



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

United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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December 2010

News At a Glance

Over 8.2 Million U.S. Households to Be Reached in Enhanced Print Advertising Effort

In August we reported that during the 2010-2011 fiscal year “card pack” co-op mailers would be employed in an extensive print advertising campaign in the United States. Since then, we have been able to budget for a significant number of additional households to be reached—up from 5,400,000 households to 8,200,000. Potential subscribers will be offered a free subscription to *The Good News* and at least one of seven foundational booklets.

During this campaign we expect to add over 37,000 new *Good News* subscribers at a cost of less than \$3 each. Thank you in advance for your prayers for God’s blessings on this important *Good News* advertising effort.

John LaBissoniere

U.S. Holy Day Offerings Reported

Below is the reported U.S. Holy Day offering information for the fall of 2010. It does not include what was mailed in by those who could not attend or who attended international sites.

Feast of Trumpets

Attendance: 12,504

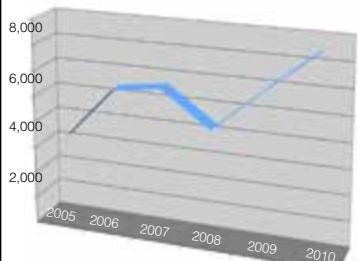
Reported offering: \$734,652.90

This represents a 1.7 percent decrease in attendance and a 7.9 percent decrease in the reported offering compared to the figures for the Feast of Trumpets 2009.

See “News at a Glance,” page 2

United Statistics

Bible Study Course Graduates 2005-2010



1,581,945 lessons mailed from the home office since 2000
80,221 U.S. students have received all 12 lessons

ABC Student Council Chosen



ABC student council (standing) Amber Duran, Timothy Sipes, Antonio Lombardo, Brett Diggins, Christopher Deonier, Sabrina Clore; (sitting) Brittany Whynaucht, Brittany Ballo, Lauren Kelly and Chelsea Lallier (photo by Michelle Vautour)

■ In addition to classroom education, ABC students have participated in several extracurricular activities as part of the ABC 2010-2011 program.

by **Ralph Levy**

Life has been busy for the 24 Ambassador Bible Center students since the Feast of Tabernacles.

Group social events for ABC have included an evening of games and desserts on Sunday, Oct. 24. Students enjoyed word games, pie, ice cream and soft drinks at the clubhouse of one of the instructors.

Some of the highlights of the year are our two annual field trips, one in the fall and one in the spring. For the first, an educational day out of the classroom took students and faculty to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in the heart

See “ABC,” page 5

United Youth Camp Directors Meet to Plan 2011 Program

■ Directors of the United Youth Camps program met Nov. 1-3 in Kansas City, Missouri.

by **Ken Treybig**

Due to this year’s budget constraints, the camp team was unable to meet at the home office as in the past. However, they were able to stretch their budget to meet at a much lower cost in the home of Greg and Marian Sargent near Kansas City Nov. 1-3. Travel was only paid for those directly involved in directing or managing camps, though a few wives were able to come at no travel cost (if their husbands drove) and helped prepare meals.



Camp directors discuss upcoming plans for the 2011 summer and winter United Youth Camps

Roy Holladay as well as Gary and Barbara Antion also attended to get a feel for the camp program and how the team works. Mr. Holladay and Mr. Antion were

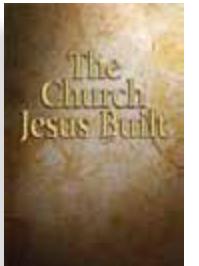
recently appointed to head United Youth Camps and other Education programs.

See “Camp,” page 5

Booklet *The Church Jesus Built* Updated and Reprinted

by **Scott Ashley**

In November an updated version of our booklet *The Church Jesus Built* has recently been completed and sent to the printer. Since it was originally produced 10 years ago, we have sent out an average of about 1,300 copies per month to interested readers—a total of almost 170,000 copies to date.



This newly designed version has been converted to color with photos added to make it more readable and attractive. Most of the content is the same, though we added a long sidebar on the Church being the bride of Christ. The updated version will be available on our Web site soon.

Several years ago we started a lengthy project to update our booklet library, also redesigning them and converting them to color. We are also printing them on lighter paper, making them less expensive to mail and saving us money on postage. With this booklet, 28 of our 33 booklets are updated and redesigned. Senior writer Tom Robinson and art director Shaun Venish have done excellent work on these updates and redesigns.

We look forward to completing updates on the remainder of the booklets this coming year so we can resume work on several other needed new booklets that have been on hold during this redesign and update project. **UN**

Inside:

- 2 Profile: Chad Messerly *Forward! The Soft Stuff Is the Hard Stuff*
- 3 *Around the World: Australia, British Isles, Philippines, Germany and more*
- 4 United Youth Corps Jordan Report; *Ready to Answer*
- 6 *Treasure Digest: An Extra Marshmallow? Keep Your Light Shining; Children's Corner*
- 7 *From the Word: The Three-Part Old Testament Witnesses for Jesus Christ; When It's Not Fair, We Must Still Forbear*
- 9 *Local Church Updates*
- 10 *Announcements*
- 12 *What's New on the Web?*

News At a Glance

Continued from page 1

Day of Atonement

Attendance: 13,081

Reported offering: \$721,020.10

This represents a 3.3 percent increase in attendance and a 3.7 percent decrease in the reported offering compared to the figures for the Day of Atonement 2009.

Feast of Tabernacles

Attendance: 11,909

Reported offering: \$610,801.63

This represents a 2.2 percent decrease in attendance and a 5 percent decrease in the reported offering compared to the figures for the Feast of Tabernacles 2009.

Last Great Day

Attendance: 11,183

Reported offering: \$688,371.63

This represents a 1.7 percent increase in attendance and an 8 percent decrease in the reported offering compared to the figures for the Last Great Day 2009.

Gerald Seelig

Treasurer Reports on Financial Status

The Council and administration would like to thank all the brethren for their faithful support. As is well known, the job market, housing market and overall economy are experiencing difficult times. We have not been unaffected by this. Our overall daily income is running about 7 percent below budget, forcing us to look at ways to economize as we do God's work.

We will pursue every effort toward efficiency. In mid-November, we bid out our utilities; and as a result, a contract was negotiated and signed whereby we should save about \$30,000 per year. We are also looking at better ways of conducting business meetings at reduced costs.

These are all challenges, and I appreciate the many prayers for God to spark ideas, to bless and to guide our efforts. Most of us who have been in the work for decades are not unaccustomed to challenges that come with a work of faith.

Even though income is below budget, God is doing a good work through United. Media and Communications Services operation manager Peter Eddington reported that we have added nearly 2,000 subscribers to *Las Buenas Noticias* in our first week of advertising on Google, at only \$0.88 per response.

The *Beyond Today* program is continuing to produce good responses at improved costs, and we have yet to go into the prime time of the year.

Pray that God will inspire the

See "News at a Glance," page 12

Profile: Chad Messerly

by Bev Galli

"Wildlife, wildlife, wildlife!" Chad Messerly's face lights up as he relates his passion. "In the world of creation everything makes sense. It is one of the only places you can go where it is completely lawful. This is why it is so relaxing and why so many people want to go to the great outdoors to escape the everyday stresses of life. Snakes are snakes and lions are lions, because animals are who they are, since the day they were created. It is people who have developed the art of being something they are not."

Chad has worked for the state of Maryland as a naturalist, worked as a trail specialist, done stream restoration for Trout Unlimited and created reptile programs for conservation and education. He has also been an instructor, working with fifth graders to educate them in the appreciation and conservation of wildlife. With his



Chad, Jen and Abby Messerly

wife, Jen, he banded northern saw-whet owls and monarch butterflies to study migration routes.

As a youth in God's Church, Chad attended SEP. He worked as a basketball instructor at Camp McKenzie and a backpacking instructor at the Teton Camp with Jen. At camp he was able to use his education and experience with wildlife to help teach God's youth.

Chad strongly identifies with the story of Jacob wrestling with God.

He explains that, just like Jacob, one should never let go of God. We are all "wrestling with God until the day Christ returns. This is the great blessing we are waiting for. We are not to let go until we receive the great blessing of salvation."

Chad advises young Christians to "stick to the trunk of the tree." When he was still a teenager, he stopped coming to Church for a brief time. After this difficult time, Chad came back to the Church ready to become a true follower of Christ. In 2000 he was baptized.

Chad and his wife share a love of the outdoors and wildlife. It certainly was one of the things that drew them together, but even more than that was their love of God. On Dec. 2, 2001, he and the former Jen Kelley were married. "I was only half a person until I married Jen. She truly is my other half. We support and strengthen each other," Chad muses.

Their beautiful daughter, Abigail Lynn, was born on June 25, 2008. In 2009 Chad was ordained as a deacon to serve in the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation. He currently is employed in health care as a provider representative.

His goals for the future are "to grow as a Christian, to continue to serve the Church more and to be the best husband and father I can be."

Chad feels that the outdoors has helped him appreciate his Creator more. It is an "escape from stress, a great teaching environment for my daughter and holds challenges that I enjoy." Chad feels that he can breathe better in the outdoors than anywhere else. "Many times I have taken my daypack and Bible and purposely gotten lost. I feel I can be close to God anywhere, but in the outdoors, it just seems easier," he states.

With a daypack and a Bible, can a Christian ever be "lost"? **UN**

FORWARD! The Soft Stuff Is the Hard Stuff

by Victor Kubik



A few years ago the Council of Elders worked with an able consultant who helped us develop our latest Strategic Plan for the United Church of God. He was extremely brilliant as he guided us enthusiastically through goals, objectives, critical success factors and barriers.

We drew impressive lines on charts as we prioritized and came to agreement on what steps to take next to further the vision and mission statements of the Church. This process demanded everyone's active participation. The end product looked great; our three big priorities were to work towards promoting more on the Internet, provide the training for future ministers and commit to improving employee relations.

But there was a statement that our facilitator made that rings in my ears to this day. In the execution phase of the Strategic Plan, which is called the Operation Plan, he pointed out that the hard part

would be executing the softer aspects not seen on the charts themselves. As he looked at the overall plan, he said, "The soft stuff is the hard stuff." This has to do with the more subtle and subjective aspects of how people work through fulfilling a plan. This factor can become the difference between success and failure of the entire plan.

In the classic best seller *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, Dale Carnegie writes about different factors that win people over to cooperate and work together. The principles are not rocket science; they are relevant, immediately applicable principles that each one of us can apply right after reading this article.

The principles include not criticizing, condemning or complaining; giving honest, sincere appreciation; being a good listener; talking in terms of the other person's interests; avoiding arguments; and showing respect. It concludes with admitting wrong quickly and emphatically and honestly seeing things from the other person's point of view.

All these concepts have to do with building trusting relationships that all move an organization's mission forward.

A few years ago I spoke with a renowned mediator who said that her clients ranged from her children squabbling over an orange to vice-presidents bringing a corporation down. She told me that in the mediation process one key factor is to determine what is really the issue that causes the conflict, which are often the things that they are too embarrassed to talk about.

The parties speak in terms of lofty issues, concepts, philosophies and such. But there are factors that really are the core that most are reluctant to admit: disrespect, hurt, jealousy, not being appreciated, not getting credit and marginalization. These are the factors that need to come out and when people acknowledge this along with the lofty factors, movement toward reconciliation takes place.

Can we recognize these principles that really produce harmony? Yes, we can have great plans and strategies, but it's these softer factors that determine success. The soft stuff is the hard stuff, but it's the right stuff to make the difference. **UN**

Victor Kubik is the operation manager for Ministerial and Member Services.

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UCG/IA Council of Elders: Scott Ashley, David Baker, Robert Berendt, Michael Blackwell, Aaron Dean, Bill Eddington, Jim Franks, Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes (chairman), Mario Seiglie, David Treybig, Robin Webber

President: Dennis Luker Media and Communications Services manager: Peter Eddington
Managing editor: Elizabeth Cannon

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

International addresses:

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

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

BENELUX countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg): P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020 8386 8467 Fax: 020 8386 1999

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 876-9966, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 876-0569 E-mail: info@ucg.ca

CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027,

Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

EAST AFRICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): United Church of God—East Africa, P.O. Box 75261, Nairobi 00200 Kenya. E-mail: kenya@ucg.org

FIJI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 11081, Laucala Beach Estate, Suva, Fiji.

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

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

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24121 Bergamo Centro, Italy. Phone/Fax: (+39) 035 4523573. E-mail: info@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Phone: 085 22717. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

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

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NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 803-323-3193. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63) 82 224-4444 Cell/Text: (+63) 918-904-4444

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 3535, 111 74, Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail: sverige@ucg.org.

SINGAPORE: United Church of God, P.O. Box 37, MacPherson Road, Singapore 913402.

SOUTH AFRICA (and Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland only): United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694.

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

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 2617, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitwe, Zambia. Phone: (02) 226076. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 928, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011716273 E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

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News From **Around the World**

British Isles Ministry Meets With Council Chairman and Legal Counsel

by Peter Hawkins

Seven ministers and their wives enjoyed a weekend together at Hothorpe Hall near Leicester. Those present were David and Barbara Fenney, Peter and Sonja Hawkins, Frank and Dot Jarvis, Eddie and Sandra Johnson, Gerhard and Diana Marx, David and Sheena Payne and John and Jan Schroeder.

They were joined by the chairman of the Council of Elders, Melvin Rhodes, and legal counsel for United Church of God and the Council of Elders Larry Darden, who flew over from the United States midweek.

After the evening meal on Friday, the meetings began with Melvin Rhodes giving an introduction as to why he and Mr. Darden had come over to the United Kingdom. He then fielded questions about the problems being experienced in the United States among the ministry and membership there and in Latin America. Larry Darden gave us

some background on what his work entails and some of the challenges that are faced as a legal counsel.

On the Sabbath Larry Darden spoke on how the terrain near Caesarea Philippi and the entrance to Pan's cave ("the gates of Hades") gives greater meaning to Jesus Christ's statement, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Melvin Rhodes gave the sermon, showing how important it is to maintain a sense of urgency in our personal lives and in preaching the gospel.

Later that evening after the Sabbath had finished, over two hours were spent discussing suggestions for updating the constitution of the United Church of God—British Isles. Larry Darden and others on the Council of Elders had proposed these for discussion with the ministry and the National Council constitution committee. Mr. Darden discussed the final suggested edits, and

David Payne, chairman of the UCG-BI constitution committee, expressed appreciation for the efforts of all involved. A number of helpful points became much clearer to all of us as to our responsibilities.

After we were notified that Paul Suckling is no longer senior pastor for the British Isles, it was decided among the U.K. ministry, with input from Mr. Rhodes, that it is not necessary for a senior pastor to be reappointed for the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future. Mr. Rhodes plans to come through the United Kingdom en route to or from Ghana to assist.

The work that Paul Suckling has done as senior pastor for Britain has been much appreciated. He, and occasionally his wife, Jane, have regularly visited members and the ministry. He had previously visited the United Kingdom a number of times with Lyle Welty, and they accomplished much together. **UN**

UCG—Australia Takes on 30-Day Good News Campaign

by Ruth Root

Beginning Nov. 1, UCG—Australia began a 30-day campaign to promote the September-October 2010 issue of *The Good News* magazine throughout Australia. Because the office was closed during the Feast of Tabernacles we had excess copies of the September-October issue.

We currently have two ads for this campaign running on the Internet. One ad is part of an online survey asking if the partici-

pant would like a free Christian magazine, and it also features a graphic of the September-October *Good News*. The other Internet ad is displayed on certain online shopping sites.

An announcement was sent out to the congregations at the beginning of November asking for members to pray for the success of these advertisements.

We are pleased to report that after an expected slow start for two or three days, the ads really took off on Friday, Nov. 5, with 122 responses being received over-

night from one ad and 50 responses being received from the other ad.

Each respondent is sent the September-October issue of *The Good News* along with a letter offering them a free subscription to the magazine and promoting the online information on our Web sites.

We are asking the brethren to continue to pray that God will touch the minds of these people and that they will opt to receive more issues of the magazine or visit us online. **UN**

Philippine Department of Education Upholds Religious Freedom

by Daniel Roy G. Macaraeg

We have good news for our Filipino students and teachers who sometimes find it difficult to get excused from classes, examinations, seminars or other school activities held on the Sabbath.

On Oct. 14 the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) issued Department Order No. 105, series of 2010, "Reiterating the Constitutional Right of DepEd Personnel and Students to Free Exercise of Religion." Part of the DepEd Order,

signed by Education Secretary Armin Luistro, reads as follows:

"DepEd personnel and students belonging to any religious group, where Saturday is their day of rest or church day, should not be required to attend seminars, examinations, special classes, trainings and other school activities on Saturdays;

"There should be no diminution or deduction in the salaries (in the case of teachers) or no effect in the grades (in the case of students) for those teachers and students who incur absences on Saturdays due

to the exercise of their right to religious worship; and

"An arrangement should be made by the concerned teacher/personnel with the school head for the performance of functions or by the concerned students with the teacher for the completion of school requirements, without prejudice to their right to free exercise of religion" (emphasis added throughout).

You may read or download the full text of this memo at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/deped105>.

We are very thankful to God for this new piece of legislation. **UN**

International News At a Glance

German United News Exceeds 500 Subscribers

For the first time, this month's issue of *Intern*, the German *United News* was sent to more than 500 subscribers. Currently 501 people receive *Intern*, which is about 8 percent of the *Gute Nachrichten* mailing list. A total of 85 percent of *Intern* subscribers are currently not part of UCG—Germany.

Paul Kieffer

German Area Reports Holy Day Offering

The offering statistics for the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day in the German-speaking region have been finalized. The offering on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles was 12,176 euros, 5.6 percent less than last year. The offering of 13,262 euros on the Last Great Day was 8 percent higher in comparison to 2009. The total offering on the seven annual Holy Days in 2010 was 0.9 percent less than last year.

Paul Kieffer

UCG—Australia Expands LifeNets Efforts in Africa

United Church of God—Australia members have been supporting three congregations in Zambia—Mumbwa, Nalubanda and Mapoko—for a number of years.

The people living in these areas could originally be described as subsistence farmers. However, we are now most happy to report that, due to our continuous support, all areas are now self-sufficient and have become successful farming communities marketing their own produce. They are most grateful for our help and prayers.

One example of their success is the cattle restoration project. As a result of an initial donation of \$4,000 in 2001 to purchase cattle, the cattle herd now numbers 95 with a value of \$23,750.

Last April an elder in Kenya, Moses Nyaira, and a senior man from Zimbabwe visited Kambani Banda in Zambia to learn how these development projects were organized and how they became so successful. They have now returned to their homes to start

similar projects under the LifeNets banner.

In Kenya, for example, after due diligence being made in various areas, four heifers were purchased under the direction of Moses to begin a cattle development project, which is being coordinated by John Elliott, the pastor of East Africa, together with Victor Kubik. Similar development projects are taking place in Zimbabwe.

Funds are also needed for the purchase of transportation to get produce to market.

Africa has always been a perilous place to live, and we are fortunate to be able to help our brethren in these areas. From this point, we will now be supporting both the Kenyan and Zimbabwean brethren in their development projects through LifeNets International.

Trevor Huthnance

Beyond Today Translated Into Spanish

The Spanish media department has been very busy the last couple of months. As of Nov. 18, four *Beyond Today* programs have been fully translated into Spanish, and they are now available online at www.youtube.com/beyondtodaytv for anyone to watch.

In a small family production studio, brethren in Santa Rosa del Sur, Colombia, started recording Spanish voice-overs for the television programs after being greatly impressed with the content and production quality. They felt it would be a blessing for other members in their area to have access to it, so they asked for the assistance of a member in the United States to translate the program. And now, two months later, thanks to this group of members in Colombia, the program can now be seen and heard by those who speak Spanish.

Thanks to LifeNets, which helped them set up this production studio 10 years ago, and these members who volunteered many hours, we can now reach more people than ever before with one less language barrier.

This program will complement *Las Buenas Noticias* magazine as well as the local member bulletin called *El Comunicado*, many booklets and a newly launched Internet advertising campaign. This ad campaign has already received over 4,000 *Las Buenas Noticias* magazine subscribers after only 10 days on the Internet.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we move forward in preaching the good news of the coming Kingdom of God to the world.

Peter Eddington

United Youth Corps Jordan: The Importance of Service

by Darren Henke

As Christians, we are told to have the mind-set of Jesus Christ, which was best summed up by Jesus Himself: “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). Accordingly, one of our greatest duties is service, which is at the heart of the United Youth Corps Jordan project.

As anyone who has served in this capacity will tell you, the most frequent question is, why? Why go halfway around the world to serve in a Muslim country like Jordan? Why help people you’ve never met? Why can’t you stay home to serve? Questions like these required us to consider the bigger picture of God’s plan and the purpose of service.

Developing God’s Character

We are told that “as we have opportunity” we are to “do good to all,” that it should be our habit to serve for people’s good, regardless of who they are (Galatians 6:10). As we serve others—even those who we wouldn’t normally think to help—we are emulating God and developing His character.

We typically think of the Bible as the record of God working with His people down through time, beginning with faithful Abraham and his descendants, physical Israel, then with the converted and faithful individuals of spiritual Israel. But if we look closely, we also see that through every age God has extended His mercy toward many others.



United Youth Corps volunteers Amber and Darren Henke, Stella Helterbrand and Amanda Hendee

We may be familiar with Moses, David or Paul, but do we recall those personally touched by God that the Bible clearly states were not a part of physical or spiritual Israel? There are stories like that of Naaman the Syrian, who was healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5); the Roman centurion, whose servant Christ healed (Matthew 8); all the crew, prisoners and soldiers who were miraculously saved from drowning (Acts 27); and the thousands of inhabitants of Nineveh who were saved by God through Jonah’s warning of impending doom (Jonah 3). These are only some examples of God’s mercy toward all mankind.

Advertisements for Christianity

We must be diligent in serving, especially with those outside our faith or culture, because we can’t predict the effect of our

service and example. Peter said this about our Christian example: “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:11-12).

realize that we can’t convert others through our example—only God can do that—however, we can prove to them by experience what the true spirit of Christian service is, even though we may not see the results until after Christ’s return.

Preparing for Our Future

We are told that our future is to “be priests of God and of Christ, and...reign with Him” (Revelation 20:6). At that time, our service will be assisting in what Isaiah foretold: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established...and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths’” (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Beginning at the return of Christ, we will be ruling, teaching and serving all nations of the whole earth. The people we serve at that time may not be like us. They may come from foreign cultures, have experienced unimaginable things and have little understanding of God. However, they will need His love and His way of life just as much as we do, which is where our service comes in.

Serving in this life better prepares us to be Christlike servants in the future. What better way to prepare for serving all mankind in the future than to serve all mankind now? **UN**

Read more about the United Youth Corps volunteers’ experience in Jordan by visiting their blog at www.uycjordan10.blogspot.com.



Amber Henke helps a student with crafts

Concerning this verse, William Barclay said in his *New Daily Study Bible*: “Whether we like it or not, all Christians are an advertisement for Christianity; by their lives, they either commend it to others or make them think less of it” (p. 233). We

Ready to Answer

by Jeremy Lallier

“Well hey there, neighbor!” says your coworker. He’s propped his elbows up on the dividing wall your cubicles share as he waves a greeting in your direction.

“Hey, Todd,” you say. “What’s up?”

“The boss asked me to get a head count of everyone coming to the office Christmas party this year. So, how many people are you bringing?”

“Uh,” you stammer. “Well, zero. Including me.”

Todd appears stunned. “Wha—really? You’re not coming? How come?”

You laugh and explain that you don’t celebrate Christmas, and Todd’s eyes go wide. “You don’t celebrate Christmas?” he exclaims. “Don’t you go to church, like, every weekend?”

You smile and nod as he scratches his head. “I don’t get it,” he says. “You’re a Christian, and you don’t celebrate Christ’s birthday. Why not?”

During the course of your conversation, a couple other curious faces have popped up above the cubicle walls, listening to the exchange. You and Todd both have work to do, so you don’t have time for a lengthy answer, but he does seem genuinely interested in hearing your answer.

How do you answer?

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*!

September-October Ready to Answer Question: A friend asks whether you believe a mutual friend, Jenny, who was killed in a car accident during high school, is in heaven. She is interested in your answer, but you still have to avoid deluging her in doctrinal subpoints and keep your response succinct. How do you answer?

“As a follower of Christ, I believe the Bible. The Bible says that no one has ascended to heaven except Christ who came from heaven. The Bible also says that the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing.

“I believe that when you die, the spirit in man (which contains all your thoughts, experiences and character) returns to God who gave it, and your physical body returns back to dust (dirt). My hope lies in the resurrection. I believe that Christ will return again, and when He does, the dead will live again. The body and spirit will be united again.”

Reba Leverett Jones
Atlanta, Georgia, congregation

“My great-great-grandfather is buried in a small Indiana cemetery. The monument over his grave has a German inscription loosely translated:

“Here I lie, not dead, just sleeping, through the long, long night, waiting to be awakened by God’s holy light.”

“Jenny, like my great-great-grandfather, is merely sleeping, waiting to be reawakened by God in the resurrection.”

Ray Voegelé
Cincinnati, Ohio, East congregation

“Jenny, asleep in her grave, is at rest. The Bible in numerous places refers to death as a ‘sleep,’ meaning a temporary state of absolutely no consciousness. For example, in Ecclesiastes 9:5, we read that the dead don’t

know anything. It is a resurrection from the dead that makes life after death possible. And from the book of Revelation, we learn that there is more than one resurrection.

“In order to attain the first resurrection, one must be called to Jesus Christ by God into His true Church. The individual must repent, and then be baptized by water immersion, thus receiving God’s Holy Spirit. God gives a small portion of His Spirit during the prayer with the laying on of the minister’s hands.

“By faithfully keeping God’s commandments, a converted person who is really committed to Christ—living righteously and overcoming amid life’s struggles and trials—is eligible to receive eternal life and one day reign on earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years.

“Those not selected now by our Heavenly Father will take part in the second resurrection, occurring at the end of the 1,000 years. Millions of persons who never heard of Jesus Christ will be raised at that time! They are not lost; they will fortunately have an opportunity to learn of His plan for salvation. Christ wants everyone to be saved.

“God is just—He shows no partiality. He will give everyone who has ever lived since Adam and Eve an opportunity for eternal life! And it will be eternal life in God’s Kingdom, an eternity of peace and harmony for all!”

Johnny Kretz
Sedro-Woolley, Washington, congregation

Continued from "ABC," page 1

of Cincinnati on Wednesday, Oct. 27. The Freedom Center records the history of the slave trade in North America and elsewhere and describes how the "Underground Railroad"—the system of escape routes from the southern slave states to freedom in Canada—operated through Kentucky (a slave state) and neighboring Ohio (a free state). The Freedom Center does a magnificent job of recording and describing this troubled time in the nation's history. For students and faculty it was a sobering and instructive day away from classes.

In the area of student services, student body president Brett Diggins selected two other officers to serve alongside him: Britany Whynaucht will serve as student body secretary, and Antonio Lombardo will be

the treasurer. We wish them all success in their new responsibilities.

On the academic front, students have completed a new module class on the book of Acts taught by resident instructor David Johnson between Oct. 18 and Nov. 5, and Randy Stiver, pastor of the Cambridge and Columbus, Ohio, congregations, arrived after Thanksgiving to teach Fundamental Beliefs 1, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 17. Additionally, Bill Jahns visited ABC to teach some classes on science and the Bible during the week of Nov. 29.

Students prepared to go home and to other parts of the country for the Thanksgiving holiday. Some stayed here in Cincinnati, while others scattered to several other states for the long weekend. **UN**

Ralph Levy is an instructor at Ambassador Bible Center.



ABC students go on a field trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center



Lauren Kelly, Brittany Ballo, Emily Hirst and Kirsten Thomson at an ABC ladies' tea social



Dr. Levy hosts a dessert social and game night for the ABC students



Danielle Messerly and Kirsten Thomson follow along during Harmony of the Gospels class

Continued from "Camp," page 1

The meetings started Monday morning to cover the normal items on the camp team agenda, starting with a rundown of the last camps held. Directors highlighted any special items experienced and any that may be anticipated in future camps. The widespread outbreak of a stomach virus at Winter Camp last year provided the springboard for a review of what was learned and tips on how to make sure similar issues in the future are handled quickly and professionally.

Along with the normal financial review for the camps and items in the national

camp budget such as the annual magazine and video costs, there was a review and analysis of our camper, staff and parent survey results. We now have two years to compare with the baseline numbers established. David Register led a discussion on what we can learn from this year's results and their impact on possible future themes at camp.

Since two men filled the director spot for the first time this past summer, a session was devoted to orientation, with a discussion of tips from other longtime directors.

Many hours over the course of the next two days were also devoted to discussing

standards that must be met to maintain accreditation with the American Camp Association. Directors brainstormed ways to improve Christian Living instruction and tips on recruiting good counseling staff members.

We also reviewed preteen and Challenger II camps updates, staff screening and training and discussed insurance claims, with tips and comments from our risk manager.

A phone and webinar hookup was established on Tuesday afternoon to connect with Randy Stiver in Ohio and editorial staff at the home office to discuss and review ideas for the United Youth Camps 2011 video and

magazine using footage and photographs from this year at camps and to discuss how the new camp Web site worked for us. The home office staff suggested an interesting idea of how to illustrate the theme throughout the magazine. Article ideas were discussed and writers were assigned.

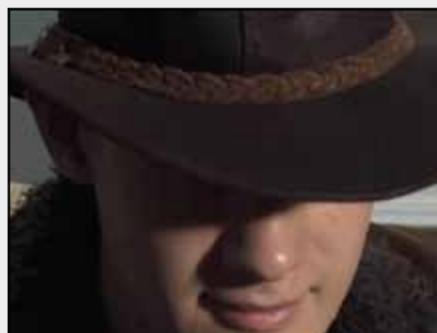
Wednesday morning was devoted to a half-day technology workshop and webinar with Paul Wasilkoff in the home office to review the online registration process and how to better work with and improve the use of this valuable tool. **UN**

Ken Treybig is the director of United Youth Camps.



Steve Nutzman, Gale and Gary Black and Doug Johnson at the camp directors' meeting

Camp Teaser to Be Released in January 2011



Media and Communications Services is planning to release the 2011 United Youth Camps teaser, along with the updated camp Web site, on Jan. 21, 2011.

In this short video, campers and parents will learn about the theme for the 2011 program, illustrating how camp is an

adventure that takes campers to a world away from the world. This theme will be discussed further in the United Youth Camps 2011 video and magazine as well as in Christian Living classes at camp.

The visual design of the magazine, Web site and video is a collaborative effort involving associate media producers Rudy Rangel and Jamie Schreiber along with staff writer Jeremy Lallier, senior Web developer Tom Disher, Web site content editor Michelle Vautour and managing editor Elizabeth Cannon.

Those interested in watching the 2011 Camp teaser can check the Inside United: Realtime blog at <http://realtimeunited.wordpress.com> as well as the members' Web site and the United Youth Camps Facebook fanpage for the link to the video. **UN**

Treasure Digest

An Extra Marshmallow?

If you were to choose an indicator for predicting who would be more successful in life, what would you choose? Would you choose having smart parents? Would you choose having money? Would you choose attending an Ivy League university? Would you choose an extra marshmallow?

Some years ago, behavioral psychologists such as Daniel Goleman popularized the concept of emotional intelligence (EI). A great deal of research has been done since to show that whether an individual can control his or her emotions is a greater predictor of success in life than almost any other factor. Controlling emotions meant primarily delaying gratification. Early testing was done with young children who were left alone in a room with a marshmallow on a table in front of them and were told that they could have another one—if they would wait for the adult to come back later.

There is a great parallel for us spiritually. In Hebrews 11 we are given a recounting of many of the faithful, some who even preceded the first-century Church. One of the things that we can learn from their example

The EI aspect of what Paul is teaching is summarized in verses 11-13: “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

We are to prove God in our calling, but we are also to wait and hope on Him (Galatians 5:5). Are we willing to forgo the “marshmallow” in this lifetime for the better calling of the blessings to come from being a son or daughter of God? Our hope is in the delayed gratification of the spiritual life God will give us at the return of His Son.

Dan Dowd

Pastor of the Oshkosh and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregations

Keep Your Light Shining

Our family loves to camp. When we are unable to make it to nearby state park, we will often camp in our backyard. One of our most important pieces of camping equipment is our lantern. Without it, our campsite would become very dark as soon as the sun sets. When we light it, however, we can enjoy a bright and cheery evening talking together and roasting marshmallows.

Time of darkness

In the northern hemisphere we are now entering the darkest and coldest part of the year—not just physically, but also spiritually. During the six months after the Feast of Tabernacles the world around us will keep all of its biggest holidays—Halloween, Christmas, New Year’s, Valentine’s Day, Mardi Gras, St. Patrick’s Day and Easter. It will be about six months before we keep another one of God’s Holy Days. Yet it is during this darkest period of the year that we are the most visible as “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).

Darkness is equated to wickedness in Proverbs 4:19. It is used to picture sin and depravity. Yet in contrast, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). As His begotten children, we have been called to “walk in the light” just like Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7; 2:6). So how can we keep our spiritual light shining?

Three ways to keep your light shining

First, we should not put our light under a basket (Matthew 5:14-16). We should live God’s truth with confidence and not be embarrassed by what people might think of us for living it. This does not mean that we are glaring with our light by being preachy, cocky or arrogant. Rather we should simply “live for righteousness” with “confidence through faith” in Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 3:12). God will help us to be bold in our words and actions when necessary, much like He did for Moses, Daniel and the apostles.

Second, we should manage our fuel properly. We must be fueling our life by God’s

Word (John 6:26-27). This means working to truly digest and apply it. How? By reading and studying God’s Word and meditating on it. We need to see how to apply it effectively in our relationships and daily actions. This is filling our mind with proper fuel—God’s truth—just like the fuel tank in a lantern. By doing these things we will stir God’s Spirit within us, which will strengthen us (2 Timothy 1:6). Only then can we reflect God’s character through our words and conduct.

Finally, we must stay out of the wind. It can be very hard to light a match in the wind. The flame will keep going out unless it is shielded. We must be careful to stay out of the wind of confusion found in this world so that our flame will not go out. God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). However, Satan is. We must not get caught up in the engulfing wind of confusion he creates as the current ruler of our world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Our challenge is to live in the world but not be of the world (John 17:11-14). If we are not careful, the many forms of media in our world, which are all influenced by Satan, can cause us to drift away from following God. God helps guard our minds, but we need to be very careful how much we allow this world into our lives (2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 John 2:15-17). We are to “leave the corruption and compromise...for good” and not “link up with those who will pollute you” as the Message Translation says in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. Our goal is to do our best to live righteously according to God’s ways.

Walk as children of light

The next few months will bring more darkness as the days shorten. Our world, too, will continue to have more darkness as it ignores God. But with God’s help we can keep our



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light shining and continue to “walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

Andy McClain

Indianapolis, Indiana, 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).



Flickr.com/Kate Ter Haar

is that they didn’t always receive the fulfillment of God’s promises in their physical lifetime (verse 39).

We face this often in our own lives, don’t we? Consider a few hypothetical questions: “I can’t keep the Sabbath, I’ll lose my job, and then how will I take care of my family?” “How can I tithe if I can’t pay my bills as it is now?” These questions and others like them involve trusting God. They also require delaying gratification. Will we forsake this life (and sometimes bear the brunt of Satan’s persecution) for a better (eternal) life later?

Paul addressed this matter in part in Philippians. In Philippians 3:17-21 he reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven and that God dwells in us to make that citizenship a reality. In Philippians 4:6 we are told to “be anxious for nothing;” that is, to not place the focus of our concern on the physical things in this life. Rather, in verse 8, he encourages us to dwell on the positive aspects of what God is doing in us.

Turning the Hearts...will return in the January 2011 *United News*.



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in this puzzle and circle or highlight them in the grid. They may go up, down, forward, backward or diagonally. The letters leftover will spell out a very important Person and event.

by Jose' Estape', Oakland, California, congregation

K	I	N	G	H	E	Z	E	K	I	A	H	R
S	I	J	Y	E	A	R	R	E	H	T	S	E
N	I	N	R	A	E	E	E	V	E	S	S	S
A	U	A	G	R	A	D	A	M	E	G	L	U
I	B	R	N	D	S	E	E	S	C	N	E	R
H	R	E	U	I	O	E	O	H	R	I	I	R
T	I	T	H	E	S	M	A	R	Y	R	K	E
N	D	E	N	K	S	E	O	I	S	E	E	C
I	E	P	A	A	R	R	T	F	I	F	Z	T
R	S	C	M	N	O	A	H	O	G	F	E	I
O	M	O	I	E	C	A	R	G	N	O	G	O
C	H	U	R	C	H	O	F	G	O	D	D	N
T	I	R	I	P	S	Y	L	O	H	E	H	T

Answers to November's puzzle:
In everything give thanks!

Bonus scriptures: Psalm 95:2; 100:1-2; and 100:4

ADAM
ARK
BRIDE
HUNGRY
CORINTHIANS
YEAR
EVE

EZEKIEL
GRACE
HEARD
OFFERING
PETER
TITHES
MAN

MARY
MOSES
NOAH
ESTHER
THOMAS
SINAI
REDEEMER

RESURRECTION
CHURCH OF GOD
KING HEZEKIAH
THE HOLY SPIRIT
KINGDOM OF GOD
SEEM



From **the Word**

The Three-Part Old Testament Witnesses for Jesus Christ

■ The Old Testament Law, Prophets and Writings foretold Jesus Christ. These tripartite divisions also serve as the foundation of prophecy.

by **Jerold Aust**

Many mainstream Christians assume that the Old Testament is archaic and therefore useless to them. They struggle against the laws of the Bible, since they've been taught to believe that keeping the law of God frustrates His grace. After all, didn't Jesus take on the sins of the world (John 3:16-17), suffering death for all humankind?

Many reason that since Jesus died for humanity's sins, and since we cannot keep the law perfectly, anyone who tries to keep God's law frustrates and negates the grace of God. Does the Bible support this rationale?

The Old Testament, including the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms (also referred to as Writings), bears witness to Jesus, first as a human being, and second as divine God. It also sets the stage for all prophecy.

The Old Testament Reveals Christ Jesus

Jesus shared an eye-opening revelation about Himself and the power of prophecy at the end of Luke's Gospel. It shows the importance of the Old Testament and reveals the breakdown of the Old Testament into three parts. It also supports the essence of and need for Bible prophecy.

Some Christians believe that Jesus Christ was never God before His resurrection. The Bible clearly shows that Jesus was the God of the Old Testament. "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

The apostle John knew Jesus was God of ancient Israel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... And the Word



The focus of the Old Testament, through the Law, Prophets and Writings, seamlessly connects with and underpins Jesus' teachings and life.

became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3, 14. See also John 5:37).

Again, John shared Jesus' final prayer where He identified that He was once God with the Father. "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5).

Luke's Gospel gets to the heart of the matter: "And beginning at Moses [the Law] and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the [Old Testament] Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27). "Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight" (verse 31).

Later Jesus provided the essential aspect to His fulfillment of the Old Testament. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures" (verses 44-45).

Jesus Christ was revealed through the Old Testament. God revealed Christ through His law.

The Law

God revealed Himself through His laws. The first four of the Ten Commandments are all about God. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3-17) are set within the Torah, the first five books of the Bible.

God's laws, the Ten Commandments, reveal the character of God, which are the moral characteristics He gave as a gift to humankind. Each of His 10 laws depicts how we can best treat Him and each other. They are spiritual laws (Romans 7:14) that can bless or break us.

The laws of God show us how we can enjoy the best life possible on this earth as physical human beings. Additionally, they help determine whether we will be in God's Kingdom (Revelation 22:14).

After God gave His laws, He then gave prophets and teachers to teach human beings about His liberating laws (James 1:25).

The Prophets

God called prophets throughout Old Testament times for a very important reason: to preach and teach His laws and to prophesy their automatic results. (Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 prophesy the blessings of keeping God's laws and the resultant curses if we

don't. Notice Elijah the prophet's example of this: compare 1 Kings 17:1 with Deuteronomy 28:15, 23-24.)

New Testament ministers mirror Old Testament prophets, as the apostle Paul wrote. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:14-15, 17).

God's entire Word, the Holy Bible, is based on His laws, which provide the basis for prophecy. "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts [Christ lives in us through the Holy Spirit and the truth, see Galatians 2:20 and John 4:23-24; Christ is our life, see Colossians 3:4]; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of

God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit [all based on God's Word and His laws]" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

Prophets prophesy and teach about God and His laws and specifically about the glorious role of Jesus as humankind's Savior (Isaiah 9:6-7). The focus of the Old Testament, through the Law, Prophets and Writings, seamlessly connects with and underpins Jesus' teachings and life (Luke 24:44-45).

The third part of the Old Testament is the Writings or the Psalms, which are a part of the Writings.

The Writings

The Writings of the Old Testament are the books that show human examples witnessing how the holy laws of God work in an unforgiving world (Hebrews 11:32-38). The Writings include such books as Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth and others.

The Psalms inspiringly witness of God's greatness, including the superiority of His laws with prescient prophetic applications (Psalm 8:4-6; Hebrews 2:6-10).

Almighty God's master plan is to reproduce Himself through the human race, creating immortal sons of God out of mere mortals (1 Corinthians 15:50-54; 1 John 3:1-2).

In summary, He first gave His divine, spiritual laws to His nation Israel. Next, He called prophets to proclaim the greatness of His laws and inherited blessings through obedience. Finally God honors human beings to witness for Him through the blessings that come from keeping His spiritual laws (1 Peter 2:11-12).

The Law, Prophets and Writings constitute the Old Testament and, as such, teach us about the coming of Jesus Christ, His sinless physical life, His death and shed blood for our sins, and His resurrected life (Genesis 3:15, an early reference to Jesus' death and glorious resurrection; Isaiah 9:6-7).

The human life, death and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ were revealed through prophecy. Christ Jesus embodies the tripartite divisions of the Old Testament, fully representing the divine, holy law of God, prophesying as the greatest Prophet who has ever lived, and serving as the greatest witness for God from time immemorial (2 Timothy 1:9)! **UN**

Jerold Aust is a Good News senior writer.

When It's Not Fair, We Must Still Forbear

■ By baseball standards, Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga had been dealt a terrible and dramatic injustice. But it was his reaction that made the bigger impact.

by Bruce and Linda Hansen

Many of you, whether or not you are baseball fans, may have heard the recent story about Armando Galarraga, the pitcher for the Detroit Tigers baseball team who came as close as one could come to achieving the ultimate accomplishment for a pitcher—pitching a perfect game.

It's a rare accomplishment in baseball for a pitcher to throw a no-hitter, where none of the batters that he faces gets a base hit. But to throw a perfect game where none of the batters even reaches first base (no walks and no errors) is even rarer still. A total of 27 batters come up and all 27 are forced to make an out. In over 130 years of major league baseball, a perfect game has been achieved only 21 times!

In June, Armando Galarraga was pitching with two outs in the ninth inning. He had retired all of the previous 26 hitters and was just one out away from legendary status in baseball. The 27th batter hit a ground ball to the first baseman, who scooped it up and tossed the ball to Armando, who had run over to cover first base.

With one foot on the base, he felt the ball hit his glove just a moment before he sensed the runner's foot hit the base. The third out had been achieved and the perfect game was complete—except for the fact that the umpire,

Jim Joyce, called the runner safe!

Video replays clearly showed that the batter should have been called out, but in baseball, the umpire's call stands. It's tradition that umpires don't change their calls, and it is also part of baseball tradition for the players to argue close calls with great drama.

So, how did Armando react when he heard the umpire call "safe"? After all, he had just been robbed of his perfect game! He didn't say a word. He simply smiled a disappointed smile, went back to the pitching mound and proceeded to get the next batter out. After the game, Joyce apologized to Armando, and Armando told reporters, "I felt so bad. I didn't feel bad for me. I felt bad for him."

By baseball standards, Armando had been dealt a terrible and dramatic injustice, but his response showed self-control, tolerance and a good-natured response to an incompetent call—in other words, forbearance! It was an unusual display of forgiveness, class and genuine sportsmanship.

He does have the distinction of getting 28 batters out in a game, and his classy reaction brought him a lot of positive attention and perhaps more fame than if he had pitched a perfect game. General Motors even gave him a new car!

The Price of Not Forbearing

In contrast to this was a response to an almost identical play in a dramatic game in the 1985 World Series, where the St. Louis Cardinals also suffered an injustice at the hands of an umpire. In the sixth game of the series against the Kansas City Royals, the Cardinals were leading the series three games to two and were leading by a score of 1-0. It was the ninth inning and they were only three outs away from the World Series championship.



Armando Galarraga didn't say a word. He simply smiled a disappointed smile, went back to the pitching mound and proceeded to get the next batter out.

The leadoff batter for the Royals hit a ground ball to the Cardinals' first baseman, who scooped it up and threw it to the pitcher who was covering first base for the apparent out, except, just like the other game, the umpire called the batter safe. Again, the replay showed he was clearly out.

While it was true—the call was not fair—they did not forbear! In a sharp contrast to Armando, the Cardinals argued, they yelled, they screamed and generally behaved like little boys throwing temper tantrums. And in the process, they lost their composure and began to fall apart as a team. In spite of the umpire's call, they

still had multiple chances to win the game, but they blew those chances! They muffed a pop fly and committed a passed ball, which led to their opponents scoring two runs to win the game.

Of course, the Cardinals still had another chance to win the World Series. All they had to do was win the seventh game! Unfortunately for them, they did not recover their composure and showed a definite lack of forbearance. They argued with the umpire, argued among themselves, discouraged each other and lost the ability to work together as a team. Both their manager and their pitcher got kicked out of the game, and they lost 11-0!

There were two identical wrong calls at first base and two completely different reactions. Neither response changed the umpire's call; that is, the response had no effect on what had already taken place, but both responses had tremendous impact on the events that followed. The response didn't change the past, but it definitely impacted the future.

There Isn't Always Justice

As Christians, how do we respond when we're treated unfairly? Do we forbear and respond with the fruits of the Spirit or do we respond with the works of the flesh? It is a test of our Christian character.

In this world, there isn't always justice. At times we're forced to suffer because of the incompetence,

mistakes and sins of other people, even in the Church. God's Church and His people aren't perfect.

In 1 Peter 2:18-24 Peter reminds us to be submissive to our masters, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh, as it is commendable if because of conscience toward God we endure grief, suffering wrongfully (when it isn't fair). Christ left us an example to follow. He certainly wasn't treated fairly, yet He committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He didn't revile in return; when He suffered, He didn't threaten!

There may be times, however, when it is appropriate to defend ourselves or others against unfair treatment or to pursue justice, but it must still be done with respect and forbearance. For example, the apostle Paul used his Roman citizenship to defend himself against the unfair treatment he was receiving at the hands of the local authorities in Jerusalem.

Often, however, we won't be able to gain justice in this day and age in the circumstances that we find ourselves facing, and we may have to accept the fact that we have to deal with a very unfair situation. Fortunately, we serve a God of justice, and God will eventually correct all injustices, whether in this lifetime or in the future.

So remember, when it isn't fair, we must still forbear! **UN**

Bruce and Linda Hansen are members of the Salem, Oregon, congregation.





Local Church Updates

Los Angeles Congregation Bids Farewell to Pastor

Larry Greider has been the pastor of the Los Angeles congregation for almost five years. The Greiders have been assigned to a new circuit in Jacksonville and Tallahassee, Florida. The Sabbath of Oct. 22 was their last Sabbath service in Los Angeles, and the brethren gave them a festive farewell.



Larry and Bonnie Greider (photo by Marion Snyder)

After a final Bible study and sermon by Mr. Greider, elders Ralph Helge, Jon Garnant, Frank Fish and Miguel Gutierrez presented them with gifts from the congregation. The hymn choir sang a beautiful a cappella version of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" by William G. Tomer.

Afterwards, the brethren crowded into the social hall where a tasty spread of finger foods awaited them. Two more presentations were made, one by the women's club to Bonnie for her faithful participation. On behalf of the pastors and wives of the former Southwest Region, the Greiders were given an etched glass plaque honoring their service as regional pastor of the Southwest Region for the last four years.

Many of the brethren personally expressed their genuine appreciation, admiration and Christian love with cards and tender hugs. They will be missed.

Marion Snyder

Asheville Hosts Singles' Event Over Spring Holy Days

A total of 20 singles from nine different states gathered in the scenic, rolling hills of North Carolina for a weekend highlighted

by an all-day tour of the breathtaking Biltmore Estate. The group enjoyed getting together for fun activities and fellowship during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Two cozy cottages set in a wooded and secluded location served as the rustic accommodations for most of the singles. The ladies occupied the more spacious unit on the high ground, while the men secured the modern cabin within walking distance down the steep, gravel road.

The weekend officially kicked off with a Friday evening cookout of grilled barbecue chicken and baked fish along with other tasty unleavened bread items including some delicious unleavened brownies!

The visiting singles doubled the size of the Asheville congregation and contributed in providing piano playing, opening and closing prayers, special music and even the sermonette on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread.

Sabbath afternoon lunch was at a fine Italian restaurant in one of the newer developments in the Asheville area. Evening activities at the ladies' quarters included dancing, table tennis, foosball, darts and feasting on more unleavened brownies! After the men retired, the ladies continued to socialize into the wee hours of the night.

Sunday's visit to the lavish Biltmore Castle and Estate was definitely the highlight of the event, as the singles were able to see incredible furnishing, artwork, antiques and historical items furnished throughout the house. A tour of the winery was also included.

Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the interaction of the smaller group. One of the ladies described the event as "great weekend fun with no pressure to couple up." Photos of the event can be viewed at www.nc2010.com/photos.html.

Ruben Gusman

Good News Subscribers Invited to Services

The Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation experienced the positive impact of mailing 1,609 letters inviting *Good News* subscribers in the area to attend Sabbath services. As a result of the invitations, the congregation welcomed 10 people to Sabbath services on Oct. 23, where they heard the sermon, "The Middle East and Jerusalem: What Lies Ahead?" Five additional people contacted

pastor David Mills by phone or e-mail.

In addition, the Asheboro, North Carolina, congregation welcomed nine *GN* subscribers for a special service on Oct. 30 after mailing 431 letters.

Mr. Mills said the members did an excellent job in meeting and welcoming the subscribers and that it was an exciting service to have newcomers present.

"The ones who came seemed to listen closely to the sermon, and many of them stayed around for snacks and fellowship. Most of them did not seem to have a good understanding of our basic doctrines, and I was able to give them a copy of our *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet," said Mr. Mills.

He thinks they will see some of the visitors back in the future. Even though the results are pretty small, he feels very positive about inviting the *GN* subscribers, maybe every couple of years if the budget permits.

Sabrina Clore

Williamsburg Ladies Enjoy Tea Party

On Aug. 26 a group of ladies from the Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation had a tea party. They met at A Thyme to Plant, a



Ladies of the Williamsburg, Virginia, congregation gather for an afternoon tea (photo by Mary Jordan)

local farm that serves tea and offers lunch. Beautiful hats worn by the ladies helped set the tone for a relaxing afternoon tea. The farm served light refreshments, including salad using locally grown herbs, lavender lemonade, ice cream and, of course, tea!

The group shared their lives and built up some Feast fever. Gloria Carey, wife of pastor Todd Carey, then gave each attendant a gift of handmade soap. A special guest was Trip Walls, Tad and Sarah Walls' young son, who was very quiet and well-behaved until he tried to eat his mother's soap gift, which evidently did not taste quite as good as it smelled.

Teresa Green

St. Louis Congregation Honors Couple's 50th

When George and Karen Meeker married on Nov. 15, 1960, they chose Romans 8:35-39 as their reference scripture. Fifty years



Joel, Karen and George Meeker beside Carol and Vince Szymkowiak (photo by Matt Hellwege)

later, they can look back over a lifetime spent serving God together and truly say that nothing has managed to come between their love for God and each other.

George graduated from Ambassador College in 1954 and was ordained as a minister in God's Church the following year. He was first assigned to the London and Bristol church areas in England, where he was fortunate enough to meet Karen.

Karen had traveled to Bricket Wood, England, to attend Ambassador College as a junior in 1959, the college's founding year. Shortly thereafter, she met George. It was Mrs. Loma Armstrong who encouraged the match. In Karen's words, Mrs. Armstrong "could be quite the determined matchmaker" when she set her mind to it.

It seems, however, that George and Karen needed little persuading. In 1960 the couple was married by Mr. Armstrong in Ambassador Hall, theirs being the first wedding conducted on the Bricket Wood campus.

A year later, the couple was blessed with their first child, Joel. Julie and Jackie followed in the next five years. Throughout the course of their marriage, George served as pastor in at least 15 different churches and had oversight of several others.

In a tribute to his parents, Joel Meeker cited their strong marriage as an example of God's way of life to him as a child and now as a husband with his own family.

The St. Louis congregation celebrated the Meekers' 50th anniversary with a post-Sabbath potluck dinner and tribute ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Szymkowiak presented the couple with "one of our most prized possessions: the Bible, which has been the guide and constant companion throughout our lifetime."

Lauren Wannewetsch

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*.



A group of singles tour the Biltmore estate (photo by Ruben Gusman)

Announcements

Births

Kevin and Lexie Spahich would like to announce the birth of their baby boy, Tex Spahich. He joined the family on Saturday, May 8, 2010, and weighed 11 pounds 10 ounces.



Tex Spahich

After leaving their home in Thunder Bay, Ontario, baby Tex did some traveling around the country to visit grandparents Frank and Judy Spahich in Toronto, and then George and Paulette Lysyshyn in Saskatchewan. The family now lives in Alberta, about 2½ hours from Edmonton, where they attend Sabbath services. Older brothers Stone and Jesse are excited to have another brother in the family to play and ride horses with at their new farm.

Happy parents, Lissette Solórzano de Zeissig and Fernando Zeissig-Amado of the Guatemala City, Guatemala, congregation, joyfully

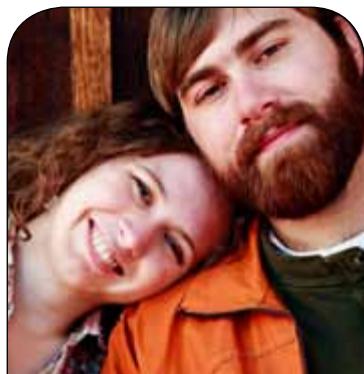


Isabella Zeissig-Solórzano

announce the recent blessing of their new daughter by local pastor Israel Robledo. Little Isabella Zeissig-Solórzano, their precious pre-Feast gift, arrived at 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 4, 2010. She weighed 5 pounds 13 ounces and was 18¾ inches long.

Engagements

Dan and Debbie Bates of California Hot Springs, California, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Denise Bates of Cincinnati, Ohio, to Milan Nicholas Pettet Bizic, son of Chuck and Judy Bizic, of Cadiz, Ohio. The couple attended Ambassador Bible Center in subsequent years, meeting in Cincinnati in 2006. A June



Sarah Bates and Milan Bizic

wedding is planned, after which the couple plans to live in Cincinnati.

Anniversaries

On the Sabbath of Oct. 31, 2010, the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of Dennis and Marge Muenster. After services, the Muensters were presented with a beautiful cake and a card signed by the congregation. They were married on Oct. 28, 1960,



Dennis and Marge Muenster

in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and were baptized on Jan. 29, 1972, attending the Appleton, Wisconsin, congregation. They have four children and 12 grandchildren. Dennis is retired, and Marge still drives a school bus for Oconto Falls area schools. The Muensters are wonderful members of the Oshkosh congregation, and it was wonderful to celebrate this milestone with them.

Obituaries

Barbara Hardison, a member of the Jacksonville, North Carolina, congregation, died at her home at the age of 80 on Aug. 22, 2010. Barbara was one of five children born to Garland and Emma Hardison. She was born and grew up in Swansboro, just east of Jacksonville.

Barbara was baptized on Dec. 14, 1974, and she was a very zealous member of the Church. In the 1980s she spent about seven years as a member of the Columbia, South Carolina, congregation before returning to Jacksonville. In 1999 she began attending the UCG congregation in Raleigh, and she hosted a monthly Bible study at the club room of her apartment complex in

Jacksonville. This Bible study group became a congregation in 2005, meeting in nearby Kinston for three years before moving back to Jacksonville in September 2008.

In 2009 Barbara's health had declined so that she was no longer able to attend Church services. She listened to services by telephone hookup. During this time she stayed in touch with many by phone and wrote a lot of encouraging cards to the sick. She received many visits



Barbara Hardison

by the members and the ministry, and she was always very cheerful even though her health continued to decline.

Barbara is survived by a daughter, Magalene Phillips Morton; two sons, Gerry Curtis Phillips and Donald Vann Phillips; one brother and two sisters; 11 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. There were many family members and friends who came to her memorial service on Aug. 25 to show their love and respect. Barbara will be remembered as a loving and caring mother, a very kind and generous friend and a very zealous member of the Church.

David Charles "Chuck" Kimmel, 57, died Sept. 18, 2010, in Phoenix, Arizona. Born Aug. 31, 1953, Chuck was the third born of David and Ruth Kimmel (both deceased). Chuck grew up in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and moved to Arizona to attend Grand Canyon University.



Chuck Kimmel

Chuck moved to Phoenix in 1971 where he attended services with the Phoenix Northwest congregation.

Both of Chuck's parents listened to Mr. Armstrong when he was a young man, and he chose to heed the calling given to him. Chuck is

survived by two brothers, Jim Kimmel of Scottsdale and Jon Kimmel of Havre de Grace, Maryland, as well as one sister, Dianne Lahr, from New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Chuck had many friends in the Church, and he instantly became like family to those who came to know him. Chuck will be missed by his Church family. His death occurring on the Day of Atonement truly makes us look forward to the time when we will be at one with God.

Services were conducted by Randy Schreiber, pastor of the Northwest congregation, and Chuck was interred in New Castle.

Willie R. Addington, 85, of Granger Township, died Aug. 13, 2010. Willie was baptized into God's Church in 1965. He was a member of the United Church of God in Akron, Ohio, where he served many years helping set up the chairs and tables for Church services. In the wintertime, he and his wife Roberta ("Bobbie") would attend Church in the Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida, congregations. He was also a graduate of the Akron Spokesman's Club.

Mr. Addington was a World War II Army veteran and fought at the Battle of the Bulge, where he was



Willie Addington

wounded. He received a Purple Heart and was later awarded a Bronze Star. He was retired from Ford Motor Company after 25 years of service. Willie became known as "Dad" and "Grandpa" to many of the brethren and young people in the Akron congregation.

He had a fierce loyalty for God's truth and way of life and fought the good fight of faith to the very end. Gregory Thomas, an elder from the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation, officiated the funeral service. An interment with military honors was held at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Lorraine B. Imsdahl, age 83, of Burnsville, Minnesota, died on the Sabbath of Oct. 2, 2010. She was a steadfast member of the Church of God in the Minneapolis area since 1965. An exceptional homemaker and an excellent cook, she loved crafts of all kinds, including needlepoint, crocheting, sewing and quilting. Her home reflected a decorator's touch.

Preceded in death by her first husband, George Mostad, and son, Graig Mostad, and several brothers and sisters, she is survived by husband, James Imsdahl; daughter, Laura (Brian) Shover; grandchildren, Nicole and Brandon; son, Neal Mostad; and sister, Mary



Lorraine Imsdahl

Bergmann; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

Mrs. Imsdahl was interred at Fort Snelling cemetery. She was truly Lovely Lady Lorraine.

Verlin Harold Wibe, 80, of Rolette, died Nov. 2, 2010, in Bismarck, North Dakota, after a coronary blood clot formed following surgery for removing a cancerous tumor. He will be greatly missed.

Verlin was born on March 31, 1930, the son of Harold Ludvig and Anna (Bishop) Wibe. He grew up on his parents' farm near Bisbee, North Dakota, and graduated from Bisbee High School in 1949. He worked for the R.E.A. in Cando until he moved to Minneapolis where he married his high school sweetheart, Taletta Ann Foss, on Nov. 3, 1950. He entered the U.S. Army in 1950 and served in Okinawa. He was honorably discharged in 1953, and they returned to Bisbee where he worked at the Geisen Oil Co.

Verlin and Taletta moved to Mylo in 1957 and opened the Wibe Garage. They enjoyed many years in the Mylo community where they raised their family. After Taletta died on Jan. 30, 1985, Verlin married Ardella Stroebel on Aug. 16, 1986, and moved to a farm near Deering, North Dakota. Verlin enjoyed the addition of five new daughters and their families. Ardella died on Sept. 14, 2004.

Verlin was baptized in 1972 and attended the Bismarck United Church of God congregation and also the Killarney, Manitoba, Canada, video group. He was a faithful and committed member of the Church and was noted for his deep, strong voice and friendly smile and manner.

Mr. Wibe is survived by his children: Gary (Nancy) Wibe; Debra Wibe; Linda (George) Keyes; and Sandra (Larry) Heilman. He also leaves his step-children: Carolyn (Ron) Anderson; Georgia Prenovost; Theresa (Dennis) Ballantine; Elaine (Roger) Hackett and Janice

(Gordon) Gueller. He is also survived by his brother, Ronald Wibe, and his wife, Gloria. He also leaves 29 grandchildren and numerous great and step-great-grandchildren in addition to his good friend, Murl Hill, of Dunseith.

He was preceded in death by his parents, both his wives and a great-grandchild, Bryce Wibe.

Herb Teitgen officiated his funeral on Nov. 7. Military honors were conducted by the Dethman-Armstrong American Legion Post No. 194 and the Military Funeral Honors Detail-Central Team.

Evelyn Vinzola Marshall, 94, of Three Rivers, Michigan, died Friday, Oct. 8, 2010, at the Three Rivers Health Hospice Suite.

Evelyn was born on March 19, 1916, in Waupaca, Wisconsin, to the late Vance and Palma (Knutson) Mitchell. She married Leslie Lincoln Marshall on Aug. 5, 1935, in Iron Mountain, Wisconsin, and they lived in northern Wisconsin and the Chicago, Illinois, area for many years. Evelyn and Leslie celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1985.

In the '70s Evelyn and Leslie moved to San Mateo, California, where she became a manager of a motel for several years before they relocated to Sturgis, Michigan, in the '80s.

Besides being a loving mother, grandmother and homemaker, Evelyn loved studying her Bible and was baptized in 1959. Her husband, Leslie, was baptized in 1960. She was a member of the United Church of God and was the first of four generations of baptized members of the Church of God.

Mrs. Marshall is survived by five children and their spouses, Richard (Linda) Marshall, Robert (Dorothy) Marshall, Judith (Bill) Swanson of East Bernstadt, Kentucky, Sally (Robert) Einersen and Candace (Allen) Hochstetler; 15 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; a brother, Gordon; a sister, Delores Anderson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, Evelyn was preceded in death by two brothers, five sisters and her husband, Leslie, who died in 1986.

A memorial service for Evelyn was held on Tuesday, Oct. 12, officiated by Lambert Greer, pastor of the Living Church of God who also officiated at the memorial of Leslie 24 years ago. A private interment of ashes will take place later in Wisconsin where her husband, Leslie, was also interred.

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*.



Barbara and Stan Botha

Stanley Stephanus Botha was born in Durban, South Africa, on Jan. 17, 1940. He has an older brother, Philip, and sister, Colleen, and two step-siblings. His mother died when he was five years old, and his father, a policeman, remarried. While he was a young teenager they moved to George, which he would always consider his home.

While working for Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Factory in Uitenhage in 1960, he met Barbara, whom he would marry three years later on Oct. 5, 1963. Together they

Tribute Stan Botha

had three children: the eldest, Stephen, born in 1966; Vivien, born in 1968; and lastly Genevieve, who tragically died in 2007 of cancer, born in 1970. Genevieve's death was a huge blow to the family and a real test of Stan and Barbara's faith. Their example of coping with such a loss and relying on God's promises has been a tremendous example to their congregation, friends and family.

Stan came into contact with the Worldwide Church of God in 1969 through a family member—a coworker who never progressed beyond that. Stan knew immediately it was the truth, and although it took Barbara a little longer to reach that point, they were baptized together at the Feast of Tabernacles. The ceremony took place in a lagoon during a storm on the night of the Last Great Day in 1972.

In 1961 Stan joined traffic law enforcement, where he started out on a Harley-Davidson. As his career in law enforcement progressed, he was instrumental in

initiating many of the procedures still in use in the department today, particularly the use of statistics. This earned him the name of Stan Statistic.

Many years later in 1996, after his retirement, he took up motorcycling again, and he and his wife spent many hours and thousands of kilometers together on the open road. Due to the nature of his work, he was transferred to various places, and on the Jan. 16, 1986, the family moved to Cape Town, where Stan would spend the rest of his life.

After a change in government in South Africa, many senior positions in government departments were changed, and Stan took early retirement in 1995. He had a great love of nature and the outdoors, and he enjoyed fishing, particularly along the coast where he grew up fishing with his dad. He was particularly fond of trees, his favorite being the wild fig.

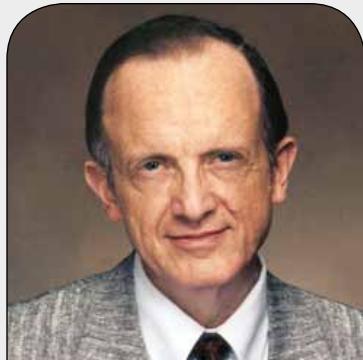
In 1995 Stan and his wife left the church they had spent the last

26 years in and were the only two people affiliated with the United Church of God in Cape Town. Over time, others joined, with a small group of less than 10 meeting in Stan and Barbara's house every Sabbath. As the United Church of God grew in South Africa, Stan was ordained a full-time minister on May 17, 2003, a responsibility for which he felt very unqualified.

Despite his lack of formal ministerial training, he loved the Church and served the brethren with absolute dedication, commitment and humility. He was a peacemaker and truly practiced what he preached, serving as an unwavering ambassador of God's way of life.

Sadly, this year he had to leave early from the Feast—his 38th—to have heart surgery he'd hoped to postpone until afterward. On Oct. 8, 2010, Stan died due to complications after the surgery. He was 70 years old.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, a granddaughter and brothers and sisters. Truly, 2 Timothy 4:7 can be said of Stan: I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.



Joe Clarke

Joe Clarke, 73, an elder serving in the Kennewick, Washington, congregation, died at home on Oct. 16, 2010. He had continued

Tribute Joe Clarke

in service to the Church and in his employment as a pharmacist throughout almost five years after having been diagnosed with colon cancer.

Joe was diligent and determined to care and provide for his wife, Claire, and also for the Kennewick congregation. Joe and Claire were married 49 years. He served as an elder for 23 years and was a deacon before that.

Joe was known for his diligence, absolute integrity and emotional stability. He was a remarkable light, both to his coworkers and

in the Church. He maintained his employment through the various difficult times and struggles in order to continue to contribute at work and to keep his benefits in place for Claire. He led songs in services, with Claire playing the piano, even when he had to brace himself with one hand on the podium. He always had a positive and hopeful countenance.

Joe lived his life day by day, praying for strength and mental focus each morning. He considered each day an opportunity and lived his life accordingly.

Joe was baptized in 1970 and saw the Church from a perspective of 40 years. He was working as a pharmacist when he was called and ended up leaving the profession because of the Church's teachings at the time. That winter he worked at a ski resort as a lift operator and in the spring he mowed lawns and did odd jobs.

Through it all he remained positive and focused. He then worked at the Church's headquarters in Pasadena and eventually returned to his original profession. Joe always looked forward, and the fruit of his example and commitment was clear to all.



Patrick Regoord

Patrick Regoord was born in Buffalo, New York, on Aug. 20, 1940. He lived in and attended school in that city but spent every weekend and vacation that he could on his grandfather's farm in Angola, New York. When very young, he would borrow his grandmother's colanders and go now fishing in the creek that ran

Tribute Patrick Regoord

through the farm, developing his love for the outdoors. He went on fishing and hunting trips until he could take them no more.

During his later teen years he trained as a dance and figure skater (on roller skates!) with his uncle Fabian and was torn between that and boxing, in which his stepfather encouraged him. Neither activity held his interest after he met his future wife, Marlene, a cashier at the local corner store, just before his high school graduation.

Patrick and Marlene were married in February 1961 and moved to Clearwater, Florida, in October of that year. This February would have marked their 50th wedding anniversary.

Pat heard about Herbert Armstrong through a friend, and after

he and Marlene read many of Mr. Armstrong's booklets, they requested a visit. As it turned out, a baptizing tour was in their area that year, and they were able to meet with Carn Catherwood and Dennis Luker who baptized them in Tampa on July 4, 1962.

Their stay in Florida was short, as Patrick desired to return to the cooler temperatures of the north.

After attending their first Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, they returned to New York. Pat started his own painting business, incorporating skills learned during his teens from an uncle who was in the construction business.

They were able to be part of the new congregation established in Buffalo in 1963 under Gary Antion. Patrick was ordained a deacon in 1966 by Mr. Antion and

was ordained a local elder in 1969 by Ivan Sell.

In 1991, Pat and Marlene returned to Florida to avoid the cold and the seasonal uncertainty of painting work in the New York area. They settled in Vero Beach, where they served in the Port St. Lucie and West Palm Beach churches.

Pat retired from the painting business in 2001 when his health issues were found to be related to a diabetic condition. Pat and Marlene moved to Brooksville, Florida, to be closer to some of their children. Pat served in the Tampa area until his death due to complications of diabetes.

Patrick is survived by his wife, Marlene; his seven children, Lisa Noel, Mark (Jennifer) Regoord, Virginia (Robert) Bianchet, Daniel Regoord, Sarah Regoord, Michael Regoord and Fabian Regoord; and nine grandchildren.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

viewers to become coworkers and help carry the financial load as we all do our best to prepare the Bride and preach the gospel to a world so desperately in need. May God's Son return soon so we can truly reach the whole world.

Aaron Dean

Invitation to Participate in GN Brochure Distribution Program

For the past several years brethren and congregations have participated in the *Good News* subscription brochure program as a means of helping preach the gospel in their local areas. In 2009 members distributed nearly 20,000 brochures in restaurants, supermarkets, motels, hospital and clinic lobbies, hair salons, senior centers, libraries, convenience stores and many other locations.

Distribution of bifold and trifold brochures has been a cost-effective means of introducing new readers to

The Good News magazine and our booklets. Brochures cost less than 4 cents each to print and distribute. Over recent years, subscriber response has reached an excellent 3.7 percent at a cost of only \$2.43 per response.

You are welcome to order a supply of brochures and displays for distribution in your area. Please contact John LaBissoniere at johnlabissoniere@ucg.org or call (423) 562-9400 or (888) 369-9940 for your supply of brochures and displays.

John LaBissoniere

Writers: Send Us Your Bios

Media and Communications Services 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 para-

graphs, 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

Periodicals Postage Paid

at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices



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Learn the Book Almost Nobody Knows

Would you like to understand the book of Zechariah? How about Habakkuk, Ezra and Isaiah? Ambassador Bible Center (ABC) will help you understand those books and the entire Bible like you never have before. It will enhance your spiritual condition and help you make connections with fellow believers that will last a lifetime.



Why not think about attending Ambassador Bible Center? ABC is an intensive nine-month educational program that is offered and supported by United Church of God that takes you on a journey through the Bible with an emphasis on developing godly character. If you ever wanted to be a part of an educational system that is conducive to your beliefs, then ABC is for you.

Join the Class of 2012 to take your personal journey through the Word of God and enrich your spiritual life through greater understanding of how to live God's way of life. A year of exciting experiences awaits you.

Applications are being accepted at this time. To apply, please go to <http://abc.ucg.org> and download an application. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gary Antion



What's New on the Web?

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On Nov. 29, Internet managing editor Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

29,065 total Facebook fans.

7,128 total Twitter followers.

569 videos posted on YouTube.

1,425,622 video views on YouTube.

179 Bible FAQs posted.

693,244 Bible FAQs views.

296 e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.

460,729 clicks to our Web sites generated by e-mail campaigns.

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 Nov. 30, a total of 53 lessons and 167 "3 Bible Tips" have been posted to the site.

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



Personal Correspondence Update

The Personal Correspondence area sent out 152 letters and/or e-mails in September. There were 35 surface mail letters, 105 e-mails and an additional 12 e-mails sent out by *Vertical Thought* staff members.

One of the most serious counseling situations presented to us came by e-mail from a Muslim who asked our advice on how to leave his faith. This can literally be a life-or-death decision in Muslim countries where other religions are outlawed. We do not know if this individual lives in one of those countries or in one where the change of faith is tolerated. Even if it is the latter, the person faces monumental challenges within his family and community.

We responded to two unusual questions about the Sabbath. One couple believes in and is keeping the Sabbath privately at home. But they have close friends with whom they have been attending a Sunday church. They wanted to know if there is any problem with continuing to attend church on Sunday, as long as they keep the Sabbath privately, so they can continue their friendships.

The second question came from a couple convinced about observing the Sabbath. They wanted to know if they would be keeping the law

properly by attending any church denomination's service, as long as it was held sometime between Friday sunset and Saturday sunset.

Another unusual question came from a family that is observing the Feast of Trumpets. They did not explain how they came to be convicted that they should be doing so, but they are uncertain about how to observe the Holy Day properly and asked for our advice. They explained that they get together with a trumpet on the Holy Day, which they take turns blowing, after making a statement of reverence about God.

Cecil Maranville

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.

June 6-10: ABC Continuing Education Seminar, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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.

Karen Schuster