake Muhazi

On the sunlit afternoon of Sept. 22, 2010, coming down from the hills, our brethren in Rwanda converged on Lake Muhazi, our usual Feast site for the annual Holy Days.

Lake Muhazi is situated about 45 minutes by car to the northeast of the capital city of Kigali. Attendance was 64. Each day attendees profited from sermons, sermonettes and Bible studies on the theme of the wonderful time of peace and abundance in the world tomorrow.

Other activities included our annual association meeting for UCG-Rwanda, learning new hymns together, a lecture on etiquette, a lecture on how to plan a schedule to make the best use of our time and a lecture on important health issues.

The weather was magnificent, allowing young and old alike to

relax and fellowship outdoors. The generous assistance sent from the United States, allowed us to taste some delicacies that we aren't often able to eat.

There was a spirit of helping one another; outgoing concern for each other was very evident through all the pleasant moments we spent on the shores of Lake Muhazi.

On the Last Great Day Mr. and Mrs. Burume from the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo were able to join us to celebrate the Feast.

Right after the close of the Last Great Day we had a courtesy visit from the local administrative officer, Mr. Bayingana whose authorization to hold meetings—granted us before the Feast—allowed us to gather and stay at the site.

We give thanks to our pastor, Joel Meeker, and all those who, near or far, contributed to make the Feast this year in Muhazi a great success!

Jean-Marie Mundeli

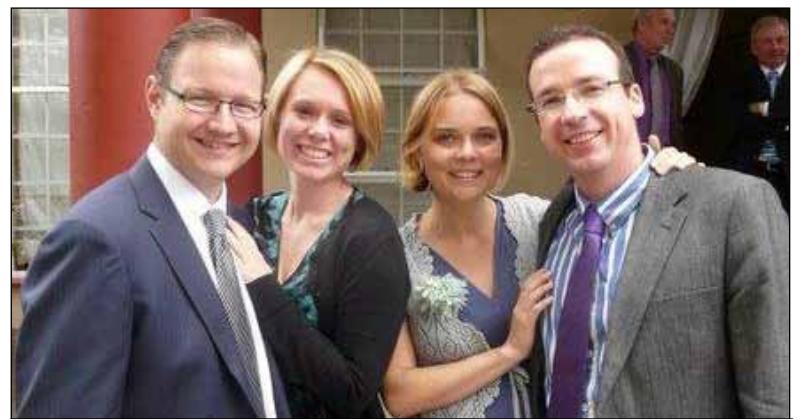
South Africa

George

The Feast of Tabernacles was held in the picturesque town of George, South Africa, situated on what is known as the Garden Route in the Southern Cape.

The town is centrally situated halfway between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth on a 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) plateau between the majestic Outeniqua Mountain to the north and the Indian Ocean to the south.

The Garden Route has a Mediterranean climate, with moderately hot



Brethren in George, South Africa

summers and mild-to-chilly winters.

The Feast period normally coincides with the whale-mating season, and whales can often be seen close to the shores frolicking in the waves with schools of dolphin.

The area caters very well to tourists with a variety of activities ranging from cave tours, ostrich farms, wildlife ranches, an elephant sanctuary, the world's highest bungee jump, train rides along the coast, horse trails, quad biking and world-class golf courses.

The Feast was attended by 75 brethren. Around 26 Americans attended the Feast and contributed greatly by serving when our Festival coordinator, Stan Botha, fell ill.

They helped by giving extra sermons and sermonettes to accommodate wherever they could.

We were privileged to hear great sermons from David Treybig and Terry Franke from the United States and also from Neil Becker, pastor for East London, South Africa, and Morgen Kriedemann upon his arrival from Zambia for the last part of the Feast.

The Feast was held in a hall of the Moreson home for orphaned children. They greatly benefited from the generosity of our brethren through donations and projects where the children were supplied with toiletries.

During the Feast we had fun activities like the welcome *braai* (barbecue), Family Day and farewell *braai* held at the Wilderness National Park. It gave us an excellent opportunity to fellowship.

We were all very privileged to attend a dinner catered by our American visitors at a house in Glentana. They treated the whole church to a sumptuous dinner with a game of guessing which Bible character you are. Each person had to draw the name of a biblical character and not reveal his or her identity until someone else guessed who they were by asking pertinent questions.

It was a great Feast, and we made good friends along the way.

Dirk van Loggerenberg

Uvongo

Once again, the Feast of Tabernacles was held at Uvongo, South Africa, on the delightful lower south coast of Kwazulu Natal. The average attendance for the duration of the Feast was 193, with visitors from



Dancers in Iloilo City, Philippines, perform at the family dance and entertainment night

lunch at a restaurant further down the coast.

Our youth and young adults spent an evening with Grant and Kim Chick who were responsible for the national youth camp while they lived in South Africa. It was a fun evening



Renewing friendship in Uvongo, South Africa

as they reminisced and spoke about life in Australia.

An atmosphere of unity and friendship was evident throughout the eight days of the Feast, and all present enjoyed a spiritually rewarding and fulfilling Feast of Tabernacles 2010.

Neville Smith

Sri Lanka

Kukuleganga

The Kukuleganga Holiday Resort near the Sinharaja Forest Reserve served as the lush backdrop for an incredible Feast of Tabernacles in Sri Lanka this year. Fifty brethren from Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Australia, Canada and the United States observed the Feast together in the rainforest 70 kilometers (43 miles) southeast of Colombo.

This location became an opportunity for everyone to see a unique part of the island. For many of us the Feast began with a trip on a hired bus that took us to the destination. During the two-hour bus ride, the American travelers soon learned that, with a guitar on hand, our young Sri Lankan members are very talented musically.

All meals were provided at the resort so we saw each other during breakfast, services, lunch, tea-time and the evening meal. It was wonderful to have all the brethren staying so close together. In fact, we had all of the three-bedroom

villas available in one cul-de-sac so we could stop by any of the villas in that area and be welcomed in immediately. Needless to say, it was a fantastic environment for fellowship with our Church family on the other side of the world.

Buddhism constitutes the religious faith of about 70 percent of Sri Lanka's population. By holding the Feast in a small resort, our members' actions and attitudes were seen by all of the people working there. It even prompted questions about what we were doing and what we were picturing.

Several evenings were spent together as a group at various Church members' villas. Friday evening was spent singing songs to God and fellowshiping with cake and local treats. Feast activities included Sabbath school, a Bible study and a fun show. Family Day was filled with activities that brought our small group closer together.

From a scavenger hunt to games in the hall (including an egg toss and pushing a papaya across the floor using only participants' noses), a good time was had by all. On Monday afternoon almost everyone participated in a rousing game of cricket.

Sri Lanka is known throughout the world for its Ceylon tea, and each afternoon tea with milk and cake was served. Those of us who traveled overseas to this beautiful island truly look forward to that day when we can again have tea with our wonderful Church family in Sri Lanka.

Laurel Krenz

Tobago

A spiritual rejuvenation—these are apt words to describe this year's Feast of Tabernacles on the sunny island of Tobago. Brethren from Australia, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Dominica, Barbados, United States and, of course, Trinidad and Tobago assembled to observe God's Feast. It was a reminder of what we will be doing when the Kingdom of God is ushered in here on earth in the future.

As in 2009, the Tobago site was filled quickly, and sadly many brethren had to be turned away. The highest attendance was 59 persons of an

estimated 60 persons. However, God commands us to rejoice at His Feast, and rejoice we did. Brethren were inspired with heartfelt singing and beautiful special music.

We were also strengthened with spiritual food. The brethren tasted and feasted on spiritual food in abundance at the small site. We were richly blessed every day with lively sermonettes and sermons from God's faithful servants from the United States and the Caribbean. The Eternal truly inspired the speakers, who gave timely and uplifting messages pointing to the glorious Kingdom that we so long for in today's world. Through God's divine inspiration, they equipped us to handle the challenges and trials that we would encounter as we reenter the world.

Early in the Feast, visiting brethren were treated to a taste of local cuisine accompanied by beautiful steel pan music and a welcome song. All present took the opportunity to share in the evening's activities as well as to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Smith.



Brethren in Tobago

Leisure activities included a great day of fun and games at the beach as we viewed God's magnificent creation—the coral reefs—and bathed in the famous Nylon Pool. Visitors were amazed at being able to disembark from the boat and swim in waist-high water after travelling miles into the ocean. Another highlight was the scenic tour of the tropical island.

All 59 brethren made this year's Feast of Tabernacles not only a success, but truly a special and memorable one, as everyone had a servant's attitude. We left with Isaiah 9:7 at the forefront of our minds: "Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." We held onto the vision of that wonderful world tomorrow, a time of true peace, unity, love and joy.

Steve Basant

Togo

Kpalimé

The Feast of Tabernacles 2010 was once again celebrated in Kpalimé, Togo, with great joy. We had 74 people present. We had a treat this year, in that on our arrival at the school we use as a Feast site, we found that the grounds and facili-



Feastgoers in Kpalimé, Togo

ties had already been cleaned and maintained, work which we usually must do on arrival. The caretakers also were very helpful.

Each morning we had a church service and some afternoons we would gather to go over the content of the sermons we had listened to on CD to make sure everyone understood well. This also led to helpful question-and-answer sessions. Evenings were reserved for activities of rejoicing together.

The offerings were significantly higher this year than last, which is

stayed under one roof at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. On a number of days clear skies displayed Mount McKinley in the distance.

From the opening night service to the final sermon on the Last Great Day, the Feast messages were solid and provided many insights to what we should be doing now and what we will be doing in the future. The uplifting services were also impacted by the Feast choir and children's choir. Special music each day demonstrated God-given talent.

Alaska, known as the "Last Frontier," provided many recreational opportunities even though we were there at the end of the season. The recreational highlight for many attendees was the six-hour train ride that provided views of glaciers, snow-covered mountains, wild animals and even beluga whales. A total of 525 people gathered for our specially chartered dome-windowed train ride. Included in this number were just over 200 members of the Living Church of God, who were also keeping the Feast in Anchorage.

Other activities that the brethren enjoyed were glacier cruises, airplane rides to see Mount McKinley or glaciers, local museums, an indoor water park, shopping and many fine restaurants. Another highlight for many was the Iditarod sled dog tour and interacting with the puppies. The family dance was enjoyed by many too.

If parents wanted a night out together, they were able to take advantage of a babysitting program called "Parents' Night Out," which was staffed by church volunteers and provided refreshments, games, movies and other activities for the children.

Behind-the-scene volunteers and hard work also contributed to the success of the Feast and the sound

very helpful. We also appreciate the assistance that is sent from the United States, which adds to our Festival title and enables us to celebrate the Feast in a plentiful and wonderful way.

When we finally separated to go our various ways, we left once again with great satisfaction due to the blessings of the Eternal.

Kossi Fiaboé

United States

Anchorage, Alaska

Approximately 450 gathered in Anchorage, Alaska, to celebrate a peaceful and inspiring Feast. Most



Anchorage, Alaska



Feastgoers in Kukuleganga, Sri Lanka

crew was flexible and indispensable.

Charles Melear

Bend-Redmond, Oregon

Over 1,000 Feastgoers enjoyed another wonderful Feast in beautiful Central Oregon, enjoying unseasonably warm, summerlike weather—with temperatures in the high 70s to mid-80s and lots of sunshine. Attendance was steady and consistent, peaking at 1,027 on the first Holy Day and 1,028 on the weekly Sabbath.

Sermons and sermonettes focused on the need to love each other as God's family, setting an example to the world and looking forward to the coming Kingdom of God on earth. The Festival video offered a welcome and timely addition to these themes. Special music included a moving performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" by the 50-member Festival choir as a finale on the Last Great Day.

A wide range of activities was available for teens, singles, young adults and seniors. Our family dance and fun show were very well-received and attended by about 300 and 566 respectively. Talent level of the fun show was the highest ever. Attendance at teen activities was excellent—100 and 104—even though registration showed only 85 teens.

A total of 550 spent an enjoyable Family Day at a pumpkin ranch that featured a corn maze, petting zoo, pony rides, kiddie train ride, horse-drawn wagon tour, miniature golf and pumpkin cannon. A new pumpkin cannon champion beat last year's record by scoring four consecutive hits.

Cash donations totaling \$3,561 and over 640 pounds of food and personal care items were collected for the local food bank.

Larry Walker

Branson, Missouri

Fantastic! Best Feast ever! Super messages! These were a few of the comments from over 1,500 UCG members keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Branson this year. Peace and joy seemed to be overflowing from many sources. Warm sunny days and cool nights contributed to the atmosphere as God's people gathered in the Ozarks to worship Him and rejoice at the annual "family reunion" of God's family.

The messages were all very inspiring. As the Feast went along, an unintended theme of God's law and its importance in the world tomorrow as well as today became obvious. We were instructed on how to show love to others by obeying it.

Special music was fantastic. The largest Festival choir in years contributed greatly to the enjoyment. A very large children's choir as always was a great treat, and the soloists did a beautiful job.

Attendance started strong and peaked on the weekly Sabbath when there were 1,472 present. The youth enjoyed an outing at an area state

park with sports, games and canoeing on Tablerock Lake. A total of 360 senior citizens enjoyed a delicious buffet meal and some wonderful entertainment—with many proclaiming it to be the best seniors' lunch yet.

On Sunday evening over 400 enjoyed an evening of "kicking up



Seniors in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, enjoy their luncheon

the heels" dancing to a wide variety of music at the family dance. There were several other groups keeping the Feast in the area, so many enjoyed seeing friends from other fellowships during the Feast and renewing friendships.

There were many other things to do as well. Many brethren enjoyed the musical production *Noah—The Musical*, which was playing at one area theater. Seminars conducted by our pastors added to the learning opportunities presented at Branson. This year there were three seminars—all well attended. The eight days passed all too quickly and left everyone wanting more. That will come next year.

Michael Blackwell

Bushkill (Poconos), Pennsylvania

The Feast of Tabernacles and the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania have a long history together. For the past four years the Feast has been held in an area known as Bushkill (not the name of a town, but named after a creek and waterfall in the area). This area boasts scenic views of woods and streams, as well as numerous choices for a great variety of dining experiences. About 550 people attended here this year (548 highest attendance).

Services were held for the second year in the Mountain Laurel Center for the Performing Arts, about 5 miles north of the Fernwood Resort, where most members stayed. The Mountain Laurel Center is a modern concert hall (less than 10 years old) and can accommodate 2,500 people. One unique feature of the hall is that the back wall can be opened up entirely to the outdoors—which was done on the Sabbath and seventh day of the Feast.

Blue sky, green hillside and bright sunshine were a special backdrop in the hall on these days. The hall also has a very large stage, which was elaborately decorated with plants and animal figurines in a fall and

millennial theme.

Some of the activities during the Feast included a Family Day held at Bushkill Falls, known as the "Niagara of Pennsylvania," where brethren could hike the trails leading to a series of waterfalls, fellowship under a pavilion with picnic lunches or grill out. They could also play games and

course, a family dance and a preteen tour of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. Additionally, some brethren attended shows of Blue Man Group and Cirque du Soleil in Orlando.

The local newspaper—*The Daytona Beach News-Journal*—reported on our stay: "Bikers in black leather and college co-eds in bikinis are not the only groups that like Daytona Beach. Apparently so do religious organizations looking for a place for their pilgrimages, retreats and conventions. The latest is the United Church of God, which has been meeting this week at Peabody Auditorium." The article stated that our convention was expected to bring \$2.8 million to the community. Additionally, members made donations to two local charities. Approximately \$3,100 plus supplies were given to the Domestic Abuse Council and approximately \$3,400 to the Council on Aging.

During announcements on the afternoon of the Last Great Day, the manager of the Peabody Auditorium thanked everyone for coming and said that she was impressed with our enthusiasm, our good attitudes and how clean we were. A churchgoer herself, she said that our light shone brightly throughout the week. She, along with several auditorium staff members, said they hoped we would return in future years. While we greatly enjoyed the location and facilities, our primary reason for coming was fulfilled as we obtained a clearer picture of the wonderful age to come.

David Treybig

Escondido (San Diego North County), California

Warm sunshine, sandy beaches and the beautiful hills of Escondido greeted 854 brethren keeping God's Feast this year in Southern California. The Feast began by giving us a vision of the Millennium ahead, and our enthusiasm continued to build as God supplied a great spiritual feast of messages for His people through to the Last Great Day.

There were also many other learning activities, including Bible studies for the teens and young adults and a special Bible study titled "Snakes and Salvation."

We also had the privilege once again of meeting in the exquisite concert hall of the California Center for the Arts Escondido, which enhanced the outstanding special



Festival choir in Daytona Beach, Florida, performs special music

music of the Feast choir, and many other delightful vocal and instrumental performances.

Seniors enjoyed a special luncheon in their honor. Some other special activities included a young adults' pool party with snacks at the Holiday Inn Express in Escondido, which offered an opportunity for young adults to get to know one another early in the Feast. The teens gathered for a beach and pizza party early in the Feast as well and enjoyed beach activities and fun fellowship in Oceanside.

Many attended the family night at Boomers, where families enjoyed miniature golf, kidopolis, bumper boats, laser tag and go-karts to name a few of the activities.

Every year a highlight of the Feast is the Family Day picnic in Felicita Park in Escondido hosted by the Bay Area churches. Beautiful shade trees, fun games and play areas for the children, and an old-fashioned hamburger and hot dog barbecue with all the trimmings brought us together on the seventh day of the Feast to enjoy one another's fellowship as our time of feasting together was nearing an end.

God blessed us with peace and the encouragement of what He had prepared for us in the future. We are very thankful for God's mercy and blessings that we can rejoice and be together another year!

Jim Tuck

Kerrville, Texas

The Texas hill country was especially beautiful this year as hundreds of people gathered to worship God and celebrate His plan of salvation in Kerrville, Texas. The overall theme was motivational, as brethren were encouraged to live in the vision of God's Kingdom and apply those standards to everyday life. Special music was inspirational. There was hardly an empty seat for the seminars covering the historical migration of the lost 10 tribes of Israel.

The Inn of the Hills was the perfect location for Festival activities. It was easy for most Feastgoers to walk to the country-western dance, teen bowling, young adult and teen hospitality, seniors' luncheon, seminars and Bible studies.

One of the highlights of the Feast in Kerrville was the annual Family Day, which took place at a working ranch. Attendees enjoyed Texas beef barbecue, a world-renowned trick roper, hayrides, swimming, games and dance music.

The highest attendance this year was 775 on the weekly Sabbath, and attendance was over 700 on two other days. These figures were more than the projected attendance.

Although next year we will be using a different Festival site in Texas, those who have attended in Kerrville over the past eight years will cherish many memories of the fellowship, strong spiritual messages and vision of the Kingdom of God we shared in a quaint town nestled in the Texas hill country.

Gary Petty

Panama City Beach, Florida

This year marked the 11th year the United Church of God has hosted the Feast of Tabernacles in the beautiful coastal setting of Panama City Beach, Florida.

The weather was wonderful, with temperatures in the 80s and low 90s



Teens bust a move at the tropical-themed dance

with several days of sunshine. Coupled with the turquoise waters and the “best beaches in the world”—it offered a wonderful and relaxed setting for the brethren and families in attendance.

Our attendance reached 1,399 during the afternoon service on the first Holy Day. The special music each day set the stage for the messages that followed.

The messages delivered at the Feast this year were very helpful and focused on our training to teach and serve the multiple millions during the Millennium and beyond. Inspiring Bible studies for the teens, young adults and general membership helped all to get a true foretaste of the world tomorrow.

As always, on Youth Day the children's choir was a joy to listen to. In addition, 103 teens participated in the bowling and skating activity and dance, and 234 seniors enjoyed a special buffet luncheon held in their honor. The annual PCB Golf Scramble was also a great success, with the New Orleans team besting the favored team from Alabama!

It surely appeared that all of the members and families that attended this beautiful site on the coast of the Florida Panhandle enjoyed the fellowship, the messages and the wonderful views of dolphins surfacing offshore as the sun set each evening. God truly provided a millennial setting for us all.

Doug Horchak

Snowshoe, West Virginia

The beautiful ski village of Snowshoe, West Virginia, was home to 853 of God's people this year at the Feast of Tabernacles. We enjoyed a most inspiring Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. During the first half of the eight days the weather was sunny and warm, and the last half was cooler with some rain.

We had opportunities to see great distances looking over various mountain ranges, and there were times when we were definitely in the clouds. The highlights of the Feast included the beauty of Snowshoe,

the inspiration of the messages and the warm fellowship throughout our time together. Each service began with energetic songleaders and included wonderful special music.

The highlights continued with well-attended activities (except for Family Day, which was largely rained out). Many Feastgoers met

one another in the village for meals together at one of the restaurants or to go on an adventure mountain biking, hiking, skeet shooting, golfing, riding Segways or mudding in powerful new mountain buggies. Other families enjoyed time together with their children at Split Rock Pool, an indoor/outdoor swimming area.

Since this was the last year of our contract with Snowshoe, I was encouraged by the requests of many to pursue it as a site in future years. It seems that the location is particularly inspiring for many who enjoy escaping from the world around them to keep the Feast. Everywhere



Feastgoer is all smiles despite the rain at Snowshoe

you went on the mountain you saw others who were there for the same reasons, and that made for a wonderful Feast experience.

There were a number of tears shed as the Feast came to an end this year, and that is certainly a sign of the uplifting experience shared by so many. We all left looking forward to and prayerful about the return of Jesus Christ.

Mark Winner

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

This year our high attendance of 737 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, somewhat exceeded the registration, evidently due to a number of

visitors. The second overflow area was not needed, but seating was fairly tight.

The weather was the mildest in memory for a Colorado site. If the Texans were wanting snow, they were disappointed! On the Tuesday during the Feast Steamboat Springs set a record high of 83 degrees.

Our relationship with the host hotel, the Steamboat Grand Resort, continues to be a very warm one. A number of brethren made generous contributions to the family of an employee of the hotel who has had throat cancer. The family and hotel personnel were very appreciative and pleased.

Some of the activities were a teen bowling party (and later a drop-in with free pizza), a preteen activity at Old Town Hot Springs, a family dance and a gondola trip to the top with an optional lunch. The latter was the most popular event we've ever hosted, with over 500 people going up. It was definitely the highlight of all the recreational/social activities the Church sponsored.

On top there were children's games and hiking trails, and it became a virtual family day. The scenery was spectacular, with much better views of the golden aspen trees than down below, plus we had a bird's-eye panorama of Steamboat Springs and the surrounding countryside.

The family dance was the best-attended ever and showed us we need a larger dance floor for next year!

Attendance was rather consistent, and the brethren were very appreciative of the messages and the special music. On the weekly Sabbath Richard and Mary Pinelli reached their 50th wedding anniversary. On behalf of the group, their son Jon, pastor of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Grand Junction, Colorado, congregations, presented them with a beautiful elk sculpture right after services.

Larry Neff

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Nearly 1,600 brethren enjoyed inspiring messages, wonderful music and beautiful weather during the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles in Wisconsin Dells. Temperatures remained in the 60s and low 70s for most of the Feast with clear, sunny skies and light breezes. High attendance was on the weekly Sabbath with 1,576 attending services.

The spiritual food was excellent, with messages focused on rejoicing at the Feast, the dynamic changes that will be ushered in by the Millennium, having an eternal mindset, the blessings that will result when the nations buy into the God of Jacob and His laws, what is the Kingdom, the three C's of entering into the Kingdom (a message for the youth), the sacred value of life, recapturing the dream, using our time wisely, the importance of family, grace and the Last Great Day, and the medium of matter.

Throughout the Feast brethren had the opportunity to sign hand-



Jenna Werner at Family Day in Wisconsin Dells

made cards that were sent to more than 160 shut-ins. Brethren also donated almost 1,500 pounds of food to the local food pantry as well as \$1,250 in cash. Hundreds of brethren enjoyed the “Big Band” sound of live music at the family dance. And Family Day was a big success, with members visiting area attractions as well as joining in at the Family Fun Fair, which included gym activities, face painting and a variety of games and prizes for younger children.

God truly blessed us with a joyful Feast of Tabernacles in Wisconsin Dells.

Michael Hanisko

Zambia

Lusaka

A total of 280 brethren from four regions in Zambia, as well as Malawi, gathered on the 12-acre UCG-owned property in Lusaka for a



Zambian pastor Kambani Banda, left, talks with another member in Lusaka

wonderful Feast of Tabernacles! Guest speakers were Morgen Kriedemann from Johannesburg, South Africa, for the first part of the Feast and Ministerial Services operation manager Victor Kubik for the latter part.

Zambia is a country of more than 40 languages and dialects, but English is the most unifying language. Sermons were given in English and were then translated into the Tonga language, which was most useful to those who do not understand English.

Almost everyone stayed on the property in tents. Four shower and bathroom facilities have been built, and two dormitories are still under

construction and will house a maximum of 140 people by next year. They will not only be useful for the Feast, but for camp and other special events.

On the Last Great Day between services, Mr. Kubik and Jerrison Schochoongo baptized two ladies from the Mapoko region. Most of the Feastgoers gathered around to witness this event. Before afternoon services started, there was a special ice cream treat. The majority of the brethren had never seen or tasted ice cream and several asked us to explain what it was. One person panicked after tasting it thinking that he was losing his teeth when the cold substance numbed them.

During the last service we blessed 10 children born in the past year. On the Sabbath after the Feast we held regular Sabbath services on the property and hosted some brethren who were on their way home from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Victor Kubik

Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls

This year the Feast in Zimbabwe was held at the tourist resort town of Victoria Falls.

The town is about 1 kilometer from the magnificent Victoria Falls, the world's largest waterfall. It is a World Heritage site and one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

We had a high attendance of 97. This was a 47-percent increase in attendance over last year. (In 2003 Feast attendance was only 12.)

We were privileged to have as our main speaker Council of Elders chairman Melvin Rhodes, accompanied by his wife, Diane, for the entire duration of the Feast.

Deacons Harris Hlazo, Steven Tshabalala and Mike Mukarati each gave a split-sermon and the sermonettes. Message themes included how God will comfort humanity with the establishment of His Kingdom,

the need for us to have a sense of urgency and live as lights in this troubled world, and the wisdom of exercising humble servant leadership in our service to God and His people.

Activities included a Family Day social with games and a barbecue lunch, a group tour of the falls and a boat cruise on the Zambezi River.

Much to our great joy, five people were baptized by Mr. Rhodes during the Feast. These new members of God's family are John and Rudo Benenga, Donald Dube, Rose Mugova and Noria Gorondo-Zulu.

For many of us, this was the best Feast in many years.

Mike Mukarati

Treasure Digest

The Post-Feast Blahs

The Feast is over. You drive home with your thoughts consumed by the wonderful experiences, the marvelous spiritual food and the warm fellowship with old friends and new people you've met for the first time during the past eight days.

Then you pull into your driveway. A quick check of the house—yes, everything looks okay. You unpack the car. And then it begins to sink in: the post-Feast blahs.

It's that feeling again, that one so many of us get each year immediately after the Feast. You probably know what I mean—that letdown feeling that comes from leaving a millennial setting, where nearly every hour was shared with Church brethren. It's that realization that for another year we are back into the world, coping with life in a society that is hostile to God's law.

It's a normal, human reaction to miss the wonderful Feast experiences God allows us to enjoy. For eight days we revel in that small glimpse of life in God's Kingdom that He allows us each year. But we have to live our lives in this world. God does not promise to take us out of the world, but He does promise to give us the power, through His Spirit, to overcome the world (John 17:15).

The question is, What can we do to avoid getting trapped in the post-Feast blahs? Here are few tips for combating the PFBs:

Stay in Touch With Those You Met

A great way to extend that warm Feast glow is to call or e-mail those brethren you met at your Feast site. Let friends know how much you enjoyed seeing them again,

and let new acquaintances know how much you enjoyed meeting them. Also, contact friends who have gone to other Feast sites. Find out how enjoyable their Feast was and what they felt were the highlights of the Feast.

Review the Messages You Heard

The Feast of Tabernacles is, above everything else, a spiritual Feast. It provides us with some of the strongest and most encouraging messages we hear each year. Take time to go over your sermon and sermonette notes. Or better yet, get audio or video copies of the Feast messages. Visit the Feast Web site, <http://feast.ucg.org>, for archived sermons from 2010 and 2009. Usually video recordings are also available at local congregations within a couple of weeks after the Feast.

Resolve to Improve Spiritually

Nearly all of us can tell others about a message that affected us deeply—that seemed to touch an area of our lives that needed changing. Ask God to help you

apply those lessons and allow the Feast messages to change you personally.

Begin Planning Now for Next Year's Feast

The Feast of Tabernacles is the highlight of our year. Given this importance, it is quite appropriate for us to begin planning for next year's Feast as soon as this year's Feast is over. Plan now how you will make next year's Feast even better. If you and your family are considering transferring to a different site, find out about that site from brethren who attended there previously.

Remember that God allows us to enjoy a small foretaste of His Kingdom during these days. He commands us to rejoice at the Feast (Deuteronomy 16:14). It's a time of spiritual and emotional rejuvenation that should help us throughout the year. That glow can and should extend beyond Feast time. It should carry us on to the spring Holy Days. We can avoid the post-Feast blahs!

Mike Kelley

Huntsville, Alabama, congregation



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Turning the Hearts . . . Teach Your Children to Love the Bible



During a visit in the early years of my ministry, one Canadian woman spoke of her parents teaching her the Bible. She mentioned how she and her siblings would sit down as her parents read them the Bible. No matter what section of the Bible it was, they read the Bible to the children verse by verse with little or no commentary on what was written.

That was a noble effort to help children learn the Scriptures. But how effective was it? That's the question. Our children need to be taught to love the Scriptures, for they contain God's truth and lead us to a godly life and ultimately to His wonderful Kingdom.

As you know, children's attention span is different from that of adults. Different methods are needed to teach them. Here are some tips to assist you in helping your children to love the Bible:

- Begin by regularly studying the Bible yourselves. Develop a passion for God's Word and the characters in it. The principles in the Book are timeless and lead us to understand how to practice godliness in a world that does not look to the Bible as its standard. When our children see us loving God's Word, it makes it easier for them to look at the Bible with honor and respect.
- Teach children the basic principles of God's law. Relate the commandments to them in such a way that the law will be easy for them to understand. For instance, what is coveting? I might teach my young daughters by saying, "I really want that doll that your are holding. I really, really want it, but it belongs to you and not to me." I wouldn't just read, "Thou shall not covet." Use your creativity, but be true to the Word.
- When relating stories of biblical heroes, I recommend that you make the stories come alive by using illustrations or some of their own toys to help cement the stories in their minds. Some of the famous characters that my children came to love were Joseph, Moses, David, Abraham, Jacob and Esau, and Jesus Christ. They would ask me to tell those stories often and loved to learn of their lives.
- Finally, don't be afraid to ask them questions after you have taught them. Make it a fun time as you query them to see how much they remember of the lessons or stories.

Think about your children and ask yourself, do they really love the Bible? Then determine to do everything in your power and with God's assistance to help them understand and want to live by the Word of God.

Gary Antion

How Could Christ Not Sin?

I'd like to think that just once I could go a whole day without sinning. I doubt it, but let's just say it's possible. Okay, if I could do it for one entire day, maybe I could do it for two. But for a week or a year? Get real! Yet Jesus Christ did it for 33 years! That's pretty amazing considering he was "in all points tempted as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). He was a man, a human being, with temptations all around; and He had Satan working on Him overtime. Still, He *never* sinned, not even once! No lies, no coveting, no envy, lust or greed. He never overate, got drunk or ever even wanted to take something that wasn't His.

How Could He Do It?

Well, first of all, He knew all of man's sordid history. He'd seen what sin had done, first with the fallen angels, then with man. War, hate, murder, pain, sorrow, guilt, sickness, death, depression, pollution, *ad nauseam* are written in man's sick history over and over.

Christ *hated* sin with a passion! Sin was as abhorrent to Him as a plate of food doused with cyanide would be to us. He saw right through its tantalizing moment of pleasure into the cesspool of death where it would lead.

But He was also in constant contact with His Father. His 40-day-and-night fast was a pretty solid reinforcement for His determination!

Secondly, He had also experienced living with God the Father for eternity and had experienced complete happiness, joy and peace. He knew that if He failed, not only He, but all mankind—all God's beloved children—would die forever and never know that wonderful joy! And above all things, He loves His Father and His children.

Most married people who have a loving relationship with their spouse and a family

Children's
Corner

An Attitude of Gratitude

Look up the Bible verses to find the missing words.

Then unscramble the boxed letters to find out when you should give thanks!

Puzzle by Sabrina Clore

1. "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the of the Lord Jesus, thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).
2. "It is good to give to the LORD, and to to Your name, O Most High" (Psalm 92:1).
3. "Be anxious for , but in everything by and supplication, with , let your be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

(Hint: 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Additional Challenge Question:

What are two verses found in Psalms that show why we begin church with singing?

(Hint: Psalms 95-101)

relationship that has taken years to build can easily withstand the temptation to cheat on their spouses. Why? What they have at home is so precious to them that to even toy with something that could destroy it is unthinkable.

What Christ left in order to become human was so far beyond any kind of fleeting earthly pleasure from sin that He could resist all temptations.

The responsibility and the pressure to keep Himself pure could only be done by one totally filled with God's Spirit and wisdom, with total understanding of just where sin leads, a longing to be back in the bosom of His family and an overwhelming love for God's children.

*Carol Taylor
Boise, Idaho, congregation*



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You Are What You Think

When we moved up in technology and purchased a digital camera, I did not know how to choose just one picture and download it on my computer. Eventually, my brother showed me how to right-click and select only the pictures I wanted to download. But before I learned, every time my husband or I took a picture, I downloaded everything from the camera's memory card (which could hold 400 photos) onto the computer.

Right now my screensaver is a slideshow of all the pictures saved on my computer. I have a lot in there, and it is interesting to see them on the screen. Sometimes we see the same picture quite often and others only once in a great while. Because it uses every picture I ever downloaded, we see duplicates, duds, blanks and some pretty awful photos.

I was watching them one day and thought about how the brain is sort of like this computer. Everything we put in it is stored in there. We can forget a lot, but our memory

holds the information of every experience we have.

Christ stated, "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in the very hour what you ought to say" (Luke 12:11-12). If we want Christ to be able to bring words to our lips, could it be we have to have put them in there first?

I often fret because I can't seem to remember scriptures readily. I know about where in the Bible certain statements are and can usually find many without a concordance, but I sure am not good at memorizing verses. And yet, how many times have I read the whole book?

How much have I studied passages and subjects? Is all that in my brain somewhere?

Can God bring it out if necessary?

Asking these questions to myself gives me renewed desire to put into the computer, that is, my brain, as much of God's Word as I can—and also to keep out as much

of the duds and awful stuff as possible. No wonder Paul said in Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of a good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate [think] on these things."

I hope I learn to right-click on the things that go into my brain.

*Mary Lou Richmond
Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation*

Step Out of the Fret Room

From time to time I feel down and start feeling sorry for myself in a "woe is me" kind of attitude. In a recent sermon the minister described it this way: "When we get into this kind of attitude, it's like going into a very dark, damp and gloomy room emotionally and closing the door to stew." He called it our "fret room."

Do you ever go to your fret room? One day while I was stuffing booklets to be mailed out at the home office where I work, I went into my emotional fret room, fretting about how insignificant and small I felt in the scope of things. Suddenly, one of the booklet's covers caught my attention. It seemed to jump right out at me! The booklet was *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*, and the cover photo was of a crown of thorns with four rusty nails beside it. Of course this represented Christ's death. The light suddenly came on in my fret closet, and I was shaken back to reality!

The cover reminded me of one of the greatest qualities that characterizes Christ. He was a servant and still is a servant. Most of us humans typically spend our whole lives trying to achieve, climb the ladder and excel to greatness for ourselves.

Christ gave up His greatness to become flesh so He could teach us how to truly

become great through service. He taught us by His example in reaching out to the poor and healing the sick. But His greatest service of all, which was glaringly obvious to me as I looked at this cover photo, was His humiliating death so that I may live. So that we all may live!

Do you ever feel that your contributions to life are insignificant and go unnoticed by all? That no one cares or that no one loves you? Stop! Get out of your fret closet and reflect on the tremendous example of Christ! Christ came here to this earth to serve not to be served! He did not strive to achieve power or glory for Himself. He gave His life for us.

Christ's service and care for us is demonstrated in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (New International Version).

I am sure from time to time I will slip into my fret closet, and God will have to remind me about this great visual lesson I learned that day. When we take our focus off of ourselves and place it onto others, it is then, and only then, that we will be complete. Remember Matthew 11:28-30 and my visual lesson, and step out of your fret closet.

*Janet Treadway
Cincinnati, Ohio, North congregation*

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to *United News* at the home office. Guidelines are available on request (UN@ucg.org).

Caption Contest

Winner!

"Can you not understand the words that are coming out of my mouth?"

Kevin Dobbins, Parkersburg, West Virginia, congregation

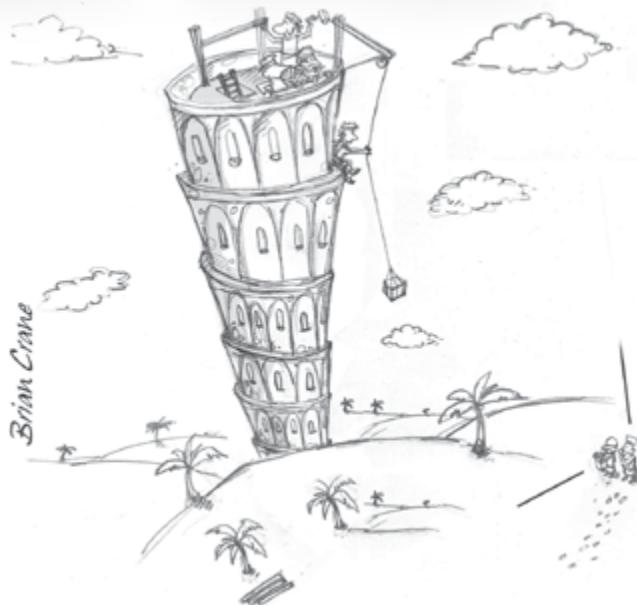
Runners-Up!

Person 1: We need a broader base.

Person 2: Het valt om!

Person 1: ???

Jamie de Moei, UCG-the Netherlands



"Whoa! Y'all slow DOWN up there! Bungee-jumping isn't in effect for another 4,356 years!"

Ivy Smith, Lubbock, Texas, congregation

- Have a clever caption for the cartoon below?
- Send it to your local pastor and ask him to forward it to *United News*. You can also e-mail it to UN@ucg.org. We may feature your caption in an upcoming *United News*!





From the Word

Where Is My Family?

■ Racism is an evil attitude, a special form of hatred; and it drives people of all races to commit unthinkable and evil acts. How can we learn to purge racist attitudes from our hearts and be reconciled to one another as members of the family of God?

by Peter Holmes

Over the past 16 years many brethren have expressed concerns regarding the absence of black brethren in UCG congregations in the United States. The presence of black families is indeed less noticeable today; however, many remain present and faithful albeit scattered throughout the U.S. congregations.

While it is every individual's responsibility to continue to live God's way of life without compromising one's beliefs, we still wonder why so few blacks continued their calling with the United Church of God. There may be multiple answers to that question and to understand we must address a touchy subject—the subject of racism.

Racism in the World

Our collective human history shows examples of men committing inhumane acts toward other men out of a spirit of hatred. For example, centuries of hatred between Jews and gentiles ultimately led to the horrors inflicted by Hitler and the Nazis. The spirit of hatred has also caused ethnic wars even within various tribal groups.

Racism is a learned behavior that resides deep within the heart of man. It is demonic in every way, and it has the power to destroy a people. It is not found exclusively within the heart of one race; it is found within the hearts of people of all races.

Although we have made great progress in building better relationships between the races in the United States, the struggle continues for many black, Hispanic and Asian families to gain respect and acceptance. History has shown that many people of color have proven their ability to be great inventors, builders, scientists, scholars and educators. Many are highly educated, family-oriented, God-fearing, trustworthy and hard working. Yet negative stereotypes still undermine all the good that many have done.

The purpose of this article is not to condemn anyone, but to remind



God expects those of us who have been offended to learn to forgive. And He expects those who have caused offense, even unintentionally, to accept responsibility and change.

all of us of how easily this evil way of thinking and living can infiltrate our thoughts and actions. Racism is an evil attitude, a special form of hatred, and it drives man to commit unthinkable and evil acts. The evil residue of this hatred can lie hidden within the heart.

Racism in God's Church

For many black families, the Church of God was to be the one place where racism did not exist. Regrettably, though, some did experience acts of racism, and for this reason many have become offended and have left our fellowship.

I remember my very first Sabbath when I was a teenager. My mother and I were excited to be attending God's Church for the very first time with other believers. We received a very warm welcome at the door by a black deacon and deaconess. However, when we entered the main corridor a man walking in my path came up to me and said, "We don't play your kind of music here."

Naturally, I was slightly offended because this man made an assumption about me based on my skin color, but I recovered quickly. My mother had instructed me not to be easily offended by negative or racist comments made by anyone.

But this comment would be just the first of many offenses I would encounter personally in God's Church over the years. Just as God expects those of us who have been offended to learn to forgive, He expects those who have caused offense, even unintentionally, to

accept responsibility and change. As God's people, we must be aware that racism is a sin, and not permit its continued existence, especially in the Church of God.

African-American writer James Baldwin stated, "I think that the past is all that makes the present coherent, and further, that the past will remain horrible for exactly as long as we refuse to assess it honestly."

This learned behavior from Satan's world followed some of us into God's Church! Let's understand, when God called us out of this world, He did not remove the learned behaviors of this world from our hearts. We all must recognize sin, repent of it and ask God for help and to give us a new heart.

I have been asked, "Why are you still with that Church?" I am here because this is where God placed me 39 years ago. Jesus Christ said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27). I made the decision to follow God despite any circumstances that might have offended me.

Purging Hate From the Heart

But how do we as God's people purge racism from our hearts and not offend our brethren? As mentioned earlier, racism is found within the hearts of people of all races, and we all must evaluate our own attitudes and actions.

First, we must ask God to show us our heart. The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;

who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). God examines the heart, not the outside appearance of a man, and we must learn to do the same.

When a person speaks evil or shows hatred, prejudice or condescension toward another, these words and actions come from the heart. Jesus Christ tells us, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35).

The Process Begins With Us

As God's people, this change of heart begins with us now. We must repent of all learned behaviors that violate the commandments of God and seek forgiveness.

If we are baptized into the body of Jesus Christ and have put on Christ, then we are "neither Jew nor Greek...slave nor free...male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28). We share the same goal—becoming Abraham's seed and heirs together according to the promise.

We must now forgive one another for offenses, even as Christ forgave us. If we do not, we lose the opportunity to forgive, be forgiven and help show this act of love to all mankind in the Kingdom of God. The apostle Paul gives us a very strong warning that those who do the works of the

flesh will not inherit that Kingdom (Galatians 5:16-21)!

Do we look forward to showing mankind the way to peace and how to love one another as Jesus Christ loved us? We must ask God to purge out from our hearts learned hatred, prejudice and disdain toward others so that we can teach others His way of life.

We have a calling from God, and we serve a very special purpose in accordance with His plan. God has placed each of us in the Body where it pleases Him, and we are not one member in this Body but many (1 Corinthians 12:14, 18).

Our lives as God's people *should never* reflect the evil ways of this world. However, they should reflect this life we have in the Body of Jesus Christ. We should have the same care for one another in God's Church: "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually" (1 Corinthians 12:26-27). If racism is a learned behavior that is found within our hearts, it can be purged out with the help of God's Holy Spirit. But we must ask God for help.

Becoming the Solution

Johnetta Cole Ph.D., in her book *Dream the Boldest Dream*, wrote, "We're going to have to live with our differences or share the same fate of destructiveness." We do not have to share the world's fate of destructiveness because God has given us the solution to racism. Together, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, we can become the solution and not the problem.

Many black families in the United States chose to remain faithful to God, trusting and believing that together we within the United Church of God will overcome our differences. We will continue to learn from one another and grow in the faith God has given each of us.

If we have caused personal offenses, let's go to our brother and seek forgiveness. And let the offended be ready to forgive. If we do not forgive our brother, God will not forgive our sins (Matthew 6:15). Let's repent and be reconciled back to God first, then to each other. For us to become one family—the family of God—we must seek God and do His will in order to rule with Jesus Christ in the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

So, where is my family? My family is right here beside me within God's Church. We are the family of God of every race and ethnicity bound together by the common thread of God's Holy Spirit. **UN**

Peter Holmes is a deacon in the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation.

Overcoming Apathy

■ Is a state of mind where God doesn't matter to us really where we want to be?

by **Jeremy Lallier**

Many of us have, at some point in our lives, come into contact with that foul beast called apathy. It's a frightening monster, because when we find ourselves trapped in its clutches, we simply *don't care enough* to fight it back. We are content to remain trapped, bereft of motivation or drive.

So what should we do to overcome apathy? What can we do, for that matter? As with all problems, apathy is surmountable. We can overcome.

Ask God for Strength and Willpower

Of all the steps, asking God for help is the simplest and most overlooked one. All too often, we forget that "with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27) and "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). But before we can utilize the strength to do the impossible, we must first *ask* our Creator for it. This way, we remain conscious of where our help

and deliverance are coming from—not from ourselves but from God.

Understand Where Apathy Comes From

God has an amazing plan for us. Every day we face new opportunities to grow in His character, and every Sabbath and annual Holy Day returns our attention to the eternal plan He is ever working toward. That same plan can provide us with both the drive and motivation necessary to get up and face each day.

Apathy comes when we lose sight of this plan, our *future* and its importance in our lives. The source, the very origin of apathy, is a loss of focus on God's plan. And in losing sight of what God is doing, we distance ourselves from Him. A friend of mine, in relating her story of overcoming anorexia, confided in me that she had realized not only that God did not like what she was doing, but additionally that she didn't care. That realization was enough of a shock to jolt her out of apathy and into action.

So let's ask ourselves: Is a state of mind where God doesn't matter to us really where we want to be?

Get Doing

Once we realize that we need to be doing something, the next step is to go out and do it. Is that an easy task

when we don't have any real desire to? No. But if we wait until we care enough to do something, then we'll never do anything.

We need to be the ones who break the cycle, whether we have the motivation to do it or not. We must pray to God for strength and then plow ahead.

Sometimes it helps to have someone "light a fire under us," so to speak. If we are apathetic, it means God's plan and God Himself have dropped from their appropriate position as No. 1 in our lives. This is not okay. God demands and belongs in that No. 1 spot. By placing Him anywhere else we jeopardize our salvation.

Let me put that another way. *As long as we are apathetic, we are in danger of losing our promise of eternal life and a future in God's Kingdom.* If that doesn't scare us enough to shake off our numbness, what will?

God is not asking us to overcome this alone. Talk to Him. He is with those who turn to Him—but the decision to overcome apathy has to be ours.

What to Do

As far as what we can be doing, the possibilities are limitless. In serving others—following the example set by Christ (Matthew 20:26-28)—



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we can often recapture that sense of purpose we have come to lack. (Don't forget the principle set forth in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: With the help of others, such tasks become easier.) Reaching out to others gets our minds off of ourselves; and as a result, we can become motivated to continue on a path of service. Ask your local pastor for suggestions on how you can help in the congregation. Studying the Bible to better understand a topic of interest or a previously unexplored section of

Scripture coupled with prayer can help rekindle the fire as well.

The most important thing to remember is that with God's help, we can fight our way out of the grasp of apathy and finally slay the beast. With the promise of the future He has set before us and the opportunities we encounter every day to grow into the son or daughter He wants us to be, there is no room for apathy in our lives. Let's get doing. **UN**

Jeremy Lallier is a staff writer at the home office.

My Enemy Next Door

■ How is it possible to love someone you consider your enemy?

by **Carol Emerson**

It is strange that I would think of Mark (his name has been changed for privacy reasons) while reviewing what I'm thankful for. He was a mean old man who paced my front walk for years with a frown, a mug of coffee and a cigarette dangling from his mouth. All the neighbors knew him to be an odd, old, nosy sort who had nothing better to do than to polish his cars or sit in his 1950 Blue Chevy pickup listening to country-western eight-track tapes.

Over the 30 years my family lived near Mark, he was always a cantankerous neighbor, known for his variety of complaints, police visits and letters threatening to go before this commission or that commission. His complaints included: "Your fence is too low (or too high)," "Your plants are stealing the water from my yard," or "Your dog is barking!"

The final straw for me was the day an animal control officer knocked on my door after Mark had turned in another complaint. I asked the officer to be a witness and accompany me to Mark's door. The officer

watched as I confronted him for this final blow.

"Mark, I'm not sure why you're so unhappy, but I've done everything to appease and comply with you," I started. "I tore out 15 bush cherry trees, relandscaped our borders, put a bark collar on my dog and even shared my flowers and fruit. This harassment has to stop!" It was left to me to deliver this threat stemming from seven years of his unreasonable complaints. For the next two years, we avoided eye contact.

"I Didn't Know How to Love Someone I Hated"

In Luke 6:27-28 God tells us to love our enemies. "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

While I know this is true, when you are really mad at someone, that is hard to do. But nothing I did was working; and believing God's way works, I relented. I had no other option. I began to pray for him and for my attitude and animosity—because I didn't know how to love someone I hated.

One Sabbath afternoon I saw Mark walking toward me. "Oh no, not again!" I thought. I asked a friend to stay nearby and be a witness. What came from his lips was the last thing I ever expected to hear.

"Carol, would you forgive me for treating you the way I have?" he said. "I had no call to act the way I did." My resentment melted away, and though we were separated by a short picket fence, I threw up my arms inviting a hug and said, "In a second, Mark. I'll forgive you in a second!" We both cried.

During those two years of silence between us, his son had committed suicide. He told me his wife was bedridden and that his other son and he had been estranged for 20 years. He began to share with me his regrets—that he had a granddaughter he'd never seen—and about his abusive, alcoholic father.

We became wonderful friends. He'd leave camellia flowers on my porch and even invited me to meet his daughter. The three of us sat on the porch and drank wine and laughed, although I'd never met his wife until I received a phone call from her early in the spring.

Something had happened to Mark, and he had driven himself to the hospital. She had fallen and broken her arm a week before and had no one to check on her. She was distraught and had no way to get to Mark. My neighbor and I helped her to the car and to the hospital and wheeled her through the corridors to find Mark strapped to his bed.



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We left, planning to give them time alone when a tall man with strawberry-blonde hair passed us and walked into the room. As we walked down the hall, I heard wails and cries of a mother being reunited with a long-lost son. Amazingly, he turned out to be an employee at the hospital.

Mark never came home. He died that week. But the sun is shining again next door. His wife is walking and driving herself to appointments and to the store.

She has a little granddaughter with beautiful red hair who plays in the yard as her son works to bring life back to the home that had been dark for so long. There are happy sounds coming from over the fence. A healing miraculously came, I believe, after a little prayer for my enemy.

I love Mark, and I miss him. He is one of the people I am very grateful to have known. **UN**

Carol Emerson is a member in the San Jose, California, congregation.

Will the Son of Man Find Faith?

■ What more can we as members of God's Church do to ensure our faith continues to grow?

by Preston Buchanan

Amidst biblical research, archaeological discoveries, scholarly assessment and ancient languages, enough information has been amassed to fill a lifetime of study. By sending e-mails and using the Internet, members in the Body of Christ have an unprecedented opportunity to seek advice and answers from God's ministers, who have been trained and educated in the truth.

One e-mail can yield a plethora of thoughts and insights into Scripture, providing a bountiful harvest of knowledge that can edify and provide spiritual direction. Never before has such a vast array of information been made available to humanity.

With such capabilities, *surely* no member in the Church of God could *ever* fall short of the divine inheritance.

With such resources, *surely* we would never have to ask *ourselves* the question, "When

the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Yet we ask because, as dedicated servants, *we will do everything* to ensure that we please our Father and our elder Brother, who seeks a harvest of like-minded brothers and sisters. We must seek to live a life consisting of more than once-a-week services and an immature application of Christian living. Our example to the world and our adherence to Christian living must be ever expanding, bringing about new depths of faith through spiritual works.

Being Profitable

When the disciples asked Jesus how they could increase their faith, He responded with a parable. This parable involved servants who attended to their rightful duties but carried no further dedication to these services. Luke 17:10 states, "When you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" Truly, as humble servants, we attend to our duties. But as servants seeking to increase faith, we also must ask ourselves, what else may be done and improved on in service to our Master?

This mind-set is the foundation for build-

ing faith. We seek the increasing of our faith, for we know that without pursuit—without action—faith cannot grow, for faith without works is dead (James 2:17). We must eagerly seek a spiritual breath of life to kindle the Holy Spirit into a roaring flame of righteous zeal.

If the faith that led us to baptism has not grown since that day we turned from sin, if we have not sought to go beyond our preconceived notion of "faithful servant," can we say that we have drawn closer to God? Or has our faith been without works—frail and feeble—worthless to shield us from Satan's fiery darts?

Character of Faith

Truly, the means by which we build faith is determined not solely by actions, but *by the character those actions are rooted in*. God knows every individual alive and every individual who has ever lived.

However, our collective history shows God developing personal relationships with a relatively small group of people, working with these individuals and through these individuals according to His will. This is the personal relationship we must bear in mind when considering the difference between our

knowing God and God *knowing us*. Only when the character of faith sprouts action can the works of a servant truly reflect a relationship where the servant is *known by God*.

Consider Christ's own conclusion to those who cast out demons, did many *mighty works* and prophesied, all in His name: "I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matthew 7:22).

It is the character of faith that leads to actions based in God's laws and blessed by God. The servant is known by God *because he loves God* (1 Corinthians 8:3); and he increases his faith with service that goes beyond a basic adherence to duty, beyond mere compliance and far beyond the practice of iniquity.

What a blessing God gives us to understand His plan of salvation with Holy Days that outline the gathering of His children now and later for a coinheritance of peaceful eternal life. As His children, entrusted with a responsibility to be an example to all men, let us breathe new life into our dedication to God and may our faith be known to Him by living as pleasing servants. **UN**

Preston Buchanan is a member in the East Texas congregation.

Turning Points: Preludes to My Calling

by Eric Johnson

I'm sure many of us have experienced life hazards or have escaped bodily harm in one form or another. After 40 years I still remember two instances that happened to me while growing up. Both of these events happened by the time I was 11 years old and both seem instrumental in how God called my father and me into His Church.

That's When I Heard the Crashing Sound...

The first incident happened around 1967 when I was about 9 years old. My 8-year-old brother and I were with our dad going to the hardware store to pick up a few items for one of my dad's projects.

We pulled up in front of the store in our 1966, four-door Chevy station wagon. Our dad told us to wait in the car as he was only going to be a few minutes. For my brother and me, that wasn't a problem because, you see, we were typical boys.

Now picture yourself in a car with no parents around. There are knobs to push, levers to pull, wheels to turn and pedals to stomp. Another thing about this station wagon was that it was big! We could climb around all the way to the back window. It was like an amusement park inside that car.

Not only were we typical boys, we were also typical brothers. I still remember wrestling for control of the front seat while my brother was in the back seat trying to climb over into my territory.

That's when I saw it. For some reason I stopped wrestling with my brother momentarily and watched out the back window as a truck drove by pulling an empty boat trailer. For some reason, I just kept watching, and all of a sudden, the trailer came unhitched from the truck. I not only watched the boat trailer come unhitched, but saw it slow down, pivot around and start to head straight for our station wagon.



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I noticed it approaching about 30 feet from the car, heading toward the back window of the driver's side. I decided to react. I grabbed my brother by his jacket and tried unsuccessfully to pull him into the front seat. Then I turned and ducked down on the front passenger seat, pulling my jacket hood over my head.

That's when I heard the crashing sound of the trailer tongue going through the window. After it got quiet, I popped up and noticed my brother slumped over the bench seat. He popped up and we both turned toward the back door. We could barely move. The trailer tongue was halfway inside the car.

Excited yet frantic, we got out of the car and ran inside the store. We found our dad and told him what had just happened. He looked at us as if we were aliens from Mars.

That's about the time my dad noticed a slight cut and a little blood along the midline of my brother's throat. He asked if we were okay and we said "yes." My dad stood there in amazement looking at the trailer tongue stuck inside the back window of his car. He

couldn't believe what had just happened, and how we had been protected as if angels were watching over us (Psalm 91:11).

The Garbage Run

About a year later during the hot summer, we missed getting the garbage cans out to the curb for pickup, so we had to make a run to the dump to empty the cans ourselves. Our dad, my brother, a neighbor friend and I all went along in his '57 pickup truck. Just like typical young boys, to us a garbage run to the dump was an adventure.

After emptying the garbage, we headed back home along the landfill dirt road. In those days we used to ride in the bed of the pickup. My brother stood on top of a spare tire looking over the cab. I was sitting on top of the driver's side wheel well, while our longtime friend was sitting on the other side.

The next thing I knew the pickup went over a small embankment and rolled over one-and-a-half times. I still remember lying on my back and looking between my legs as the truck went over top of me.

We were all thrown into the grass and marsh area of the landfill. After the truck stopped rolling, I remember looking back and seeing our neighbor friend scrambling back up the edge to the road. One of us began to yell out names to see if the others were all right. When the truck settled into the marsh on its side, my brother, my dad and I managed to climb up the short hill to the road where our friend was waiting. My dad asked if we were all okay. We all said "yes." There was barely a scratch on any of us.

I found out later that my dad had a hydraulic jack inside the cab when it started to roll. I was surprised it never hit him.

Turning Point

Maybe these accidents and God's miraculous protection were a wake-up call and a turning point in my dad's life. It was roughly a year later that he decided to respond to God's calling and try to keep the commandments of God that he was learning about and to pass this truth onto his family (Acts 2:38-39). This became a turning point in my life as well.

God works in our lives even before He calls us. Perhaps you have your own stories of miraculous occurrences and close calls. Sometimes God works through trials; sometimes, through miracles; and sometimes, through both. I'm sure the seriousness of these accidents and the obvious protection God provided stirred questions and the spark of faith in my dad's mind. Perhaps your stories stirred questions in your mind too.

God plants those seeds of faith. He provides us with examples to build our faith, both in the Bible and in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Our job is to then grow in faith and to fight off the enemies of faith. For help in this vital process, take time to study the inspiring and helpful booklet *You Can Have Living Faith*. **UN**

Eric Johnson is a member in the Tacoma, Washington, congregation.



Local Church Updates

Los Angeles Women's Club Receives an Education in Good Health

The UCG–Los Angeles Women's Club hosted a memorable meeting when it featured Sherry Michaud as a keynote speaker with her mini-seminar "Lets Talk About Healthy Ideas." It piqued the interest of a sizable group of ladies desiring to gather updated information on how to improve and live a healthy and pain-free life.

Members of the UCG–Los Angeles Women's Club spend approximately one Sunday afternoon each month sharing information about common interests and take the opportunity to socialize.

Sherry definitely knew her subject. She had completed her studies with a B.S. in holistic nutrition at the Clayton College of Natural Health in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sherry revealed information about a balanced weight-loss program and covered subjects such as fasting, cleansing, supplements and choosing foods as God has made them—fresh, whole, unadulterated and organic. She also stressed the importance of hydration. But she did not leave out some fun yet healthy foods to add variety.

"So what is our motivation to eat healthy?" Sherry asked. We are God's temple and are responsible for proper maintenance and care of our bodies so that we can give ourselves in service to God and His people. Knowing this helps us make right choices as we work toward the Kingdom of God. And as we do our part, God promises to do His part and bless us. Let us hold Him to His wonderful promises.

Marion Snyder

East Texas Sabbath School Presents "Our Awesome God"

Sabbath school children treated the combined East Texas and Texarkana congregations to an enjoyable, special afternoon presentation at Pentecost services, May 23, 2010.

The program was titled "Our Awesome God" and featured 17 children who shared what they have been learning this year. This is the fifth Sabbath school presentation that has been shared with the congregation.



Children in East Texas share what they learned in Sabbath school (photo by Sarah Baker)

The presentation began with the children singing "Our God Is an Awesome God," accompanied by Wesley Johnson on the piano. A beautiful slide show depicting God's character and creative powers were shown on the giant screen as the children sang.

This year, level-2 students were given the challenge of looking around and finding something that showed them how awesome God is. The children picked out what they had chosen from a large treasure chest on stage and explained why they had chosen that item.

Level-1 children learned how each Holy Day represents a key to God's clock. The children talked about these keys in an open and moving way from a DVD that was created and shown to the audience.

The program concluded with a skit in which the children examined the model of a heart and found the laws of God written there. They shared with the congregation what they had been taught throughout the year about learning, living and loving God's laws.

Level-1 students are Jacob Browder, Jerrett Browder, Riley Crane, Seth Crane, Makena Crawford, Ben Holcomb, Sofia Perez, Eric Taylor and Megan Weiss. Level-2 students are Jackson Benton, Hunter Crawford, Samuel Harmon, David Holcomb, Zachary Kennebeck, Kyleigh Moody, Ittai Perez, Jordenn Phillips, Arthur Taylor and Olivia Urwiller.

The program is under the direction of Harriet Walding. Laura Moody and Penny Urwiller are the primary teachers, assisted by Charlene McCrady, Preston Buchanan and Melissa Taylor.

Sarah Baker

Senior Citizens of Columbia, Maryland, Honored

Sixteen of the senior citizens in the Columbia, Maryland, congregation were honored at a special dinner on July 10, 2010, following Sabbath services.

All age groups participated in the church activity. The tables were set with fresh flowers as centerpieces along with placemats that were made by the children in Sabbath school. Some of the youth, dressed in white dress shirts and black pants or skirts, served the senior citizens. A salad and choice of two entrees—pasta with a meat sauce and linguine with chicken in

alfredo sauce—were prepared by a few of the ladies in the congregation. Attendees enjoyed a dessert of fresh berries (picked from gardens of the brethren) served with a cream sauce.

A couple of the teens had interviewed some of the seniors beforehand and shared stories they had learned, such as how they came into contact with God's truth or their favorite Feast memory.

Columbia, Maryland, pastor Tim Waddle spoke to the senior citizens about the various ways they serve in the congregation. The evening was an example of Leviticus 19:32: "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD."

Rhonda Diggins

Latino Brethren in Dallas Meet for Social and Bible Study



The Horchaks host over 30 Hispanic brethren for quarterly Bible study

Over 30 Hispanic brethren gathered at the home of Doug and Tanya Horchak on Sunday, Aug. 29, for the quarterly Hispanic Bible study and potluck. However, this was the first time the event has taken place on a day other than the Sabbath, and it was the first time the Horchaks were able to host all the brethren at their home.

The focus of this quarter's Bible study was the Seven Churches of Revelation 2 and 3. The study and discussion centered on each of the church's flaws, their good works, their rewards and how their history relates to our present time. As food is very much a part of most events in the Hispanic culture, after Bible study, we shared fellowship and a very delicious meal of smoked chicken and all the sides and trimmings prepared by all.

We very much enjoyed this special time to gather with other brethren and the ministry in a casual and relaxed setting to study God's Word. The Hispanic church population is composed of brethren from several different countries, so these Bible studies give us the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures—not to mention wonderful and different cuisines!

We look forward to the next Bible study, which will take place after the Feast and will be a special time for us to share in each other's Feast experiences as well as our Feast plans for next year.

Dora Jennings

London, Kentucky, Ladies Hold Educational Workshop

The ladies in the London congregation who grew up in the hills and valleys of Kentucky were given many opportunities to develop their skills, talents and abilities in ways that are still helpful today for them and for others! Feb. 28, 2010, proved to be an exciting time for these ladies to share many of these talents!

Judy Swanson led the way with her demonstration of baking bread from freshly ground whole-wheat flour. As the aroma of her fresh bread baking in the oven filled the air, Robbin Grubb recounted her family's home remedies using ordinary plants in the wild. Florence Bush followed with an interesting and informative talk on the natural healing properties of wild plants.

Janice Miracle, dressed in the garb of former days, gave a PowerPoint presentation on common edible wild plants. She also gave everyone a recipe for homemade deodorant with a small sample to go with it! A delicious array of salads, breads and desserts, which the ladies had prepared for lunch, was served and enjoyed at noon.

Lunch was followed by Lyn Steven's presentation on different types of salt. Jean Hale provided

informative and interesting insight into the art of reupholstering a chair, with all the equipment to go with it.

Mary Guffey gave us an excellent and easy demonstration on how to make a pillowcase. Linda LaBissoniere brought spring into the room with her PowerPoint presentation on flower gardening and landscaping.

Rounding out the afternoon, emcee Jeannie Evans dazzled everyone with her creative talents in making jewelry. Who would have thought a broken earring could be turned into an adornment for a teacup or a wine glass?

The demonstrators also gave handouts of their presentations to all those in attendance. The ladies all agreed that since there is so much more that we can all learn, we must have another educational workshop again!

Janice Miracle and Judy Swanson

Local Church Updates: If your congregation's news and events are rarely covered in *United News*, why not check with your pastor and write something for him to send in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor to forward to *United News*.

Announcements

Births

Jacques and Amber (Ruggless) Roos of the Auckland, New Zealand, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their son,



Autumn and Clayton Roos

Clayton Jack Roos. He arrived on Feb. 24, 2010, at 8:52 a.m., weighing 6 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Big sister Autumn is enjoying having a baby brother. Proud grandparents are Maurice and June Halliday of Cape Town, South Africa, and Julia Ruggless of Portland, Oregon.

Mark and Jeannette (Hoffart) Freeman of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation, are pleased to announce the birth of their new-



Nathan Cole Freeman

est family member, Nathan Cole. Nathan arrived on Aug. 9, 2010, at 2:29 a.m. He weighed 6.6 pounds and measured 19¼ inches long. Audrey and Luke are thrilled to have another sibling to love. Proud grandparents are David and Kathleen Hoffart of the St. Paul, Minnesota, congregation and Bob and Pat Freeman of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation.

John and Lisa (Browning) McKinney of the Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their much prayed for second child, Justin Walter McKinney. Justin was welcomed into the world on his due date of Aug. 5, 2010, weighing 8 pounds 13 ounces and measuring 21¼ inches long. He surprised the family by arriving with a head full of hair, which continues to amaze all who see him! Big brother Seth (4½ years old) is already trying to instruct him about important things like John Deere tractors

and diesel vehicles and wants to know when he's going to be big enough to ride a bike! Justin is



Justin Walter McKinney

the second grandchild for proud grandparents Walter and Sharon Browning of the Portland, Oregon, congregation and Wanda McKinney of the Portsmouth congregation.

Mark and Larissa Patton who attend the Des Moines, Iowa, congregation would like to announce the birth of their first child, Victoria (Tori) Marie, on Aug. 18, 2010. She weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces. She is a miracle and a blessing not only for her parents but also for her grandparents Fred and Linda



Victoria Marie Patton

Patton of Big Sandy, Texas, and Nick and Nancy Sass of Prescott Valley, Arizona. She was blessed at the Feast of Tabernacles by longtime family friend Scott Lord (pastor of the Buffalo and Elmira, New York, congregations) with both sets of her grandparents present.

Weddings

Eric and Teri Mez would like to announce the beginning of an everlasting union of love that began with their wedding on May 31, 2010. Their parents, Larry and Frances Haney of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Henry and Rhonda Mez of Euharlee, Georgia, gathered with family and friends on St. Petersburg Beach as Eric and Teri became husband and wife.

The groom was attended by his friends Gordon Pennington, Phil Dance, David Dance and Brandon Graby. The bride was attended by her sister, Sarah Haney, and by her friends Ashley Miller, Anna

Karlik, Rachel Mez and Rebekah Mez.

The wedding was followed by extravagant fireworks on the beach compliments of local Memorial



Teri and Eric Mez

Day celebrations. The happy couple now resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Obituaries

Louise Dombrowski, 73, died Sept. 11, 2010, after a courageous struggle against a very aggressive strain of throat cancer. She had



Louise Dombrowski

been a member of the Church of God in Cleveland, Ohio, for nearly 30 years. Louise was predeceased by more than 20 years by her husband, Robert, who was also a member. She is survived by her daughter Linda Fradette and granddaughter Marguerite Manelski. Other family and friends from the Church and community will miss her greatly. A memorial service for her was held Sept. 15.

Louise was a fine example of quietly determining the needs of others and figuring out a way to meet them, without calling attention to her help. Her warm smile and genuine interest in others will leave a gap in the Cleveland congregation. She looked forward so much to being in God's family and encouraged others to share her positive outlook.

Joan Droney, 87, of McArthur, Ohio, died Aug. 21, 2010. She was born on July 6, 1923, in Van Wert, Ohio, to Milan Kampf and Mary Kampf Carlson.

She and her late husband, Bernard, were baptized into God's Church in March of 1962. This

began her long journey into God's truth. An avid reader, she loved to discuss God's way of life and the scriptures with all who knew her.



Joan Droney

She lived in Ohio, Indiana, California and Colorado, working at many different jobs. She finally settled in McArthur, Ohio, to be near family.

She's survived by two daughters, Jan (George) Grounds of Albany, Ohio, and Marlene (Jim) Smith of Gering, Nebraska; four grandsons, Tim Grounds of Athens, Ohio; David Grounds of Columbus, Ohio; J.W. Smith of Virginia; and Jeremy Smith of Gering, Nebraska. Also surviving are two great-granddaughters, Jayden and Lorelei Smith.

Joan was the oldest of three surviving sisters.

Tim Kuver was born Sept. 8, 1967, to Tom and Pam Kuver of San Antonio, Texas, formerly of Buffalo, New York. He died at the age of 42 very unexpectedly on July 26, 2010, at Geneva General Hospital in Geneva, New York, from a pulmonary clot that traveled to his lungs.

Tim moved with his family from Derby, New York, to San Antonio



Tim Kuver

in 1981. He was an active participant in the YOU program, where he served on the San Antonio teen council and played volleyball, basketball and ran track. He achieved several MVP awards. In high school he was a recipient of Who's Who in America, graduating in the top 10 percent of his class. Upon graduation he attended UTSA and worked for his father in the family business.

After inheriting the farm and home of his grandparents (Lucille

and Warren Smith of the Elmira/Corning congregation) in 1989, he started his family and, like his dad, a very successful painting company.

As his dad stated at his funeral, Tim lived his life in accordance to Ecclesiastes 9:10. Everything Tim did—from work to entertainment—he did with all his might. He also lived to adhere to James 1:27, believing that serving and helping others was true, pure and undefiled religion. Tim was highly respected among his community, friends and family. This sentiment was shown by over 350 people who came to his viewing and funeral. His body was laid to rest in Penn Yan, New York, as he awaits Christ's return.

Tim Kuver is survived by his parents, longtime members Tom and Pam Kuver, who serve the San Antonio, Texas, congregations as a local elder and deaconess; his sisters, Kimberly (David) Gatley and Kris (JJ) Brooks; his wife, Sharon (Barnes) Kuver; children, Jacob (19), Riley (9), Mason (6) and Madelyn (5); nieces and nephews, Brooke (13) and Tyler (11) Gatley, Jeffrey (20) and Lorena (19) Brooks; as well as his wife's extended family.

Otto Lennick, 81, died on July 29, 2010, at home. He was a member of the Bismarck/Mandan, North



Otto Lennick

Dakota, congregation. A funeral services was held on Tuesday, Aug. 3, at the Bismarck Funeral Home with pastor Herb Teitgen officiating. Interment was at the Hazen Cemetery.

Otto Lennick was born in Otter Creek on Aug. 26, 1928, to Pauline (Kraft) and Edward Lennick. He finished eighth grade and farmed the family farm until the fall of 1969 when he sold it. He moved the family to Bismarck and began a career with Sweetheart Bakery, working on the production line. He retired from his second career on Aug. 31, 1990, receiving an award for 20 consecutive years of safety.

After retiring, he wintered in Phoenix, Arizona, spending time with his son and grandchildren. He spent his summers visiting his daughters and spending time with his cousin Clarence and family.

He would tell you the best place to eat in town was the Little Cottage. He also enjoyed the atten-

tion he received while living at the "High Rise."

He is survived by his daughters, Jackie Knowlen and Sandy (Craig) Zimmer; one son, Kermit Lennick; five grandchildren, Kristina, Kermit II, Kendal, Kalieb and Ketera; and caretaker, Wanda Brewer.

Otto was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Oscar; and four sisters, Edna, Velma, Gertrude and Alice.

Arthur David Patterson, a longtime member of the Oakland, California, congregation, died July 1, 2010, after a long battle against cancer. He was baptized in 1974.

Although he grew up in Oakland, California, he was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on Sept. 11, 1934.

He moved to Jefferson, Texas, in the '60s and became an electronics technician, owning a Radio Shack. Over the years he garnered a reputation as the guru of the town for about anything electronic. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing while living in Texas.

He moved back to California in 1991 and put his hand to building and remodeling work. One of his friends commented that when he



Janice Spieker

Janice Edleman Spieker, age 74, of Willow Lake, South Dakota, died Thursday, Aug. 26, as a result of a brain tumor.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Elmer and Ruth Edleman, and her youngest son, Mark.

Surviving her are her husband, Harlan; children, Sandra (Art) Dreaden, Susan Spieker, John (Marlene) Spieker, David (Dawn) Spieker and Ann (Doug) Murphy; grandchildren, Zac, Tyler (Jenny), Jesse (Shea) and

Tribute Janice Spieker

Cody Dreaden; Dan (Meghan) Spieker; Bob (Kelly), Jered and James (Janessa) Spieker; Dathan (Kami), Ashley and Damon Spieker; Erin, Sarah and Briana Murphy; and great-grandchildren Kim, Colin, Mason and Jakob Spieker; her sister, June (Huon) Newberg; her brother, Myron (Ann) Edleman; and many nieces, nephews, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

She was born Janice Joan Edleman on March 21, 1936, on a farm six miles southeast of Willow Lake, the oldest of three children of Elmer and Ruth (Neuberger) Edleman.

Always an excellent student, Janice started out at Country School Washington No. 40. Janice's responsibilities as a young girl included taking care of the new chicks, gathering and washing eggs and scrubbing the brooder house. Her dad drove her to school in winter in a horse-drawn sled with a big fur coat on top of her to keep her warm. A description of her

young life reads like an idyllic American novel.

An accomplished musician since her youth, Janice played piano and organ for audiences from a private few to several thousand. "Music has been a big part of my life," she said many times. She started with piano lessons in third grade. She was also very active in choir and mastered the accordion, teaching lessons as a part-time job—one of many she had in high school—besides her part in the family farm work. She was also an athlete. Janice graduated valedictorian of her class in 1954.

On Nov. 26, 1954, she was united in marriage to Harlan Dale Spieker whose family had long been friends of the Edlemans. He had taken special notice of her at summer Bible school, and a courtship by mail developed as he served in the army. They moved in March 1955 into their home that Harlan and his dad had remodeled from a schoolhouse south of where they have

lived and farmed ever since until their retirement last spring.

Between farm work, raising six children and community service, Janice was a very busy person! After her youngest child started high school, she worked for 20 years as a CNA/CMA, touching the lives of many as she cared for their needs. She was a devoted mother, an avid gardener, a talented quilter and needleworker, an enthusiastic world traveler, a hard-working farm wife and a committed Christian.

Baptized in 1968, she served beside her husband, Harlan, who was ordained as an elder on the Feast of Trumpets in 1976. Janice was respected and loved. She served and touched many lives in her community and in the Church.

Harlan likes to say, "She did us good all the days of her life," quoting Proverbs 31. Through the years, Janice was a presence and a pillar—a grandmother to the congregation. At 74 she was vibrant and energetic. Her family and many, many friends look to the resurrection to see her once again.



Arthur David Patterson

was young Arthur taught him a lot about wiring, plumbing, framing and other skills needed to do construction work.

During his illness, Arthur was an extraordinary example of faith and love towards the brethren. Even though he was sometimes suffering during his illness, brethren were often encouraged by him. He often said he was setting his eyes on the goal ahead—the Kingdom of God. He will be greatly missed till that time comes.

A special memorial service was conducted on July 24 by Oakland and San Jose pastor Jim Tuck. Additional comments were made by one of his daughters and others within the local congregation.

Arthur's wife, Laura, preceded him in death, but he leaves behind four children, Oreeda Osborne, Willy, James and Vanessa Patterson, plus several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Aubrey Dale Williams, a member of the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation, died Aug. 30 at the age of 84. Aubrey was the fifth of five children born to Klutz and

Cora Campbell Williams. He grew up on the family farm and learned early the values of hard work and family togetherness.

On Aug. 21, 1948, he married Betty Lee Lutz of Maiden, North Carolina, and they had four children—two sons and two daughters. Aubrey was introduced to the Radio Church of God in the mid-1960s by his father who was never a member but stated, "If any man knows truth, this man does." Aubrey and his wife started attending the Asheville congregation in 1969 and both were baptized soon after. They faithfully served God's Church and the brethren in many capacities for years.

Aubrey retired from Broyhill Furniture as a tenon machine oper-



Aubrey Dale Williams

ator. He was also an avid gardener. He loved studying God's Word and serving.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his two sons, Dale Lee and Mark Emanuel Williams; two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Carswell and Martha Rebecca Roark;



Alma Satterwhite

Tribute Alma Satterwhite

Alma Satterwhite, 72, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died June 18, 2010, and now awaits the resurrection. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Floyd E. Satterwhite Sr., and their children, Floyd E. Jr., Lois and Mayme.

Alma was a nurse in the Richmond area for 40 years and a much-loved member of the Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation. Alma's funeral service was performed by Todd Carey on June 21.

She served God's people and Church for many years and was encouraging to others despite her own illness.

two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

At the funeral service, tributes were made to Aubrey for his example of outgoing concern for others and his strong inner faith. One of his most memorable gifts was his smile, which could speak encouragement, love, compassion and gentleness to all who met him.

Sharon Dominguez, 61, died unexpectedly from a blood clot June 7, 2009. Sharon was born Feb. 29, 1948, on a leap year, and grew up in Globe, Arizona, with older sister Jacque Querns. She later moved to Los Angeles in 1966. Sharon met Tony Dominguez while teaching dance at Arthur Murry Dance Studios in 1967, and soon after they were married on Feb. 4, 1968. In 1969 the couple learned about God's truth and started attending church in Norwalk, California. They were baptized in 1973. In 1981 Tony and Sharon moved to Longmont, Colorado, and raised three sons, Marc, Derrick and Aaron.

Sharon was an amazing, virtuous woman who was always willing to take charge and lend a helping hand whenever someone needed it. Sharon led volunteer activities,



Sharon Dominguez

organized church events and saw everyone as part of her family. Sharon had an incredible energy and passion for life as well as an indescribable infectious laugh that could be recognized from anywhere in the room. Sharon always took the time to bring people into

her home and heart no matter how many people she was helping and how many commitments she had on her plate. She also volunteered one day a week at a Denver adoption agency. There was always laughter, food and more people than chairs in Sharon and Tony's home.

Sharon leaves behind her husband, Tony; sister, Jackie (Phoenix, Arizona); as well as three sons, Marc (Jennifer), Derrick and Aaron. She also leaves behind three granddaughters, Sydney, Brittany and Annalise.

Announcements: Members are welcome to submit announcements of the births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.) and obituaries in their families. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Most items are 50 to 100 words and should not exceed 250 words. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give them to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

certain she will make a fine addition to our team.”

Sarah Bates was recently hired as an international mail clerk, working alongside Alec and Donna Surratt. She officially took on her new responsibilities at the home office on Oct. 25.

“Initially, she will be working with Donna processing international Web site responses from India, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Singapore; however, we are sure she will soon be taking care of requests from all of the over 160 countries we serve,” Mr. Surratt said.

Prior to taking on this position, Miss Bates was working part-time with the media team, transferring content from the current www.ucg.org Web site to the new site set to be launched in May 2011.

Miss Bates is originally from the small ranching community of California Hot Springs, California, where she attended the Bakersfield congregation with her parents, Dan and Debbie Bates; grandmother, Mary Lou Bates; as well as siblings, Matthew and Amy Bates. She graduated magna cum laude from the

University of California at Davis with a bachelor's degree in studio art and a minor in education.

After college, Miss Bates attended Ambassador Bible Center in 2007, where she served as music co-coordinator and was a recipient of the Ambassador Award of Excellence.

Elizabeth Cannon

Administration and Chairman Meet With Latin American Minister

In a further effort towards reconciliation with the Latin American ministry, a meeting was held at the home office on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, with Eduardo Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez has served as pastor of the Colombian and Ecuadorian churches for 30 years and as pastor in Venezuela since the inception of United.

Also present at the meeting were Dennis Luker, president of UCGIA; Melvin Rhodes, chairman of the Council of Elders; Aaron Dean, treasurer and Council member; and Ralph Levy and Alec Surratt, both of whom speak Spanish and have been involved in the Spanish work for years.

The meeting was very cordial. Everyone present expressed his opinion as to how we can best



What's New on the Web?

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On Nov. 1, Internet managing editor Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

- 27,600** total Facebook fans.
- 6,607** total Twitter followers.
- 564** videos posted on YouTube.
- 1,389,873** video views on YouTube.
- 175** Bible FAQs posted.
- 655,976** Bible FAQs views.
- 280** e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.
- 439,937** clicks to our Web sites generated by e-mail campaigns.

move forward to bring about a full reconciliation. It is hoped to hold further meetings after the Feast of Tabernacles. Your continued prayers are deeply appreciated.

Melvin Rhodes and Dennis Luker

Writers: Send Us Your Bios

The Media and Communications Department is planning to launch a new www.ucg.org site in May 2011. On the new site, we will feature a bio page for each writer who has had

an article printed in any of United's publications (excluding announcements or local church updates).

Even if you have had only one item published, please send in your bio! Likewise, if you serve as a contact in a congregation, you will also have a bio page—so we need your information too!

Unfortunately, we don't have very much information about our writers and contacts yet.

Here's what we need from you:

1. A short bio (two to three paragraphs, written in third person).
2. How you want your name displayed (e.g., Tom versus Thomas)
3. A high-quality photo that shows your face clearly. Please do not send a group shot. Photos must be sent in JPEG format.
4. (Optional) your e-mail address. This will allow our system to automatically contact you when someone comments on your article.

Send your information to bios@ucg.org. Thank you for helping make the new Web site a success!

Tom Disher

Writing Workshop Planned for WFW

Media and Communications Services is planning to offer a four-hour writing workshop for a select group of interested attendees at the Winter

Featured Link

■ **Free Bible Study Guides**
www.freebiblestudyguides.org

Go to www.freebiblestudyguides.org to find a variety of Bible studies that will help increase your understanding of biblical truths. As of Oct. 27, a total of 51 lessons and 155 “3 Bible Tips” have been posted to the site.

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



Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, on Dec. 27.

To apply for this program, send the following information by e-mail to mike_bennett@ucg.org:

Name.

E-mail address.

Pastor's name (we will contact the pastor for a recommendation).

Writing-related education and experience.

In 100 words or less, please tell us why you would like to take this writing workshop:

Please also send a sample of your writing.

Space is limited. Those accepted will be notified by e-mail.

Mike Bennett

Calendar of Events

Dec. 6-8: Council of Elders meeting, Milford, Ohio.

Dec. 24-27: Northwest Weekend, www.ucgpdx.org.

Dec. 24-28: Winter Family Weekend, Louisville, Kentucky.

Jan. 14-16, 2011: Women's Enrichment Weekend, Garden Grove, California, area, <http://garden-grove.ucg.org>.

Feb. 18-20: Young Adults' Weekend, Houston, Texas, <http://houston-north.ucg.org>.

March 19-20: Dallas Regional Teen Formal and Basketball Weekend.

April 23: 50th anniversary celebration, Wichita, Kansas.



Periodicals Postage Paid

at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices

“Put on the Armor of God” at 2010 Winter Family Weekend



What, when, where, who and how are five of the questions people ask me at various times throughout the year pertaining to the Winter Family Weekend. What is it all about? When is it? Where is it? Who do I need to contact? And how much does it cost?

The short answer to those questions can be found at <http://wfw.ucg.org>. You can pick up the details at that Web site or from your local pastor.

With attendance ranging from 1,700 to 2,200 the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky, is United's largest gathering besides the Feast of Tabernacles each year. It is the single biggest gathering of young families, teens and young adults and is rapidly growing with more and more grandparents as well. There is truly something for everyone to come and enjoy. The fellowship opportunities are endless, and the activities are nonstop.

Seminars and classes run each of the four days throughout the event.

This year's theme is “Putting on the Armor of God.” It all begins on Friday evening, Dec. 24, with a 7:30 p.m. Bible study and runs through Tuesday night, Dec. 28. Reservation information along with registration information may be found at the Web site listed above. We hope to see you in Louisville in December.

Mark Winner

Expanded Northwest Weekend to Take Place Dec. 24-27

The annual Northwest Weekend is set to take place Dec. 24 to 27, 2010, in Vancouver, Washington. The weekend has been expanded to include an extra day for skiing and sledding on beautiful Mt. Hood! You can take ski lessons or ski on your own if you're a pro.

From Friday to Sunday, activities will include ABC Continuing Education seminars, Bible studies, teen and general dances, basketball, volleyball and cheerleading. The dances cost \$5, but all other activities are free. Stay with brethren or at affordable hotels that include breakfast!

On Monday those who wish to participate in winter sports will have a jam-packed day of fun in the snow on Mt. Hood!

Go to <http://nww.ucgpdx.org> for more details. Please register by Nov. 28.

Karen Schuster