

January 25, 2019

Saturday night is the combined Nashville/Murfreesboro Young Adults Bible Study. We are beginning a series of studies on "what is a biblical worldview." We'll explore a biblical worldview of who is God, what is humanity, the problem of evil, the purpose of life and how these grand concepts determine our beliefs, values, ethics, standards and behavior. Most people go through life driven by emotions with no real understanding of their motivations and worldview (everyone has one whether they know it or not). It is impossible to be a true follower of Jesus Christ unless we have His worldview. By the end of the series we will deal with a number of worldviews like the New Age Movement, and "isms" like capitalism, socialism, feminism, secular humanism, religious humanism, etc.

A few people to keep in your prayers. Suzanne Duckert is home recovering after her surgery. Gwen Whitaker is still in the hospital (it has been over two weeks). Kim and I visited her yesterday and Gwen is weak. She is suffering from a number of serious issues and needs our prayers. Shirley Allsbrooks is dealing with bronchitis and has experienced serious weight loss. Mary Styer is going to the hospital for hip replacement on February 18. The doctors told Leo Sancho that he is cancer free.

The February calendar is attached.

Attention Parents! Nashville Date Night



Has it been so long since you had a night alone with your spouse you forgot what they look like? Are you aching for a dinner companion that will talk with you instead of shoving food in their nose? Have you been struggling to find the time to interact with people without getting interrupted by the sound of a video game blasting in the background?

Fear not! For the time has come for an official date night - a time for you to relax with your loved one, to enjoy a nice meal or night on the town, to finally catch that movie you've been wanting to see, to get together with other adults you haven't seen in a while, or just order take out and lounge on your couch in sweet, sweet silence.

After services on February 2, 2019, capable young adult/teen volunteers will be available at the church hall for babysitting. We will provide them with a healthy meal, fun games, craft time and a movie. Pick up will be at the church hall in Brentwood at 10pm.

Please call, email or text Nick and Brittany and let them know how many kids to expect. Also, if you are a young adult or teen who would like to volunteer to hang out with the kids, please let the Hynes know!

February 9th- Nashville Pizza Party and Sock Hop!

After Sabbath services and the Bible study, please plan to stay for a Pizza & Ice cream Party and Family Sock Hop. Dinner and Desserts will be provided but we are asking for donations to cover the food cost. We are asking **\$5.00 per person** or **\$ 20.00 max per family**. For your donation, each person will get 2 slices of pizza, salad, drinks and dessert. After everyone has been served, more pizza *may* be available.

We will need a head count to see how many pizzas to order. There will be a list in the lobby as we need a headcount for the pizza order, or you can contact Tina Cason through email or messenger with how many in your group plan to stay and eat. We ask that you please pay **in advance** to cover food purchases. You can mail your donations to Tina Cason and please have donations in by **February 6th**.

Many of you know Martin Martinez who sometimes attends in Murfreesboro. His father died this week and here is an update from his wife Diana sent out earlier this week.

"First, we want to thank everyone for the out pour of love, support, and prayers. It has been very comforting for the family and there has definitely been the comforting presence of God through all the pain. In fact, as Mrs. Moran and Martin as have talked about his death and the days and weeks before hand, it would in fact appear, God had been preparing the family for his death without us knowing. Therefore, there is comfort in knowing our loving Father has a plan in all the pain.

Yesterday was the "viewing" here, which is equivalent to our "wake" in the states except its an all day affair from 10 am -12pm. Mrs. Moran (the women go by their maiden name here) almost collapsed from grief when she came in the room, but everyone was there for her and was able to help her make to Mr. Martinez's side. Today is the burial, and this will probably be the worst day for her, the boys, and the rest of the family.

Martin himself is being strong for his mom, but in private, has difficulty as expected. I asked him if he wanted to write anything in this email he said he's not capable of it right now. I am sure everyone understands that he is not in a state to communicate much. He reads every communication that is sent, and I show him everything that is sent to me, and we are both so very thankful. He just isn't able to respond to much yet.

His dad's autopsy showed that he had a heart attack. Mrs. Moran said she held him as he took his last breath. She found him collapsed, and tried to revive him as best she knew. Unfortunately, we think she pulled a muscle on her ribs trying to do so, and so prayers for that to heal would be appreciated. She told me everyone time someone hugs her tightly, it hurts. So as you can imagine, there have been a lot of tight hugs.

There has also been laughter amongst the sorrow, as extended family is here as well, and everyone has shared beautiful stories about Mr. Martinez. I didn't know him as well as I would have liked to, but as the boys and other family members have told their stories it has painted a picture of a man who loved God, was a devoted husband and father, a hard worker, and a very rare man of high character. This past Sabbath, the minister talked about how Mr. Martinez was a pillar in their church, a devoted servant to God, and how his lack of presence now will send vibrations of loss throughout their church community.

I cannot stress enough how his loss has affected this family. He fixed everything around Mrs. Moran's mother's home, stood in the gap when the cousins lost their father years ago, fulfilled broken promises other's made, and was the source of strength, protection, and wisdom for his family. Therefore, I plan to return home next

week, and Martin will stay behind to help his mom sort out all the affairs of the home as things run very differently here than in the states, as well as his mom isn't capable. Carlos, his youngest brother will remain here, as this is his home, but has to return to work. Ruben, the eldest, will have to return home to Florida.

A lot of people have asked what they can do to help. Martin's coworkers are putting together a "gofundme" for his mom."

Life Lessons: Confess and Forsake Your Sins

By Gary Petty

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Points to build on

Solomon makes three points in this short proverb.

1. Don't Cover Sin

When a person refuses to accept responsibility for sin, and instead tries to cover his wrong doing, he will not receive God's mercy. Guilt, shame and rebellion against God cause us to want to hide our sins.



2. Confess

Confession means to intentionally declare your actual offenses to God and ask for forgiveness. It means being accountable for actions that are in opposition to God's instructions and recognizing that these actions are offensive to Him. Only when we confess our sins can we experience God's forgiveness.

Solomon's father is a good example of someone who understood the need to confess his sins before God. David wrote in Psalm 32: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:1-5).

Notice that David was distressed because he tried to hide his sins and refused to confess. Only when he acknowledged his sins and wrong actions before God did he experience God's mercy and healing.

3. Forsake

Solomon doesn't just say to confess, but he includes forsaking the sin. It is a great dishonor to God to confess a sin and at the same time willfully continue to practice it with no intention of forsaking it. Even with God's help, it can take time and effort to actually forsake a sinful habit, but you can't experience God's power to overcome sin when you hang onto wrong actions and refuse to forsake them and change.

Application

When you feel, as David did, God's hand heavy upon you because of your sins, pray and disclose your sins to Him. Confession is more than just a quick, generalized "Please forgive me for my sins." You need to acknowledge the actual offences.

Christians deal with sin by asking God to apply the blood of Jesus Christ as our substitute sacrifice for our sins. This includes being aware of the horrible torture and death He suffered to be our sacrifice.

You must then forsake your sin. This means to seek God's help to actually conquer and overcome sin in your life.



United Church of God *an International Association*

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 359
January 24, 2019

Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

This past week, January 20-22, 62 elders and wives met in Atlanta, Georgia, for the Southeast regional ministerial conference. This begins a new round of meetings to be held in each region over the next two years.



Mark Welch speaks to the elders at the Southeast conference.

There were many hours of instruction and discussion. From the home office we brought our team of Mark Welch, Chris Rowland, Steve Myers and myself, along with our spouses. We added regional pastor Ken Martin and Dr. Don Ward from Big Sandy, Texas, for presentations.

Our regional pastors asked our elders for the topics they wanted enrichment on most. Hence, we produced a two-day program with topics that included doctrine, ethics and pastoral responsibilities.

In each region the regional pastor presents a topic. Ken Martin showed 22 techniques Jesus Christ used that made Him a great teacher such as:

- Master of His subject.
- Spoke with confidence and authority.
- Expressed an outward love and concern for people and a desire to see them learn.
- Used similes, metaphors, analogies and parables to convey His message.
- Stressed throughout His teachings man's relationship to God and to his neighbor.
- Teachings were relevant to everyday life.
- etc.

An important part of the event is the personal interaction we have with one another and the ability to discuss church matters face-to-face. Sometimes there's no substitute for talking to one another in person.

Dr. Ward spoke on Expository Preaching and recounted practical rules of interpretation as well as how to analyze a book of the Bible and gave examples using Malachi and Romans.

Several commented how this conference was the best one they've attended. Being the debut conference of this set, those comments are particularly refreshing to us as presenters. We gave the attendees a survey afterwards to help us improve our presentations.

Haiti

At this conference, Bev and I had the opportunity to talk with Caribbean senior pastor Chuck Smith who returned a few days ago from Haiti where a UCG congregation has been established. The purpose of this trip was to make progress on the construction of a new church building. Chuck makes this report:

"In the infamous words of fictional character Hannibal Smith, 'I love it when a plan comes together!' The plan for our new church building in Haiti is coming together nicely. I made a working trip to the island on Sunday, January 13, and stayed through Wednesday the 16th. In four days we were able to complete about 1/3 of the rafters for the roof of the new meeting hall. The new structure will give the United Church of God not only a place to worship each Sabbath, but also a learning center and a safe haven to go to during the annual hurricane season. The 1700 square ft. building (which is built to international building codes--unseen in most of Haiti) is planned for completion around the 1st of April. Most of the brethren do not have electricity. The new building will have a dedicated transformer with reliable power and Internet access for use by the brethren and community. The metal roof has been ordered and our plan is to have it installed by February 10. This will officially 'dry us in!'



Construction of the new building.
Deacon Joseph Jean with wife, Molene.

"A Bible Study was scheduled for the Tuesday night I was there. A huge deluge of rain ensued, and deacon Joseph Jean thought it best to cancel. It had been extremely hot and humid since I had arrived. I was exhausted from the day's hard physical labor, and had lain down for a rest. About 15 minutes later, Mr. Jean knocked on my door. He informed me that around 40 people had walked through the heavy downpour to attend the Bible Study, and we needed to go ahead with plans to conduct it. I got dressed and was so enthused when I arrived and saw everyone, singing hymns and waiting for the Bible Study to begin. We had a wonderful Bible Study.

"We thank our God and Father for the incredible blessing of this building and remember the words from Psalm 127:1: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.' Now we must begin to prepare for the spring Holy Days in our new building--the very first United Church of God Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread in Haiti.

"Updates and photos can be found at <https://ucghaiti.blogspot.com>"

In Haiti we plan to have sponsorship to teach English and computer skills by Good Works and LifeNets. We thank all who have contributed directly so far to make this all come together. We are grateful for the godly zealously of Chuck Smith.

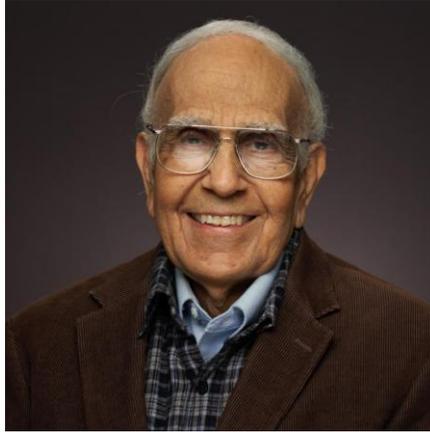
Roy Holladay

On our drive home from Atlanta to Cincinnati, Bev and I stopped to see our beloved long-time friends Roy Holladay and his wife, Norma, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. They are doing fine and pass along their greetings to you. I have deeply appreciated and have great memories of my more than 20 years of working with Roy Holladay as a pastor, Council member, Council Chairman, President and MMS Operation Manager.

We had hoped to stop by and see retired pastor Bill Cowan and his wife Betty, but they were not feeling well.

Be sure to listen to the latest [Inside United podcast](#) with Darris McNeely about his visit to South Central and South Africa where their nearly month-long journey has borne good fruit in the congregations on the opposite side of the world from us.

Death of Dan Salcedo



Dan Salcedo

Dan Salcedo, a long-time elder in the Garden Grove (California) congregation, died on Saturday morning from prostate cancer. Thankfully, he did not experience pain in the last week of his life. His wife Esther had died a year and a half ago. They are both greatly missed and we look forward to seeing both of them in the Kingdom of God.

In Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Kubik". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Victor Kubik

Personal From Ministerial and Member Services...

On Friday, January 18, my wife, Barbara, and I drove to Atlanta, Georgia, in the Southeast Region. We went ahead of our team that prepared this first regional conference for our new cycle of meetings that began on Sunday evening. The rest of our team arrived in Atlanta on Sunday. Barbara and I also had a wonderful opportunity to spend some time with close friends near Atlanta we have known since our Ambassador College days, over 40 years ago.

We greatly appreciate the work that Philip Aust is doing in pastoring the Buford and Atlanta congregations. Also, his wife, Sarah, is certainly a warm, caring, and competent help to Philip and the brethren they serve. Philip and I gave split sermons Sabbath morning in Buford, which is roughly 45 minutes northeast of Atlanta. Philip gave the second part of a series of sermons on the Old and New Covenants. I spoke on one of my favorite subjects: the need for unity and how to achieve greater unity in the Body of Christ.

I found the Buford brethren to be very warm and supportive of the work that God the Father and Jesus Christ are doing in all of us. Buford is a small congregation of about 30 members, mostly older seasoned members with a few teens and a few younger children.

In the afternoon, Jerold Aust, Philip's father and long-time elder who works for our Media Department and writes articles for *Beyond Today*, gave a split-sermon in Atlanta. Jerold's sermon had to do with light and what the Bible has to say about Christ as the "light of the world" and how we are also to shine light on God's way by our faithful conduct. I gave essentially the same sermon on unity that I had given in Buford with a few variations along the way. I stressed the importance of all of us conducting our lives with love, forgiveness, integrity, character, and humility so we may attain greater unity in God's Church. The Atlanta congregation is quite vibrant and averages over 60 members with a good mix of older members and many young adults, younger teens, and children.

On Sunday evening approximately 60 elders and wives assembled, and we got off to a good start in building stronger bonds of fellowship. We know it is God's Spirit that binds us together in love and unity.

On Monday morning, everyone appreciated Victor Kubik's update on "News and Developments in United" and he shared some of his most recent activities and aspirations for the future. We then had an interactive discussion on how to achieve greater unity in the Body of Christ, specifically as it relates to the United Church of God. In another session Ken Martin, Regional Pastor for the Southeast region, showed from scripture why Jesus Christ was such a great teacher.

In the afternoon, Steve and Kathe Myers led an activity designed to help us become more nurturing as ministerial couples and how to be more in tune with the members in our congregations so we may serve them more effectively.

Steve Myers led a presentation about better understanding and dealing with members who may be influenced by a variety of Messianic ideas. Dr. Don Ward gave a presentation on "Expository Preaching" and encouraged all of us to study the scriptures intently and speak with greater passion. He covered a lot of ground and shared overviews of Malachi, Romans, and 1 Corinthians, providing a number of handouts for our reference.

That evening, Chris Rowland gave instruction on how to best use our newly-updated Ministerial Resource Site.

On Tuesday, Mr. Kubik spoke of the need to "Go Above and Beyond the Ministerial Code of Ethics" by carefully guarding our hearts and minds in best serving God and His people. Steve Myers and I led two interactive sessions to round out the conference. We had a lot of great input and comments from our elders and wives on the topic of "Effective Pastoring and Ministry." We spoke about some of the most important attributes and traits of an effective pastor and elder. We discussed the need and specific ways to make our Church services more interesting and engaging and how we can all bring more joy to our members each Sabbath and throughout the week. We offered ways to continue our much-needed education as ministers and we encouraged one another to be well-read and timely in our messages each Sabbath.

We intend to conduct surveys in the near future in all our congregations and we spoke of how these surveys should be welcomed by our pastors as they will be designed to get genuine input that will serve to improve our effectiveness in better serving our brethren.

Also, we shared our plan to have regular self-evaluations or assessments that will encourage each of us to take a realistic look at our strengths and possible growth areas. The assessment will be shared with each minister's Regional Pastor and discussed.

To complete our session, we discussed the need to anoint our brethren in person whenever feasible and how to best anoint according to scripture.

Our last session of the conference was entitled, "Who is the LORD?" and Steve Myers and I led a discussion with our ministers about the nature and roles of God the Father and Jesus Christ in both the Old and New Testaments. Although this understanding has been challenged by some recently, it is quite evident from scripture that our long-held understanding of the nature of God and Christ has stood well the test of time.

We all left reluctantly around 3 p.m., as the threat of Atlanta traffic was beckoning us to get on the move! We in Ministerial and Member Services look forward to carefully considering the feedback from the Southeast ministry about the effectiveness of this conference as we continually look at improving future regional conferences. -- Mark Welch

Family Study Guide Available

The latest Family Study Guide, God's Fruit of the Spirit, Kindness, has been completed and is ready for use. Kindness is treating all people as our neighbors, even people we don't always like. It is helping others and showing love to everyone, doing acts of compassion and outgoing concern for another person who has a need. We discuss that treating others with kindness is God's way and is what He wants us to do. We need to treat others with kindness as Christ did while He was on the earth. We review the example of Elijah and the lesson of the Good Samaritan and how it applies today.

You can find the Guide on the [Family Study Guides webpage](#) or in the [Family Guides Dropbox](#). Please let us know if you have difficulty locating them. We hope that your families continue to find value in the UCG's Youth Instruction Family Study Guides. -- Randy and Kay Schreiber, Youth Instruction Coordinators

Unleavened Cookbook Announcement

Pre-orders for our Unleavened Bread Cookbook have now begun in local congregations. We would like to ask each congregation to collect orders and monies for the cookbook through your representative, and if possible, issue ONE check addressed to The "ABC Student Fund". Please include total number of cookbooks with each order. In order to ensure delivery by Unleavened Bread, our deadline for submitting pre-orders is **February 19**. Cookbooks are expected to arrive the first week in April and will be delivered in time for Unleavened Bread.

The *Healthy Eats and Unleavened Treats* cookbook has about 200 recipes in a 3-ring hardback cover binder. Thank you so much for your help! Please address questions to healthy.cookbook.2019@gmail.com -- ABC Class of 2019