



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 438

August 27, 2020

Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

The highlight of this past week has been the start of the 2020-2021 Ambassador Bible College academic year. This has brought new life and optimism to the home office! Twenty students divided among 11 men and 9 women came here from all over the United States, including one from Australia. The class this year would have been significantly larger, but due to COVID-19 travel restrictions it settled in a little lower than projected. We are still very happy for every single student who has arrived.

Last Sunday, ABC faculty and staff gathered with the incoming students for the annual Welcome Picnic. To comply with local social distancing guidelines, the picnic was held outside. The next day, Monday, everyone gathered for the ABC orientation. One by one, faculty members spoke about guidelines and instructions for the ABC experience. I mentioned that we were here not only to learn the Bible but also to *live* what the Bible teaches. We may not know all that's in the Bible, but the Bible fully knows everything about us. Our focus is what Paul admonished young Timothy: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). That's what ABC is all about.



Scott Ashley addresses the ABC Class of 2021.

ABC is a great place to learn proper leadership skills as students serve the Church and community in the coming months.

ABC Coordinator Frank Dunkle cited Malachi 3:6 by telling students that while policies and guidelines can change, institutions sometimes change, but God does not change. Moreover, the Word of God is

timeless and changeless.

Ambassador Bible College is an excellent program to give a person a systematic study of the entire Bible. I would like to remind everyone of ABC's mission, as it clearly articulates what we want ABC to accomplish for the future of the Church:

Mission Statement

The mission of Ambassador Bible College (ABC), sponsored by the United Church of God, *an International Association*, is to diligently uphold and faithfully teach the truths of God, as found in the Bible, to equip disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of faithfulness and godly service.

To accomplish this mission, ABC has appointed skilled instructors to lead the students through a systematic study of the Holy Scriptures and related topics. It is intended that those who receive these teachings will pass the precious understanding of God's truth to others.

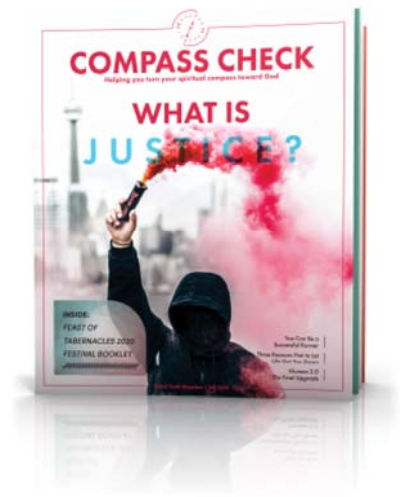
Latest *Compass Check* magazine

You may want to see our latest online edition of *Compass Check*, a limited circulation print magazine for our teens. The quarterly fall edition, however, is online now for everyone at <https://www.ucg.org/members/compass-check/compass-check-fall-2020>

I have appreciated the creativity of our young adults with articles from teens who produce this publication. While the primary target audience is our teens, I find the articles just as relevant and interesting for us older people.

Here is a listing of some of the articles in this edition:

- Three Reasons Not to Let Life Get You Down
- What is Justice?
- iHuman 2.0: *The Final Upgrade*
- Like a City Without Walls (about self-control)
- A Test of Faith: Landsliding Into the Feast
- Be Bold and Do Great Exploits!
- Be a Light



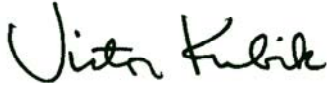
The latest edition of the bi-monthly *United News* went to press yesterday. With all the disheartening things we have heard about cancellations in recent months, it is so encouraging to read about all the Church activities that DID take place. This issue contains church news as well as Christian living articles in the GN section. The *United News* is subscribed to by as many people outside the Church as in the Church.

I'm always moved by the apostle Paul's loving expressions about the churches he served in Asia Minor and Europe. He empathized with their trials and always encouraged them. Let's be that way one to another. Let's remember to show kindness toward each other. Everyone is going through something. This week alone we've had lethal rioting in Kenosha, Wisconsin, fires in California and Hurricane Laura that has come ashore in Louisiana.

May God be with you this coming week as we get closer to the Holy Days--starting with the Feast of

Trumpets only three weeks from this Sabbath.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Death of Elsie Hooser



Elsie Hooser

On Friday, August 21st, my dearly beloved wife Elsie went to sleep until the resurrection. On behalf of my three children and the rest of the family, I want to thank all of you who have prayed for Elsie and me during the past few years.

Over the years, we had prayed that when our lives ended, the death would be peaceful and dignified without great suffering. God did indeed grant Elsie that blessing. And our daughter Amy and I were with her the moment she died.

As the Scripture says, "The righteous is taken away from the evil to come" (Isaiah 57:1). In the last few years, we've been heartsick about the growing percentage of people who have rejected the Bible and embrace all kinds of lies and evils. So I'm glad Elsie won't have to see any more terrible happenings.

Elsie and I met at the Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy in 1962. I quickly introduced myself to her because she was the prettiest woman there, but soon was quite inspired by her sincere godly character and sweet personality. Then we got married in 1966, two days after my graduation from AC at Big Sandy. Our honeymoon was driving from Big Sandy to Akron, Ohio, to work as a ministerial trainee and we served together in the ministry ever since. She was naturally somewhat shy but she was a good sport about being a minister's wife. We were blessed with three children and today all three and their spouses are in the United Church of God.

God has blessed us in countless ways including long lives. Elsie was almost 81. But the greatest blessing is knowing that God's people will eventually be healed of every health problem and we will be together forever in God's promised land. Again, thank you for your prayers.

-- Don Hooser, elder, Dallas, Texas

California Fire Report

California wildfires are affecting our brethren in Northern California. With over a million acres burned and over 600 separate wildfires burning, it is hard to imagine that we are now also experiencing the 2nd and 3rd largest wildfires in California history--having gone through in recent years what seems like an annual nightmare of destruction and uncertainty. Most fires were started by dry lightning strikes--over 12,000 in a week. The fires have claimed seven lives at last count and thousands of structures have been destroyed.



Smoke rising into the sky, viewed from the home of pastor Tim Pebworth in Santa Clara, California.

Some members have evacuated, while others are near evacuation and still others suffer from some of the worst air pollution in the world at the present time. We have established alternatives where members can evacuate and stay with other members and everyone is pulling together. We had planned to restart in-person, outdoor church services last Sabbath (we haven't had in-person church services since March 7), but the poor air quality delayed our start and the situation may cancel this week's services as well. We continue to be patient and thankful for God's protection.

Visibility is now very low (and it has been for a week), but when the fires first started you could see the smoke going up and then heading toward you. I have attached a photo from my front porch where I watched a smoke plume rise from a new blaze.

-- Tim Pebworth, pastor, San Francisco Bay Area, California

Inside United Podcast



Robin Webber - How to Be at Peace in Troubled Times

Robin Webber gave a farewell sermon to two of his church congregations. This sermon moved Victor Kubik and he wanted to talk about the important points from that sermon. The points are: 1. Develop the spiritual muscle of "being still." 2. Develop the spiritual muscle of solitude. 3. Develop the spiritual muscle of abiding faith in God. 4. Develop the spiritual muscle of moving forward. (You can find Robin Webber's sermon at: <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/how-to-be-at-peace-in-troubled-times>)

Podcast: <https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-172-robin-webber-how-to-be-at-peace-in-troubled-times>

Send us your questions, comments, or suggestions at podcast@ucg.org.

Listen to past episodes: <https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast>

Sermon Disc Set #144 (Trumpets/Atonement) Available

Sermons newly published for the Trumpets/Atonement edition of the Sermon Disc Program (SDP 144) are now available for download. You can access them, as well as archived SDP sermons at <https://www.ucg.org/sermon-disc-program>

The Sermon Disc Program is a service provided by the home office intended for shut-ins as well as for congregations needing video sermons when a live speaker is not available. If you have any questions, you can contact chaz_leathers@ucg.org or rudy_rangel@ucg.org.

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