



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 442

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Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

Cooler temperatures and autumn colors are showing themselves here in Cincinnati. In the southern hemisphere of Africa where we've kept the Feast of Tabernacles many times, the blooming of the vividly beautiful indigo-colored Jacaranda trees in their springtime also suggests that it's time for the Feast!

Last week I spoke about *gratitude* as a critical factor for our spiritual wholeness. This week I want to write about faith and perseverance. I want to tell you a story about brethren in Zambia who have championed these qualities and have set an incredible example for us.

This is a remarkable account about people living in remote Mufumbwe, Zambia, who heard the Word of God, accepted it and persevered through decades of not-so-ideal circumstances.

It all started in 1981 when Emanuel Horasi Siyonoa was injured in an accident and hospitalized. He went to the hospital and stayed overnight. While there, he met a man who was reading the *Plain Truth* magazine and various booklets.

Horasi became interested in what he read and became a subscriber himself. In 1982 he wrote and asked to be visited. Four years later, he did meet a Worldwide Church of God minister in Lusaka—500 miles away—and was baptized sometime later.

He passed his knowledge on to others who included Joseph Kaputula and brothers Christopher, Samuel and Simeon Ndungyuyonga. Joseph runs an orphanage called Chilemo Orphans Club. On the Sabbaths, this group studied the Bible and reviewed the printed material from the Church. Horasi is considered “father” of this group in Mufumbwe. He speaks Portuguese, as this part of Zambia is close to Portuguese-speaking Angola where there are many refugees who fled the Angolan civil war.

The group subscribed to and read the *Plain Truth* magazine as well as various booklets. In 1993, however, literature abruptly stopped coming but they continued meeting weekly “under the mango tree” at the orphanage. By that time, Horasi had moved a short distance away from the other four: Joseph, Christopher, Samuel and Simeon and their families.

In 2004, Horasi wrote again to the United States and other addresses he had for the Worldwide Church of God for information about the Church. He received a publication called *The Scroll*.

But, upon receiving it, he noted that the doctrines were markedly different from what they believed, and they knew that they did not want to pursue contact. They did see names in the publication including Wilson Nkhoma in Lusaka. They had a Holy Day Calendar and kept those days faithfully, but the calendar ran out in 2008 and they did not know what the Feast days would be after that. For the most part, they had lost contact with the Church from 1993 to 2009.

Then, in early 2009, Joseph Kaputula set out to personally make contact with the Church. He decided to go 500 miles to Lusaka with only \$25 in hand to find Wilson Nkhoma who was the only phone number he had. He had a free ride to Lusaka, but had to give \$8 to the driver “for drinks.”

He arrived at the Lusaka central bus station and tried calling Wilson Nkhoma again and again, but to no avail. He sat on a bench and was reading a booklet about salvation. There was a man sitting next to Joseph and the two started talking. In the course of conversation, Joseph excused himself to use the bathroom and asked that the man watch his things.

The man took an interest in the booklet about salvation, which was an older WCG booklet. It looked familiar. This man was United Church of God deacon Jonathan Litaba from the Mufulira area, about 220 miles to the north. When Joseph came back, Jonathan asked him why he had the booklet and where he had gotten it. This led to a discussion about Wilson Nkhoma, who Jonathan knew well. Jonathan told him all about the United Church of God and that Wilson Nkhoma was now in the United Church of God (UCG). What a providential meeting!

Joseph was now asking how to get hold of Wilson Nkhoma. Jonathan told him to come to church services in Lusaka three days later. Certainly, there Joseph would be in contact with all the people he needed to fulfill his mission of finding the Church that Joseph knew was in Lusaka “somewhere.” For the next few days, Joseph stayed with some Rwandan refugees who he had helped in the past.

On the Sabbath, Joseph went to the Arakan Army Barracks where he was told that services would be held. It was in a military location arranged for by a retired officer. Joseph came into the barracks area, but was immediately arrested by a guard who asked him who he was and what he was doing there. Joseph told him that he was looking for the United Church of God services and Wilson Nkhoma. The guard said he knew nothing of this meeting. Joseph explained that he was from out of town. The guard then ushered him out of the barracks. Joseph never made it to the church service, but Joseph was not dissuaded.

Jonathan now got the information about Joseph to Wilson, who called Joseph. They arranged to meet at Wilson’s house in Lusaka the next day.

Joseph and Wilson met and discussed a lot about the Church in Zambia and elsewhere. Wilson gave Joseph lots of magazines, booklets and some money.

Afterwards, Joseph’s friends helped him get on his way back to faraway Mufumbwe by giving him money for the trip, school books for Joseph’s children and clothes for Joseph’s wife, Agnes.

Joseph returned to Mufumbwe. He was met by his friends, sister and nephews who were overjoyed by the success of Joseph’s mission. Joseph said the joy was tantamount to Zambia scoring a goal in the Africa Cup where the entire nation rose in cheers! That’s how happy they

were to find out that “the church was still there.”

The group in Mufumbwe continued to meet weekly on the Sabbath as they always had since 1985, but now they were connected to the United Church of God.

Then, in early 2010, Joseph traveled to Solwezi, 130 miles to the east, to meet with a UCG elder. He was invited to come to the Feast of Tabernacles in Lusaka that autumn. Christopher and Samuel came along, too. That’s where Beverly and I first met them at the Feast of Tabernacles in Lusaka in 2010 and heard some of their story for the very first time. Christopher, Samuel and Joseph had been waiting to be baptized since 1985 and continued to patiently meet on the Sabbath until that day came when a minister would be available. They were led to believe that they would be baptized at the Feast of Tabernacles in Lusaka, but it didn’t happen. Samuel, Christopher and Joseph were surprised that they were not being baptized—knowing how far they had traveled and how long they had waited. They were instead told to “write the history of their experiences” first. This, again, did not dissuade them.



Just after their baptism on April 24, 2011: Joseph Kaputula, Christopher and Samuel Ndungyuyonga.

In the early part of 2011, the three once again tried to make contact with the United Church of God and called Wilson Nkhoma. Mr. Nkhoma was now the pastor of the Lusaka congregation. Wilson told them all to wait and told them that I would be coming to Zambia in April and that I would baptize them then. That finally happened on April 24, 2011. My wife Beverly asked them after they were baptized: “How long have you waited to be baptized?” They calmly answered, “25 years.” It was a great honor for me to baptize Joseph, Christopher and Samuel. I marveled at how patiently they endured all the torturous delays without complaining and murmuring. They endured, knowing that God wanted them to be baptized.

Derrick Pringle is now their pastor, though he lives 300 miles away. God has raised up Derrick and his wife Cherry to be the right servants for these people. They have the capability to drive the difficult road west. They have a special love for these people by caring for them and developing future leadership for Zambia. We have visited with the Pringles many times and have driven out to Mufumbwe and beyond to Manyinga, as well. They certainly have dedicated and sacrificed their lives for the Zambians.



The new Mufumbwe church building and congregation on our visit, April 22, 2018.

In the past few years, the four churches along the Copperbelt have each constructed a building. The churches are growing. One of the deacons in Solwezi has been doing a program on the radio.

These are people who have exhibited great faith and have shown it by their works and their perseverance.

For more on this story and our work in Zambia please go to lifenets.org/mufumbwe and lifenets.org/zambia.

Let's pray for our brethren around the world. I am praying for all of you—wherever and however you are keeping the Feast in this unusual year. I pray that we also grow spiritually, as the apostle Peter describes: “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:5-8).

In Christ's service,

Victor Kubik

Personal from Ministerial and Member Services...

Dear Ministers and Members,

Obeying God in Faith!

As we approach the Day of Atonement, let us all reflect on our High Priest and His perfect sacrifice for all of us who are yielded to God the Father and in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.

Many others are moving toward making such a commitment and will also observe the commanded assembly to take place this coming Monday.

It is sobering and humbling to have such a loving Savior and Father and to have our sins forgiven!

We are now in the midst of observing God's annual autumn Holy Days here in the Northern Hemisphere; and doing so is vital to staying on the course that leads to an eternal spirit life in God's glorious Kingdom!

As we observe these very meaningful and spiritually rejuvenating days, let us all do so in faith!

As I have been doing lately, I would like to pass along another recommendation from one of our fellow sisters in Christ. She wrote to me this week and had this to say, "In fellowshiping with a single woman who is an essential teacher of preschool children with special needs, she wondered out loud if she was lacking faith at this time. This seems to be a question many are having. She is wearing two masks and a face shield all day at work and it is difficult. Rick Beam, in this sermon 'Faith vs. Fear,' gives a loving, helpful way to approach this issue." Here is the link, if you care to consider how Mr. Beam has been approaching this important topic: <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/faith-vs-fear>

Again, may we all go forward in faith as we observe God's special days set aside for our benefit and admonition!

And, brethren, let us all be faithful in beseeching God in prayer to protect us all and to stop Satan's hand wherever we are observing the Feast of Tabernacles this year!

May you all have a very blessed and inspiring Sabbath, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day festival!

In God's love and service,



Mark Welch, Operation Manager for MMS

Feast of Tabernacles Daily Church Service Webcast

A greater number of members will be not be able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in person this year. In the United States, church services will be webcast live from Panama City Beach, Florida, in the central time zone and St. George, Utah, in the mountain time zone.

To find the time of daily services, go to [feast.ucg.org](https://www.feast.ucg.org) and hover over the "Feast" menu bar item. One of the drop down items is "[2020 Webcasts](#)." No passcodes are needed to connect to the webcast.

If you will not be attending a Feast site and haven't done so yet, please register under the category of "Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles Online." Besides getting encouraging articles and updates throughout the Feast and watching the webcast of services, we have also

added a daily episode of “Faces and Places” that will feature interviews, video journals, greetings, music and more from our brethren around the world. For more details, or to register: <https://www.ucg.org/members/feast/sites/2020/celebrating-the-feast-of-tabernacles-online>

— Charles Melear

Inside United Podcast



Jorge de Campos - Update on Angola

Jorge de Campos and Victor Kubik discuss the work in Angola: building and operating schools, struggles with the government, and how Angola has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-176-jorge-de-campos-update-on-angola>

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

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

Next *eNews* October 22

Due to observance of the Feast of Tabernacles and closure of the home office around those dates, the next scheduled edition of this *eNews* is being planned for October 22.

U.S. Holy Day Offering Procedures

Due to the restrictions placed on meeting together at this time, some members will not be able to attend face-to-face meetings this year for the upcoming Holy Days. For those members in

the United States, here are three ways that you can conveniently make your Holy Day offering, *if you will not be meeting in person*. Members in other countries should follow instructions from their own national offices.

Donate Online

Many members already use our website's online donation page at [donate.ucg.org](https://www.ucg.org/donate) to give their Holy Day offerings when they are not able to be at those services—as well as their regular tithes and offerings. About a week in advance of each upcoming Holy Day, the offering for that Holy Day will be added to the donation page; it will remain on the page for about a week after the Holy Day, so you will be able to make your offering online, if you prefer.

If you are new to online donations, we have produced a video that walks you through the process: <https://www.ucg.org/members/news/how-to-donate-online>

If you use the online option, please note the following:

- Please include your PIN (the number that begins with “U” on your green Holy Day offering envelopes, just above your name and address.) This greatly speeds up the processing here at the home office. When a PIN is omitted, it requires extra work on the part of the personnel here at the home office to ensure the donation is being credited to you.
- To optimize your offering, please use the “Online eCheck” option, which is the same as writing a check for your offering—because using your credit card for payment costs the Church around 3% of the donation amount to process.

Banking Bill Payment

Others may choose to use a “bill pay” service through their bank. Again, if you choose to pay this way, in the section for your “account number,” please list your PIN and then, in addition, please put one of these codes after your PIN: (H4=Trumpets, H5=Atonement, H6=Tabernacles, H7=Eighth Day). This will help us credit the correct fund for your donation receipt.

Sent by Mail


For those who choose to mail their Holy Day offerings, please use the green Holy Day offering envelopes which were mailed to you earlier. Please use a separate check and envelope for each Holy Day offering. You will then need to place these envelopes into another carrier envelope and mail to the following address:

United Church of God - HDO
P.O. Box 541027
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Thank you for your cooperation during these extraordinary times we find ourselves in this year.

— Ministerial and Member Services

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