



Pastoral trip to Brazil and New Feast Site near Rio de Janeiro

By Jorge de Campos

The purpose of this trip was two-fold—to find out where God has placed His name for a second Feast site in Brazil and to visit prospective members.

The new Feast site in Brazil will help to accommodate newly-called Brazilian brethren and prospective members living in the southern part of Brazil, as well as a number of international visitors.

This new site will be at Búzios Beach Resort, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, which is about 100 miles from the capital. The Búzios region is one of the highest quality and most sought-after areas in

Brazil, while still far enough from the populous Rio de Janeiro city. The resort itself is 15 minutes from the Búzios town, which has local shops and restaurants such as Rua das Pedras and Orla Bardot.

The resort consists of condominiums and little villas spread out around a set of swimming pools. Various sporting activities are available on site, such as tennis courts, beach volleyball, archery, putt-putt, etc.

The Feast 2020 in Búzios, Rio de Janeiro would be the first time some of the Brazilian brethren will attend a Sabbath service with

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Planning Meetings Held for 2020 Festival Season

By Charles Melear

Around 40 people participated remotely in the annual Feast Coordinator's Conference Feb. 11-12. Participants included Feast coordinators and their assistants from the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean, home office staff and volunteer support.

President Victor Kubik and MMS manager Mark Welch welcomed everyone and expressed their appreciation for the time involved in seeking to improve the Feast and serve the members with quality speaking, music and activities. They also discussed one of the main goals this coming year: training new and younger Feast coordinators and assistant coordinators.

Conference Planner Charles Melear covered a number of pertinent topics and moderated the meetings. Additional presentations



Ariana Del Signore, Dan Preston, Jorge de Campos, Mark Welch and Chris Rowland (right; not pictured) gather in Victor Kubik's office for the festival planning meeting which was conducted with about 35 other people over WebEx.

were made regarding special music, budgeting, local Feast webpages, budgets, manpower, greeting cards for those unable to attend the Feast, articles for the Festival Planning Brochure, working with speakers and youth education.

Due to the high days both falling on the weekly Sabbath there will be no national live webcast.

Two new U.S. Feast sites for 2020 are Pewaukee, Wisconsin replacing Wisconsin Dells for a two-year contract and Daytona Beach replacing Jekyll Island, Georgia for a two-year contract.

This year, a post-Feast survey was sent to everyone registered for the Feast. Over 2,100 people responded. 78% rated their Feast

experience as very satisfied and 15% as somewhat satisfied. Over 560 people provided specific comments for consideration. The Festival team is (and will continue) reading through these in an effort to provide the best Feast experience possible.

This is a busy time of the year behind the scenes for those plan-

ning the Feast of Tabernacles. Currently, most Feast of Tabernacles related work is preparing information for the annual Festival Planning Brochure, which includes finalizing housing and convention space contracts, working on Feast descriptions, writing articles and creating webpages for each individual site to ensure that online registration is available when the site opens.

The Festival Planning Brochure goes to print on March 25 and members should start receiving them in the mail within two weeks. On April 1, the Festival Planning Brochure will be posted online. Feast webpages will be ready to open registration on April 12.

We recognize that the success of the Feast is based on hundreds of volunteers and we ask for your prayers for God's will to be shown as we plan this year's Feast of Tabernacles! **UN**

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Timothy Mahoney visits for *Beyond Today* Interview

Photos by Mitch Moss



Beyond Today presenter Darris McNeely interviews filmmaker Timothy Mahoney about the *Patterns of Evidence* film series and Mr. Mahoney's personal inspiration behind his films.

On Thursday, Feb. 6, we recorded our next series of *Beyond Today Interviews* with Timothy Mahoney of *Thinking Man Films*.

Mr. Mahoney has been a filmmaker for more than 20 years. His latest series, *Patterns of Evidence*, is divided into four films: *Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus*, *Patterns of Evidence: The Moses Controversy* and the latest two, *Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle—Part 1* and *Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Crossing—Part 2*.

The Red Sea Miracle—Part

1 was released in theaters nationwide on Feb. 18. Part 2 will be available in May. Theater locations can be found online at patternsofevidence.com.

Darris McNeely interviewed Mr. Mahoney for about two hours. The interview was edited into three segments, which are available online on our *BT Interviews* page at www.ucg.org/beyond-today by choosing the “*Beyond Today Interviews*” menu tab. This latest interview series makes a total of nine interview segments

available to viewers at this time.

You can also watch the interviews on our *Beyond Today TV* app on Roku, Amazon Fire, iOS devices, Android devices and Samsung smart TVs. A *Beyond Today Interviews* series of videos has been (or soon will be) incorporated on all these apps.

Please pray for God's blessing on this project, and upon all of our proclamation efforts to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. **UN**



Beyond Today to Begin Airing on NewsMax TV

We are very pleased to announce that the *Beyond Today* television program, produced by the United Church of God, has begun airing on *NewsMax TV* for a three-month test beginning Jan. 26, 2020. *Beyond Today* will air every Sunday at 9 a.m. ET, 8 a.m. CT, 7 a.m. MT and 6 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.

In addition, our final *WGN America* airing on Saturdays occurred on Jan. 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 na-

tionwide 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 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 and from our YouTube

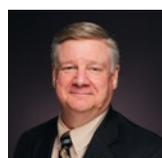


channel at www.youtube.com/user/BeyondTodayTV. Please see our channel listing online at www.ucg.org/beyond-today-television-stations.

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 that the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God can be heard by more people in the U.S. and in countries around the world. **UN**



Peter Eddington serves as the Media and Communications Services operation manager. He moved to the U.S. from Melbourne, Australia in 1980 and was ordained an elder in 1992. He can be reached at peter_eddington@ucg.org.

Many years ago, when I was starting a career in journalism and publishing, I received some advice that has stuck with me for decades.

“You have to love the truth,” my boss (an elder in the Church) told me.

He spoke those words in the context of writing articles for publications, but it applies in so many areas of life: *You have to love the truth.* It’s good advice for our lives as Christians. In fact, it’s a requirement.

The apostle Paul wrote of the importance of loving the truth in 2 Thessalonians 2:10. Describing a great end-time deception that will engulf most of humanity, Paul wrote of “those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

In the end-time, loving the truth will be a matter of life and death—life for those who love the truth and death for those who don’t. The reality is that loving truth *right now in every aspect of our lives* is a matter of eternal life and death!

We live in a world of lies. Our enemy is so persuasive that he

“deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). That’s a staggering and sobering testimony to his persuasive power.

A sad reality I’ve repeatedly seen over the years is that Satan doesn’t need to deceive people about everything, he just needs to deceive us about *one thing*. Because that one thing may be all it takes to lead us completely astray.

The second reason for this trip was to engage with new or prospective members, teach God’s truth and counsel for baptism. I was joined by Arlindo Lima Filho, an elder in northern Brazil (Maloca de Moscou). After leaving Cincinnati on Jan. 20, I arrived in São Paulo, met Arlindo Filho and we began our visits on Jan. 22. We met with many prospective members with fruitful discussions.

In Piracicaba, we met three new members, shared a meal with them and answered their questions for about eight hours. We counseled other members for baptism, covering belief, repentance and baptism step-by-step. This helps prospective members—who have only come to know us through the web—to clearly understand basic beliefs of the Church. We did have one baptism during the trip as well.

After Sabbath services in Nova Iguaçu, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro, we visited a young couple who are very keen on the Work we do.

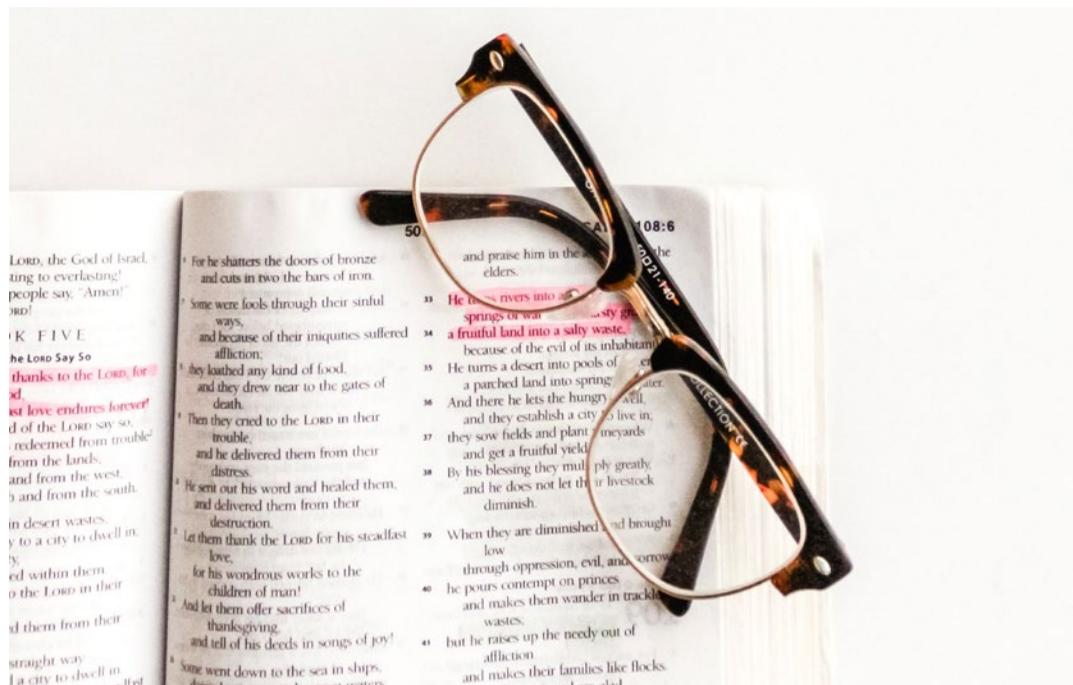
It starts small, but over time leads us further and further astray.

It’s easy to be swayed into wrong teachings. Sadly, we’ve seen that again and again over the years. Satan uses what works. But he also uses wrong values—beliefs, ideas and perspectives that aren’t grounded in God’s truth and are contrary to that truth.

This is also an important part of

loving the truth. God wants children whose thoughts, actions and lives reflect His godly mind and thoughts. Not just our biblical beliefs, but every aspect of our thinking and beliefs should reflect His

Scott Ashley is managing editor of *Beyond Today* magazine. He also pastors congregations in Denver, Colorado Springs and Frisco, Colorado. He has been a member of the Council of Elders for 10 years. He can be reached at scott_ashley@ucg.org.



God wants children whose thoughts, actions and lives reflect His godly mind and thoughts.

Sincerely Media/Unsplash

mind—not the false values and fake “truth” of this world. God’s Church is “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15).

Truth must be a part of our character, our very being. “*I am the way, the truth, and the life,*” said Jesus Christ (John 14:6). God’s way, God’s truth and His offer to us of eternal life are all interconnected and inseparable.

God’s truth is part of the Christian’s armor that protects and preserves us from Satan’s deceptions and the false values of this world that can spiritually destroy us. “Stand, therefore, having *girded your waist with truth,*” wrote Paul in Ephesians 6:14.

The truth—which comes from closeness to God and diligently studying His Word to learn His values and thinking—protects and saves us.

We must love the truth! I can’t think of any better closing than the apostle John’s words in 3 John 4: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children *walk in truth!*” **UN**

Brazil Trip Continued from front page

other brethren of like mind, not to mention that it will be their first Feast ever.

This is also an opportunity for visitors to share of ourselves at church services, meals and activities with other Feastgoers, as we attend services and reflect on the messages we hear. It is an opportunity to set a tremendous example of godliness and to make sure we include the new in the faith by sitting with them, making the effort to talk with them and making sure that families help families.

At this new Feast site in Brazil, a family of two adults and up to two children (under 13 are free) can have a double room with three meals per day for about \$150 a night. There is also a dietitian on site to aid in preparing food for those with dietary restrictions. The hotel also caters to those who are gluten-free and or have lactose concerns. Please see feast.ucg.org for more information and to register for this wonderful new site!

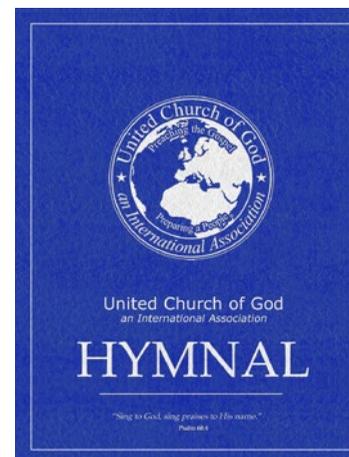
On the following Sabbath in Uberlândia, we spent about 12 hours talking about many biblical subjects and fellowshiping with the seven other people in attendance.

We also met with families and conducted more baptism counseling. We can identify when God is working with prospective members, as there is a lovely and earnest spirit present. Overall, we were able to accomplish all that we wanted to on this trip—thanks be to God, it all went well.

God inspired us with what to say—more than once, I just happened to land in an additional verse and explained it. It turned out to be a question the prospective member had. God definitely led the conversations on this trip.

Although we did have challenges, God intervened and was always with us. Thank you for your prayers and concern throughout my trip, and please continue to pray for the work God is doing in Brazil. **UN**

Spiral-Bound Hymnals Available for Pre-order till April 6



(8.875 x 11.25 in.) is available to everyone. It is especially helpful for song leaders, pianists and those who would benefit from larger-sized print or a hymnal that will lay flat.

We are making the hymnals available to everyone for the cost of printing and mailing. Orders must be placed and payment received before April 6, 2020. We will print and mail the hymnal directly to the address given on each order. We are hoping to receive the printed hymnals and mail them by the beginning of June. The total cost is \$13 in the U.S. including shipping.

Hymnals must be pre-ordered online by April 6. To order, visit: ucg.org/members/hymnal/blue-spiral-bound-hymnal.

Steve Myers

Would you like to have your own personal spiral-bound copy of the UCG Hymnal (song leader/pianist version)? We are planning a reprint of these and want to provide the opportunity for anyone to purchase one or more. This largeprint, hardcover, spiral-ring bound, original version

Celebrate Pentecost in Indiana—May 29-31

For those looking for a new and fresh experience celebrating the Sabbath and Pentecost this year, registration is now open for our annual Pentecost Weekend event in the beautiful natural surroundings of the Brown County State Park in southern Indiana.

Sabbath and Holy Day services will be conducted at the Abe Martin Lodge in the park. The Lodge also features comfortable hotel rooms and a limited number of nearby cabins (some with full-service kitchens). The Lodge offers two restaurants (buffet service and traditional menus). Several other restaurants are available in nearby picturesque Nashville, Indiana. The natural setting in the rolling hills of southern Indiana includes several trails and opportunities for Sabbath walks.

Following morning services on the Sabbath (May 30), a traditional afternoon potluck will take place in a park shelter. Later that evening following sunset, the annual Concert for God will take place, with several brethren presenting songs and expressions of worship. It is followed by a popular traditional hymn sing.

If anyone plans to attend and would like to participate in the Concert for God, they are welcome to contact Tim and Maria Howie at (217) 218-9260 or howietim@hotmail.com.

Holy Day services will include a sermon from special guest Victor Kubik, president of UCG. A pre-paid lunch opportunity between services is also available.

Special UCG discounted rates at the park are available until April

29. Information about the park is available online at <https://www.browncountystatepark.net>. Lodge room reservation information (including patio rooms), family cabins (sleep up to eight with full kitchen) and “rustic” cabins (air-conditioning and private bathrooms) are at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/inns/abe>.

If you would like to make reservations (special rates are available for Friday, May 29 through Monday morning June 1) go online at the above link or call (877) 563-4371 and use UCG reservation Group Code 0529UG (zero-five-two-nine).

Need more information? Email Jamie Snyder at Jamie@themekgroup.com.

Michael Snyder



Young adults attending the 2019 Pentecost weekend take part in the traditional hymn sing following the annual Concert for God.

Summer Family Activity in the UK July 27-Aug. 2



The property at which the upcoming summer family activity will take place.

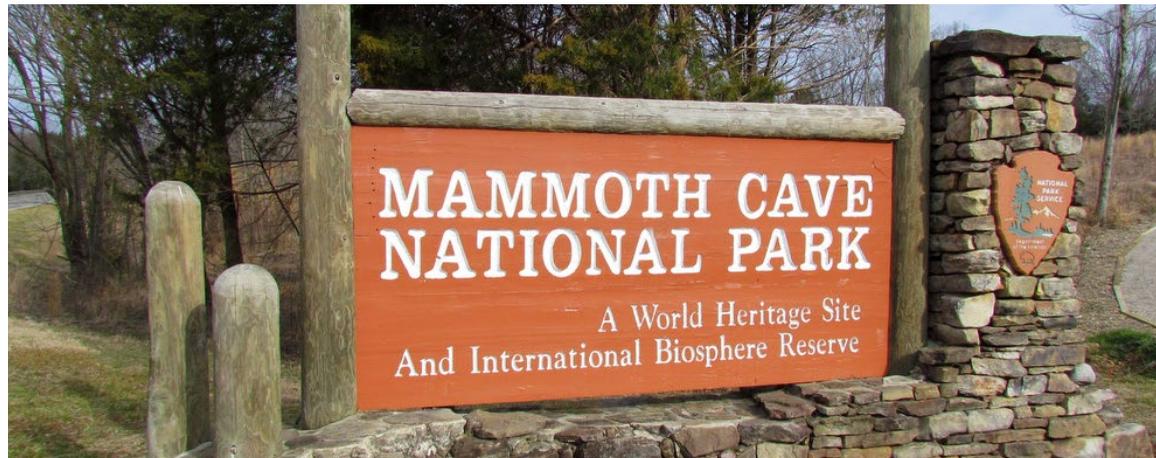
Join us in England this summer! We have booked exclusive use of a newly redeveloped country lodge with 15 en-suite bunkrooms located in ancient woodlands on a 250-acre outdoor adventure site in the Mendips, 30 minutes south of Bristol. There will be plenty of room for all families with teens and children of any age who want to attend. On site there is also an outdoor activity center and dry ski slope. We are already hoping to book in-the-night tobogganing, cook dinner over a campfire and have the option to play ulti-

mate frisbee golf. These activities are suitable for four-year olds and upwards. For more adventurous teens, there is the 150-foot-high rock quarry, the cave system, target practice and water activities. In the local area, Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Hole offer beautiful scenery for walks and hikes. If you want to fly in, the Bristol airport is only 10 minutes away.

Please email Hannah Ellams at Summercampfun2020@gmail.com for more information and costs, which may vary by activity.

Hannah Ellams

Mammoth Cave Camping Weekend—April 24-26



Mammoth Cave National Park is home to campsites, caves and hiking paths with restaurants and hotels just outside.

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

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

We will have afternoon Sabbath services in the conference room of the Mammoth Cave Hotel near the campsites. That evening, we will have a hot dog dinner (suggested donation \$5/person, \$20/family) and more fellowship activities—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.

We plan to reserve group campsites. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 7 so we know how many to reserve. However, there will be ample campsites available for same day drive-ups. The bathrooms have electricity, and there is a bathhouse for showers (a “pay shower,” so bring quarters). You can purchase firewood from the store at the entrance to the campground (we are not allowed to bring in firewood). The Mammoth Cave campground 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. Call 877-444-6777 or visit the website www.nps.gov for

more information on Mammoth Cave and area attractions. You can also contact Sherie Spalding with any other questions.

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. A restaurant, cafe and ice cream parlor are on the premises of Mammoth Cave, as well as several area restaurants outside of the park.

Contact Sherie Spalding with any questions at 615-512-5533 or spalding1221@gmail.com. Come for the whole weekend or any part to enjoy the fellowship!

Tim and Sherie Spalding

European Young Adult Spring Activity—April 8-14



Brethren who participated in the European Young Adult Spring Activity in recent years enjoyed hiking in the Alps.

DFW Prom and Young Adults Weekend—April 24-26



Teens pose for a fun photo in their prom attire before the dance.

Join the Dallas and Fort Worth congregations April 24-26 for our teen and young adult weekend! From the coffee and dessert social on Friday night to the court games and pizza lunch on Sunday, there will be something for everyone during the weekend.

Separate Bible studies will be held for the adults, young adults, teens and preteens on Sabbath be-

fore a potluck lunch provided by the DFW congregation and Sabbath services. Following Church will be a family dinner, formal teen dinner and young adult dinner. The night will conclude with a pajama party for the preteens, the teen prom and social activities for the adults and young adults.

Sunday will be "Family Day on the Court," featuring volleyball,

basketball, dodgeball, ping-pong, cornhole, disc golf and board games before a pizza lunch provided by the DFW congregation.

The Buffalo Valley Event center has rooms available Friday and Saturday for \$100 a night, and the entire venue is reserved for our group. Please make your reservations online at buffalovalleyeventcenter.com or call (940) 482-3409.

Please note: reservations made online may show higher room prices but your final bill will reflect the discounted rate.

If you prefer to stay with local brethren, please contact Rebekah Elliott by email at rebekahelliott.com or by phone at (214) 293-4620. Please email ucg.dfw.rfw@gmail.com with any other questions. The registration link can be found at:

<https://www.ucg.org/members/news/dallas-fort-worth-teen-prom-and-young-adult-weekend>.

We hope to see you there! **UN**

The German young adults are hosting the fourth European Young Adult Spring Activity from April 8 until the morning of April 14 in Oberstaufen, Germany.

Guests are welcome to join us for some spiritually and physically challenging days in the Alps. We will celebrate Night to be Much Observed and the First Day of Unleavened Bread together as well.

The weekend will take place at the same cabin we've used previously, a quaint southern Bavarian farmhouse at 900 meters altitude with the Austrian and Bavarian Alps at its door.

Services will be held on the First Day of Unleavened Bread and the weekly Sabbath.

On the other days, we'll spend time together during hikes, walks, campfires, Bible studies, games, international cooking and other activities. The location can be

easily reached by train ("Oberstaufen" train station), by car or the nearest airports: Memmingen (Ryan Air, 70 km), Munich airport (171 km), Zurich airport (160 km), Frankfurt (400 km). It is also possible to carpool and meet up with brethren. Just let us know when you will arrive.

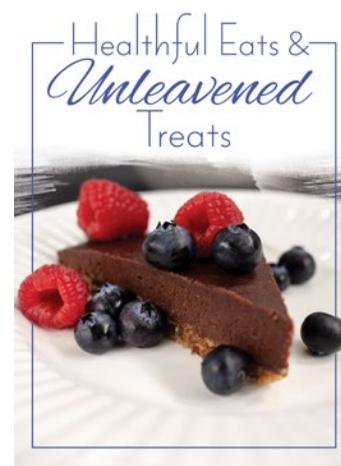
Based on previous years, we estimate the cost will be about 20€/day (about \$22) including lodging and food. There are bunk beds in the rooms but guests will need to bring bedding.

Young adults 16 years old and over are welcome. The focus group is young adults, which includes those in their 20s and 30s.

To register for this weekend or for more information, please email kasper.erik@gmail.com.

Erik & Michelle Kasper and
Ester Meier

Unleavened Bread Cookbooks Available to Order!



The Days of Unleavened Bread are quickly approaching and it's time to begin preparing for the Holy Days—which includes preparing unleavened cookies and treats.

We still have a supply of our three-ring hardcover unleavened bread cookbooks, *Healthy Eats and Unleavened Treats*, full of wonderful recipes including unleavened bread, main dishes, soups, sides and treats. All recipes in this cookbook were submitted by Church members around the world and compiled by the ABC class of 2019.

The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks go toward the ABC international student fund. Please send orders to:

Unleavened Bread Cookbook
United Church of God
555 Techne Center Dr.
Milford, OH 45150

Cost of the cookbook is \$15, which includes shipping. Checks can be made out to "ABC Student Fund."

Please send a message to the email below for an order form. Please place orders soon to receive your cookbook by the Days of Unleavened Bread.

If you have any questions, please email: healthy.cookbook.2019@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of Ambassador Bible College! **UN**



Levi Alan Brosius

Dec. 2, 2019



Joseph Orsak

Aug. 9, 2019



Justin & Anna Fike

Sept. 8, 2019



Dan & Sandy Miller

Nov. 28, 2019



Bill & Sue Bowman

50th Anniversary



Bob & Elizabeth Dezso

70th Anniversary



Bess Detwiler Gabriel

Sept. 30, 1928-Dec. 4, 2019

Births

Levi Alan Brosius

Travis and Julia (Weaner) Brosius of York, Pennsylvania are happy to announce the arrival of their firstborn, Levi Alan Brosius. Levi was born Dec. 2, 2019 at 5:08 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz. and measuring 20 in. long.

Grandparents Alan and Christina Weaner of York, Pennsylvania, and Mark and Vanea Brosius of Lewistown, Pennsylvania, are overjoyed with their first grandchild.

Joseph Orsak

Tim and Debbie Orsak of the Houston, Texas congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, Joseph Orsak. He was born on Aug. 9, 2019 and weighed 8 lb. 13 oz. His sisters Samantha (8) and Katherine (5) are elated to have a little brother to love and care for. Joseph is the 10th grandchild for Mario and Caty Seigle, and 8th for Mike and Regina Orsak.

Weddings

Justin & Anna Fike

John and Cindy Karlik of Bakersfield, California, and Mark and Janelle Fike of Reno, Nevada, are delighted to an-

nounce the marriage of their children, Anna Karlik and Justin Fike. The two were married Sept. 8, 2019, in San Clemente, California, on a beautiful Sunday evening. The Pacific Ocean and palm trees served as a backdrop for the special day. The ceremony was officiated by Robin Webber. Friends and family from five countries and more than 10 states attended. The wedding was followed by dinner, dancing and a great celebration! The couple originally met at UYC Oregon (McKenzie) summer camp in 2002. They will reside in Reno, Nevada, and look forward to many adventures together.

Dan & Sandy Miller

Dan Miller and Sandy Cafourek were married on Thanksgiving evening, Nov. 28, 2019, at Sandy's daughter's home in Vancouver, Washington. After the small family wedding, a celebration reception was held after church in Salem, Oregon. They honeymooned on the Oregon coast. Dan and Sandy will continue living in Salem, Oregon, and serving in the church there.

Anniversaries

Bill & Sue Bowman

On Dec. 28, 2019, the Southern Minnesota congregation honored Bill and Sue Bowman with a cake and punch luncheon, to celebrate

their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bill and Sue first met at college at Mankato State University. Bill was studying biology and math and Sue education. Both were attending a campus house party when Sue caught Bill's eye. Bill (at that time a senior) saw a pretty girl (at that time a junior) just sitting there all by herself. He worked up the courage to introduce himself... and so a friendship began.

Bill and Sue began seeing each other and after graduation Bill began working in the Minneapolis, Minnesota Metro area as a lab tech for an engineering firm and later a medical supply firm. Sue began working as a Home Economics teacher at the high school in Springfield, Minnesota.

Even though they were separated by over a hundred miles, the distance was not going to thwart this budding relationship.

Their love and friendship grew, and after a two-year courtship, they married in St. Peter, Minnesota on Dec. 20, 1969. They recall having their wedding reception in Mankato, Minnesota and a dance in Owatonna at the Monterey ballroom.

Bill took Sue to Jamaica and they honeymooned at a rich friend's plantation. (The rich friend, being the grandson of a Cargill executive, gave them two weeks at the luxurious Jamaican plantation for a wedding gift.)

Bill recalls that the honeymoon was quite an experience. He said, "All you had to do is ring a silver bell for service. If we wanted a citrus drink, the servants would go out to pick fresh citrus. There were well-dressed chauffeurs to take us to town and a club membership credit card to purchase most anything we wanted." (Incidentally, after almost 50 years, they returned to Jamaica to observe the Feast of Tabernacles there last fall.)

For 45 years, Minnesota has

been the Bowman's home (with only a short five-year stay in Arkansas). Bill and Sue have two sons, Jason and Michael, and two grandchildren.

Bob & Elizabeth Dezso

On the Sabbath of Dec. 28, 2019 the North Canton, Ohio congregation celebrated one of those precious and rare achievements in today's world, 70 years of marriage between Bob and Elizabeth Dezso. Their union grew from corresponding for two years while Bob served as a paratrooper in World War II until they were married on Dec. 19, 1949. Their advice for a long, happy marriage? Put God first and your spouse second, and you can't go wrong.

Two years after they married, Bob, Libby (as she is also known) and their daughter settled in Barberton, Ohio, where their son was born and where they still reside. It is also where their introduction to the Church of God began in 1967. They encountered *The Plain Truth* magazine through the subscriptions of both their mothers. In addition, Bob worked as a transmission engineer for an Akron area radio station that broadcast *The World Tomorrow* program.

They learned about Ambassador College and even toured the campus without yet realizing that there was a church that sponsored all of these. Through an article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* they finally discovered that there was a local congregation to attend, and they did so in 1968. Both were baptized in May 1969.

Bob and Elizabeth have, through God's help, surmounted significant trials in their lives. In 1959 Bob was stricken with rheumatic fever and bedridden for three months. He recovered with no damage to his heart! Libby lost her sight in the 1970s through complications of diabetes. She

learned to read braille and used a white cane. Bob took measures throughout the house to accommodate her needs.

Then, in 1981, some years after having been anointed for her loss of sight, and with the whole congregation praying for her, Bob and Libby were on a shopping trip to the mall when suddenly Libby began to read the sign for a summer sale at the JCPenney store. At a run, she proceeded to read every sign she came to! God had miraculously restored her vision in an instant.

As the congregation celebrated their many years of marriage with cake, refreshments and beautiful flowers, they reflected on Bob and Libby's profound example of faith in God and commitment to the only way of life that leads to God's family, through Jesus Christ, in the Kingdom of God!

Obituaries

Bess Detwiler Gabriel

Bess Detwiler Gabriel (91) died of declining health on Dec. 4, 2019 in Batavia, Ohio, in the presence of her family. She was born in Michigan, raised in Indiana farm country and resided in the Akron, Ohio, area for many years. Bess began attending the Radio Church of God in 1964 with her first husband, Ray Detwiler, who preceded her in death in 1981.

Bess and her second husband, Joe Gabriel, were married in 1983 and joined the United Church of God at its founding in 1995. Bess was a beloved friend and grandmother figure who served the brethren as a deaconess in the Akron and North Canton churches for many years. Her service, warmth and decorum will be greatly missed.

Please see page 11

GN

The Good News

Our Hearts Burned Within Us

Discover how two disheartened disciples had their attitudes completely transformed into overwhelming joy and reassurance. What can their amazing experience mean to us on our Christian journey?

By John LaBissoniere

“I can still hardly believe it,” said Cleo to his friend as they walked slowly together down a lonely country road.

His companion, gesturing emphatically, replied: “I’m shocked that this happened. After everything we’ve been through with Him—and seen and heard from Him! How could they have treated this good and honorable man so dreadfully? It doesn’t make sense. It seems so unreal.”

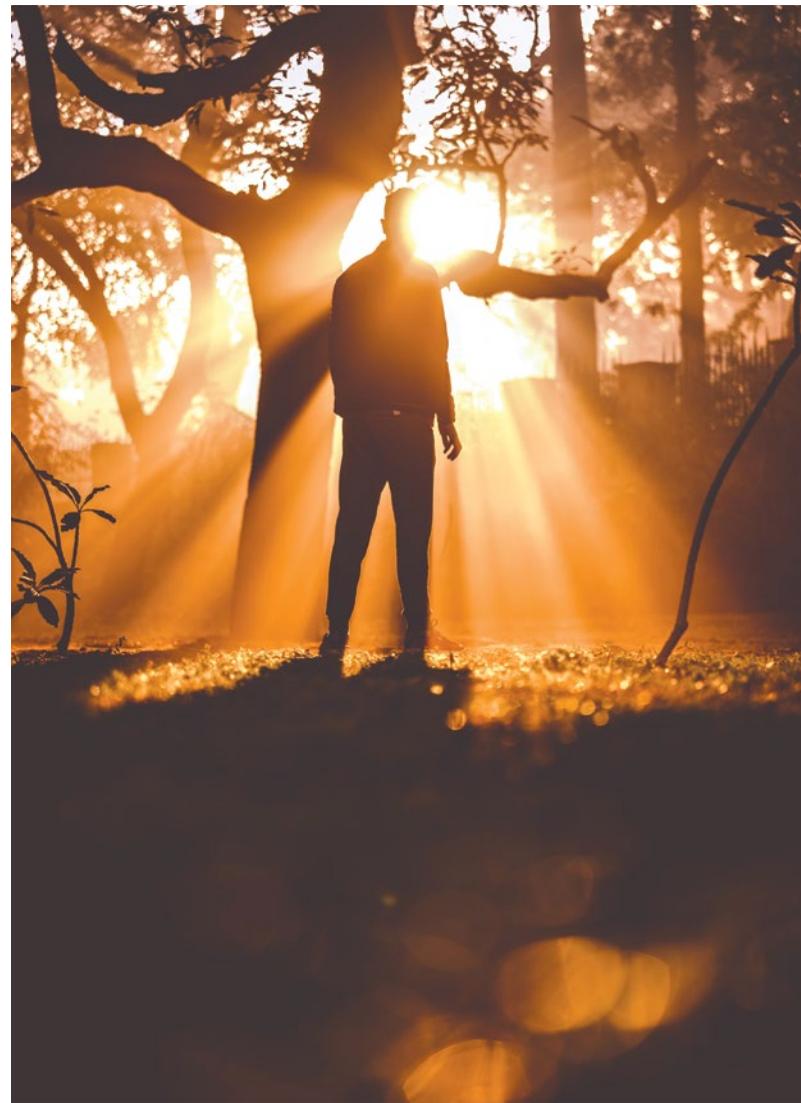
Looking down at the dusty road, Cleo said in response: “I’m really bummed-out. We believed He had the answers to the problems we’ve been dealing with. So, now what?”

As their conversation dwindled to mere silence, another man, a stranger who was walking briskly in the same direction, caught up to them. Having noticed how passionate their conversation had been, he said, “May I ask what you fellows are discussing so intensely?”

The two men stopped and stood still for a moment as they turned toward the stranger. The sadness on their faces turned to bewilderment. They could hardly believe that this stranger hadn’t heard about the dreadful events that had taken place in Jerusalem just days ago. They were astonished that he seemed unaware of the horrific suffering and brutal killing of the famous teacher and prophet, Jesus of Nazareth (Luke 24:18-20).

Let’s pause for a few moments in our paraphrased narrative to get the backstory about what happened only a little over three days prior to this conversation on the country road.

After the Sabbath, immediately following Jesus’ terrible death, a number of women disciples visited the tomb where He had been laid in order to anoint His body with spices and fragrant oils (Luke 24:1). But when they arrived at the tomb, they were perplexed to find the stone rolled away and Jesus’ body gone. Then two men stood near them in shining garments (Luke



Dewang Gupta/Unsplash

Does God’s Word increase our anticipation about the breathtaking future that lies ahead in God’s coming Kingdom?

Does your heart burn within you?

24:2-3). Frightened, the women bowed their faces to the ground. The men, in fact angels, explained that Christ had risen from the dead (Luke 24:5-7). As they now recalled Jesus’ own words about this coming occurrence, the women returned quickly to where other disciples were gathered to tell them about what they had experienced (verses 9-10).

How did these disciples respond to the women’s report? “And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them” (verse 11). Yet there were two exceptions to this reaction. Peter and another disciple ran quickly to the tomb. When Peter reached it he “... saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened” (verse 12).

Then their eyes were opened

Now let’s return to the story about the two disappointed disciples, Cleopas and one unnamed. The unnamed one had been at the meeting with the women disciples (verse 13). We learn that later on that same day, they were walking northeastward on the road from Jerusalem to the small town of Emmaus. Being surprised that the stranger who had joined them seemed oblivious as to what had occurred in Jerusalem, they told him about Jesus’ crucifixion and the amazing report of His empty tomb (verses 18-20). They also explained why they were so sad and disillusioned since they thought that Jesus would lead a powerful revolt against the Roman oppressors to expel them from Israel and thus restore freedom to its beleaguered citizens (verse 21). But now that He was dead, their hopes and dreams were dashed.

What did this stranger say in response to their account? “How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter into His glory?” (verses 25-26, Holman Christian Standard Bible).

As the disciples continued walking along with their new acquaintance, he further enlightened them regarding what the scriptures prophesied about the Messiah (verse 27). As they arrived in Emmaus near sundown, the disciples prevailed upon the man to remain with them overnight. “And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them” (verse 28-30).

What incredible event occurred next? “Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, but He disappeared from their sight” (verse 31, Holman Christian Standard Bible). At that very moment they understood miraculously that this stranger was none other than their teacher and friend, the resurrected Jesus

Christ! This astounding incident made an incredibly deep impression on these formerly-doubting disciples. “And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” (verse 32).

Motivated to the very core of their being, they returned immediately to Jerusalem to where the other disciples were gathered. “And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread” (verse 35).

Following this event, Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, removing all doubt that He was fully alive from the dead (verses 36-50).

Continued on next page

Considering this story, what can you and I learn from the event that occurred on the road to Emmaus? Indeed, the two disciples not only had their eyes opened spiritually about Jesus' resurrection from the dead, but they also fully grasped the veracity of all His remarkable teachings throughout His 3½ year ministry. Similarly, as you and I journey down life's road, God opens our spiritual understanding to the perfect reliability of the Holy Scriptures and the wonderful fact that Jesus Christ is alive, active and seeks a personal relationship with us (Jeremiah 10:10; Psalm 42:2).

Is God's truth burning in our hearts?

It's critically important to note that just having the knowledge of these vital truths is not enough. Just like the two disciples felt the intense fire of motivation regarding what they heard and experienced, we too must have God's truth burning in our hearts!

The Bible's teachings and our intimate relationship with our Creator must be *our* passionate, motivating force. This means we should *take action daily* to put into effect His spiritual priorities—meaning seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

So, the question is: are *our hearts* on fire for God and His truth? Are we truly following the admonition of Deuteronomy 4:29 which says: "Seek the Lord your God... with *all your heart* and with all your soul?"

Although you and I don't have Jesus Christ in the flesh with us today as the disciples did then, we can communicate directly with Him and our heavenly Father through prayer. Plus, we have Jesus in the form of the Holy Bible (John 1:1, 14). And in a similar way to how He unlocked the scriptures to the disciples, we too have had our minds opened so that we can deeply comprehend them.

Are our hearts on fire for God and His truth?

Therefore, are we intensely passionate about the "living and powerful" Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)? Do the Scriptures and what they portray fan the flames of fervor and joy in us when we read or hear them explained—just as it did in the hearts of the two disciples on that dusty country road so long ago? Do the words of the Bible kindle intense flames of faith, eagerness, belief and obedience in our minds and hearts? Does God's Word increase our anticipation about the breathtaking future that lies ahead of us and all people in God's coming Kingdom?

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had their eyes opened fully to the fact that the "stranger" with them was actually Jesus Christ, and His teachings were utterly reliable. Those disciples' enthusiastic words and actions after that momentous realization should also be ours throughout our Christian journey. Indeed, with God's powerful help, let's make sure *our hearts* burn within us! **GN**

The Ten Commandments Series

The Ninth Commandment

By Don Hooser

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20).

God hates lying and we should hate it also. Lying is one of the most common sins, destroying trust and relationships everywhere. "The fear of the LORD is to *hate evil*; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the *perverse mouth* I hate" (Proverbs 8:13; emphasis added throughout). Related sins often occur together.

"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22). "These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies and one who sows discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19). Of those seven abominations, notice how many relate to the Ninth Commandment!

Many scriptures speak of the power of the tongue for either healing or harm. James 3 is all about the tongue. It describes it as "a fire, a world of iniquity" and "an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (verses 6 and 8). Deliberate deception is certainly a deadly poison. The Bible gives us stern warning that "all [unrepentant] liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

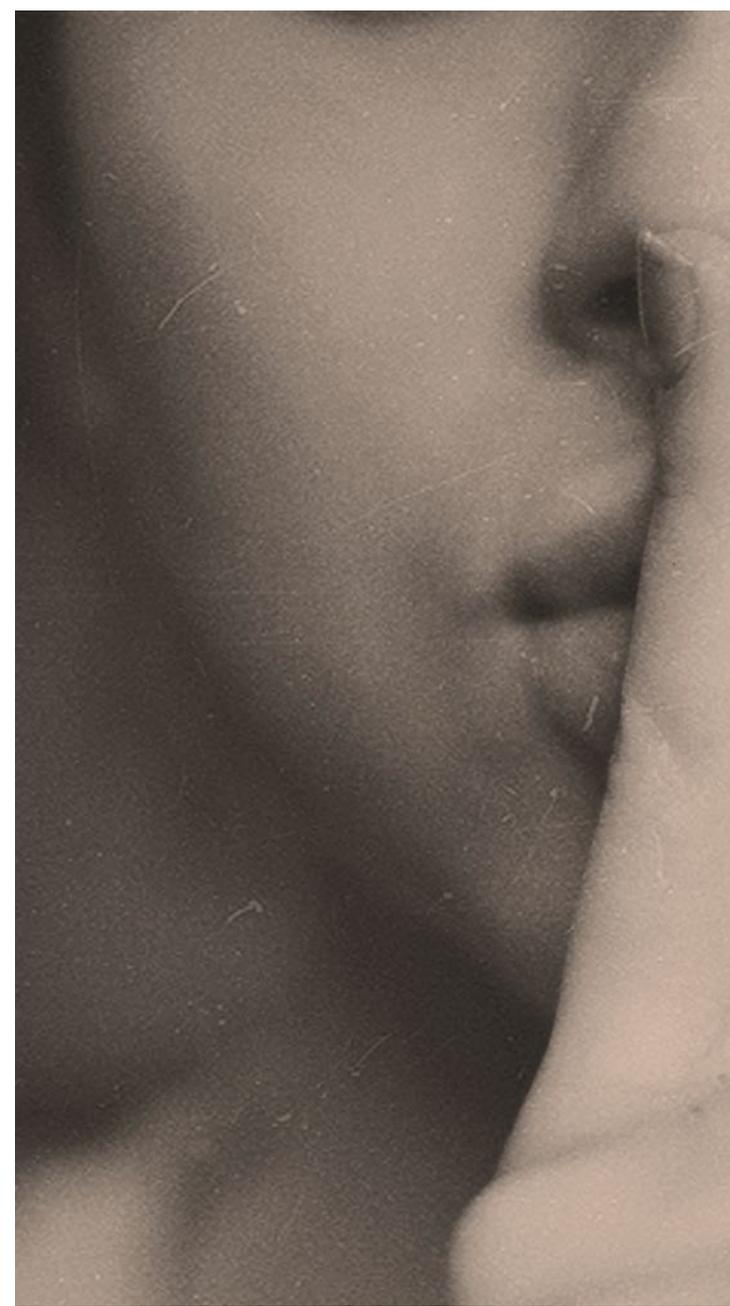
Deception is so prevalent that it has many forms, degrees and synonyms: deceive, falsify, perjure, exaggerate, twist, trick, distort, mislead, forge, disguise, cheat, counterfeit, etc. Incidentally, a half-truth is a half-lie. Half-truths are often especially deceptive and damaging.

Dishonesty corrupts everything! We see it all the time in advertising, labeling, business, news, politics, government, religion and in personal relationships. It is shocking, depressing and frightening to see many people—even in high positions—flagrantly and brazenly lying! A healthy civil society rests on the foundations of truth and trust.

"Deceitful above all things"

Human nature is fundamentally deceitful. "Who can understand the human heart? There is nothing else so deceitful; it is too sick to be healed" (Jeremiah 17:9, Today's English Version). To understand the various nuances of this verse, read it in several Bible versions. All human beings are tempted to lie. Even the youngest children often lie until they are taught not to.

Relentlessly pouring fuel on the fire of human nature is the "ruler of this world," the "Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" and is "the accuser of our brethren" (John 12:31; Revelation 12:9-10). Jesus said Satan is "a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Lying "give[s] the devil a foothold" in our lives (Ephesians 4:25-27, New International Version).



Lying and dishonesty is one of the most common sins that destroys trust and relationships.

To establish and spread counterfeit Christianity, Satan regularly influences religious people to become "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Satan has also been successful in promulgating the colossal and crazy lie of creation without a Creator (Romans 1:18-32)!

One lie leads to another, which makes one's life quite complex. The more a person lies, the more he needs a good memory, because it is easier to remember the truth than to remember all the lies he has told.

Many people have gone beyond being immoral—they have become amoral, their consciences no longer discerning between right and wrong. Paul describes them as "speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Timothy 4:2). A liar can become a chronic liar, a compulsive liar or even a psychopathic liar.



Kristina Flour/Unsplash

in a dispute, do not be swayed by the crowd to twist justice. And do not slant your testimony in favor of a person just because that person is poor” (Exodus 23:1-3, New Living Translation).

A “good name” is priceless (Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1). The destruction of a good reputation can be as tragic as a murder. The murder of Jesus was actually accomplished through slander! Note that Satan (Greek: *satanas*) means adversary and devil (Greek: *diabolos*) means *accuser* or *slanderer*.

Negative gossip is a type of slander. Even when stating something that is factually true, it is nasty gossip if it might hurt a person’s reputation. (However, it is not gossip when one is reporting a crime, sin or serious problem to the proper authority so it can be corrected.)

One can be a false witness in two ways—by saying things that are untrue or should not be said, or remaining silent when something needs to be said to bring about justice.

Isaiah 59 is a prophecy of the terrible lack of justice and truth-telling in the world. Today’s governmental “justice systems” tragically are infected with much injustice. In a court of law, anyone who testifies must swear (or affirm) that he will “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” But a large percentage of those witnesses have no intention of abiding by that vow.

People think their lies will go undetected and unpunished but sins are “against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). Jesus said “that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment” (Matthew 12:36).

The cancer of hypocrisy—living a lie

There are different forms of hypocrisy. One type is putting on a good facade that doesn’t match up with what is on the inside. Another type is being two-faced, putting on an act to impress or influence whomever you are with at the time. Another type is flattery. One of the worst types relates to the Third Commandment—claiming to represent God while not upholding godly attitudes and actions. Think of Ananias and Saphira (Acts 5:1-11).

It seems the sin of religious hypocrisy disgusted and infuriated Jesus more than anything else!

It seems the sin of religious hypocrisy disgusted and infuriated Jesus more than anything else! (See Matthew 15:1-20, Matthew 23:1-39 and Mark 7:1-23.)

Choose a life that is the opposite of lying

In Ephesians 4, Paul talks of “putting away lying” and “*speaking the truth in love*” for “the edifying of the body of Christ” (verses 25, 15, 12).

May we always seek the truth and speak the truth. May we always study God’s Word to learn and live by God’s absolute Truth. And may we imitate the One who is “the way, the Truth, and the life” (John 14:6). **GN**

The Last Words of Christ

Have you ever thought about what your last words would be before you die? Most people don’t. One’s last words can have meaning. The most profound example of someone whose words and actions changed history for the better is Jesus Christ.

By Dan Dowd

Soon, we will gather to keep the Passover. God instituted that Festival as He was preparing to deliver Israel from the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:5-11). Israel was to eat that meal in haste, but before the meal of lamb they were to put the blood from the lamb on their doorposts. God had Israel do this to know who was obedient to Him, and seeing that blood, the “destroyer” would “pass over” that house and save the life of the firstborn.

The meal, lamb and blood of the first Passover in Exodus were all symbols that pointed to Christ. He fulfilled those symbols—that is what we rehearse in the Passover. His broken body and His blood is our Passover—*He is the Passover lamb*. He then gave new symbols to His church—symbols with deeper meaning. But Christ is not just a lamb—He is our Messiah! Through His sacrifice, our sins were covered by His shed blood. He also came to offer the gift of the Holy Spirit to those the Father would call.

This brings us to Christ’s last words before He died. Luke’s Gospel account has three of these sayings, John’s Gospel has another three, and Matthew and Mark record one each—all for a total of *seven sayings* or expressions.

The words Christ spoke do have meaning for us to consider. He knew He was dying, and knew that He came to die for us. As He was being crucified, He could feel His life ebbing. It was during these periods that He uttered these seven short sentences. Each thought has meaning for us to consider as we approach Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.

1. “Father, forgive them”

The first is found in Luke 23:34—“*Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.*”

Roman crucifixions were so commonplace, that they often became a source of entertainment. Christ had been scourged, was covered in blood and was on the edge of physical shock. In spite of His imminent death, the Roman soldiers were gambling for His tunic—they were so used to crucifixions that they made a little side money by selling the victims clothing.

The apostle John’s account tells us that the soldiers had cut up and divided Christ’s other clothes amongst themselves, but decided to cast lots for His tunic. In doing so, they fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 22:18.

We must be careful that we are no different than

Continued on next page

Why doesn’t the commandment simply say, “You shall not lie”?

Each of the Ten Commandments refers to a whole category of sins, but the worst form is the one that is stated. For example, the Sixth Commandment forbids the many ways of hurting people but it specifically states the worst way, which is murder. Likewise, there are many types of deceit and dishonesty, but generally the most damaging type is perverting justice with testimony that is both “false” and “against” another person.

Many scriptures emphasize God’s dedication to justice. God hates it when penalties are too great or too small, especially when a false witness causes an innocent person to be punished or when he causes a guilty person to go unpunished. This applies to courts of law (where it is perjury when the witness is under oath) and everywhere else such as with slander and derogatory gossip.

“You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous” (Deuteronomy 16:19). Similarly, “you must not pass along false rumors. You must not cooperate with evil people by lying on the witness stand. You must not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you are called to testify

The Last Words of Christ

those Roman soldiers—and the others in the multitude there who had conspired in and were supporting the death of Christ. In considering these words of Christ as He hung dying, when was the last time we asked God to forgive us because we didn't think about what we were doing? Are we thankful that Christ died for our sins—even the ones done in ignorance?

2. "You shall be with me in Paradise"

The second statement made by Christ as He was dying was to the penitent thief: *"I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise"* (Luke 23:39-43). Some use this verse as proof that a person goes to heaven upon death, but John 3:13 tells us that is not the case. Other verses speak to this truth as well (Acts 2:29 and Ecclesiastes 9:5 for example).

The simpler and biblically consistent answer lies in understanding that the Greek language in which the Gospels were written didn't have punctuation as the English language does today. A better translation of this verse would be: *"I say to you today (comma), you shalt be with me in Paradise."* We know this is accurate, because Christ Himself did not return to Heaven until more than three days after making this statement.

But as he was dying, Christ was giving hope to a sinner. The man would have opportunity to be in God's Kingdom. In many ways, this statement made by Christ was for anyone who is repentant before God. The word, "Paradise" can also be translated "Eden." What mankind threw away in rejecting God in the Garden of Eden, God still seeks to restore to mankind. God wants a relationship with His Creation. He wants us to be in His family and He has not walked away from us!

3. "Behold, your son"

Christ had to be committed to His task of becoming our sin sacrifice. From John's Gospel account, only Christ's mother, Mary, her sister Mary (Salome—the mother of James and John), Mary Magdalene and John were not ashamed to be with Christ at His crucifixion (John 19:25-26).

The end was nearing for Jesus. As He looked out at the remaining witnesses of His death, He saw His mother and John, and said to Mary, *"behold your son"* (John 19:25-26). His stepfather, Joseph, had died long ago, His stepbrothers and sisters were nowhere to be found at that moment, so Christ honored her by making sure she was taken care of. Then looking at the grief-stricken John, the beloved apostle, Christ said: "Behold your mother." Even in His dying moments, Jesus was concerned about others and saw to it that His mother would be cared for during the remainder of her lifetime.

4. "Why have you forsaken Me?"

Christ next said, *"My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Matthew 27:46). He is quoting from Psalm 22:1 using the same words there. This is the only saying recorded in more than one Gospel.

Christ suffered hours of intense pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, and searing pain as tissue was torn from His lacerated back from His movement up and down

against the rough wood. Psalm 22:14 gives us insight as to what Christ was thinking at that time—*"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."*

Even in dying, Christ was giving hope to a sinner.

The Father and the Son had existed together in eternity, and yet because of the profound love that They are and that They have, They established the plan of salvation for mankind. Christ became a man in order to live a sinless life, and as our Creator He was able to pay for the sins of all mankind through His shed blood. As Christ hung dying, He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserved for our sin.

Christ knew this had to be. Our sin brings death (not eternal life, Romans 6:23) and while in that sin we are separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). Not one of us is exempt from this (Romans 3:23). Upon death, Christ became our sin payment. He bore our sin so that we could take on the righteousness of God (1 Peter 2:24).

5. "I thirst"

Christ simply says *"I thirst"* (John 19:28). Again, Psalm 22:15 gives us His thoughts in prophecy: *"My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death."*

A sponge soaked in *posca*, the cheap, sour wine that was the staple drink of the Roman legionnaires, was lifted to Jesus' lips. It was prophesied that He would be given this sour wine to drink (Psalm 69:21), but tasting it, He refused to drink it (Mark 15:23) because He had to finish this task with a clear head and without the minor pain-killing effect of alcohol.

Could this acknowledgment of thirst have been more than physical thirst? Certainly, He would have been very thirsty from the loss of blood, but what if Christ was also expressing a spiritual thirst? "...if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink," (John 7:37). We are to desire to drink in that spiritual drink, God's instruction. Do we?

6. "It is finished"

Jesus' body was now in extremis (very close to death), and He would certainly feel death creeping through His body. This realization brought forth His sixth expression: *"It is finished"* (John 19:30).

This statement was not resignation—it was a statement of success! The Greek translated "finished" is *tetelestai* and means "accomplished"—*"It is accomplished."* His mission of atonement for us had been completed. He had known from prehistory that He would accomplish this for mankind. He came with the joy of

Piotr Makowski/Unsplash



Psalm 22:14 gives us insight as to what Christ was thinking at that time—"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint, my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."

knowing that mankind could be in the God family because of His blood payment for our sins. He knew the Father would restore His glory and that God's Holy Spirit would be given in the next step to come in God's plan of salvation for us. Finally, He could die because that step in the plan was now accomplished. We are able to be called, have God's Spirit in us and be a part of the Body of Christ because He accomplished the Father's will in being our Passover.

7. "I commit My Spirit"

Christ once again pressed His torn feet against the nail, straightened His legs, took a deeper breath, and uttered His seventh and last cry: *"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit"* (Luke 23:46, quoting Psalm 31:5).

This is an announcement and not a request. Think of the complete love and trust He had in the Father. Think of the oneness that He and the Father would have once again (John 17:21-22)—soon Christ would once again be one with the Father in glory. Christ knew that all that He had gone through, the sacrifice for our sin that He became, all that He and the Father had planned for was now set.

We are now able to be a part of the Body of Christ because He was our Passover.

Through His death, we can have the love and unity that the Father and the Son have for each other and for us. He declared it so (John 17:20-27) to us.

Jesus Christ is not a crucified, dead Messiah. He lives forever as the Son of God sitting at the Father's right hand now. These last words of Christ have deep spiritual meaning as we approach Passover and as we consider all that He did in shaping the future of mankind. He is our Mediator, our Advocate and our Intercessor. He is now our perfect High Priest, our Elder Brother and our Passover. **GN**



Frances P. Neumann

April 21, 1932-Jan. 16, 2020

Bess Detwiler Gabriel

Bess is survived by two daughters Debbie (Darris) McNeely and Sandi (Fred, deceased) Tucker; four grandchildren Christopher McNeely, Ryan (Stephanie) McNeely, Tiana Tucker and Tate Tucker; and four great grandchildren Ella, Liam, Ryland and Camryn McNeely.

Frances P. Neumann

It is with great sadness that her family announces the death of Fran Neumann of Bend, Oregon, on Jan. 16, 2020. Fran was born in Paterson, New Jersey on April 21, 1932. She is survived by her four children, Barbara, Carol, Ruth and Karl; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, one of whom was born the day Fran died. Her brother, Fred Meyer, and his wife Betty of Fort Worth, Texas, as well as a niece and nephew also survive her.

Fran and her husband, Gunther, began attending the Church of God in 1960 and were baptized that same year. She was ordained a deaconess in 1963. Her strength and patience were evident when her family of five, including a three-week old baby, tented in the Piney Woods of Big Sandy, Texas, for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Fran's life was dedicated to serving others. Her career was spent at various retirement and nursing homes as a Certified Med Aide. After retiring, she continued to volunteer for various community organizations including hospice, Bend Senior Center and R.S.V.P. well into her 80's.

Along with our Great God, Mom loved her children and grandchildren most of all. She was full of wisdom and gave good advice, teaching them to work out solutions to challenges. She had a keen sense of humor right up until the end. We will miss her terribly but know that she now awaits the resurrection and the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Donald Orr

October 2019

Donald Orr

Donald Orr, a member of God's Church since 1972, died in October following a lengthy illness. He was born in Chandler, Oklahoma, in 1934 and married his wife, Milly, in 1953. They celebrated their 66th anniversary in July.

At Don's memorial service, his son Steve spoke very lovingly of his dad, followed by his minister Dan Deininger, who knew Don very well. He spoke of his life and his devotion to God and family. A lovely meal was served after the service.

Don will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor. He loved his family, his friends and the brethren and was looking forward to being together again in the "wonderful world tomorrow."

Lillian Prischak

Lillian Prischak died unexpectedly on Feb. 17, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio. She was born on May 11, 1947 in Cleveland, Ohio to Louis and Helen Prischak. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia in 1941 and 1939 respectively. In the early 1970s, Lillian was able to travel to Czechoslovakia to visit and meet her paternal grandmother. During her childhood, Lillian developed a passion for swimming and ice skating. These were two activities that she continued to enjoy throughout her life.

She heard the Church of God radio broadcast and requested literature at the age of 20. She was then invited to start attending the local church and was baptized on Aug. 1, 1968 at the age of 21. Her mother, Helen, was introduced to the truth through Lillian and started to attend in the early 1980s. She was later baptized in 1992. Lillian knew God and had a deep understanding of His truth and His future plans. Her faith in God was exhibited throughout her life.

Lillian loved to travel. She drove



Lillian Prischak

May 11, 1947-Feb. 17, 2019

to California at age 16 with her father, and also traveled to Europe and Hawaii for the Feast several times. She especially loved Hawaii.

She also loved nature, with a special emphasis on birds. She owned several cockatiels and they have missed her since her death.

Most importantly, Lillian was very dedicated to her family. She loved taking care of her family and cooking for them. She raised five sons in whom she delighted. She also became her mother's caretaker as her mother became older.

Lillian is survived by her five sons, Alan Hausen, James (Denese) Hausen, David (Stephanie) Hausen, Joseph Hausen and Jonathan Hausen; two granddaughters, Samantha and Emerson; and her brother Andrew (Mary) Prischak.

Bobby Lewis Roberson

Born March 13, 1931 in Arkansas, Bobby Lewis Roberson of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, died in Dallas, Texas, on Dec. 7, 2019, at the age of 88.

He graduated from Capitol Hill High School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he was a member of the marching band. Bobby then joined the Army and served in Korea from 1950-1952. He rose to the rank of Master Sergeant and earned several medals. One was a bronze star for being part of a major battle while in Korea. In addition, he was awarded a UN medal for serving in Japan after his time in Korea. While in Japan, he also performed in concerts for the Japanese people in Tokyo.

After returning home, he attended Oklahoma University and later helped his mother operate a variety store in Drumright, Oklahoma, for a number of years. Eventually he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he worked for several years for the Williams Company as a clerk. Later, he worked for Air Expert and then started a vending business until his health declined. After recover-



Bobby Lewis Roberson

March 13, 1931-Dec. 7, 2019

ing from his illness, he worked for several years for Dollar General.

While living in Drumright, he began to listen to the *World Tomorrow* radio program. On Jan. 30, 1964, he was baptized into the Church of God in Oklahoma City. He remained a faithful member, serving in both Oklahoma City and Tulsa. He loved to play with the church band and dance with the ladies!

Bobby moved to Dallas, Texas, in the fall of 2019 due to worsening health problems and to be closer to immediate family. He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Pat and Allen Beck; three nieces and their family members, and a nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents, whom he cared for in their later years in his home in Broken Arrow.

Funeral services were held at the Hughes Funeral Home in Dallas, Texas, on Dec. 16, 2019, with burial in the Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery.

May Smith

Another nonagenarian from the Greatest Generation has died. At 94 years and 3 months, May Smith, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, died peacefully and comfortably at Eventide in Fargo, North Dakota on Jan. 7, 2020. She left this physical life just like she lived her life—with practicality and consideration for others. Her mental abilities remained. She had a great run.

May Adelle Swift was born Oct. 1, 1925 in Elgin, North Dakota, to Ray and Dorothy (Evanson) Swift. She grew up on a ranch in Glen Ullin, North Dakota and graduated from Glen Ullin High School in 1944. After high school she spent one year working as a shipfitter in Tacoma, Washington. May returned to Fargo and attended North Dakota Agricultural College (now NDSU) for four years, graduating in 1949 with a degree in home economics. She



May Smith

Oct. 1, 1925-Jan. 7, 2020

taught in Wishek, North Dakota for one year.

On June 24, 1950, May was united in marriage to Jack Smith in Glen Ullin and they remained together for 55 years. The first home they owned was a small acreage in west Fargo. May and Jack relocated to Detroit Lakes after buying the Sunlite Grocery on Little Floyd Lake in 1956. They operated the small resort store until 1960, making many friends in the area. Afterwards, May became a homemaker for their three children: Laurie, Jill and Garner.

May loved residential design and over the years May and Jack remodeled and built several homes together in the Detroit Lakes area. She enjoyed home decorating and restoring antique furniture, and maintained abundant vegetable and flower gardens. She traveled throughout the U.S. as well as Germany and Spain, visiting friends and relatives.

In 2005, after years of improving properties and taking care of rural acreages, May and Jack moved from Detroit Lakes to Moorhead, Minnesota. Jack died in late 2005. In 2016, at age 90, May moved into Eventide Fargo Senior Living Apartments where she enjoyed the services and made many friends.

She was a longtime member of the United Church of God in Fargo and considered its members to be a part of her family. May will always be remembered for her happy optimism.

May is survived by her children, Laurie Laney (Richard Smith), Jill (Jeffrey) Berg and Garner Smith; brother, Virgil "Pat" (Margaret) Swift; sisters, Ethel Flynn and Avis Halpern; grandchildren, Sheena (Adam) Burt and Sasha (Matthew) Ham; great-grandchildren, Kyle Burt, Ryan Burt and Mason Ham; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jack; and brothers-in-law Bob Flynn and Michael Halpern. **UN**

Pastoral Responsibilities Change in Arizona



It was a special Sabbath in Phoenix as leadership roles and responsibilities were transferred to the Knudsons and McKeons. Mr. Tuck (far left) will continue pastoring the Hawaii congregation and as the Southwest regional pastor.

Members from the Phoenix East, Northwest Phoenix, Northern Arizona and Show Low congregations and guests met for combined services on Jan. 4, 2020. The 250 or so in attendance made for a Feast-like Sabbath gathering, and there was an additional special purpose for the day. Two elders were given

the opportunity to begin a new pastoral role in the area.

The Southwest regional pastor and pastor of the Phoenix area churches, Northern Arizona, Show Low and Hawaii congregations, Jim Tuck, presented Scott McKeon and Monte Knudson with a genuine shepherd's staff. Each of the symbolic staffs were

embellished in gold lettering with their names and the words "Love," "Protect," "Feed" and "Shepherd." Mr. Tuck read biblical instructions to elders and emphasized the importance of leading congregations by example. Each of the wives, Carrie McKeon and Susie Knudson, received a beautiful bouquet of fresh carnations from

Tennessee Congregations Bid Fond Farewell to Creech Family

With parties presenting oversized gifts and heartfelt farewells, brethren in the Nashville congregation and later Murfreesboro bid farewell to the family of Joshua Creech, who served as associate pastor in the area for 18 months.

Joshua and Lizzy's impact and service in these congregations was deeply felt, and their passion and

zeal for God's people was evident. They move on to pastor the Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana congregations. We wish them all the best in their new home, and will miss them greatly!

Mitch Moss

Right: The Creeches at their going-away party thrown by the Tennessee congregations.



Updates from Ministerial and Member Services

At the beginning of January, Scott McKeon was appointed pastor of the congregations in Phoenix Northwest and Northern Arizona. Mr. McKeon and his wife, Carrie, had been assisting the previous pastor, Jim Tuck. Mr. McKeon will also continue to assist pastor Randy Schreiber with the congregation in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Monte Knudson was appointed pastor of the congregations in Phoenix East and the Bible study group in Show Low, Arizona, in addition to his responsibility as senior pastor for East Africa. Mr.

Knudson and his wife, Susie, had been assisting the previous pastor, Jim Tuck.

Jim Tuck will continue to pastor in Hawaii in addition to his service as a regional pastor for the Southwest region. Mr. Tuck has also been appointed regional pastor over the South Central region, replacing Mark Welch.

In February, Ken Skorseth was named pastor of the congregations in Fargo, Bismarck and Minot, North Dakota, following the death of pastor Herb Teitgen. Mr. Skorseth was ordained an elder

in 1986, and has served for many years in the Watertown, South Dakota congregation with his wife, Dianne.

On Feb. 25, David Chornomaz was re-credentialed by the United Church of God. He and his wife, Donna, serve in the Hartford, Connecticut, congregation.

As these men and their wives transition to their new assignments, your continued prayers and support are appreciated as they strive to serve God and His people.

Chris Rowland

Mrs. Tuck to emphasize their importance in serving the church areas alongside their husbands.

Mr. Knudson will pastor the Phoenix East and Show Low congregations and continue to serve as the senior pastor of the East African work. Mr. McKeon will pastor the Phoenix Northwest and Northern Arizona congregations, and continue to assist pastor Randy Schreiber in the Albuquerque, New Mexico congregation.

Mr. Tuck concluded the ceremony by asking a special prayer for God's blessing and for His Spirit to guide and direct the new pastors and wives.

Following the installation of the new pastors, a gift of two handmade rocking chairs was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Tuck. The chairs were beautifully crafted by Fred Weed, a deacon

serving the Northern Arizona congregation. Although rocking chairs may connote retiring, it's not time yet for Mr. Tuck. He will continue to pastor the Hawaii congregation as well as remain the Southwest regional pastor to help and serve in Phoenix and other church areas.

Angela Balow, a member in the Phoenix Northwest congregation, organized a special cake for the outgoing pastor and wife and another for the incoming pastors and wives as well as some beautiful flowers and a gift basket on behalf of the church.

A "comfort food" dinner buffet was enjoyed by all. In the evening, games and a costume contest for the children added to the fun of the day. It was truly a very special Sabbath day in Phoenix.

Marlow Koller

How to Sign Up for Members Updates

Don't miss Feast announcements or posts on the members website! Sign up for email update and you'll receive the latest content delivered straight to your inbox three times a week.

Go to ucg.org/subscribe-to-email-updates to sign up.

Annual ABC Service Sabbath Held



Chad Curran leads songs for the Cincinnati East P.M. service, with Heather Braun playing hymns.

On the Sabbath of Feb. 22 at the home office in Cincinnati, ABC students held their annual "ABC Sabbath" during both the a.m. and p.m. services. With some help from ABC administrators and volunteers, a number of students served the congregation by greeting at the door, doing security, giving the opening and closing prayers, ushering and helping with the mother's room, kitchen and snacks.

Students also led songs, and gave announcements and sermonettes. Steven Rowland led songs in the

a.m. while Chad Curran led songs in the afternoon. Duncan McClenagan and Heather Braun played piano during hymns in the a.m. and p.m. services, respectively. Adam Butler gave the sermonette in the morning and Stephen Betts delivered the sermonette in the afternoon. ABC Student Body President Dylan Riess gave the announcements for both services.

The sermon was given by Steve Myers, pastor of the Cincinnati East A.M. and P.M. congregations in the morning and afternoon.

Justin Palm

Southern California's Women's Enrichment Weekend Attracts 126

"Facing Life with Strength and Laughter" was the theme for the 19th annual Women's Enrichment Weekend sponsored by the Garden Grove, California congregation. The selected theme recognizes our need for strength to cope with what life gives us, as well as laughter to enjoy life more fully.

That theme was developed throughout the weekend, incorporating both of these vital aspects. The event began with many arriving Friday and settling in to relax and meet with friends. Sabbath morning we enjoyed inspiring special music selections (a duet by Kourtney Kovanis and Kaylee Tomes, a vocal solo by Sylvia Kennedy, a flute solo by Liz Russell and a women's ensemble with 11 ladies participating).

The sermon fit the theme well and set the tone for the weekend. Jon Garnant, an elder in the Los Angeles congregation, shared the examples of Abraham and Sarah, bringing in the strength aspects they had, and also the laughter side. (Their son's name, Isaac, means "laughter.")

The theme was expanded in the ladies' Sabbath afternoon presentations. After welcoming comments by Jean Marini, Suzanne Miller began by sharing personal

examples of how in a trial we do need strength—but we need a good measure of laughter as well. Deborah Barr followed by giving us scientific insights on how laughter works—also focusing on how God gave humor and laughter as a gift to us. Ingrid Helge shared the inspiring story of the strength of will of a man who escaped from a Soviet labor camp in World War II and walked to freedom from Siberia to India. We ended the Sabbath afternoon's sessions in a jovial way when Carolyn Greinke led an interactive session with the focus on humor and laughter. After a delicious Mexican buffet dinner, the rest of the evening was free for purchasing raffle items or for fellowship.

On Sunday morning, three ladies (Angela Balow, Shaylee Tomes and Carole Johnson) shared valuable lessons learned in their lives. An interactive discussion followed, led by Rocio Gonzalez, focusing on the strength of the armor of God (Ephesians 6).

On Sunday afternoon, after a deli sandwich group buffet, Sherry Ellis shared "That Which Does Not Kill Us Should Make Us Stronger." Sherry related anecdotes from her life when strength—and laughter—helped her to tackle issues. Jean Updegraff presented the



The Southern California women's enrichment weekend provided a structured atmosphere of growth and fellowship with the 126 women present.

closing comments. The Women's Weekend moderator Sylvia Kennedy expertly wove the presentations together with a great deal of humor.

This year we again had a fundraiser raffle to benefit both Good Works and LifeNets. The 36 items raffled plus direct donations brought in \$1,704!

The ladies left the Weekend encouraged, uplifted and better equipped to live their lives with strength—accompanied by needed laughter.

Jean Updegraff



54th Northwest Family Weekend held in Portland, Oregon

After the Feast of Tabernacles, the Portland Family Weekend is the longest continually held event in the modern era of the Church of God. This year, the event was held Dec. 27-29, a week after the Winter Family Weekend in Cincinnati. Nearly 280 people from the Northwest gathered at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington, for three days of biblical learning and enjoyable activities.

Opening the weekend was a Bible study presented by Rex Sexton on the "Christ is coming very soon" perspective of 1 Peter contrasted with the "Christ may not return for thousands of years" mindset of 2 Peter.

Our special guest for the week-

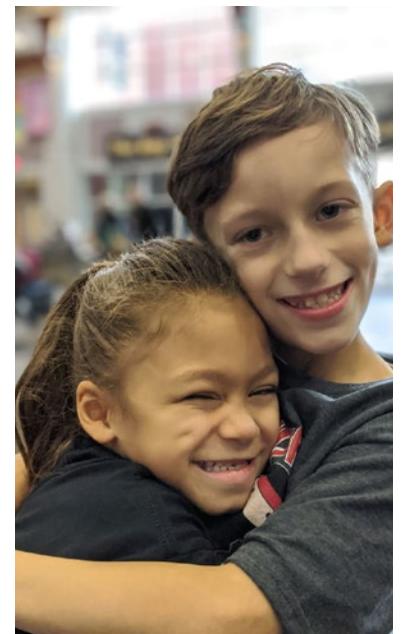
end was Jorge de Campos. His presentation on God's growing Portuguese work was an inspiration for everyone. Mr. de Campos also gave the Sabbath sermon on the theme of "Keeping God's Focus." Mr. Roberto Parada gave the teen and young adult Bible study, touching on a number of issues that have been raised at our teen camps in recent years.

Saturday evening, the family dance featured a live 18-piece band playing a wide variety of excellent dance music. The teen dance featured lots of decorations and line dance music so the teens could dance to the familiar songs and steps taught at summer camp.

Sunday featured volleyball and basketball games, and four sem-



Nearly 280 people from the Northwest U.S. gathered in Vancouver, Washington for the 54th Northwest Family Weekend.



inars: "Financial Freedom" by Aaron and Caryn Alles, "Are you Convicted or Convinced?" by Jeff Richards, "Why are Friends Important?" by Fred Reeves and

"Connecting in a 'Connected World'" by Ben Light. The weekend concluded with a pizza and games evening for teens and families. On Monday, Dec. 30, 17 pas-

tors and elders from the Northwest met for a day of discussions and fellowship.

Rex Sexton

Chicago Young Adults Weekend



Left: Young adults who attended this year's weekend visited Chicago's famous Cloud Gate Sculpture before departing at the end of the weekend. Right: Sophie Pebworth and Kimberly Martens enjoy homemade ice cream.

During Presidents Day Weekend this year, 41 young adults from all over the country met for the 4th annual Chicago Young Adults weekend. The theme was 1 Timothy 3:15.

Fellowship and a Friday night seminar by Mr. Bill Bradford started off the weekend, followed by a Bible study by Mr. John May about contending earnestly for the faith using the example of Polycrates. Church services fea-

tured split sermons by Mr. Andy Duran and Mr. Randy D'Alessandro, reviewing the characteristics of a pillar and how young adults can transition into pillars for the next generation.

After a buffet-style dinner and ice cream-making activity in the Bradfords' home Saturday night, on Sunday morning everyone met for brunch in downtown Chicago for one last seminar before concluding the weekend's activities.

Mr. Bob Fahey held a workshop in which the young adults developed strategies for growing into a pillar. Attendees spent the last few hours touring downtown Chicago.

The weekend included ample time for fellowship and bonding in between informative seminars, and attendees went home with topics to study and ideas for personal growth.

Ariana Del Signore

Growing in the Faith Weekend Held in Minnesota



Young adults participated in seminars, discussions and Bible studies over the course of the Growing in the Faith weekend.

The fifth annual Growing in the Faith Weekend took place Jan. 17-20 at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, Minnesota. Twenty-eight young adults from across the nation gathered to enjoy a three-day weekend of in-

spiring biblical discussion, Christian fellowship and winter fun.

The seminars throughout the weekend built on one another to reflect upon the theme of the event, "Developing a Personal Relationship with God through His

Word." Pastors Dan Dowd, Dave Schreiber and Brian Shaw facilitated the discussions, expounding on each topic and deepening our understanding of the Bible.

The weekend began with a seminar on Friday night and a meet and greet afterwards. Sabbath services were held the next day and were followed by a potluck, a trivia contest and karaoke—a good time for everyone! Three seminars were held on Sunday, followed by snow tubing and a dance in the evening. One more seminar was held Monday morning before we parted ways after lunch.

The Growing in the Faith weekend was a biblically rich experience full of life lessons that will be valuable for years to come. We encourage any young adult who is considering going next year to do it! You will bring back more knowledge than you thought possible, strengthening your relationship with God and your friends.

You can see more at www.growinginthefaith.com.

Emma Cortelyou

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 websites.
- Contributing ideas and efforts toward 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.

Winter Camp 2019 Report



After a few inches of snowfall, campers and staff were able to go tubing and enjoy fellowship outside.

This year, we had another great Winter Camp located in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Seventy-nine campers and 51 staff members gathered for six days to learn more about “Living God’s Way Today” while building friendships that will last a lifetime.

The week started off unseasonably warm, but about halfway

through camp it cooled off and we had a few inches of snowfall, which allowed for more “winter” activities. We have a dedicated and fun group of staff members with a desire to get to know the campers, building meaningful relationships that often continue after camp.

Winter Camp is unique in that it

allows for a lot of fellowship time while sitting around a beautiful fireplace and sipping hot chocolate. This year our oldest campers also went to a new ski resort with more hills for their various snowboarding and skiing skill levels.

We held two Q&A sessions this year in which brother and sister dorm joined their dorm parents for a smaller and more intimate discussion. The campers shared questions they struggle with and challenges they face in life. The fellow campers were able to give advice and encouragement to one another while the dorm parents helped lead the discussions. This format helped to give campers answers and tools to take home as they face the challenges of life. I am always impressed with the maturity that I see in many of our youth. God’s work in their life is so evident when you get to know them and talk with them. It is such a blessing for all of our staff to get to be involved in helping them see how God’s way works.

We are looking forward to another great year this coming winter at Lake Geneva, from Dec. 28, 2020-Jan. 3, 2021. I look forward to seeing you there!

Aaron Creech

New England Congregations Organize 50's Dance



Left to right: Boys from New England dress as greasers; David and Amanda Crawford came as a soda fountain couple; Sandra and Valerie Sutherland pose for a fun photo in their 50's dance garb.

On Feb. 1, the Southern New Hampshire and Worcester, Massachusetts congregations combined for services followed by a potluck and 50’s dance social. The dance organizers made the event like the popular bandstand dance TV shows of the 50’s era. They called it “The New England Bandstand” on TV Station WLBS (Worcester Londonderry Broad-

casting Service). The evening featured original, big screen music videos of Bill Haley, Buddy Holly, Elvis and Chuck Berry. Dancers bopped to the music of the era, including “Splish Splash” and “The Bunny Hop.” They learned a 6-count line dance from the 50’s called “The Madison.” Costumes ranged from the “Greaser” look with slicked hair, white T’s and

jeans to a soda fountain couple in red apron and pinstripe dress. The kids loved aiming a prop retro video camera at the “hip” dancers. A soda fountain served sundaes with chocolate, crumbled cookies, frozen strawberries, caramel and sprinkles. It was a wonderful mid-winter social, and everyone had a fun evening!

Kayla Rains

Spreading the Good News About the Kingdom of God in California Retail Malls



Jennifer Heesch, Mario Seiglie and Bill Carter at the newsstand at Irvine Spectrum Mall.

Garden Grove brethren in Orange County California have been displaying UCG booklets in California retail malls since January 2016. From 2016 to December 2019, UCG booklets have been displayed in retail malls 89 times for a total of 383 hours. God has allowed 1,404 people to take booklets, which calculates to 3.7 people taking booklets every hour they were displayed. One person has been baptized as a result of this outreach. The purpose of this outreach is (1) to provide a passive and non-confrontational activity for Church brethren to spread the

good news about the Kingdom of God, (2) to establish a platform where Church members can be edified, (3) to promote the *Beyond Today* program, (4) and to continue the work Jesus started.

California malls provide the space, table and two chairs free for this free speech activity. The books are normally displayed from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. One or two members of the Garden Grove church volunteer to serve at the table for two-hour periods. For more information please contact lincoln_marini@ucg.org.

Lincoln Marini

Resource Spotlight

New Online Interface: UCG Bible Commentary



UCG’s 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.

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>.

- March 1-7 **Three Proofs the Bible is True**
Presented by Darris McNeely
Literature offered: *Is the Bible True?*
- March 8-14 **The Truth About the Rich Man and Lazarus**
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *The Truth About the Rich Man and Lazarus*
- March 15-21 **Who Will Be the Final Superpower?**
Presented by Gary Petty
Literature offered: *The Final Superpower*
- March 22-28 **Aliens and the Bible: Are We Alone?**
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *Does God Exist?*
- March 29-April 4 **The Message of the Antichrist**
Presented by Gary Petty
Literature offered: *Who Is the Antichrist?*
- April 5-11 **Called, Chosen and Faithful**
Presented by Darris McNeely
Literature offered: *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*
- April 12-18 **Easter: The Rest of the Story**
Presented by Steve Myers
Literature offered: *Easter: The Rest of the Story*
- April 19-25 **The Biblical Way for Raising Happy Children**
Presented by Gary Petty
Literature offered: *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*
- April 26-May 2 **The God-Centered Universe**
Presented by Darris McNeely
Literature offered: *Who Is God?*



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Fundamentals of an Estate Plan

Mark Twain had a silly saying, “Never put off until tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.” The author was observing how people procrastinate doing things that need to be done today for another time. Are there important things you’re procrastinating on?

In life, we must prepare for what we often do not want to consider—sickness, disability or our own death. Part of this preparation includes having a good estate plan in place. Here are some questions to consider:

Do you have a will? A will enables you to specify who you want to inherit your property and other assets. A will also enables you to name a guardian for your minor children.

Are your beneficiaries up to date? When is the last time you checked to see who you named as your beneficiary on your life insurance policy, retirement accounts or annuities? It is a good idea to review these frequently, especially if your life situation changes. In some cases, naming a beneficiary for bank accounts and retirement plans makes these accounts “payable on death” to your beneficiaries.

Do you have the right amount and type of life insurance? When was the last time you assessed your life insurance coverage? Have you compared the life insurance benefit with your financial obligations?

Do you have financial and healthcare documents in place if you become unable to make financial or medical decisions for yourself? These documents may include a living will, a durable power of attorney, a durable power of attorney for healthcare and a living trust. Healthcare documents spell out your wishes for health care and certain financial documents can outline your financial wishes if you are unable to make financial or medical decisions for yourself. These documents authorize others to make decisions on your behalf if that should prove necessary.

Have you taken steps to protect your business? Do you have a succession plan? If you own a business with others, you may also want to consider a buyout agreement.

Have you created a Letter of Last Instruction? A letter of last instruction is a non-legal document that outlines your wishes. It may save your heirs time, effort and expenses as they administer your estate. It can provide guidance and information such as the location of important financial documents and a list of contact information for people who should be notified in the event of your death.

In this letter, you can outline your choices as to funeral arrangements (burial or cremation wishes), name who should conduct the actual funeral service and list the location of your cemetery plot deed if you have one. You may even wish to specify which hymns or speakers you would like included in your memorial service. Although a letter of last instructions is not legally binding, your heirs will probably be glad to know how you would like to be remembered. A well-written Letter of Last Instruction can help ensure that your last wishes are carried out without omitting important details. This letter also lessens the emotional stress for those involved.

Will your heirs be able to locate your critical documents? Your heirs may need access to the specific documents you have created to manage your estate. These documents may include:

- Your will
- Trust documents
- Life insurance policies
- Deeds to any real estate, and certificates for stocks, bonds, annuities
- Information on your financial accounts and safe deposit boxes
- Information on your retirement plans
- Information on your debts: credit cards, mortgages and loans.

If you have been meaning to get around to addressing some part of your financial future, maybe it is time to develop a strategy. (Also see Proverbs 13:22 and 1 Timothy 5:8.) Do not let procrastination keep you from pursuing your financial goals, establishing a complete estate plan or leaving family members uncertain of your desires.

Howard Marchbanks, CFP®