

February 9, 2018



Last week we had a very busy Sabbath in Nashville. After Sabbath services many brethren came downstairs to watch the baptism of Normal Espinoza. It is always exciting to welcome a new member into the congregation. After the baptism we had a party to welcome Bianca Corsi, the new family addition to the Gus and Kristin Corsi family, to the congregation. Everyone enjoyed ending the Sabbath with snacks and fellowship. Once the Sabbath was over, the Spokesman Club was able to have their first meeting in a while.

On January 20 many members of the Nashville congregation met downstairs after services to honor



Paul and Willa Bean for 50 years of marriage. In a society where marriage is not seen as a sacred vow with God, it is increasingly rare to find a couple that stays together for half a century. The Beans are a fine example of people who have lived by their vows.

Please note: Tomorrow is another big day for the Nashville congregation. The second Sabbath of the month is when we have a shorter service followed by a Bible study. After the Bible study a potluck and social is scheduled. The potluck is a Fiesta/Mexican food potluck. Please plan to bring some of your favorite fiesta/Mexican food dishes. Need ideas? Taco meat, refried beans, chips, tortilla shells, Mexican casserole dishes, seasoned chicken, shredded lettuce and tomatoes are just a few examples of items that would be great! Also, we could use extra toppings such as sour cream, salsa, cheese, etc. After dinner, please plan to stay for our

family costume dance (costumes not required). Please keep costumes modest and family friendly. Desserts always welcome and sweet and unsweet tea would be great! Water and lemonade provided.

Dickson Bible Study is this Wednesday night. We will begin a series on 1 Corinthians.

Proverbs 31 Women's Study

The Proverbs 31 Women's Study is this Sunday, February 11, at 10:00 am at the home of Fred Kellers. We missed last month due to inclement weather so it will be good to get back into the subject. Remember the assignment from the last study: Do a study on God's promises and faithfulness. Come prepared to shares some of your discoveries.

Nashville/Murfreesboro Prom

The Nashville and Murfreesboro congregations cordially invite all teens and young adults to the United Church of God Southeast Regional Formal!

This year's event will be held at the Baird Chapel of Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN on March 24 with Senior presentations followed by a catered dinner starting at 6pm and the dance from 7:30pm to midnight.

REGISTRATION

The deadline to register is MARCH 9th, 2018. The fee is \$25 per person, which includes catered dinner and dance with snacks and drinks. **WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT PAYMENT AT DOOR. ALL ATTENDEES MUST PAY BY THE DEADLINE.** Be sure to mail your registration form with your check. This form is made available through the Facebook group under the files tab: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501814639841015/files>

Please make checks out to United Church of God - Tennessee. You can mail your payment to Ronnee Ellithorpe, 100 Meadow Brook Lane White House, TN 37188. For questions about registration, please email UCGsoutheastprom@gmail.com OR call/text Ronnee Ellithorpe at 615-498-2251.

SABBATH SERVICES

Sabbath services will be held at Cumberland University in the Baird Chapel (same location as the dinner and dance). Time is 2:30pm. If you are interested in performing special music at services, please contact UCGsoutheastprom@gmail.com or Ronnee Ellithorpe at 615-498-2251.

2018 SENIOR BIOS

Seniors need to submit this year's Senior Bio form along with your registration form. All of the seniors and their accomplishments will be recognized at Formal. The Senior Bio form is made available through the Facebook group under the files tab: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501814639841015/files>

PROM PHOTOS

We will have a silly photo booth and opportunities for formal photos to be taken free of charge! All photos will be uploaded to the UCG Southeast Regional Formal Facebook group following the event.

DIRECTIONS

The address for Baird Chapel at Cumberland University is 1 Cumberland Square, Lebanon, Tennessee 37087.

From Nashville:

Take I-40 East to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn Left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is on right.

From Knoxville:

Take I-40 West to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn Left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is on right.

From Chattanooga:

Take I-24 West to I-840 East (Lebanon, Knoxville). Continue on I-840 East until it meets I-40. Take I-40 East to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is inn right. (nashville.ucg.org)

ENews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 312

February 8, 2018

Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

2018 Feast Coordinator Conference

The annual Feast Coordinator Conference convened on February 6 and 7, using a combined web conference format, including additional training for newer coordinators live at the home office. Additionally, 10 home office staff contributed to presentations, for a total of 29 involved in the conference.



Linda Merrick, managing editor of internal publications, assigns articles to coordinators for the Festival brochure.

The newer coordinators and trainees were brought into the home office for orientation and additional review of procedures and policies. Face-to-face interaction has many advantages, and the interaction was very beneficial.

After the initial morning of training for the newer coordinators ended, all of our coordinators joined a web conference. I opened the conference and then a detailed analysis of Feast of Tabernacles planning began.

This year each coordinator is to train a designated assistant coordinator to create a larger pool of additional Feast coordinators for future years. A number of updates to the Festival Coordinator Manual will be implemented. Online registration and individual Feast websites will be upgraded to assist with getting information to both the coordinator and members.

A clarification will be made regarding using church approved housing versus searching and finding personal housing. This will be outlined in the Festival Planning Brochure. There will be two speaker teleconferences for each site prior to the Feast to improve communication and the messages at the Feast.

Other topics covered were special music, budgets, youth education and seminars, membership surveys, and Church employee ministerial transfers.

Beyond Today

Also, this was what we call "BT Week" when we record new *Beyond Today* television programs. On Wednesday, three programs were recorded which were "God's Enduring Love for Israel" by Darris McNeely, "Shocking Teachings of Jesus: The Dead Will Live Again!" by Steve Myers and "Pentecost: Your Need for the Holy Spirit" by Gary Petty. This brings the total number of programs recorded to date to 351.

In addition, Rick Shabi, Operation Manager for Finance, came from Florida to help finalize our projected 2018-2019 budget for all operations for the coming fiscal year. We are very pleased with the resources that God has given His Church and discussed in detail how to allocate funding for everything we do around the world. This will be further discussed by the Council of Elders during their meeting in East Texas at the end of this month before its presentation to the General Conference of Elders.

Return from South America

Bev and I returned just over a week ago from Argentina. We are still reflecting on the wonderful experience of spending three days with a Sabbath and Holy Day-keeping group that has sought us out to pastor them. Our ministry in Chile has been traveling there regularly since October 2015 to provide pastoral services.

I have described in detail our meetings and impressions on my TravelArk blog which you can access at <http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog/victorkubik/22>. I describe exactly where these people came from and their association and proposed future with the United Church of God. They already call themselves the United Church of God. I include many photos of the people we met and what we did.



Mario Seiglie and Victor Kubik give their sermons on Radio Atalaya in Misiones, Argentina.

One highlight was when Mario Seiglie and I spoke on their radio station a week ago Saturday night. Esteban Freiburger, one of the members owns this non-profit FM radio station called Radio Atalaya at 100.1 on the dial. He continually plays sermons by our Spanish-speaking ministers as well as Christian music through the day. He hosts a three-hour nightly program about the beliefs of the United Church of God. Mario and I gave shortened versions of the sermons that we delivered earlier in the day. Our time was divided into 15 minute sections with music played in between. I found this free format with ample time to express thoughts to be very refreshing and liberating as a speaker.

Making a Marriage Great

While visiting our brethren in Argentina, my wife Bev and I celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. With more than three and a half decades together, Bev and I have been through a lot. These include happy times as well as trying times.

At a Thanksgiving gathering a few years ago, one of my brothers produced a very old home movie that included scenes of a younger Bev and me. Even though there was no soundtrack from this old movie, laughter and humor was obvious. I wonder today what Bev and I would have thought if we knew what was in front of us back then. Since the time when that video was taken, we've served together in multiple congregations, had heartfelt times when we had to temporarily say goodbye to friends who had reached the end of life, and had more joyous times when we welcomed new members to the body of Christ. Like many others in the ministry, we've stayed up all night numerous times and have traveled together for multiple thousands of miles in the service of the church.

Bev and I have served together in Africa and Eastern Europe through church projects as well as LifeNets. We have seen firsthand the aftermath of radioactive horror in the Ukraine, helped with establishment of a children's rehabilitation center in Europe, made friends (actually more of a truce) with very large spiders in Africa, encouraged tardy workers for building projects in remote areas, and much more.

In short, we've been blessed with a rich, fulfilling and happy marriage. And we're certainly not finished yet!

Here's my point: when we were married some 36 years ago, we took our marriage vows with our eyes wide open. We knew what we were committing ourselves to. We knew, like other couples, that there would be great times, but that there would also be times when things might be tense and uneasy. I'm by no means boasting, because I'm certainly not perfect. But from personal experience--including in my own marriage, in helping many couples counsel for marriage, and in working with couples whose marriages have been in trouble--I believe that success in marriage comes from some core principles. Allow me to share a few with you:

Mutual submission and respect in love. When they are courting and first married, many couples idolize each other. No one could be more perfect, they believe. Courting and newly married couples do everything together and generally share everything in common.

Then reality sets in.

A small misunderstanding may inadvertently grow to something much bigger. A spat or fight may ensue. Doubts rise. How did this happen? This is a point of personal growth, where couples can either grow together more deeply in love, or they can start to grow apart if differences are not resolved. Here's a key: successful marriages--the kind that endure internal and external storms--are grounded in mutual respect. As Paul wrote, successful couples have a practice of "submitting to one another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21). The Bible is plain in how the husband has a leadership position in a marriage. But the Bible is also plain about a husband's obligation to actively love his wife. As Paul sums up, "each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (Ephesians 5:33, New Living

Translation). That means that neither the husband or the wife ever do *anything* intentionally to harm the other, including any form of abuse.

Successful marriages recognize physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions. Men and women are quite different in their mental and emotional makeup. These differences are God-given. Understanding and appreciating them helps us deepen our human experience and know better what God is like. Successful marriages feature a lot of listening by both the husband and wife. And they feature honest and open communication, particularly when one doesn't think that the other understands a key point. When conflict arises, believing the best and forgiving one another can restore the relationship.

Continued and deepening physical and emotional intimacy represent key hallmarks to successful marriages. We in the church--especially--should know that this sacred intimacy represents one of the key points of attack by our spiritual adversaries. The world we live in hammers us incessantly with enticing messages of sexual bravado and forbidden pleasures. Because of our human nature, we must understand how vulnerable we can be to this awful temptation. Sexual adventure is artificially made to look great outside of marriage, even harmless. If one falls for this falsehood, they can be certain that a terrible bill will come due for illicit behavior.

To be successful, we must realize--from the first day onwards--that marriage represents a sacred covenant with God. As we stand before the minister, the marriage ceremony is one of the few times that a vow made to each other and to God is both appropriate and required. Once complete, the couple emerges from the ceremony in a dramatically different state. As we read in Malachi, "Did he [God] not make them one, with a portion of the [Holy] Spirit in their union?" (Malachi 2:15, English Standard Version). The state of a married couple reflects the close and powerful relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church.

Successful marriages take work. Once the intoxicating days of courtship and early marriage wear on, couples need to be on guard that they don't neglect their mate and their marriage. Building love and deepening a marriage takes time, but the positive rewards are incredible. One can never take the other for granted. Marriage produces an environment where we can grow together and grow spiritually to be more in tune with God's will. Little things count, like recognizing your mate for a task well done, or leaving little notes of affection and remembering key dates and events, showing gratitude, work wonders. A regular "date"--minus kids or others where a couple can focus on each other without distraction--can revive and sustain a marriage.

Keep God and Jesus Christ the focus and bedrock of your marriage and look forward to years of fulfilling fun and experiences together. Make your marriage great!

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Pastoral Transfers

Mr. Earl Roemer, pastor of the United Church of God congregations in Anchorage and Soldotna, Alaska, will retire this summer, after 52 years of ministerial employment. Mr. Roemer will continue to serve as International Senior Pastor for Hong Kong.

This summer, **Mr. David Dobson**, and his wife, Denise, will transfer from Huntsville, Alabama, to Alaska, where he will pastor the Anchorage and Soldotna congregations, as well as continuing to serve as International Senior Pastor for the Philippines.

After Mr. Dobson's transfer, **Mr. Gary Beam**, and his wife, Rhonda, will pastor the congregation in Huntsville (Alabama), in addition to his current assignment of Birmingham (Alabama), and Tupelo (Mississippi).

This spring, **Mr. Rick Beam** and his wife, Angela, will transfer from Paducah, Kentucky, to Rome, Georgia. Mr. Beam will pastor the congregations in Rome (Georgia), Chattanooga (Tennessee), and Gadsden (Alabama).

Mr. Beam will replace **Mr. Paul Burnes**, who has been serving as the interim pastor for the Rome congregation, with his wife, Dana, for the past year.

After Rick Beam's transfer, **Mr. Doug Collison** and his wife, Dianne, will pastor the congregations in Paducah (Kentucky), Cape Girardeau (Missouri), Henderson (Kentucky) and Poplar Bluff (Missouri). Mr. Collison has been serving as an assistant pastor for those congregations alongside Mr. Beam for the past year.