

UNITED NEWS



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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2019

First UCG Boundary Waters Adventure



Campers begin the 50-mile journey in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota.

By Frank Dunkle

In launching the newest challenger program of the United Church of God, 16 young adults and five staff took a journey of approximately 50 miles through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of north-

ern Minnesota. Like the Challenger West program, the Boundary Waters Adventure (BWA), which is planned to be held every other year, is much more than just a guided tour of beautiful scenery. It stresses spiritual growth, leadership training and building

positive relationships. A program based on canoeing and camping inherently involves cooperation, trust and teamwork—which are vital traits for Christians seeking to serve God’s people. Along with taking turns steering their canoe, each participant was assigned to lead his or her team for camp set-up or take-down and a portion of the group’s travel. Each young adult also presented a 10-minute talk on a biblical character or a leadership principle.

In participating in this trip, campers became a part of the existing group of people within the Church of God who had taken part in the Boundary Waters canoeing program that was for decades a part of SEP (Summer Educational Program) based in Orr, Minnesota.

The Boundary Waters provides an excellent setting for UCG’s new adventure program. After orientation and training at a campsite on Echo Lake, the group divided into three teams and began

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Northeast Regional Ministerial Conference



Attendees of the ministerial conference spent the weekend growing and learning together.

By Steve Myers

Forty-one elders and their wives from across the Northeast region of the U.S. gathered together in Youngstown, Ohio, July 14-16 for the second in the 2019-2020 regional ministerial conference series. Sunday began with a relaxing dessert reception that provided an excellent atmosphere for fellowship and an opportunity for newer elders and wives to become better acquainted with our seasoned elders.

Monday morning began early with a group breakfast which was followed by sessions from the Ministerial Education Team—operations manager of Ministerial and Member Services Mark Welch, northeast regional pastor Steve Myers, Darris McNeely and human resources manager Chris Rowland—along with a variety of presentations from President Victor Kubik.

The first presentation was given on Monday morning by Victor Kubik, titled “News and Developments” in UCG. In this session, Mr. Kubik mentioned that he believes “the best years of the United Church of God are still ahead of us.”

Mark Welch and Steve Myers presented a tag-team style presentation titled, “Who is the LORD?” This topic has generated a lot of discussion over the last few years, and both men expounded on a number of aspects of the subject.

Darris McNeely presented the next session, titled “Speaking to the Mission and the

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ABC Welcome Picnic and Orientation



The ABC class of 2020 smiles at orientation.

By Frank Dunkle

On Sunday, August 25, the alumni of Ambassador Bible College greeted the class of 2020 to ABC with their annual welcome picnic. The camping theme

inspired the food and decorations for the 18 incoming students along with faculty, staff and more than a dozen former students from the Cincinnati area. The picnic began with an ice-

breaker game, followed by hotdogs for lunch. The new students were able to eat together and get to know each other and the alumni in the area, and also to meet their instructors.

Next came a round of team challenge games. Students divided into five groups to take on an obstacle course, paper boat races, timed tent set-up, a teddy-bear sling shot and more.

The next day, things got more serious as the ABC faculty oriented the new students to the policies and procedures of the program. The instructors are eager to work with and get to know this new group of students hailing from all over the country.

ABC plays an important role in God’s Church through the teaching it provides to those who attend. The program

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**UYC 2019
Photos Inside!**

How This Work Is Supported

The work of the United Church of God, including the *Beyond Today* television program, magazine, literature and website—plus the care of congregations around the world—is sustained by members, volunteers, coworkers and donors.

Jesus Christ instructed His disciples that since they had freely received the Word of God, they were also to freely give it (Matthew 10:8). This is why we supply our literature free of charge and make Christ's message available to all.

But it is not free to produce. The cost of producing television, literature and providing a ministry involves the work of writers, teachers, presenters and pastors. Our gratitude goes to all who assist us financially through their tithes, offerings, gifts and planned giving.

Would you like to know more about how you can help? Please contact us at plannedgiving@ucg.org or call Planned Giving Coordinator Howard Marchbanks at (513) 570-2343 for more details. You can also support the work at donate.ucg.org.

Record Response for *Beyond Today* Television Program



During the week of August 11-17, 2019, the *Beyond Today* television program “The Rapture Versus the Bible,” hosted by Steve Myers, produced the highest viewer response out of all 28 programs that have aired since our new video recording studio went into operation.

The previous record-setting program, “You Can Understand the Bible,” which aired the week of May 19-25, 2019, had generated 502 responses. Our new “rapture” program topped that with 525

responses—which designates it as the lowest cost per response program to air so far from our new recording facility.

Our new programming format—which includes a live studio audience—has captured people's curiosity and attention. We are grateful for the opportunity to reach out to all of our viewers with a sincere message of help and hope for today and tomorrow.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers as we do our best to accom-

plish God's great work around the globe. Along with you, we greatly anticipate the day when Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish righteousness and peace to a world in desperate need of both.

Peter Eddington

Media and Communications Services

Find it here: <https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/the-rapture-versus-the-bible>

ABC Welcome Picnic and Orientation

Continued from front page

helps ensure doctrinal stability within the Church by teaching fundamental beliefs, prophecy, practical Christian living principles and other important material. Its curriculum is built on the understanding of God's Word that has been taught at Ambassador College for decades. Students become grounded in the fundamental truths of God's plan and purpose, and they also learn the history of the Church and its doctrines.

Additionally, students build lifelong friendships with each other, as well as relationships with faculty and leaders in the Church. Understanding that the Church has the responsibility to prepare and train future leaders, ABC is one way to provide academic training that will later be needed by those leaders. By immersing students in biblical teaching for nine months, the ABC program is meant to cultivate a future

of service and contribution. Graduates often find their notes from ABC a useful source for ideas and research when preparing messages for Sabbath services, articles, enrichment weekends or family Bible studies. The ABC faculty and staff looks forward to another year getting to know the students and helping them build a foundation for a lifetime of growth and service. **UN**



Students enjoy fellowship and play games together at the welcome picnic and orientation.

Upcoming Events



New York City Congregation's 60th Anniversary Celebration

The Church of God is celebrating 60 years in New York City! If you would like to join us for this special celebration on the evening of November 16th, 2019 please contact Lewis VanAusdle at Lewis_VanAusdle@ucg.org for more information. Even brethren who are not part of the NYC congregation are welcome to attend.



RICK SHABI
Treasurer and
Financial Services
Operation Manager

■ There came a time in the lives of the Israelites when they felt God's presence in a way they hadn't before.

"Now all the people witnessed the thunders, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, 'You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.'" (Exodus 20:18-19).

Before this, Israel knew of God. They had seen His great power in delivering them from Pharaoh. But on that day at the foot of Mt Sinai, God became very real to them—and they feared and respected Him greatly. They were willing to do whatever He asked.

Perhaps there have been times in our lives when we've experienced God's presence. We absolutely knew it was He who rescued us from a difficult situation, sent an

How Real Is God To You?



Photo by Casey Horner/Unsplash

Do we see God as One who is with us continually, day and night?

unexpected "lifeline" or financial windfall, or miraculously healed us. At those times, God became very real to us, in a way that we might not sense otherwise. We committed to follow Him carefully and diligently the rest of our lives. The fact is, we all believe in God; we believe the Bible is His very Word; we continue to grow and understand His plan for mankind; we accept and are thankful to Jesus Christ for His sacrifice; we believe God gives us His Holy Spirit when we repent and are baptized and hands are laid on us; we believe God will send Christ back and that His Kingdom will be set up on this earth.

That's knowledge and it is good. How *real*, though, is God to you and me?

Do we see Him as God who is with us continually day and night? Do we see Him as our Father who is interested in our development as part of His firstfruits? Do we feel His love and support? Do we think of Him every day and in every situation?

Do we turn to Him first when there is a problem in our lives—a financial or health setback, or a problem in our relationships? Do we seek His counsel and rely on Him when we are down, depressed, discouraged or when things just don't seem to go right? It is important that we realize and remember He is there to help, comfort, encourage and

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From The COUNCIL



■ How do we define the kind of preaching that has been the practice of God's prophets, apostles and Church down through time?

By Randy Stiver

As we look out across the congregations and the churches around us, many styles and topics of preaching echo around our world every week. Preaching is "to proclaim or make known in a sermon... to advocate moral principles, conduct, etc. as right or advisable..." (Webster's Dictionary).

Which Gospel to be Preached?

Gospel is a Middle English word formed by two words: "good" (which may

Preaching with Conviction and Courage



Photo by Joshua Earle/Unsplash

We must be about our Father's business of proclaiming His soon-coming Kingdom and true way of life. We must be fearless and bold in how we live, preaching the gospel message through our life's example.

have sounded more like modern English for "goat") and "spell," which in Old English meant "a discourse or message." What emerges is "go-spell" or *gospel*; that is, the "good message." God's gospel for mankind is the message of salvation leading to eternal life—the good news of the soon-coming Kingdom of God!

Note the words directly inspired by Jesus Christ: "Now after John [the Baptist] was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the *gospel of the kingdom of God*" (Mark 1:14).

Time and again Jesus Christ command-

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Going Outside the United States for the Feast?

There's a lot of excitement and planning that accompanies the Feast of Tabernacles. When you are going to a Feast site outside the United States, in addition to travel plans, hotels and currency exchange, you might want to consider how and when to make your Holy Day offerings. If you would like your contribution to be included in your year-end receipt for tax deduction purposes, read on.

Each year the question arises from U.S. members traveling to foreign Feast sites (including Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean) whether they should mail their Holy Day offerings to the home office or if they should contribute directly at their Feast site.

It comes down to this: If U.S. members traveling abroad want their Holy Day offerings included in their end-of-year donation receipt, they should mail their offerings directly to the home office in Cincinnati, before or after the Feast.

United States law states that only contributions to the Church in the United States are tax-deductible. Contributions to foreign church organizations (which include donations at foreign Feast sites) cannot be taken as tax deductions,

and the Church cannot issue donation receipts on those offerings.

So, by mailing your Holy Day offerings to the home office, your contributions will be appropriately receipted and reported to the IRS, allowing you to take a tax deduction at year end.

Of course, so as not to "appear before the Lord empty-handed," and out of courtesy to the international area hosting the Feast, please consider giving some of your offering (preferably in the local currency) on the Holy Days at your site. This is very much appreciated by the host country. In many cases, U.S. money converted into local currency and donated at the Feast goes a long way for international congregations.

To summarize: *Only those offerings received at the U.S. home office can appear on your U.S. donation receipt for tax purposes.* Offerings given at an international Feast site will be kept in the country of donation and no donation receipt will be issued for those funds.

If you have any questions, please contact your pastor for more information.

Visit <http://donate.ucg.org> to donate for the Holy Day offering.

Rick Shabi

2019-2020 Family Study Guides

By the Youth Education Team

Join the Battle!

In their August 8, 2019 letters, President Kubik and Chairman Ward each warned us about the daily battles we are fighting against Satan.

Don Ward wrote, "It is a time as never before to gird up our loins and put on the whole armor of God that we might be able to stand against all the forces that Satan may bring against us."

Victor Kubik wrote this: "[Jesus] specifically directed that we should also pray that we be delivered from evil, that we be protected from elements of the unseen, evil spiritual world, particularly from Satan himself."

This year, the Youth Instruction Family Study Guides will cover "The Whole Armor of God." While these study guides are directed to youth and the family, we invite the entire membership to join our families in the fight! Each month we will do an in-depth study into each piece of the armor that God provides us with to win the battle against Satan and his forces. We strive in each lesson to help families build their relationship with God, and give prac-

tical every day applications to God's Word.

We think you will find these lessons helpful in your personal studies, and that they can be good resources for sermons, Bible Studies and sermons.

These guides are based upon the instructions in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 which places parents as the primary teachers of their children. The lessons are intended to assist parents in teaching their children God's way. Parents know the best ways to connect and teach their children about God. United Church of God Youth Instructional materials and classes have been developed to reinforce and support (not supplant) families in their study of the Bible.

We hope you can join us in support of our families as we work together toward the Kingdom of God as members of His Church.

You can find the new guide on the Family Study Guides webpage on the UCG members website at www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides.

We hope that your family continues to find value in the Youth Instruction Family Study Guides and the Deuteronomy 6 model.

Children and Sabbath Services

By Linda Wasilkoff

Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1808-1890) was a French journalist. One of his frequently quoted epigrams is translated "The more things change, the more they stay the same." This can be said about children and church services.

While clothing styles and lifestyles have changed through the generations, one thing has never changed—a child's outstanding energy! It continues to be a challenge for parents to make the Sabbath a delight for their children while also minimizing noise and ensuring that other people attending church (including the parents themselves) are able to concentrate on the messages.

Parents can sometimes feel like they face years of getting little out of the weekly Sabbath messages due to endless disturbances from their children, but this phase does end. As the infant begins to understand the meaning of "whisper" you get over the hurdle of them speaking out loud. When they begin school, there are even fewer disturbances. Little by little parents have fewer distractions from a child during the church service. Then they see that the time and effort spent in teaching a child to sit quietly has paid off. Once your child is grown, you will look back on this time with fondness. However, 1 Corinthians 7:14 lets us know that our children are in a special category when it comes to receiving God's instructions.

It's also important for those who do not

currently have small children to show patience and support for those who do. If children's behavior disturbs you, perhaps you could offer to help out. Or you might be wise to sit in a different section of the hall.

In the various sites that people will be attending during the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles, children will be sitting through church services daily instead of weekly. It can be difficult for them to stay still for the duration of services every day, especially in a new and exciting place! In light of this, here are some tips from those who have gone through the difficult task of training children to be quiet:

- If possible, arrive at church early enough to give your children time to walk around and get some exercise before they have to sit for services. Parents could consider taking turns walking with them around the building. Older children could help with set-up (chairs, refreshments, sound, etc.) which can show them that they are an important part of the service.
- Be intentional with which toys you bring to services. If a toy can make a noise, a child will be sure to find a way to make that noise effectively and repeatedly!
- 10 minutes before services start, take your children to the restroom, feed any that need a snack and get them ready to settle in for services.
- Practice the art of sitting quietly at home. Perhaps consider "playing church" to help them practice sitting quietly while



With proper planning and a patient attitude, church can be something that both the parents and children look forward to!

looking at books or coloring. This is also a good time for parents to do their own Bible study.

- Be diligent and consistent during your quiet time. As the child gets older, you can explain that sitting quietly is showing respect for God and love toward others who sit around you.
- Plan ahead and bring items your children will be content to play with for more extended periods of time. For instance, sticker books or coloring books can captivate a child's attention for a long time.
- As children get older, teach them to take notes and look up scriptures. If you are taking notes, they can begin by copying the

scriptures and main points you write down.

A challenge that early primary grade teachers face is that youngsters often have never been taught to sit still, be quiet and pay attention. Children who learn this at home and church have a head start when they start going to school.

There are a number of ways children can be taught to quietly sit through services, and it is important to find some positive way to do so. With proper planning and a patient attitude, church can be something that both the parents and children look forward to!

Originally published in United News Canada

Festival Announcements

Feast Music Volunteers Needed!



Photo by Clem Onojeghwo/Unsplash

One of the highlights of the Feast of Tabernacles is being inspired and uplifted by the special music presented during services. If you're a musician, using your talents for special music is a great way to serve at the Feast. Special music praises and honors God and is a great spiritual and emotional boost for everyone. This is your chance to be part of what the apostle Paul describes in Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

There is still time to sign up and we need your help. If you have not already signed up, the easiest way to volunteer is to go to feast.ucg.org, click on the "register for the Feast" tab and update your registration to include volunteering for music.

If you can't go online, contact the appropriate Special Music Coordinator

listed below.

Once you have signed up, you'll receive a link where you can find everything you need concerning music at your Festival site.

We encourage you not to wait until just before the Feast to volunteer. Go online or contact your Special Music Coordinator as soon as possible. This greatly helps in the preparation and planning process.

Parents of children ages 5-12 will be happy to know that there will again be a children's choir at each Feast site this year. While there is no need to sign up for the children's choir, we just ask that children come to the Feast knowing the songs by memory. Children's Choir music is available online at: <https://www.ucg.org/members/feast/childrens-choir-music>.

Take time now to volunteer to contribute to the overall success of the Feast of Tabernacles through music!

Steve Myers

Delta Airlines SkyBonus Program

The United Church of God can accumulate frequent flyer points in addition to your personal Skymiles with Delta. If you book online you can directly enter this code along with your Skymiles number. The code is US954529758. This code can be entered on any Delta flight you take. Look for the box to check that reads "My company is a Delta SkyBonus program member." This option is also available year-round for any Delta flight.

Special Music Coordinators

U.S.A.

Bend, OR	Katherine Rowland	(513) 432-9265
Branson, MO	Dale Prince	(417) 207-1130
Cincinnati, OH	Bill Dunham	(248) 431-5488
Glacier Country, MT	Ronald & Donna Raudenbush	(570) 250-2756
Jekyll Island, GA	Randy Schmidt	(414) 659-8347
Lahaina, HI	Ken Japhet	(503) 507-7770
Lake Junaluska, NC	Steve Myers	(513) 520-9484
Lancaster, PA	Ken Shoemaker	(937) 779-7690
New Braunfels, TX	Paul Rowe	(505) 908-4110
Oceanside, CA	Fred Crow	(408) 316-8290
Panama City Beach, FL	Scott Delamater	(480) 276-1061
Steamboat Springs, CO	Bill Turnblad	(651) 436-7557
Wisconsin Dells, WI	John Barbush	(708) 705-1775

Canada

Cochrane, AB	Maureen DeLong	1-403-894-7525
Midland, ON	Hansel New	(816) 602-1349
Osoyoos Lake, BC	David Meidinger	(928) 595-0156

Supporting the Festival Fund

The Feast of Tabernacles is the highlight of the year for many. It is a great blessing to be able to gather together at Feast sites around the world to picture the coming Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. A lot of planning goes into preparing the Feast every year. Those involved are happy to dedicate their time, effort and expertise, and the ministry looks to God as they prepare messages for our spiritual food. But the Feast costs a lot of money. Hall rentals, equipment rentals, second tithe assistance for those who don't have

adequate funds, printing expenses, activities expenses and more add up to a lot. We need your help in being able to provide the Feast venues that enhance our celebration. Please consider sending a portion of your second tithe to help support the Feast. To donate, you can go to <http://donate.ucg.org> and click on Festival Fund to support the Festival Fund now, or cut out the form below and send it with your check to the home office. If you have any questions, please contact your pastor or the treasurer, Rick Shabi, at any time.

**Use the form below to accompany a check or money order.
In the memo of your check or money order write: Festival Fund.
Send slip with the money order or check to:
United Church of God, PO Box 541027 Cincinnati, OH 45255**

2019 Festival Fund

In order to provide meeting places and financial assistance for people otherwise unable to afford to attend the Feast, U.S. members are asked to contribute a portion of their festival tithe to help with these expenses. **Canadian** members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the space below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Beyond Today* label.
- Make your check payable to United Church of God and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN:

U _ _ _ _ _

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$

Name:

Address:

City:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code:

Still Not Registered for the Feast of Tabernacles?

If you haven't registered for the Feast of Tabernacles, please go to feast.ucg.org to register. Registering for the Feast ensures that each site has enough room for all attendees. It greatly helps festival coordinators to have an accurate number of attendees when planning for space, reservations, supplies and activities. To find the schedule of activities for your Feast site, please go to feast.ucg.org to find your site, and then click on Posts or Calendar.

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Waiting On the World To Change

■ Have you ever looked around at world conditions and wanted to do something? But what can we do, and what does God want us to do? Understanding His longterm plan for mankind reveals what we should be focused on today as we prepare for “the world to come” (Luke 18:30).

By John Labissioniere

What has the vast majority of the world’s inhabitants longed for and waited for generation after generation? Hasn’t it been for freedom, peace, security, contentment, prosperity and happiness? Yet what have they often received, especially from autocratic leaders? Has it not been oppression, turmoil, discontent, poverty, grief and sadness (Matthew 20:25)?

Even in nations with representative democracies, people observe how politicians stand up and promise that a new administration or new programs or better laws will provide the populace what they need and want. But then the voters watch as these newly elected officials in whom they had placed their trust so often fail to keep their promises. Or that corruption, duplicity and unethical behavior arises. Citizens then become distrustful or cynical about government. Others think that better results can only come from the next election, or a different political party or fresh candidate, or through the succeeding generation of leaders. But what often happens? The same tired, old story repeats itself over and over again, while people keep waiting for genuine, needed change.

In 2006, singer/songwriter John Mayer released a song titled, “Waiting On the World to Change” in which he portrayed the sense of dismay and frustration felt by many people regarding what they see in the world around them. History records that many additional writers and poets have conveyed similar depictions. However, the Eternal Creator inspired the prophet Isaiah to perfectly express people’s deepest feelings about this circumstance when he wrote, “Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us; we look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes; we stumble at noonday as at twilight; we are as dead men in desolate

places” (Isaiah 59:9-10).

Although the people of the world are spiritually blind (2 Corinthians 4:4), our great God has revealed through His Word that they will ultimately be rescued out of this dismally inadequate condition. He has prepared a flawless plan that will bring about a wonderful society where people’s real needs and desires will be fulfilled. This magnificent blueprint will start unfolding on the very day of Jesus Christ’s second coming: “In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness” (Isaiah 29:18).

God’s promise of spiritual deliverance

But until God’s Kingdom comes, the people of the world must wait for their time of promised liberation. And as they wait, did you know that there is another group of people who are also waiting on the world to change? They are brethren in the Church of God who greatly anticipate the fulfillment of His promises (2 Corinthians 5:1-4). The apostle Paul wrote: “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:22-23, emphasis added throughout).

He has prepared a flawless plan that will bring about a wonderful society where people’s real needs and desires will be fulfilled.

Christians do not idly wait for the Kingdom. Instead they zealously strive to carry out Jesus’ instruction to “preach the gospel” (Matthew 24:14), to “make disciples” and educate people “to observe all things” that He taught (Matthew 28:19-20). Since He said in Luke 10:2 that “the laborers” who perform this momentous work are “few,” we are very grateful for our coworkers and readers of the *United News* as they assist in the Church’s commission financially and/or with their prayers.

But coworkers and donors also have the opportunity to “grow in the grace and knowledge” of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). This is why we sincerely encourage our wonderful coworkers and readers to take their support of the Church

to the next level by making “God’s call and his choice of you a permanent experience” (2 Peter 1:10, Good News Translation). This can be accomplished by being baptized, receiving the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit and joining in regular fellowship with members of the Church at Sabbath services. Doing so brings numerous blessings today as they too join those waiting for the future fulfillment of God’s promises.

Certainly all of us were preceded in this waiting period by other faithful individuals who, during past ages, also waited for God’s redemption. For instance, the patriarch Abraham “waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10). And others who “died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (verse 13).

You and I recognize, as did Christians who came before us, that we dwell in a civilization that is not of God’s making. It is a society where sin piles up higher and higher, and where character, righteousness and truth are becoming rare (Hosea 4:6; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). So while we must live in the world and yet be “not of the world,” we must wait patiently for our eventual deliverance (John 17:14; Romans 8:25). King David declared, “Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

Often our waiting is accompanied by troubles and trials. Suffering and adversity have always been a part of virtuous people’s lives. The travails of another pioneer in the faith, the patriarch Job, is emblematic of the ordeals encountered by many of God’s people today. Job withstood tremendous pressure but waited steadfastly for the fulfillment of God’s promises. He knew that, even in the grave, his future was completely secure. “If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes” (Job 14:14).

Waiting with fervent desire

After seeing various biblical examples of those who stood firm during trials, now let’s look at what exactly they were waiting for with such fervent desire? What was so precious to them that they were willing to endure so much—including extreme persecution and even death (Matthew 5:12; John 15:20)? Similarly, why do you and I strongly reject the ways of this lawless society (Ephesians 4:20-24)? Why do we

keep striving, enduring and yes, waiting? The scriptures provide the answers.

Paul explained that God “will give eternal life to everyone who has patiently done what is good in the hope of receiving glory, honor, and life that lasts forever” (Romans 2:7, Contemporary English Version). He also wrote, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). Indeed, we now await the greatest event that could ever occur in the life of a human being—that of being changed into spirit composition and welcomed into God’s own family (Romans 8:16-17, 29; Hebrews 2:10-11).

The Father will grant everyone repentance and provide His gift of the Holy Spirit

Another momentous reason we wait with such intense anticipation is that we look eagerly toward Jesus Christ’s second coming and what it heralds for the world’s suffering people. At that time, He will have Satan and the demons imprisoned for 1,000 years so they can no longer deceive and corrupt humanity (Revelation 20:1-2). He will also install God’s divine government on earth which will fully replace deficient human rulership (Revelation 11:15; Isaiah 9:6). Christ will also begin educating every person in the true knowledge of God’s way of life (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2). Isaiah wrote: “For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). Furthermore, the Father will grant everyone repentance and provide His gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:18; Jeremiah 31:33). “I’ll place My spirit within you, empowering you to live according to My regulations and to keep My just decrees” (Ezekiel 36:27, International Standard Version).

Finally, Jesus’ reign as Sovereign over the Kingdom of God on Earth will bring the peace, prosperity, security and happiness that people throughout history have long sought (Isaiah 9:7; Psalm 119:165). All those who had been called out of the world by the Father and remained faithful to Him will hear the following joyful proclamation by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). And with those words, we will know that we no longer need to be “waiting on the world to change!” **UN**

The Ten Commandments Series

The Seventh Commandment: Part One

By Don Hooser

“You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)

Marriage is a marvelous gift of God! And it is a critical priority in God’s plan. After God created Eve, He immediately ordained marriage.

The Seventh Commandment, plus all that is related to it, is a huge subject. Part 2 of this article will be printed in the next issue of *United News*. Two of our booklets, *The Ten Commandments* and *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*, cover the fundamental biblical teachings pertaining to this topic. This two-part article will also point you to other relevant and important articles. God intends that we regard His Instruction Book, the Bible, as the foundation of all knowledge, including the knowledge of marriage and sex.

Today, most people in relationships totally ignore what the Bible reveals. Our society is increasingly immoral and actually amoral. The consequences are catastrophic. When the building block of society—the family—collapses, the society soon collapses. The article “Sexual Immorality: Prophesied, Proliferating and Pernicious” at www.ucg.org expands on this subject.

Genesis 1 and 2 are packed with significant revelations. One of God’s first recorded statements to Adam was, in essence, “Don’t eat the forbidden fruit” (Genesis 2:16-17). Following that, God said to Adam, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him (Genesis 2:18, New Living Translation). Eve was the perfect complement to Adam.

Then Genesis 2:24 says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

This verse contains significant meaning. The man and woman start a new family as they switch their primary dependency, devotion and commitment from parents to spouse. The word “joined” refers to much more than the wedding. God meant for them to be permanently and inseparably welded together. Notice how various Bibles translate the Hebrew word for “be joined”—cleave, cling, hold fast, be united, be married. God views marriage as a sacred covenant by which husband and wife promise before God their fidelity to each other, to faithfully stay together and unselfishly love and serve one another.

“Adulterate” means to contaminate or make impure. God forbids anything that spoils marriage. Adultery is so serious that under the Old Covenant, adulterers were to be put to death (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22).

The Seventh Commandment forbids more than extra-marital sex (a sin against both one’s self as referenced in 1 Corinthians 6:18 and one’s present spouse). It is an umbrella command that prohibits premarital sex (fornication), homosexual sex, incest, prostitution, bestiality and other forbidden relationships, some of which are listed in Leviticus 18 and 20. In addition to adultery, the New Testament in at least 19 places condemns all forms of “sexual immorality” (the Greek word being *porneia*, from which we get the English word pornography).

Sinful actions begin with sinful thoughts (James 1:14-15). Jesus Christ magnified the Seventh Commandment showing that it includes adultery in one’s mind. He said, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). The Greek word for “to lust” is *epithumeo*, meaning carnal coveting, craving and fantasizing.

Then in verses 29-30, Jesus uses dramatic language to emphasize that we must do whatever is necessary to get away from temptations.

Jesus’ commandment is against any viewing of pornography and even the “soft porn” that is so prevalent in many movies, TV shows and magazines. Furthermore, this strongly implies that passionate sharing of physical affection (kissing, caressing, etc.) by a man and woman or by a boy and girl that results in sexual arousal should not be done until after the two are married. This should be considered the foreplay of marital lovemaking.

Marriage is sacred. God binds it in heaven. It is holy matrimony. In Mark 10:9, Jesus said: “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” God says He “hates divorce” and breaking a wedding vow is dealing “treacherously” with one’s spouse (Malachi 2:14-16). Hence, God expects full commitment to our wedding vows.

Keep in mind that in the Bible, “love” is primarily an action verb, referring to how



Photo by Jon Asato/Unsplash

Our all-loving and all-wise Creator gave us the Seventh Commandment to exalt and protect the precious relationship of marriage!

we treat others, not to an emotional feeling. This helps us understand the scriptures that command husbands to “love your wives” and wives to “love their husbands” (Ephesians 5:25; Titus 2:4). So God is judging husbands and wives each day by how they are treating their spouses.

The Second Great Commandment is to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39) and your most important neighbor is your spouse!

Marriage requires lots of work, sacrifices, forgiveness and true love, but a faithful marriage is rewarded with much longterm happiness. More importantly, regardless of how much one is rewarded or not rewarded in this life, God will richly reward good husbands and good wives in the next life.

What Does “One Flesh” Mean?

In Genesis 2:24, “one flesh” refers specifically to sexual relations and the close bond between husband and wife that this action reflects and promotes. This is shown by Paul’s wording in 1 Corinthians 6:13-20. Notice that in verses 19-20, Paul tells us that our bodies and minds belong to God so when we use them as God intends, we “glorify God!”

So when God told Adam and Eve to “become one flesh,” He was specifically telling them to come together for sex. But He also meant for them to come together for companionship, completion, partnership and love.

God did not design their sexuality only for reproduction as He did when He designed the anatomy and instincts of animals. To be sure, God fervently desires people to “be fruitful and multiply” because He wants to eventually have a large spiritual family (Genesis 1:28). God desires that most couples have children and then be the very best parents they can be for those children.

But God would have designed human-kind far differently if He were only

concerned about reproduction. The more a person learns about the complex designs (anatomical, neurological, and hormonal) of male and female human bodies and minds, the clearer it becomes that they are “intended for pleasure” and bonding between couples, not solely for reproduction.

God’s intent that sex would be pleasurable is also emphasized by various scriptures including Proverbs 5:15-19, Ecclesiastes 9:9 and Song of Solomon.

God wants married couples to regard their marital intimacy as a major responsibility and as an essential expression of their love for one another. 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 warns husbands and wives not to be selfish by neglecting to give one’s spouse sexual satisfaction. This tells us that if you are married, you should not deprive (KJV: defraud) your spouse of their sexual needs.

God’s plan is that when loving married couples regularly “become one flesh,” that will strengthen and enhance their marriage, bonding and blending them together to also have one mind and one heart. Two become one!

That is God’s plan. He created us male and female so husbands and wives can become intimately united physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. A beautiful and deeply meaningful plan indeed!

Our all-loving and all-wise Creator gave us the Seventh Commandment to exalt and protect the precious relationship of marriage!

Part 2 will cover much more including Christ’s relationship to the Church as a future marriage! **UN**

This is part eight of an ongoing series covering the Ten Commandments. Missed a part? Visit ucg.org/tags/the-ten-commandments-series.

Conviction and Courage

Continued from page 3

ed His disciples to preach the Kingdom of God: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

To preach the gospel requires considerable courage in our conviction—often against societal norms. We should be filled with zeal in our preaching and teaching!

Commitment to our calling and the role of Christ’s faithful servants

As preachers and teachers of God’s way of life, Jesus Christ’s ministers and lay members should be totally committed to their sacred duty! Preaching God’s truth is vital in convicting our listeners and readers. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14)?

Furthermore, “the Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth” (Ecclesiastes 12:10). Solomon’s reflection becomes our *modus operandi*. With as much wisdom and power as He may grant to His ministers and members of His Church, we seek God’s true words to preach and teach the gospel of God’s Kingdom.

What is conviction?

God’s Church must live and preach with conviction. The core meaning of conviction (Greek *elegcho*) is the profound recognition of one’s personal guilt before God. Christ explained that the power of God’s Spirit would “...convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). As God’s servants, before we can effectively help to convict others of their sins, we must be convicted to the depth of our being—and act on the driving need to faithfully obey.

As we humbly yield to Him and to the

Before we can effectively help to convict others of their sins, we must be convicted to the depth of our being.

Father, Christ inspires the process of how we preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God—so that it convicts and motivates others to repent, to live God’s way of life, and then through baptism and the laying on of hands become a member of the spiritual Body of Christ. For minister and member alike, this conviction must

constantly energize our dedication to Christ and the Father. It enables us to overcome sin and grow toward God’s soon-coming Kingdom.

We, as Christians and preachers of the gospel, must be convicted of a powerful sense of spiritual duty—as was the apostle Paul: “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:16-18).

What is courage?

Courage, in essence, is to keep the true faith and move forward unafraid while boldly proclaiming God’s truth. Joshua naturally had courage, but it grew stronger as God specifically encouraged him to be very courageous (see Joshua 1:7).

This is also the essential concept of

With as much wisdom and power as He may grant to His ministers and members of His Church, we seek God’s true words to preach and teach the gospel of God’s Kingdom.

courage in the New Testament. Note the example of Paul. After his appeal to Caesar, Paul was sent into the custody of soldiers to Rome where he would stand trial before Caesar. The prison voyage faced numerous setbacks, including a shipwreck on Malta, then on to Italy and the long march to Rome. During this time, Paul was even bitten by a deadly viper.

The record implies that Paul was weary and downhearted. Unknown to him, an entourage of brethren from Rome had traveled to meet Paul and his soldier escort at the Appii Forum and Three Inns. “When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage” (Acts 28:15).

That encouragement, blessed by God, invigorated Paul. He saw that his work was not in vain. After this, the apostle was in Rome for “two whole years receiving all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence” (Acts 28:30-31).

We all can be wearied and intimidated by the press of troublesome circumstances, and even by worldly peer pressure—and these can be complicated by a lack of personal faith. If we succumb

to that dynamic, it will intimidate and weaken us.

When spiritual confidence wanes, we tend to hedge our discourse—often with softer denunciations of sin—or even tacit acceptance of sin and/or false teachings. In plain language, without spiritual courage, our conviction weakens and we can water down God’s truth. We must take this seriously or we could find ourselves among those who have fallen away due to a lack of spiritual courage and faith.

Be on guard. Don’t fall prey to human

The prophets pleaded, confronted and commanded! And they foretold the beauty and glory of the promise of eternal life for the faithful.

nature. We are to be filled with the divine nature, courage and true faith in Jesus Christ!

Dedicated and determined

In a vision, Isaiah saw God on His great throne in heaven (Isaiah 6:1-9). The prophet was awestruck! Nearly 800 years later the apostle Paul reacted likewise to a similar vision (2 Corinthians 12).

Isaiah heard God’s voice asking, “Whom shall I send and who will go for Us?” The prophet responded, “Here am I! Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

Paul likewise perceived his calling to preach the gospel of God’s Kingdom. Like the prophet and like the apostle, both ministers and members work together to carry out the same commission of teaching and preaching to the world today. We must be determined to do God’s work with their same dedication.

True spiritual grit

Conviction and courage describe the inner strength of God’s prophets and apostles. They, along with Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone, are our true role models.

Christ set His mind to boldly proclaim the Word of God regardless of the circumstances: “For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know I will not be disgraced” (Isaiah 50:7).

Ezekiel was exhorted to be filled with the same courage: “Behold, I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house” (Ezekiel 3:8-9). With backup like that, Ezekiel was fearless, and hard to stop.

How spiritually fearless are we today?

Jeremiah stood boldly before the king and proclaimed the Word of God: “Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD... Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: ‘Behold I have put My words in your mouth’” (Jeremiah 1:8-9). God will be with us—just as He was with Jeremiah.

Jeremiah had a tender heart and has been called the “weeping prophet.” But even with tears in his eyes, he was unstoppable in his mission to warn Judah of her impending doom. How easily are we emotionally diverted from our duty to warn the world?

Assets and actions of the great apostles and prophets

The apostles and prophets all were spiritually tough and faithful. Many ultimately gave their lives for the cause of God’s Kingdom.

Added to their personal calling and training by Christ and their own prayers to the Father, the other great spiritual asset they had on the ground was that they knew they were in that titanic, spiritual battle *together!* Add to that the tremendous force of prayers from faithful elders and brethren in the churches the apostles founded and pastored.

Not unlike the calling of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the apostles and prophets stood alone in their spiritual and prophetic duties. They pleaded, they confronted, they commanded! They warned direly. And they foretold of the beauty and glory of the promise of eternal life for the faithful.

God’s people today

The Texas Rangers have a legendary reputation for courage and conviction. William Jesse “Bill” McDonald was one of their four greatest captains. He served as a Ranger at the turn of the 20th century. In service and saying, he defined conviction and courage: “No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that’s in the right and keeps on a-comin.”

As part of God’s Church, we have a greater Captain of our Salvation—Jesus Christ. We too have a reputation of spiritual fearlessness to uphold. We must be about our Father’s business of proclaiming His soon-coming Kingdom and true way of life. This principle applies for all Christians—to be fearless and bold in how we live, preaching the gospel message through our life’s example—even if we are not teaching from a pulpit.

Our preaching must rise to the power of our spiritual forebears. Let it be borne of heartfelt conviction coupled with stand-in-the-gap courage! **UN**

How Real is God to You?

Continued from page 3

provide the solution—even a supernatural solution if He so chooses.

Do we show Him the respect and honor He deserves? Do we demonstrate faith in Him, or is He a second or third thought when the other things we do or try don't work out so well? When He is first in our minds, we can learn from our mistakes and consciously choose to amend our ways and surrender our will to His. This helps us remember that His way is best and He can literally provide all that we need. Even with this mindset, after time passes, it can be easy to revert to our old patterns and our old ways of doing things or looking at things. Keeping God at the forefront of our minds must be intentional. Do we speak of His way often, and do we consciously live His way all seven days of the week?

Do we obey Him as we might a physical boss or someone we admire deeply? Do we really seek to please Him, as we would a person we love and want to show, through our actions, that they are really important to us and we want a deep relationship with them?

Are our hearts committed to Him, and do we truly seek His guidance, instruction and correction, as we would an employer or someone in authority who took us “under his wing” and told us he saw great potential in us and wanted to work with us?

As we think about what we do each day,

the attitudes we display and the choices we make, we should compare those to the standard God has established for our behavior. Are we doing things His way, really and truly seeking His Kingdom and actively applying the principles and attitudes of His Kingdom into our lives and homes right now? Are we grateful to God for all He does and all He provides? Do we take the time to stop and thank Him and seek His guidance, strength and words during the day, in silent prayers offered from our hearts?

We should be grateful to Him for the love, patience and mercy He shows all of us as we strive to become the person He wants us to be—even as we struggle with our imperfections as Paul describes in Romans 7:15-25.

How real is God to you and me? We can answer that by taking a good hard look at our lives. If God is real to us—if we are really conscious of Him and grasp what He has offered us—we know exactly what we should be doing and we are constantly turning to Him, listening to Him and putting to death our own ideas and ways and consciously choosing to be like Him.

If God is real to us, and if He really is the most important thing in our lives, then it will show in what we do, how we do it and what we think about. It will show in how we spend our time. It will show in how we treat each other and it will show in our congregations, as His love develops and grows in all of us. **UN**

Northeast Ministerial Conference

Continued from front page

Vision,” in which he emphasized the importance of preparing messages that are mindful of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

In the afternoon, Steve and Kathe Myers discussed “Becoming a Nurturing Pastoral Couple.” They used different exercises to show the need to nurture local congregations, with a lesson to focus on using encouragement and support to better position the brethren for spiritual growth.

Steve Myers followed up with a seminar titled “The ‘Mess’ in Messianics,” pointing out our need to follow the spirit of the law with a New Covenant application, being careful not to get caught up in the traditions of men.

In the third afternoon session, “Expository Preaching,” Darris McNeely discussed the need to present a balanced diet of sermons. He used the example of Paul's sermon on Mars Hill in Acts 17 to explain how to “expose” the real depth behind the written words of scripture and apply them today.

During dinner, the Education Team guided a discussion on the importance of developing more meaningful and closer relationships among the ministry to help support one another and to serve more effectively. Following dinner, Chris Rowland introduced new updates

to the Ministerial Resource Site.

Tuesday morning, President Victor Kubik presented a timely session about our need for “Going Above and Beyond the Ministerial Code of Ethics.” Mr. Kubik discussed the ministry's need to be above reproach, setting the proper example for our brethren around the world. Going through our Ministerial Code of Ethics, he explained why we must be careful to avoid even the appearance of evil by dealing honestly and uprightly in all our actions.

Mark Welch and Steve Myers once again teamed up in a helpful session on “Effective Pastoring and Ministry.” Both drew from years of experience of pastoring and ministering to the needs of several congregations. During this session, a number of questions previously gathered by our regional pastors were answered.

The final presentation was given by Mark Welch titled “Unity in the Body of Christ.” He exhorted our ministers to strive for unity in their local congregations and throughout the Church. He emphasized the need for true integrity, true humility and genuine godly love in our quest for greater unity.

The conference concluded with Steve Myers and Victor Kubik thanking everyone for their wonderful participation and service to God and His people! **UN**

See You Again Someday

By Karen Edelbach

Over 50 years ago, on a spring afternoon in 1968, two Air Force officers arrived at our family farm in Hobart, Indiana. My mother, Mildred, was home in the kitchen of the farm house. She immediately sensed that they were here about my brother Bill, Lt. William Lute, who was serving at the Homestead Air Force Base in Florida, and the visit was ominous.

The two officials and my mother got into their car and proceeded “down the lane” to find my dad, Clarence, who was out in a field near the barnyard on his tractor, doing the spring plowing. As they walked out toward him, he stopped his tractor and began to contemplate the nature of this unusual sight.

“Your son, Bill, is missing.” The words were deafening to them.

My brother was flying in a routine training mission over the Atlantic in a formation with three other fighter jets, each carrying a pilot and a co-pilot. The airplane had gotten out of formation, and was circling around to come in again

when the wing clipped another of the jets.

“We have a search party out looking for him and the other three pilots who are missing. The Air Force is searching the area in hopes of finding them alive,” the officers reported to my shocked parents.

When the Air Force officials had departed, and mom and dad were back at the farm house, they began to call family and friends about the situation. By evening, quite a troop of support had arrived and a solemn vigil begun, with quiet conversation and prayers lifted up for Bill and the others' safe return.

One night and day slipped into two, with no word. Those present shifted into a new group of faces as some left for work or sleep and family responsibilities.

The jets all have an eject button which immediately can shoot the pilots and copilots out of their cockpit and deploy a parachute. The pilot of my brother's plane

had been found alive in his parachute in the waters below. With only seconds to push the button for life-saving capabilities, the pilot of Bill's plane reported that he yelled twice, “Eject! Eject!” But he was unsure if Bill had indeed been able to push the button in time.

When day three arrived, hope was fading. A report came that the Air Force had called off the search. Weeks passed. Memorials were scheduled to honor my brother's memory. A stone with his name and information was installed at the cemetery where other family members were designated. It was a bitter time for mom and dad, without a body to let closure begin.

I was becoming a student of the Bible around that time. I found a scripture in Revelation 20:13 that speaks of the future resurrection of all people. It gave me new insight into the pain and sadness of death. It includes this statement:

“The sea gave up the dead who were in it,” indicating that those who have been lost at sea, and other causes too, would be brought back and given new life.

What an astounding image this brings to mind! Ships lost in storms, or in war; people who died at sea and whose bodies were thrown into a watery grave; planes that have gone down, like my brother's, through accident or other causes, with occupants never to be seen again. All of these would be included in the dead that the sea is going to release. This is truly one of God's “great and precious promises” that Peter describes in 2 Peter 1:4.

One Saturday morning when I visited my parents at the farm, I showed my mother that scripture. My dad was unable to talk about the loss that we had endured, but mom found comfort in this scripture. And I was greatly comforted myself in being able to bring her some sense of peace.

My parents have long since died, never seeing the fulfillment of that promise. But we can picture the great reunions that will take place someday of those separated by such tragedy. What a glorious time it will be when God fulfills His promise of new life to the world, and the opportunity for all to learn of and enter the Kingdom of God. **UN**



Photo by Priscilla du Preez/Unsplash

Announcements



Audrey Eliana May

May 22, 2019



Scarlett Adeline Louise Schmidt

June 9, 2019



Karl & Donna Hampton

65th Anniversary



Alec & Donna Surratt

50th Anniversary



Mitchell & Dana Moss

10th Anniversary



Richard Brett & Lesley Harper

July 7, 2019



Dianne Marie Stansbury Vinson Calder

July 15, 1955-Feb. 22, 2019

Weddings

Richard Brett and Lesley Harper

On Sunday July 7, Richard Brett and London deaconess Lesley Harper and were married at the beautiful William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Several members of the London congregation, together with family and friends of the bride and groom, celebrated the happy occasion. Everything went smoothly, and the bride commented, “We had a really lovely wedding. We could not have asked for a better day.”

Obituaries

Dianne Marie Stansbury Vinson Calder

Dianne Marie Stansbury Vinson Calder lost her courageous battle with cancer on Feb. 22, 2019. She was born July 15, 1955 in Seattle, Washington. Her early childhood was spent in and around Shelton, Washington. In 1969, the family moved to Spanaway, Washington where Dianne graduated with honors from Bethel High School. She went on to attend Ambassador College in Pasadena, California (1973 to 1976). She earned a bachelor of science degree in human development from Warner Pacific College, Portland, Oregon and a medical assistant degree from Everest College in Bremerton, Washington—all with honors.

Dianne loved gardening and became a Master Gardener. She also enjoyed crocheting, knitting, needle point, sewing, baking, photography, science, drawing maps, doing jigsaw puzzles, playing the flute and she even dabbled a little in writing poetry. Dianne was happy on the water boating and fishing, on the dance floor dancing or listening to beautiful or happy music. The most enjoyment for her came from the scriptures and from her children, grandchildren and family.

Dianne is survived by her husband, Tim Calder; parents, Mary and Charlie Green; brother, Dale Stansbury (Dana); sister, Doreen Stansbury Delamater; daughter, Shanna Vinson Siporin (Lev); son, Sean Vinson (Sarah), (father,

Births

Audrey Eliana May

John and Melanie (Morris) May are most grateful to God for the birth of their daughter, Audrey Eliana May. Audrey was born on May 22, 2019 in Winfield, Illinois. She weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz., and was 21 in. long. John, Melanie and Audrey attend the Chicago, Illinois congregation. Audrey’s grandparents are William and Eileen May of the Chicago congregation, Robert and Jane Kelley of Benton, Arkansas, and James Michael Morris (deceased). Audrey was desired with many prayers. Her middle name, Eliana, means “God has answered me.”

Scarlett Adeline Louise Schmidt

Warner and Rachel Schmidt of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin congregation are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Scarlett Adeline Louise Schmidt. She was born at 1:27 p.m. on Pentecost (June 9, 2019), weighing 6 lbs., 9 oz., and measuring 20 in. long. Grandparents Randy and Darlene Schmidt are overjoyed with this great blessing, as are the many honorary “aunts,” “uncles,” and “grandparents” within the extended Church family.

Anniversaries

Karl and Donna Hampton

Karl and Donna Hampton celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 25. After a large family gathering earlier in the month in the mountains of central Wash-

ington where Karl had grown up, they took a private trip to the area where they met and married in Seattle, Washington, in 1954.

During their trip, they were able to visit the church in which they were married, and connect with a “pioneer member” who had attended in 1954 and had known some of the same friends they had known. They stayed in a hotel that was built on the site of the hotel where they had stayed their first night, and they visited several sites that held memories of their early years together.

Karl and Donna have five children, 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. They were baptized in April 1961 into the Church of God, and now attend (by webcast and sometimes in person) the Tacoma and Olympia United Church of God congregations where their daughter Nancy and son-in-law Roc Corbett now serve. They say, “We are so grateful for God’s calling!”

Alec and Donna Surratt

The Lawton, Oklahoma congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Alec and Donna (Conley) Surratt with a reception after services on the Sabbath of July 13, 2019. It was a festive occasion shared with extended family members and the entire congregation.

The Surratts met at Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas. Alec began his career in the Church’s Spanish department while a student. They decided to get married in Big Sandy, Texas since they were staying in the area for Alec’s job. The two were married on July 14, 1969.

Donna also ended up going to work for the Spanish department. They served the brethren for their entire careers except for a brief mandatory detour in the late 1990’s. In fact, the home office staff, their coworkers until retirement in 2016, sent a nice bouquet of flowers to recognize Alec and Donna’s many years of marriage. Outside of work, Alec and Donna have been known to hike and read a good book or two.

Alec and Donna Surratt have adjusted to retirement in Wichita Falls, Texas. They look forward to several more years of their marriage adventure together.

Mitchell and Dana Moss

Mitchell and Dana Moss celebrate 10 years of marriage on Sept. 6, 2019. Married in a barn in rural Ohio, Mitch characteristically invited his nascent ABC class to their Sunday wedding the Friday before (40 additional guests, who’d known each other all of three weeks). It turned out fine; in fact the party was all the better for it. Dana and Mitch share a love of travel and artistic pursuits (Dana a creative polymath, successively engaging in and excelling in photography, paper craft and interior design; Mitch, an enthusiast of music and tailoring-centric menswear). Now a family of three—their son Stirling was born in October 2018—they will celebrate their decadal anniversary with some extended travel in Italy leading up to the Feast of Tabernacles. They eagerly anticipate the next decade, and the one after that and—you know. They want to thank their family and friends for being a solid network of support in both the good times and difficult.

Announcements



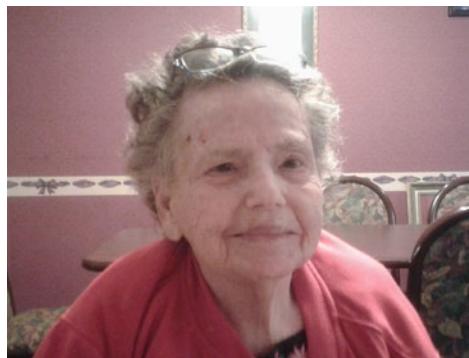
Cynthia Green

Nov. 4, 1936-March 24, 2019



Simon Wuerfel

Nov. 19, 1930-Dec. 21, 2018



Frances Wyatt

Oct. 15, 1935-July 8, 2019

Dana); grandchildren, Olivia and Louis Siporin; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members and friends. She will be greatly missed and we look forward to seeing her again!

We wish to thank the many brethren, worldwide and locally, for their many cards, prayers and support during Dianne's illness, and through and after the memorial. It is most appreciated!

Cynthia Green

Cynthia (Raye) Green, formerly of the Dayton, Ohio congregation died on March 24, 2019. Due to years of health issues, she was unable to attend church. Cynthia was born in Teaneck, New Jersey to the late Oliver and Dorothy Raye. She lived in both California and Florida. She met her husband Robert Green and they were married in 1954 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. They learned of God's Word from the radio with Mr. Armstrong's Radio Church of God in 1959. Thinking the Church was only on the radio, they didn't attend a church until the 1970's when they moved from Ohio to Lakeland, Florida, during the Worldwide Church of God.

Robert and Cynthia were baptized in 1980 by Mr. Frank McCrady. Cynthia is survived by her husband of 65 years,

Robert Green and their five children Charlotte (Randy) McQuien, Charles (Kim) Green, Bonnie (Pat) Drake, Merri Ellen (Ron) Walters and Phyllis (Alan) Hale. Cynthia is survived by two brothers Merrill Raye and Errol Raye. Cynthia and Robert have 20 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Cynthia was a homemaker who was devoted to her husband and loved her family.

Simon Wuerfel

Simon Wuerfel, loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and faithful servant of God, peacefully died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, at the age of 88, surrounded by his family. He was born to Friedrich and Olga Wuerfel in Albesti Constanta, Romania (Sarighiol) on Nov. 19, 1930. He was one of seven siblings—Regina, Jakob, Pauline, Heinrich, Erna and Leontine.

During WWII, Simon's family was uprooted from their home in Romania and found themselves on the move for the duration of the war. They spent about four years in Austria and almost a year in Czechoslovakia before arriving in southern Germany toward the close of WWII. Simon and his family were Sabbath keepers, so finding work

was especially difficult during the war. In southern Germany, Simon did farm work for a while until he obtained a job as an apprentice cabinet maker.

Simon's family immigrated to the United States in 1952. He spent his first two years in the United States separate from his family working on a farm in Iowa as part of his immigration sponsorship. Afterward he moved to Michigan to rejoin his family and there he met his future wife, Eugenia. The two were married on June 14, 1959 in Muskegon, Michigan. They built their home in Fennville, Michigan, where they lived for 57 years.

Simon was a craftsman who loved construction and building. Not only did he build their Fennville, Michigan home, but he also built much of the furniture that occupied their home. Throughout his career, Simon worked in multiple industries as a furniture maker, boat builder for Chris-Craft and tool and die maker for the automotive industry. Each job required its own unique attention to detail that he found highly rewarding. After his official retirement, Simon continued to undertake a variety of construction and remodeling jobs. One of his favorite projects was performing restoration work on the SS Keewatin, a retired passenger ship that had sailed the Great Lakes.

In his free time, Simon loved fishing, swimming and boating on Lake Michigan. He also loved volunteering at church and helping others. Anytime he heard of a neighbor, friend or family member who was struggling with a home improvement

or repair project, he immediately offered his assistance and handyman skills.

Simon is survived by two sisters, Erna Marko and Leontine Kalivoda; two children, Viola Gaffney (Matthew) of Tooele, Utah and Donald Wuerfel (Amy) of Plano, Texas; grandchildren, Benjamin Gaffney (Carrie), Nicole Richards (Lance), Joshua Gaffney (Annie), Jennifer Gaffney, and Jason Gaffney (Kathryn); and 12 great-grandchildren, Jayden, Ethan, Samuel, Ryan, Lillian, Julia, Jonah, Tobias, Josiah, Matthew, Leah and Malakai.

On Monday, Dec. 31, 2018 a memorial service was held at the Tate Mortuary, 110 South Main Street, Tooele, Utah and an internment followed at the Tooele City Cemetery in Tooele City, Utah.

Frances Wyatt

Frances Maxine Wyatt was born Oct. 15, 1935 to Cecil and Mary Biggs of San Angelo, Texas. She died peacefully on July 8, 2019 at Ballinger Health Care.

Frances met the love of her life, Marion Wyatt, in San Angelo when he was stationed at the Goodfellow Airforce Base during the Korean War. They were married on Dec. 6, 1953 and moved to St. Louis, Missouri, Marion's hometown, to start their life together.

Marion and Frances became aware of the truth through Marion's mother, who was a member of the Church. Marion set out to prove his mother wrong and in the process was converted. Frances then set out to prove Marion wrong and also was converted.

Before Passover in 1962 they were both baptized into the Radio Church of God. They spent many Feasts in Big Sandy, Texas and then later in the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. Frances remained faithful to God her whole life. Even when her dementia was advanced, she remembered Passover. She fussed about having to take the second Passover.

Frances was an accomplished housewife, an excellent cook and seamstress. She baked bread, canned and made excellent pies. She liked to mother everyone and really enjoyed having company. When they aged and Marion couldn't work, she started cleaning other homes to supplement the family income. She was a great storyteller and could make you feel like you were really there. She told many stories about what it was like to live during the Great Depression and World War II. She especially loved children.

Frances was preceded in death by her husband, Marion and one daughter, Norma, as well as her parents and her sisters. She leaves behind her brother Bill, three children and six grandchildren.

Frances will be missed. UN

Updates from Ministerial and Member Services

On June 15, 2019, Joel Borton was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Suzanne, serve in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, congregation.

At the end of June, Mr. Nathan Ekama was appointed pastor for the Bloomington and Canton, Illinois, congregations. Ministerial and Member Services would like to thank Ken and Susan Graham for their service to the Bloomington, Canton, and Springfield, Illinois, congregations over the past 16 years. Mr. Graham became their pastor in 2003 and will continue to write, proofread, do research and serve on various committees. The Grahams are planning to relocate somewhere in the western United States in the near future.

At the beginning of July, Mr. Dan Tay-

lor was appointed pastor for the Lubbock, Texas, congregation. Ministerial and Member Services would like to thank Tom and Lisa Damour for their service to the brethren in Texas and New Mexico where they have served since 2001. The Damours have retired and moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas.

On July 20, 2019, Ryan Hall was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Nissa, have been transferred from Cincinnati to the northwest area of Georgia. Mr. Hall will assist Rick Beam with the Rome (Georgia), Gadsden (Alabama), and Chattanooga (Tennessee) congregations.

Please continue to pray for the men and wives who serve God and His people.

—Chris Rowland

Announcements: Send us announcements from your local congregation! Have your pastor review what you write, and send it in to UN@ucg.org. We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photos with captions. Please double-check the spelling of names, and include the author's and photographer's names. **Email is preferred**, but we will also take physical mail as well! Please include a self-addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned.

Kubiks and de Campos' Visit Brethren in Angola



Left: Beverly Kubik and Kathy de Campos say goodbye to Sophie Foi. Right: Victor Kubik and Jorge de Campos with the leaders of the Church of God in Angola.

Along with Jorge and Kathy de Campos, Beverly and I recently visited our partnering churches in Portuguese-speaking Angola. They have remained faithful through war, poverty, betrayal and now persecution—almost 6,000 of them are scattered throughout the nation of Angola. From Friday to Monday, we worked through a full schedule that included Sabbath services, Bible studies, meetings with their council, a women's seminar, leadership training, visits to primary schools that they operate and simply fellowshiping with people of like faith and practice. Local radio and national television reporters even stayed for Sabbath services and then interviewed us.

After arriving in Luanda Friday morning, July 26, we visited the main office of the church, the church hall and their six-classroom primary school called "Living Waters." In the city of Luanda, which has a population of 5 million people, they have 15 congregations, each with its own church building.

Inside the hall, Pastor Paulino João Foi gave a welcoming speech. He mentioned how the church in Angola had spent 20 years in a spiritual wilderness, thinking that they were the only physical group remaining faithful to God. They never let go of hope, knowing that God would answer their prayers, sooner or later. God's answer to that prayer came when they made the first contact with United Church of God in late 2015. (A brief history of the church in Angola can be found on our Travel Blog at <http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog-entry/victorkubik/26/1563965534>. We also recorded *Inside United* podcasts detailing our trip.)

The Angolan brethren continue to need our urgent prayers for their standing with the local government. The government has recently requested additional information from the Church to meet the government's prerequisites.

The main requirement that the Church does not meet is the country's new legal requirement of having 60,000 adult members or at least 1,000 members in each of their 18 provinces. This is an impossible target to achieve. The Angolan leadership is asking for God's brethren to beseech God for a miracle in this situation. Should they not receive this permission, the Angolan churches of God will be legally forced to close down, the facilities will be locked and they will not be able to meet on the Sabbath or for God's annual festivals. Your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

On the Sabbath of July 27, we arrived at the church hall an hour early and were surprised with a line of people welcoming us. The people usually meet an hour before church to sing. I thank our indefatigable Jorge de Campos for his translation, sacrifice and love for these people. I had to stay closely tethered to Jorge for Portuguese-to-English translation. After the introductory hymns came the official start with a prayer followed by the sermonette and special music, which were mostly choirs of youth and adults. The service format was like ours in the United Church of God, and they know the same hymns as well.

The sermonette was delivered by their chairman, Paulino Foi, who spoke about us being a family as well as citizens of God's Kingdom. My sermon and Jorge de Campos' afternoon Bible study both came out of Ephesians as well. The Angolan press

corps came and stayed through the whole service. They interviewed us and pastor Avelino Bumba afterwards. I emphasized that we have had a relationship with these people for several decades and that I had wanted to come and meet them in person.

The afternoon meeting started with a youth and young people's program of music, scripture quoting and poetry. Everyone was very engaged. Then there were more hymns and the day closed around 5 p.m. after Jorge's Bible Study on Christ's love for the Church. As we closed the Bible Study, men and women rejoiced greatly as if it were a mini-feast.

On Sunday, July 28, we conducted three sessions of training, with more than 300 people present. The early morning session was in question and answer format in which I started by giving the history of the United Church of God, and a brief history of the Church of God overall.

On our last day, we went to a congregation called "Boa Esperança" (Good Hope) where they operate a primary school with 550 children. Their annual school calendar respects all of God's Holy Days. We then returned to Vidrul for the final meetings. Our last meeting was one with their Council of Elders and Board in which we discussed their challenges and our working together. Finally, we went to the airport and boarded for the long flight home. (A more detailed report about our visit to Angola can be found at <http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog/victorkubik/26>.)

Victor Kubik

Women's Discussion in Angola



Some of the 200 women who attended the discussion.

On Sunday, July 28, as part of our trip to Luanda, Angola, we gave a presentation to about 200 ladies. We wanted to get to know the ladies, to understand their lives and culture, to discuss the challenges with children holding onto the faith while in school and to encourage them to become more involved in the church alongside their husbands. One of the questions we asked the ladies was how they serve as godly women in their church, in their homes and in their community.

We learned that they are quite involved

in the organizing of activities for the church and their community. It was evident from the reception we received that the ladies play an important role in organizing church activities. Modesty and respect are taught in the home and are evident in dress and behavior. Many of the ladies' dresses were handmade and their handiwork could be seen in the beautiful outfits of the choir members.

The ladies have organized groups to assist with brethren with various needs that may arise within the church. Every Wednesday, they hold a "Mothers' Soci-

ety" meeting for each congregation to discuss needs in the area and how to fill them. Ladies from the various congregations in the city of Luanda get together every two months to discuss regional matters, as well.

The church has established three schools in the area to fill an educational need. Many of them serve as teachers and staff in these schools, which teach local children inside and outside the church. Their school calendar is centered around the Sabbath and Holy Days.

During our discussion, we also asked the ladies which righteous women stood out

in the Bible for their leadership contributions, how God used their leadership abilities and what we could learn from them.

The example of Ruth's faithfulness and courageousness was given. God established her into the family that would produce David, and later Jesus Christ. Other examples of righteous women mentioned were Mary, the mother of Jesus, for her great courage and faith, as well as Hannah, who remained childless for many years. Through Hannah's faith and fervent prayers to God, she was given a child.

Jochebed was also given as an example for her faith in placing her newborn son, Moses, in a basket and floating him in the reeds on the river Nile, praying that God would take care of him. We concluded our presentation with a discussion of 10 virtues found in Proverbs 31.

We traveled to Angola to teach and encourage these ladies, but they taught and encouraged us as well. Their resourcefulness, dedication and faith in God stood out to us, as well as the evident respect they have for each other, their husbands and their families. Our time with them gave us a wonderful example of hard work and unity.

Thank you ladies of Angola. We love you and are praying for you!

Adeus até à proxima, se Deus quiser! (Goodbye—till next time, God willing!)

Bev Kubik and Kathy de Campos

UYC 2019 Camp Photos



Cotubic

Ohio—June 30-July 7



Hye Sierra

California—June 30-July 7



Pinecrest

Missouri—June 30-July 7





UYC 2019 Camp Photos

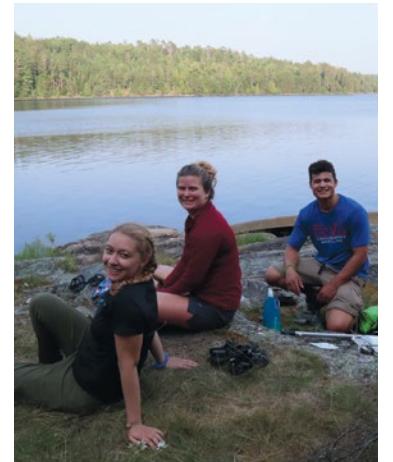
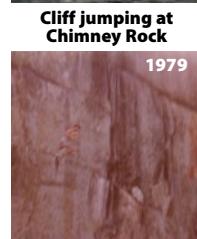
Northwest

Oregon—July 21-28



Woodland

Georgia—July 26-Aug. 2



UYC 2019 Camp Photos



Columbia Youth Camp

Cucuta—June 27-July 4



Mexico Youth Camp

Morelos—July 21-28





UYC 2019 Camp Photos

Ghana Youth Camp

Accra—Aug. 11-18



Malawi Youth Camp

Lilongwe—Aug. 11-18



Nigeria Youth Camp

Agaja Beach—Aug. 18-25



See more camp photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/united-church-of-god/albums/72157710569402242>

Cotubic

Ohio—June 30-July 7

"I'm really glad you folks are here," and "you guys are family and we want to keep working with you." Those are just a couple of the statements by Scott Stephens, director of the Camp Cotubic facility during the week that United Youth Camps conducted its teen camp for the northeast region of the U.S. Additionally, other staff that work at the facility all summer long commented that our teens are the most respectful and well-behaved kids they work with. This is encouraging that in our ninth year of camp at Cotubic, our program and people are favorably representing God and His Church.

Warm, dry weather allowed a full program of activities for the 116 campers and 52 staff gathered at the

camp near Bellefontaine, Ohio. Joining the traditional activities—softball, arts and crafts, swimming, archery, speedway, volleyball and more—was a new wilderness skills program and an expanded Practical Christianity class. Camp Cotubic also features an outstanding high ropes course and a climbing wall with a zip line and giant swing.

This year the camp ran at a later date than usual because of the date of Pentecost. This allowed for campers and staff from Canada and some states to come who normally cannot attend Cotubic. For the first time, our camp celebrated Independence Day during the session. To make it special, the giant Slip-N-Slide was opened

for evening activities. Then followed a special campfire program featuring patriotic songs and stories about the nation's beginning. To conclude the celebration, everyone enjoyed watermelon on the lawn while music played in the background.

Another terrific camp session wrapped up with a Saturday night dance before campers and staff had to pack their belongings for an early departure the next day.

Next summer UYC Cotubic will move back to its traditional place in the calendar: June 21-28. We hope to see you then!

Frank Dunkle

Hye Sierra

California—June 30-July 7

This summer at Camp Hye Sierra, 56 campers and 78 staff spent an incredible week together in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This year's camp theme, "Living God's Way Today," was evident throughout the week as the conversations and discussions revolved around how we can better live as a light to one another and to the world around us. We could not have asked for better weather—nice warm days and cool crisp nights were the standard fare for the week. The campers spent the days enjoying speedway, kayaking, dance, arts and crafts,

basketball, archery, fishing, Team Challenge, capture the flag and ultimate frisbee. The brother and sister dorms also got to enjoy a hike together to Tokopah Falls inside Kings Canyon National Park, which gave incredible views of large granite outcroppings and a raging waterfall due to the increased water levels over the past year. Our amazing kitchen staff kept us all energized for the week's activities with delicious food. Campers had the opportunity to grow closer together during the numerous chances for socializing that Hye Sierra pro-

vides, as well as during the two camp dances which gave us the opportunity to build bonds with one another through having FUN! Thank you to all who prayed for the success of our United Youth Camp programs. God heard your prayers and provided one of the best years of camp yet.

If you haven't been to Camp Hye Sierra before, or if it's been a few years—come on out and visit us next summer! We'll save you a spot.

Benjamin Light

Pincrest

Missouri—June 30-July 7

On Sunday, June 30, 2019, Camp Pincrest began its 24th year as a location to serve the teens of the United Church of God. By Sunday evening, 60 staff had arrived from 14 states and 93 campers from 21 states. With 153 campers and staff together in the dining hall, happy conversations and laughter filled the room. After dinner, all moved to the chapel for camper orientation. Activity staff introduced themselves to the campers and presented the activities that the teens could look forward to. On Monday morning, camp activities began with a Christian Living class. Each following day began with the same spiritual foundation. The Christian Living theme was broken down into five sub-themes and was emphasized from the beginning of the day in the dorm to the end of each day.

While the teaching and implementation of God's way was the primary emphasis of camp, there was still plenty of time for activities and fellowship. Camp-

ers enjoyed archery, journalism, dance, riflery, rock climbing and rappelling, low ropes, softball, Speedway, stand-up paddle boarding, swimming, gaga ball and volleyball. Campers were also able to earn proficiency awards in archery, riflery, rock climbing, softball, swimming and volleyball.

One of the unique opportunities enjoyed at Camp Pincrest is the observation of the Fourth of July. Campers and staff enjoyed star-spangled decorations in the dining hall and the staff donned Fourth of July hats, ties and other adornments. The day ended with a fireworks display over the camp lake. After a busy week, everyone relaxed in observance of the Sabbath, with a pleasant day of good meals, spiritual food in Bible study and Sabbath services and time for fellowship. As sunset arrived, all gathered in the Pincrest chapel to recognize those who had earned proficiency awards before the final dance. Also at this ceremony, the role of Camp Director was

passed from Gary and Liz Smith to the new director and his wife, Mike and Laura Phelps. At the Saturday night dance, awards were presented to the male and female campers, Gabe Holzwarth and Emily Wood, who had best exemplified God's way of life in their conduct throughout camp and in the dorm.

Camp Pincrest 2019 was once again a most positive and successful week. With the bonds developed during the week, it was with sadness that everyone headed for home. However, camp ended on a positive note. This year, for the first time since 2011, a large number of recent high school graduates served on staff along with many other young adults. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the camp and having young volunteers paves the way for future leadership. The development of young leadership combined with camp veterans ensures that 2020 will once again be a successful year at Camp Pincrest!

Gary Smith



UYC 2019 Camp Reports

Northwest

Oregon—July 21-28

Northwest Teen Camp opened this year with a warm welcome from the Camp Magruder administration. Angie Nebeker compared the mission statements of the host camp and UYC and noted the similar goals and purposes. She also noted how much the camp administration appreciates everything about our young people.

Campers from 19 states and three international areas enjoyed the best weather ever experienced here, with sunshine all day, temperatures in the 70's and calm winds. In all, 117 campers, 77 staff members and four junior campers enjoyed learning God's way through the daily lessons and activities. The Christian Living theme was "Living God's Way Today" and was the springboard for many profitable discussions during the classes. Campers opened up about the challenges they face in school and society.

Thanks to the efforts of some energetic beavers, Lake Lytle, the lake we use for water skiing, was a foot higher than normal, which made water skiing, wake boarding and riding the tube more enjoyable for everyone. Chinook Pass Outfitters brought 15 horses and mules, plus we had three more provided by Ron and Cristine Goethals for campers to ride.

Campfire fun in the evening included dorms reciting the memory verse for the day, dorm inspection reports, Bible quiz time, some competition games, reflections from graduating seniors and a campfire story as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.

The arts and crafts class featured a nice leather notebook cover that the campers custom decorated and will be able to use to take notes in church for many years to come. Other activities included softball—which we are finding is a great game for campers each year—and

pickleball, which is currently the fastest growing sport in the nation. Campers also enjoyed beach volleyball, dance class, archery, kayaking and Speedaway.

Bob and Dyanne Dick presented the "Excellence in Living" class. They focused on answering some of the important questions asked every year by campers concerning their relationships with members of the opposite sex. Mr. and Mrs. Dick explained the principles in God's Word that apply to everyone, both before and after marriage.

God's blessing and protection was obvious and appreciated. What a wonderful thing to be able to use what is perhaps the finest camp facility in the Northwest as a setting for campers to learn God's way, make new friends and enjoy the blessings and experience of attending a UYC summer camp. Join us at Northwest Camp next year, from July 19-26!

Rex Sexton

Woodland

Georgia—July 26-Aug. 2

This year in Temple, Georgia, 82 campers and 44 staff kicked off the newest UYG camp location from July 26-Aug 2. While July and August are typically very hot and muggy in the deep South, weather during camp was in the 80's most days with cloud cover and a breeze part of the time as well! The beautiful camp facility is set on the edge of a small lake and is well laid out with close proximity between most activities. Campers and staff bunked in air-conditioned train cars which were connected by a boardwalk to the main dining and meeting halls. Boys' dorms were on one side and girls on the other.

Camp began on a Friday, making the Sabbath the first full day of camp. The day was filled with fellowship, meaningful discussions, Sabbath services and finally a dance after sunset. The rest of the activities began on

Sunday, including morning Christian Living classes, color code interpersonal skills-building workshops, dance, swimming, high ropes with a zip line over the lake, low ropes, archery, softball, basketball, volleyball, giant Slip-N-Slide, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boating, human foosball and a campfire in the woods each evening. Campfire was a perfect end to each day with senior talks, skits and dorm sound offs. Afterwards, the entire camp gathered in the meeting hall to sing Ambassadors for Christ before turning in for the night.

There were two official camp dances with one more impromptu dance due to stormy weather. Wednesday evening was an open activity night where staff and campers enjoyed games, swimming, dancing and ice cream. Thursday evening included an old-fashioned ice cream

social with picnic blankets by the lake and then the final dance. Afterwards a wonderful camp slideshow was presented to highlight the special moments from the week. The last hymn was sung arm in arm, and tired campers headed back to their dorms to find late night pizza waiting for them.

The Woodland Camp staff were impressed with our campers and staff, saying that we were the "most organized group" they've ever had there. They've given us a contract for the same week next year which is a great blessing! Overall it was a fabulous camp with lifelong bonds built between staff and campers alike. Hope to see you next year!

Jay Ledbetter

Columbia Youth Camp

Cucuta—June 27-July 4

This year we inaugurated a new beautiful site for the youth camp in Colombia, the Cordillera Cucuta Club, located an hour from the city of Cucuta. The verdant site has a small lake and a large swimming pool and sits between two mountain ranges that help moderate the temperature. For sports, this site included a soccer field and tennis, volleyball and basketball courts. They also had several ping pong and pool tables. The delicious meals were prepared by the local staff.

We have the help of pastor Fred Nance and his wife Lidia, from the Little Rock, Arkansas area, who now have Colombia as part of their pastorate. Colombian-based

minister Jaime Salek and his wife Janet also assisted.

There were 19 young people who participated in this week-long camp. We had daily Christian living classes by Mario Seiglie and Fred Nance. Lidia Nance and Caty Seiglie taught creative arts and crafts classes and two classes especially oriented for the girls. In addition, Mr. Seiglie gave tennis classes and four young adults became quite proficient. In one evening, the campers presented Bible skits based on the blessings of Jacob and the life of Joseph. One of the young people's favorite activities was to ride around the lake in a banana boat pulled by a motor boat.

On Saturday, the congregation of Cucuta, 28 in all, including some of their relatives, came to the camp for Sabbath services. The youth enjoyed two dances, one on Saturday night and another on Tuesday. We also had a campfire that helped with the coolness of the night. Campers roasted marshmallows on the fire and ate them with chocolate and cookies. The young people greatly enjoyed this new place for the camp. Eleven of them are from Cucuta and live close to the site, and another camper came from nearby Venezuela. God willing, we hope to return to the same place next year!

Mario Seiglie

Mexico Youth Camp

Morelos—July 21-28

This year's UYC program for youth in Mexico was held in Morelos, a lush, forested region located about an hour from Mexico City. There were 18 young adults and nine pre-teens who attended the camp. Personnel came from the U.S. and Chile to serve the campers.

The site is a Christian camp called "Kikoten" which means "joy" in the Mayan language. Since it was in a

cool area, at more than 6,000 ft. elevation, we wore warm clothing to protect ourselves from the chilly mornings and evenings. There were Christian living classes in the morning, and during the rest of the day we had sports activities such as basketball, baseball, archery, challenge courses, rock climbing walls, bumper balls and zip lining. We also had arts and crafts classes, a dance, a bon-

fire and an entertaining talent night. The 48 people who participated will bring home pleasant memories after experiencing this wonderful camp. Thank you for your prayers and support. We are grateful to God for giving us this opportunity to serve the next generation growing up in the Church.

Gabriel García

Cote d'Ivoire Youth Camp

Man—July 21-28

We were blessed this year to have a week-long, injury-free and enjoyable camp in Man, Côte d'Ivoire in French-speaking West Africa. Hosting 22 campers from four different countries, we also had a wonderful local staff, as well as two Good Works volunteers, Suzanne Lavaty from California and Werner Solórzano from Guatemala.

Camp was held from Sunday to Sunday and activities included traditional activities such as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tug-of-war and arts and crafts. We also had the pleasure of introducing some new activities to the campers including speedway, ultimate frisbee, the card game Spoons and a water balloon toss. Thanks to our Good

Works volunteers, we were also able to provide practical, skills-based English classes, computer skills/professional development classes and swimming classes. One stand-out accomplishment among the campers was a general improvement in swimming proficiency. Many campers went from being frightened to get into the water for the first time in their life to being able to swim across the width of the pool with little to no assistance! We also had some thoughtful, interactive Bible studies and Garder le Nord (French for "Compass Check") classes every day.

God's blessings were seen in many instances throughout the week from unusually pleasant weather to well-

timed rain and access to the local pool, which had been closed for the past three years but reopened just months before the start of camp. We were just barely able to fit everyone and all our belongings into the hired bus for our 10-hour trip from Abidjan to Man, and everyone enjoyed good health and safety throughout all the travels. Those who attended were grateful for the opportunity to build relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from the region and around the world, and hope to have the opportunity to see each other again in future years.

Jessica Hendrickson

Ghana Youth Camp

Accra—Aug. 11-18

Youth Camp is the time for young people to live in the Zone, aligning with godly values in the midst of like-minded people. It is definitely the time for fun and also to learn some of life's most enduring and rewarding principles. Some 32 youth campers from six of Ghana's congregations and 21 staff from the U.S., Zambia, Kenya and Ghana met at the Valley View University campus for this year's event.

Camp Director David Meselebe and Senior Pastor for English-speaking West Africa, Paul Moody, set the tone for camp by introducing this year's theme. When the first day's activities began at 5:30 in the morning, there was unmistakable excitement in the air as first-time campers eagerly

awaited what was about to unfold. Camper Team Shine and Team Light were taken through lessons in bead crafts, volleyball, cycling and computer studies. Over the last few years, swimming has proven to be a very popular activity. This year it was taught by Paul Moody and Ben Light, a pastor who assists Paul Moody in West Africa.

Daily slots for Compass Check and Christian Living classes provided precious intervals to sharply focus on God's Word and its practical relevance in our lives. The spirit of cooperation and friendship was felt in all of camp's activities and interactions, showcasing the beauty in harmonious living. On the Sabbath, it was such a delight to have the Accra Church members come over to camp for

joint Sabbath services. On the last night of camp, tastefully dressed campers and staff enjoyed a banquet of delicious meals, music and dancing. The night ended with recognition and camper awards in various categories.

How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell safely together in sweet harmony. This is what it means to be in the Zone—a place of godly learning, love, unity, peace and togetherness. This year's theme was an excellent reminder to campers and staff that our unique identity is in the way we live as we strive to be lights to the world around us.

Sharon Olendo and Tabo Nawa

Malawi Youth Camp

Lilongwe—Aug. 11-18

This year we held the first international United Youth Camp in Malawi. With a total attendance of 76 people, some of the sports offered were football, netball, volleyball and kickball, which was a new sport to all of the campers. We also conducted team-building activities and offered a few classes to teach some useful skills to the campers. Some of the classes were first aid, gardening/farming basics, fish farming, mop-making, beeswax processing and flour sieve-making.

Thursday evening we had a talent show where campers sang songs, performed in plays and did card tricks. On Friday we held Olympic games. Follow-

ing the Olympics, we welcomed in the Sabbath with a Bible Q&A for the youths. At the Q&A, the resident elder, the two deacons and project coordinator Nick Lamoureux fielded lots of good questions, addressing topics which ranged from clean and unclean meats to the different resurrections.

On the Sabbath, an elder and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Filius Jere, from Chipata, Zambia, joined us for services, and an elder from Blantyre, Mr. Mpilangwe gave the sermon. Between the youth camp participants, visitors, and members of the local congregation, we had over 100 people in attendance! After lunch, youth from

Chipata gave presentations and we conducted a Bible study explaining how to more effectively study and better understand our Bibles. Thanks to the technical skills of a camper from Blantyre, we were able to enjoy a little music and dancing before bed. We want to extend our thanks to those who have donated time, money, materials, prayers, buildings or whatever the case may be, in order for these youths of Zambia and Malawi to be able to come together and learn more about God and build lasting relationships with one another.

Nick and Megan Lamoureux



UYC 2019 Camp Reports

Nigeria Youth Camp

Agaja Beach—Aug. 18-25

The Nigerian UYC 2019 took place at Agaja Beach, a peninsula accessible by boat along a meandering river, about 25km from where the Lagos congregation holds Sabbath services. Campers and staff came from the Benin City, Lagos and Owerri congregations, along with a teen camper from the UK who was briefly studying in Lagos. There were 24 campers, ranging in age from nine to 18 years old, 14 staff including the counselors. We even had three canines that assisted us on security detail! On Sunday, all gear needed for camp was transported and set up. By evening, camp started with an orientation on why we were there and to introduce the themes. Campers and counselors were divided into two teams named after precious stones, Sapphire and Emerald.

Activities included daily Compass Check and Christian Living classes, where each day's subtheme was fully discussed using the scripture guidelines in the camp booklet

provided. Other activities were volleyball, archery, team challenge, tapestry, etiquette class (social and table etiquette), dance class, swimming and chess. At the movie night, campers watched *Queen of Katwe*, an inspiring true story of courage and determination about an illiterate child who became a chess champion. This added to the desire of all campers to learn and improve their skills in chess, an activity just introduced to camp classes this year. Surprisingly, the two best chess players were 9-year-old Master Joshua and 11-year-old Bobbi. A bonfire night with a sing-along of campfire songs and hymns added to the joy and fun. A delicious spicy pepper soup and Sobo, a homemade hibiscus flower drink, were served during the bonfire night to take the chill off the windy night air.

On Friday, we took a long beach walk we call the "Endurance Trek," after which we returned to camp and had chess, archery and volleyball championships before the Sabbath

evening Bible study.

On the Sabbath, as is our custom, some of the Lagos congregation members came to keep the Sabbath with us and experienced the serenity and beauty of our camp setting, further enriching the joy of spending another Sabbath worshipping and listening to God's words.

Camp ended with a banquet on Saturday night, where both teams held a talent show with various skits derived from the lessons taught each day over the course of the camp. A Bible bowl ended the day's activities and by 9:30am on Sunday, we were on a boat heading back to civilization and our lives, enriched again and blessed with the grace of God and the opportunity to be part of UYC 2019.

Deep and sincere thanks to the church administration for the support they continue to give that enables us to have Youth Camp!

Oludare Akinbo

Preteen Camp Colorado

Colorado—June 16-19

Over 100 preteen campers and staff met for the 10th annual Camp Colorado this year. We were graced with the presence of two bull moose throughout our first day at camp, so we considered ourselves off to a great start!

A bit cooler and rainier than usual, we were very grateful that camp went on as planned with no interruptions. Everyone had wonderful attitudes as we walked together in the spirit of unity and godly fellowship. In the beautiful

setting of the Rocky Mountains, we enjoyed God's artistry and His beautiful creation. In addition, the children seemed to enjoy themselves and have lots of fun!

We offered classes in Christian living, archery, canoeing and arts and crafts. We also enjoyed two nature hikes and daily campfires, sing-alongs and Bible games for children, teens and adults. Daily compass checks also helped keep us on course!

Teen staff were a big help with the smaller children and had an opportunity to spend an hour together at the Activity Center each evening after "lights out" for the preteen campers. Many lifelong, close relationships begin at camp.

We hope you will consider joining us at Camp Colorado in 2020!

Mark Welch

Nacome Preteen Camp

Tennessee—June 2-5

Deep in the Tennessee woods at the Nacome Camp and Conference Center, campers and staff came together on June 2 for our seventh year at Camp Nacome. And what a year it was! Just as campers arrived on Sunday, God blessed us with very enjoyable weather bringing down the suffocating heat and humidity from the 90's to low 80's with cool, comfortable evening temperatures.

Campers enjoyed daily nature activities including creek walks, caving and shelter building along with outdoor activities like archery, air riflery, swimming and canoeing. Team building activities like human foosball, low ropes and cam-

pus improvement provided many opportunities to make new friendships as well.

Christian Living classes focused on topics like not letting peer pressure dictate one's actions, and standing up for God's truth. Classes were complemented by an entertaining rendition of the story of Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego in which campers and staff helped role play the story of three young men faced with a difficult choice. This year everyone learned a new song of faith and dedication to sing and sign when beginning and ending each Christian Living class.

There was no doubt God's hand was in all that was

accomplished throughout camp this year. His blessings of great weather along with no serious injuries were gratefully received and we give Him thanks for all He did. Staff were also amazing with like-mindedness and serving attitudes, especially the young adults and teens that joined us this year. Without the staff who serve, the camp program would not be possible. From June 6-10, 2020, Camp Nacome will return at the same location.

Matthew Puckett

Preteen Camp Ironwood

Minnesota—July 14-17

This was the 18th year that UCG has held a preteen camp at the beautiful, outdoor setting of Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Minnesota. With 138 of us total, 52 preteens (including eight junior dorm campers under age five), 30 teens and 44 adult staff enjoyed four days of living, playing and working together "God's way." God blessed the camp with protection for campers and staff and with good weather for our outdoor activities. Two of our camp goals were to enrich campers' lives by giving them opportunities to build relationships with other children who share common beliefs, and to deepen their relationship with God by getting to know more about their loving Father through daily Christian Living classes. The theme of this year's camp was "The Fruit of the Spirit." Campers enjoyed the new Jelly

video, *Jelly Learns the Fruit of the Spirit*. They immediately began trying to memorize the song lyrics. In Christian Living classes, we discussed the nine fruits and each dorm picked a fruit of the spirit to demonstrate each day. Campers experienced a variety of challenging and fun activities including horseback riding, swimming, zip-lining, arts and crafts, field games, climbing wall, archery and BB guns, creek walk, team challenge, sling shot and tubing down a long Slip-N-Slide. Campers also enjoyed evening activities including a carnival, a campfire sing-along/fireside chat, Novelty Olympics and on the final night, a "Dance with Jelly and Mr. Nathan" followed by a treasure hunt. Camp Ironwood has become known as a family camp with many parents bringing their preteens and teens (as well as those 5 and under) and spending four days

together in a loving and nurturing family environment. This year we had a wonderful group of teens who served as assistant counselors and activity assistants and were the big brothers and big sisters to the campers. Adult staff included many parents who served as activity coordinators, counselors, support staff and dorm parents. It was a fun-filled four days! The friendships, camaraderie, nurturing family environment and opportunity to work and play together according to God's way of life is an experience that those who attended Camp Ironwood this summer will not soon forget. We praise God and thank Him for another successful year at Camp Ironwood and welcome campers and teens to Camp Ironwood next year, July 12-15, 2020.

David Schreiber

Preteen Northwest Camp

Oregon—July 14-17

Northwest preteen camp was exciting and memorable this year as 87 campers and 79 adult and teen staff dove into the theme: “Relying on Christ the King” (R.O.C.K). It was truly a year of putting the theme into practice. Camp began with cooler temperatures and rain threatened to impact the activities. We all prayed for the skies to clear up and that is exactly what happened!

The theme was brought out within each of the six girls’ and five boys’ dorms as well as in the activities, whether on the sports field or in Christian Living classes. Campers worked in teams to prove that Christ’s words recorded in the gospels ring true about the wise man building his house on a rock. An experiment from the Christian living classes as well as arts and crafts showed what might happen if we build our house on the sand. When the rains came down (from water blasters on the sports field), the

house that stuck with the rock stood firm!

Camp provided plenty of opportunities for fun. The younger dorms enjoyed parachute games in indoor sports and dance class. Older campers learned to swing dance and dance etiquette. Archery and the challenge course allowed campers to truly focus both individually and as a team. The boy and girl that came close to the bullseye on the moving lion target won hand-crafted bows made by Medford member Mike Hunicke. The river float allowed campers to overcome their fears as they floated into the cold water on an inner tube. Everyone ended up finishing with smiles all around! Our swimming instructors brought out the theme during this activity. Campers who could not swim before camp overcame their fear and learned to swim within just one class period. Each dorm performed at campfire one night during camp, ranging

from sweet songs to hilarious skits. All of them emphasized the theme. And don’t let their young age fool you! These young campers understood the theme and know how to teach it to others. Just ask them about the house on the rock and about how we rely on Christ the King. We give thanks to God for protecting and encouraging our little ones.

We also acknowledge the late John Cafourek who, with his wife Sandy, lovingly spearheaded this preteen camp. We appreciate those campers who shined as leaders, receiving the John Cafourek leadership award in their dorms. Let’s continue to live this theme throughout the year as we look forward to what 2020 has to offer our Northwest Preteen Camp!

Jeff Richards

Preteen Camp Piney Woods

Texas—June 23-26

We completed a successful preteen Camp Piney Woods on Wednesday, June 26 in Big Sandy, Texas. Altogether, 25 campers, 26 adult and teen staff and additional members of the East Texas congregation worked hard for four days to reinforce Living God’s Way Today to our precious children. In addition to the daily Christian Living classes and numerous teaching moments, we enjoyed a number of activities including fishing, swimming, crafts, baking, a dunking booth and sports (gymnastics, basketball, dodge ball, gaga ball), among other adventures.

Parents were there to see the end-of-camp awards

ceremony where the campers sang two music pieces—”All Things Bright and Beautiful” and “Rejoice in God Today,” which was written specifically for this camp by Mrs. Mary Beth Phillip, who also directed the kids.

UYC allows campers and staff alike to stretch ourselves in areas that may be uncomfortable for us, while doing so in a loving, safe Zone. It is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to exercise and use the gifts God has blessed us with. Having the camp at the UCG Big Sandy church building provided comfort for the indoor activities, and also allowed the campers to enjoy wonderful homemade

meals and desserts each day which were prepared by the camp staff and the local East Texas brethren.

We’re grateful to our Father in Heaven for blessing us with a wonderful, safe camp. Three times storms threatened our outdoor activities but not once did any hit. We pray that everyone involved will be more determined than ever to live God’s way today.

Jim Moody

Preteen Camp Buckeye

Ohio—July 28-31

Camp Buckeye completed its eighth year at Camp Luz in Orrville, Ohio with 83 campers and 76 staff members. The weather was perfect this year with only one brief shower that arrived just before lunch on Tuesday, but ended before lunch was over.

This year we made several changes to the schedule and were able to increase the amount of time for fun in the swimming pool. We kept archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, court games, fishing, field games, indoor games and watersports. This year we dropped team building and added a service project into the schedule.

The children at Camp Buckeye participated in the

assembly of 53 backpacks that will be given to children in the Ohio foster care system. Each backpack contained a fleece blanket, toothbrush, toothpaste, playing cards and a few other games. We also included a little card stating “A gift for you from the children at United Youth Camps” and on the reverse we had children write their first name to make it more personal.

Tuesday, Aug. 5, all 53 backpacks were delivered to the Foster Care Center of Lorain County by Mrs. B.J. Thomas along with Keith and Stephanie Feador. The staff were thrilled to receive the backpacks and were very impressed with them! They wanted to express their grati-

tude for the kindness shown by the campers and staff of United Youth Camps.

The three Christian Living classes covered topics addressing how special it is to be called by God, not to be like the world, and the dangers of being prideful. Our evening campfire activities included Minute-To-Win-It games and the popular campfire sing-along conducted by Mr. Mark Graham.

We are always thankful to God for his continued protection and blessings. Camp Luz is a wonderful venue and we plan to return next year!

Len Martin

Preteen Camp Seven Mountains

Pennsylvania—Aug. 11-14

It was another amazing year at Camp Seven Mountains! With 90 campers and a little over 100 staff and parents/grandparents in attendance, this was our largest camp yet. Campers kicked off their day with delicious food provided by our kitchen staff, followed by taking in the spiritual food of Christian Living classes. Lessons centered around Daniel’s story, the challenges he and his friends faced, and how we can learn from his example to deal with the challenges kids face today.

Campers enjoyed numerous activities such as archery, boating, kayaking, paddleboarding, field sports of all sorts, human foosball, volleyball, woodworking, crafts, swimming, gaga ball and more! Seventeen of our 90 campers were 0-3 years old and enjoyed morning activities of their own with Bible lessons, activities, songs and games at their level. Every evening ended with camp-wide activities on the fields and campfire songs and games. It was delightful

to see the parents and staff work together as we guided our children to develop and deepen friendships with each other and our heavenly Father. We are already excited for next year. Mark your calendars for August 9-12, 2020 and we’ll see you at Seven Mountains camp!

Rachel Massie

Preteen Camp Wildrose

July 17-22

From July 17-22 in Darwell, Alberta, Canada, Camp Wildrose had another wonderful summer session! This year we had 65 people in attendance with 39 youth ranging in age from one to 18. The rain, which is typical of our annual camp experience here in Alberta, did nothing to dampen spirits or attitudes. In fact, patience and perseverance flourished as everyone adjusted to schedule changes. With the generous support from many brethren, we were able to purchase durable, weather-proof tents that withstood the rain and wind very well.

This camp was especially memorable. First, it was our 10th summer session since 2010! Saturday evening's event featured a slideshow of the last nine summers. Second, we were pleased to welcome three visitors from far away—Slavica Radonic and her daughter, Mia, from Windsor, Ontario and Alex Schweitzer from Madison, Wisconsin. We hope to encourage more visitors in the future.

Each year, Camp Wildrose fulfills the need to grow in unity and harmony and become a loving family of God.

We watch as friendships grow deeper, families expand to include others in their embrace, individuals are welcomed and cared for, and people smile, laugh and relax in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp Wildrose is an official children's camp, but works to attend to the needs of all ages. Activities keep our youth busy, entertained and learning as they participate in Christian living, canoeing, archery, outdoor education, crafts, teamwork challenges, various sports and dance lessons. Camp activities work to build our Church family into an integrated whole, and include a dance, Sabbath services, an entertainment evening, campfire activities, morning compass checks, picnic games and various group games.

This year the Sabbath day featured not only children's Sabbath school, but a teen Bible study and an adult Bible study. Except for the two split sermons, services were orchestrated entirely by the youth, including prayers, song leading, announcements, special music and hymn accompaniment.

This year's theme of "Growing in God's Garden" was sub-themed with three Fruits of the Spirit—joy, patience

and kindness. Our compass checks (we call them "Peanut Butter and Jam" sessions) discussed how we are called "special treasures" by God. Therefore, if God sees us as special and looks upon the inward man to discover a treasure inside, how ought we then to view our fellow man as special and a treasure to be discovered. We strove to treat each individual at camp as special, important and necessary to build an integrated whole. A second session looked at the story of the Potter and the Clay in Jeremiah 18 and how we must allow God to work with us, molding and shaping us into useful instruments. Camp allows us many opportunities to be molded, improved and perfected. Working and living side by side for five days provides countless opportunities to show brotherly love and to learn to live together in harmony.

Camp Wildrose welcomes all United Church of God attendees and would love to have you join our unique Church family in a camp experience! If you are interested in attending next July (2020), please contact Susan Davis at campwildrose@gmail.com.

Susan Davis

Boundary Waters Adventure Program

Continued from front page

their adventure paddling down the Little Indian Sioux River to Loon Lake and beyond. The adventurers saw bald eagles and beavers and heard the call of the wild loon. They endured two surprise thunderstorms, but it rained only after camp had been set up and the rest of the trip they had ideal weather. Called the Boundary Waters (lakes and rivers) because they divide the U.S. and Canada, part of the time campers were in the U.S. and part of the time they were in Canada. The entire group reunited for a restful Sabbath at a campground on Lake Mukooda before emerging from the wilderness the next day.

Along with gaining valuable lessons and experiences, and pushing their comfort zones, the adventurers created new friendships and deepened old ones.

In 1979, I had a similar experience when I attended SEP at 15 years old. Going on a Boundary Waters canoe trip was one of the most memorable things I experienced there. Near the end of the first week of camp, one boy from each dorm was chosen for the trip and we were in the wilderness for four days and three nights. We traveled 60 miles. It was the hardest work I had ever done at that point in my life, but it was thrilling. I enjoyed every minute of it—or at least almost every minute.

At one point in the trip we stopped at a rock face on the lake shore and staff said that we could cliff jump. It was about 20 feet down, and several of the boys

took the plunge. I held back though. I don't remember if it was from fear or just not wanting to get wet. What I do remember is that I regretted missing that opportunity for years afterward.

I've told of that experience many times to encourage teens at summer camp to not miss out on special opportunities.

Leading the Boundary Waters Adventure this summer was a very special opportunity, and I'm glad I did not let it pass. Along with getting to camp in beautiful wilderness with an outstanding group of people, BWA gave me another opportunity to reverse a regret after 40 years. Near the end of our second day of paddling, we came to the exact same place for cliff jumping. This time I did not hesitate! I joined almost everyone else in our group climbing up and experiencing the thrill of a leaping plunge into the water.

Don Hooser and Bill Cowan helped establish the Boundary Waters canoe trip at SEP in 1965. Mr. Hooser wrote,

"Bill Cowan and I were blessed to be in charge of the canoeing program for that very first summer of SEP in 1965. To spend a whole summer canoeing, camping, teaching kids and seeing gorgeous scenery was almost a paradise for us.

"After a week of teaching canoeing at Pelican Lake, we spent the rest of the summer leading canoe trips. Bill and I would take two of these five-day trips back-to-back before returning to camp to rest for a few days. While on the trip, we were out of contact with

anyone for those five days. Most of the time, no civilization was within sight, and even today that area has almost no cellphone coverage. On each trip, we taught canoeing, camping, outdoor cooking and an appreciation for God's awesome creation with no distractions. I am delighted that United Church of God is doing something similar now."

Kevin Kenady led many Boundary Waters canoe trips during SEP. He reflected on some highlights and the value of that experience:

"The benefits to campers who went on the canoe trips was obvious. By the 1980's, all campers were able to experience the trip of a lifetime. Each dorm would be sent on five to seven different routes; some with long arduous portages, others with no portages but plenty of paddling. Each camper went on a trip that was challenging to them.

"Life is like a canoe trip. Highs, lows, scary situations, majestic views, trials and overcoming of trials. In a short time in this environment, campers felt they had experienced a lifetime of growth.

"Every camp director from those days expressed the same sentiment: we wished that all the campers could go on their canoe trip at the very beginning of camp because they always returned as a close and well-functioning family. Challenging experiences like this took the dorm from a hodgepodge group to a team with stories to share for life.

"Some campers saw moose, bears, beavers, loons and a host of other wild-life close-up. Some experienced beautiful waterfalls, sunsets, campsites and sunrises. Some floated rapids, cliff

jumped and fished. But the growth that these campers experienced was obvious back at the regular camp.

"At the end of each three-week camp, canoeing staff shared stories, many of which involved miracles. For example, on one trip it was getting dark and the campers were tired and lost. They couldn't find a place to camp. While they had stopped on a point and were looking at a map in a desperate attempt to find a camping spot, they decided to pray about it. When the prayer was over, a camper pointed out an arrow-shaped rock nearby. After some discussion, the group climbed into their canoes and paddled in the direction the rock was pointing. They reached a perfect camp site in only a few minutes.

"Another trip had what could have been a disaster. A staff member cutting wood with a hatchet struck his foot. The cut went clear to his bone. Almost immediately, a man appeared and asked what all the commotion was about. He then explained that he and his canoe partner were surgeons who just happened to bring their surgery bag. When the staff member got back to camp and was checked out, they found no infection and perfect sutures.

"Go to any place where longtime Church members are and bring up canoe trips in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. You're bound to soon be talking with an excited former camper who remembers their canoe trip as a life-changing event. So, after a 20-year hiatus from trips into the BWCA, it was decided that it was time to give a new generation a growth-infused experience they would never forget." **UN**

Leadership Training Conference in West Africa



Participants from eight different countries attended the leadership conference.

By **Tim Pebworth and Darris McNeely**

We just completed a four-day training session for members in West Africa that brought together French and English-speaking men and women in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. It followed the annual youth camp conducted this year in the city of Man. The conference was held July 24 through August 1.

This was our first-ever, pan-West African Leadership Conference that allowed leaders from both English-speaking and French-speaking countries to come together for four days to hear lectures. One speaker was Darris McNeely, who

coordinates international training for Ministerial and Member Services. A tailored curriculum was prepared based on classes presented at Ambassador Bible College and other training conferences.

Twenty-four participants from six West African countries stretching from Côte d'Ivoire to Cameroon and including Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria had the chance to meet for the first time and exchange ideas and share thoughts on supporting brethren in West Africa. Two Good Works-sponsored volunteers, Werner Solorzano from Guatemala and Suzanne Lavaty from the United States, as well as French Commu-

nications Analyst Jessica Hendrickson and Senior Pastor for French-speaking Europe and West/Central Africa, Tim Pebworth, provided simultaneous translation for the conference using an FM emitter and FM radios. Suzanne and Werner had just finished serving in the week-long Youth Camp in northwest Côte d'Ivoire where they introduced English-language, computer and swimming classes into the curriculum.

Key topics covered in the leadership conference included understanding our role as disciples, marriage and family relations including navigating complex dowry and other local customs, sermon topic

planning, as well as a review of several fundamental beliefs. Participants related how much they appreciated the discussion of roles within the Church versus ranks and hierarchy.

The opening session dealt with the important key of leaders first being disciples. Biblical teaching on being a disciple is critical to dealing with common problems arising in the church context. Comments from the final feedback session included how much they appreciated learning what it meant to serve as a disciple and thinking about how they contribute to the Body of Christ consistent with the vision and mission of the Church.

We sought to supplement study time together with team-building activities including an afternoon at the Abidjan Zoo, a structured group dinner with designated translators at each table and an evening of song including a song written specifically for the event by a leader from Cameroon that we learned and sang together in French, English and Spanish (singing in Spanish was in honor of Werner Solorzano from Guatemala).

International conferences such as these are important ways of tying together UCG congregations around the world. Despite the language and cultural differences, we could see the group coming together and everyone prays we can meet again in the future. **UN**

Home Office Employee Outing



Children enjoyed exploring the fire truck at the home office outing.

On Wednesday, July 10, the home office staff and their families met at Sycamore Park in Batavia, Ohio, for a day of yard games, good food and fellowship.

All of this relaxation and fun came thanks to the efforts of those who did such a wonderful job organizing the event.

And let's not forget the food catered by Tin Man Grill, who offered three varieties of gourmet tacos: freshly smoked chicken tacos stuffed with either avocado or a tangy and sweet strawberry jalapeño salsa and sweet potato taco. The air was filled with friendly conversation as employees, friends and families played an array of outdoor games. Horseshoes, cornhole, volleyball, playground antics and even a climbing

rock contributed to the fun for those present. A trail surrounding the park, winding alongside a calm creek, provided a peaceful pause to an exciting day for anyone fortunate enough to take a stroll.

And for the young—and young at heart—a fire truck stopped by to be explored. Additionally, there were water balloon activities hosted by Kathy De Campos. The children played Duck, Duck, Splash and relay races, and once it all erupted into a frenzied water balloon fight, the adults joined in.

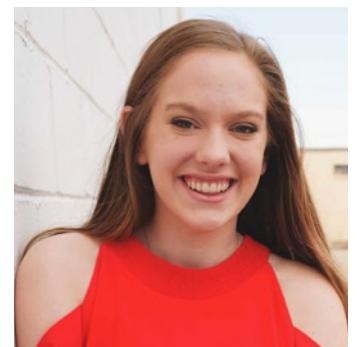
It was the perfect way to close out a day of joy, good conversation, and ultimately, edification for the staff of the home office.

Chaz Leathers

Congratulations Graduates!

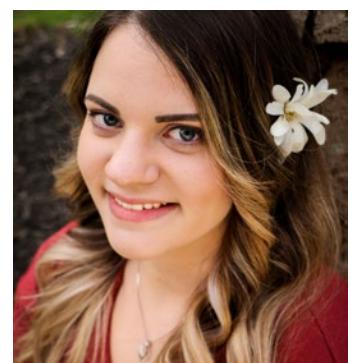
Cara Shaw, daughter of Brian and ReNae Shaw of the Twin Cities, Minnesota congregation graduated high school with an associate's degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College, thanks to dual enrollment. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and lettered in band and swimming at Cambridge-Isanti high school. She has been attending Church camps since her first preteen camp at age five, continuing through this most recent summer. She is actively involved in the Twin Cities' ensemble and choir and has participated in music at the Feast many times. Cara has been accepted to the University of Minnesota and will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing. Her favorite scripture is Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Her favorite quote is "risk something or forever sit with your dreams" (Herb Brooks).

Cara Shaw



Patricia Iams, a member of the Cincinnati East, Ohio congregation, just graduated in May with a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) from Northern Kentucky University. In 2015, Patricia moved from northern Idaho to Kentucky to pursue a BSN. She will become a registered nurse (RN) as soon as she is able to take the national nursing exam. During her years at NKU, Patricia received an Achievers Scholarship, volunteered at a therapeutic equestrian riding center and worked as a technician/phlebotomist in the emergency department of a local hospital. She was also awarded the Excellence in Community Service award among her graduating class. In her free time, she enjoys serving at various United Youth Camps, playing volleyball, spending time outdoors, hunting and traveling. Having accepted a full-time job offer to work in an emergency department in northern Kentucky, Patricia plans to stay in the Cincinnati area to complete her residency and gain skills and experience. Patricia's favorite quote is "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't—you're right" (Henry Ford).

Patricia Iams





Murfreesboro and Nashville, Tennessee Congregations Serve Local Senior Center



Local members of all ages pitch in.



Dozens of dining tables and chairs were cleaned by volunteers young and old from Murfreesboro and Nashville congregations for the senior center of Lebanon, Tennessee. The center director, Patti Watts, gratefully acknowledged the service: "Thank you all so much. The job was done well, but the fellowship was

even better. This is what teamwork looks like! A great big thank you to the youth group—and their parents—of the United Church of God." The center was so thankful for the service that they are allowing the local congregations to hold a marriage seminar in the facility free of charge.

Mitchell Moss

Maryland Musician Receives First Place Award for Album



Barri with guitar.

Barri Armitage, who attends with the Columbia, Maryland congregation, has poetically adapted scripture into an album of 10 songs spoken over the melodies. Barri entered this album, titled "A Reason for Every Season, Spoken Songs," into a song contest with the Northwest Alabama Music Publishing Company and won first place in the "Christian CD 2019" category. The judges were Nashville musicians. The first place

prize involved the publishing company sending the album to 200 radio stations worldwide, a gold record CD plaque and a guitar inscribed with Matthew 6:25. Barri's response was, "May this album be a witness because many of the songs refer to Jesus Christ's return and the coming Kingdom of God." This album, as well as many others, can be found on Barri's website, dovesongs.com.

Rhonda Diggins

Phoenix Congregation Hosts Women's Sabbath



Ladies of all ages spent the Women's Enrichment Sabbath learning and growing together.

The ladies of the northwest and east Phoenix congregations combined on July 20 for a Women's Enrichment Sabbath. The theme for the day was "Redeeming the Time—Ephesians 5:15-16," which focused on the ways we spend our time and how we can use it in wiser ways. The ladies from both congregations and some visitors from other areas gathered in Glendale, Arizona, at 9:30 a.m. while the men gathered across town for Sabbath services. The Enrich-

ment Sabbath began with a nice breakfast. At 10 a.m. the ladies moved to the main hall, which was decorated beautifully in white and purple. Time pieces were set on the tables and around the room to remind everyone of the theme. During the Sabbath service, Randy Schreiber gave a wonderful sermon titled "What Do You Do to Redeem the Time?"

The rest of the day was led by Kristina Fogelson and Kay Schreiber. The event

began with a get-to-know-you activity and a message by Joan Tuck, who spoke of recognizing the work God has given us to do, prioritizing the elements of our lives and how to organize our time to achieve our goals.

After lunch, the afternoon was split into three sessions, each with three speakers. Session one included Sandy Messer, her daughter Hannah Finneran, and Bette McCord. They discussed Proverbs 31, "Beginning the Journey" and avoiding

Satan's deception, and a personal story about serving and proper attitude.

Session two began again with Sandy Messer who spoke on "thought downloads" and writing down thoughts for realistic planning. This was followed by Karen Bukowski's session about walking in wisdom. The session ended with Carol Rosenberry's presentation about her sister Laurie's emotional journey in and out of the Church before she died, and how her sister's final zeal should also be ours.

Session three started with an impactful speech by Kelli Ferrier called "the Storm" that explained where to find strength so we can make it through life's storms. This was followed by a personal life story from Barbara Anderson called, "Maintaining Focus." The session ended again with Sandy Messer, who spoke on how we often use negative self-talk and need to change our thinking.

Twice during the day, we were graced with the beautiful singing voices of Sylvia Kennedy, Kristina Fogelson, Destiny Babb, Hayli Messer and Susie Knudson. The day ended with a farewell reception that included light snacks and small gifts for the ladies including a framed picture of an hour glass with the scripture Ephesians 5:15-16. There was much discussion regarding the many messages and how much they not only inspired, but also touched people. It was a jam-packed, fulfilling day that left the ladies feeling enriched and refreshed.

Lorelei Nettles

New England Congregations Honor Two Retirees



Helen Dexter (left) and Cynthia Gordon (right) with cakes to celebrate their retirements.

The Worcester, Massachusetts and Londonderry, New Hampshire congregations recently recognized two longtime members of God's Church as they both retired from teaching and paraprofessional careers.

On the Sabbath of June 22, the Worcester, Massachusetts congregation presented Helen Dexter with a cake and small gifts from the brethren in recognition of her recent retirement after 20 years of service. Helen worked as a paraprofessional for the West Boylston, Massachusetts school district and spent her career helping many children with special needs. She primarily worked with autistic children teaching them social skills, behavior and academics. She was presented with a cake and small gifts from the members of the congregation. In celebration of her retirement, Helen and her husband, Paul, are looking forward to their upcoming two-week trip to Ireland!

On the same day, the Londonderry, New Hampshire congregation recognized Cynthia Gordon. She retired after 23 years with the Nashua, New Hampshire school district as a paraprofessional and teacher's aide. Cynthia has been a pillar in the local church, always the first to arrive and one of the last to leave each Sabbath. She brings in get-well, encouragement and sympathy cards every Sabbath for brethren to sign, and often calls shut-ins and sends sermons to brethren who do not have the Internet. The Londonderry congregation presented a cake, some perennial flowers for her garden, and some gift cards to help with her upcoming trip to Yellowstone National Park with her husband, John. She looks forward to visiting with her children and grandchildren and being able to continue to serve the brethren.

Becky Del Signore and Andy Diemer

Manners Book Based on the Fruit of the Spirit Wins Bronze Medal



Ramona Wood at a recent book signing event.

Ramona Wood of the Ruston, Louisiana congregation recently received national accolades for her latest children's book in the 2019 Illumination Book Awards. Her book, *Manners & Tips for Caring Kids, Based on the Fruit of the Spirit* (which can be found on Amazon) won a bronze medal in the sixth annual competition, which was held in Michigan. Judges with backgrounds in book production and selling, religious leadership and education judged the content, design, production quality, innovation and creativity of the Christian worldview-oriented books both from major publishers—including Harper-Collins and Thomas Nelson—as well as smaller publishing presses. Columnist Jim Davidson also reviewed her book this year, and noted that it was "...fantastic... chock full of good, solid information."

This book is designed to aid children as they learn manners and use the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 as a foundation for these lessons. It starts with a quote from 1 John 4:11, "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." With a tone of encouragement and empowerment, the book provides helpful, practical tips for exemplifying the manners and principles found in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in everyday situations.

It is written to bridge the gap between toddler manners books and more advanced books for teens, seeking to reach middle-school age children in a way that they can connect with. It encourages readers to think beyond just themselves to exhibit kindness and manners toward everyone they come into contact with. **UN**

New England Annual Summer Picnic



Top left, right: Picnic attendees enjoy food and swimming. Bottom left: Carolina Meran's baptism.

The combined New England congregations held a big summer picnic on June 23 at the home of Roger and Erica Rains. About 100 brethren from New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine enjoyed the sunny and breezy afternoon. There were the traditional hot dogs and hamburgers, grilled chicken, abundant side dishes, salads and desserts that filled the food tables under the large white tent. More food kept coming in! After the great feast, children searched all over the sprawling yard for scavenger hunt clues to fill in the blanks of incomplete Bible verses. Then there was the water balloon

toss (which ended in a water balloon fight) and many rounds of the egg and spoon race, including a challenge round for those over 50 years!

Swimsuits were the attire of choice for the preteen crowd who enjoyed the backyard pool throughout the afternoon. The highlight of the event was the baptism of longtime attendee, Carolina Meran, wife of Julio Meran from the Londonderry, New Hampshire congregation. We appreciate all the planning and service that made this event a success. It was a great start to the summer!

Kayla Rains

Keeping the Feast at Home

■ Circumstances cause some not to be able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Here are some tips if you are one of those people this year.

By Tom Nichol

It happens every year, it seems. There are always a certain number of people in God's Church who, for one reason or another, simply can't make it to the Feast of Tabernacles, much as they would like to. Perhaps some have made financial mistakes, and simply don't have enough second tithe saved up. Or they might have lost their job, or perhaps have been unemployed for an extended period, and don't have enough second tithe for that reason. It might be that their health, or the health of a close relative, might make going to the Feast unwise or even impossible.

An example of this would be expectant mothers whose expected delivery date falls very close to the Feast, during the Feast, or just after the Feast. Another possibility would be a family member in the last stages of a terminal illness, especially where a Church member may be that person's primary or only caregiver. Or there may be other unexpected circumstances beyond one's control.

You can still enjoy God's Feast at home if you ask God for help and make the effort to do so!

Over the years, I've been in many of those situations. As a result, I know only too well how lonely, how frustrating, how discouraging it can be to miss going to the Feast. There are ways, however, to "turn lemons into lemonade," as the old saying goes—in other words, to derive at least some of the spiritual benefit from the Feast of Tabernacles that God intends. Based on my own experience, here are a few tips on how to spend the Feast at home, if, for whatever reason, you can't go in person:

1. Spend extra time in prayer and Bible study.

The primary reason God gives us His Feast, after all, is to help us to draw closer to Him. Extra time in prayer and Bible study, especially on the first day of the Feast and the Eighth Day, are important. You should also take extra time to meditate on the purpose for God's annual Holy Days.

2. Watch services on the Internet or listen to recorded sermons.

Modern technology has made it far easier to obtain the kind of spiritual instruction God wants to give us on His annual Holy Days. In many cases,

you can watch live Feast services on the Internet. While of course this is not quite the same as being at the Feast in person, webcasts can still impart at least some of the joy God wants us to experience during the Feast. If this is not possible or feasible, then listening to recordings of past sermons, or watching past Feast videos, can still be an important source of instruction and encouragement.

3. Spend time with other home-bound Church members if you can.

This can be accomplished in many ways—a phone call, a personal visit, or, if your circumstances permit, perhaps you can get together with other Church members to watch Feast services on the Internet or listen to recorded Feast messages. If nothing else, sending a card or a short note to other Church members who are unable to attend the Feast can provide much-needed encouragement, both for them and for you.

4. Be a light to others around you.

This of course is something we should be doing throughout the year as Christians, but even more so during the Feast days. There are many ways to do this, even if you have to stay home during the Feast. A small "Feast gift" to your employers or coworkers—even something as simple as a loaf of homemade bread—may be more of a light than you realize. If you're in a public place, such as a grocery store or a restaurant, make an extra effort to be kind, patient, friendly and understanding. If you're able to go out to eat at a restaurant where tipping is expected, a slightly larger tip than usual, along with a few kind words to those who serve you, can often be a powerful witness. Be sure, however, to ask God's guidance and direction in any such instance. Even a quick silent prayer while waiting in line can make a big difference!



You can still enjoy God's Feast at home if you ask God for help and make the effort to do so!

Photo by Edward Cisneros/Unsplash

5. Strive to maintain a positive attitude.

Even though you may have to stay home during the Feast, the right mental attitude can make all the difference. By all means, ask God for help in this regard. Also, the previous steps I've outlined, if properly practiced, will of themselves help you keep your spirits up as they should be during the Feast. Listening to uplifting music can also be helpful. Even dressing up a little bit when you go out can help.

6. Determine now, and begin planning now, to attend the Feast next year if you can possibly do so!

To be sure, there may be extenuating circumstances that may limit you in this regard—age or health, for instance—but, aside from those, you should begin now to plan ahead, seeking counsel if necessary, toward attending next year's Feast of Tabernacles. The Church festival office staff begins planning for the coming year's Feast

within days of the conclusion of the current year's Feast, and, I submit, so should we! In many cases, proper advance planning for next year's Feast will make getting to next year's Feast that much easier. While it will be several months before next year's festival sites will be announced, you can and should begin striving now to make sure that you can be at next year's Feast. Seeking advice from your local Feast advisor early on is especially important, and doubly so if you already know of possible problems or limiting factors that you will need to contend with. By far the most important thing you can do, however, is to seek God's help and guidance so that, if He sees fit, you can be at next year's Feast of Tabernacles!

Having to stay home during the Feast of Tabernacles isn't what God wants for us, and it certainly shouldn't be what we want, but as the old saying goes, "It isn't the end of the world." You can still enjoy God's Feast at home if you ask God for help and make the effort to do so! **UN**

Feast at Home Webpage and Resources

If you are unable to attend an official Feast site and are keeping the Feast at home, you can still register for the Feast to receive resources designed to help you have an inspiring and uplifting Feast of Tabernacles. We want you to feel as close to the other brethren keeping the Feast of Tabernacles as possible—whether they travel far for the Feast or stay home as well. Don't forget to use the hashtag #ucgfot to share the experience virtually with others who are keeping this festival! Visit [www.ucg.org/members/](http://www.ucg.org/members/feast/sites/2019/celebrating-the-feast-at-home)

[feast/sites/2019/celebrating-the-feast-at-home](http://www.ucg.org/members/feast/sites/2019/celebrating-the-feast-at-home), or click "Celebrating the Feast at Home" under the Feast sites page at feast.ucg.org. Jonathan and Esther Magee are excited to be the online Feast coordinator family again this year. This page will share festival greetings from different sites throughout the Feast. You can also find links to webcast Feast services, recorded sermons and articles written with you in mind. You can also email Jonathan Magee (jonathan_magee@ucg.org) with any questions.

Festival youth lesson plans are a helpful aid for Bible study with your children during the Feast. They can be found at www.ucg.org/members/news/2019-feast-of-tabernacles-youth-lesson-plans.

Of course, if you do not have Internet access or have any questions, you can ask your local festival advisor for help registering. Feel free to pass this information along to shut-ins in your area or anyone else who could benefit. Have an uplifting Feast of Tabernacles!

UYC 2019 Preteen Camp Photos



Ironwood



Malawi



Nacome



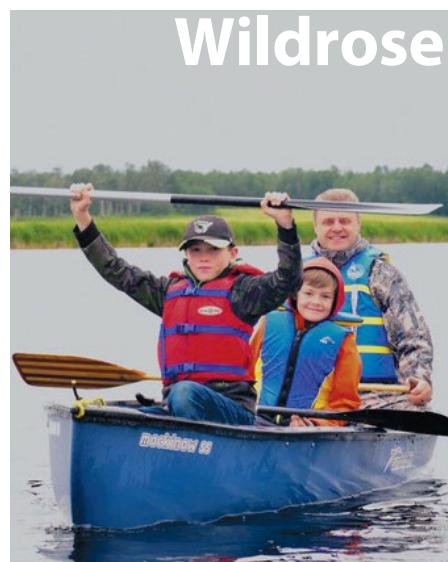
Northwest



Piney Woods



Buckeye



Wildrose



Colorado



Seven Mountains



Nacome

Television Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Literature	Airing Period
<i>When Heaven Comes to Earth</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>Christ's Reign on Earth: What It Will Be Like</i>	Sept. 1-7
<i>Aliens and the Bible: Are We Alone?</i>	Steve Myers	<i>Does God Exist?</i>	Sept. 8-14
<i>The Message of the Antichrist</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Who Is the Antichrist?</i>	Sept. 15-21
<i>Why Were You Born?</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Why Were You Born?</i>	Sept. 22-28
<i>The Ten Commandments: The Heart of the Matter</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Ten Commandments</i>	Sept 29-Oct. 5
<i>The God-Centered Universe</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>Who Is God?</i>	Oct. 6-12
<i>Is It Time to Find a New Church?</i>	Steve Myers	<i>The Church Jesus Built</i>	Oct. 13-19
<i>What Is Living Faith?</i>	Gary Petty	<i>You Can Have Living Faith</i>	Oct. 20-26
<i>Two Things You Don't Know About Jesus</i>	Steve Myers	<i>Jesus Christ: The Real Story</i>	Oct. 27-Nov. 2



Upcoming Events

Winter Family Weekend Registration Now Open

We are pleased to announce that registration is open for the 2019 Winter Family Weekend, starting Sunday, August 25, at wfw.ucg.org. The year's event begins with a Bible Study on Friday night, December 20, with activities through Tuesday, December 24. Early team registration is available until November 3, and late registration is available at a higher fee until November 18. Thanks in advance to those who register early; it helps with our planning to make this a positive event for all involved.

Please also note the following new Sports Participation Policy effective this year: Winter Family Weekend (WFW) is a United Church of God (UCG) sponsored event. Its primary objective is to serve our UCG members and those members of other groups with similar standards and beliefs by allowing these members to take full advantage of everything WFW has to offer. A new sports participation policy is being implemented for this coming year. All sports participants must be a regularly attending member of UCG or a Sabbath-keeping Church of God organization or be a spouse or minor child living at the home of someone who is a member. We look forward to a great Winter Family Weekend in Mason, Ohio.

Dates for Northwest Family Weekend

The Portland, Oregon congregation is excited to host the 54th Northwest Family Weekend on December 27-30, 2019. This year's theme can be found in Colossians 3:2 and will center around "Having a Godly Focus."

Come and join us for a weekend filled with Bible studies, seminars, sports, dancing, fellowship and fun! The weekend will kickoff with a Friday night Bible study. Saturday will include a teen/young adult Bible

study, a speakers seminar and Sabbath services. Then join us for an enjoyable night of dancing at the family and teen dances.

Sunday will be a full day of seminars and sports, with bowling and pizza in the evening. The weekend will wrap up on Monday with skiing and snowboarding at beautiful Mt. Hood.

Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for registration information. We hope to see you there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 6-8: Northwest Young Adults Weekend

Sept. 30: Feast of Trumpets

Oct. 9: Day of Atonement

Oct. 14-20: Feast of Tabernacles

Oct. 21: Eighth Day

Nov. 16: NYC 60th Anniversary Celebration

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Dec. 20-24: Winter Family Weekend

Dec. 27-30: Northwest Family Weekend