



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 440

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Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

A few days ago, I received a happy report from our leaders in Zambia about their recently-completed United Youth Camp. It was a joyful account, since around the world the COVID-19 crisis has caused the cancellation of most church camps. This has disappointed hundreds of our youth who were looking forward to seeing friends, learning more about Christian living, and having fun doing recreational things that they may never have done before.



However, this was not the case in Mufulira, Zambia, which is located in the heart of South Central Africa. Here it was a joy to see 68 youth be blessed with the camp experience from August 16–23.

We own our church building and the grounds where we hold weekly Sabbath services, the Feast of Tabernacles, camps and other activities. This gave us the flexibility and freedom to manage our programs. And, of course, we abided by the local COVID regulations.

We are so thankful to the elders and deacons who, along with other brethren, organized this event. I want to spotlight and share with you what deacon Rodrick Epomba sent us.

Here is his report:

We would like to thank our Creator in heaven for making it possible to hold such a successful and fruitful youth camp. This was in a trying and challenging time as the world is shaken by the dangerous pandemic COVID-19. We would also like to thank our sponsors for the support they rendered to make the 2020 camp a successful gathering.



The purpose of the meeting was to help the youth in the Church of God to learn the Word of God and other skills. The goal was to create an atmosphere of oneness. Friendships are always made at such occasions.

Due to the education calendar during this pandemic, finding the right time to hold camp was the trickiest part here in Zambia, as schools have been closed. At the same time, those in examination classes keep on attending classes. This forced the organizers to select August 16–23 so that a good number of youths were able to attend.

The venue was the United Church of God Mufulira, Mupambe. A total of 68 youths came from the following areas: Mufumbwe – 9, Manyinga – 9, Solwezi – 30, Isoka – 8, Kalunkaya – 4, Lusaka – 8. The physical facilities were well-organized, starting from the ablution blocks (a building in a public area with facilities for washing and one or more toilets), the dining hall, tents and the kitchen. All these were sufficient to accommodate everyone in the camp.

We had a variety of speakers at this year’s youth camp. Many lessons and life skills were introduced, making the camp an interesting zone for all campers and staff members.

For Christian Living, we received instruction from one elder and two deacons. Our Life Skills program included the following subjects: Career Planning, Financial Discipline, Health and Hygiene, Arts and Crafts, Tie and Dye.

This year’s camp theme was “Be Anchored to God.” As a Church, we must see to it that all our members are anchored to God, including our youth, as they are our future leaders. The subjects dealt with were as follows:

- Find Your Anchor (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
- Set Your Anchor (Psalm 37:5-6)
- Weather the Storm (Deuteronomy 31:6)
- Set Your Soul for Service to God (Matthew 5:16)

- Finish the Voyage (John 6:39)

For recreation, we saw new games and activities introduced. We had new games like water in the dish, get wrong and shower as well as other games like tug of peace, soccer, volleyball, speedaway, dirty bottle race, need race, plus many other games.

On Friday, our scheduled outing did not work out due to some circumstances and COVID-19 measures. Nevertheless, the day became even better, as a party was organized within the camp. It was full of music, dancing and fun. At exactly 4:30 p.m., the show came to an end as all the staff and campers went to prepare for the Sabbath.

This year's camp has given us hope as leaders and organizers that indeed camp lessons are important to our campers. So far we have received messages of encouragement from parents confirming changes and improvement in their children—which we are grateful to hear.

As we know, our mission is to train the leaders of tomorrow. This means we have to train as many as possible. This year's camp had a lot of participants, compared to the 45 who attended last year. This is indeed good, as it sends a signal about growth of the body of Christ.

To all hard-working staff, deacons and ministers, Derrick and Cherry Pringle as well as Alfred Siame, we really thank you for all the support you rendered to the people while in camp and for making the 2020 Youth Camp a successful event by giving us your support spiritually and physically.

— Roderick Epomba, deacon

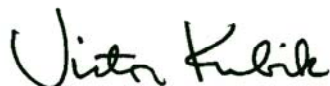
I couldn't help but share this bright and optimistic story with you and thank God that He is watching over us, even in difficult times. For more on this event along with photos, please go to <https://lifenets.org/zambia-copperbelt-uyc-camp-august-2020/>

In Zambia we have about 700 members, four elders, and more than 15 churches and groups that meet regularly. Most congregations own their own meeting halls. The buildings, in large part, were built by the members themselves.

My wife Bev and I have worked with the Zambian people for the past 20 years and have grown to love them dearly and regret that we are so far away.

We wish you a fruitful week as we all prepare for the coming Holy Days.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

Personal from Ministerial and Member Services...

Dear Ministers and Members,

God's Annual Fall Holy Days

The upcoming Feast of Trumpets pictures the return of Jesus Christ to this earth and the resurrection to life of the saints of God, at the sound of the last trumpet. We are now in a period of time that allows preparation for those called now to become firstfruits. We have been given God's Holy Spirit to guide us, to inspire us, and to change us into true disciples of Jesus Christ. Right now is a time to draw closer to the very stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13) and to become more like Him and more like our Father in heaven. We are continually being tested and are given many opportunities to choose wisely as we draw ever closer to the return of our Savior.

Now is a time to yield to God's Holy Spirit, to humble ourselves and to anticipate the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 17:14). It is a tremendous blessing to be called of God now and to be given understanding of His glorious plan of salvation for all humankind, pictured in the observance of God's annual Holy Days. The Feast of Trumpets pictures Christ's return to the earth to establish God's Kingdom and government at the onset of the peaceful millennial reign of Jesus Christ, pictured by the observance of the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles. The Eighth Day festival pictures the Great White Throne Judgment period and an amazing, eternal future ahead of us!

The Day of Atonement pictures the binding of Satan and Christ's atonement for our sins. It is a day that we are to be afflicted through fasting, realizing our need to humble ourselves and draw near to God in repentance and faith.

God commands us to assemble on these days and this command is not something to take lightly (Hebrews 10:25). We are hopeful that as many Church areas as possible will be able to provide at least one service for our members to physically assemble together on the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Of course we will have webcast services, as well, for those who need them.

Some of our churches on the west coast of the United States are just now getting back to physical services this Sabbath for the first time since March. I know they are very excited to be back before the Feast of Trumpets!

Let us all rejoice in keeping these annual Holy Days, looking to their ultimate fulfillment and the glorious future God has in store for all of us!

Recent Ordination



Dan and Linda Baker

On September 5, 2020, Dan Baker was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Linda, serve the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation.

Recommended Sermons

A few weeks ago, I asked for your recommendations of sermons you personally found inspiring, motivating, instructional and helpful. Several of you responded. Please continue to send me suggestions in the future, and from time to time I will share your recommendations.

One sermon that was recommended, I believe, will especially help us as we approach these fall Holy Days, and especially the Day of Atonement. It was given during the 2019 Passover season by Gary Petty, titled, “Have a Foot-Washing Attitude”:

<https://www.ucg.org/sermons/have-a-foot-washing-attitude>

Humility is one of the most important characteristics God would have us develop. The Passover season and Day of Atonement have many parallels. Please consider your attitude this Holy Day season. Does your attitude—in all things—reflect true humility? If it does, I believe you will have a truly wonderful Holy Day season! God takes special notice and blesses the humble, the contrite, those who tremble at His word (Isaiah 66:2). We go up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles to learn to fear God properly (Deuteronomy 14:23). God is gracious, loving and quick to forgive those with a humble, contrite, repentant attitude and approach.

One of our members sent this note to me with a recommendation: “Mr. Brian Shaw has three sermons that are connected to leadership and submission. Each sermon is good but the last of that series is very thought provoking.” I believe you will find this sermon particularly helpful, as well: <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/the-nature-of-godly-submission-part-2>

Another member recommended this sermon by Rick Shabi that you should find comforting during these stressful times: <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/in-times-of-uncertainty-and-change>

Wishing you all a very spiritual, inspiring and peaceful Sabbath!

In God's love and service,

Mark Welch, Operation Manager for MMS

Feast of Tabernacles Update

All Feast sites will be complying with local governmental regulations in regards to social distancing and the wearing of masks. Regulations at Feast sites will vary from site to site because of differing requirements, but every site seeks to provide a safe and healthy environment for live services.

All Feast coordinators will be soon sending out detailed information regarding seating arrangements addressing both social distancing and the wearing of masks. All members will have information available prior to the Feast so they can know what to expect.

Social Distancing

All sites plan to implement social distancing.

Masks

Due to local regulations, some Feast sites will require everyone to wear a mask throughout services (with exemptions for certain individuals with medical issues—a section for those with such an exemption will be provided). Some sites have local regulations that do not require masks; however, those sites will provide a section of the meeting room for those who prefer to wear a mask.

Regardless of whether a person sits in a mask-free section or not, all attendees will be required to wear a mask during hymns. This decision allows for the greatest number of people to attend live services and feel safe to be there, since singing is considered to spread the COVID-19 virus far more than speaking. There are very few people who medically cannot wear a mask for 3 to 8 minutes during hymns, and those who fall into that category can step out of the meeting room and re-enter with little notice or disturbance.

It is the goal of the United Church of God to provide live services to the greatest number of people in a safe environment to worship our Creator in peace and harmony. The Church recognizes there is a wide variety of opinion regarding COVID-19 and the unprecedented challenges to live services. However, the Bible clearly presents the principles for all to follow in Romans 14.

— Charles Melear

Inside United Podcast



Scott Ashley - Samaritans in the Gospels, Part 2

In this second part of the conversation about the Samaritans, Scott Ashley and Victor Kubik focus on Jesus and the woman at the well.

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-174-scott-ashley-samaritans-in-the-gospels-part-2>

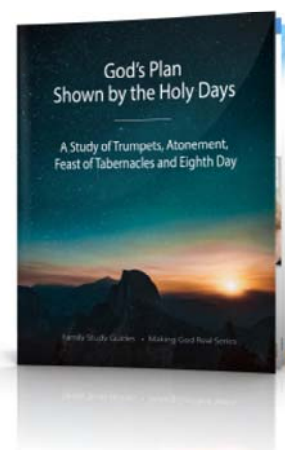
Send us your questions, comments, or suggestions at podcast@ucg.org.

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

Family Study Guide Available

For 2020-21, Youth Instruction will delve into a study of the essential questions of life, using the *Making God Real* series. Each month, a Family Study Guide will cover God's doctrines and the Fundamental Beliefs of United Church of God. These Family Study Guides are created to help parents review and better understand the basics of God's doctrines—then have family discussions on understanding these vital truths. We encourage families to use the portions of the guides that are the most helpful and meaningful to your own family.

As we prepare for the upcoming Holy Days, the first Family Guide will cover [*God's Plan Shown by the Holy Days: A Study of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day.*](#)



The biblical festivals and the Holy Days within them fall during three seasons of the year—the early spring harvest, the late spring harvest and the late summer to early autumn harvest in the land of biblical Israel. These seasons and themes portray God's plan of salvation—the spiritual harvest of mankind to eternal life spoken of by Jesus Christ (John 4:35-38).

Additional Youth Instruction study resources for the Feast season can be found here:

1. The 2020 Festival Youth Instruction lesson plans for grades K-6 are now available for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at: <https://www.ucg.org/members/news/2020-festival-youth-instruction>
2. Access the Teen Festival Booklet within the Fall 2020 issue of *Compass Check*, the UCG publication for teens, at: [ucg.org/members/compass-check](https://www.ucg.org/members/compass-check).
3. You can get the Holy Day Study Guide from the [UCG Family Webpage](#).

In November we will begin the *Making God Real* series with the first study guide that will address the essential questions: Does God Exist and Where Is He?

Have a spiritually uplifting Holy Day season and Feast of Tabernacles.

— Randy and Kay Schreiber, Youth Instruction Coordinators

Festival Youth Instruction

Youth Instruction Booklets

All attendees who registered for the Feast may pick up their Festival Youth booklets at the information table at their Feast site. Please give your child's name to the volunteer so they can check off your child's name when they receive their book. If you did not register for the Feast, please wait until all other booklets have been passed out; if there are any extra, then you may pick up one for your child. You may also print out the booklets from the UCG website if there are not any extra booklets available: <https://www.ucg.org/members/news/youth-festival-activity-booklets-available>.

There are 3 grade levels of the booklets: K-1, 2-3 and 4-6.

Please note there is no separate teen booklet this year. Instead, the Teen Feast Edition will be in the Fall *Compass Check* which was mailed to teens at home.

Youth Instruction Classes

The Festival Youth Instruction classes are available for children ages 5-12. There will be two sessions for each grade category during the Feast of Tabernacles. This year's lessons focus on "Running Your Spiritual Race." Youth Instruction teachers, please be aware of the activities within the lesson plans. Some group activities might not be possible due to COVID restrictions, so please feel free to adjust in order to teach your classes within the guidelines of each state. We encourage the children to show their take-home crafts and discuss with their parents what they learned in class each time. The classes are divided into the following grade categories:

- Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade through 6th Grade

Children are not required to bring anything to class with them. Teachers will have supplies for each child to use during youth instruction.

— Sue Dunkle

Jelly Learns There's Nothing That God Can't Do



Watch Jelly's newest short film, "Jelly Learns There's Nothing That God Can't Do." [<https://youtu.be/N4DArRfBQoc>] Jelly and Mr. Jonathan attend a church campout deep in the woods, but Jelly has a bit of trouble falling asleep.

This production includes a song written by Mark Graham titled, "There's Nothing that God Can't Do," sung by Steve Myers and Jelly.

View the entire Jelly short film series [<https://www.ucg.org/members/kids#jelly>] and catch up on all 11 previous episodes. With the help of their friends, Jelly and Mr. Jonathan make learning about God and the Bible fun for both kids and parents.

— Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services

Winter Camp Announcement

At this current time we are hopeful that we can have Winter Camp. However, as we have seen this year, we must be flexible as there is a chance circumstances may change. To help assist us in planning, we ask that if you are planning to attend this year please register online so that we can plan accordingly based on how much interest we have. You can register online at uyc.ucg.org. We will provide a future update if there is a need to cancel.

— Aaron Creech, Winter Camp Director

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