



United Church of God *an International Association*

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 538

November 3, 2022

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Dear brethren,

We read in the Psalms, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3). Do we fully appreciate the wonderful blessing of having children in our congregations? The word translated “heritage” can mean “inheritance.” This inheritance is a gift given to us from God, according to His will.

God takes it very seriously, how we treat children. When Jesus’ disciples asked who is the greatest in the Kingdom, Jesus replied, “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4). In Mark’s Gospel account, when the disciples tried to stop people from bringing children to Christ, it is stated, “when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased...” (Mark 10:14). The word for greatly displeased can be translated, “indignant.” Jesus became indignant toward those that would forbid children to come to Him!

Again, do we appreciate what a blessing it is to have children, teens and young adults in our congregations? Having children is part of God’s plan to bring “many sons to glory.” From the moment God created man and woman and placed them in the garden of Eden, God told them to become one flesh (Genesis 2:24) and to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:38). Having children is part of God’s plan to grow His family! What an awesome responsibility God has placed squarely on the shoulders of parents (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).

Next week, from Nov. 7–9, will be the 24th camp team conference for the United Youth Camps program. This year, for the first time in our history, we have invited all of the pre-teen camp directors to attend the meetings. We are striving to more closely integrate the efforts and achievements of the pre-teen camps to those of the teen camps, while still giving the pre-teen camps the flexibility to maintain programs that meet the needs of the younger ages.

The goal of the United Youth Camps program is to support the parents, not supplant the parents. Our camp programs focus on reinforcing the principles of God’s way of life, so our

children recognize that they are not “alone” as they grow up “different” from the world around them. We believe our children have a special relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ and all that we endeavor to accomplish within the UYC program is aimed at helping our children see God’s plan for them.

Please pray for the wisdom and discernment of everyone involved in the upcoming camp team conference so that the decisions reached will support parents as they rear godly offspring (Malachi 2:15).

In Christ’s service,
Len Martin, UYC National Coordinator

From Ministerial and Member Services...

Recent Ordination



On Oct. 10, 2022, Robert Teetaert was ordained into the ministry. He and his wife, Synnove, serve in the Prince George, British Columbia, Canada, congregation.

Second Video Recording of ABC Class Available: Acts of the Apostles



A second recording of the Ambassador Bible College class, “Acts of the Apostles,” is now available to view at: ucg.org/ambassador-bible-college/acts-of-the-apostles-ambassador-bible-college. A new video will be released on Thursday of each week for the next 10 months.

These recordings are available on our website, but **also available on our UCG app on Roku and Amazon Fire TV**. Navigate to the “sermon videos” line to view on these streaming devices.

We pray this will be a helpful tool in your ongoing study of God’s Word.

Pray for the Gospel to Have Free Course

(2 Thes. 3:1 KJV)

Thank You for Your Prayers AND Please Pray for Those Whom God is Calling

It has been nearly a year since we began publishing media reports, mainly from the Church’s international areas, asking for your prayers that the gospel would reach people everywhere without hindrance. The scriptures tell us God loves to hear the prayers of you, His faithful people (Psalm 34:15, 1 John 5:14). Indeed, as the apostle James stated, “The earnest prayer of a righteous person *has great power and produces wonderful results*” (James 5:16 New Living Translation, emphasis added throughout). As new and updated media reports are published in the *MMS eNews* and the *United News* in the weeks and months ahead, please continue your vital prayers that the good news of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God will reach people in greater power.

In addition, we would like to ask if you would add *another vital component* to your prayers. Please pray *especially* for the many people God is calling that they will be unhindered in learning and implementing the marvelous truths of the Bible (Matthew 22:14). In Jesus’ parable of the sower and the seed He said, “The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, *Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts*” (Mark 4:14-15). Brethren, we can *all* pray that God will help people resist the devil’s unseen aggression so that the seed of the gospel will put down roots in their lives so as to begin producing godly fruit (Matthew 13:23).

In His model prayer Jesus said, “And do not lead us into temptation, but *deliver us from the evil one*” (Matthew 6:13). As we pray this way for ourselves, we can *also* pray for these new, vulnerable “little ones” whom God is calling (Matthew 10:42). This is so they can not only withstand Satan’s toxic influence, but deal effectively with life’s troubles and distractions while growing in and applying spiritual knowledge and understanding (Mark 9:41-42; John 17:15).

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

Post-Feast Update From Mizoram, India

Excerpted from updates by David Schreiber, senior pastor.

After spending a couple of days after the Feast in Agra, India, with our brethren there, Jolinda and I departed Agra on Oct. 20. We traveled by car to the Delhi airport and then took a flight to Aizawl in the state of Mizoram.

Mizoram is unlike any other part of India that we have seen. It's located in the northeastern part of India near the border of Myanmar. Mizoram means "land of mountains" and that describes it well. It's a land of rolling hills, valleys, rivers and lakes. The Mizo Mountains, which dominate the topography of the state, are more than 6,500 feet high. As many as 21 major hills, mountain ranges or peaks of different heights run through the length and breadth of the state, with flat plains scattered here and there. This state is green, tropical and mountainous.

Aizawl, where we are staying, is the state capital and is over 4,000 feet above sea level. The city is built on the mountain side with winding streets that zig zag up the mountain side. The streets are very narrow and most are just wide enough for two cars to pass.

Most striking is that Christianity is the largest religion (87%, predominantly Presbyterian) in Mizoram. We've had a relationship with the Mizo people for many years. They contacted UCG originally back in 1996. We have a friendship and a working relationship with them, as they believe and teach most all of the doctrines we see in the Bible. They have accepted our fundamental beliefs and have been approved by UCGIA to translate our booklets into their Mizo language.

The leadership in UCG Mizoram has a desire to reach out and unite Sabbath-keeping churches in their state of Mizoram, and for the past decade they have been doing just that. They have several small churches with 400-plus members in the state all under the name "United Church of God Mizoram." We visited one of those churches in the village of Mualkhang. This was our third visit to this village. There are 45 members in their congregation and they invited us to dedicate their newly built church building. Members from the other Church of God congregations in the region came to support them and participate in the dedication service.

It was encouraging to see others attend this special afternoon, as the trip to their village was very difficult. The winding roads are sometimes narrow and in terrible condition. Jolinda and I swayed from side to side in the vehicle as we traveled on some of the worst roads I've ever seen. Sections of the blacktop were nearly completely washed out, with very rocky sections and some sections with deep ruts and holes. We had a great driver, but we were often on the edge of our seats. It was truly inspiring to see brethren from these other villages make this kind of sacrifice to travel these roads to support each other.

Our driver today was an elder in the Church of God (Seventh Day). He is not a member of UCG Mizoram, but is supportive. He said the "Church of God (Seventh Day) Mizoram" has religious beliefs that are closer to ours than they are to the organization based in Denver, Colorado. He said he enjoys the fellowship with UCG and considers us his brothers.

The seeking of unity was inspiring to me as this elder and the UCG Mizoram elder both are focusing on the many things they have in common and not the differences. I was reminded of scriptures of how much God desires unity, oneness and peace. It's nice to see this dynamic in action for a change.

The city of Aizawl had two Sabbath-keeping congregations which began communicating with each other years ago. Last year this group of about 45 made the decision as a congregation to join United Church of God Mizoram. The UCG Mizoram leadership is working with them closely and teaching them more about the Holy Days. They do believe it's important to keep the holy days, but do not completely understand their meaning. However, they are eager to learn and be united and as soon as a location can be located or a tentative location remodeled, the two groups here in Aizawl will begin meeting together.

After our morning service, we had the customary tea break and then enjoyed group songs as well as vocal solos and duets from children and adults. I wish you could hear them sing. They have beautiful voices!

On Sunday, Oct. 23, we visited a village which was about 1½ hours from Aizawl. We were told this congregation 15 years previously discontinued their relationship with "UCG Mizoram" because they believed that Pentecost should always be on the 6th of Sivan, while the UCG group correctly believed you should "count 50." For years this division continued. At times when visiting Mizoram we were told there were others whom they referred to as "those who count" and "those who don't count" Pentecost.

After 15 years, this small group contacted the leaders in UCG Mizoram to discuss the possibility of restoring their relationship—as they had changed their belief in how to count Pentecost. Of course this was good news and subsequently more communication between church leaders began. While we were visiting the congregation that day, we heard many comments that they want to preach the gospel in Mizoram and feel they can accomplish more if they are united with the UCG Mizoram congregations.

Having translations of our study booklets in the Mizo language has been very helpful for them to share the gospel. The Mizo language study booklets are a very helpful tool and huge blessing to members and prospective members who seek to grow.

There are now seven congregations who are part of UCG Mizoram with about 420 total members. The last time I visited here three years ago, there were four congregations. God has blessed these people as they strive for unity and desire to collectively find ways to preach the gospel.