



# United Church of God *an International Association*

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 407

January 23, 2020

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## Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

We just returned from Lake Texoma, in Texas, where we completed a wonderful regional conference with 72 elders and wives in the South Central region. We deeply appreciate the labor of love that our pastors, volunteer pastors and non-salaried local elders perform. We also thank their supportive wives for their active part in their husbands' pastoral work.



Darris McNeely presents a session about expository preaching.

We have six regions in the United States and we hold a conference in each region every other year. Presentations given by our staff help equip us with pastoral skills and knowledge, but also remind us of the high calling of the ministry and the essential need to live by the highest ethical standards. Conferences give the staff of Ministerial and Member Services plenty of opportunity to fellowship with our ministers in the field. A number of our ministerial couples have had severe health challenges and such meetings have helped us encourage one another.



One announcement that was made during the meetings is that Jim Tuck will now become regional pastor over the South Central region, replacing Mark Welch.

### **Jorge de Campos in Brazil**

Jorge de Campos is currently on a mission to a number of locations in the largest Portuguese-speaking nation in the world. This trip has two basic purposes.

- 1) Fact gathering to determine where God has placed His name for a second Feast site in Brazil, in the state of Rio de Janeiro.
- 2) Visit new prospects who have requested visits. He is joined on this trip by Arlindo Lima Filho, an elder in Northern Brazil (Maloca de Moscou). At the same time he will visit members in the central/south area of Brazil during the Sabbaths.

You can follow his progress and regular reports at <http://v2.travelark.org/travel-blog/jorgedecampos/10>

### **A surprising trait of powerful leaders**

It is a quality prized by leaders who get things done. *Forbes* magazine defines it as the essence of true leadership that sets people apart (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffhyman/2018/10/31/humility/>).

Organizational expert Jim Collins, author of *Good to Great*, found it highly active in the actions of exceptional and transformational leaders (<https://www.jimcollins.com/concepts/level-five-leadership.html>). He describes this as a powerful mixture of personal humility and indomitable will.

We speak here of the spiritual quality of gentle humility, of what the Bible sometimes calls *meekness*. Does this surprise you?

Oftentimes people associate effective leadership with brash and harsh traits, just as the fabled Steve Jobs of Apple, whose rapacious temper and ferocious capacity to belittle those he thought were wasting his time was the stuff of legend.

But that is not strength. Reflecting ancient and established biblical principles, many experts today regard true humility as a *highly valued* trait in leaders. Humble leaders care more about the people who work or serve under them than themselves. Humble leaders, whether in a major corporation, a volunteer group, or even a family, inspire and empower others to reach high. Their gentleness is regarded as a strength!

Moses, the human leader whom God selected to bring well over a million people out of Egypt, is described as "*very meek*, more than *all* people who were on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3, English Standard Version, emphasis added throughout). Other translations render "meek" as "humble," as does the New Living Translation: "Moses was very *humble*--more humble than any other person on earth" (verse 3, NLT).

What a contrast! Many biblical accounts show Moses as a dynamic leader, one who dared to reason--even argue--with God Himself! Moses was a critical leader in Israel's battles. He faced down rebellion.

Some people confuse the biblical definition of "meek" with timidity. Moses and other biblical figures who were known to be meek and humble were anything but timid!

The point? The strength of Moses' leadership capacity was grounded in humility, in meekness.

This quality of humility, of meekness, of dealing with people in a respectful and tender way, represents the essence of the English word "gentleness" that we find as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Paul used the Greek word transliterated *prautés* for "gentleness," which is alternatively translated "humble" or "meek" in different places in the New Testament.

God's Holy Spirit gives us the ability to respect who we are without ego-inflating harm. As the apostle John tells us, we are "God's children now" (1 John 3:2, ESV), an astonishing and humbling gift. At the same time, Paul directs us: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, *not* to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:3). In my half a century of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ, I have personally seen the good consequences of humility in our leaders and the derailing consequences in leaders who lacked it.

I just wrote about this principle in my latest *United News* column in which I described how some African chiefs are chosen. If you have not read it yet, here are some excerpts:

"In one locale Bev and I asked about how a chief was chosen. The answer was interesting. *The women of the village decided who would become the next chief.* 'Why was that?' we asked. The answer was that many of the women were mothers of the candidates for chief. They understood best the nature and temperament of the men because they had known them since they were little boys. Their nature from childhood was an indicator of what they would be like as adults, and more importantly, as community leaders."

A key takeaway? "The candidate who was most charming and charismatic was not always the best choice." A candidate who was humble, meek, caring and gentle, who put the needs of others above themselves, was regarded as a more suitable leader.

God ensured that these issues of humility would be illustrated in His Word. As I wrote in the *United News*, "There was not a more handsome person than [Saul] among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people (1 Samuel 9:2). Saul was impressive! He probably exuded a persuasive, self-confident demeanor and the people loved it."

"But he was a failure as king. He had huge cracks in his character that undid his monarchy."

Then I brought forward another example. In the selection process for David, the next king of Israel, Samuel thought that David's older brothers were outwardly more suited as potential chief executives. But what did God say? "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).

If you have not read my column in the January-February *United News* yet, I invite you to review it when you receive it for the entire story.

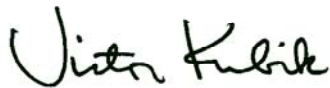
We are to be right-sized in how we think of ourselves. We are to be grateful for the marvelous gifts God gives to us, including the priceless privilege of being a spiritual firstfruit of the Kingdom of God. We are to understand what James, the brother of Jesus, tells us: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6, ESV).

When we have a spiritual attitude of gentleness, of humility, our relationships with others improves. People trust humble people more. Humble people are quick to embrace how they can be better. They don't participate in turf battles or allow themselves to fall into resentment. Humble people easily give others the credit they are due. Humble and gentle people build up others.

Want to be a leader? Want to have better relationships? Ask God to give you the quality of humility and meekness through His incredible gift of the Holy Spirit. Surrender yourselves and embrace the gift!

After all, as Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

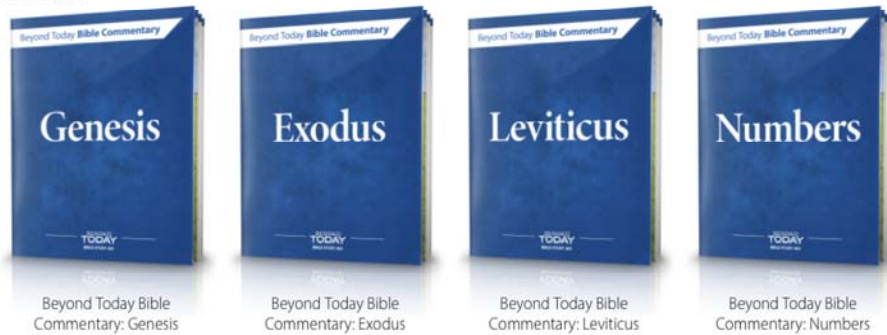
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## New Online Interface: UCG/A Bible Commentary

The Church's *Old Testament Bible Commentary* (formerly called the Bible Reading Program) now has a new interface and graphic layout--making it much easier to search and read. The New Testament is slowly being worked on.

## Beyond Today Bible Commentary

This Bible Commentary has been developed, in common commentary order, to make it easy to look up scriptures and conduct organized personal study. The program currently covers only the Old Testament, but plans are to add New Testament commentaries in the future.



This resource is a valuable tool to use in your Bible study, sermon preparation, and overall understanding of doctrine and history of the Old Testament. It can be found under the “Bible Study Tools” menu in the *Beyond Today* section of our website at <https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/beyond-today-bible-commentary> .

-- Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services

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## Attendee Survey Available Closes This Sunday

*U.S. pastors, please announce:*

In recent years, the Church has used a survey of its attendees to measure progress toward the goals and objectives stated in the Church's annual Strategic and Operation Plan.

The survey is designed for a part of the Plan called "Congregational Care" which is about our congregations. This year's anonymous survey is now available and is intended for people of all ages who are associated with the United Church of God.

Please respond to the survey at this link before this Sunday, January 26:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SZ2TZRS>

The results are intended to help us identify ways to improve our overall service to God, His Church and one another. Thank you again for your time, commitment, and devotion to God and to the United Church of God.

-- Mark Welch

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## *Beyond Today* Television Airing Changes

We are very pleased to announce that the *Beyond Today* television program will air on NewsMax TV for a three-month test beginning January 26, 2020. *Beyond Today* will air every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. ET, 8:00 a.m. CT, 7:00 a.m. MT and 6:00 a.m. PT.

NewsMax TV, which launched in 2014, reaches 70 million households on cable, satellite and broadcast stations (up from 50 million households in 2018). To find the NewsMax TV channel locations in your area please visit [www.newsmaxtv.com/findus](http://www.newsmaxtv.com/findus) .



In addition, our final WGN America airing on Saturdays will occur on January 25. This is being replaced with a new Sunday morning airtime at 5:30 a.m.

Here is the latest information about *Beyond Today* airing nationwide in the United States on WGN America:

- Sundays at 8:30 a.m. ET, 7:30 a.m. CT, 8:30 a.m. MT (except satellite and single-feed cable), 8:30 a.m. PT and 8:30 a.m. in Alaska and Hawaii.
- Sundays at 5:30 a.m. ET, 4:30 a.m. CT, 5:30 a.m. MT (except satellite and single-feed cable), 5:30 a.m. PT and 5:30 a.m. in Alaska and Hawaii.

To find the WGN America channel locations in your area, please visit [www.wgnamerica.com/channel-finder](http://www.wgnamerica.com/channel-finder) and enter your zip code. You will be shown the providers and channel number(s) on which you can watch WGN America in your area. You can also watch programs online at our website: [www.ucg.org/beyond-today/television](http://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/television) and from our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/BeyondTodayTV](http://www.youtube.com/user/BeyondTodayTV). Please see our channel listing online at [www.ucg.org/beyond-today-television-stations](http://www.ucg.org/beyond-today-television-stations).

*Beyond Today* continues to air in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa. It also airs on radio in Zambia.

*Beyond Today* TV apps are also available on Google Play for Android devices, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung smart TVs and Apple iOS devices.

We are excited about the opportunity to reach a new, large audience on NewsMax TV and our additional Sunday morning airtime on WGN America. Thank you for your excellent support and your unceasing prayers so that the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God can be heard by more people in the United States and in countries around the world.

-- Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services

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Inside United Podcast





### **Denise Dobson, Grace Remo, Madz Santos, Sheila Gilos**

While in Manila, Philippines, for a ministerial conference, Victor Kubik sits down with a group of wives attending the conference--Denise Dobson, Grace Remo, Madz Santos, and Sheila Gilos--to discuss women's roles in marriage, the work of God, and the ministry.

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-146-denise-dobson-grace-remo-madz-santos-sheila-gilos-team-ministry>

Listen to past episodes or read the transcripts:

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

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### **Sermon Disc Program Set #139 Available**

Sermons newly published for the Sermon Disc Program (SDP 139) are now available for download. You can access them, as well as archived SDP sermons at

<https://www.ucg.org/sermon-disc-program>

The Sermon Disc Program is a service provided by the home office intended for shut-ins as well as for congregations needing video sermons when a live speaker is not available. If you have any questions, you can contact [chaz\\_leathers@ucg.org](mailto:chaz_leathers@ucg.org) or [rudy\\_rangel@ucg.org](mailto:rudy_rangel@ucg.org).

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### **Nashville Young Adult Weekend - April 3-5**

All young adults are invited to attend the first young adult weekend in Nashville, Tennessee, April 3-5, 2020! The theme is "Authentic Discipleship: Absolute Commitment to Jesus Christ in Real Life."



## NASHVILLE YOUNG ADULT WEEKEND

APRIL 3-5, 2020

### **AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP**

*Absolute Commitment to Jesus Christ In Real Life*

Join us in the beautiful Nashville area for this opportunity to strengthen our bonds with one another while deepening our understanding of the Holy Scriptures. We are excited to present a number of seminars that address the practical applications of discipleship, such as:

- Discipleship within circles of believers and non-believers
- Being a disciple in personal relationships and the family
- A disciple's approach to sexuality for single and married people
- Being a disciple at work and at school

We are able to accommodate up to 60 guests--space is limited. The registration deadline is Feb. 7. Registration costs \$20 per person, plus your hotel stay, which will include breakfast and an evening meal. Hotel pricing and additional information is on the registration application.

To register, visit <https://nashvilleyaweekend.wixsite.com/home> and click "Apply." Once your application has been approved, you'll receive instructions for paying the fee, making hotel reservations, and other important information.

We can't wait to see you there!

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### **Mammoth Cave Camping Weekend - April 24-26**

The Bowling Green, Kentucky, congregation is excited to announce the 4th annual camping weekend at Mammoth Cave April 24-26, 2020.

The weekend starts with fellowship around the campfire on Friday evening. Even live music at some campsites!



We will have Sabbath services at 2 p.m. (Central time) in the conference room of the Mammoth Cave Hotel (Rotunda Room). Dress for services this day will be camp casual, modest clothing! That evening around 6 p.m. we will have a hot dog dinner (suggested donations \$5 per person/\$20 max for families) and more fellowship activities until 11 p.m. Please bring a board game or playing cards.

There are several cave tours you can reserve to do on your own or with others. To reserve other tours, call 877-444-6777 or visit [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov).

We will be trying to reserve group campsites, and more if needed. We would like a head count so that we know how many sites to reserve. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 7th. There will be ample campsites available for same day drive-ups. Bathrooms do have electricity. There is a bathhouse for showers (a "pay shower" so bring quarters). You will need to purchase firewood from the store at the entrance to the campground (we are not allowed to bring in firewood). The Mammoth Cave campgrounds keeps several campsites reserved for "same day/first come first served"--so do not be discouraged if you have tried calling to reserve a campsite. There will be plenty of sites available for camping. Each campsite has a fire pit ring and picnic table. The number to call is 877-444-6777 or visit [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or visit the website [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for more information on Mammoth Cave and area attractions. Or text/e-mail Sherie to put you on the list she reserves ahead of time.

In addition to the campgrounds, there are hotel rooms at Mammoth Cave Park and cabins that can be rented, plus hotels outside the park in the Cave City area.

There are hiking paths throughout the park. There is a restaurant, cafe and ice cream parlor on the premises of Mammoth Cave, as well as several area restaurants outside of the park.

Come for the whole weekend or any part to enjoy the fellowship!

Feel free to call, text or email Sherie Spalding with any questions, and to RSVP for group campsite list 615-512-5533 or [spalding1221@gmail.com](mailto:spalding1221@gmail.com)

-- Tim and Sherie Spalding

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## Job Opening - Web Developer

The United Church of God has announced an opening for a Web Developer. The position will require the following:

- Custom programming and Web application development for Church websites.
- Testing, maintenance and troubleshooting of existing Church sites.
- Contributing ideas and efforts towards internal projects and working as part of a team to find solutions for various problems.
- Plus, other duties as assigned.

Required skills for this position include:

- A solid understanding of PHP, AJAX, HTML, Javascript, and CSS, or knowledge of other programming languages and a willingness to learn.
- Familiarity with source control systems such as Git.
- Ability to communicate technical ideas to business users and other teams (design, QA).
- Ability to both collaborate with team members and to work independently.
- Eager to embrace current and emerging Web technologies.

The following experience would give an applicant preference:

- Knowledge of SEO coding best practices.
- Proficient in Drupal, including custom module development, key contributed modules and core API.
- Two-plus years of Drupal hands-on development experience.
- Experience integrating open source and third-party applications into existing systems.

A bachelor's degree (B.A.) is preferred. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Strong language, logic and communication skills, and algebra/geometry level math skills are required. Those applying for consideration and invited for an interview must supply a resume of their education and/or experience.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God.

For an employment application or for more information, please contact [human\\_resources@ucg.org](mailto:human_resources@ucg.org).

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