



United Church of God *an International Association*

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 491

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Personal From the President...

Today, I would like to report on some encouraging and notable events in the past few weeks both here at the home office and internationally.

Camp Team Conference

First, we concluded our first in-person camp team conference in two years and mapped out an optimistic plan for the future of this effective youth program. This year, 14 teen camp directors and wives came together in person and discussed a host of specific topics. The meetings were held from Monday through noon on Wednesday. The main purpose of being together was to assess the United Youth Camps program that was initiated in June 1995, at the very start of the United Church of God, and discuss how to make it better.



Members of the camp team hold a discussion during this week's meetings.

Five summer camps were held this past summer, and Winter Camp was held in late December 2020. A total of 420 campers and 276 staff attended these camps. Each camp director gave a brief summary of his camp.

The 2022 main Christian Living theme will be “Becoming Sons and Daughters of God.” The daily Christian Living classes make up the core of all preteen and teen camps. Camp is built around these vital classes that create reinforcing discussions all day long. In our meetings, there were a lot of animated sessions focusing on building a spiritual and safe environment for campers and staff. We hope to connect our youth more directly to our Church teachings. At each camp, we plan to make available key resources/booklets tied to the theme such as *What You Need to Know About Baptism*, *Why Were You Born?*, *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God* and more.

Camp surveys have always been a valuable way of getting feedback from campers, staff and parents. In response to the survey question “What spiritual lessons did you learn at camp this year?” one camper wrote: “God has given us hope in the form of eternal life in the future and strength to get through trials.” Another camper wrote: “To teach us how to rely on God first and to rely on Him no matter what.”

I want to thank everyone for sacrificially giving their time and energy to make the United Youth Camps experience a success in the face of the various challenges. Special thanks go to Steve Nutzman who has aptly coordinated this program with great sensitivity and love for our youth.

Incidentally, this week’s podcast is with Marlette Kielczewski, daughter of Floyd and Mardelle Kielczewski who were very much a part of our previous Summer Educational Program in Orr, Minnesota. Marlette reminisces about the camp program that was a part of many of our lives.

ABC Career and Education Class

While our camp meetings were taking place down the hall this week, Ambassador Bible College was conducting career and education planning classes. We invited professionals in their fields to advise our students in these areas. Andy Lee, Michelle Waterhouse and Lisa Fenchel conducted the first of three classes focusing on career and education planning. Each class started with a biblical message. Andy Lee explored the question “How well do you know yourself?” Deepening our understanding of ourselves is a foundational life skill that can provide insight when making career and education decisions.



Panel discussion with Lisa Fenchel, Mike Cook, Michelle Waterhouse and Andy Lee.

Students all took a personality assessment and Michelle Waterhouse walked them through how to use the results. The session ended with a panel discussion led by Lisa Fenchel offering an opportunity for students to ask questions while panel members shared lessons from their career experiences. Mike Cook joined in for this discussion.

Zambia Leadership Conference

In Eastern Zambia, our pastor Filius Jere conducted a five-day leadership seminar from Oct. 10–15 at one of our church buildings in this area. Filius Jere wrote an interesting report about this conference. You can read the full report at <https://lifenets.org/leadership-seminar-in-eastern-zambia-october-2021/>.



October leadership seminar in Eastern Zambia.

Here are some highlights:

Previously, leadership seminars were conducted by home office personnel. However, since the incidence of COVID-19 in 2019, this has not been possible and it became necessary to organize from the local level. Although never done before, the seminar was approved by senior pastor Aaron Dean and received support from home office and Beverly Kubik, President of LifeNets International, which financed this activity.

In attendance were brethren from the Ngilile Church in Petauke and from Chipata. Most of the participants are in charge of remote congregations that only receive periodic visits from the pastor.

The main resources used for the training were the Bible and relevant resources of the Church, which included *Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest*, *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God* and training documentation from the pastoral development program held at the home office in 2018 which was attended by Filius Jere and his wife, Chosiwe.

The program started with an outline of the history of the United Church of God from the time of the Radio Church of God. It then emphasized the mission of the Church in preaching the gospel and preparing a people. Many participants admitted that they had never imagined that the Church was anchored on such a firm foundation.

Other lessons covered voice projection techniques, songleading, and how to prepare and deliver good sermonettes and sermons. This was followed by a whole day of practicals where each participant gave a sermonette on a topic of personal choice. The critique by the group, which followed each presentation, was most thrilling and educational. Also included in the training was the approved structure of Sabbath services, Bible study sessions and songleading.

Having covered this much, arrangements for Sabbath services were handed over to the participants who chose among themselves who was to be the songleader, and who would give the sermonette and sermon. We saw an attendance of 78 brethren on the Sabbath from Chipata and the surrounding community.

“This was a most wonderful experience and we are definitely going to know the right things to do as we move onwards,” said Arnold Phiri from Ngilile congregation in Petauke. Such enthusiasm was an assurance that the additional skills and knowledge taught to these brethren will bear fruit and the United Church of God will surely preach the gospel and prepare God’s people in the remotest parts of eastern Zambia.

Finally...

The November/December 2021 issue of *Beyond Today* is going to press.

Printing and mailing of the November-December *Beyond Today* issue has been delayed about two weeks due to the printer being unable to find enough paper to print the issue. We hope this is a one-time event, but with worldwide supply-chain issues, we can’t be sure. Also, the U.S. Postal Service has announced slowdowns in mail delivery as it tries to address its chronic financial problems. This will affect the timeliness of delivery of all of our printed publications.

This past Sunday, along with Mark Welch and Chris Rowland from the home office, Bev and I attended the memorial service for Randy D’Alessandro in Chicago and joined in with many others to give support to his wife Mary, as well as the Chicago congregation.

Also, we were saddened by the death of Mary Jones, wife of retired pastor Bob Jones in Jacksonville, Florida, on Friday, Oct. 22. Bob Jones was my mentor pastor 50 years ago and I have many positive memories of Mary and Bob from that time and through our lives since.

Let’s continue to pray for the trials that so many are going through right now. We do have a God of comfort and hope who declares that our present trials are only for a short time in God’s perspective: “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials” (1 Peter 1:6).

In Christ’s service,



Victor Kubik

Personal From Ministerial and Member Services...

Challenging Times—Part 2

As alluded to in a previous *eNews* personal, the lives of God's called-out ones are especially precious to Him and to us. When one person among us suffers and we are aware, we all suffer to some extent as we care for and grieve due to our brother or sister's pain and suffering. At the same time, we must forge ahead to live life even more meaningfully as we are affected by and reminded of the temporary nature of our lives.

The vast majority of us chose to observe the past Feast of Tabernacles in person and we made various decisions on where we wanted to go based upon a number of factors. Some parts of the U.S. were obviously more affected by COVID-19 than others, but it seems that this virus, and especially the Delta variant, was really ramping up late this summer. It still continues to infect many more throughout the United States on a daily basis.

Many of us have now contracted the virus over the past year and a half, and I know of a few who have had it more than once. Many of us have chosen to be vaccinated and many of us have chosen not to be vaccinated, each for various reasons. Regardless, one would think that we may be getting closer to having what is referred to as "herd immunity"—that we have seen the worst of this virus and that it would diminish in the days ahead.

While we have chosen to "postpone" Winter Family Weekend and Winter Camp, it is certainly our intent to resume both next year. We are also very hopeful that we will have a complete and successful camp program this coming summer. And, of course, we hope and pray that the environment at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles will be much better next year for everyone.

God never promised to keep us from all trials, including health ones, but He did promise to never leave nor forsake us. God made this promise to Joshua when he was to lead Israel into the Promised Land (Joshua 1:5). In a very real sense, we are also in the role of Joshua and the children of Israel as we look to entering a Promised Land at Christ's return. The author of Hebrews felt confident in quoting God and applying this promise to spiritual Israel as identified in the New Testament (Hebrews 13:5). We have all been given this promise to hold onto in the midst of our trials today, whether health or otherwise.

God does allow cancer, diabetes, heart disease and a host of serious illnesses to come upon His people—and it is not surprising that He has allowed COVID-19 to infect many of us. Thankfully this is not a deadly virus in most cases, as around 98 percent of those infected survive it. Of course this does not, in any way, minimize the suffering of those who have been greatly affected by, or who have even died from this virus.

The COVID-19 virus is indeed real. It is not a hoax. Real people are getting sick from it, so we should all be as careful as reasonably possible not to infect others. Always be on the safe side and quarantine if you are showing any signs or symptoms that you may not clearly and properly

dismiss. If there is any real doubt, please be tested or quarantine until you are certain. Get tested when necessary and realize that there are no guarantees of avoiding this virus.

Let us pray for protection for one another and especially for those who are having significant issues with their recovery. Let us continue to pray for the loved ones of those who have died. Certainly, God may choose to protect you from this virus—or He may allow it to come upon you. As already mentioned, He will never leave nor forsake us and we need to put our trust and faith in Him, regardless. Let us always look to God and to Jesus Christ for His guidance, His blessing and His healing.

Let us continue to assemble before God and come into His presence at His commanded assemblies. The vast majority of us should be able to attend in-person services, but it is a personal choice we should all continue to respect under the present distress.

May you all have a very inspiring and restful Sabbath!

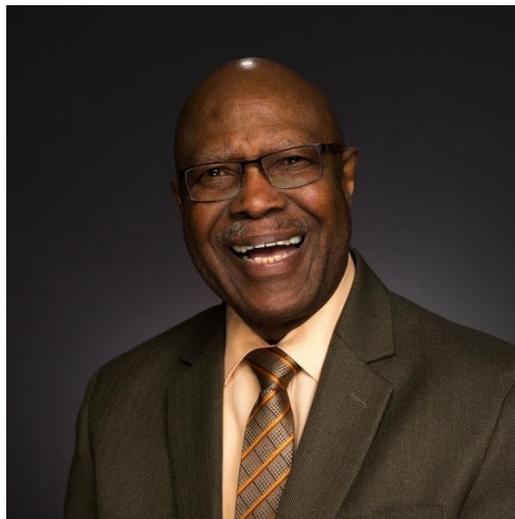
In God's love and service,



Mark Welch, Operation Manager for MMS

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Death of Lomax Morris



Lomax Morris

Lomax Morris, an elder serving the New York City congregation, died on Oct. 20, 2021. Mr. Morris was born in Trinidad, West Indies. He was trained as a minister of theology at the Nazarene Theological College in Trinidad, and became pastor of the St. James Church of the

Nazarene in 1956. He and his wife Cynthia of 50 years, and two sons migrated to the United States. They all predeceased him. He joined the Worldwide Church of God in 1971, and was ordained a deacon in 1990. He served faithfully in that role for 27 years, and was ordained an elder in 2017, and continued to serve faithfully in the United Church of God in New York City. He is survived by his second wife, Marcia, stepson Nicholas, stepdaughter Melissa and granddaughter Ava.

There are many people whose lives have been directly affected by the words of wisdom, direction and encouragement spoken by Lomax Morris. It was easy to listen to him as he read from the Word of God. His captivating voice complemented his honest and loving sermons, which always pointed people toward a relationship with God. Lomax will be remembered as a counselor, an educator, a mentor, a friend and a brother. He patiently taught people to drive, to speak, to lead songs, to laugh and to care for one another. He made everyone feel noticed, complimenting individuals on their beautiful smiles and their stylish shoes. Lomax Morris had a deep love for God, for preaching the gospel and for enjoying the fellowship of his spiritual family.

The funeral for Lomax Morris (including the viewing, service and burial) will be held on Friday, Oct. 29. The service will begin at 11 a.m. EDT and will be webcast. If anyone would like to watch the webcast, please contact Lewis VanAusdle: Lewis_VanAusdle@ucg.org

Inside United Podcast



Marlette Kielczewski—Floyd Kielczewski, Wilderness Son

Marlette Kielczewski joins Victor Kubik to share stories from the life of her father, Floyd Kielczewski, an important cultural figure to the camp in Orr, Minnesota, in the days of the Worldwide Church of God, and a man who helped lay the foundations of the camp program you see today.

ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-221-marlette-kielczewski-floyd-kielczewski-wilderness-son

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

Listen to past episodes: ucg.org/inside-united-podcast

Pray for the Gospel to Have Free Course

(2 Thes. 3:1 KJV)

Portuguese Language Needs

The work of the United Church of God in preaching the gospel spreads throughout the world today, including in Portuguese-speaking areas. Portuguese is the sixth most-spoken native language in the world and the third most-spoken European language.

The United Church of God's efforts in the Portuguese language, which began in 2002, reaches readers through the version of *Beyond Today* magazine named *A Boa Nova*. There are also 36 booklets, a Bible study course and a website presence which attracts over 4,000 visitors every day—with an especially strong following in Brazil in South America and Angola in Southern Africa.

Jorge de Campos, senior pastor of the work of God in the Portuguese-speaking areas, asks for your specific prayers. He writes: "The greatest need for God's work in the Portuguese language is that God would provide laborers who know written and spoken Portuguese and can be available at various times to help with counseling and traveling."

Thank you for vital prayers for the gospel to have free course throughout the world.

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

Job Opening: Manager of Information Technology

The United Church of God has announced a position opening for Manager of Information Technology. The position will be responsible for:

- Directly supervising the employees of the Information Technology department, including interviewing, hiring and training incumbents; planning, assigning and directing work; appraising performance; rewarding and disciplining incumbents; addressing complaints and resolving problems.

- Overseeing and coordinating corporate technology direction, development, production activities and budgeting for the Information Technology department.
- Supervising, implementing and maintaining local and cloud computing systems and equipment, networks, disaster recovery, end user devices including Windows and Mac environments, phone and Web infrastructure.
- Communicating with and advising the president and management on information technology matters.
- Safety and security of home office facility.
- Interfacing with and supporting international offices and the local ministry as needed.
- HIPAA Security Officer functions.
- Plus any other projects assigned by the president.

QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong leadership and project management skills.
- Proficient in latest technology for IT systems and management.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Office 365 management and at least one modern programming language.
- Strong understanding of Web technologies.
- Strong understanding of Microsoft Server platform, AD and Veeam.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Thorough understanding of IT and practical applications to support the Church's goals.

EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:

Master's degree or equivalent in information technology field; or six years of related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Seven-plus years managing and developing technology solutions including enterprise level software and hardware implementation. Five-plus years managing personnel.

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.

To request a job application or for questions about the position, please contact human_resources@ucg.org.

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