

United News™

News of the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association

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UCGIA Begins First Television Media Campaign

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The next issue of *United News* is scheduled to be published on Monday, September 14, 1998. Please see special note on page 15 of this issue.

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The United Church of God, an International Association, began an aggressive media campaign on television this summer, designed to reach over 16 million new people with a message of hope while building circulation to its flagship magazine, *The Good News*. After years of research and preparation, the program was launched June 22 in the Spokane, Washington, and Calgary and Edmonton, Canada, market on a test basis.

The television campaign utilizes two high-quality 60-second television commercials. They will run in the higher viewership time period of 5-8 p.m. on leading local television stations. The second market in the campaign began the first part of July in the Burlington, Vermont, Plattsburgh, New York, and Montreal, Canada, market.

Over 70 percent of the population in each market will see the commercials an average of three times. That is more than two million people in the first two markets alone. Plans call for the commercials to run in three or four markets this summer, providing a message of truth. Additional possible markets include the Buffalo/Toronto market, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

"At this level of intensity we expect

a good response, especially considering how well our high-quality and creative commercials deliver a timely and impactful message," commented Rod Hall. Mr. Hall, a media consultant to UCG's Media Committee and the one who created and implemented the plan, has worked with hundreds of similar media strategies for various clients over the 28 years he has been in the broadcast industry. "Marketing, especially when implemented on television,

is a carefully-crafted, ever changing work of art in motion. It is never an exact science but when the right strategy, creative appeal, and a believable, relevant message are combined with intrusive levels of media exposure, remarkable things can happen. Add to that the power of God's blessing and backing and you have the makings of a very

Over 70 percent of the population in each market will see the commercials an average of three times. That is more than two million people in the first two markets alone.

successful campaign," he added.

Nielsen and other viewership ratings show that the programs the commercials run in will deliver over 16 million actual adult viewer impressions in five or six markets. This is 10 times the viewership impressions that the half hour telecast the Worldwide Church of God used to achieve. At its zenith *The World Tomorrow* program had 1.6 million viewers weekly.

Mr. Hall explained: "Some of those

viewing our commercials will be the same persons seeing the ads more than once. Some people will see the ads two or three times. Others may see them five or six times, but the average will be about three times for 70 percent of the population in the key markets where we plan to run our ads."

The actual results of the tests will not be known for a few months. Past experience shows, however, that a very efficient cost per response of \$5-7 can be expected. This is about the same or a little less than the *Reader's Digest* ads have produced. Mr. Hall continues: "When you use the mass media of television, not only do you get a very competitive cost per response, but there is the added value of reaching a very large portion of the local population with a compelling and memorable message of hope. When done properly, that message will stick with them for some time."

The two 60-second commercials target adults 35 years and older. Both *Look to the Future* and *Rush Through Life* feature a happy family reading the *Good News* magazine and encourages viewers

to call for their free subscription. *Rush* also features the booklet *What Is Your Destiny?*

Most people have heard or seen the direct response radio and television 60 second ads that the Mormon church has used for some time. "Even if a person disagrees with their theology and never calls, the Mormon ads have created a warm positive feeling in the minds of millions of people. This will also be true for what we have designed for UCG. For every person who picks up the phone and calls, thousands more will be favorably impressed with a message of hope from the United Church of God—all at a much lower cost per response than a full half-hour telecast. The cost per response was typically \$45 in the past with *The World Tomorrow*."

When you use the mass media of television, not only do you get a very competitive cost per response, but there is the added value of reaching a very large portion of the local population with a compelling and memorable message of hope.

While Mr. Hall acknowledges that the quality of response is even better when a longer format is used, he reminds us that "our total income for United is less than what we used to spend in the media department alone," when he was employed by the church through the 1970s. "The level of media expenditure grew even higher through the early 90s."

United is also making plans for a half-hour television pilot. But Mr. Hall indicates, "We simply can't afford to be at the media levels we used to enjoy. We must be willing to think outside the box and look for more efficient and creative ways to deliver our message."

Twenty markets in all were researched. The first three of the five or six markets chosen to run this summer were selected because of their adjacency to the border with Canada. They are strategically located so they are twice as efficient as many other U.S. markets. "Buy one and get one free" is how he describes the efficiency. They also offer a typical view of how viewers will respond to the commercials in a variety of U.S. and Canadian markets.

The production and implementation of the media plan was a "joint venture" between the Canadian council and U.S. office. "I presented the concept on a couple of occasions to both parties and they backed the idea and worked together providing moral and financial support," Mr. Hall concluded.

If results are acceptable, plans are to roll the campaign out to several other markets in the first quarter of 1999. UCG plans to double the circulation of the *Good News* magazine by the end of the fiscal year in March of 1999. Mr. Hall summarized, "It is really encouraging to me to see UCG as a church on the move, determined to get something accomplished." (See accompanying article "The Making of Television Commercials" and "Meet the Made for TV Family.") *UN*

United News

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Internet access on your computer:

The United Church of God, an *International Association*, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address <http://www.ucg.org> gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News*, as well as our booklets. The address <http://www.ucg.ca> accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, <http://www.ucg-aus.org.au> the Church's Australian Web site, <http://www.labuonanotizia.org> the Church's Italian Web site, and <http://www.ucg.org.za> the Church's Southern Africa Web site.

Electronic Media Update...

The Making of the Television Commercials

by Rod Hall

When you do anything on television effectively, a lot of research, thought and preparation must go into it to assure you receive the desired end result. We live in a very "media savvy" age. The baby boom generation was the first to grow up with television. The younger generation now spends more time watching television while growing up, than they ever will in a class room.

Things you do on camera carry a lot of subliminal messages that today's hip generation perceives. It does not have to be perfect to be very persuasive, but it must be believable, relevant, involving, intrusive and captivating, with visual appeal. It also needs to be convenient and easy to respond to. It needs to be produced in a quality way.

I knew we had accomplished our task when one of the lead director/editors at the television station where I work asked, "Where did you get these actors?" When I informed him they were all Church members from our local congregation, he was surprised. The outside cinematographer we hired to film the commercial was pleased when a colleague of his commented that he was "very impressed" with the quality of the shooting.

All the details that dramatically affected the final product's effectiveness had to be hammered out over a two month period of time. Every detail, from the type of eye shadow and makeup that was needed to the wardrobe and number of actors, had to be labored over and finalized. Locations, sets and backdrops for each shot had to be planned to assure the right image and setting was obtained. Presenting the *Good News* magazine and the *What Is Your Destiny?* booklet in the most favorable light was a critical factor in the success of the commercials.

One thing that leaves a very favorable impression in the minds of viewers is a baby. That is where the idea for the *Look to*

the Future commercial came from. By showing a little baby at the beginning of the commercial, happily waving its arms, we would be projecting a favorable image from the start.

A symbolic baby, lost in space, was intended to get people wondering where this baby was located, as the female announcer says: "Look to the future and think of the little ones, what do you see?" Once we have the viewers' attention we need something that will provide the shock



***Rush Through Life:* Film crew using 35mm film zooms in on Rod Hall in office scene of UCGIA commercial (top), and Spokane, Washington, teens and young adults attack senior couple in mugging scene.**

Photographs by Arnold Egbert

value to hold their attention, and hopefully stir them to action. That is why the second scene was so critical:

We jolt the viewer with a mugging in progress. The same little baby could now be seven or eight years old, walking with grandparents in the park. The male announcer reads: "A world full of violence

and corruption? A society of 'every man for himself?'"

Once the consciousness of the viewer had been stirred, we let them relax again seeing the baby closely in a tight shot. Then the remainder of the commercial carries them though a warm family setting showing the *Good News* magazine being read.

The other very important key to this media mix is a commercial that relates to our modern world—approaching people from the reality of where they find themselves and leading them to something more rewarding. The commercial *Rush through Life* delivers that whole message in a tidy 60 seconds.

It shows the reality and frustration of life in the fast lane of a working executive—kind of a "day in the life of" approach. It has attention getting areas through the visual impact of crashing waterfalls and plush office scenes. The male/female voice combination reads: "So many of us follow the road of life, never stopping to consider 'where are we going?' We hurry through the day, a face in the crowd, but why are we here? What is the purpose of our existence on this earth? We rush from appointment to appointment without giving quality time to the bigger questions of life—what is your ultimate destiny?"

The booklet, *What is Your Destiny?*, is the key feature of this commercial. The *Good News* magazine is also offered as an accompaniment.

The last part of the commercial ends similar to the first with the happy alternative to a cold, cruel business world. A happy family sharing the quality *Good News* magazine in the warmth and closeness of their own home and discovering "What Is Your Destiny?" UN

- Rod Hall attends United in Spokane, Washington, and is a consultant to the Media Committee of the Council of Elders.

Meet the "Made for T.V. Family" Created for UCG Commercials Airing this Summer

UCG launched its first electronic media campaign on television with two high quality, 60-second television commercials that were produced on the best format available, 35mm film.

Also important in presenting a quality image is choosing the right extras and actors to play the various

ferent angles. Even at the last 'take' they were still pumped with adrenaline. I wouldn't want to face them in a dark alley in a real mugging situation," he quipped.

The grandparents were played by, Jim and Bonnie Beatty. Jim is a former musician and was comfortable performing. Bonnie took a little more coaching but effectively expressed concern for the frightened granddaughter. The granddaughter was played by Megan Mickelson, daughter of the local pastor and his wife,

Look to the Future spot was played by Ben Emehiser, son of Jeff and Bernice Emehiser. Mr. Hall added: "Since you never know how a young baby of eight weeks will perform in the bright lights of a studio setting, we asked Jim and Laura Moody to bring their young daughter Karina just in case she would be needed to fill in." So much time and effort was put into the one 14-hour production day, we could not afford to go back and refilm any scene. We had a back up baby, back up grandparents and plenty of extras to be sure we could get what we needed and stay on our tight time schedule and budget."

Originally, Mr. Hall did not think the Church could afford the normally very expensive 35mm film production process. However, after working some very favorable deals with long time business and creative production acquaintances, he was able to work out a situation we could not refuse.

Spokane pastor's wife, Michelle Mickelson, played the mom in the warm, nearly idealistic home setting, that appears at the end of both commercials. When you are putting together a television commercial utilizing sight, sound, color and motion a lot of the image you project is subliminal. Every detail must carefully be thought through.

For example, every part of

After a few corrective words from the directors, everyone started expressing a more appropriate mood. Feelings of shock, horror and fear needed to be projected so those at home would think about the troubled world that they may be passing along to the next generation.

parts. "As it turned out everyone involved on the screen is a member of the church and did an excellent job fulfilling their rolls," commented Rod Hall, media consultant to UCG's Media Committee. In fact, the end result looked so professional that some crew members working with the production expressed surprise when they discovered that they were not professional actors. Extensive pre-planning and coaching beforehand paid off in a polished and professional product.

"We had them walk through and rehearse every key shot in advance," commented Mr. Hall. The "thugs" who accosted the grandparents while walking their granddaughter in the park, were teens and young adults from the local Spokane congregation. "They had no problem living up to their assignment 'Don't shave for three to four days and wear something that looks menacing.'

"The excitement and energy they exhibited at our 6 a.m. sunrise shoot was amazing. We retook the shots of jumping fences and running attacks about a dozen times to get several dif-

ferent angles. Even at the last 'take' they were still pumped with adrenaline. I wouldn't want to face them in a dark alley in a real mugging situation," he quipped.

Mark and Michelle Mickelson. "When the three were attacked the first couple of times by the thugs they began laughing. While we wanted everyone to have a good time, this quickly took away the realism we were looking for in this important scene. After a few corrective words from the directors, everyone started expressing a more appropriate mood.

We were able to deliver a final product that was worth 30 times more than we actually spent. Thanks to God's help and backing we were able to utilize some of the best professionals in the market, the best quality filming production available today and all at a cost that was affordable for the Church.

Feelings of shock, horror and fear needed to be projected so those at home would think about the troubled world that they may be passing along to the next generation."

The baby in limbo in the "lost in space" setting at the beginning of the

Michelle's appearance had to be meticulously planned. "My wife Sharon helped all the main characters choose the right wardrobes to project the image we needed. She sent a professional hair stylist to the Mickelson's home to fix her hair in

just the right way, and arranged for her to visit a professional theatrical make up artist the day of the shoot," Mr. Hall recounted.

He played the dad in both commercials and the harried business executive in the *Rush Through Life* spot. The home family setting at the end of both commercials was made complete with the addition of eleven year old Ben Cates, son of Jerry and Becky Cates, and five year old Erica Bennett, daughter of Mike and Becky Bennett. All extras in the business scenes were also played by local members. Rod explains, "We needed the right mixture of age, sex and race to project the executive boardroom and elevator lobby scenes. I was really pleased to see how natural and realistic everyone played their roll."

The last two ingredients that were needed to complete the production were professional production people and the right scene settings. God provided both. "I was able to hire Bob Pollock to be our cinematographer, and Dan Mortimor to be our director. They have both been in the production side of the broadcast industry for nearly 30 years."

Mr. Hall had worked with them in the early 80s at the ABC affiliate in Spokane and was familiar with their quality work, first hand. Over the last 20 years they have specialized in making commercials, training videos and films. "Today Dan owns and operates his own large production company and Bob is a freelance cameraman and producer who has made everything from 35mm motion picture films in Hollywood, to full length industrial productions for large companies around the country.

"They got involved as a favor to me. We didn't have the money to hire

them. Normally they would not even fire up the 35mm camera for less than twice what I had to spend," he recalls. "I new that their input and professional competence would be invaluable.

production available today and all at a cost that was affordable for the Church."

He worked several weeks in advance to find the right locations.

The last two ingredients that were needed to complete the production were professional production people and the right scene settings. God provided both.

When I explained my situation and they realized this was a special project for my Church, they agreed to get involved.

"When you add up the value of what they provided—all the creative commercial concepts, ideas, layout and design, and the special editing

Because of tight time constraints and budgets, the locations had to be compelling, convenient and accessible as well as reflect the right image. "There is no question in my mind that God led us to the right building. I originally chose it because it had the right outside appearance. I was surprised and pleased to discover upon closer evaluation that it also had the right lobby, elevator and an executive board room all on the main floor.

Also, the home of Perry and Gail Miller (elder and wife in the area), was the ideal setting for the family scenes. "The recently remodeled home offered the quality setting we were looking for. Downstairs there were no windows to ruin the special lighting we needed. A warm quality room with the right furnishings was the perfect backdrop for our closing shots.

God even provided the ideal weather. "When I asked the members to pray about the 'shoot' day I got very specific. No rain, a slight overcast sky to break up the harsh shadows and little or no wind. God answered. It rained several days before and days immediately after, but the weather

was ideal the day of the shoot. God provided the weather, He provided the people, He provided the talent, He provided the training, He provided the settings, He provided the money and He will provide the response. When we take the initiative to do our part, God will do His." UN



Look to the Future: Michelle Mickelson (wife of Spokane, Washington, pastor Mark Mickelson) and Erica Bennett read the *Good News* magazine during recording of the commercial.

Photograph by Arnold Egbert

arrangements at the television station where I work—we were able to deliver a final product that was worth 30 times more than we actually spent," Mr. Hall indicated. "Thanks to God's help and backing we were able to utilize some of the best professionals in the market, the best quality filming

Letters...

Powerful!

"I just wanted to convey how powerful your magazine, *The Good News*, is. I love it. Most magazines are very lightweight in spiritual content and all they do is diaper Christians with articles of encouragement alone.

"Other organizations also have very informative articles but unfortunately they don't seek to publish the truth, but rather what they believe in.

"The *GN* is simple enough to understand, with quality articles. I give glory to God for allowing people like you to publish it. A job well done! I pray that you will not slow down but continue to proceed with even greater vision than before.

"With much Christian love."

Internet

"Enclosed is our contribution for the month. We just finished reading the latest *Good News* magazine. It is a first-class magazine, well written and very informative. Thank you very much!

"We enjoy articles on prophecy and would like to see more of them."

Michigan

Television Commercials and Sermons on Internet

"We are UCG members and have been viewing the T.V. commercials and some of the streaming video sermons on the United Web site. This is awesome!

"We love the UCG Web page. You've done a fantastic job. Keep up the good work!"

Internet

"I am home from church this Sabbath with three small children. Even when we do not attend church, they are still required to "practice" church by taking a nap on the floor while I study.

"I can't tell you what a difference the RealVideo sermon makes in my effort to make this Sabbath at home seem like 'real church.' I am able to hear God's message and study while the children nap peacefully. This doesn't happen so easily when the children don't hear a minister's voice.

"Thank you so much for making such great use of today's technology. It has really made a difference in the quality of our Sabbath today.

Internet, Georgia

Lit on the 'Net

"I am a 37-year-old woman that has known about the Lord all my life, but never really lived for Him. I have been reading your Internet site for the last three months and am so pleased that there is place that is teaching the true gospel.

"I am really enjoying the booklets that I have received. I will get booklets and then a friend will want to read them. I would also like some of the other booklets that you have. There was not enough space on the request form for all the booklets I need.

"I just can't get enough of the word of God. Thank you!"

Internet

Editor's Note: The letters in this section may be edited for length and clarity.

Home Office Update...

We've Moved!

After several years of planning and preparation, the home office has now relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. Operations are beginning to return to normal.

We apologize for any lack in service to you during the transition. It has been a busy time for the office staff, since not only was the office relocated, but each family also had to relocate and find a new home.

Please note the new mailing address and telephone number printed on the front cover of this issue of *United News*. For those who would like to visit us, the street address is United Church of God, an *International Association*, 5405 Dupont Circle, Suite A, Milford, OH 45150.

We look forward to serving you from our new office and trust we can all work together in furthering the gospel of the kingdom of God!

Home Office staff

What's New on the Web?

- Download the two new commercials being aired in the Northwest U.S., and using RealMedia Player, watch them play off your hard drive. Works best with a newer, faster computer.

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

- Council of Elders reports for May 21, June 23 and June 24, 1998

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- July/August, 1998, *Las Buenas Noticias*

http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml

- *Is the Bible True?* booklet available in PDF format

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- May 11, 1998, *Nuevos Comienzos*

http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml

- Using RealMedia Player, watch streaming video of selected sermons, including messages by Richard Pinelli, Tom Kirkpatrick and Robin Webber.

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

- May 13 letter from the Council of Elders to the membership

<http://www.ucg.org/articles/ce/ce980513.html>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

webmaster@ucg.org

Local Church Updates...

Hawaiian Luau for Teens, Young Adults and Singles

September 5, 6 and 7, 1998
Corpus Christi, Texas,

The Corpus Christi congregation invites all teens, young adults and singles to a fun and festive *Hawaiian Luau* weekend over Labor Day weekend September 5, 6 and 7, 1998.

The activities will begin on Saturday evening with a three on three basketball tournament. For those who would rather play volleyball, we will have a court available. Cost for this evening will be only \$5.

On Sunday, from 10 a.m. until about 2 p.m., a beach party will be held on beautiful Padre Island, with jet ski, wave runner, sailboat, and horseback riding rentals available. We encourage everyone to bring a picnic style

lunch and enjoy some football and sun on this gorgeous sun-soaked coast. The only cost will be the \$5 per car entrance fee.

At 7 p.m. on Sunday evening the Hawaiian Luau Party will begin! It will be held on an outside patio at Buckets, 227 N. Water St., Corpus Christi (downtown). This is a Luau and dress should reflect the theme. Please wear nice shorts and a Hawaiian print shirt. This is a casual weekend, in a tropical setting right on the bay, and we would like to keep the Hawaiian atmosphere.

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and will consist of either chicken or beef with vegetables, salad, drinks and dessert. After dinner, dancing will be available with music provided by Crystal Planet, a local band that plays a wide variety of music.

We will have limbo competitions and door prizes to be given away throughout the evening. The cost for the evening will be \$18 for those wishing to attend the dinner and

party, or just \$11 for those who wish only to attend the dance. This should prove to be a great evening so come and join us!

Please make your reservations with, and mail your check payable to, Arnold Mendez, Jr. at 3506 Crestvilla Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78415. In the memo section of your check, please indicate which portions of the weekend you are paying for, and include a return address so we can send you a registration form. If you will need housing, please contact Adam Mendez at (512) 855-8480 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. central time, or e-mail him at adambb11@aol.com.

The deadline for reservations will be envelopes postmarked by August 1, 1998. We are expecting a large turnout for this weekend, so write soon! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Arnold Mendez, Jr. at (512) 855-6782 between 7 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. central time or write to Satch2257@aol.com (e-mail).

On a Personal Note...

Dear Brethren,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the cards and expressions of sympathy and concern we received from so many of you after the recent death of my mother. She died of cancer at age 82. She had suffered for a long time from serious health problems and God was very merciful in the circumstances of her death.

She died very suddenly at home and we all thought it was heart failure. One week later when we received the death certificate, it stated the cause of death as liver and stomach cancer. We could hardly believe it! My mother was living a fairly normal life at home and taking no medication. She would complain about stomach problems and had been checked various times at the hospital, but the problem was not detected. She carried on at home, helping my father who is legally blind. On memorial day in May she literally just dropped dead. My father found her on the floor in the bedroom. It was a shock to him but he now thanks God for letting her die at home so quickly.

My father also has received cards and words of encouragement from many mem-

bers of United. He is not a member of our church but he believes in God and has a strong faith. He has been overwhelmed at the outpouring of love and concern. He said, "Denny, please somehow let your church know how much these cards have meant to me." My dad is totally blind in one eye and has less than 50 percent vision in the other eye. He can read only with a strong magnifying glass and a very bright light directly on the print—and now he lives at home alone with his dog, Lucky. This is his choice. He is a strong-willed man and wants to remain independent as long as possible. There are other adult children and grandchildren living near him in Southern California who check on him daily.

My main point in sharing all this with you is to convey to you my deepest thanks and appreciation for your love and encouragement. Some of you, as congregations, signed cards and filled them with words of comfort and concern. All the employees at the home office did the same thing. This impressed upon me, once again, the importance of encouraging one another, especially during times of trial and stress, as the scriptures instruct us to do.

Encourage One Another

Brethren, we are currently in a time of

great trial and stress in the United Church of God. Let us stick together and encourage one another. Causing discouragement is one of Satan's greatest tools against the saints. I would like to encourage all of you faithful brethren by letting you know how much your love, support and concern have meant to me, not just at my mother's death, but during these past three years of United's existence.

At times I have become so discouraged I have wanted to give up. Being on the Council of Elders has been a more difficult and challenging responsibility than I had expected. But, many times when I was deeply discouraged and felt like resigning from the Council, someone would write an encouraging note of support. There is a recent example of an encouraging note to the Council: "Gentlemen, I know the pressures and strains on you and your families are tremendous, due to the positions you hold. Please take courage that there are more *for* you than *against* you.... Our prayers are with and for you. Don't give up!"

Brethren, thank you, thank you, thank you, for your prayers, love and encouragement! Because of you, God's people, I have great hope for the future of the United Church of God.

Dennis Luker

Feast of Tabernacles...

U.S. and Canada: Special Music

One of the highlights of the Feast of Tabernacles is being inspired and uplifted by the special music. If you would like to volunteer to serve the brethren this year at the Feast of Tabernacles by participating in special music, please fill out the "Application for Festival Special Music" on page 9 of this issue of *United News*.

If you would like to sing in the Festival choir, please mail your completed form to the adult choir director at the site you will be attending. If you would like to perform a solo, join an ensemble (vocal or instrumental), accompany the choir, accompany hymns or play background music, please mail your completed form to the special music coordinator at the site you will be attending. A list of special music coordinators and adult choir directors is included below. *Special note:* Instrumental ensembles will be formed at all U.S. and Canadian sites if there is sufficient interest.

A note for parents of children 5 through 12 years old: There will be a children's choir at each Feast site again this year. Music will be distributed through your local church during the month of July. If you have children who would like to sing at the Feast, simply pick up a copy of the taped children's choir music from your pastor after he makes the announcement that it is available.

Dave Myers

1998 Festival Special Music Personnel

Branson, Missouri

Special Music Coordinator

Ozzie Englebart
2231 Revere Place
Fayetteville, AR 72701-2783
Phone: (501)521-5789
Fax: (501)521-3602
e-mail: Ozzie_Englebart@ucg.org

Adult Choir Director

Russ DeVilbiss
399 S. Diamond Mill Road
New Lebanon, OH 45345
Phone: (937)835-3558

e-mail: russ_devilbiss
@compuserve.com

Corpus Christi, Texas

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

John Payne
102 Skyline Drive
Trophy Club, TX 76262
Phone: (817)430-2130
e-mail: jmpayne@swbell.net

Fernwood (Poconos), Pennsylvania

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Steve Myers
5311 Kensington Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Phone: (507)288-5717
Fax: (507)288-5956
e-mail: steve_myers@ucg.org

Jekyll Island, Georgia

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Floyd Satterwhite
P.O. Box 561
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Phone: (804) 746-7948
Fax: (804) 285-9080

Kelowna, British Columbia

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Ken Johnson
6212 Red Bird Court
Dallas, TX 75232
Phone: (214)330-5919

Lihue, Hawaii

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Mark Roth
N2225 Highway EE
Neosha, WI 53059
Phone: (414)625-3045
Fax: (414)625-3987
e-mail: ntpinc@nconnect.net

Louisville, Kentucky

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Nancy Eltrich
221 S. 62nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53214
Phone: (414)258-5731
Fax: (414)258-6216
e-mail: eltrich@execpc.com

Mont-Orford, Quebec

Special Music Coordinator

Kevin Ford
Suite 311, 20 Grayton Hall Drive
North York, Ontario, Canada
M3A 2Z9
Phone: (416)391-0950
Fax: (416)231-8238

Adult Choir Director

Robert Spencer
38 South Franklin Street
Allentown, PA 18102
Phone: (610)437-7271

Orlando, Florida

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Ted Japhet
4167 Westgate Road
Orlando, FL 32808-2119
Phone: (407)299-1872
e-mail: tjaphet@aol.com

Redding, California

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

King Finlay
2045 Sheetz Church Road
Quakertown, PA 18951-1507
Phone: (215)536-0127
e-mail: king_finlay@ucg.org

San Diego, California

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Dan Anderson
4228 E. Tamaya St.
Phoenix, AZ 85044-1515
Phone: (602)893-1999
e-mail: dan_anderson@ucg.org

Snowmass, Colorado

Special Music Coordinator
Adult Choir Director

Ken Treybig
107 Aberdeen Dr.
Slidell, LA 70461
Phone: (504)643-4437
e-mail: ken_treybig@ucg.org

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Special Music Coordinator
and Adult Choir Director

Galen Morrison
3425 Trainer Road
Rockford, IL 61114
Phone: (815) 654-7886
Fax: (815) 654-7899
e-mail: galen_morrison@ucg.org

APPLICATION FOR FESTIVAL SPECIAL MUSIC

U.S. and Canada—Feast of Tabernacles, 1998

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
 Street address: _____ Business phone: _____
 City: _____ Feast site attending: _____
 State/Province: _____ Your Feast phone number: _____
 Zip/Postal code: _____ Your Feast address: _____
 Your church area and pastor: _____

How Would You Like to Serve?

- I would like to sing in the Festival choir.**
 - A. Soprano Alto Tenor Bass
 - B. Do you participate in a local church choir? Yes No
 - C. Have you sung in a Festival choir before? Yes No
 - D. If you sing the alto part, could you sing tenor if needed? _____

- I would like to play piano to accompany hymns during services.**
 - A. How many years have you accompanied for your local church? _____
 - B. Have you accompanied hymns at a Festival site before? Yes No
 - C. Feast sites at which you have recently accompanied: _____

- I would like to play piano accompaniment for the choir or special music soloists.**
 - A. Do you feel you can perform music that is:
 - Easy Moderate Difficult

- I would like to play soft background music for luncheons.**
 - A. Instrument: _____ Vocals also? Yes No
 - B. How many years have you played this kind of music? _____
 - C. How many hours of music do you have prepared to play? _____

- I would like to perform solos for special music during services.**
 - Instrument: _____ Vocal Part: _____
 - A. How often do you perform for your local church? _____
 - B. Have you performed at a Festival site before? Yes No
 - C. Feast sites you have recently performed at: _____

- I would like to play in an instrumental ensemble.**
 - Instrument: _____
 - A. How many years have you played your instrument? _____
 - B. Do you currently play in an ensemble (church group, community orchestra, dance band, school band/orchestra, etc.)? Yes No
 - C. Have you played in a Festival ensemble before? Yes No
 - D. Feast sites you have recently performed at: _____

Please return this completed form, or a photocopy of this form, no later than July 31, 1998, to the special music coordinator or choir director of the site you will be attending (see page 8 of this issue of *United News* for a list of addresses and fax numbers). You will be contacted by the special music coordinator or choir/ensemble director as soon as practical.

THANK YOU!

United Youth Camps...

Pinecrest, Missouri June 10–11, 1998

One hundred and twenty six campers and 56 staff workers spent an eventful week in the beautiful hardwood forest of southeastern Missouri June 10 to 18, 1998. Although the weather forecast was not promising and the surrounding weather was often quite violent, the UCGIA summer camp program was blessed with great weather and plenty of camaraderie.

Teens from more than 20 states were in attendance at the beautiful Pinecrest campus, making this the third consecutive year we have used this facility.

Activities included an etiquette class. Utilizing the skills learned the young men escorted their sister dorm to Sabbath brunch and had a chance to practice the fine points of good manners and proper decorum. Other classes included the exciting canoe trip down the lovely and often dangerous Black River, rappelling off rocks at the Silver Mines National Park, as well as archery, softball, speed-away (a soccer type game), swimming, sand volleyball, low ropes course, skeet shooting, .22 calibre rifle target shooting, and Christian living classes.

Teens stayed in air conditioned dorms and ate first-rate meals at the lovely dining hall. The theme of camp was living in the "zone," which is a type of a world tomorrow in which people live

together in peace and encourage each other to excel.

This years camp was our best yet, with many commenting on the spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Mr. Fred Yates, manager of the Pinecrest facility, mentioned at the

wives. This added much depth and inspiration to our program. During the Sabbath we had a hymn sing-a-long with teen song leaders, and a question-and-answer session that went overtime, with many fine questions asked about



Pinecrest (clockwise from above): Alea Waldrup tries out the new archery equipment; canoeing class before the river trip; Lisa Cook says good bye at the close of camp; friends John Muelhman, Brent Hudson and Dave Evans; Andy Quant on the rappelling course; and Georgio Celala gets help from Tom Clark during his first attempt at song leading.



awards banquet that they have many groups that come to Pinecrest, "some good and some not so good—your group stands out as the *very best*."

This year we were blessed with eight full-time ministers and their

church doctrine and prophecy.

As the week came to a close there were lots of teary eyes as campers bade farewell to their new friends and a commitment to keep the *zone* alive.

Larry W. Greider
camp director

From the Ministry...

Point and Counterpoint

by Arthur Suckling

Thomas Paine wrote the famous statement, "These are the times that try men's souls" (The American Crisis 1776-83). I believe this comment is as applicable today as it was 200 years ago.

As we watch the events unfolding in and around the church, I see much division and confusion. The sources of information are the Internet, e-mail, faxes, telephone, personal letters, newspapers, sermons on cassette tapes, and letters from various personalities. Frequently, claims of one sort or another are made. With so many sources of information, not to mention the volume of it, the claims and counter claims are causing a degree of confusion in the church of God! Invariably, these claims boil down to the situation characterized by the "I said, he said" disputes. Indeed, these are such times that try men's souls!

Making a Righteous Judgment

The simple question I ask is, What does the Christian do when there is such a flood of information on so many communication systems? Who or what does one believe anymore? How does a Christian make a righteous judgment?

I want to focus on one aspect that helps guide me under such an avalanche of claims and counterclaims. As Christians, we are admonished to judge righteous judgment, not according to appearance (John 7:24). At the same time we are told not to judge (condemn) (Matthew 7:1-2) which seems contradictory on the surface, but is it really? Let me give a personal example.

Many years ago, my son was playing with another church member's child. The church member was a farmer who had a huge barn full of hay. The other child ran to his parents to inform them that my son was going to burn down the barn by setting the hay on fire with matches. The combined "parental inquisition" took

place—what happened and who did what? As the two sides of the story unfolded it became a "He said, I said" situation accompanied by a "He did, I did" commentary, each accusing the other of fault and assigning blame. Each parent was put in a very difficult position.

The point to this story is simple. With much of what is taking place currently, you and I will never know all of the details. We will never be able to contact each person and discuss with them fully the context and intent of the comments or reasons why decisions were made. Sometimes, we simply do not know all the facts.

I want to focus on one aspect that helps guide me under such an avalanche of claims and counterclaims. As Christians, we are admonished to judge righteous judgment, not according to appearance.

The danger here is that the temptation is to form an opinion and make a judgment based on partial or inaccurate information. Rumors of lying or mistreatment are frequently repeated. Claims that this group or that person did "whatever" to "whomever" abound.

I wonder, are righteous judgements being made? If we do not have all the facts, should we judge? Even after listening to both sides of the story, it may be impossible to tell the truth of a matter! As such, it would be an error in judgment to adopt an evaluative, critical and condemnative posture. So doing leads to unjust conclusions which are inappropriate for the deeply converted Christian! Have you noticed that the world is full of opinion and unrighteous judgments (condemnations)!

How Can We Do It?

So, how does the Christian make a wise and righteous judgment without condemning?

First, we make judgments every day, and many times a day at that. We simply look at the physical evidence. A person is smoking a cigarette, and we judge objectively that they are smoking. I believe that is a correct and accurate evaluation. So far, so good.

The next stage of our thinking in this area involves an attitude that so frequently accompanies the cursory "facts." We don't know the terrible battle the smoker is having trying to quit. I know that struggle, as I was hooked on nicotine many years ago. It is so easy to be condemnative not knowing *all the facts*. It is so easy to rush to judgment. It is so easy to join one side or the other in a situation, thinking we know it all, or by simply believing another person. It is so easy to accept relatively flimsy evidence, or use partial evidence with which to make a decision, and all too often we do just that!

There is a lot of, "He said, I said," these days. I have heard claims accepted and stated as "gospel-truth," with no evidence to support them. Long on opinion and short on facts seems a good way to describe such claims. Too quickly we are willing to accept the gossip we hear from others and believe it without verification. Let me illustrate the point with gossiping:

As a minister, I have to deal with this subject from time to time. When I hear something, or someone comes to me with a "story," I encourage the individual to go back to the person and ask for the source of the information. *Every time* I have done this to check out the facts, the person heard it from someone else accepting it as true. Invariably, the trail ends there for obvious reasons. On occasion, I have gone back to the originator of the information and asked him or her to produce the facts. Usually, there is a tiny slither of information that is correct, but typically that minute particle of truth is wildly exaggerated, embellished, and distorted. Unjust judgments have been reached and some-

one ends up being slandered. And on and on it goes!

All these things concern me greatly for it illustrates how much we have to grow spiritually in the area of judging righteously. It also shows me how much we need to learn and apply the principles of God's Word. Society's approach to judging (condemning) is the antithesis of the way of God, and of a Christian's behavior.

How to reach a righteous judgment? In order to do so, it is important to understand three different types of information and what is considered as evidence. Let me explain briefly the three areas of argument, which are *fact*, *value*, and *policy*.

A FACT is a verifiable objective truth. Men earn \$20 per hour and women earn \$10. The objective verifiable fact is men earn \$10 per hour more than women do. No one can argue with that objective fact.

A VALUE is most easily explained by pro-life, pro-choice. I am sure you have seen the news items covering the demonstrations of these groups. Typically, proponents are screaming at each other with their mouths open and their minds closed. Neither is listening to the other and the noise is fearful. Their positions are definitely anchored in a value of "choice" or "life." These positions are arbitrary and personal. No one can make any one else change his or her values and they are the hardest things to influence.

The final area is **POLICY**. The company has a policy of allowing one week of vacation in the first year of employment, two weeks in the second year, and three from then on. Policies are created so that people know where they stand and what is required of them. These can be changed relatively easily if necessary in many cases.

All "arguments" fall in these three categories. It is important to identify in which category the discussion belongs in order to know how to best approach the situation. If two people are talking and one is using a policy basis and the other is using a value, it simply won't work!

So much of what we hear about lately falls in the category of arguments based on **FACT**. However, many of the facts are not available for us. We really can't find out the objective truth because it is clouded in "I said, he said" terminology. This leaves us

all wondering. We stand in the middle looking left and right unable to reach a righteous judgment. Our own perceptions then come into effect. We decide how to act or what to do about a given situation. Our decision may be right, but our reasons for making the decision may not be. We can end up being unrighteous simply because we assume we know and we really don't!

Perhaps we feel we have heard enough to constitute sufficient evidence for us to act. The reality is we don't really know. We don't really have the evidence and we so easily slip into making an unrighteous judgment! This is so true when emotions are involved in religious matters.

Look at the Evidence

What is evidence? There are four sources of evidence: personal observation, an eyewitness, a written record, and physical evidence. You will notice that hearsay and gossip are not included in the four areas of evidence!

I recommend that we don't make hasty decisions based on partial information.

A Christian should carefully review the evidence before he or she accepts it. Some information may be presented as evidence, which may really be hearsay or gossip. Sometimes what we read is partially skewed or biased information. As Christians, we should be careful what we listen to, and how we think about or handle information. We should also be very careful about arriving at firm conclusions and reaching decisions based on partial information. Ask yourself two simple questions: Can I really make a righteous judgment based on what I have? Should I make a major decision based on this information?

When considering some evidence, it is wise to ask the question, What should I do with this information? Is it sufficient information on which to base a major decision? How should I use it? Is it going to be for the benefit, or the detriment, of

the other person? Do I need to repeat it? Is it necessary or appropriate for me to say or repeat what I know?

Go to the Source

I have noticed that the truth tends to come out eventually. Typically, situations do become clear in time and often unimportant matters get lost. I recommend that we don't make hasty decisions based on partial information. Pray and ask God to clarify the situation for you and to help you manage it properly in a righteous manner. If you have questions, I advise that you don't call a friend in another state to see what they have "heard." Go to the source if you can. Go to the individual who is involved in the situation with a humble approach seeking their advice. Ask them any specific questions you may have. Explain your concerns to them and they should be more than happy to explain.

Sometimes, after you have done all you can, you still can't verify the facts or sort out the truth, what does the Christian do? As Christians we should weigh all the evidence carefully. Having done so, in my opinion, you should leave it there and not place yourself in a position of making an unrighteous judgment.

So, in order to reach a wise and righteous judgment, we need to have sufficient facts, the evidence and godly wisdom. Sometimes there are not enough facts or evidence around for us to accomplish this goal. There may be times when we feel strongly about a situation and are frustrated by it. Those feelings can easily lead us astray when we allow ourselves to give full vent to them. We become too involved with our feelings and lose objectivity. The result is often to strike out with harsh actions and bad decisions. Most times we would be better off to simply leave well enough alone and not make a judgment!

Remember, God will judge us with the same standards we apply to others (Matthew 7:1-2). We might consider looking up a few Scriptures that reveal God's thinking on a matter. Perhaps Ephesians 4:29, Galatians 5:22-25, or Proverbs 6:14-19 might be good guidelines for us to consider in *these times that try men's souls.* UN

Focused Education Material...

Understanding Alcoholism

by Larry J. Walker and Glen White

In the April 6, 1998 issue of *New Beginnings* we introduced the topic of alcoholism by showing the need for learning more about this widespread problem. Let us now seek to understand the nature of alcoholism and how it differs from alcohol abuse

Alcoholism vs. Alcohol Abuse

Just what is alcoholism? Is it just drinking too much? Or is there more to it than that? *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* defines alcoholism as "a continued excessive or compulsive use of alcoholic drinks...associated with excessive and usually compulsive drinking."

Alcohol abuse refers to the misuse of alcohol resulting in problems to the abuser and those he or she may affect. Abuse does not necessarily indicate alcoholism. Alcoholism involves developing a dependency on alcohol and follows a somewhat predictable progression of symptoms.

Dr. James Royce defines alcoholism as "A chronic illness or disorder characterized by some loss of control over drinking, with habituation or addiction to the drug alcohol, or causing interference in any major life function; for example, health, job, family, friends or the law" (*Alcohol Problems and Alcoholism*, page 10).

He summarizes regarding addiction: "Addiction is a physiological [physical] dependence or need, with its familiar signs of increased tolerance initially, cellular adaptation, and withdrawal symptoms. One physically needs a drink to function."

Four Phases of Alcoholism

This progression typically proceeds through four stages:

1. *Social Drinking*—Social drinking

suggests drinking for stress relief, which results in mood change. It may begin as result of peer pressure, to go along with the crowd, or to alleviate boredom or stress.

2. *Seeking the Mood Change*—This leads to drinking for the purpose of achieving mood change. Drinking habits begin to fall into personal patterns [certain times of the day, in private, etc.] and psychologically manifestations. Chief among these is the denial of any dependence in order to protect developing behavioral patterns.

3. *Constantly Seeking the Mood Change*—Phase 3 involves a regular pattern of drinking for the desired effects. This may take the form of regular, ongoing daily drinking or sporadic episodes of drunkenness followed by periods of abstinence [often labeled as "periodic drinking"].

Obsessive and compulsive drinking leads to violations of one's fundamental ethics, values and moral standards. The drinker resorts to entrenched denial defenses to justify this misconduct in response to the objections of family members and other significant persons.

4. *Addiction*—The cells of the body adapt rapidly to the increasing ingestion of alcohol, resulting in a higher level of "tolerance." This means the person is able to consume more beverage alcohol without obvious physical effects or showing signs of impaired behavior. Regardless of the appearance of continued ability to hold a job, keep the family "intact" etc., the increased intake of alcohol causes cellular damage that will eventually exact its toll on the body, even causing organ failure.

Increased tolerance also demands that the person must drink more to achieve the effects sought in stage 1. The nervous system adapts to the escalating level of alcohol, resulting in physical dependence [see definition above]. Drinking beyond tolerance levels results in drunkenness. Suddenly abstaining or drinking less than the tolerance level throws the cells of the body into acute distress, which produces varying with-

drawal symptoms including "delirium tremens" (commonly referred to as "DTs"). The syndrome of physical dependence or addiction is now in full swing.

The growing need for alcohol becomes the focus of the victim's life. The alcoholic's world begins to function around the chemical. It becomes companion, conversational item, basis of jokes and determines choice of companions. The half case of beer or the several half gallons of "cooking wine" becomes first on the list of grocery items into the basket. The liquor store becomes very important when the Friday night errands are done prior to the beginning of God's Sabbath. A picnic just wouldn't be a picnic without the cooler full of a favorite alcoholic beverage.

Many non-alcoholics go through these same motions but not on a consistent basis. They can enjoy an alcohol free gathering. The dependent person will make sure they have a few before attending such an occasion and/or find ways to leave early or steer the group to a "watering hole".

As time goes by, the sufferer develops whatever means necessary to maintain his supply of alcohol, including lying, hiding bottles, sneaking drinks, even stealing. Family life, job performance and health, all suffer from the progression. The alcoholic family member becomes an habitual source of uncertainty, causing embarrassment and shame often missing scheduled appointments, always promising never to do it again. Frustrated family members often lash out in anger or make threats or impassioned pleas for abstinence. This drives the alcoholic deeper into the delusional world of denial, shame and self pity.

Psychologically isolated, the alcoholic addictively reaches for what he/she considers as friend and source of stabilization—alcohol. This convoluted progression continues to spiral downward and out of control, leaving emotional trauma and estrangement of relationships in its path.

What we have just described is also

called chemical dependency. Dr. James Milam, author of *Under the Influence*, describes this phenomenon as “a progressive, ongoing chronic illness characterized by increased tolerance which results in loss of control over the chemical, resulting in continued use in spite of negative consequences.”

Disease or Moral Weakness?

This brings up a controversial point. Many believe alcoholics simply lack willpower to stop drinking. Yet the medical profession almost unanimously considers alcoholism an illness or disease. Is it a sickness or is it a sin?

Those who are able to drink in moderation may wonder why others seem unable to stop drinking, despite the negative consequences. Some conclude that this person is simply weak-willed or lacking in character.

However, researchers have noted that a genetic predisposition to alcohol addiction afflicts a minority of the population (about 10 to 15 percent of Anglo-Americans). In other words, some people carry a genetic predisposition to addiction which is triggered by alcohol. In some cases this addiction blossoms with the first drink.

Because this phenomenon has a documented pathology, alcoholism has been classified as an “illness.” The American Medical Society, considering that alcoholism fits that description, declared it so in 1956.

Classifying alcoholism as an illness does *not* convey permission for continuing inappropriate and destructive drinking behavior. The disease concept of alcoholism offers an explanation, not an excuse. It simply defines the problem in order to determine proper treatment. Treatment methods emphasize: number one, the primary need to stop ingestion of the chemical; and number two, the need to accept responsibility for the consequences of ones behavior. For an alcoholic, already carrying a heavy load of guilt, the concept of personal responsibility is much less difficult to bear than more guilt and shame.

Medical classification of alcoholism as a primary disease has opened insurance coverage for many victims who might otherwise not be able to afford the

clinical treatment that is so effective in helping to restore thousands to healthy productivity.

The Biblical Teaching about Alcohol Abuse

The Bible clearly labels drunkenness as one of the “works of the flesh” (Galatians 5:21), and warns that no “drunkard” will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:10).

However, the context of Galatians 5 is noteworthy. In verse 13 Paul admonishes the Galatians “not to use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh.”

The word in Galatians 5:13 translated “opportunity” (“occasion”, KJV) is significant. Wuest explains:

“It is a military term speaking of a base of operations. In our Galatian passage it means ‘the cause, occasion, or pretext’ of a thing. Paul exhorts the Galatians not to make their liberty...a base of operations from which to serve sin. Their liberty was not to be used as a spring-board from which to take off with the intention of sinning (*Word Studies in the New Testament*, Volume 1, page 150).

So Paul is simply disarming the argument that one may continue unrepentant sinful behavior (including drunkenness), using a false concept of “liberty” as a “spring-board.”

To consider these passages as a condemnation of someone struggling with a physiologically-based, chemical addiction would be most unfortunate, as well as counterproductive to the victim, who desperately needs love and support in his or her struggle for sobriety.

Alcoholism is a physical condition compounded by developed, entrenched psychological patterns that protect the addiction.

However, much of the behavior associated with alcoholism, including becoming intoxicated, is sin; and all sin must be repented of. No unrepentant sinner will be allowed entry into the kingdom of God. A repentant sinner will abhor his sin and make every effort, with God’s help, to stop sinning. For an alcoholic, this means abstinence and seeking established and proven treatment methods to gain sobriety. More about that in the next article in this series. *UN*

New Beginnings Becomes United News

A new name has now been chosen for *New Beginnings*. After considering input from our readership and the Council of Elders, we have chosen *United News*, *News of the United Church of God, an International Association*, more commonly to be called *United News*.

A big thank you to those who gave us their suggestions as we made the transition! Eventually, *United News* will change its format to a tabloid-newspaper style and will be redesigned. We will wait until we resume printing a hard copy version before doing this (see note below).

This year’s budget reduced the funding of the Church’s newsletter by 50 percent. This will allow more funds to go directly into preaching the gospel. Additionally, it will be published bi-monthly.

At this stage, we encourage congregations to submit more news of what is happening in the church in their areas. All submissions may be sent to our **new mailing address:**

United News
P.O. Box 541027
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Cost-Saving Measure: United News to be Published Electronically for Three Issues

Until the Feast of Tabernacles, *United News* will be published electronically only. A copy will be sent via e-mail to the ministry for distribution, and the UCGIA Web page will make it available as usual. Readers may also get a copy using a fax machine or computer modem by calling the Fax Information Service at (513) 576-9794.

We wish to eliminate the cost of printing and mailing temporarily, to help the Church’s budget. Each department at the home office is striving to do its part to reduce costs. Plans are to print a hard copy version again, and mail it to our members, after the Feast of Tabernacles.

Thank you for your understanding.

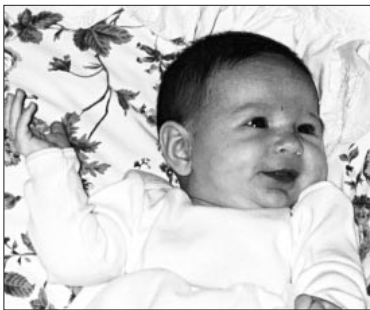
Announcements...

Births

Philip and Rhonda (Adams) Lund of Santa Rosa, California, welcomed their first child on January 7, 1998. Kayla Mae weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Kayla shares the distinction of being the first born in a church of God congregation, with her father, who in 1967, was the first born in the San Francisco, California, congregation.

Thrilled grandparents are David and Chris Adams of Wahington, and Bill and Ruth Lund of Fair Oaks, California.



Kayla Mae Lund

Lee and Karen (Rich) Dolby of Kernersville, North Carolina, are very pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Seth David!

Seth was born April 29, 1998, and weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He and his parents attend the



Seth David Dolby

Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation.



Alan Philip Waterhouse

Roy and Michelle Waterhouse of Columbus, Ohio, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Alan Philip, born February 5, 1998.

Big sister Julie is thrilled to have a little brother at home. Proud grandparents are Don and Donna Waterhouse of the Tampa, Florida, congregation, and Jim and Arnie Hopkins of Columbus.

Engagements



Allen Lee and Alicia Daniel

Merle and Sylvia Daniel of Midland, Texas, and Bob and Etta Lee of Houston, Texas, would like to announce the engage-

ment of their children, Alicia Daniel and Allen Lee.

The wedding is set for September 26, 1998, in Midland.

Lloyd and Norma Nelson of Rochester, Minnesota, are pleased to announce the engagement of Norma's daughter, Mary Beth Snyder, to Mark Theodore Hanson of Minnetonka Beach, Minnesota. A September 20 wedding is planned.



Mark Hanson and Mary Snyder

Weddings

Beverly Stevens and Michael Look were united in marriage on December 21,



Beverly and Michael Look

1997, in Eagle Rock, California. Bill Jacobs, pastor of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, congregation, performed the ceremony.

The honor attendant was Kim Budge and the bridesmaids were Soledad King and Marguerite Evans. The best man was Josh Look and the groomsmen were Matt Look and Lorne Stevens. The couple live in Pasadena, California.



Becky and Bryan Stanley

Along with their parents, Bryan Stanley and Becky Meidinger of the Phoenix East, Arizona, congregation, are very pleased to announce their wedding which took place on November 23, 1997, in Phoenix.

Barney Nash was the best man and Deborah Pakiser, sister of the bride, was the matron of honor. The couple reside in Phoenix.

30th Anniversary

Judd and Terri Kirk of San Dimas, California, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 10, 1998. Judd and Terri are both originally from Pasadena, California, where they attended Imperial Schools. However, it wasn't until they were students at Ambassador College in 1967, traveling as a special music duo to congregations around the area, that their courtship began. One year later they were wed on the Big Sandy, Texas, campus.

After many moves across the country, the couple has settled in San Dimas. They have two daughters, Chelsea Dixon, of Chicago, Illinois, and Meridith Kirk, of

Placentia, California; one son-in-law, Charlie Dixon; and one grandchild, Jaymin Kirk. Judd and Terri currently attend the Garden Grove, California, congregation.

Friends and family wish the Kirks 30 more years of making beautiful music together!

Obituaries

Alma Gillespie, 90, of Canton, Ohio, died early Friday morning, May 22, 1998, at the Meadow Wind Care Home in nearby Massillon, Ohio, where she had been resident for several years.

A member of the United Church of God congregation in Canton since it began, her participation and service in God's Church goes much further back. She was one of the earliest members of the church in Akron, Ohio, shortly after its inception in 1959 and she was the first deaconess ordained in the area.

Funeral services were conducted May 26 by Doug Johnson, pastor of the Canton and Mansfield, Ohio, congregations.



Libby and Fred Kebrdle

Two beloved and faithful servants died just 13 days apart in May 1998—Mr. Fred Kebrdle on May 2 and Mrs. Libby Kebrdle on May 15.

The Kebrdles were members of God's church since 1974, and ordained deacon and deaconess in 1982. They were happily married for 61 years and were always together. Mr. Kebrdle was 85 and Mrs. Kebrdle was 86.

Love, service and faithfulness to God, His laws, and His church describe

the character of Mr. and Mrs. Kebrdle.

Fred was a retired skilled pattern maker for machine parts and loved to take the brethren's orders for Amish country maple syrup. He served faithfully in the *Plain Truth* newsstand program and organized and managed the orders for Bibles and Bible study materials for the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation.

Libby was a homemaker and former gymnast. Her life style was the very essence of a deaconess as well as a Proverbs 31 woman—always happy and always doing. "This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did" (Acts 9:36). They will be greatly missed by the Youngstown congregation.

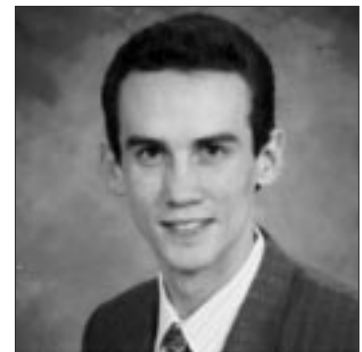
Achievement

Ted Darden, son of Larry and Carolan Darden of Arcadia, California, (members of the Los Angeles congregation), recently graduated from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona with a bachelor of science degree in microbiology.

Ted graduated *Summa Cum Laude* and was recognized as the Outstanding Scholar and Valedictorian for the College of Sciences during the Commencement program on June 11.

In the course of his studies Ted was awarded the KPMG Peat Marwick Scholarship and was the 1996–1997 president of the Golden Key National Honor society. He is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor society and the 1997–98 President's Council Scholar for the College of Sciences, which also included a scholarship award.

His community service work includes volunteering at the University of Southern California Los Angeles County Hospital,



Ted Darden

assisting Human Corps with the campus blood drive, and serving as treasurer for Cal Poly's Cancer Committee. Ted plans to attend medical school.

Daniel Myers, a junior at Western Michigan University, recently received the National College Outstanding Jazz Vocal Soloist Award from *Down Beat* magazine. For the past 21 years, *Down Beat* has recognized the outstanding achievements of college, high school and middle school students with Student Music Awards.



Daniel James Myers

Dan is also a member of the internationally recognized collegiate vocal jazz ensemble, Gold Company. Its members are chosen by audition from among WMU's 26,000 students.

Dan is the son of Skip & Marilou Myers of Stevens Point, Wisconsin. They attend the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation.



Dreaden Family (left to right): Art, Cody, Jesse, Zac, Tyler and Sandra

Prayer Update:

The Art Dreaden family of Crestview, Florida, (Geneva, Alabama, church area) would like to thank all the brethren for their prayers, cards and letters of encouragement and concern, and financial help after their serious car accident.

A car hit them head-on on the way home from church March 14, 1998. Everyone is still making progress. Art's broken legs and ribs have healed to the point he is up and walking with a walker and back to work part-time. Sandra's internal injuries and broken right arm have healed and she is now out of the back brace required after surgery for her broken back. Zac's broken collar bone and ankle have healed and he is back to work and taking a college algebra class for the summer. Jesse and Cody recovered from their minor bruises in a couple weeks and are now fully occupied with summer vacation pursuits!

Tyler will be leaving the rehab center in Atlanta, Georgia, the first week in July to continue therapy in Crestview. He has come a long ways since those first few days in the hospital when he could only shake his head and blink his eyes. He is now walking with a quad-footed cane and can whisper. The brain stem injury he sustained, however, has still left him with left arm and right vocal chord paralysis, a

crossed right eye, and swallowing difficulties. He still cannot drink water or thin liquids because of aspiration into the lungs.

Your continued prayers for his full recovery and strength to return to school in August would be greatly appreciated. *UN*

New Telephone Number for Fax Information Service

The Fax Information Service for UCGIA has a new telephone number now that the home office has relocated. **The new number is (513) 576-9794.**

This service was one of the first mediums of communication up-and-running at the inception of the United Church of God. It continues to be an excellent tool for the timely posting of Church information.

Anyone can call from a fax machine, or a computer installed with fax software, and receive many documents. *United News* is posted within hours of its publication, Council reports are posted as soon as possible, as well as other pertinent and timely information.

A list of congregations around the world, with telephone numbers to call for time and location of services, is a big help to members traveling out of town.

A menu guides you through the list of choices. For a list of all documents available, please request document number 101.