



United Church of God an International Association

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 464

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Personal From the President...

Last week on our *Inside United* podcast we featured a discussion between North Carolina pastor Dan Preston and deacon Ernest Grier. With the trial concerning the death of George Floyd in today's headlines, Grier talks about his experience as a person of color and how to approach issues of race from a Christian perspective.

Here are a couple of comments that we have received at podcast@ucg.org regarding last week's *Inside United* podcast:

- “Thank you so very much for showing your black brothers and sisters much love by facing today’s racial issues in society brought forward from the past. I look forward when this madness is over and Christ reigns! As noted in the podcast, praying is always very effective in bringing all members as one body in Christ.

“Being a black male, I pray for us to understand our diverse cultures, and honestly getting to know the ‘true’ history and emotional feeling of people of color. Learning what it means economically, socially, environmentally and politically. Not that the Church should be of the world, but to obtain accurate knowledge of our nation’s diverse communities.

“We need to be communicating, listening . . . reasoning together, asking about our thoughts. We should also be volunteering in culturally diverse communities here in the U.S.; letting our light shine as an advertisement of Christ’s soon-coming Kingdom. Let others see that we do represent the Kingdom of God. God Bless, and thanks very much for your platform.” —Sherman F.

- “Very inspiring interview with Mr. Grier. I appreciated his candor and sincerity very much!” — Jan G.

As I was writing my column this week, I came across what my predecessor, Dennis Luker, wrote for the *eNews* almost 10 years ago. He focused on the foot-washing part of the Passover service that we will be partaking in shortly.

God raised up Denny Luker when the Church of God needed love and assurance at a time of fiery trial in early 2011. Denny stepped up to the call with his personal example of love, care and selfless service.



LeeAnn and Dennis Luker

As I read what he wrote, I decided to set aside what I wrote and share his message with you again. It is so applicable to the Church, especially at this time of year when we need to focus on what Jesus Christ sacrificially did for us in order to forgive our sins, reconcile us to Him and grant us eternal life. He did that for us while we were still behaving badly: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

At the foot-washing, can you extend that same forgiveness and desire to reconcile with a brother, any brother? We have prided ourselves sometimes on being members of the “True Church.” Are we also true Christians as well? I conclude with the words of Denny Luker:

April 7, 2011
Foot-washing and Christ-like Service

Dear fellow elders and wives, deacons and deaconesses, and staff members,

The foot-washing ceremony is an important part of the New Testament Passover service. Jesus Christ washed the disciples’ feet at His last Passover with them and said, “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:13-15).

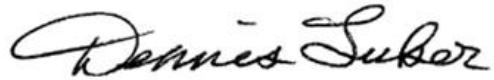
Washing the dirty feet of arriving guests, who mostly walked and wore sandals, was the duty of a lowly household servant. Yet, here is Christ, the prophesied Savior of the world, the Son of God, humbling Himself to set an example of love and service for His disciples, and for us today. Later on this same evening He said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

This Christ-like attitude of deep, godly love and sincere humility is what we all are striving to emulate. This can only be accomplished as we yield our hearts and minds to God and let Christ live in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We all fall short but want to keep learning and growing spiritually, so that we can be better servants of God, just like Jesus Christ.

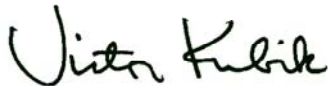
Christ-like Service is the theme (or motto) chosen by United’s Council of Elders to help us focus on and work together in the ministry and membership for the development of Christ-like service at every level of our church and work. This is for everyone, not just the ministry. We will be writing and speaking more about this as time goes on. We genuinely

and sincerely want to encourage, promote and inspire greater spiritual growth for all of us in becoming more like our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He set the example for us, suffered and died for us, and now lives in us to help us become more like Himself.

At this coming Passover and foot-washing service, let us remember Christ's great sacrifice and perfect example of love, humility and service, and let us rededicate our lives to God in Christ-like service.



In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

Personal from Ministerial and Member Services...

Dear Ministers and Brethren,

Spring Holy Days—Springboard for Spiritual Growth

Some early spring flowers have blossomed here in Ohio and now many bushes and trees are beginning to bud or put forth small leaves. Much of God's creation is beginning to grow again after a season of dormancy. I hope that our spiritual lives have not been in a state of dormancy since the fall Holy Day season and we have all had some steady spiritual growth in our lives these past several months.

Regardless, let us all take proper advantage of God's spring Holy Days and allow them to be a springboard for greater spiritual growth in the future!

The Passover is the starting point and the process is "sins admitted, sins repented, sins forgiven!" Then our marching orders are to do our best to "go and sin no more." We are to allow Jesus Christ to live in us and to transform us into His image and likeness. We are to become spiritually unleavened through Christ's wonderful sacrifice and our willingness to show our love to both Father and Son by striving to keep His commandments, statutes and laws as revealed in God's holy Word!

It is virtually impossible to adequately put into words the magnitude and importance of the Passover sacrifice on the part of both Father and Son for every one of us, His children.

Romans 6:23 clearly and emphatically says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

What we have all earned is death. Let us all be humbled and very grateful for the wonderful

sacrifice of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb that brings us forgiveness and eternal life!

Friday evening, we will observe the Passover service and renew our covenant with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Saturday evening, just after the weekly Sabbath, and at the very beginning of the First Day of Unleavened Bread on the 15th of Nisan, we will be gathered together to observe what we refer to as the “Night to Be Much Observed.” It is important to rehearse for our family members, especially the youth among us, the events and miraculous signs and wonders surrounding the origin of these days. Let us be mindful that the majority of our fellowship together on the Night to Be Much Observed should occur after sunset as Nisan 15 begins.

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt (symbolic of sin) with a “high hand.” He blessed them greatly and saved them from their bondage of slavery. He delivered and saved them from Pharaoh’s army and He never completely left them or forsook them in spite of their very real shortcomings and sins.

Much more could be said, but let us all use these very special days to draw nearer to God and to Christ and draw from Them the strength to overcome our sins and walk in righteousness as they always do! Let us all use these days as a springboard for greater spiritual growth, faith and strength!

May you all have a very rewarding Passover, Sabbath and Days of Unleavened Bread!

In God’s love and service,



Mark Welch, Operation Manager for MMS

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Death of Jean Pulliam



Jean Pulliam

Jean Pulliam died on Tuesday, March 23, at the age of 90. She was the wife of elder Ken Pulliam of the Cincinnati congregations. She was the Executive Secretary for the President of GAP Inc. before retiring. Jean was also very active in the church and served as a deaconess. Jean's obituary is available here: <https://www.dmefuneral.com/obituaries/Garnet-Jean-Pulliam?obId=20436087>.

Additional Webcasts Available

The following additional entries were not received in time to include in last week's listing of available webcasts next weekend.

Last Day of Unleavened Bread Webcasts

- [Fort Lauderdale, FL](#) - 10:30 a.m. EDT
- [Vero Beach, FL](#) - 2:30 p.m. EDT

Inside United Podcast



John Miller—2020 Feast in Berlin, Ohio


John Miller, President of Superb Industries and elder serving on the UCGIA Council of Elders, joins Victor Kubik to discuss how a unique 2020 Feast of Tabernacles in Berlin, Ohio, became a calling for local residents.

<https://www.ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-196-john-miller-2020-feast-in-berlin-ohio>

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

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