



June 1, 2018

Autumn Haggard was baptized on Monday and Marissa Fooshe from the Nashville congregation is to be baptized Sabbath after services. It is encouraging to see people who grew up in the church respond to God's calling. All of us parents and grandparents need to remember that children of members are in a special relationship with God.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians about how Christians married to unbelievers should remain married. He then makes this important statement, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy" (1 Corinthians 7:14).

What does Paul mean by this? In other places he writes about how we are justified by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and sanctified by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Obviously, an unbeliever doesn't have the indwelling of God's Spirit. What Paul is saying is that an unbelieving mate has a special relationship with God because of their relationship with someone who has His Spirit.

This also applies to our children. They have been given a special grace to interact with God. God opens a door so that they have access to Him in prayer and His Spirit will guide them if they respond. It is important that we remind children and teenagers that they are special to God. He is active in their lives and wants them to respond to His calling.

We'll be having finger foods, desserts and drinks after Marissa's baptism. Please bring something to share.

Congratulations to Nick Cimino and Cheyenne Kellers who were married on Sunday. It was a wonderful ceremony.

I'll be at the Home Office this week teaching ABC Continuing Education Classes and producing Beyond Today Programs. This will be our last recordings until the completion of the new studio.

The Proverbs 31 Women's Study is on June 10 at 10:00 am.

#### Updating Member Files

It has been over a year since we've updated the complete member files for Nashville, Murfreesboro and Jackson. We need to update everyone's home address, telephone number and email address for the local church files. If there has been any change in your information over the past year, or if you are new to the congregation, please either email me your information ([gcpetty@yahoo.com](mailto:gcpetty@yahoo.com)) or fill out a 3x5 card at the information table and give it to me or my wife. We thank you for your help.

## **eNews from Ministerial and Member Services**

Issue 327

May 31, 2018

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Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

Lena VanAusdle, wife of our Associate Pastor for New York City, Lewis VanAusdle, is visiting Cincinnati this week. She manages our Good Works program which includes Youth Corps. Shortly, we will be considering a number of Good Works grant proposals. Today was the last day to submit a proposal. The Good Works advisory committee will evaluate, prioritize and decide which projects to approve. You can see the status of current projects on our Good Works website that is managed by Lena at <https://www.ucg.org/members/outreach/good-works>

We hope to have more direct news about Good Works for pastors to talk about in their congregations. It is our hope, too, to make some presentations at summer camps and the Feast of Tabernacles not only about Good Works, but also Youth Corps.



Brennan and Michala Hilgen

Speaking of young adults, I would like to comment about the Malawi mission that Brennan and Michala Hilgen are on. They have lived in Lilongwe, Malawi, for almost a year and a half and have taken over some of the VanAusdles' duties now that they have been reassigned to serve in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. The Hilgens have taken on an initiative to secure land for a farm and Feast site. Michala writes an exciting blog describing what they are doing. Their most recent post is May 24, 2018, and can be found at <https://becomingmzungus.wordpress.com/2018/05/24/were-landowners/>. It is entertaining, as well as serious, about their contribution. I applaud their conviction, dedication, and determination in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Yesterday, we held a U.S. regional pastor video conference in which we discussed several ways in which Ministerial and Member Services can better work with the needs of our congregations and ministry. The

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ministry is now more directly overseen by the regional pastors. We hope to deepen that relationship by relevant and closer contact between MMS, the ministry and the brethren.

### Some Assembly Required

When God started working with the nation of Israel, He called them a "congregation in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38).

In the book of Leviticus, God listed the weekly and annual Sabbaths. Each one of them is linked to a holy and commanded assembly: "Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, **a holy convocation**. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of the Lord, **holy convocations** which you shall proclaim at their appointed times" (Leviticus 23:3-4, emphasis added throughout).

And the Apostle Paul also emphasized coming together in Hebrews 10:23-25: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us 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" (Hebrews 10:23-25).

So, a vital part of setting aside time for God is to make certain that we congregate together on the Sabbath/Holy Days. During this time, we "stir up love and good works" and "exhort" one another. It's a time to be spiritually fed through the messages given, and it also provides us an opportunity to nurture relationships with one another!

One challenge we all face, in our technologically advanced world, is that it has become increasingly easier for us to miss out on "face to face" conversations and interactions! Much of our communication with one another is through e-mail, text messages, "tweets" and the like. Even when it comes to church services, we may feel that we don't have to go to the assemblage of brethren. They can come to us via the Internet. While this may be seen as a convenience, there is a huge downside. What are we missing out on?

When we meet on the Sabbath, it is for more than just being fed and getting all we can for ourselves. **It's a time to give of ourselves and to be there for others.** It's a time to show love, to encourage and comfort one another, to stir each other up to good works and strive to become better Christians. All of this is best done in person! Singing together makes us feel together. Online we may just hear the music, but usually, we don't sing along with gusto. It is just not the same as being there!

When you attend church services, **do you consider what you can bring with you to leave behind?** Who will you impact?

When we come to church services, we need to think about who we can lift up and how we can bring them joy. For example, do we think about those with limited mobility who may come with canes, walkers, or sit in wheelchairs? They may ache for someone to come and pay attention to them. Make a point to visit with these people and take time to listen to what they have to say. Don't do all the talking--hear them out. They may have very few people who will do that and one way we can show love to our brethren is to be thoughtful to them. This is something we miss out on if we're not there in person. We can't do this online.

Our church community needs everyone to come together. When we walk into services, we all need to make it a point to talk to people of various ages--from young to old! Ask ourselves: "What can we do to comfort, sympathize, inform, support and show genuine love for somebody?" Talk to the pastor. Get to know him better

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and ask him about his sermons. No doubt, he is a man who does far more than just speak!

God has a purpose for people meeting together and sharing in worship of Him. Have you been missing church services when you could have been there? I would encourage each of us to remember that being together at church services gives us encouragement, identity, support, and a feeling of giving to others. Our absence hurts the positive and constructive spirit that our congregations could benefit from. It also hurts us, because we miss out on a weekly opportunity to put God's Word into action through fellowship with one another. Brethren, let's come together weekly to "stir up love and good works"!

Remember, to be a complete Christian, some assembly is required.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

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## Kilauea eruption and our brethren in Hawaii

A number of people have asked about how our brethren in Hawaii are faring in light of the recent eruption of Kilauea on the Big Island of Hawaii.

My wife and I recently visited all of our brethren there on the Pentecost weekend, and they are doing fine. The biggest problem is the *vog*, the volcanic gases and sulfur emitted from the volcanic eruptions. This can float over to Oahu and Maui if the winds are blowing that way. We experienced a thick vog in the Kona area the first day we were there.

We went with Sherry Ellis over toward the affected area near Hilo, and segments of the highway were cracked due to earthquake activity. When we arrived in the Pāhoa area you could see the giant column of smoke and ash blowing high into the atmosphere. You could smell and taste the air. We were forced to turn around and leave; no one was allowed past a check point where news people, police, and military personnel were staged for the emergency situation.

The brethren who at one time lived in neighborhoods where the lava has burned and destroyed many homes thankfully sold their homes in recent years and moved to the mainland. We do not know whether a couple of those homes in the Leilani Estates are still standing, but it has been reported that many homes have been overrun with lava. People are not allowed in that area, as it is just too dangerous.

Brad and Sherry Ellis live in the Kona area on the opposite side of the island where the eruption is taking place. We have two others associated with the church who live closer to the affected area, but they are not impacted to any great extent.

Thank you for thinking of them and praying for their protection.

-- Jim Tuck, pastor, Hawaii

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## North Central Region Update

The North Central Region includes all or most of eight states plus "corners" of two other states. Currently, 11 pastors, 29 local church elders and 1 ministerial trainee serve the 26 churches and 3 regular outlying Bible Study groups in the region. Many additional trained and experienced speakers share the responsibilities of feeding the flock. God has blessed us, but there is an ongoing need for more trained leaders.

A "changing of the guard" is underway in UCG, as we anticipate several retirements in the next few years. One of our highest priorities is the training of new ministers. Ken Graham, pastor of the Bloomington and Canton, Illinois, congregations, is training assistant pastor Nathan Ekama (ordained April 2017) as a church pastor. To the north in Wisconsin, assistant pastor Devin Schulz, now serving with Dan Dowd, pastor of the Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Wisconsin Dells congregations, was just ordained on the Day of Pentecost, and is also being trained as a church pastor. Vince Szymkowiak, pastor of the St. Louis and Troy, Illinois, congregations, is training Mr. Dave Wells for the ministry. And others are coming along. We have reason for great hope for future growth in the Church and ministry!

**Prayer updates:** The North Central Region ministry has had its trials with health this year. **Grace Arnold** (wife of pastor Nelson Arnold) is recuperating from surgery and complications. She was 12 days in ICU with her life hanging in the balance. With many prayers answered, she has now moved to a rehab center close to home. **Joy Jones** (wife of pastor David Jones) had her last chemotherapy treatment for this phase last week. Now she is building her strength back in preparation for surgery on June 12. This last treatment left her feeling depleted of energy, strength and will. She is courageously soldiering on for the sake of her husband and three children. Our prayers are needed and effective. Please remember both of these ladies.

### Summer activities are here!

Camp Pinecrest in Missouri is gearing up to run July 1-8. Go to <http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/camp-pinecrest> for information or contact Camp Director Gary Smith at Gary\_Smith@ucg.org. Camp Ironwood Preteen Camp runs from Sunday, July 15th through Wednesday, July 18 this year. Go to <http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/camp-ironwood> for applications and information quickly if you haven't already. Questions, please contact David and Jolinda Schreiber at david\_schreiber@ucg.org.



Camp Ironwood 2017

-- Mitchell Knapp, Regional Pastor

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## Inside United Podcast



Michelle Macedo sits down with Victor Kubik to discuss her year at Ambassador Bible College, her plans when she returns to Brazil, and more.

<http://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united/inside-united-podcast-episode-084>

Listen to past episodes or read the transcripts:

<http://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united>

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## May-June 2018 *Beyond Today* Magazine Sent to White House, Ambassadors and Organizations

This week we mailed a cover letter and a complimentary copy of the May-June 2018 issue of *Beyond Today* magazine to various government officials in the United States and Israel, and to a number of public and private organizations.

Recipients included the President of the United States and various of his senior advisors, the United States Ambassador to Israel, the Prime Minister of Israel, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, the Ambassador of Israel to the European Union and NATO, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom, the Consulate General of Israel in New York City, several U.S. Senators and House of Representative members and a number of public affairs and cultural foundations and other professional organizations in Israel and the United States.



Since the theme of the May-June 2018 issue of *Beyond Today* is "Israel at 70: The Amazing Story" we thought these individuals and organizations would be interested in seeing this issue of our magazine, which featured the



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following articles:

- Israel at 70: The Amazing Story
- Life in a Dangerous Neighborhood
- God's Enduring Love for Israel
- Israel's Amazing Accomplishments
- Jerusalem's Temple Mount: Center of Conflict
- Another Temple Mount Battle: Where was it Located?
- Who Are the Palestinians?
- Focus on the Middle East

In the cover letter we also explained that the *Beyond Today* magazine, television program and website presence are all sponsored by the United Church of God, *an International Association*. In addition we stated that our worldwide headquarters is located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and that we have offices in countries throughout the world.

Finally we mentioned that if they had questions or would like additional copies of the May-June 2018 issue of *Beyond Today* we would be glad to accommodate them.

Although we certainly don't know what the outcome of this effort might be, we do recognize that the gospel must go out and that we should take advantage of every available opportunity to accomplish that objective (Matthew 28:19-20). In addition, we know that as Isaiah 55:11 declares: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Thank you for your continued prayers and for your excellent, enduring support. We appreciate you greatly.

-- Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

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## **Job Opening - Media and Communications Services**

### **Proofreader and Copy Editor**

The United Church of God has announced an opening for a proofreader and copy editor.

This position entails the proofreading and editing of the Church's magazines, newspapers, newsletters, letters, blogs and other documents to detect and mark for correction any grammatical, typographical or compositional errors, and to ensure a consistency in the editorial style of the Church publications.

Essential duties and responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned:

- Review magazine and newsletter articles and other publications as required, examining for grammar, spelling and clarity and modifying as needed.
- Review magazine and newsletter articles and other publications for compliance with Church policies, doctrine, orientations and sensitivities and recommend appropriate changes.
- Verify accuracy of quotations and scriptures, making changes as required.
- Verify facts and figures, including mathematical calculations included in charts, lists and reports.

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- Suggest updates to the editorial stylebook utilized by editorial employees.

A bachelor's degree (B.A.) from a four-year college or university is required, plus one to two years related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Expert familiarity with the Microsoft Office Suite is required, and familiarity with the Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat and Illustrator) is a plus.

Strong language, logic and communication skills, and algebra/geometry level math skills are required. Those applying for consideration and invited for an interview must supply a portfolio of their work.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God. This position requires the candidate to work at the Church's Cincinnati office.

For more information about the position, please contact [human\\_resources@ucg.org](mailto:human_resources@ucg.org).

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## Youth Instruction Update

Pastors, congregation leaders, parents and members, the latest Family Study Guide, 10 Commandments Review, has been added to the Family Study Guides webpage (or here in the Dropbox).

Over the past two years we have been studying into each of God's Ten Commandments. This Family Study Guide is a final review of these vital lessons God gives on how to love God and love people. Additionally, within the Guide there are several activities that you may enjoy doing as a family. We hope that your family found value in the Ten Commandment Series Family Guides.

-- Randy and Kay Schreiber, Youth Instruction Coordinators

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## Youth Card Project 2018

You're invited to submit your original photography and artwork for this year's youth card fundraiser! The goal of this project is to create and sell greeting cards featuring artwork from brethren across the nation. Cards will be sold in local congregations and during the Feast of Tabernacles. Proceeds will go to the United Youth Camps (UYC) equipment fund to help directors furnish the best possible experience for campers.

For more information and to submit your artwork, visit: [youthcardproject.org](http://youthcardproject.org)

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