



# United Church of God an International Association

## eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 332  
July 5, 2018

### Regional Leadership Workshop - South Central - Aug. 5

We will hold our next regional Leadership Workshop in Big Sandy, Texas, on Sunday, August 5, 2018, for church members in the South Central region. Join us for presentations and open discussion with Darris McNeely, Steve Myers and Victor Kubik about how we can all serve in the Church. All members with a spirit of *service* are invited. This can include serious-minded older teens, young adults, adults and seniors of either gender.

There is no charge to attend the conference, which will include a lunch for all attendees. The last day to register is Friday, July 27. Those who would like to attend should sign up at the following event page, which contains all of the pertinent details:

<https://www.ucg.org/members/regional-leadership-workshop-big-sandy-tx>

-- Chris Rowland

### Inside United Podcast



Andrew Bergmann, a graduate of the 2018 ABC class, sits down with Victor Kubik and discusses his ABC experience from his decision to enroll to his graduation and plans moving forward.

<https://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united/inside-united-podcast-episode-088-andrew-bergmann>

Listen to past episodes or read the transcripts:  
<http://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united>

## Update from Camp Pinecrest

Pinecrest Camp launched its 23rd session at noon on Sunday, July 1, 2018.



Camp began with 124 campers and 67 staff members. Campers came from 27 states and the staff from 21. Pinecrest is enjoying its largest attendance in many years.



It is Wednesday as I write this, and the weather has been hot and humid, but everyone is enjoying the activities, the fellowship and good food.



Ahead of us, we have two activity days and a Sabbath rest. The final event of the week will be the Saturday night dance.

Sunday morning and the end of camp will come all too soon.

-- Gary Smith, camp director

## **Update from Camp Hye Sierra**

Camp Hye Sierra is a privately-owned facility built by Bob Mathias, two-time Olympic gold medalist. The camp offers a fantastic location perched high in the Sierra Mountains with towering trees. The campers can get away from the world and come together as a family of like minds and values to have fun, be challenged, try new things, and grow in understanding of God and His way in the "zone."



The camp has made improvements with a nicer paved road leading into the camp making a smooth trip from the main highway. The weather has been nearly perfect with temperatures in the moderate range during the day and crisp temperatures in the high 50s in the night making a warm blanket necessary for comfort.

On Sunday, all the campers arrived to our welcoming staff. After getting settled into their dorms, all gathered at the dining hall to have a nourishing dinner prepared by our volunteer kitchen staff. This year Tina Slocum is the lead in the kitchen and her team has enthusiastically served to provide delicious meals for the campers and staff members. Our kitchen staff has one of the most difficult jobs because they begin working on meals early and get off late.

On Sunday evening, we had a rousing Novelty Olympics activity coordinated by Assistant Camp Director, Ben Light. There was so much excitement and a whole lot of fun as we got to know one another better.

The theme of "God's Vision for You" has inspired us to push forward to the Kingdom of God with more dedication. Each day has encouraged campers to begin their story of obedience and submission to our Father in heaven and develop a close personal relationship with God. Each Christian Living class builds on that overall theme.



A dance took place by the camp lake in our main pavilion. It was a smashing success with a lot of fun! Also, by the lake Camp Hye Sierra has a big 4th of July picnic with the traditional grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings.

It is not uncommon at Hye Sierra to see the Sierra mountain wildlife. During one of the staff meetings for our counselors a doe could be seen grazing nearby. One of our Australian staff members had never seen a deer, and his attention was naturally drawn to the special treat of nature. On Tuesday morning my wife and I saw a young doe eating right outside our cabin, and on one occasion we saw a deer grazing in the archery area. Of course, during archery class when the arrows were flying the deer was nowhere to be found.




One of the most unique activities at Hye Sierra is the opportunity to see the giant sequoias at the Sequoia National Forest in the beautiful Kings Canyon area. Those staff and campers who had not seen these giant miracles of nature were afforded the opportunity to see them. Our Ambassador Bible College coordinator, Dr. Frank Dunkle and his wife, Sue, who serve on the staff, and their son were awed to view these gargantuan trees.

All activities at the camp, such as speedway, kickball, archery, basketball, capture the flag, bubble balls, volleyball, kayak water polo, the challenge course, and fishing have gone well.

Many come back to Camp Hye Sierra each year to enjoy this special place in nature far from the stresses of city life. Please make your plans to join us next year!

-- Jim Tuck, camp director

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