



Feast of Tabernacles 2025: Pilgrims en Route to the Kingdom



Brethren in Bukidnon, Philippines

by Heidi Braun

Are you a pilgrim? If the first thing that came to your mind was a group of English colonists who came to settle in the northeastern United States in 1620, or a group of travelers journeying to the Middle East to visit famous sites, you might not readily associate yourself with the term. However, we did, in fact, get to experience being a pilgrim quite recently, at this year's Feast of Tabernacles!

One of the ways to define the word “pilgrim” is “one who travels to a holy place” (*Merriam Webster Dictionary*). As we traveled to the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day this year, we likely thought about the time when everyone will have the opportunity to experience this pilgrimage with us. “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 2:3).

At the Feast this year, we learned a lot about what being a traveler means—for instance we live in temporary housing and have to leave behind our everyday lives and concerns. While pilgrims’ journeys come with their share of challenges, we were blessed to rejoice in a foretaste of what our ultimate pilgrim’s reward will be—the Kingdom of God!

The United Church of God had 70 Feast sites (and 17 satellite sites) this year with a total of 13,577 brethren attending in per-

son. UCG also provided a service for those unable to attend with two daily national webcasts. Morehead City, North Carolina served the eastern time zones, while Temecula, California served the western time zones, connecting brethren registered for keeping the Feast at home.

In this issue of the *United News*, the Feast experiences of God’s people around the world are highlighted in the Feast of Tabernacles reports (pages 6-14 and 19-21). A gallery of photos from the various Feast sites (pages 2 and 15-18) has been included for your enjoyment, along with an attendance report providing details on this year’s Feast numbers.

Remember, even now that we’ve returned home from the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day, our ultimate journey continues, and “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,” (Hebrews 12:1-2). Stay strong in the faith, fellow pilgrims to God’s Kingdom! **UN**



Ladies in Nkhwazi, Malawi



Services in Walnut Creek, Ohio

A Legacy of Dedication and Vision in UCG Media

by Home Office Media Team

From the earliest days of the United Church of God, few individuals have left as enduring a mark on its media outreach as Peter Eddington. His steady leadership, creative vision and unwavering faithfulness have shaped the Church’s media efforts in proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world.

Established on Pentecost 1995, the United Church of God

began with its first headquarters in Arcadia, California. Almost immediately, the need for clear and consistent communication with members became evident. Within just a couple of months, Peter stepped forward to serve as editor for the Church’s first publication, *New Beginnings*, which later became *United News*. In 1998, when the position for media operation manager opened, Peter was appointed to oversee UCG’s growing media department—a role that would define his decades of service.

Early Days of the Media Department

Peter’s work ethic quickly became well known. He was instrumental in developing nearly every aspect of UCG’s media outreach—print, video and web, as well as advertising, both print and digital.

When the home office relocated from Arcadia to Milford, Ohio in 1998, Peter and his wife,

Continued on page 4



Peter and Terri Eddington continue to serve God's people in many ways.

In This Issue

Operation Manager's Update

Read about recent ordinations—p. 3

Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Read reports and view photos from Feast sites around the world—pp. 6-21

Announcements

Weddings and obituaries—pp. 22-23

Local Church News

Recent events held by Church family and news from members—pp. 23-24

Light of Hope

Spiritual Fellowship: An Essential Vitamin—p. 28

Resources for the Whole Family

Featured content for all ages—p. 29

The Good News

Fasting God's Way: Lessons from Isaiah 58 (Robert Curry)—pp. 25-26

Deism Versus Biblical Truth (Rex Sexton)—p. 26

Humanity (UCG Fundamental Beliefs)—p. 27



Feast of Tabernacles Attendance Around the World

Canada

Kelowna, BC.....	104
Lethbridge, Alberta.....	129
Midland, Ontario.....	140
St. John's, Newfoundland	49
Satellite sites	26

United States

Aransas Pass, Texas.....	263
Branson, Missouri	656
Cincinnati, Ohio	217
Daytona Beach, Florida	679
Gatlinburg, Tennessee.....	600
Glacier Country, Montana.....	364
Hershey-Harrisburg, PA	240
Klamath Falls, Oregon	248
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.....	262
Lihue, Hawaii	550
Morehead City, NC	363
Panama City Beach, FL.	910
Rapid City, South Dakota.....	309
Temecula, California.....	570
Walnut Creek, Ohio	239
Satellite sites	452

Europe

C. M. La Gaillarde, France.....	236
Llandudno, North Wales	169
Sabaudia, Italy.....	266
Tallinn, Estonia	64
Titisee, Germany	182

Caribbean

Cap Haitian, Haiti.....	48
Freeport, Bahamas.....	187
Montego Bay, Jamaica	248
Rodney Bay, St. Lucia.....	35

Latin America

Gobernador Roca, Argentina.....	47
Guananí, Colombia	65
Licán Ray, Chile	116
Lima Peru	69
Panajachel, Guatemala.....	150
Porto Seguro, Brazil	49
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	476

Africa

Ampéfý, Madagascar.....	45
Blantyre, Malawi	140
Blolé, Côte d'Ivoire	57
Buganda, Burundi	70
Chemba, Zimbabwe	48
Douala, Cameroon	28
Ilesha, Nigeria.....	110
Kadoma, Zimbabwe.....	53
Karusi, Burundi.....	40
Lubumbashi, DR Congo	30
Migori, Kenya.....	50
Momé Hagou, Togo	30
Mossel Bay, South Africa.....	129
Nakuru, Kenya.....	74
Nkhwazi, Malawi	69
Ntamba, Burundi	63
Nyabunyegeri, Burundi	106
Ogembo, Kenya.....	90
Ouidah, Benin.....	22
Rwanda	37
Winneba, Ghana.....	367
Yagoua, Cameroon.....	18
Zambia	195

Asia/Pacific

Albury, Australia	35
Agra, India	42
Baguio City, Philippines	126
Bangladesh	25
Bukidnon, Philippines.....	194
Hong Kong.....	26
Kalutara, Sri Lanka	40
Malaysia	178
Myanmar.....	40
Pakistan.....	30
Rockingham, Australia	48
Sunshine Coast, Australia	417
Taupo, New Zealand	91
Visayas, Philippines	187

Feast at Home

CD/DVD/online.....	241
--------------------	-----

Grand Total
13,818

Operation Manager's Update

Ministerial and Member Services



Gregory and Marie Dullum



David and Patricia Goethals



Michael and Nancy Fike



Michael and Sandy Messer



Mark and Mary Ann Kasperson



Joe and Elizabeth Neff



Steve and Angela Parker



Wilson and Cecile Cinco



Jason and Tonya Musgrove

Honoring a Deceased Elder's Wife



We're happy to announce that at the beginning of September, Gregory Dullum was appointed an assistant pastor for the congregations in Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff, Missouri and Paducah and Henderson, Kentucky, working alongside pastor Doug Collison.

On Sept. 4, David Goethals was credentialed as an elder by the United Church of God. He and his wife, Patricia, serve in the Tacoma and Olympia, Washington congregations.

Michael Fike has been appointed pastor for the congregations in Northern Virginia and

Columbia, Maryland. He will assume this role when the Fikes relocate to the United States, as current pastor Ray Clore is retiring. Mike will continue to serve as International Senior Pastor for New Zealand.

On the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 23, three men were ordained into the ministry. Michael Messer and his wife, Sandy, serve the congregation in Phoenix Northwest, Arizona. Mark Kasperson and his wife, Mary Ann, serve the congregation in Lexington, Kentucky. Joe Neff and his wife, Elizabeth, serve the congregations in Spokane, Chewelah and Tri-Cities, Washington where Joe is now assistant pastor.

On the Sabbath of Sept. 27, Steve Parker was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Angela, serve the congregation in Houston, Texas.

On the Day of Atonement, Oct. 2, two men were ordained into the ministry. Wilson Cinco and his wife, Cecile, serve the congregation in Manila, Philippines. Jason Musgrove and his wife, Tonya, serve the congregations in Cincinnati, Ohio where Jason is now assistant pastor. **UN**

Steve Myers is the Ministerial and Member Services manager for UCG and an elder who serves in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. He can be reached at steve_myers@ucg.org



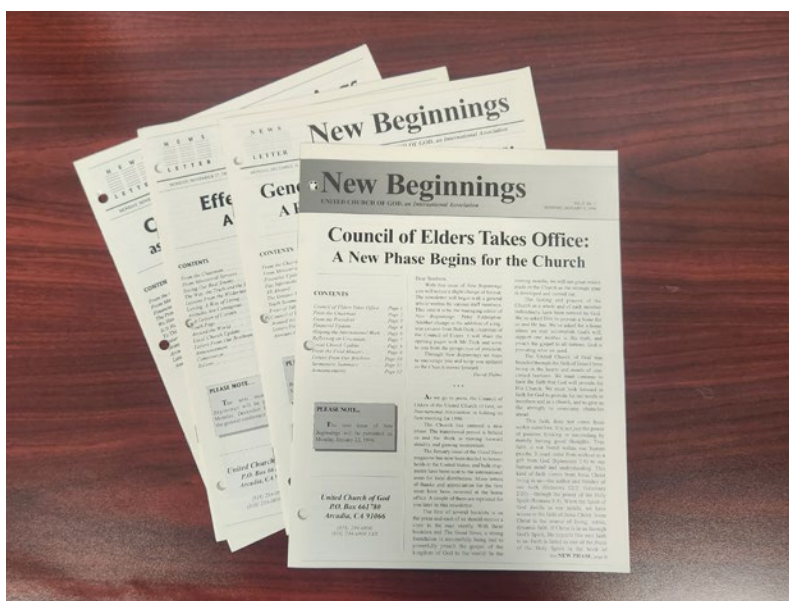
Naomi Lucas

Thelma "Naomi" Lucas, wife of elder Shannon Lucas of Gladewater, Texas, died at home shortly after 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25. She had been under hospice care during her last few days.

Born in 1933, Mrs. Lucas, affectionately known as

"Naomi," lived to be 92 years old. She attended the East Texas congregation.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 2 p.m. at the United Church of God, Big Sandy, Texas meeting hall. Naomi is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery.



New Beginnings was the predecessor of United News

Terri, were among the few employees who made the move. The media department grew steadily, expanding its publishing team and seeking ways to promote Church materials.

The Church's early publishing efforts included *The Good News* magazine, with its first issue released for the Feast of Tabernacles in 1995. With the editorial efforts of Scott Ashley, Darris McNeely, Robin Webber and others, the magazine was soon accompanied by a growing library of booklets—including *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*, *The Road to Eternal Life*, and *What Is Your Destiny?*

Within a couple of years, the *Bible Study Course* was launched, initially as 16-page inserts within *The Good News*. This effort filled a need for thorough educational materials in UCG's early days, covering important doctrines.

Due to limited funding, many of the first 10 booklets were completed but not immediately printed. Some booklets were

distributed as inserts to save on postage, and when postal rates rose in 2002, the team shifted to a smaller 5.5 x 8.5-inch format to reduce costs.

As the Internet began to change the face of communication and advertising, it was important that the Church find a way to use this new tool. With technical assistance from Victor Kubik, UCG secured its first web domains, gnmagazine.org and ucg.org. Later, Aaron Booth joined the team to manage the Church's website.

Beyond Today and other UCG brands

As the Church's media ministry matured, a new chapter began with the introduction of television production. Local TV initiatives—such as those in Portland (led by Howard Davis, Randy Stiver and Rex Sexton) and Milwaukee (with Gary Petty, Galen Morrison, Darris McNeely and Steve Myers)—paved the way for what became UCG's current TV program: *Beyond To-*

day. The first program was aired on Dec. 18, 2005.

Under Peter's direction, *Beyond Today* grew into an international broadcast and digital brand. He oversaw the hiring of skilled video professionals helping to professionalize production quality and expand viewership. Later, Peter guided the alignment of *The Good News* magazine to the *Beyond Today* brand, uniting print and television outreach into one coordinated effort. The first magazine issue under the *Beyond Today* name was January-February 2016. Today, the name *Good News* is still found in a special section of *United News*, as well as remaining the name of the magazine in some international areas, such as *Las Buenas Noticias* for Spanish-speaking audiences.

as Google Ads, Roku and other digital platforms to reach wider audiences.

Peter's Legacy of Service

Those who have worked with Peter speak with deep admiration for his leadership.

Scott Ashley reflects, "Having worked for and with Peter in various capacities over nearly 28 years, I found him to be the best boss I ever had. He was an extraordinary talent with his ability to juggle so many things at once and stay on top of an ever-changing media environment. He always amazed me with his ability to get so many things done. We were very blessed to have him in that capacity for such a long time."

Darris McNeely adds, "I



Beyond Today began in 2005; today we have over 500 programs

Throughout the years, the media department produced a variety of publications to serve a variety of needs of those coming to the truth for the first time and for members in different phases of their growth. *World News and Prophecy*, a publication started by Darris McNeely and Melvin Rhodes, later became a section within *Beyond Today* magazine. *Vertical Thought* magazine served Church teens and young adults until its successor, *Compass Check*, was launched in summer 2015 for readers aged 13-18. And more recently, we launched *Magnified*, a series of videos designed to address topics that are on the minds of young adults.

Initially, the Church's publications were promoted with print advertising, but as outreach expanded online, Peter proved instrumental in pioneering UCG's use of tools such

have watched and worked with Peter in the media operation almost from his start on the job. Peter built the program from the ground up. Employee by employee was added to the operation as we moved into the world of the Internet, video, print and everything. He had a vision of creating a website that was number one in biblical content. He produced *Beyond Today* with a technical efficiency that gave it a long shelf life.

"Peter has frequently quoted Mark 16:14-15 as the supporting verse for our media. 'Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."'

"Peter oversaw the creation of a media presence that has

taken the gospel to the far-flung parts of the world. People in all the world have learned the truth of the Bible through UCG media efforts. Peter's legacy of being a 'good and faithful servant' allows others to continue to take the gospel of salvation to the world. It has been a highlight of my years to work with Peter in the work of God."

Aaron and Michelle Dean recalled: "Peter and Terri have been an integral part of the Church from the days in the 1980s when Michelle and I watched him doing technical work for the concerts at Ambassador Auditorium with great personal sacrifices of family time. Few know the sacrifice many have made for decades.

"That sacrifice continued since the beginning of UCG in 1995. He is a very talented manager with great technical skills that were very needed through UCG's development. He will now help pass the baton to Scott Delamater, as we continue to stay current with technology. Peter will always be a resource for UCG along with many of us who have given our lives to God."

Connie Seelig, who worked with Peter from 1995 until her retirement in 2022, shared about Peter, "I deeply appreciated his support and leadership. I will always remember his example of faithfulness and keeping his eyes on the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, through the good times and difficult times. I know he will continue to serve the Church faithfully on the Council of Elders."

Werner Solórzano summarized Peter's reputation for integrity: "I have never met anyone more reliable than Peter. His word had great value because he always followed through on his commitments. When Peter said he would do something, I knew with absolute certainty it would be done. Peter truly exemplifies what it means to be a man of his word."

Looking Forward

As Peter transitions from his long tenure as media operation manager, he leaves behind not only a well-developed department but also a thriving legacy of service. As the next media operation manager, Scott Delamater, will carry forward the work that Peter helped build—

Continued on next page



Building the new Beyond Today studio in 2018

Scott Delamater



Scott Delamater was appointed as operation manager for Media and Communications Services for UCG. His background spans technical and product leadership, and his 25 years of business experience have equipped him

to help strengthen this vital area of the work.

Scott is an elder in the Cincinnati East congregation. He also serves as the National Music Coordinator for UCG Feast sites across North America and has volunteered for many years at United Youth Camps in a variety of roles, including Assistant Camp Director and Bible Instruction Lead. In addition to his service in the Church, Scott is also active in his local community, mentoring high school students as a programming coach in a robotics program.

The home office media staff look forward to working with Scott! **UN**

Marty Tinkler



Marty Tinkler retired from her role as kitchen services manager on Sept. 30, 2025. Besides providing daily lunches for Ambassador Bible College students, Marty has provided meals when the Council of Elders is in town and for other special events. The home office and ABC would like to thank Marty for her service. **UN**

Ariel Winger



Ariel Winger was hired in April 2025 as an assistant for Marty Tinkler in the kitchen. Now that Marty has retired, Ariel has taken her place as kitchen services manager.

Ariel was in the ABC class of 2022. She has an associate's degree from a culinary school. **UN**



Barry Korthuis

The home office would like to thank Barry Korthuis for his over two years of volunteer service as treasurer and financial services operation manager for UCG. An article introducing our new treasurer, Ted Budge, and our new financial services operation manager, Linda Api, was printed in the Sept.-Oct. 2025 *United News*.

Barry Korthuis stepped in to fill the need, when in 2022, Rick Shabi

became President and left an opening in the financial services department, for the roles of both operation manager and treasurer—both of which Barry was well-prepared for, drawing on his years of experience in the field.

He and his wife, Sandy, moved from their home in Colorado to Cincinnati to serve. Barry continued to work full-time in the financial indus-

try, yet was happy to volunteer his time for UCG.

Following his time as treasurer and financial services operation manager, Barry and Sandy have moved to Des Moines, Iowa to continue their service to God's people in the congregation. We at the home office are grateful for the generosity and heart of service they have shown. **UN**

A Legacy of Dedication and Vision

Continued from page 4

with Peter continuing to serve the Church faithfully on the Council of Elders.

UCG's media today touches lives around the world. Much of that success traces back the work God has done through Peter and the team he has led.

As Katherine Rowland fittingly noted, "Peter's wisdom and depth of knowledge have made him invaluable across multiple departments. While I have

valued and respected his Media work, I have been most thankful for his willingness to serve wherever needed and his warm wit and words of encouragement."

Indeed, Peter Eddington's service exemplifies Christ-centered leadership—faithful, humble, and steadfast in proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations. Thank you, Peter, for your decades of service and godly example. **UN**



Argentina

Gobernador Roca

In northern Argentina, 47 brethren were able to meet in Gobernador Roca, Argentina. They had eight wonderful days of worshipping God and having fine fellowship. The weather was good during the Feast and all the activities were carried out without a problem. Services and Bible studies were overseen by the Chilean elder, Jaime Gallardo, with contributions by the leading men in the Church area.

The meals were delicious and served by different families. Special activities included a ladies' tea and a youth day hike to a nearby mountain.

We are very thankful to our God for having gifted us with fine weather, peace and enjoyment during these days.

Marcelo Saavedra

Australia

Albury, NSW

We knew we were in the right place to keep the Feast by the buzz coming from the hall. Brethren from around Australia and overseas faithfully gathered to keep the Feast and were in a joyous spirit of fellowship. We came to learn more about God and His promises, and all about His plan for mankind—not just an intellectual exercise, but to really get to know God from the heart.

We were reminded through many messages that God has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light—that there are no gray areas with God. Are we lovers of light? Will we remain lovers of light in a world overwhelmed by darkness? God is moulding and shaping us to ensure we are ready for our role in the coming Kingdom.

The activities catered to all ages. Following the first Holy Day service, we held the traditional meet and greet in which brethren renewed friendships and began new ones around a selection of finger foods. The potluck and games night brought us together again around a sumptuous meal and some very creative and challenging games. Other activities included “barefoot bowls,” a well-attended seniors’ luncheon, family day and picnic in the park, as well as 10-pin bowling and putt-putt golf for the youth and young adults.

The Function Centre where we gathered for services had a restaurant that enabled brethren to gather for a meal and fellowship, or even just a coffee before services. There were many opportunities to break bread together, get to know one another, encourage each other, and spend time outdoors hiking and walking in the beautiful parks of Albury.

The collection of special music items focused on God and His glory. The creative use of virtual choir pieces was much appreciated. On the Eighth Day, the Feast Choir gave an inspiring presentation of “The Holy City.”

The last sermon on the Eighth Day finished with Numbers 6:22-26, a reminder to us all that God will see us through.

Lea Evans

Rockingham, Western Australia

This year’s Feast of Tabernacles in Rockingham was filled with joy, unity and spiritual renewal. With 50 registered and 42-48 attending daily, brethren gathered to celebrate God’s plan for humanity and the coming millennial reign of Jesus Christ.



Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia

The Feast opened with a warm welcome from festival coordinator Tony Edge, setting a tone of purpose and family connection. Each day offered inspiring messages focusing on God’s fairness, His covenant promises, and how we can prepare now for His Kingdom. Mr. Edge and visiting pastor Ken Loucks delivered uplifting sermons on God’s plan of salvation, His just government, and His desire for all people to experience restoration and peace.

Under Mark Mager’s direction, special music added beau-

ty and depth to the services, filling each day with heartfelt praise. The spirit of love and service was evident everywhere—members of all ages stepped in to help without being asked, creating an atmosphere of genuine unity and care.

Fellowship events were a major highlight. The “Get to Know You Night” featured a delicious smorgasbord of finger foods and lively conversation that stretched late into the evening. A winery trip offered breathtaking valley views to the Indian Ocean, while the social night brought laughter with a revival of The Talent Game—a Bible quiz from the 1970s. A barbecue at the home of Tony and Ruth Edge and Mark and Lena Mager, and several evenings at beachfront restaurants, rounded out the week with great food and deeper friendships.

Many described it as “the best Feast ever,” praising the warmth, inclusiveness and family spirit. The Feast of Tabernacles in Rockingham truly reflected the joy, harmony and hope of God’s coming Kingdom.

Ruth Edge

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Our 19th year at Venue 114 on the Sunshine Coast was once again well attended. Peak attendance was 417 on the Sabbath. We enjoyed many visitors this year coming from the United States, England, New Zealand, Canada and Zambia. All enjoyed the beachside location with near perfect weather.

Queensland is a family-oriented Feast site. Activities sponsored by the Church

included a family day at a beachside park with a spit roast BBQ. Our dance and social evening following the Sabbath was a popular event. This year we also had an over-55 lunch at a local restaurant with 146 attending. Many commented this was the highlight of their Feast. Teens and preteens enjoyed an

ty and His Way of life for all of humanity. Activities included a sunset cruise, fishing tournament, golf outing and a fun-filled family day. The Spirit of God shone brighter than the sunshine each day on this sunny island and glorified our Father in Heaven.

Chuck Smith



afternoon at a waterpark obstacle course, while the young adults started with a meet and greet on the first Holy Day and enjoyed an afternoon of indoor rock climbing later in the Feast.

We have the venue booked again and look forward to next year!

Joe Rivers

Bahamas

Freeport

The brethren who attended the Feast in Freeport, Bahamas would like to thank those who prayed for the many obstacles faced just prior to the Feast this year. God miraculously guided the situation and the entire Feast was in His favor. It was beautiful to watch His hand at work. The Feast here turned out to be truly amazing!

This was the first Feast in the Bahamas in 12 years (the last one was in 2014 at The Grand Lucayan Resort in Freeport). Attendance reached 187 and included visitors from the hotel staff who wanted to know more about our beliefs and God’s way of life.

The atmosphere was filled with energy as the family of God met each day to glorify Him in songs, prayers and positive and uplifting messages. The theme focused on God’s Kingdom of peace, prosperi-

Benin

Ouidah

The Feast of Tabernacles was held at our usual site in Ouidah. This year, 22 of us gathered together with one heart to celebrate our God in joy, peace and gratitude. Each person came with a deep desire to honor the Lord, to live these Holy Days to the fullest, and to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood among God’s people.

Each day, we listened to the Word of God, received exhortation and meditated on His work in our lives. The evenings were devoted to rich and profound Bible studies, where everyone could ask questions, share their experiences and strengthen their faith. These moments of sincere exchange nourished our spirits and strengthened our fraternal bonds.

The celebration took place in an atmosphere of joy, fellowship and simplicity. Several games, songs of praise and Bible film screenings punctuated the celebration, providing moments of relaxation and fellowship.

The spiritual messages received throughout the week encouraged us to keep our eyes fixed on God and to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness.

It was touching to see how

students found favor with their teachers in asking time off for the Feast. The teachers remarked, “Let them go to their celebration, because even if we refuse, they will go anyway.” They even promised to give students an admission ticket when they returned. This gesture shows how much God has opened the doors for His children, allowing everyone to fully experience these Holy Days in peace and freedom.

We extend our sincere thanks to all those who supported us, near and far, through their prayers, donations or presence. We give all glory to God, who allowed us to experience this Feast of Tabernacles in joy and unity.

Pierre Ogoudélé

The Angolan brethren who came to Brazil added to the fellowship with wonderful musical compositions. We had one baptism and one member was ordained as a deacon during the Feast.

We have already booked the same site for next year, and welcome anyone to join us in Brazil. The accommodation includes bed, breakfast and dinner.

Jorge de Campos

Burundi

There were four Feast sites held in Burundi this year: Buganda, Nyabunyegeri, Ntamba and Karusi, totaling 279 attendees. Families united to symbolize the world to come



St. John's Newfoundland, Canada

Brazil

Porto Seguro

This year's Feast of Tabernacles in Brazil was located in the peaceful town of Porto Seguro. We had a lovely Feast with 49 brethren participating, including 20 from the northern Amerindian area, Maloca de Moscow and six from Angola. Messages were given in Portuguese or English, depending on who spoke, and they were automatically translated live (transcribed and verbally) to whatever language you would chose to listen in, with the use of an artificial intelligence translator tool.

The festival's main theme was to visualize God's ruling Kingdom on earth. Many opportunities for fellowship and Christian living were available through the various activities and outings for ladies, young adults, children and the whole family.

(Hebrews 2:5), which will commence after Christ's return. These eight days of gathering allowed us to worship God through religious services and dedicated Bible studies.

We focused on several topics from God's Word, including: the coming Kingdom of God, the return of Christ to Earth, whom God is calling, repentance, deepening our relationship with God, tithing for God's work, and the Holy Spirit.

Remy Nsengiyumva

Cameroon

Douala

We celebrated the Feast in Douala, in a calm atmosphere despite a very tense political climate due to the presidential election. Our largest attendance was 28 people. We were able to hear a message every day and hold a special event for the children. Every night during and

after the presidential election, there was a curfew from 6 p.m. until morning.

In addition, in the city of Douala, a new alert was issued concerning a new variant of COVID, but the health authorities did not warn us in time, and one of our members got the virus, which then infected about half of the participants at the Feast.

We thank God for this difficult time, because we were still able to enjoy the Feast despite these circumstances.

Moïse Mabout

Canada

Kelowna, British Columbia

In the heart of British Columbia's wine country, 104 people from all over North America kept the Feast of Tabernacles. The Okanagan Valley provided a beautiful setting for these days.

Daily sermonettes, sermons, and Bible studies presented by 10 engaging speakers fed us with rich spiritual knowledge about what is represented by these days. We were delighted to be joined by two ministers from the home office this year, Peter Eddington and Darris McNeely, who each had three prepared messages for us.

Children enjoyed three fun-filled educational lessons prepared just for them to teach them the basic principles of the Feast. We daily enjoyed special music, including many heartfelt vocal and piano pieces.

Fellowship opportunities included a meet and greet reception, a dance, a seniors' dinner, a game day and an Eighth Day lunch. Some enthusiastic individuals stepped up to take the lead on many area activities—including a wineries tour, bowling, an obstacle and rope adventure, a waterpark adventure, thrift shopping and a kangaroo park outing.

We look forward to reprising this exciting Feast experience. We hope to see you here.

Wayne Ward

Lethbridge, Alberta

This year the Feast was held in Lethbridge, Alberta for the first time. Lethbridge is nestled on the prairies in southern Alberta just east of the Rocky Mountains in the middle of the

Chinook zone. The weather was warm and sunny for most of the Feast, cooling off as the end approached.

Services were held in the Sandman Hotel ballroom. We were blessed with an attendance of 129 plus 20 Zoom connections to those who were unable to attend in person. Attendees came from the United States, Netherlands, Philippines and Canada.

Thanks to Dan Deininger, the coordinator for the Glacier, Montana Feast site, we were privileged to have three elders from the Glacier site share part of their Feast time with the brethren in Lethbridge. Everyone appreciated them coming and sharing the speaking assignments. The messages at the Feast focused on the blessings God will give to His children in the Kingdom and how we need to remain strong and focused on the promises our Father has given us. Sermons also discussed how we will be teachers in the future and the need to patiently wait for the Kingdom, remaining faithful to the end.

We were blessed with special music each day, including solos, duets, a lady's group and a choir. The congregation shared three meals together, including a senior's dinner, Canadian Thanksgiving, and a soup and sandwich lunch between services on the Eighth Day.

As the week progressed the children were invited to activities including a climbing wall and a trampoline park. The teens and singles had a pool party and everyone was invited to bowling—Canadian style (five-pin). In addition to these activities, there was a social room where, in the evenings, brethren played cards and worked on a puzzle, completing it before the end of the Feast.

On Friday, 41 ladies spent the afternoon at a formal lady's tea. Friday evening Feastgoers were invited to start the Sabbath with a two-hour-long hymn sing.

During free time, some toured Waterton National Park and the mountain scenery, the Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump, the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden and the famous CPR railway bridge among other things.

We are thankful to those who came and made it such a great Feast.

Larry and Maureen DeLong

Midland, Ontario

Appreciative brethren gathered to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the quaint town of Midland, Ontario, situated on the shores of Lake Huron's lovely Georgian Bay. An oft-repeated refrain was that the crowd this year was definitely more joyous and expressive than usual. The stage decor was typically fall-themed and featured the return of Lambert the Lion and Lionel the Lamb. The information table was similarly adorned in fall colors with much-appreciated Feast treats of fresh apples and delicately hand-folded colorful paper flowers and lovely hand-made colorful wash cloths.

We've met at the same hotel resort location for multiple years, so the hotel staff recognize returnees and they often hug each other effusively. The staff is very accommodating to our many needs and typically give us permission to use various areas of the hotel for fellowship, functions and get-togethers.

Messages were meaty, inspiring and motivating as was the interactive Bible study. Our high attendance was on the weekly Sabbath with 140 present; each service had a good number of connections via Zoom. Highly musical brethren made special music possible most days. We were also blessed to have live piano accompaniment for hymns for most services.

Activities were strongly supported, starting with a meet and greet with assorted snacks, beverages and even American peanut brittle. On the Sabbath, our seniors were honored with a lunch featuring roast chicken and delectable trimmings. The family day activity was held at a local five-pin bowling alley, followed by a pizza supper. The variety show entertained and inspired the brethren with interesting presentations moderated by organizers Gary and Cindy Ridi. Our concluding activity was a farewell luncheon between services on the Eighth Day and provided members a final opportunity to break bread collectively by partaking of a Thanksgiving roast turkey buffet with all the trimmings.

At the end of the week, many remarked on how well everything had gone as we observed the wonderful Feast of Taber-

Please see next page

Midland, Ontario, Canada*Continued from page 7*

nacles, a dress-rehearsal for the age which is soon to come!

Anthony Wasilkoff

St. John's, Newfoundland

The beautiful Conception Bay South, Newfoundland area served as the backdrop for 49 of God's people to worship our Heavenly Father at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. It was evident that we shared the focus of rejoicing before and learning to fear the Lord. This attitude made the excitement of God's

of their Feast experience. Conversations centered around the magnificent millennial vision that has been revealed to us. Being a smaller group allowed for a very intimate setting to encourage and edify each other.

God's magnificent creation was on display as the foliage was in peak change while we were here. Opportunities for hikes, walks and drives allowed brethren to take in the unique grandeur of Newfoundland. It was truly a blessing to observe and keep the Feast of Tabernacles in this idyllic setting where our God had placed His name.

Devin Schulz



Licán Ray, Chile

coming Kingdom palpable.

We had the opportunity to hear God's Word expounded each day at services. The messages were edifying and inspirational. We also enjoyed a Bible talk covering "A Vision of Peace." Following an inspiring presentation on how God will transform this world during the Millennium, we had nearly two hours of discussion about the topic of peace.

We were blessed this year to have a variety of special music throughout the Feast. A small ensemble of singers was supported by our Newfie children's choir along with smaller groups throughout the week to provide praise to our God each day.

With a wide range of age groups represented, there were several activities organized to provide additional chances to fellowship. This included a traditional "Jiggs Dinner" put on by the local brethren as well as five-pin bowling. Each activity drew almost every member, so all were able to spend lots of time together. The fellowship was cited by many as a highlight

Chile**Licán Ray**

The Feast of Tabernacles was again held in Licán Ray, close to two southern Argentinian congregations (Bahia Blanca and Neuquen). We held the Feast at the El Conquistador Vacation Center, which provided us with comfortable cabins as our temporary homes. This place has green areas, a meeting hall where we held services, and other rooms for activities. We had a maximum attendance of 116 people.

Licán Ray is a beautiful city with a variety of attractions that the brethren were able to enjoy. Among the most notable activities was a visit to the nearby hot springs heated from the Villarrica volcano. We also took a catamaran trip along the shores of Lake Calafquén, providing breathtaking scenes.

The first activity was the children's party. Together with their parents, children spent moments of fun and ate deli-

cious food. This was followed by the seniors' activity, where they shared entertaining games, songs, fine conversations and delicious food. The youth activity allowed participants to strengthen the bonds of friendships and share an entertaining Friday afternoon. On Saturday night, we enjoyed a delicious barbecue, live music and a nice family dance. On Monday, the ladies had an afternoon tea, sharing delicious food, good conversations, activities and gifts.

There were services every day of the Feast of Tabernacles and two services for the Eighth Day. We had a Bible study by Omar Morales, a member of the Santiago congregation, and a second Bible study later in the week by Marcelo Saavedra, pastor from Chile. Without a doubt, this Feast, where we received so much spiritual nourishment, strengthened us to continue preparing for that wonderful promise of being future kings and priests in God's Kingdom.

Marcelo Saavedra

surrounding mountains and all had nice cabins for lodging.

Activities included a talent show with biblical sketches, a dance and several different meetings for adults and children.

In the end, although good-byes are always somewhat sad, the joy was not diminished in anyway, as we were fueled by the desire to continue with all determination, despite the setbacks, on the path that God has laid out for us to His eternal Kingdom.

Jaime Salek

DR Congo**Lubumbashi**

There were 30 participants in Congo at the Ambassade Motel Katuba. Everything was calm, but during the Feast, our deacon Frédéric Banza lost his wife Christine Banza following a violent stroke.

We are grateful that despite these very painful moments, we were able to celebrate the Feast.

Moïse Mabout

Colombia**Guananí**

We had a new Feast site in Colombia this year, Finca Vacacional Guananí which was exclusive for us and served delicious meals, some traditional to this region in the central part of Colombia.

We had a maximum attendance of 65 brethren, nine of

Côte d'Ivoire**Blolé**

On a hill above the tiny village of Blolé in the far-west of Ivory Coast, 57 members held the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day. This was a joyous reunion, bringing together three congregations from across the country, plus a couple visiting

is presently ignorant, urging us to hang on to this vision throughout the year. Several Bible studies were given, covering topics such as: baptism, similarities and differences between the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment, and what it means for God to write His law on our hearts.

A team of hard-working women managed procuring the food from the neighboring city of Man, and prepared generous and delicious dishes for all assembled.

A Feast without hiccups does not exist, and this Feast was no exception. Roughly 20 young people lodged in tents, while the remainder stayed in neighboring Blolé. These tent-dwellers were awakened at least once by a torrent of rain that drove them to a nearby shelter, squeezing their sleeping bags dry.

The hardest part of the Feast is saying goodbye on the Eighth Day, when no one wants to go. But we shared phone numbers and promised to stay in touch.

Lee Page

Estonia**Tallinn**

In Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia, 64 people from eight countries gathered to celebrate the Feast, on the shore of the Baltic Sea.

We enjoyed a "getting-to-know-you" evening social following the first day. The second day we had a walking tour of the walled, medieval Old Town—just a block or so away from our hotel. The Old Town was built in the 1200s with brick and cobblestone streets, and is now filled with shops and restaurants.

The third day we hopped on a bus and toured significant historical sites on the west side of Tallinn. Shopping centers, grocery stores and restaurants were all within a short walking distance. Time was available for exploring and group activities.

The morning buffet breakfasts at the host venue were excellent. The ferry dock was just a 10-minute walk from the hotel for those who wanted to explore Helsinki, Finland or other Baltic countries before or after the Feast. The Bible study and daily messages were focused on what we should know about the millennial Kingdom of God.

Tim Martens



Guananí, Colombia

whom were from the United States, Perú and Chile. The weather was pleasant with occasional showers that did not prevent the outdoor activities from being carried out. The area was very picturesque with

from the United States. Blolé lies in the stunning "Land of the 18 Mountains," with big skies, beautiful mountains, and surrounded by equatorial forests.

Nine speakers brought to life a future of which this world

France

Club Miléade La Gaillarde

“Bonne Fête des Tabernacles!” This year, 236 brethren from 12 different countries came together to celebrate God’s Feast at Club Miléade la Gaillarde on the French Riviera. The site’s hillside position overlooked the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea and God blessed us with breathtaking sunrises many mornings, during which one could sit on the terrace and peacefully enjoy a café au lait while contemplating God’s creation and Christ’s coming millennial reign. Each day we enjoyed delicious, leisurely buffet-style meals which were served only a minute’s sea-side walk from the meeting hall, allowing brethren ample time

from a diverse set of cultural backgrounds which helped Feastgoers bond and connect to one another as one family from many lands. Many brethren also took the opportunity to attend three guided tours offered during the Feast. This year, these included walking and shopping in Old Nice, a visit to the spectacular Belle Époque gardens and mansion of Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, and a delightful afternoon in the 16th century hilltop village of Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a favorite destination for many famous artists through the centuries.

We truly felt God’s presence among us throughout this Feast, and we give praise and gratitude to our Father for the spiritual nourishment which continues to lift us as we press forward to the Kingdom.

Clint Porter



Club Miléade La Gaillarde, France

to blend food and fellowship.

We enjoyed excellent spiritual messages (alternating day-by-day between French and English), focusing on the nature of God’s Kingdom and how we must prepare ourselves for Christ’s rule while serving as His representatives in today’s world. On the Eighth Day, we held stimulating interactive Bible studies in the morning on the subject of the second resurrection and the Great White Throne Judgment, and we closed out the festival with a final regular service in the afternoon. We were particularly blessed this year with an abundance of special music presented by talented musicians from around the globe, including adult, teen and children’s choirs.

We also held a lively talent show which beautifully blended music, dance and humor

Germany

Titisee

Brethren from Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria joyfully celebrated this year’s Feast of Tabernacles along with several international visitors in the beautiful Black Forest town of Titisee.

Opportunities for fellowship and growth together were enjoyed by the 182 attendees. Early in the Feast was the annual mystery dinner, which allowed for people of all ages, nationalities and languages to eat together in each other’s temporary dwellings and build bonds that lasted the entire Feast.

Local and international brethren provided an array of musical talent which added to our hymn singing and contributed to uplifting special mu-

sic—not to mention some impressive performances at this year’s karaoke evening!

Other fellowship opportunities were the games and dance evening, Bible discussions, a seniors’ meeting, men’s meeting and the women’s discussion about Esther. For some adventure the youth spent an afternoon of water slides and swimming at the local water park. Additionally, those 16 and older could relax in a “palm tree oasis” of mineral baths and a steam sauna. The bus tour this year was a trip to Schaffhausen in Switzerland, a beautiful historic town in the vicinity of impressive waterfalls.

Translation into English or German was provided at every service and children’s Bible studies were also given in both English and German. Many local brethren enjoyed practising their English skills with our international guests.

The exceptional weather encouraged walks around the lake or in the forest full of moss, mushrooms and autumnal colors and the local staff at the “Kurhaus” where services were held commented that every year we are there the sun shines.

A very special event on the seventh day of the Feast was a wedding which all Feast attendees were invited to witness. The Feast this year ended with the exciting news of the addition of two new members of our spiritual family through baptism.

Claire Kasper

Ghana

Cape Coast

Coastal Winneba was this year’s Feast site in Ghana. It is located over an hour drive west of the national capital, Accra. The South Campus of the University of Education Winneba served as our location for services, where our highest attendance was 367, including members from Ghana’s 10 congregations and a family of three visiting from Nigeria.

Senior pastor for English-speaking West Africa, Paul Moody, and the team of speakers brought close focus to our need for the fear of God and the inspiration and encouragement of the way of life we have been called to. These encouraging and uplifting messages pointed to God’s coming King-

dom and its accompanying vast blessings on humanity and the rest of creation and our specific role in this process.

The lush and orderly campus grounds hosted our festival indoor and outdoor games, children’s Bible classes, a hymn-singing competition and a merry get-together of ample good food and music.

The bond of family and spirit of unity were evidently abundant in the joyous faces of members attending the Feast. The immense spiritual nourishment will hopefully carry us forward till next year’s eagerly-awaited Feast. The generous spiritual rejuvenation received fills our hearts with gratitude marching forward.

Henry Aikins

Guatemala

Panajachel

Once again, we celebrated with great joy the Feast of Tabernacles in Panajachel, Guatemala.

With a maximum attendance of 150 brethren, we enjoyed eight marvelous days with inspiring messages and 22 special music presentations to honor our loving God.

We had Bible studies for both adults and children. Among the other activities carried out, we had a game night for the youth, a ladies’ tea, a family day, a seniors’ breakfast, a cruise around Lake Atitlán, a talent night and a BBQ. We were blessed with good weather and peace to be able to carry out all these activities. We also had two baptisms.

We thank God for His multiple blessings during this wonderful Feast.

Israel Robledo

Haiti

Cap Haitian

The United Church of God in Haiti held God’s Feast of Tabernacles in their hometown of Cap Haitian. The celebration of the future reign of Christ was a message that Deacon Joseph Jean delivered telephonically to our brethren due to the ongoing civil wars raging on the island. The hope of a world with peace definitely resonated with our members during the Feast. With a high attendance of 48, the members enjoyed meals

purchased for them by a subsidy given by the home office this year. Every year our brethren look forward to a foretaste of the coming Kingdom of God. The brethren are thankful for the assistance and support they receive from the members of UCG and from the home office.

Chuck Smith and Joseph Jean

Hong Kong

This year, 26 of God’s people were in Hong Kong to keep His Feast of Tabernacles. There were members from Australia, China, Hong Kong, South Africa and the United States visiting. God inspired the messages and many members there expressed their appreciation for them. One member wrote, “My mom and I were commenting that we haven’t had a Feast that spiritually fulfilling since 2015.” We are thankful to our loving God for His blessings, protection and for the privilege to appear before Him and to keep His Feast.

Terry Franke

India

Agra

Once again, our Indian brethren, along with 10 international brethren enjoyed the Feast of Tabernacles at the Grand Mercure Hotel in Agra, India. Agra is home to one of the seven wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal. From the rooftop pool deck of the Grand Mercure Hotel there is an unhindered view of the Taj Mahal. At different times of the day, you get a different perspective depending on the angle of the sun hitting the majestic monument.

Our Indian tradition is to have all our Indian members stay at the same hotel as the international guests. This really makes for a very close connection among all observing the Feast. The hotel has three full buffet meals a day and members all gather in the very nicely appointed restaurant for all our meals. Our Indian brethren come from all over India and it is special for them to reconnect with old friends.

Services were conducted in English during the Feast with simultaneous translation given

Please see next page

Agra, India*Continued from page 9*

in Hindi by our talented translators. This year for the Feast we were blessed to have four ordained men share the speaking load during the Feast. The brethren were able to have an abundance of messages from different perspectives. Several of the overseas visitors were also talented musicians and were able to provide beautiful special music throughout the Feast.

A rich Indian tradition that is maintained at the Feast is to have morning tea time and afternoon tea time. Brethren and guests would meet a half an hour before services to “take” our morning tea. It was a wonderful time to meet and fellowship at the Feast.

One of the highlights of the Feast in Agra is a planned visit to our members’ homes in and around the Agra area. It is a real treat for our international guests to see where our Indian brethren call home. We have an opportunity to see what daily life is like for our Indian brethren. It also serves as one of those events that makes the Agra Feast site one you’ll certainly remember. Of course, you can’t be in Agra without taking a tour of the beautiful Taj Mahal. An up-close visit of the monument is an unforgettable experience.

You are invited to join your Indian brothers and sisters at next year’s Feast. Our international visitors this year commented that their visit to India was a life-changing experience. We were all moved by the dedication and zeal of our Indian brothers and sisters and now count them as our dear members in the Body of Christ.

*Keith and Christy Tomes***Italy****Sabaudia**

The UCG Italy brethren were excited to welcome God’s family back to Sabaudia, Italy to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and the 40th anniversary of the modern era of the Church in Italy. From 12 countries, 266 brethren came together in unity at the beautiful Oasi di Kufra which was the perfect setting for services, dining and fellowship. Before the Feast, 46 people enjoyed a tour where they could

enjoy one another’s company for longer.

The entire facility was reserved for the Church and members ate together, enjoying abundant and delicious Italian food, and having a chance to meet new friends and deepen existing relationships. The fellowship often lasted late into the evening!

During the Feast, there were two tours in Rome: following the footsteps of Paul and a tour of the Jewish Ghetto. Many activities were offered. A family dance, a family afternoon at the beach and an evening of singing, piano music and comedy sketches showcased our many talented brethren. Two other activities included a ceramics demo, in which an artisan showcased how to make different items and gave each the opportunity to have personalized memories to bring back home, and an organic wine tasting with instruction on wine evaluation and especially how to pair foods with wine.

The highlight of the Feast were the inspiring messages, encouraging us to continue with steadfastness and agape in preparation for the coming Millennium and Kingdom of God. Sermons were held in Italian on days two, four and six with Italians hosting songleading, announcements and prayers. The other days were held in English with speakers from many different English-speaking countries. Both had simultaneous translation. A special moment was the ordination of two Italian members to the role of deacon.

A youth Bible study and women’s group share and chat were also much appreciated and added to a Spirit-filled Feast.

Special music enhanced each service. On the Eighth Day, the choir sang “Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves” joined by the Italians, following the sermonette by elder David Hoover explaining the history of the song and how we can relate to it—a very touching moment.

This was truly an enjoyable Feast. You are warmly invited to attend here next year!

*Ludmilla Wolf***Jamaica****Montego Bay**

God blessed our Feast in Montego Bay, Jamaica from

start to finish with brotherly love and joy in the Holy Spirit. Our highest attendance was 248, with about 190 international brethren joining the Jamaican congregations for the eight-day festival. We bonded as a spiritual family, looking forward together to the Kingdom of God. Our uplifting worship with inspiring messages and



wonderful special music was in keeping with our theme scripture, Deuteronomy 31:12.

Many of the international travelers at the Jamaica Feast brought items for the local brethren here. God commands “those who are rich in this present age” to be “ready to give, willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:17-18). The outpouring of gifts, including clothing, shoes, personal items, cash, and more, was overwhelming.

Everyone experienced the wonderful physical blessings of the Feast that God ordains for His people. Many said it was their best Feast ever. We had a great team of many willing helpers and the help of God Himself.

*Andy Diemer***Kenya****Migori**

This year 50 brethren gathered in the Migori Church facility to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day. The first and second day started with some rain, but the rest of the days were sunny. The only thing warmer than sunshine were the smiles and hearts of the brethren grateful to be together before God.

God truly blessed the Feast

in Migori with wonderful weather, uplifting messages and family fellowship. We look forward to the time that Feast pictures becoming a reality.

*Mark Nyakwara***Nakuru**

Located just off the Nakuru-Nairobi highway and a mere 900 meters (about half a mile)

The Feast was characterized with messages, special music, Bible study, and study of the Church’s fundamental beliefs, making our evenings fruitful as people were interested in learning the truth. Young people served the elderly on family day, and many activities were enjoyed, including playing games and singing from the hymnal.

Sermonettes and sermons held similar messages pointing to the coming Kingdom in the world tomorrow. We extended love by visiting the son of one of our Church members. He did not make it to the Feast due to sickness. It was such an encouraging experience to the brethren to bring joy to his eyes.

We thank God for the peaceful Feast we had and all the people who supported us financially. Thank you all for your prayers.

*Mark Nyakwara***Madagascar****Ampéfy**

We celebrated the Feast in Ampéfy, a tourist site renowned for its unique landscapes. Formerly volcanic terrain, Ampéfy is still home to a geyser.

There were 45 of us at this Feast site, including children. Every morning, we held a Bible study. We explored several essential themes such as the divine Feasts, tithing, the Kingdom of God, and many others.

We also visited three iconic sites: Lily Falls, the geyser and Virgin Island—considered the geographical center of Madagascar.

The evenings were enlivened by talent shows and various group games, strengthening the fellowship among all the participants.

Despite the difficulties of daily life and the political and economic instability of the country, everyone felt the peace and comfort that God gives to those who gather in His Name. However, we did experience a trial during the Festival: three people had to be hospitalized. But, thanks to God’s benevolent intervention, they were able to finish the Feast in good health.

During their hospitalization, we had the opportunity to share our faith with several patients. God’s hand was truly at work. A mother had come to the hospital with her sick son, who

from the entrance of Lake Nakuru National Park, Lake Nakuru Flamingo Resort and Spa hosted this year’s Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day. Brethren lodged in rooms and tents; there were 74 people in attendance.

With its tranquil ambience, proximity to a renowned bird-and-wildlife habitat, well-manicured gardens and conference facilities, the location was the perfect setting for the Holy Days. The messages and the fellowship were inspiring. God’s awesome plan of salvation was revealed as the greatest expression of His love, mercy and wisdom.

*Simon Nganga and Monte Knudson***Ogembo**

The Feast of Tabernacles was held at the Ogembo Church facility and started with an introduction reminding us about the importance of this joyous festival that depicts the coming Kingdom of God when mankind will have an opportunity to reign with Christ. Even as we celebrate this festival on earth we are to rejoice, and that is what we saw in Ogembo when 90 members gathered to celebrate the Feast. The weather was conducive to rejoicing with showers of rain and periods of sun.

was placed in the same dormitory as our member, Odilon. When we prayed for Odilon, we offered to pray for the woman's son as well, which she accepted. That same evening, her entire family, who were present, left the room. When we asked why they left, the woman explained that her family had felt a force during the prayer, and, still under the influence of idolatry, they had preferred to change rooms, as they did not feel comfortable.

The next day, the doctor, intrigued by what had happened, asked many questions about the Church of God. He even expressed the wish that a congregation might one day be established in Ampéfy.

In conclusion, we deeply felt God's presence throughout this celebration. It was a blessed and uplifting experience for each of us. Your prayers for the situation in Madagascar have strengthened us, reviving our hope and faith: we know that we are not alone.

Tolotriniaina Hajazoarinjaka

Malawi

Blantyre

Likhubula House in the Mulanje District was this year's Feast site for the Blantyre and Mayaka brethren (140 from both congregations attended here). The house is situated at the foot of the Mulanje Mountain, the biggest and highest mountain in Malawi, covered with large rocks and vegetation. Observing the Feast here was a perfect choice. We were able to enjoy the cool breeze and natural green cover of the forest.

Brethren were fed with spiritual food well prepared by God's servants. The sermonettes and sermons provided a picture of God's Kingdom in the Millennium. The brethren enjoyed a foretaste of how abundant and prosperous life will be in the Kingdom of God. Real peace, joy and prosperity will prevail under the able leadership of Jesus Christ. Beautiful and inspiring special music added to the services.

Social activities such as a sack race, hiking and tug of war (renamed "pull for peace") was a delight to behold. For the past two years, men defeated the women in the tug of war activity, but this year things turned

around, and the women defeated the men! The women celebrated while dancing and singing. It was a lot of fun!

A special event also took place. A daughter and two sons were added into the Body of Christ. That is, three baptisms took place in the natural pool of Likhubula River: Carol Ringo, Richard Somanje and Emmanuel Mandala.

Overall, it was a wonderful and enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles this year.

Gracious Mpilangwe

Nkhwazi

Bright faces were the order of the day at Nkhwazi Feast site in Mchinji, Malawi. The happiness couldn't be hidden in each of the 69 smiles. Both prospective members and long-time members camped at the Feast site. Mostly members came from the central region of Malawi but we also hosted family from Lusaka, Zambia, who had traveled to keep the Feast with us.

Peace, happiness and love were experienced both in the Church services and physical activities. This was also an opportunity to train our youth in delivering sermonettes and leading songs.

The family day included activities such as sharing stories about Christian living, physical games and a variety show, in which everyone had the opportunity to share their talents. Since we were surrounded by people from the nearby villages, we invited football and netball teams to join us in sports competitions, and learn about who UCG is.

The eight-day period ended with a reminder that we are a family from all over the world especially when we consider the messages of best wishes we received from all over the world which were pouring in through emails, Facebook and WhatsApp. We anticipate yet another exciting Feast of Tabernacles as we await the Kingdom of God these days picture.

Cephas J. Chapamba



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

The opening video message from the home office set the pace at 6:30 p.m. Malawi time, reminding members why we attend the Feast of Tabernacles. We continued on the first day of the Feast with spiritual food provided by the elders of the Lilongwe and Nkhwazi congregations, Haiton L. Thungula and Cephas J. Chapamba. Throughout the week, topics focused on the Millennium and our future role in that Kingdom.

In addition to spiritual food, physical food was shared among the brethren from family to family in addition to food provided to the site from Church members in the United States.

Malaysia

Penang

Set amid tranquil greenery and with magnificent views over Ferringhi Bay, the Shangri-La Golden Sands Resort served as a perfect gathering place for brethren from across the globe to celebrate the Feast together. The two resorts provided expansive lawns, palm and shade trees, beach access, lagoon-style swimming pools, and a choice of five on-site restaurants offering a variety of delicious cuisines. Each morning, participants from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zea-

land, the United States, Canada and Australia enjoyed extensive buffet breakfasts together, fostering even deeper fellowship.

The welcome barbecue dinner held outdoors following the first Holy Day provided an excellent occasion for attendees to interact and connect. Similarly, the buffet lunch on the Eighth Day enabled participants to share a final meal together and bid farewell in a congenial setting.

A variety of activities were held, such as a pizza lunch, a family fun afternoon on the resort grounds, and special studies for youths, teens and young adults, along with a hymn sing to welcome the Sabbath. An opportunity for creativity, one of this year's activities allowed 45 participants of all ages to work with guidance from batik painting experts in practicing this traditional art form that dates back centuries. After painting, the fabrics were dried and hemmed, creating beautiful keepsakes to take home. A perennial highlight is a trip to the nearby Entopia butterfly farm, home to over 15,000 butterflies.

The youth activity at Adventure Zone, located within the resort grounds, provided an opportunity for both parents and children to participate in engaging recreational activities, including competitive races on drop slides and utilization of play areas. In addition, 30 young adults were transported to George Town, where they toured local street art, experienced the sunset at Chew Jetty, and concluded their outing with a group dinner.

With street food stalls, numerous restaurants, and bustling night markets all close to the Feast venue, there were plenty of chances for brethren to enjoy shared meals and engaging conversations.

Throughout the Feast, thought-provoking messages were presented that collectively illustrated concepts relating to the Millennium and the Kingdom of God. The central theme emphasized our future role in guiding and mentoring others as they develop their relationship with God and highlighted the value of setting a positive example. In addition, attendees had the opportunity to enjoy inspiring musical performances each day of the Feast.

Many members from Southeast Asia, some of whom expe-

rience isolation throughout the year and are unable to travel internationally, value the chance to observe the Feast alongside others who share their beliefs. Their faith and trust serve as an inspiration to those who engage with them.

Grant Chick

Mexico

Puerto Vallarta

For the 13th year, the Hotel Friendly Vallarta, an all-inclusive beach and spa resort in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, welcomed us with open arms to hold the Feast there.

There were 515 brethren in total attendance (476 maximum attendance at services) from six different countries (Mexico, United States, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Australia). The numbers allowed us to have the exclusive use of the hotel, its staff, activities and meals (all foods were clean according to biblical specifications) making it very relaxing and enjoyable, especially for wives who don't have to cook or clean up during all those days. There were six restaurants that, free of charge, served Italian, Mexican and American meals (including a pizza oven to serve custom-made pizzas and a new hamburger, sushi and sandwich outlet).

Although Hurricane Priscilla headed north during the Feast, towards us, it turned westward, putting us out of harm's way. We thank God so much for providing protection and the right climate during the Feast!

The spiritual messages were inspiring and moving, covering facets of God's Kingdom. They were also directed toward our youth, designed to fill them with motivation. All Spanish services were translated into English.

We had two days with festival youth instruction for the children, a teen interactive Bible study by Ben Light and Gabriel Garcia and also one for young adults by Gary Smith. There were also eight baptisms, all from Mexico.

Activities included a folkloric Mexican show and an acrobatic show. Another highlight was the children's costume party where actors dressed as

Please see next page

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico*Continued from page 11*

superheroes did some acrobatics and met the kids. We also had the opportunity to release around 90 baby turtles on the beach, hoping that many of them will survive to return to Banderas Bay and breed.

This was another marvelous Feast to worship God and have fine fellowship.

*Mario Seiglie***Myanmar**

About 40 Karen brethren kept the Feast of Tabernacles via Zoom in Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, Malaysia and Norway. While suffering through a civil war in Myanmar, the brethren rejoiced at being together with their family and friends via Zoom, where they received spiritual food. Speakers from America and Australia helped deliver messages of hope and encouragement of the return of Jesus Christ and a time where peace will cover the earth.

Brethren also rejoiced over having two individuals baptized on the Feast of Trumpets and welcomed their new brother and sister into the spiritual family of God. Our brethren are second and third generation Christians with history going back to the 1960s. We are so thankful for the blessings our Father gives us including His Feast so that we may rejoice before Him.

We especially thank the home office for supporting us financially, which provided us with the cost of good accommodation, meals and travel.

*Davidson Laybeh***New Zealand****Taupo**

The Feast of Tabernacles this year was both a spiritual highlight, and allowed the brethren from all over New Zealand to keep the Feast with brethren from other countries. Sharing fellowship and family activities, 91 people joined together for this family-themed Feast. Taupo is in the beautiful central region of the North Island of New Zealand. Services were held at the Lake Taupo Yacht Club with views overlook-

ing the beautiful lake. Taupo is a bustling lake town right in the heart of the North Island—the main tourist town on the island. Lake Taupo was formed from a volcano and is the largest lake in the southern hemisphere.

Highlights of the Feast this year included messages that got everyone focused on and excited about the meaning of the Feast and the future ahead of us. On the Eighth Day, a group lunch was enjoyed between services, as well as the spiritual food provided by God. Feastgoers enjoyed activities together throughout the week such as game night and Bible Jeopardy. Family day consisted of a trip to Waiotapu Thermal Wonderland which is considered to be New Zealand's most colorful and diverse geothermal sightseeing attraction. Youth day consisted of a trip to the local trout hatchery where all the youth were not only able to catch trout in a special pond, but were also able to tour the hatchery facilities. They then were off to aMazeme which is a beautiful hedge maze to explore. Along with the maze, there were other family fun games for everyone.

As we observed and worshipped on these Holy Days, we reflected on and remembered what they mean for the world as we enjoyed this foretaste of the beautiful future that will shortly come to pass.

*Michael Fike***Nigeria****Ilesha**

The 2025 Feast of Tabernacles in Nigeria was held at Zenababs Half Moon Holiday Resort, situated in Ilesha, Osun State. The site provided a peaceful, scenic and family-friendly environment conducive for worship, reflection and fellowship. Surrounded by rolling hills, cool weather and lush greenery, it offered a refreshing setting for spiritual renewal and joyful celebration before God.

A total of 110 brethren attended this year's Feast, coming from the Lagos, Owerri and Benin congregations, as well as outlying areas. The brethren gathered in unity and joy to celebrate this appointed time before our Creator. We were also privileged to have Paul Moody, our visiting Senior Pastor, join

us for the celebration.

Throughout the week, daily worship services, Bible studies, festival school and discussions strengthened the brethren's faith and deepened their understanding of God's plan and purpose for humanity.

In addition to the inspiring messages, several activities promoted unity, learning and wholesome fun among members. Highlights included the women's enrichment retreat, boat rides, swimming, games, a talent show, and a lively movie night with pepper soup—a favorite among attendees!



Members expressed heartfelt gratitude, excitement and spiritual joy, noting that the Feast provided a true foretaste of the Kingdom of God. The messages, music and fellowship left a lasting impression, inspiring renewed zeal and stronger bonds of unity among the brethren.

The Eighth Day service beautifully concluded the festival, reminding everyone of the hope of eternal life offered to all humanity—a fitting close to an uplifting and spiritually fulfilling Feast. We give thanks to God Almighty for His blessings, protection and presence throughout the Feast.

Special appreciation goes to Mr. Moody for his guidance and encouragement, to the organizing committee and volunteers for their tireless dedication, and to all the brethren whose warmth and cooperation made this Feast a success.

The 2025 Feast of Tabernacles was truly a time of joy, unity and spiritual refreshment. As we look forward to the coming Holy Days, may God continue to strengthen His people, bless the work of His Church, and keep us

all in health and faith until we gather again.

*Paul Ogundipe***Peru****Lima**

This year, we had the blessing of holding the Feast in Peru, since we were unable to hold it in Bolivia. The political situation in Bolivia is not safe and now there are more Peruvian than Bolivian brethren, so it was a logical choice to switch locations this year.

We had 69 brethren attend the Feast Site at Las Gambusinas in Lima, Peru and it included members from Brazil, Bolivia, the United States, Guatemala and Peru. Marcelo Saavedra, the pastor in Peru, and his wife Marcela attended the first part of the Feast and then traveled to Chile for the second half.

Activities included a family dance, an afternoon with games and sport activities, a ladies' night, a bonfire for the youth and a children's party. The food was served for the group and it was delicious and abundant. The messages were inspiring and instructive.

We thank God for all the blessings given during this Feast in Peru.

*Marcelo Saavedra
and Luis Mora Salazar***Philippines****Baguio City**

Held at the Ating Tahan grounds of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the Feast of Tabernacles welcomed 126 brethren this year, including

visitors from the United States and Australia.

All the messages were uplifting, inspiring and encouraging. The morning main message of the first day, delivered by our senior pastor Mr. David Dobson, talked about the "Gift of Memory." We were also privileged to hear from Matthew Sieff of Sydney, Australia, who gave a number of inspiring messages helping us focus on God's desire to save us and all of humanity through His plan of salvation.

The activities were enjoyed by both young and old alike, including wholesome fun, food, fellowship and games. The youth day was held on the second day of the Feast. Among the activities were fun and games for preteens and teens and an evening question-and-answer Bible study conducted by the festival coordinator. Family activities were held on the fourth day.

The seniors' social and dinner was held on the third day and hosted by our teens and young adults. Many of the seniors in attendance sang and danced at the event. It was indeed a night to remember.

A variety show was held on the sixth day of the Feast. Many among the brethren volunteered and contributed a number of songs, dances and instrumental performances to entertain everyone present. The evening ended with everyone joining in the singing.

The Feast gave us a much clearer vision of what that Kingdom will be like and how we can prepare for it. We are thankful for the warm fellowship, the spirit of serving and outgoing concern the brethren shared and experienced here in Baguio City to make this year's Feast spiritually memorable. We believe this has been one of the most spiritually inspiring and best Feasts ever!

*Rey Evasco***Bukidnon**

Our Mindanao brethren once again experienced a deeply meaningful and joy-filled Feast of Tabernacles 2025 at Hotel de Susana Resort in Valencia City, Bukidnon, Philippines. The venue provided an ideal environment for an exclusive and unified Feast celebration, where accommodations, meals and activities were held in one location. This setting created a wonderful atmosphere of close-

ness and togetherness, allowing everyone to fully focus on worship, learning, and rejoicing before God throughout the Feast period.

A total of 194 registered brethren and guests attended the celebration, including a Filipino family of three from Singapore and two guests from Canada.

The Feast began joyfully with a welcome dinner, highlighted by heartfelt singing of hymns and expressions of thanksgiving to God. This opening evening set a tone of unity and family closeness that carried through the entire week. The opening day messages included an inspiring welcome video from UCG President John Elliott and a live webcast from David Dobson to all Feast sites across the Philippines. His message focused on the gift of memory and God's purpose in helping His people remember His way. Other messages throughout the Feast—accompanied by powerful and inspiring special music—emphasized harmony, unity and our coming roles in the Kingdom of God, drawing attention to how all have a special part to play in building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

Afternoon activities were filled with fellowship and joy, designed to strengthen the bonds of God's family. The children's and youth activities brought energy and excitement to the Feast grounds, while the Seniors' Got Talent event offered laughter and inspiration as seasoned brethren shared their gifts. Young adults enjoyed an outing and forum at Anahawon Ridge and Skypark, a scenic spot overlooking the mountains and plains of Bukidnon, where they built friendships centered on faith. Special Bible studies for parents, married couples, and youth added depth to the Feast experience, providing practical lessons for living godly lives in today's world.

One of the highlights of the Feast was the festival show—a joyful evening of wholesome entertainment showcasing musical, cultural and artistic talents. The performances created a memorable night of celebration for all.

We witnessed two baptisms during the Feast as individuals committed their lives to God—an inspiring reminder of the continuing work of conversion

and calling within His Church.

The Feast concluded with a fun-filled family day featuring games and fellowship, followed by an appreciation dinner—a fitting finale to a spiritually rich and joyful week. Brethren reflected on the blessings of the Feast and expressed gratitude to God.

As the Eighth Day arrived, hearts were moved by powerful messages pointing to God's ultimate plan of salvation for all humanity. The Feast renewed everyone's vision of the coming Kingdom of God and inspired deeper faith to continue building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

The brethren in Bukidnon give heartfelt thanks to God, His Church, and all who served throughout the Feast for their dedication, love and cooperation. Truly, this year's Feast of Tabernacles strengthened the unity of God's people, deepened understanding of His purpose and filled everyone with joy and anticipation for the glorious Kingdom soon to come!

Noel Roy Gilos

Visayas

The recently concluded Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day at Visayas State University, Baybay City, Leyte was a joyful and faith-filled eight-day gathering held under the theme "Building on the Foundation of the Kingdom." Brethren from across the Visayas region were joined by overseas guests and attendees from Mindanao, with the highest recorded attendance reaching 187.

Each day began with 10 a.m. worship services, filling the hall with songs of praise and inspiring messages. The first day, a Holy Day, was a whole day service. On the second day, we held a lively festival show, in which different congregations shared heartfelt performances of songs, dances and talents prepared especially for the Feast.

The third day brought both learning and adventure through island tours to Digyo Island (Quatro Islas) and a training on the production of Virgin Coconut Oil and Coconut Vinegar conducted by the National Coconut Research Center—Visayas, a premier research institution under Visayas State University, held at the VSU Convention Center.

On the fourth day, just before the church service, an earthquake briefly shook the venue—but everyone was safe, and services continued in faith and thanksgiving. That evening, the youth and young adult Bible Bowl brought excitement and friendly fellowship to the study of God's Word.

The fifth day featured a Sabbath service, Bible study, and a meaningful Women's Enrichment Activity titled "Women as God's Pearls." The following day was filled with fun and bonding during family day at the VSU Garden Beach Resort, followed by a Sumptuous Appreciation Dinner on the seventh day to honor everyone's service and participation.

The Eighth Day concluded the Feast with gratitude, reflection and heartfelt goodbyes. Despite challenges—including the mid-Feast earthquake—everyone remained steadfast and rejoicing, truly building upon God's unshakable foundation.

Jose Campos

Rwanda

We are thankful to God for His guidance and blessings during the recently concluded Feast of Tabernacles. We are also grateful for the assistance of other brethren, which made the Feast possible. God's love for the Rwandan brethren was evident throughout this special time, when 37 of us gathered.

We thoroughly enjoyed rejoicing in God's ways and His plan of salvation, spending time learning and growing in His truth. We also cherished the moments of fellowship, shared meals and games. It was a fantastic Feast, and we feel incredibly blessed.

Fabien Semivumbi and Michel Zilimwabagabo

South Africa

Mossel Bay

Mossel Bay experienced another inspiring and blessed Feast, albeit a challenging one, with our numbers being down with a good few members not being able to attend, service and activity attendance being affected by a bug that seemed to be going around not just the Feast site, but the area in general, and fewer international visitors than

any of our previous Feasts in Mossel Bay. Our highest attendance at service was on the first Holy Day, with a total of 129, and our lowest being 101, on the Sabbath. We had five international visitors, from Spain and the U.K.

Nonetheless, we were a group grateful to be together, enjoying good messages, inspiring special music, abundant fellowship and many shared meals. Also, with fewer people, numerous opportunities to serve opened up, sometimes unexpectedly, and there was always someone to stand in the gap in ways that were truly in-



spiring to experience.

As we've done for the last few years, we once again had open-house evenings, hosted by one of our elders and those sharing accommodation with him. Here, on any evening without a planned activity, ALL are invited to a meal and fellowship. This year saw a more focused approach, with visitors submitting Bible questions for discussion which encouraged much debate.

Also, in our eagerness to share a meal and fellowship, one of our mystery invitations (sign up either as a guest or a host, and the coordinator decides who you'll be spending the evening with) evolved into an evening of over 30 guests! It's also always so nice to be able to pop into the hotel restaurant and invariably find people to join for a conversation.

In an area where the wind can really howl through, we were blessed with great weather just when we needed it for our numerous outdoor activities—daily morning fellowship walks along a beautiful stretch of white sand beach, a family picnic and "braai" (a barbecue, but

better), a game drive at a nearby game farm, and a visit to a family strawberry farm with the largest natural maze in the southern hemisphere, and all the strawberries you wish to pick. We truly have been blessed to have such an abundance of opportunities to experience such a beautiful part of the country.

We also enjoyed numerous indoor activities which encouraged interaction and getting to know one another. A welcome evening, which included teams competing to build the tallest tower of marshmallows and spaghetti,

was one of these activities. We also repeated our lively-as-ever musical evening and hymn sing-along, seniors' lunch, and as always, the bingo evening, enjoyed by a surprising range of ages, from the very young to the most senior.

Our stage décor was again an inspiration to behold, and has become one of our Feast highlights. The banner, featuring Isaiah 2:2, was beautifully complemented by a visual feast of numerous protea varieties and other flowers.

This has been another Feast of Tabernacles to add to our memories, our spiritual growth and our vision of the beautiful future God has planned for His creation.

Vivien Botha

Sri Lanka

Kalutara

After a successful Feast last year, the local brethren were excited to return to Turvaa Hotel,

Please see next page

Kalutara, Sri Lanka*Continued from page 13*

in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. We had visitors from the United States and Australia. Sprawled across six acres of ocean-front land, Turyaa featured sea view rooms with private balconies, dining spaces, two swimming pools, spa, a gymnasium and recreational activities.

The brethren stayed next to each other in two clusters of rooms on the fifth and sixth floors of the resort hotel, this time in the newer North Wing. Smiles and laughter of the rejoicing brethren continuously echoed during the Feast. The fellowship and unity during the Feast were remarkable.

Daily services were attended by 40 brethren at the conference hall. The awe and reverence for God was amply demonstrated by brethren in how they chose their priorities at the Feast. The spiritual meat was the central part of the Feast, complemented by outstanding special music from local and visiting brethren. The lyrics of the songs were meaningful and were great messages themselves. The ambience of the conference hall, adorned with lovely flower decorations, cluster seating and curtaining enhanced the festive mood.

In the evenings, some brethren would stroll on the beach and find some time to watch the sun set beyond the horizon, while some relaxed in the hotel premises. A few took a dip in the seafront. A highlight of the Feast was the baptism of a 75-year-old lady.

The visiting overseas brethren were very happy to visit the Galle Fort, explore the turtle hatchery and take a boat ride on the Madu Ganga watercourse. The participation of almost all brethren in events such as the interactive Bible study, cricket, volleyball, water polo, family day, game night and swimming was delightful.

We thank God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for Their presence, blessings and protection at this Feast.

*Frank Reckerman***St. Lucia****Rodney Bay**

An inspiring Feast and Eighth Day were shared by

35 brethren from the United States., Canada, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, and St. Lucia at Harmony Marina Suites near Rodney Bay in the northern part of St. Lucia.

Our theme scripture was Deuteronomy 31:12, with a variety of sermonettes and sermons focused on aspects of “hearing, learning, fearing God and teaching,” for this life and in God’s future Kingdom. Hymns and special music were inspiring, and our visiting pianist added much to our joyful singing.

In addition to services the fellowship opportunities were abundant: hymn sing and interactive Bible study; public Bible seminar (with eight guests); ladies’ mingle and ladies’ interactive seminar (Psalm 46:10); teen/young adult “What is Your Vision?” sessions; family day at Pigeon Island (with lunch, hike and games); an island tour by bus to the west and east coast (including Micoud chocolate and coffee stop); a karaoke evening with games and dancing; an afternoon catamaran cruise along the west coast down to the Pitons returning at sunset; and a last evening together to enjoy snacks and drinks at the end of the Eighth Day!

We thank elder Kelland Barthelmy, his wife Beverley, and all the St. Lucian brethren for planning so many opportunities to share experiences and make memories. For two of the St. Lucian ladies, it was their first Feast of Tabernacles, and both set a wonderful example of service using their gifts and talents.

God’s blessings upon us were evident—from allowing Gus and Vera Joseph to travel from Dominica at their advanced age, to good weather and His protection, to the unity and joy we experienced throughout—what a wonderful Feast this year.

*Jeff and Alisa Lockhart***Togo****Momé Hagou**

Glory be to God, who has once again allowed us to celebrate this Feast of Tabernacles with joy and gratitude.

We gathered with great joy at the Mome-Hagou site, located in eastern Togo, 90 km (about 56 miles) from the capital Lomé, to celebrate this Feast. We had 30 in attendance this year.

This celebration was particularly significant because over the past year we have been able to set up a 12-bed dormitory and a well-equipped kitchen. These new facilities allowed us to stay and cook in much better conditions than in previous years.

We had frequent rains, which brought a pleasant coolness to the meeting hall. These weather conditions fostered a peaceful atmosphere, allowing everyone to follow the sermons more easily.

The afternoons were also busy: in addition to Bible studies, the women, supervised by our young girls who had participated in the summer camp, learned how to make jewelry, while the men enjoyed friendly moments playing card games.

We thank our Creator and all those who helped us, directly or indirectly, to celebrate this festival successfully.

*Kossi Fiaboé***United Kingdom****Llandudno**

Nearly 170 joyful Feastgoers attended the Feast in Llandudno this year, in addition to over 20 Zoom connections for those unable to attend in person, allowing them to join us for all the services and Bible studies.

Feast messages focused on preparing for God’s Kingdom that will come upon the earth, the qualities and attributes of the divine King, the joy that Kingdom will bring to the earth’s inhabitants, and anticipation of the work to be done to prepare for the general resurrection of all mankind.

Apart from services, activities included outings for younger children, teens and young adults. Two informal evening get-togethers were provided, plus a hymn sing-along on the Friday (Sabbath) evening. One evening some attended a public performance by a local Welsh male voice choir at a nearby venue. Three baptisms took place during the Feast.

Among other visiting elders, we were delighted to welcome UCG President John Elliott and Council of Elders member Rex Sexton from the United States.

*David Fenney***United States****Aransas Pass, Texas**

We had a blessed Feast of Tabernacles in Aransas Pass, Texas! It was a Feast of togetherness with many activities designed to engage the brethren with one another in meaningful ways.

There were events for young adults, singles, teens, seniors, preteens and families. We had special Bible discussions for men and women on two mornings before services along with breakfast for the whole group throughout the Feast. Family day included a BBQ lunch at Rockport Beach air-conditioned pavilion with swimming, fishing, volleyball and relaxed fellowship overlooking the water.

Sunday FunDay included a live country band, games, inflatables, pickleball, cornhole tournament and more delicious food. These special activities helped us all to rejoice together before the Lord, strengthen our family, and reflect on the coming Kingdom of God, when all nations will dwell together in peace and joy.

*Jay and Jennifer Ledbetter***Branson, Missouri**

Over 650 members kept the Feast in Branson, Missouri. More than 100 children attended, and many had the opportunity to learn about racing for the Kingdom of God during two days of youth instruction. The teenagers participated in a Bible study, a drop-in social and an activity at Snowplex, a downhill ski slope with artificial snow. A young adult Bible study was conducted by Keith Wilson followed by lunch at Branson Landing which included bowling.

Family day was held at Table Rock State Park, and was organized by Fred Nance and the Little Rock Arkansas congregation. The activities included plenty of food, fellowship and games for all.

The seniors enjoyed a luncheon on Sunday morning with great fellowship, highlighted by impromptu musical performances by several seniors in attendance.

Randy Urwiller presented a Bible study on the book of Habakkuk showing how the prophet repeatedly warned his

countrymen to repent of their sins and the nation of Judah stubbornly refused to change. The study showed what Habakkuk teaches us about faith during difficult times as we follow Christ’s admonition to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Keith Wilson presented a Bible talk on how modern science looks at man and compares man to the “other animals” and finds no explanation for the gap. Only God’s Word reveals the mystery of man and the amazing destiny God intends for all mankind.

Members were treated to wonderful special music by the festival choir, children’s choir, octets and various solos during services. All of the messages and music were encouraging and reflected the coming Kingdom of God.

*Skeets Mez***Cincinnati, Ohio**

Over 200 brethren filled the Queen City this year, celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Cincinnati with faith, fellowship and plenty of smiles along the way! The inspiring messages focused on being a light unto the world and looking forward to the Millennium, setting the tone for the festival’s future hope and spiritual growth.

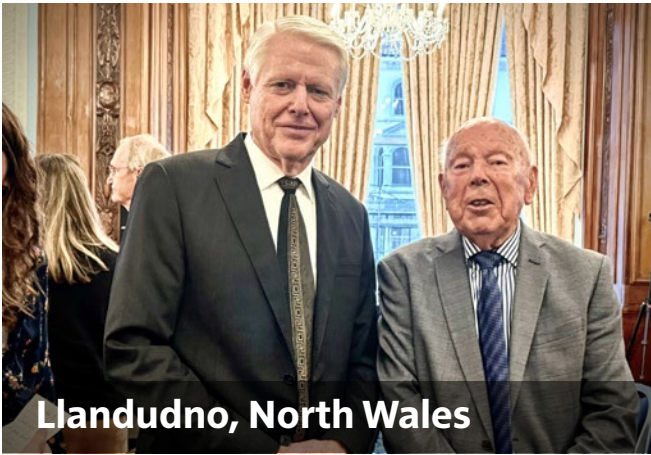
The Holiday Inn Eastgate served as our host once more this year, providing the convenience of holding services in the same location where many members were staying. After the first day’s services, brethren enjoyed a buffet dinner in the adjoining room, fostering fellowship and warm conversation.

Youth and family enjoyed an exciting outing at Scene75, one of the largest indoor entertainment centers in the country. They raced go-karts, battled in laser tag and bumper cars, and played on a 3D black-light miniature golf course. With over 100,000 square feet of attractions, Scene75 offered thrilling fun and opportunities to bond.

The senior luncheon added a festive touch with this year’s “Hawaiian Millennium” theme. Held on Friday, Oct. 10, seniors brought a splash of island color wearing Hawaiian shirts and leis, enjoying fellowship, food and fun.

Please see page 19

Feast Photos: Europe/Asia/Pacific





Ampéfy, Madagascar



Blantyre, Malawi



Blolé, Côte d'Ivoire



Chemba, Zimbabwe



Douala, Cameroon



Ilesha, Nigeria



Kadoma, Zimbabwe



Lubumbashi, DR Congo



Momé Hagou, Togo



Mossel Bay, South Africa



Nakuru, Kenya



Nkhwazi, Malawi



Ouidah, Benin



Winneba, Ghana

Feast Photos: North, Central & South America



Cap Haitian, Haiti



Freeport, Bahamas



Gobernador Roca, Argentina



Guananí, Colombia



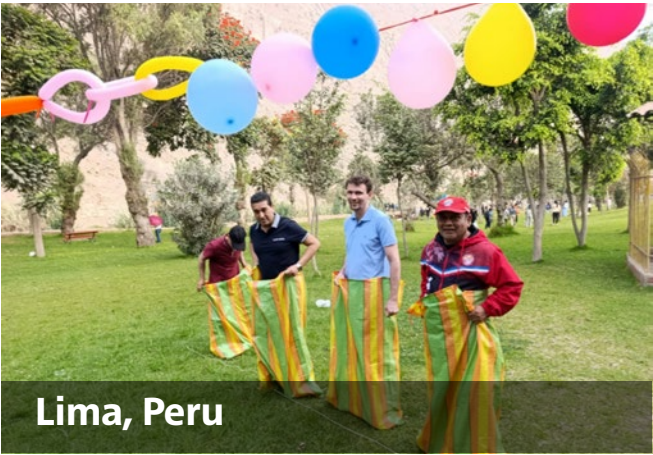
Kelowna, BC, Canada



Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada



Licán Ray, Chile



Lima, Peru



Midland, Ontario, Canada



Montego Bay, Jamaica



Panajachel, Guatemala



Porto Seguro, Brazil



Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



Rodney Bay, St. Lucia



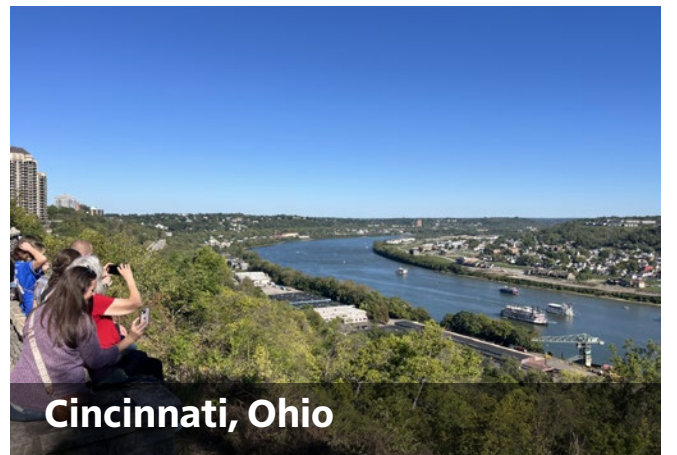
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada



Aransas Pass, Texas



Branson, Missouri



Cincinnati, Ohio



Daytona Beach, Florida



Gatlinburg, Tennessee



Glacier Country, Montana



Hershey-Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



Klamath Falls, Oregon



Lake Geneva, Wisconsin



Lihue, Hawaii



Morehead City, North Carolina



Panama City Beach, Florida



Rapid City, South Dakota



Temecula, California



Walnut Creek, Ohio

Cincinnati, Ohio*Continued from page 14*

Family day featured snacks and games in the Holiday Inn's meal room. Attendees played dominoes, Euchre, Mario Kart and other games, creating lasting memories for families and friends.

Many brethren also explored Cincinnati and its surroundings, sharing rides to the Ark Encounter, the Creation Museum, downtown Cincinnati, the aquarium and the Cincinnati Zoo. The city's vibrant foodie scene offered local favorites from craft bakeries to eclectic eateries, while Cincinnati's more than 50 breweries provided plenty of options for sampling local brews.

Following site tradition, the Eighth Day was welcomed with a group hymn sing and dessert social. Brethren also shared one last group meal between morning and afternoon services, concluding the Feast with joyful fellowship and unity.

True to Cincinnati flavor, some attendees admitted the city's famous hills made walking off the extra cheese from Skyline Chili a bit of a workout, but the "Queen City" charm—its historic landmarks, scenic river views, lively neighborhoods and brewery-filled streets—added local character and plenty of smiles throughout the Feast.

*Jason Musgrove***Daytona Beach, Florida**

Nearly 680 brethren gathered in the beautiful coastal city of Daytona Beach, Florida to celebrate a joyful and inspiring Feast of Tabernacles 2025. The Feast was marked by uplifting fellowship and anticipation for the coming Kingdom of God.

Each day's messages encouraged us to walk faithfully in our calling now while eagerly looking forward to the time when God's Kingdom will be established on earth. Festival Youth Instruction classes provided meaningful lessons for our preteens and teens, and young adults benefited from dedicated Bible studies and discussions designed especially for them.

The week was filled with opportunities to strengthen bonds and create lasting

memories. Families enjoyed an exciting day together at The Daytona Lagoon, and many took part in a memorable river dining cruise, experiencing the beauty of Florida's waterways while sharing meals and conversation. Attendees also sampled a variety of local cuisine and spent time together enjoying the city's famous beaches and coastal attractions.

The Feast in Daytona Beach was a time of refreshing and encouragement. God's blessings were evident throughout the week, as we even witnessed storms held back so activities could go forward. Many left the Feast refreshed in spirit, encouraged by the fellowship they shared, and more focused on the future God has promised.

*Rod Foster***Gatlinburg, Tennessee**

What a Feast it was! Surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains, 600 brothers and sisters came together to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day. As attendees arrived, they were greeted by blue skies, rolling mountains, and the excitement of God's people gathering in unity.

Throughout the week, we were uplifted by inspiring messages, beautiful music and heartfelt fellowship. Everywhere you turned, there was laughter, encouragement and the joy that comes from being together in God's presence.

So many members pitched in to serve this year—proof that many hands truly make light work! From setup to song-leading to children's classes, everyone played a part in creating something special. Service is part of the fun at God's Festivals, and it's how we reflect the loving example of Jesus Christ, serving others with joy and purpose.

The week had something for everyone! Our adult and children's choirs filled the stage with song, while families and friends explored the mountain trails and waterfalls of the national park—some even spotted a few of the area's famous bears! Teens and young adults enjoyed their own activities, our seniors shared a lovely luncheon, and those with energy to spare danced the night away. Add to that Bible studies, a family day Bible talk, and prac-

tical spiritual lessons throughout the week—and you've got a Feast to remember.

It's hard to sum up such an experience in words, but one thing's for sure: this year's Feast was truly amazing—filled with joy, unity and the presence of God among His people!

*Joshua Creech***Glacier Country, Montana**

Just outside Glacier National Park, in the little town of Hungry Horse, the Glacier Bible Camp hosted the Feast of Tabernacles for 364 brethren. A unique feature of this Feast site was how varied the housing options were; some brethren stayed on the adjacent campsite, others rented cabins a short walk from services and yet others stayed in hotels and

challenging climb!

Due to forecasted cold days ahead, family day was moved up to Friday. Brethren of all ages enjoyed a huge maze, miniature golf, go-carts, and bank-shot basketball at the Amazing Fun Center. In the evening, a Bible study by Kevin Kenady led into the Sabbath. The family fun and fellowship extended into the next day, with Bible studies for all ages on Sabbath morning, and a bowling party on Saturday night in nearby Whitefish.

On Monday evening, brethren gathered for a hymn sing to welcome in the Eighth Day. The Holy Days concluded with a final message from coordinator, Dan Deininger. Brethren felt truly blessed as they returned home with phones full of mountain photos, hearts full of memories, and a hope-filled remind-

ing! The day was filled with a nice lunch and plenty of sports related activities. Some other activities during the Feast included a trip to see the play "Noah" at the highly acclaimed Sight and Sound Theater, a warm and fun-filled senior citizens' luncheon and an afternoon for the teens and young adults at Dave and Busters! On Saturday evening, we had a cards and games night with a dessert social mixed in! On Sunday evening, we were immersed in talent and comedy at our annual variety/talent show, which produced plenty of laughs and created many memories.

While a lot of fun, the physical activities were just the icing on the cake. The spiritual focus was primary at God's Feast! Along with daily services, we had two youth day instruction classes, a teen Bible study, a young adults' seminar, a Sabbath Bible study for everyone, and a Bible talk offered on Sabbath morning. All of the presenters and instructors did a marvelous job in presenting God's Holy Word to His people!

On the Eighth Day, most of the brethren gathered for a wonderful buffet lunch together between services that was hosted by the Holiday Inn staff, and it was delicious! As we approached sunset and the conclusion of God's Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day, we left with new memories, new friends and a longing for the return to God's Feast Days in the spring!

Bart Bornhorst

er of the Kingdom to come!

*Heidi Braun***Hershey-Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

Inspiration, fun, and fellowship opportunities were abundant as 240 brethren spent eight days of Feasting in Hershey, Pennsylvania!

The fun began on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles when all in attendance were given a "Welcome to God's Feast in Hershey" gift of individually wrapped candies. All of the children attending the Feast could pick up a personal activity book that offered each of them an opportunity to select a small gift each day of the Feast if they completed the Fruits of the Spirit activity that day.

On Wednesday we held our family day at a local rural park that was situated in a very beautiful millennial set-

**Daytona Beach, Florida**

Airbnbs. Many shared meals in the dining hall onsite, extending the fellowship into mealtime and beyond! Western wear was encouraged at this Feast site.

The Feast featured special meet-and-greets for elders, seniors, young adults and teens, and Bible lessons were held for the children.

A highlight of the Feast was Glacier Day. To accommodate the drive to Glacier National Park, services were held early on Thursday, then people were free to drive into the park by way of Going-to-the-Sun Road, which had just reopened. The timing couldn't have been better, as the sun was shining, yet snow still adorned the tops of the mountains, creating a breathtaking scene. Many people hiked up to the Hidden Lake Overview, or down to the lake itself and back again—a

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Once again, we gathered for the Feast in Klamath Falls at the Running Y resort, a beautiful spot with mountains, lakes and rivers all around. Eager to connect and enjoy each other's company, nearly 250 of God's people came together. This year, spending time together was truly the highlight.

Family day had a fun family reunion theme, and we were blessed to have great weather. We shared a taco bar lunch and enjoyed a variety of activities at the resort, with something for everyone. There were games indoors and outdoors, relay races, music, art and even

Please see next page

Klamath Falls, Oregon*Continued from page 19*

a giant inflatable slide. Everyone had a great time making new friends.

We offered Bible studies and group activities for both young adults and teens, giving everyone a chance to connect and plan more get-togethers during the feast. Joe Neff gave a Bible talk about the seven prophetic blessings in the Book of Revelation, and we wrapped up with an ice cream social. Later, Ken Skorseth led the festival Bible study, focusing on the real Jesus as the powerful, soon-coming King of kings.

All the messages reminded us of the future God has planned and our role in His family. They inspired everyone to embrace the special calling we each have with our Creator. Each day, we also read greetings from God's people around the world, showing that His work truly reaches everywhere.

*Jeff Richards***Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

Nestled in the beautiful farm country of southeast Wisconsin, Lake Geneva served as an inspiring location for God's Feast of Tabernacles in 2025. It was encouraging to be together with 262 of our family and to feel God's Spirit present, which unifies and encourages His people. The messages shared were future-focused and filled with positivity about the Kingdom to come, reinforcing our important role in serving humanity, and strengthening our hope and purpose. We were all reminded of what God is doing in our lives and teaching us today, so we can be better tools now and, in the future, to do His work.

The time together was fellowship-focused, with members often arriving early before services and staying late after, spending quality time together each day. Many new friendships were established, and old friendships rekindled. And a highlight for many at the Feast is the opportunity to have special music daily, which again was performed at a high level and was wonderfully done.

The young adults and teens each had their own separate activities on the second day of the Feast, and our children

were able to enjoy the on-site indoor waterpark all week. A senior luncheon, family pizza party, and a dessert social with live entertainment and music from Dr. John Barbush were just some of the activities we enjoyed together. Separate from these planned events, individuals enjoyed visiting the numerous farms, apple orchards, and small-town dining and shopping sites surrounding the area. A memorable trip to Medieval Times near Chicago enhanced the week and was enjoyed by many people.

In all, the Lake Geneva site provided a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles environment where God's people could come together, worship and learn from Him, and build and strengthen the familial relationships that He desires among His children.

*Mike Phelps***Lihue, Hawaii**

Over 550 brethren gathered this year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. Known as the "garden isle" for its lush greenery and colorful botanical variety, God's creation delivered on its promise of spectacular beauty. The many beaches, mountains and waterfalls made it quite easy to envision the coming Kingdom of God and Millennium.

Equally as amazing were the messages that expounded on what the Millennium will be like. We learned how healing, empathy, teaching and wise judgment will all play critical roles as we work alongside our King to create the government and society God has always intended for mankind. In addition to regular services, there were three Bible studies, a Bible talk and youth instruction.

Outside of services, there were plenty of opportunities for fellowship and adventure as well. Family day was at Poipu Beach State Park where everyone enjoyed swimming, snorkeling, ice cream and seeing both green sea turtles and the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Later during the Feast, the young adults enjoyed a hike to Shipwreck Beach and the teens ventured out on kayak to Secret Falls. Many others enjoyed trips to Waimea Canyon, Hanalei Bay, Manawaiopuna Falls (where Jurassic Park was filmed) and the

many other sources of natural beauty on Kauai.

One of the things that made the Feast extraordinary this year was the variety of special music we were treated to. In addition to solo pieces, the festival chorale and children's choir, we also enjoyed a ladies' choir and young adult ensemble. We were able to donate nearly 1,300 pounds of food to a local food bank, their single largest donation this year.

Keeping God's Feasts in this garden paradise was certainly a blessing this year, but it pales in comparison to what these days foreshadow. Until then, aloha from all your brethren who shared the time together in Kauai this year!

*Dan Preston***Morehead City, North Carolina**

In Morehead City, North Carolina, 363 people observed the Feast of Tabernacles. The venue was a spacious facility with extra-wide aisles for easy



fellowshipping before and after services each day.

Morehead City was a family-oriented site. Teens were able to meet and get to know one another early on with an ice cream social on the first day. On the second day, the young adults met for a Bible study. Laser-tag outings, outings to the NC aquarium, and other local attractions were organized to include everyone.

Thursday featured a family day picnic held at the Fort Macon national park. Families played games, flew kites and shared a picnic lunch together.

On Friday we had a Bible study for teens. That same evening, we had a general Bible

study with an interactive discussion about the doctrinal teaching of the Millennium over the centuries.

On Sunday, we had a catered luncheon for the seniors in the meeting hall.

The messages during the daily services were Feast-focused, accompanied by spiritually uplifting music.

*Craig Scott***Panama City Beach, Florida**

This year, 910 members celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day in Panama City Beach, Florida. It was delightful to experience the beauty of God's creation along the Gulf Coast, with members traveling from areas around the United States and Canada. Additionally, we were blessed with ideal weather, which enabled families to enjoy the beautiful beaches and attend a variety of outdoor activities.

Many brethren expressed their appreciation for the en-

a family dance and game night, a senior luncheon, a golf tournament, and family day at the St. Andrews State Park. In addition, the teens enjoyed games and dinner on the beach, and the young adults gathered together at the Coconut Creek Family Fun Park, followed by dinner at Pineapple Willy's. The singles also built new friendships as they enjoyed an evening together. Near the beginning of the Feast, each of these groups also had the opportunity to meet before or after services to become better acquainted with their peers.

Throughout the entire Feast, the serving attitude of our brethren was outstanding! Truly, the example of Jesus Christ was reflected each day as volunteers stepped-up to help fellow members with having a very memorable and inspiring eight days. We are extremely blessed to be invited to God's festivals and to understand the profound meaning of His great plan for all mankind!

*Doug Wendt***Rapid City, South Dakota**

Hello, friends! This year's Feast in Rapid City, South Dakota was one to be remembered! All the messages were "Feast-themed" and focused on the coming Kingdom of God and what awaits us (and mankind) under the reign of Jesus Christ.

During the week, many brethren found opportunities both to serve and engage in activities. One lady visited the Badlands at night and remarked how incredible the night sky looked, and a group of young adults embarked on (and completed) a four-mile hike.

On the Sabbath we had 309 in attendance, and roughly two-thirds of those registered for the Feast attended the pizza party, dance and fellowship evening which took place earlier in the week.

Over the course of the Feast, some members visited attractions like Mount Rushmore, Bear Country USA and Reptile Gardens, while others remained at the hotel and engaged in fellowship. Before services each day, Feastgoers enjoyed filtering through our "hospitality room," where a few members happily served coffee and treats while fellowshiping with anyone who stopped in.

Besides daily services, we

couraging messages that pointed to the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, including specific Bible studies that were offered for the teens and young adults. Several Feast-oriented classes were available for preschoolers, grades K-2 and grades 3-5, plus a craft table was open for young children.

Special music was an essential part of each service, and all were thankful for those who volunteered. We enjoyed hearing from the adult, teen and children's choirs, along with numerous music performances which praised God and added to everyone's Feast experience.

Various activities were planned for all ages, including

conducted a Kingdom of God Seminar, three Bible studies and three 50-minute ABC Samplers. The household of God gathered to “rejoice” and worship before the Eternal in spirit and truth this year in Rapid City, and the Almighty poured out His blessings on us abundantly.

Nick Lamoureux

Temecula, California

For the first time since pre-COVID, California hosted a Feast site in the wine country of Temecula. At the millennial setting of South Coast Winery Resort and Spa, nearly 600 attendees gathered. Temecula is dotted with nearly 50 wineries and is a historic old town with many restaurants and shops. Members stayed on site as well as in many beautiful houses that were available to rent in the surrounding area. Temecula hosted the national webcast for the western United States with around 300 connections daily.

A highlight was the family dinner and dance which was held outside due to perfect temperatures. Young adults, teens and older singles all had opportunities to gather together. Members took tours and some even took morning balloon rides. Children under 12 were offered stuffed animals, toys and beanie babies after services on three different occasions by the generous attendees.

The main Bible study was presented by Don Harms on the topic of recent archaeological discoveries. We also had a special presentation by Ralph Helge regarding the historic 1979 California receivership against the Worldwide Church of God of which Mr. Helge was the lead attorney. The spiritual messages were great throughout the Feast.

Charles Melear

Walnut Creek, Ohio

After serving as a satellite site in recent years, Walnut Creek, Ohio was designated as an official United States Feast location for 2025. Nestled in the heart of Amish country, the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day were celebrated at Timbercrest Campground, a scenic setting surrounded by vibrant autumn foliage and the peaceful charm of the Ohio countryside.

Services took place in a spacious meeting tent equipped

with heated floor tiles and standing propane heaters—perfect for keeping everyone warm during the crisp fall mornings. Attendance reached a high of 239, nearly 100 more than previous years. Some Feast attendees camped on-site in tents or RVs, while others stayed in nearby hotels or rental homes.

Just outside the main tent, a long rectangular fire pit served as a central gathering spot where people cooked, sang and enjoyed fellowship together. As a fitting backdrop to this lively space stood a beautifully crafted Sukkot, built and decorated by the young adults with leaves gathered from the surrounding woods.

This year’s theme was “Feasting with Purpose: Creating a Better Future Now.” Each day of the Feast highlighted a specific “better” concept, displayed on a whiteboard at the back of the hall. Attendees were invited to contribute their thoughts on how we can begin living out these “better” things today, even as we look forward to their ultimate fulfillment—better sacrifices, better promises, a better covenant, better hope, and a better resurrection. Throughout the Feast, several key ideas emerged on how to live out this theme: embracing God’s provision and relying on Him, cultivating joy and gratitude, pursuing spiritual growth and transformation, and learning to serve and build community.

Although most of the Feast was blessed with beautiful weather, the first few days brought heavy rain. The downpour collected so much water on the meeting tent’s canvas that it stretched beyond safe limits—requiring fire trucks to come and pump it out!

Despite the soggy start, the site’s welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community continued to attract newcomers, including those new to UCG or to keeping the Feast days. To help everyone fully enjoy the experience, several group meals were shared, and a refrigerated truck—affectionately called the “Deuteronomy Storehouse,” inspired by Deuteronomy 14—was stocked with communal food that anyone could take and cook around the campfire.

A special highlight came when about 70 visitors from a nearby Feast-keeping group, made up of individuals from

Amish and Mennonite backgrounds, joined for a cookout potluck followed by a Q&A session with a panel of UCG elders.

It was truly a Feast filled with fellowship, food, and fun—featuring a (hay-free) hayride, talent show, karaoke, teen and young adult Bible studies, campfire gatherings, hymn singing, family day activities, fishing, crafting and more. The messages were inspiring, the music uplifting, and the con-



Cocagne, New Brunswick, Canada

nections made were both meaningful and memorable.

Corbin Rose

Zimbabwe

Chemba and Kadoma

This year over 100 brethren gathered to observe the Feast of Tabernacles at two sites in Zimbabwe. One was in Chemba in remote Gokwe where brethren enjoyed sermons given by leader Vensen Moyo and pre-recorded sermons from the home office. Food was plentiful and goat meat in abundance.

The other site was in Kadoma at the new Church property. Sermons were presented by the elders and supplemented with pre-recorded sermons. International visitors from South Africa joined us in this location. Activities included soccer and swimming at a nearby resort. We also had a jumping castle for the children and plenty of fellowship to include everyone. The coming Kingdom of God was the focus of most discussions and daily Bible studies. Food was plentiful and this Feast was the best ever.

Mabasa Chichaya

Satellite Sites

Canada

Cocagne, NB

The Feast of Tabernacles was hosted at The Cottage, a five-bedroom Airbnb with an ocean view and incredible sunsets in the area of Shediac about half an hour from Moncton in New-Brunswick.

Services were also at The Cottage. We hosted services for brethren in the area and from other provinces. We had brethren from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario. The most attended day was 26 people for this satellite site. We shared a community meal each day.

The brethren were fed with uplifting, stimulating and encouraging messages with five speakers including two elders for sermonettes and sermons every day. We also had an instructive Bible study.

We had special music on seven of the eight Feast days. Three ladies performed special music six times. For the Sabbath, we listened to a beautiful flute solo. On the Eighth Day, we had an offertory music and another special music.

Brethren appreciated the quiet atmosphere and the shared meals. Some commented that it was awesome to meet all the brethren who we had only seen on Zoom. Not only did we share meals, but we had a Bible study, a game night, a movie night and a music night. It was an awesome Feast!

Bruno Leclerc

United States

Ocean Shores, WA

God blessed the Ocean Shores satellite site with a joyful and thankful spirit throughout the Feast. The brethren deeply appreciated being able to gather locally, as this made attendance possible for many who could not travel long distances due to health, age or other considerations. The atmosphere was one of genuine gladness and shared gratitude for the opportunity to worship, rejoice and fellowship together before God.

Attendance remained steady, averaging around 36 brethren each day. Most attendees were from nearby congregations, with a few traveling from as far away as Alaska and Illinois. Though the group was smaller and more local in nature, it fostered a close-knit sense of family that made the Feast deeply personal and spiritually meaningful.

The messages (shared through webcast from Temecula, California) were deeply appreciated, providing rich instruction and encouragement. Attendees expressed thankfulness for the opportunity to learn and eagerness to return for future Feasts. In addition to daily services, three special fellowship events added much joy to the week: a family breakfast, a family dinner, and a ladies’ tea. Each was well attended and warmly received, strengthening bonds among brethren and providing time to reflect on the blessings of God’s calling.

Ocean Shores itself provided a fitting setting for the Feast. This charming coastal town, nestled on the Point Brown Peninsula where the Pacific Ocean meets Grays Harbor, is known for its six miles of wide, sandy beaches and peaceful coastal beauty. With its laid-back, family-friendly atmosphere and reputation for “endless horizons and coastal community,” it offered an ideal backdrop for God’s people to rejoice before Him. We thank God for His blessings, for the warm cooperation of the Ocean Shores Lions Club and the Convention Center staff, and for another Feast kept with gladness and unity. To Him be all praise and thanksgiving!

Ken Loucks



**Jon Wulff and
Hannah Bacher**

Aug. 31, 2025

Weddings

Jon Wulff and Hannah Bacher

Scott and Melody Bacher of Grand Junction, Colorado and Edell Wulff of Phoenix, Arizona are pleased to announce the marriage of their children: Jon Wulff and Hannah Bacher. The southwest-themed wedding took place in Grand Junction, Colorado on Aug. 31, 2025. The happy couple reside outside of Phoenix and attend the Phoenix Northwest congregation.

Obituaries

Donna Jean Hampton

Donna Jean Hampton died at her home in Hearthstone Senior Living, Ellensburg, Washington on Sept. 5, 2025. This July and August she thoroughly enjoyed celebrations of her 71st anniversary to Karl Hampton and her 89th birthday.

Donna was born in Seattle, Washington. She was the second child of six. She spent her childhood in Seattle and graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1954.

She surrendered her life to God at age 14 while attending the Greenlake Seventh-day Adventist Church in Seattle, began attending the Church of God in the early 1960s, and has been a member of United Church of God since 1997.

Donna met the love of her life, Karl Hampton, while she was still in high school and he was in the University of Washington Dental School. Karl first noticed her at a church choir practice when she was 16. He described her in his memoirs as "amazingly pretty, with a fresh countenance and spar-



Donna Jean Hampton

Aug. 8, 1936-Sept. 5, 2025

ling eyes. She was alert and fun, responsive and thoughtful." Two years later, in 1954, they were married. Karl and Donna celebrated 71 years of marriage in July 2025. During their life together they lived in Washington, Montana, Texas and Germany. They traveled in Europe and Israel and throughout the United States. They both became fluent in the German language while living in Germany as a U.S. Army family.

Donna lived her life as a woman of God, a continual learner, and a prayer warrior for her family. Donna had a beautiful soprano voice and enjoyed many years of singing in church and community choirs and performing solos. She loved music and was a huge fan of Elvis Presley. Her favorite Elvis song was "Love Me Tender" which she sang to Karl as they danced to this song at their wedding. She was an avid Seahawks fan and always wore her team jersey while watching and cheering for her team on TV.

Donna will be remembered for her beautiful smile and sparkling eyes, singing, bread making, crocheted afghans, love of warm hugs and administrative skills in writing and editing documents. She assisted her husband Karl in editing and publishing his many videos as a videographer for family events, weddings and business events. She helped Karl publish his memoirs for family and for the Wenatchee World Newspaper.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents Robert Vern Underhill and Amy Roberta (Bobbi) Railsback; brothers Roy, Jim and Michael; sister Janet; son Karl Andrew "Drew" Hampton III; and granddaughter Jennifer Zuelzke.

She is survived by her husband Karl Hampton (age 96);



Emmanuel H. Purdo

April 4, 1935-July 29, 2025

daughters Nancy Corbett (Roc), Barbara Zuelzke (Jim) and Lydia Keffer (John); son John Hampton (Joanne Chambers); 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; sister Linda Lee Butler (Bill); and many, many nieces, nephews and friends.

Emmanuel H. Purdo

Emmanuel Haron Purdo was born in April 1935 in the northern Iraqi village of Elkish, near the border with Turkey. His parents Haron and Miryam Purdo were a Christian family of Hebrew heritage living in an Arabic country. Life was never easy. During World War II his father was presented with the opportunity of enlisting in the British RAF on the base at Habbaniya, Iraq. This, in many ways, sheltered the family from more persecution and easily saved their lives.

When the war ended, Emmanuel found employment, at a still quite young age, with the BP oil company, working as a medical assistant trainee in the clinic for the employees. Determined to leave Iraq and come to America, he saved his money for several years to finally immigrate to America on a student visa to become a doctor. After two semesters at Campbell College in Buies Creek, North Carolina, he continued his studies in Chicago while working at the hospital there. There are many stories and adventures along the way to share in this space; however, due to the expense of achieving that goal, plus still sending money back to his parents in Iraq to help the family survive, his ambitions were redirected.

He married Mary Larabee and the couple became the parents of four children, Scott, Susan, Juliette and Shemara. To support his own family "Man-



James (Alec) Surratt

Dec. 9, 1945-Aug. 17, 2025

ny" found employment in the restaurant/hotel business working for the Fred Harvey Corporation, being promoted through the ranks to finally become the food and beverage director for hotels and then the large international airport in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These positions gave him exposure to many famous people who passed through and stayed at the hotels. He once served a dinner to then President John F. Kennedy. On another occasion at the airport, he and his staff serviced Air Force One with drinks and food while he visited in Albuquerque.

While in the food business, Manny was able to bring his remaining family, still in Iraq, to the safety of America. He also sponsored several other individuals and their families, seeking safety and freedom from the Iraqi regime. Before retiring from the food business, Manny ran a 24-hour restaurant at a truck plaza and then owned two breakfast/lunch cafes.

He now leaves behind his wife of 39 years, Diane (Thomas) Purdo. He is also survived by his four previously mentioned children and their spouses. Other survivors include his youngest brother George in Modesto, California, along with many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and extended family members throughout the country. He was preceded in death by his parents Haron and Miryam (Yako) Purdo and brothers Aprim and Yonan, also of Modesto.

Emmanuel, (known affectionately as "Amo" by close family members), and just "Manny" by countless others, died on July 29, 2025 after a full life of 90 years. Our lives, individually and collectively, have



Joan Wright

April 15, 1935-June 22, 2025

been enriched in many ways by having known and loved him. He was laid to rest in a very rural cemetery in Stony Creek, New York in the beautiful Adirondack mountains that he came to love and call home. May he rest in peace, until the resurrection by our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.

James (Alec) Surratt

James Alec Surratt (Alec), loving husband and faithful servant of God, died peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 17, 2025 at the age of 79.

Born to parents Cebron and Vivian Surratt in Baldwin, Mississippi on Dec. 9, 1945, Alec was the oldest of three brothers. Much of his youth was spent outdoors. This is where he cultivated both a knowledge and love of nature. Alec started studying foreign languages while in high school and junior college where he developed an aptitude and appreciation for Spanish.

Alec graduated from Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas in May 1969 and married the love of his life, Donna Conley, on July 14, 1969. Alec was a longtime member of the United Church of God.

The opportunity to start working for his church's Spanish Department presented itself while he was still in college. That experience led to a 47-year career in International Correspondence for the work of God.

One of Alec and Donna's favorite activities was travel. They have enjoyed seeing much of the United States as well as multiple countries in pursuit of this interest. Many trips included nature hikes where Alec would get to connect his love for nature with his love for travel.

Alec is survived by his wife Donna and brother Bobby Joe

Surratt of Baldwyn, Mississippi. He is preceded in death by his parents, Cebron and Vivian Surratt; and his brother, William Thomas (Tommy) Surratt. He will be remembered as a kind, generous, family man who supported his church's international work, especially in the Latin American countries.

Joan Wright

It is with great sadness of heart, and many tears, but not without hope, that I write this obituary for my dear wife Joan, whose death was totally unexpected. On June 22, 2025 she tripped and fell in our kitchen and hit her head on the corner of the kitchen cupboard. She never recovered and, surrounded by her loving family, died on July 12.

Joan was born in Townsville, Queensland April 15, 1935, but grew up most of her early and teenage years in Gympie, Queensland. I grew up on a nearby dairy farm and we both attended the Gympie Surface Hill Methodist Church where

we met and enjoyed the fellowship of other young people. We were married on Dec. 29, 1956 in that church. I was 22 and Joan was 21. We did not know then the journey that life would take us during the 68 years we were together.

I am absolutely convinced God brought us together and, in due time, He planned to call us into a knowledge and understanding of the truth and His wonderful purpose and plan for us and all mankind. That calling came in 1963 and I was baptized that year and Joan a year later.

Joan bore our four children (three girls and a boy) with such grace and dignity. Joan fed and clothed our children and, even when finances were very tight, I recall our children were always well dressed. She was a meticulous seamstress, making many of the children's clothes herself, or she purchased them at an opportunity shop and made them look like they had come from one of the best clothing stores. As the children grew up

and were married, I can recall the long hours she devoted to making many beautiful bridesmaid dresses for our three girls, and clothing for herself.

Our family of six grew to 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. The 14th great-grandchild was born only a week before the funeral service. Joan had been looking forward to meeting and holding this new little one in her arms, but it was not to be.

It was Joan who brought music into the home. I don't recall being without it. God blessed her with a fine soprano voice, but she put developing that God-given talent on hold while raising the children and looking after the home. After the children married and the nest was empty, she began taking professional singing lessons and competed successfully in many an eisteddfod. She worked hard with voice training and this enhanced the special music she gave at Church. She would explain to me how to breathe properly when sing-

ing—a skill which also helped me when giving sermons.

Joan joined a small group who visited and gave voluntary entertainment at nursing homes around the Gold Coast. She sang many of the old-time songs and the elderly residents would sing along with her or tap with their feet with obvious enjoyment. After the entertainment was over, Joan would go and chat with them and see how they were going. It was a contribution Joan loved to give just to enhance and bring some joy to the lives of many who were now restricted by age and associated frailties or illnesses.

God has blessed us both with many opportunities of service in the Church, first in Worldwide and then The United Church of God. I worked in the Church offices for many years, and I am so grateful to have had Joan with me as her support was invaluable.

Because Joan was with me wherever I went I felt complete and better able to serve the brethren. She had a warm

and ready smile, and I believe the members felt at ease in her presence, especially the ladies and the children. After a church service I learned so much more from her about our wonderful brethren because of the interest and time she spent chatting with them.

I can say unequivocally that Joan was an exceptional lady with many wonderful qualities. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. I love you Joan, and always will.

Reg (Joan's husband) and family

Announcements for *United News* can be sent by email (preferred) to un@ucg.org, or by mail to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027. Please include a color photo; if mailing in, please indicate if you would like the photo returned. Announcements should not exceed 500 words, and may be lightly edited for length and/or clarity by *United News* staff.

Local Church News



Pastor Len Martin (left) with Knoxville's remaining founding member Jim Sullivan (center) and his wife Susie (right).

Knoxville 60th Anniversary

On Aug. 9, 2025, 65 brethren attended the Knoxville, Tennessee congregation's 60th anniversary event in the grand ballroom of the Brookside venue in the Old North Knoxville neighborhood—designated a National Historic District.

The event began at 1 p.m. with a meet-and-greet mixer with light snacks, followed by Sabbath services at 3 p.m. The sermon message was given by John LaBissoniere, who served as an elder in the area for many years prior to relocating to Cincinnati.

After services, a delicious catered meal was served while

everyone was able to relax, fellowship and reminisce about their memories of the Church in Knoxville. Near the end of dinner, a slideshow with photos and memorabilia from the past was shown and testimonials from current and past members were shared.

A founding member of the congregation, Jim Sullivan, prepared a chronology of the 11 pastors and 10 assistant pastors that served during the past 60 years. The first assistant pastor to the area was Bill Bradford who actually lived in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Brad-

ford remarked that since this was prior to the completion of Interstate 40, "it was a three-hour trip over the mountains with 436 curves." Mr. Bradford and his wife Jenny served there until being transferred to Australia in 1968.

Len Martin, Pastor



Northeast Women's Luncheon—Inspiring Connections



On Sunday, Aug. 10, the first New England Women's Inspiring Connections Luncheon was held at the home of a local member in Hudson, Massachusetts. A group of 20 ladies, ages 13 and up, gathered from across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont to fellowship together.

With sunlight streaming through the spacious living

room and a cheerful floral theme setting the tone, the afternoon focused on growing in faith and strengthening bonds as sisters in Christ. Attendees enjoyed an engaging discussion on the life of Ruth, interactive games designed to spark deeper spiritual conversations and a special Spanish language lesson led by a mother-daughter duo.

The luncheon was warmly received, leaving attendees encouraged, inspired and eager for more. Following the fall Holy Days, the group will reunite for the upcoming Friendsgiving Tea on Nov. 23. If you live in the New England area or you're looking for a reason to visit, come join us. We'd love to have you there.

Sarah Auguste McCaulley

Gear Grinder Bike Ride

The third annual UCG 2025 Gear Grinder bike ride was a fantastic success! We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Twin Cities United Church of God congregation for graciously hosting this year's ride, to the amazing volunteers who staffed the rest stops and served up a delicious post-ride meal, to everyone who came out to cheer at the finish line, and of course

to the 35 dedicated riders who showed up to Grind Gears in the scenic Minnetonka Lakes area in Minnesota!

We're already looking forward to welcoming even more riders for Gear Grinder 2026—mark your calendars and get ready to ride! Registration opens after the spring Holy Days. Until then... pedal on!

Tony Stith



Sydney Women's Weekend



From Aug. 8-10, 43 ladies from all over Australia gathered in Sydney at the Mt. Carmel Retreat Centre for the annual Women's Focus Weekend.

This was my first year attending, and what a weekend it was! Ladies in attendance ranged from young adults all the way through retirement age, from all walks of life, everything from farmers to nurses to clerks to homeschooling moms to teachers to businesswomen.

Upon arrival, dinner was served and Leah Sieff gave each of us a welcome gift of a hand-

made paper origami heart refrigerator magnet, and then Melinda Glombowski kicked the weekend off with a survey to find out our personalities. The options were: a Lion (enjoys leadership, is decisive, loves problem solving, and seeks new adventures and opportunities), an Otter (is excitable, fun-seeking, a cheerleader, and enjoys talking), a Golden Retriever (is loyal to the core, a great listener, empathetic and a warm encourager) or a Beaver (has a strong need to do things by the book, is good at quality control in fields that demand accu-

racy). Once we each discovered our personality type, we joined other ladies with similar personalities to work together and make a poster of our perfect day out. A representative from each group presented the posters to everyone. This was such an excellent way to start the weekend because it not only allowed us to get to know each person a little bit, but when we needed the support of a particular personality, we knew who to talk with.

Sabbath morning began with Leah Sieff facilitating a panel of ladies from young adult to elderly to talk about women in the Church whom had encouraged them along their individual journeys. At times we may feel that there are limited opportunities for us to serve, but simply showing up, smiling, talking and sharing meals with our brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the best ways we can serve.

Then Jess and Kim Mihalec facilitated an interactive small group discussion on the ways that Paul worked with the Church as outlined in Acts. These methods included praying for and with the Church, encouraging fellowship in meals, resolving conflict with patience, understanding and love, sharing resources and education, encouraging future growth, and modeling faith and courage for the brethren.

Henry Prom and Matt Sieff joined us for Sabbath services.

Henry led songs; he commented that it was absolutely phenomenal to hear all the ladies singing and that we drowned out the only two men in the room. Mr. Sieff gave the sermon on God's focus on building His family and how we, too, must focus on building His family.

After lunch, Leah Sieff gave a presentation on God strengthening the Church, how our attendance is key to this strengthening and that the Church is focused on the whole Body of Christ, not just the individual, as God has called us to be part of something greater than ourselves.

Then Jenean Rivers gave a talk on conversation skills, and how sometimes a person just needs someone to hear them without trying to solve anything. We then broke into small groups to discuss how these skills can improve our conversations.

After dinner the evening ended with Nicole Ryan introducing a craft activity giving us all the opportunity to design our own notebooks for church. There were so many beautiful designs made by beautiful ladies all while talking and sharing stories.

On Sunday morning, Renee Schofield gave us a presentation on AI technology and how it is a tool and not replacement for the human mind. It can be used for good, if used wisely. AI learns from what you post, so stick with truth—garbage in, garbage out.

Then Jenny Kusz gave us a photo and video presentation on our members in Asia. She talked about the council meeting held to come up with strategies to make our literature accessible in their native languages. Translating the booklets is challenging, because many of the Asian languages do not have words for certain English words and vice versa. So, several members of the Church are working on simplifying the individual booklets to a level a child would understand so that they can be translated into a native Asian language without losing their meaning. Jenny also talked about the brethren in Pakistan and how she and her husband Martin met with several of the families there.

And finally, before we all departed Jenean Rivers gave a presentation on the spiritual battles that are being fought even though we can't see them. When things don't make sense and our hardships seem too much, we must remember God is always in charge and endure to the end.

Throughout the weekend, there was almost an electric buzz. In every room I could hear ladies talking and laughing, and see tears and hugs shared. To the outside eye it may have looked like we all had known each other for years. For some this was the case, but for others this was our first time meeting, and yet these ladies were my family—my Church!

Thea Firth

GN

The Good News

Fasting God's Way: Lessons from Isaiah 58

Fasting is one of the most powerful tools in our Christian toolbox.

by Robert Curry

Whenever I fast, I always turn to Isaiah 58—the fasting chapter. Every time I do, verse 4 always catches my attention, with intrigue: “You will not fast as you do this day, to make your voice heard on high.”

“But God, of course I’m fasting to spend special time talking with you, the POWER of the universe up there on your heavenly throne! I’ve got a special concern that I’d like you to know about and have your response.”

When we fast, surely we hope God will listen to what we have to say!

In time, it occurred to me that this might be a scripture that I’ve been misunderstanding and should carefully study. Why is this so important to us who want to fast more effectively, especially on the Day of Atonement?

Fasting is one of the most powerful tools in our Christian toolbox, the others being prayer, Bible study, meditation and fellowship. Mark 9:29 says some things require fasting in addition to prayer.

In a recent Colorado Springs Sabbath service, a visiting pastor Nathan Ekama said that in his experience we don’t fast as often as we should, especially for spiritual growth. Jesus said in Matthew 6:16-18 that His followers will fast and “your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” God is eager to bless us for fasting! In my 55 years in the Church, I have experienced that!

Context is crucial

In Isaiah 58:1-2, His people “as [if] a nation that did righteousness, and did not forsake the ordinance of their God . . . take delight in approaching God.” They were sinning! Yet they were baffled that God wasn’t paying any attention to their fasts (verse 3). They were just going hungry and thirsty! It’s just



Tina Miroshnichenko/Pexels

Studying Isaiah 58 teaches us much about how we should approach fasting.

as Isaiah confirms in his next chapter that “your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (59:2).

The Bible is replete with powerful examples of prayer and fasting that are heartfelt and passionate!

Could mistranslation be the problem? In biblegateway.com where you can see a verse in all English translations, for Isaiah 58:4 they all agree the problem isn’t in fasting to make your voice heard in heaven, but the wicked actions and attitudes expressed in verses 3 and 4. The New International Version is a representative example: “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please [similar to God’s complaint about their Sabbath keeping in Isaiah 58:13-14] and exploit all your workers. Your

fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.” But we can fast as Isaiah 58 directs, and God will be pleased to answer!

I was making the innocent blunder of leaving out the crucial qualifier “as you do this day.”

Secondly, the word “make” is a problem word for me. We can’t make God do anything and shouldn’t be trying!

Jeff Foxworthy, the best-selling comedy recording artist of all time, tells a story about going on a group backpacking trip and hiring a guide. In a jam everybody turned on the guide, telling him he was all wrong and trying to enforce their conflicting ideas. This time Foxworthy wasn’t telling a trademark redneck joke, such as: “If you’ve ever made change in the offering plate, you might be a redneck!” His heartfelt point was “Don’t try to guide the Guide.” In the video it looked like he was speaking to a religious audience about the Guide!

We should trust Jesus Christ, the head of the Church and each of us in our wilderness journey today, to guide us to the best place to camp and be our rear guard and then move as our pillar of cloud when it’s time for us to move! (Exodus 13:21-22). How do we like our camp?

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has

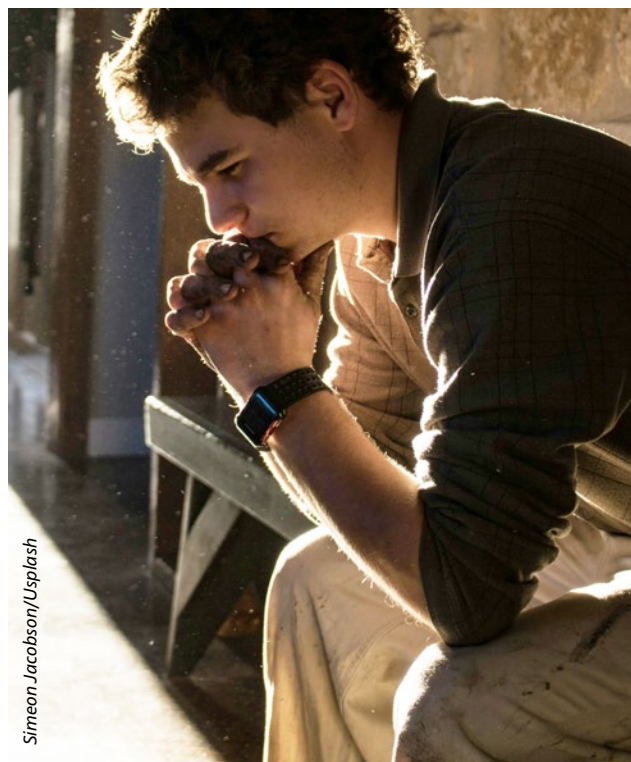
become His counselor?’” (Romans 11:33-34). “Our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Psalm 115:3).

While “make your voice” conjures up ideas of trying to bully God, Strong’s says “make your voice” is from the Hebrew *kole* meaning call aloud, cry out or yell. This is in line with James 5:16 which promises, “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16). The Bible is replete with powerful examples of prayer and fasting that are heartfelt and passionate!

Psalm 141:2 likens prayer to incense: Prayer should be beaten fine with a blend of ingredients (discuss everything with God); heated up (fervent); sweet and appealing to God (“He delights in every detail of their lives” [Psalm 37:23, New Living Translation]). This is the same way we parents delight in hearing from our kids!

Continued on page 23

Fasting God's Way: Lessons from Isaiah 58
Continued from page 21



Simeon Jacobson/Unsplash

When we face hard decisions about what to do, God can answer through circumstances, advice, inspiration, revelation or direct intervention.

Praiseworthy fasts in the Bible

In Ezra 8:21-23, note how Ezra sought God's protection. Not to make his voice heard on high. Not to cajole God into taking pity on them. No, so we can recognize our total dependence and be receptive to His will—"that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions."

When we face hard decisions about what to do, God can answer through circumstances, advice, inspiration, revelation or direct intervention.

God loves to hear the thoughts of His children who desire to bring their attitudes and actions in harmony with His.

In 2 Chronicles 20:1-12 Jehoshaphat confessed "nor do we know what to do but our eyes are upon You." Actually, he did know what to do: He called a nationwide fast and sought God's intervention of what would be best at the time and for all concerned!

It turns out that with Isaiah 58:4, as with other scriptures that baffle us, a little study of context and key words clears up the issue. We should not fast while sinning with evil actions and attitudes. We should fast fervently, expecting God the Master Timer to make it effective and "avail much"—but never trying to guide the Guide, tell Him what to do or bend His will to ours.

God wants us to fast and pray and humbly look to Him and submit to His will. He loves to hear the thoughts of His children who desire to bring their attitudes and actions in harmony with His.

When we follow what Isaiah 58 teaches about fasting—what pleases God and what doesn't—verse 9 promises, "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" **GN**

Deism Versus Biblical Truth

Much of modern Christianity today is being gradually destroyed from within by Deism.

by Rex Sexton



Marjion Obsiona/Unsplash

The false teachings of Deism have returned with a vengeance.

Deism is a pseudo belief in the existence of God. Its proponents admit that the creation demands the existence of a creator, but not necessarily a personal or comprehensible God who intervenes in the affairs of men. Deism is solely based on rational thought without any reliance on revealed religions or religious authority. It emphasizes the concept of natural theology—that is, God's existence is revealed through nature and observation.

A German priest, theologian, author, hymnwriter and Augustinian friar named Martin Luther publicly protested the corruption, vile practices and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1517 he posted and circulated his "Ninety-five Theses or Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences." Luther's teachings spread across Europe, resulting in the division of Western Christendom between Roman Catholicism and the new Protestant traditions, mainly Lutheranism, Calvinism, Anglicanism and Anabaptists. A by-product of the fissure in Christianity was another philosophy taking hold in Europe—the Age of Enlightenment. Also known as the Age of Reason, it was an intellectual and philosophical movement in Europe from the late 17th century to the early 19th century. At its foundation, the Enlightenment rejected religion—meaning primarily the Roman Catholic Church, but also gradually including the Protestant churches. There are over one hundred famous authors and philosophers from that period. Famous among them are Voltaire, Rousseau, Descartes and Francis Bacon. For Martin Luther, as for Bacon or Descartes, the way to truth lay in the application of human reason.

This philosophy, which many historians consider an expansion of the teachings of Socrates and Aristot-

le, rejected religious texts and appealed only to truths that they felt could be established by reason and observation. Such philosophers and theologians were called "deists," and the philosophical and theological position they advocated is called "Deism." Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison and James Monroe are today considered to have been deists. They believed in a rational God but often rejected traditional Christian doctrines.

The concepts of Enlightenment have been infiltrating "Christian" churches for a generation. Known as "deconstruction," this movement has as its primary objective the reconciliation of one's personal views with their changing religious beliefs. Each believer can fashion his faith as a mixture of teachings he chooses. As one becomes more comfortable rejecting God's Word, deconstruction results in disconnection from a traditional biblical Christian worldview. Ultimately, each step in the process draws one farther and farther away from the God of the Bible.

BcWorldview.org author Jeff Hines recently published, "... those who once promoted Christian deconstruction are now turning to other words in order to repaint a more positive picture of the process ... The term 'deconstruction' is being relabeled in the Christian community and, therefore, beginning to be replaced by words such as 'rearranging' or 'recommitment' regarding one's theological underpinnings." The message is to blend or adapt religious teachings to one's own preferences. Hines added, "deconstructionists have landed in the fringes of Christianity, where anything goes and inclusiveness of a broad range of twisted theology has become part of the movement ... Deconstruction means choosing easier beliefs ... [and it] almost always means adopting views palatable to the unbelieving world. All too conveniently, it means moving away from positions on sexuality, gender, salvation, sin, hell, and other issues not embraced by popular culture."

The destructive force of Deism can be seen by the demise of the Anglican Church—the once powerful Church of England that is now an empty shell. Much of modern Christianity today is being gradually destroyed from within by Deism. The "health and wealth" gospel and "cheap grace" ideas are cases in point. When people use feelings or personal desires as their authority, the result is often lonely. By establishing the broad "accept everyone and their standards" idea they soon conform to their own view of what is truth, moral and right, rather than God's teachings. It involves replacing the God of the Bible with a false god based on what mankind feels he should think and believe. It means rejecting entirely or picking only small parts of the Bible to believe.

The false teachings of Deism have returned with a vengeance. A large portion of churchgoers under age 40 have adopted this blending of truth and error. No surprise. God inspired the apostle Peter to write about our time, "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber" (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Jesus taught us, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Rejecting truth and replacing it with human reason always results in a type of slavery. That's why we must be on guard against modern Deism. **GN**

Humanity

The first chapter of the Holy Bible reveals that God created men and women in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). The context of this fact is important to understand.

**from Fundamental Beliefs
of the United Church of God**

Nearly 6,000 years ago, God prepared this world for human habitation during a single week, as explained in Genesis 1. In the several days prior to man's creation, God made different forms of life, each of which was to reproduce "according to its kind" (Genesis 1:11-12, 21-25).

This principle rules out evolution as commonly understood—the idea that creatures evolved from one kind into another. (God designed the genetic code to allow limited changes within kinds, but not from one kind to another.)

After repeatedly stating that creatures were to reproduce according to their kind, God said He would make man in His own image and likeness (again, Genesis 1:26-27). The clear implication is that man was created according to the "God kind," so to speak, with God intending to reproduce Himself through human beings. In fact, Genesis 5:1-3 compares God having made Adam, the first man, in His own likeness to when "Adam begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth."

Humanity was, therefore, created with a truly amazing potential. The future of humanity, as explained elsewhere in Scripture, is to be children in the family of God (1 John 3:1-2; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 6:18). Yet human beings, as physical flesh-and-blood creatures, have initially been formed on a much lower level than God.

As first created, the "likeness" to God in man is quite restricted—limited to such areas as general resemblance in form, feelings, thought, creative abilities and the capacity to govern—all in a rather inferior sense as compared to God. However, God intends for man to ultimately come to share His divine glory, power, intelligence, wisdom and righteous, loving character.

The character of Almighty God is perfect. He is inherently good and cannot sin. This is also what God desires for His children. Yet even God, who is all-powerful, does not create perfect character in human beings by simply willing that result. The development of righteous character requires a conscious decision by a being with free will to conduct his or her life based on knowledge of what is morally right and wrong, choosing what is right and rejecting what is wrong.

Again, when initially created our first human parents, Adam and Eve, received a life of physical, fleshly existence of limited duration. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

The Hebrew word *nephesh*, translated "being" in Genesis 2:7 (or "soul" in the King James Version), is used in the first chapter of Genesis four times in connection with animals (Genesis 1:20-30) and is translated as "body" in the phrase "dead body" in Numbers 6:6. The first man was later told, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God with the potential to become children of God, partakers of the divine nature. God formed humanity of flesh, which is material substance. Human beings live by the breath of life, are mortal, subject to corruption and decay, without eternal life, except as the gift of God under God's terms and conditions as expressed in the Bible. We believe that God placed before Adam and Eve the choice of eternal life through obedience to God or death through sin. Adam and Eve yielded to temptation and disobeyed God. As a result, sin entered the world and, through sin, death. Death now reigns over all humanity because all have sinned (Genesis 1:26; 2 Peter 1:4; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12; 6:23).



As initially formed, human beings are incomplete creations.

The biblical book of wisdom known as Ecclesiastes contains this exhortation: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10; see also verse 5). So there is no consciousness in death, which is compared elsewhere in Scripture to sleeping in total unawareness (see, for example, John 11:11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 15:51; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

Human beings are mortal, subject to corruption and decay. They do not possess immortality in the form of an "immortal soul." Rather, they start out without eternal life. A biblical prayer declares: "What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?" (Psalm 30:9). Another states, "For in death there is no remembrance of You; in the grave who will give You thanks?" (Psalm 6:5).

Human beings do have a spiritual component to their initial makeup—the human spirit (Job 32:8; Zechariah 12:1). It is this spirit that imparts intellect to the physical human brain, thereby giving the human mind abilities far beyond other physical creatures: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?" (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Unconscious of itself apart from the body, this spirit returns to God at death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). In the future resurrection, God will place the spirits of those who have died into new bodies, returning them to conscious intelligence with their personalities and memories intact.

As initially formed, human beings are incomplete creations. God wants to share with them His very nature and enable them to become His literal spiritual children. This is only possible by His Holy Spirit joining with each person's human spirit (Romans 8:16). This gives higher, godly understanding and imparts God's character of love (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Romans 5:5). It is through the Holy Spirit that God will transform us into beings who will, when resurrected or changed at Christ's return, live with Him forever (Romans 8:11).

God desires to give to every human being the gift of eternal life as a member of His family. Eternal life is not something a person can earn. However, God will

not grant this precious gift to anyone who does not yield to Him and His law (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

In the Bible, eternal life in the family of God is called salvation, for those given immortality in that family will never again be subject to death. God reveals to us, through the divinely inspired Scriptures, that salvation is not automatically granted to every human being. He will bestow this blessing on only those who have proven their willingness to obey Him (Revelation 21:7-8).

God was not obligated to elevate human beings to eternal life with Him in the spirit realm, but we know that God is love (1 John 4:8). Therefore, out of unselfish, outgoing concern, He has devised a plan whereby we can be given salvation, the greatest possible blessing a loving Creator can bestow (Luke 12:32).

When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them access to the tree of life, symbolic of eternal life (Genesis 2:9; 3:22). And He commanded them not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was symbolic of choosing, apart from God, to determine right and wrong for oneself. But they disobeyed God's command, which constitutes sin or lawlessness (1 John 3:4). And sin leads to death (Genesis 2:17; Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Romans 6:23). Every sin damages the character of the one who commits it. To commit sin harms both the individual sinner and society in general.

Adam and Eve, like all human beings, were given freedom of choice, and under the influence of Satan they violated God's explicit command (Genesis 3:1-6). The first human beings thus began to live in a manner contrary to the will of their loving Creator, placing themselves under the penalty of death, about which God had warned them in advance. No human being except Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has lived a sinless life (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15).

In spite of human sinfulness, God's ultimate plan for humankind has not been thwarted. In His omniscient wisdom and mercy, God has provided a means by which human beings can be reconciled to Him (John 3:16-17). People can still develop the godly character that is a prerequisite to receiving God's most precious gift of eternal life as His children (1 Corinthians 15:22; Galatians 2:20). But apart from the deliverance God has provided, death reigns over all humanity because all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

God desires harmonious relationships—both between human beings and Himself and among human beings, between individuals and groups. Again, God is in the process of establishing His great family, which the physical human family is to portray. We also see this in the sacred institution of marriage. In creating Adam, God said it was not good for him to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Man needed companionship. So God made woman and established marriage (Genesis 2:21-25)—a covenant partnership between a man and a woman and with God (Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:14).

The marriage relationship was intended to model the relationship that Jesus Christ would eventually have with the Church of God (Ephesians 5:22-23). And God also stated that husband and wife are made "one" to produce godly offspring (Malachi 2:15). Marriage is a very serious commitment, safeguarded in the law of God. **GN**

28 Light of Hope

Spiritual Fellowship: An Essential Vitamin

by Hannah Styer

According to the Cleveland Clinic, about one billion people worldwide are deficient in Vitamin D. This deficiency weakens bone and muscle health and often leads to low mood and fatigue. However, with simple changes in diet and everyday habits, it is preventable and treatable.

In a similar way, we can neglect another essential “vitamin” needed to support and maintain our spiritual health: fellowship. When it’s lacking, we too can experience discouragement and spiritual fatigue over time.

Let’s explore why fellowship is so vital, how the Bible highlights its benefits, and practical ways to strengthen it in our daily lives.

Identifying Obstacles

Meeting together is not always convenient. Hundreds of members live far away from their congregation, requiring hours of driving each Sabbath. Others face financial struggles that make it difficult to travel. Personal hardships such as illness, exhaustion, caregiving responsibilities, or the weight of ongoing trials can discourage us from making a consistent effort to see one another.

Yet while these obstacles are real, they don’t lessen the importance of fellowship. Just as a body still needs nourishment when appetite is low, our spiritual lives still require the “nutrient” of fellowship to stay strong. Without it, weakness and discouragement can set in, just as surely as a vitamin deficiency affects the body over time.

However, we were not meant to be alone for extended periods. Prolonged isolation can harm our mental, physical, and most importantly, our spiritual health. God designed us to be social, and that design is for our great benefit.

Fellowship provides comfort, consolation, joy, and at times, honest feedback and correction. In James 5:13–16 we read, “Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him... Confess your

trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

Even when we do not feel like congregating and meeting together due to inconvenience or lowliness of spirit, God has placed us within a spiritual family. Fellowship is one of the essential nutrients He provides to sustain our healing, growth and endurance.



We were not meant to be alone for extended periods.

ish the body, there are countless ways to cultivate fellowship. Every member has unique circumstances and abilities, but sometimes we need a few practical ideas to help us get started. By intentionally connecting with one another, we can strengthen our spiritual health and share the “nutrients” of encouragement, support and joy.

One of the easiest and most fulfilling ways to fellowship is through acts of service. This might include helping out in the kitchen or stacking chairs after church. It could also mean paying a visit to those who are ill or otherwise unable to make it to services. Writing letters of encouragement is another thoughtful way to connect, especially for members who cannot

physically attend at a Feast site. Each act of service nourishes both the giver and the recipient, strengthening the bonds that sustain our spiritual health.

Additionally, each one of us has God-given gifts and talents to contribute to the Body of Christ. Perhaps you’re an especially good listener, a skilled cook or one who enjoys singing in the choir. Maybe you love enter-

taining and hosting or simply want the opportunity to learn and grow alongside others. Every contribution, big or small, nourishes our Church family, strengthens relationships and helps us build spiritual “muscle” along the way.

Why Do We Need it?

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 reminds us that “God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”

Fellowship is an essential vitamin for our spiritual lives—it sustains us, encourages us and keeps us standing strong together. It strengthens the “bones” of the spiritual body and revitalizes each limb so that we can function

in harmony. And in tough times, it provides support to any part that may need an extra boost of encouragement.

Ways to Practice Fellowship

Just as there are many ways to nour-

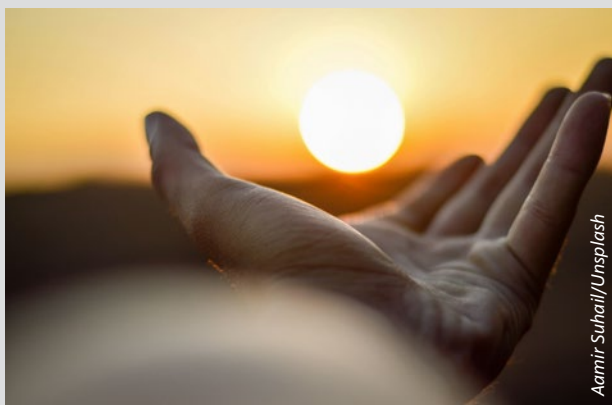
There are countless ways to cultivate fellowship.

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to “Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

The Feast of Tabernacles beautifully exemplifies the wonderful opportunity to reap the full benefits of fellowship in a short period. But it’s just as essential to continue to congregate and meet together in the weeks and months that follow, keeping that momentum and unity strong throughout the year.

In all seasons, let’s not neglect to take the essential vitamin of fellowship. **UN**

Light of Hope Helpline



If you feel like you’re facing challenges alone, please know that we’re here to help. We’d like to offer guidance and encouragement. You can contact the Light of Hope Helpline at (888) 241-6211 or email us at hope@ucg.org.

This confidential resource, provided by the United Church of God, connects individuals with licensed mental health professionals within the Church who are ready to offer support and help you find constructive, godly ways to address your challenges.

How You Can Help

The Light of Hope Team is looking for consultants to help us work with the brethren. They must have a Masters degree in a social service related field. If you would like to help, please contact the Light of Hope team and request to speak with Roy Fouch.

Phone: (888) 241-6211

Email: hope@ucg.org

Teens

Having respectful conversations about our faith with others is an important way we can live out our faith, and it is a discipline we should all try to master.



Young Adults

How can we find contentment, even when we've fallen short of the milestones we set for ourselves in life? The Bible says: follow the flags to find contentment.



Seniors

There are challenges for an older person. But getting old isn't the end. It is, in fact, a new venture that only the elderly can appreciate.



Singles

What kind of person do you want to marry someday? And what kind of person would that person want to marry?



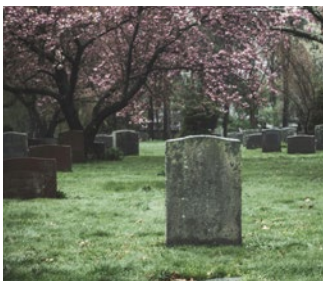
Married Couples

What we say—and how we say it—is a vital key in marriage, whether we consider what is said inside the home or what is said outside the home.



Widows/Widowers

How do you cope when a friend or family member dies? Let's look at four biblical passages that give real hope and comfort.



Long-Time Members

Is your congregation cold or welcoming? A spiritual stumbling block or a warm place to grow? You can make a difference!



New Members

How can we go about the important task of studying the Bible? Here are some principles to help you get started.



Unbelieving Spouse

Are you overwhelmed with the sheer number of ways that a conflict in beliefs is affecting your family? Here are some principles that may help.



CHILDREN'S CORNER
Word Search—Stephen was Brave

Word Bank

Abraham

Persecute

Holy

Moses

Prophets

Spirit

Sanhedrin

Stephen

Stone

Wonders

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



Camp Benin

THE coastal town of Grand-Popo, Benin hosted our youth camp from July 27 to Aug. 3, 2025, bringing together 21 teenagers from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo under the theme “Building on the Foundation” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Local elder Pierre Ogoudele directed the camp alongside his wife Rose, with Werner Solórzano from the Home Office and two U.S. volunteers: Joanna Bradford and her son Bill Bradford. Days began at 6 a.m. with calisthenics, followed by a structured schedule that included morning interactive Bible studies, English classes and several rotating activities: volleyball, baseball, archery, swimming lessons, rugby and workshop sessions where participants made bracelets and keychains. Thursday and Friday featured competitions and skills testing across all sport activities.

Post-camp evaluation showed improvements in participants’ spiritual commit-

ment and behavior. As Mr. Ogoudele noted in his follow-up report, the camp is “a powerful transformation tool for our youth,” since the structured program strengthens their relationship with God and builds lasting connections with like-minded teens from the region as they navigate their challenges as young people in West Africa.

The camp concluded Saturday evening with a campfire where there was dancing, singing and humor. All participants received medals and merit certificates were awarded to those who excelled in the various sports competitions.

This youth camp provides regional teenagers a place to gather, develop skills and grow in their faith. The local team's commitment and the program's impact make this an important investment in West African youth.

Werner Solórzano



Camp British Isles

FROM Aug. 4-10, 2025 camp was, for a second year, held at a picturesque venue in West Sussex, with views of the South Downs. Attendees joined us from Europe and the United States. Support from parents, grandparents and other volunteers all contributed to a wonderful environment and successful camp for our 47 campers (aged 4-18).

We were blessed with beautiful weather again this year. As we arrived on the first day, the rain subsided and a rainbow appeared, ending in our grounds. The days were dry and mainly sunny and the nights were well lit by a magnificent moon, particularly enjoyed at our Friday night hymn sing-a-long by the campfire and by those sleeping under canvas.

Activities at camp made use of the onsite field and sports center and included team building, rounders, volleyball, football and ultimate frisbee. A helpful and popular new class this year was self-defense. There was also onsite bubble football in giant zorbs, Picasso-style self-portraits and music classes with ukuleles and boom-whacker sound tubes. In addition, optional activities such as morning runs, craft activities and a Sabbath walk were offered. For our off-site activities, we were able to go to nearby Horsham Park for a picnic lunch after a swim at the local pool. We also went to Tilgate Park for a day of swinging through the trees at Go Ape. In the evenings and during free time, the onsite mini golf and games room was well used. We also enjoyed campfires, an evening quiz, talent show and karaoke evening.

Each day at camp, we gathered for “Thought of the Day,” which this year focused

on building a strong foundation of faith and delving deeper into each of the Ten Commandments. Whole-camp interactive sessions were followed up with age-appropriate focused discussions. On the Sabbath, we were pleased to welcome some additional guests. There were two youth-focused split sermons and we were treated to two pieces of special music from our young people: a keyboard solo and piece from the newly-formed camp ukulele band.

A big thank you to all of the campers who came this year, each of whom is special and valued and adds to camp, just by being there. We also thank all the adults, who helped by running or supporting onsite activities, driving to offsite activities, cleaning, vacuuming, talking with and encouraging one another. Our youth leaders are very important to camp; these are young adults closer in age to our campers than most of the volunteers, who support the campers in participating in their activities. It's a role that we hope many of our older campers may like to return to camp to fulfill as they graduate from being campers themselves. Even after full days at camp, our three youth leaders could be found volunteering for extra duties and their kindness and enthusiasm were appreciated by all. The kitchen team deserve a special mention for their tireless work in bringing our large group delicious and healthy meals each day, always with a wonderful salad bar and a smile on their faces! As always, ultimately, all thanks to God for His blessing and protection over this year's camp.

UYC British Isles Team



Camp Nigeria

WE are excited to share that the United Youth Camp (UYC) 2025 was wonderful and successful at Agaja Beach—our cherished camp home for over a decade!

Agaja Beach is a breathtaking location, standing on a narrow strip of land embraced on one side by the mighty Atlantic Ocean and on the other by the calm Badagry creeks. The scenery alone makes camp unforgettable. The sunsets there paint the sky in golden hues, while the mornings bring a soft warmth that inspires joy, fellowship and gratitude to God. It truly is a friendly, lovely place for building lasting memories.

This year's theme, “Building on the Foundation” (1 Corinthians 3:11), was already alive in the hearts of the 44 campers and 20 staff. From the first day, everyone threw themselves wholeheartedly into the experience, eager to grow spiritually, make new

friendships and enjoy the blessings of God's creation together.

The array of activities kept camp vibrant and full of life—from Christian living classes and team challenges to sports, swimming, campfires, volleyball, archery, chess, dancing and craft class. The balance of fun, hard work and learning made the experience deeply rewarding. Campers did not just have fun—they were encouraged to grow in character, discipline and the joy of godly living.

We also want to express our heartfelt thanks to the home office for their love, prayers and consistent support. Your encouragement continues to enrich the lives of the youth here in Nigeria, helping us nurture future leaders who will stand firmly on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

UYC Nigeria Team



Camp Zambia

IN Zambia, the week of August 17, two United Youth Camps sessions were held concurrently, 250 miles apart in Verino and Mufulira. Camp can easily be described as joyful and fun working under the theme, “Building on the Foundation” (1 Corinthians 3:11). This theme is based on the seven elements of “The Zone.”

In Mufulira there were 79 campers aged 13–20 years, with 19 serving on staff. In Verino there were 48 campers and 28 staff. The week was filled with godly life lessons, such as Family Life and Moral Conduct.

Highlights of Verino camp

Jacob Chipembele reports: “Daily Christian living programs were delivered by pastors Filius Jere and Luke Banda. Sabbath was Youth Day, where youths led hymns and gave the sermonette.

“The other programs given by staff members were as follows: arts and crafts, business class, gardening, medication adherence, being rooted in class, dental talk, fish farming, public speaking, baking and music.”

Highlights of the Mufulira camp

Rodrick Epomba reports: “Moral Conduct class equipped youth with ethical principles that guide a person's behavior and actions. This encompasses how we interact with others and make decisions based on what is considered right and wrong—adhering to good behavior, fairness, honesty and virtue—constantly doing what is right and striving to be the best version of oneself.

“Family Life classes reminded the youths how to communicate, show respect and give empathy, and the importance of support and love within the family unit.

“Outing day is always the most talked about, as it seems to be a special and fun day with new and special activities different from the usual camp activities. It was made up of swimming, volleyball, soccer and a boat cruise. Camp is always competitive with groups and individuals trying to do their level best by memorizing memory verses and other important lessons.”

UYC Zambia Team



BEYOND TODAY

- Nov. 9-15

The Coming Prophetic Storm
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*
- Nov. 16-22

Has God Given Up On America?
Presented by Darris McNeely
Literature offered: *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*
- Nov. 23-29

Is Satan Real?
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *Is There Really a Devil?*
- Nov. 30-
Dec. 6

What Motivates Your Citizenship?
Presented by Gary Petty
Literature offered: *Why Were You Born?*
- Dec. 7-13

Hope in a Troubled World / Living an Abundant Life
Presented by Darris McNeely
Literature offered: *Christ's Reign on Earth: What It Will Be Like/ Making Life Work*
- Dec. 14-20

When Christianity Becomes Anti-God—Part 1 and Part 2
Presented by Gary Petty
Literature offered: *Why Were You Born? / Jesus Christ: The Real Story*
- Dec. 21-27

Quitting Christmas
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?*
- Dec. 21-27

Being Saved Isn't What You Think / The Truth About Grace
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *What Does the Bible Teach About Grace?*



United News
NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Milford, Ohio, and at
additional mailing offices

BY THE NUMBERS

13,577

2025 attendance in person at UCG Feast sites.

Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Family and Prom Weekend



Please save the date for the annual Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Family and Prom Weekend! This event is scheduled for Friday, March 20 through Sunday, March 22, 2026.

Biblical Feast Tour of Turkey 2026



We are excited to announce a festival tour for 2026 in Turkey. The 9-night program will span the entire Feast of Tabernacles with six of the nine nights being at an all-inclusive resort along the Icarian/Aegean Sea. However, attendees can start out with a pre-Feast tour of the ancient capital of Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) and then the Feast begins at Izmir (ancient Smyrna). It continues on to five of the seven Churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. This promises to be biblically educational and a highlight Feast. Hotel accommodations and food will not disappoint. A post-Feast optional tour of Cappadocia will also be available.

This will be an educational Feast focusing on biblical geography, the travels of Paul, early Christian congregations, and the life and culture of the early Church, and of course the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Turkey is at times referred to as “the Other Holy Land,” and with good reason—many of the events recorded in the book of Acts took place in Turkey, and many of the books of the New Testament were written from or to individuals or congregations here.

To get the most out of our time, church services will be in the mornings after which we will be touring the sites themselves.

Information: Detailed itinerary, pricing, terms and registration have been made available through our handling agent Travel Gallery Inc. at: travelgallery.com/ucg-2026-turkey. You can call **1-800-858-6999** to have information mailed to you.

Charles Melear, Festival Coordinator
(970) 484-5857 or Festival@ucg.org