



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 344
October 11, 2018

Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

From reports that I've received so far, the 2018 Feast of Tabernacles was indeed a joyous event observed by the Church with rejoicing and the definite purpose of learning to fear our God.

You, no doubt, have a great story to tell about your Feast where you kept it.

Beverly and I were in Panama City Beach, Florida, which was hit just days ago by Hurricane Michael. It made landfall at Mexico Beach which is just east of Panama City Beach. Pastor Scott Hoefker has contacted the members in the area and has provided a report below. We were so thankful that the weather during the Feast of Tabernacles was beautiful. You can see a report about the storm's effect on Panama City Beach in this newsclip at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/weather/panama-city-weather-brunt-hurricane-michael-s-destructive-force-n918756>.

I'd like to make a note about the effect that our brethren at the Feast had on the Panama City Beach community. Many of our people are shuttled by trams from their lodging to the auditorium. One of the tram drivers was told that I was the president of the United Church of God. He drove up to me and said he wanted to say something about our people. He's been working with various groups for the past five years who come for meetings in Panama City Beach. He said that he's never seen a group of people that has shown the kind of courtesy and kindness that the people of the United Church of God do. The behavior of our people was extraordinary not only among ourselves but towards others, as well. He wanted us to know that. This unsolicited endorsement of our brethren's conveyance of light was most heartwarming. Our Feastgoers who meet around the world do attract attention because of the way we conduct ourselves and treat one another. I invited our driver to services a few times in seeing him shuttling people, but he said that he was on duty at those times.

Sri Lanka and India

Beverly and I are traveling in the countries of Sri Lanka and India where we have congregations and scattered brethren. We are with Senior Pastor David Schreiber and his wife, Jolinda. He has been asking me for three years to make a journey to this part of the world. We not only met for church services, we also conducted four *Beyond Today* seminars. One was in Sri Lanka and three in India.

The Colombo, Sri Lanka, congregation is quite vibrant and warmly expressive. On Friday night, October 5, we had a get together with 30 at one of the brethren's homes. On the Sabbath, we had services followed by *Beyond Today* presentations by David Schreiber and myself.



Beyond Today seminar attendees in Vijayawada, India.

From there we flew to India, first to Vijayawada and then to Visakhapatnam. Then drove to the village of Anakapalle outside of Visakhapatnam. We held *Beyond Today* seminars in all three places with attendances of 55, 54 and 55, respectively.

In Anakapalle we held a question and answer session after the *Beyond Today* seminar. A good number of the attendees were pastors of Sabbath and Sunday-keeping churches. Our *BT* conference was actually also billed as a Pastors and Leaders Conference because of the number of other pastors who came to the event.



Question and answer session in Anakapalle, India.

In the question and answer session the main question addressed the seventh day Sabbath. Several there were introduced to this topic recently and were beginning to rethink the biblical Sabbath day. They were very interested to hear of the scriptural support for the seventh day Sabbath presented by David Schreiber and myself.

In Visakhapatnam, we visited former ABC student Ezekiel Polinati. I did a podcast with him in which he described his life's story and conversion. The *Beyond Today* seminar was held on Ezekiel's property, at a church hall where his father preached.

I have been writing about this trip in detail with many photos at <http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog/victorkubik/24>.

I want to take this opportunity to express how much we appreciate the work that David and Jolinda Schreiber have done in service to God in Sri Lanka and India. For eight years they have faithfully cared for these people. It is interesting to watch them work together and see how they implement the varied duties ranging from caring for the congregations, writing a comprehensive weekly newsletter, organizing the Feast of Tabernacles, conducting *Beyond Today* seminars and much more! They have traveled to this area 14 times. As we're traveling together, I liken their work to what the Apostle Paul did in caring for the churches and preaching to the public in an environment that is not easy. There are so many things that could go wrong with arrangements and health.

Another person I want to recognize is elder Ken Murray and his wife, Ruth, who live in Australia. He has made numerous visits and has established and shored up brethren in both Sri Lanka and India. He has traveled completely at his own expense and has expended a tremendous amount of energy in serving these people. In this huge area of MILLIONS of people, mustard seeds have been planted that are growing. But, it takes planting and watering. It was awesome to see this vitality and to see the growth. Beverly and I have stood in awe of what we are witnessing.

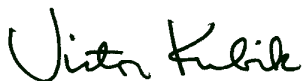
At the time of this writing we are in Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), on our way to the state of Mizoram where we'll be meeting with the final group on this trip. We have been delayed on our flight because of Cyclone Titli that is headed right for Calcutta at the time of this writing.

The group in Mizoram calls themselves the United Church of God - Mizoram. One of their elders, P.C. Lalvuana, made contact with us back in 1997 when he found our beliefs were remarkably similar to their own. Within the last few years they have adopted our fundamental beliefs. They have wanted a closer relationship with us and have always treated our visitors with the greatest respect. They requested permission to publish and distribute our literature in their own language of Mizo, at their own expense. This permission was granted by the Council of Elders in August 2017. They are self-sufficient and have not asked for any financial help from us over the years. We'll be there for the coming Sabbath of October 13 and perhaps another meeting on the day or two following. We will return to the United States on Wednesday, October 17.

On this visit, the four of us are grateful for what God is doing the lives of people. We are thankful that a mustard seed of the Kingdom of God is planted that will grow into a tree. We are thankful that the coming Kingdom of God will bring joy to this earth. Coming here just after the Feast of Tabernacles has reinforced that vision for us.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

Hurricane Michael Update

From Scott Hoefker:

Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach on the Florida Panhandle as a Category 4 storm early Wednesday afternoon. Maximum sustained winds of 145 mph have been recorded in the storm's eye wall. It is the first Category 4 storm in recorded history to make landfall in the northeast Gulf Coast. It is still too early to tell what the final outcome of the hurricane will be with our brethren and property damage. It seems that all members are safe, but I can't reach some yet by landline or cell. So I don't know for sure. We must remember that so many people are suffering, in addition to our members.

I do know that several members cannot yet get back to their homes, and in the Panama City Beach area it appears some family members of brethren have lost their homes. There is widespread devastating damage. One manager of an O'Reilly's auto store in Navarre, Florida, conveyed to elder Skeets Mez this morning: "our store in PCB is gone...yes, gone, it's just not there anymore, nothing left!"

Interstate 10 is partially closed, and I've cancelled Sabbath services in DeFuniak Springs for this Sabbath, since it may not be possible for many to get to services. One member called me last evening to convey "their property was okay, but have no power, and trees are down all over the roadways, so they can go nowhere". Several members are without power, and will be for some time, and will likely lose all of the items in freezers and refrigerators... Your continued prayers are appreciated.

From Ken Martin:

Here is the latest update we have from our members in the Macon and Columbus, Georgia, areas. In Macon, our brethren, living in the east quadrant of this historic hurricane called Michael, suffered the worst of this event. They lost power, with trees down and property damage, but no loss of life. One member in Eastman, Georgia, was shaken up, but is okay. Her mobile home is gone, along with everything she owned.

In the greater Columbus area, they experienced heavy wind, rain and power outages with minor property damage. God's merciful hand of protection was evident with no loss of life. Your prayers are deeply appreciated by all your brethren from the Macon and Columbus, Georgia, congregations.

2018 Northwest Young Adults Enrichment Weekend

Join us for the first annual Northwest Young Adults Enrichment Weekend, held this year just outside of Salem, Oregon, November 9-12, 2018. Our theme for this year is "In the World, Not Of It," and the Bible studies, seminars and workshops will focus on and explore this concept. What does it look like in the various aspects of our lives? Work? Friends? Family? Relationships? How close to the world is too close?

This all-inclusive weekend retreat is \$175 per person, which covers three nights lodging and seven meals at the beautiful Aldersgate Retreat Facility in Turner, Oregon. There will be ample opportunities for fellowship and social interaction as we explore God's Word together. Young adults ages 18-35 are welcome to attend.

To register for the weekend, please go to <http://www.tinyurl.com/2018NWAYWEEKEND>, and for additional information as it becomes available, visit <http://www.tinyurl.com/2018NWAYWEEKENDINFO>.

Please register by October 25th if you are planning to attend. *Registrations received after October 25th increase to \$200 per person.*

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Light at ben_light@ucg.org

Women's Enrichment Weekend - Dayton - Nov 30-Dec 2

The Dayton Ladies invite you to attend a Women's Enrichment Weekend near Dayton, Ohio. The theme of the weekend is "Living in God's Perfect Peace." Join us for an opportunity to slow down, surround yourself with positive energy, spend time with one another, and immerse yourself in the peace, calm and tranquility that only comes from God. This weekend is for women of all ages, filled with meaningful seminars, practical workshops, uplifting music, fun and games, with time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

For more information on the event and cost, please visit our website, women.ucg.org/enrichment-weekends/dayton-oh-2018 to download the registration form and event brochure. The registration deadline for this event (forms and payment postmarked by Oct 23) is quickly approaching with a firm cut off to attend this event of November 8. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Barker at Janet_Barker@ucg.org or 937-675-3923 (home), or 937-527-7186 (cell).

Cincinnati Winter Family Weekend Registration

Please announce in your congregations

If you plan to attend the Winter Family Weekend in Cincinnati, registration will begin this weekend on the church's website: wfw.ucg.org. Everyone planning to attend should register, beginning this coming week.

Registration for volleyball and basketball teams MUST be completed by Sunday, December 2. Registration helps us greatly in planning all of the events, including dances, pre-teen activities, seminars and--of course--sports. Please visit the website and register your family!

The Great Wolf Lodge is mostly full, but the nearby Comfort Inn and Suites has offered a block of rooms at a discounted rate for our members. These can be accessed online by visiting <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/TS33U8>. Because our block at Great Wolf Lodge is full, members need not worry that booking rooms in other hotels will hinder future negotiations for Winter Family Weekend.

Cookbook Announcement

Calling bakers and cooks of all ages. Ambassador Bible College is putting together an Unleavened Bread Cookbook, with the emphasis on HEALTH.

Do you have a favorite healthy Unleavened Bread recipe you would like to submit? We would also appreciate and welcome gluten-free recipes and any recipes you may have for those with food allergies or special diets.

Please submit your recipes to healthy.cookbook.2019@gmail.com. The deadline will be January 11. We would like to make the book available for purchase before Unleavened Bread. All proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will go towards the ABC International Fund. More details about purchasing and prices will follow in the next few weeks.

Also, anyone who has a good title for our cookbook can submit their idea to the above e-mail address. If your title is chosen, you will receive a free cookbook. Thank you for your support of this very worthy cause.

Please direct any questions to Kathy de Campos at kathy_decampos@ucg.org.

Inside United Podcast



Steven Britt and Victor Kubik continue their discussion of "Sound Science and the Bible: Do They Conflict?" and how creation, science, and human experience all point to God's incredible handiwork.

<https://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united/inside-united-podcast-091-steven-britt-sound-science-and-the-bible-part-2>

Listen to past episodes or read the transcripts:

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

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