

# New Beginnings™

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, *an International Association*

Vol. 4, No. 3  
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1998

## General Conference of Elders – Closing Addresses

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The next issue of *New Beginnings* is scheduled to be published on Monday, April 6, 1998.

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*The following reports are taken from the closing addresses by chairman, Robert Dick, and president, Leslie McCullough, at the annul meeting of the General Conference of Elders in Louisville, Kentucky, March 9, 1998.*

### Robert Dick:

We've reached the place of the concluding comments, as we wrap up this year's meeting of the General Conference of Elders. It has been really constructive to have had many elders here, both in our employ and not-employed, from the United States, Canada, South and Central America, Australia, Africa, the Philippines and many more countries. We truly have been through an experience in these last few days. I can't help but be reminded of some things recorded of the great New Testament conference in Acts chapter 15.

There are times when the church of God has addressed major issues, and I know that all of us would probably desire in our heart of hearts that we could always maintain the highest level of Christian conduct in all occasions. And yet, I think also we all stop as we look at ourselves, and realize that's not always totally possible.

I'm reminded of Acts 15, verse 6, as it says, "The apostles and elders came together to consider this matter"—one of the greatest matters in the New Testament church. It's interesting that the focus appears to have been very narrowly on circumcision. The focus in reality was on the entire plan of God—the ability to open the door to the entire gentile world. It is fascinating at times how we focus on the little parts of the big issues. "Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter, and...there had been much dispute" (verses 6-7).

We've had our share of dispute. We've also had individuals, just like Peter, in verse 7, who rose to address the assembled body. Later on, we had Paul and Barnabas, whose experience was totally different but equally valid, and later on, an individual who, to the best of our knowledge had had very little hands-on experience in that particular area, but nonetheless rose, James.

One of the fascinating things for all of us, as ministers and ministers' wives, is to stop, since our lives are in the Word of God, and meditate at times over the difference between reading a completed story, where we get to see the beginning, middle and the end—all within pages—and living a story, where all we can see is where we are at the time. The issue of circumcision raged within the church of God for years and years after the Jerusalem conference had made its decision. Coming to total grips with the issues brought forward in this chapter was not the product of that one event. It was the product of converted people working toward a godly destination over an extended period of time.

I would hope that this deliberative body would consider the historical lesson embedded in Acts chapter 15. We take so much for granted, like the fact that we can go to a supermarket and there are 30 to 40 varieties of everything from which to choose, like more TV channels than you would ever want to look at, styles of clothing, and automobiles in endless array—but they speak to the world we live in—a world of tremendous diversity. Those who understand the time in which we live realize one of the greatest challenges is for a body to remain united and still respect the fact that the members in that united body are diverse. We have all paid service—I believe, sincere service—to the words in Ephesians and  
(See "ADDRESSES," page 10)

# From the Council...

## What Is the Great Commission?

by Gary E. Antion

As I listened to the *World Tomorrow* radio broadcast in the late 1950s in my hometown of Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, I was stirred by the message of the kingdom of God! This powerful message was delivered in a challenging and enthusiastic manner.

As I remember it, the broadcast began with words similar to this: "The World Tomorrow; Herbert W Armstrong brings you today's world news and the prophecies of the World Tomorrow."

Then, Mr. Armstrong usually began with a stirring introduction relevant to the world situation or social conditions of the time.

He proceeded to expound prophecy and biblical teaching relevant for the time, in a clear, inspirational manner. Often he challenged the listeners with questions and issues that usually led them to request a booklet or the monthly magazine, and, hopefully, to continuing interest in the truth as found in God's Word, the Bible.

Sometimes Mr. Armstrong referred to the preaching of the gospel as the "first" commission. Matthew 24:14 was often cited in support for this thrust of the Church in doing God's work on earth.

## More Understanding of the Commission

Later, Mr. Armstrong understood that there was indeed only one great commission. I, as a much younger minister, remember sitting in the audience and hearing Mr. Armstrong discuss the commission. He would state that some people had contended that the preaching of the

gospel was in contrast to feeding the flock.

These aspects of doing the Work and feeding the membership were rated "the first commission" and "the second commission" by those who chose to separate the two. I recall that he clearly explained we have only one commission which entails both the preaching of the gospel and the feeding of the flock. This is indeed the great commission of the Church.

He described how the gospel goes forth. Individuals hear the message and some are called. They respond to that calling and through being visited and served by the ministry and the church, come to conversion. They are then fed, as the flock of

God, by the elders, and nourished by the brethren through fellowship. In turn, through their individual efforts, prayers and financial support, they make possible the preaching of the gospel to others.

Mr. Armstrong explained that this one great commission was what we were endeavoring to fulfill. This is what the mission of United Church of God is. I quote Article One (1.0) of the Constitution: "The mission of the Church of

God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples." This is what I remember Mr. Armstrong stating in the late 1960s as he came to understand the commission of the Church (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14).

In the July 15, 1996 issue of the *Ministerial Newsletter*, David Hulme encapsulated these thoughts when he wrote to the ministry: "When Christ spoke to His disciples shortly before His ascension, He set out for them a now well-known mission statement. Matthew 28:18-20 spells out the work of the Church from their day until 'the end.' Over the years we have referred to this

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## New Beginnings

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statement as the great commission. It is commonly understood to contain the elements of preaching the gospel and teaching the resulting followers of Christ His Father's way of life.

"The dual nature of the task has been noted before, and sometimes led to friction among those who were involved in one aspect or the other. In other words, a rivalry was sometimes evident between those who sought to carry out Christ's command. The problem usually surrounded the allocation of resources to the preaching of the gospel or the teaching of the Church. We need to avoid such frictions in the future. The great commission is, of course, one commission, not two."

### Mission and Purpose of the Church

The purpose for the Church as listed in Article 3.1 of the Constitution reveals this statement: "God's purpose for His Church is to prepare those willing to live His way of righteousness and self-control to function as His instruments in the administration of salvation to humanity, and to demonstrate His wisdom to His spiritual creation."

The meaning of this purpose is clear. It conveys the direction in which we as a Church must go. No one reading the Scriptures has any doubt that the gospel of the kingdom of God (Christ's message) is to go to this world.

We see in God's Word that many were involved in doing this great work as they were able. Though the main thrust of carrying the message to the various cities and nations of this world was done by the apostles, many people helped them with it. Also, the feeding of the flock was related to preaching the gospel. Please note the following examples:

*Acts 1:8* To those assembled for Pentecost, Luke wrote, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

*Acts 2:47* Peter preaches the truth, and God adds to the Church daily.

*Acts 6:7* As the Word goes forth, more disciples are added to the Church.

*Acts 6:8-9* Stephen, as we understand, a deacon, was powerfully preaching God's message.

*Acts 8:4* As a result of Saul's persecution on the Church, we read, "Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word."

*Acts 8:5, 12* Philip, another deacon, preaches the gospel of the kingdom.

*Acts 9:17, 25, 30* Paul is converted and the Church members are involved as Paul escapes death.

*Acts 12:5-14* The church members provide support for the apostle Peter during his imprisonment.

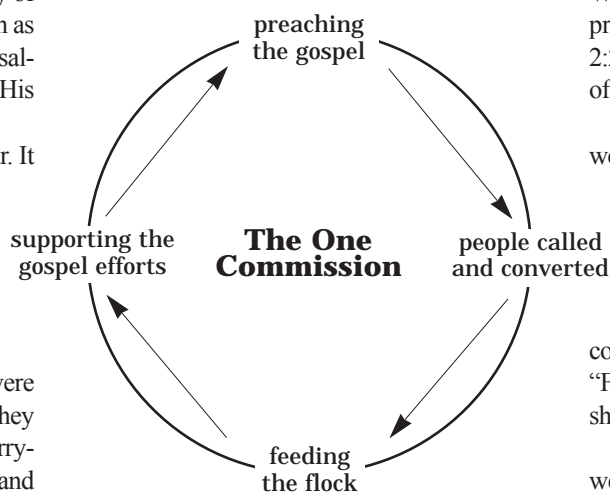
*Acts 14:20, 22, 28* Members rescued Paul and supported him in his work.

*Acts 16:5, 14-15* Along with preaching came the strengthening of the church.

*Acts 18:24-25* Apollos zealously begins spreading the Word.

*Acts 20:28* Paul is concerned that the Church be fed and strengthened as God's flock.

Those examples in the Acts of the Apostles give us a picture of how intertwined the preaching of the gospel and the



*I thought this would be a helpful diagram as we look at the commission Christ gave us.*

—GA

feeding of the flock are. We need not engage in efforts to categorize which is number one and which is number two in importance. For what value is it if after sowing the seed for the harvest, no one tends the growing fruit? Jesus lamented, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). The flock must be fed and tended.

God's message is to go forth as a testimony to all nations—to every person! That is a mighty task ahead of us as a Church. Paul felt he had worked hard at that aspect of

the commission (Colossians 1:6, 23-29). It was said that he and the disciples had "turned the world upside down" with the gospel message (Acts 17:6). An angel, at the very end of this age, is also going to preach God's message to the world (Revelation 14:6).

We must spread the gospel to this world! We must also reap the harvest and care for those harvested. If we fail to do both, we are *not* fulfilling the great commission which Christ has given to us. Some want to emphasize one aspect or the other. We must not get into that type of divisive thinking.

### Future Worth of One Converted Person

How much is one converted person worth? What about the awesome future which is in store for those who are Christians (1 John 3:1-2)? Is helping to bring many sons (and daughters) to glory a worthwhile aspect of the commission (Hebrews 2:10)? What about the rulership which has been promised those in Christ (Revelation 2:26-7)? What about making ready the bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7-8)?

For sure, Jesus said that His disciples were to go into all the world and preach the gospel. He also desires that the harvest be reaped. Among His final words to Peter recorded in the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ reveals His concern for the other aspect of the great commission. He said, "Feed my lambs" and "Feed my sheep" and once again "Feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17).

Jesus Christ taught that both aspects were vital in fulfilling the *one* commission. In Matthew 28:19, He combines the two in telling His disciples to "teach all nations" and baptize those who come as a result. He further instructs that those who are called and baptized be instructed (feed the flock) in the things He has taught

Let's understand and dedicate ourselves to fulfilling the "Great Commission" by doing the work of preaching the gospel and feeding the flock! This indeed is the mission and purpose of United Church of God, *an International Association*. NB

• Gary Antion, and his wife, Barbara, reside in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. He is a member of the Council of Elders, and is operations manager for the Canadian office.



# Overview: The General Conference of Elders Louisville, Kentucky, 1998...

## Saturday, March 7

Elders, along with many of their wives, joined the Louisville, Kentucky, brethren for Sabbath services at the downtown Galt House Hotel on March 7. Split sermons were delivered by Jim Franks and Bob Dick.

### Three Basics of Christianity

Mr. Franks began by asking, "What are the basic issues that drive you and me, and are they Christian?" He then retraced some of the rich history of the early Sabbatarian church in Newport, Rhode Island. After much searching, he had found the grave of early church leader, Stephen Mumford. Many of the graves in the cemetery were from the 1600s and 1700s, and included those of early church members.

At the Newport Historical Society, which is attached to the Sabbatarian church building, Mr. Franks found the minutes from 1692, in a backroom vault. It is inspiring to read the actual minutes of the official proceedings of these brethren. He found a people that were not just Sabbath-keepers, but people who had Christian values. These were people of God's church in early America. They lived as Christians.

Mr. Franks then listed his Three Basics of Christianity:

1) Humility. He began with a quote from Isaiah 66:1-2, where Isaiah writes that God looks to a person who has a "contrite spirit." He moved on to 1 Peter 5:5-8 where we are instructed to be "clothed with humility." He commented that the context shows humility as "an antidote to Satan's efforts."

2) Faith and Conviction. This is the ability to put your complete faith and trust in God. Hebrews chapter 11 provides much input on this point.

3) The Hope of the Future. Point three focused on the hope that is within each of God's people. Reflecting on what was written on the tombstones of the early Sabbatarians in Rhode Island, he noted that they had this hope—with inscriptions of

hope for God's coming kingdom and the resurrection. Mr. Franks used 1 Peter 3:15 and Colossians 1:27 as support for this point.

He concluded with Micah 6:8, where we are reminded that God requires that we "do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with [our] God."

### Are We Doing the Work of God?

The second split sermon was given by chairman and president, Robert Dick. He began with Luke 7:17-22, regarding the preaching of the gospel. Mr. Dick showed how much has been accomplished in preaching the gospel in our time, showing the results of the Church's efforts over the past year.

He asked if we are preaching the same message that Mr. Armstrong was preaching in 1968. He then compared the 1998 January/February *Good News* to the March 1968 *Plain Truth* magazine. The topics covered were surprisingly similar. After comparing other past issues of the *Plain Truth* magazine with those of our more recent United publications, it was seen that the gospel message preached then is being preached by UCG today.

Mr. Dick switched gears to reflect on our children. He reminded the congregation and ministry that our children are "holy" to God (1 Corinthians 7:14). In addition to our

work of preaching the gospel, we have other duties. What are we doing to build the spiritual strength in our children? He commended the staff involved in the United camps program, for providing the best of programs for our youth—providing spiritual guidance to our teens so "that they may fulfill their God-ordained destiny." He continued that, "campers learn that God's way works best" and that "the social standard is the law of God."

On a related responsibility of the Church, Mr. Dick turned to John 21:15-18, where Christ asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" Peter replied, "Yes Lord." Christ responded three times, then "feed My sheep." Mr. Dick said, "I pray we will never lose a shepherd's heart." When United began, the immediate need was to establish and stabilize congregations.

"Are we doing the work of God?" The work is being done, "the evidence speaks very loudly for itself. This body is doing God's work," he concluded.

### Saturday Evening, Ministerial Meeting

The evening meeting was called to order by Robert Dick at 7:45 p.m. The opening prayer was given by Roger Foster. Chairman Dick began by expressing that the Council wanted to address some issues with the assembled ministers. Roy



**Sabbath Services:** The brethren listen intently as Jim Franks speaks to the congregations and ministers gathered in Louisville.

Holladay would follow him with further comments.

The chairman explained why the selection of a new president would take place while everyone is in Louisville. In part, the organization cannot function properly without a permanent president in office and our governing documents do not support long periods of time with an interim officer. The Council intends to make its final decision on who the president will be on Sunday night.

He expressed the difficulty in answering "Why?" questions with a simplistic answer. More details need to be given when answering such questions. Communication from the Council when addressing problems is a difficult thing, especially when mail to them is so voluminous.

He next addressed the flurry of letters and resolutions that were mailed out in the weeks before the conference. He began by going back to the original amendment process that was established for changing our governing documents. It had its limitations. A new provisional amendment process will be sent out to the ministry sometime after this conference. The elders will ballot on it by mail after reviewing it. That amendment process is designed to assist GCE members in drafting their proposals successfully, so that their proposed amendments can go forward.

The chairman and secretary intend to put forward a plan which will assist the GCE members in putting forward valid resolutions. This will help meet the deadlines for such things as Call and Notice before the annual meeting. The amendment process and resolution process will allow GCE members the opportunity to correct any problems with their proposed amendments/resolutions, to keep them under consideration.

Some have confused the rationale of the Unity Statement of last November with that of removing the president in January of this year. However, the Unity Statement was to address "the rumor" of an impending split and was an affirmation that no-one on the Council was going to orchestrate such a split in the Church. "Schism is not the way to solve problems," read Mr. Dick from the Statement. The changing of home office administration was not related to this rumored "split" issue.

## Home Office Location

Then, Mr. Holladay was asked to speak to the gathered group on behalf of the Home Office Location Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. He said that we could title his address "everything you wanted to know about the home office location and media but were afraid to ask." He felt it important to address the development of these issues in their proper historical context.

He began with Proverbs 18:17: "The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes forward and questions him." Verse 13 says, "If one gives an answer before hearing, it is folly to him." He then proceeded with an explanation of how the home office location study developed through its various stages. The Location Committee has striven to carry out the directive of the General Conference to move to Cincinnati, Ohio, since the balloting was completed at last year's conference. The question of the legality of that ballot was put to rest last May, with the Council reaffirming the decision reached by the ministry.

Three location studies were completed. Ritchie Gaston, interim business manager in 1995, prepared the first one. Secondly, at the annual meeting in Cincinnati, David Hulme expressed that more information would be prepared for consideration, and the Council received a report in March of 1996 at its Houston, Texas, meeting. It was given by David Jarvis of CB Madison. The Council asked him for more information on how Los Angeles compared to other cities around the country. This information was not given to the Council. The Council then decided to prepare a more thorough report, a third study, for the Council and ministry, that included a broader list of criteria, including more cities for possible location of the office.

After many months of research, over 350 possible cities were narrowed down to 19. After more material was sifted through, the list was narrowed down to six cities at the Council meeting in Tyler, Texas, in January of 1997. The legal issues were then further examined, with reports by several legal firms considered. The Council felt that the home office could be located in many states within the U.S. with adequate legal protection.

One concern raised to the Council was the recent repeal of the Religion Freedom

Restoration Act. The Council found that the state of Ohio was concerned with prisoners abusing the RFRA and the state supported its removal. They would like to see it rewritten with some of the loopholes for prisoners removed. The attorney general of Ohio, when asked, wrote to the Church explaining that they had no interest in persecuting Sabbath keepers or groups such as the United Church of God. The Council does not see the repeal of the RFRA as a genuine concern.

Mr. Holladay then explained why the Council could not forward all of the available information to the ministry. It was just too voluminous. It was the job of the Location Committee and the Council to digest the reams of information, and get it down to the final report sent out to the ministry. The Committee strove to be objective and fair in its final presentation.

## Media

Regarding media, Mr. Holladay said that it was the job of the Strategic Planning Committee (of which he is chairman) to develop a media policy for United. For this past year, study has ensued and information has been gathered by the Committee. Due to many time constraints and rescheduling of Council agendas, the approach toward a media policy has not gone as quickly as the Council would like. However, all desire to preach the gospel as effectively as possible as a Church, and no-one that Mr. Holladay has talked to wants to go off and do his own thing. Policy in this area will be produced as soon as it is practical.

Chairman Dick then covered some general housekeeping items before the evening meeting adjourned.

## Sunday, March 8 International Reports

Elders and wives began proceedings at 8:45 Sunday morning, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Gary Antion gave the opening prayer. Due to a delay in the arrival of Coopers & Lybrand auditors, the beginning of the official portion of the annual meeting was delayed until later in the day. Therefore, the meeting began with presentations and reports from areas outside of the United States.

Bruce Dean, chairman of the Australian council, gave the first presenta-

tion. Seven hundred brethren and 13 ministers are part of United in Australia. Currently, an additional 750 people are on the Church's publication mailing list. These subscribers are now ordering additional literature, and encouraging financial donations are beginning to come in from them also. We recently advertised in Australia's *Reader's Digest*, with responses now coming in.

Other media efforts are under way, including display stands for *The Good News* and card-holder programs, and the Australian Web site is generating requests for literature.

Victor Kubik provided an update on the Baltics. This includes Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia, where we have people who are interested in United. Peter Shenton, from the U.K., helps by visiting in these areas. We had a Feast site this past year in Estonia, with 23 people present. One new person with no previous contact with the Church of God has been baptized. Language barriers are sometimes a problem. One group of people has four languages being spoken in the same room, with continual translation back and forth. Several different language Bibles are used in services.

Literature in Russian is well under way, with key articles from each issue of *The Good News* being translated and printed for the brethren in the Baltic areas. An audiotape program has a translator listening to sermons in English and translating them onto other tapes in Russian and Estonian. A new Web site, based in Russia, is about to be launched and 23 pages of information and literature have already been prepared for it.

Tony Wasilkoff, Canadian council chairman, spoke about the northern frontier of the North American continent. Twelve elders serve our brethren in Canada, who have numbered 532 as a high attendance on the Holy Days. The Canadian council has nine members serving, including two lay members.

Growth in Canada is slow but steady. The booklet, *What Happens After Death?* was offered in a letter to subscribers, and an amazing 30 percent response came in. An article reprint of three *Good News* magazine articles, on family values, was just offered to magazine subscribers in a letter from operation manager, Gary Antion. The Canadian

office is looking forward to a good response from this offer.

George Delap presented information about the 500 people, from 17 congregations, in the United Kingdom. Thirty other countries receive Church literature mailed from the U.K. A generous subsidy from the U.S. helps make all this possible. An advertisement was recently approved for running in an upcoming issue of the U.K. *Reader's Digest*. Mr. Delap then spoke about some of the concerns that the U.K. ministry has about the direction of United.

Winfried Fritz spoke about the German region. Never before has an opportunity existed such as today to preach the gospel in that country. The freedoms to preach the truth are better than ever before. Since 1997, the German-language issue of *The Good News* has been published, and now five booklets are translated in the native language. A German-language *New Beginnings* is also published.

Mr. Fritz expressed a need for more openness from the Council in the days ahead.

Mario Seigle represented the Spanish-speaking areas in his update. These areas of the world have learned how to be resourceful with very limited funds. A Spanish version of *The Good News* has been very successful, with locally produced subscription cards inserted by local members themselves. Five thousand subscribers have now been added to the mailing list as a result!

Latin America has a total of 1,700 brethren, with 58 baptisms last year, and several this year also. Many are first-time contacts with the Church of God. Also, co-workers and donors are beginning to add to the limited funds available in this region of the world. Mr. Seigle closed with Acts 15:3.

Joel Meeker spoke about the French-speaking areas. Two thousand copies of the French *Good News* are printed and sermon tapes are sent to several European countries and French-speaking areas of Africa. An editorial team of four people help produce literature in this area.

Carmelo Anastasi spoke about the development of God's work in Italy. God is blessing His work in this country. The Italian-language edition of *The Good News* has now been printed for a year. More than 1,000 new subscriptions have been added to the file after a 2,000-address mailing was sent out—representing more than a 60 per-

cent response to that offer. Suitable advertising in national magazines may be a very cost-effective way to advertise and increase circulation of the magazine in the coming year. Three booklets have been translated into Italian, and the proofreading process is next. Requests have also been made for these booklets by subscribers. As soon as they are printed they will be mailed to these waiting readers. Fifteen new people are waiting for a ministerial visit. On behalf of the Italian brethren, Mr. Anastasi thanked the international association for all its support in their country.

## Annual Meeting Begins

At 11:25 a.m., after elders officially registered with representatives from Coopers & Lybrand, the chairman of the General Conference, Robert Dick, called the annual meeting to order. The opening prayer was given by John Bald.

Only one minor correction was made in the minutes of last year's annual meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Tom Kirkpatrick presented a treasurer's report on behalf of the organization. Salary ranges were given as required by our governing documents, a letter was read from Coopers and Lybrand regarding the status of our financial audit for May 1995 to March 1997, and then Mr. Kirkpatrick gave a summary financial report for the period April 1, 1997 to March 3, 1998. Ending cash balance for the period in question is \$395,000.

Mr. Dick made some philosophical comments on the process of seeking God's will before balloting for Council of Elders nominees. He reminded the assembled ministry of the prayer and fasting that took place before this meeting. He reminded the ministry to seek God's guidance in their ballot choices. Balloting for the four open Council positions then took place.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at noon.

## Sunday Afternoon

The afternoon session of the annual meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. Ken Martin was called upon to open with prayer.

Chairman Dick walked the ministry through the balloting process for the proposed resolutions and amendments. Each proposal was read, and if necessary, com-



pared to the existing governing documents. The secretary assisted Mr. Dick in this part of the meeting, reading portions of the documents with him. Elders balloted on each item and the completed forms were given to Coopers & Lybrand representatives for tallying.

After a 30-minute break, the meeting reconvened for a question-and-answer session with the Council. All 12 members of the Council sat on stage as a panel to answer the questions, with Mr. Dick moderating the session. An overview of these questions and their answers can be found on the Church's Web site at [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org) or on the Fax Information Service by calling (626) 294-0818 from a fax machine.

The Q & A came to a conclusion at 5:25 p.m., and Mr. Dick covered some housekeeping items for the following day. It was decided, by a show of hands of the ministry, that the format tomorrow morning would continue with the Council Q & A panel format at 8:30 a.m.

The secretary, Gerald Seelig, brought forth the results of the morning ballot for Council members. The nominees balloted-in for a three-year term on the Council were announced by the chairman, and are Leon Walker, Victor Kubik, Les McCullough and Burk McNair.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

## Monday, March 9 Morning Session

Elders and wives began proceedings at 9:25 Monday morning, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Richard Pinelli gave the opening prayer. Robert Dick introduced Leslie McCullough as the president of United Church of God, *an International Association*. The Council reached this decision the evening before.

Mr. McCullough addressed the ministers, giving an overview of his time in the Church. He mentioned that he wishes to serve for three years and then step down from the position of president, allowing the Council to reappoint him or find another president. He has served in many areas outside of the U.S., most recently in the U.K., and has also lived in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served for 13 of the last 20 years outside of the U.S. and sees a worldwide work as extremely important. He urged for a spirit of harmony, asking for frustrations to be set aside and for the job before us to be done.

Mr. Dick thanked David Hulme for his service as president, particularly mentioning the Third World travel that he undertook, and the focus that he provided for our publications in their infancy. The remainder of the Council then joined Mr. Dick and Mr. McCullough on stage as a panel for further questions from the ministry. An overview of these questions and their answers can be found on the Church's Web site or on the Fax Information Service.

The ministry broke for lunch and hotel-room checkout at 11:35 a.m.

## Afternoon Session

From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., elders had the choice of participating in one of three break-out discussion groups: organization, governance, or media, or have a more intimate discussion with smaller panels of Council members.

After a mid-afternoon break, the entire ministry re-convened at 3:50 for the closing portion of the afternoon.

## Home Office Possibilities

Chairman Robert Dick introduced John Elliott, one of the Cincinnati pastors, to give a presentation on the three or four locations that the Church is looking at for a home office. The Location Committee has decided to look at leased facilities and sees advantages for each of the sites chosen. The Council will help narrow down the selection after visiting the area on Wednesday. The first commented on by Mr. Elliott, and reinforced with slides, was Chester Towers, a five-story building with space available on the fourth floor. This is in a business district of northern Cincinnati and a very nice facility.

The second is Park 42, also in north Cincinnati. A developer turned an older factory into a beautiful one-story office complex, with a wonderful park adjacent that has long nature trails.

Park 50 is on the east side of Cincinnati, in a less-populated area, closer to a more rural setting. It is a complex of 20-some buildings on about 40 acres, with lawns and open areas. It has a very friendly feel with an open-air atmosphere. Mr. Elliott wished the Council god-speed in choosing a location.

## Closing Addresses

Mr. Dick returned to the stage to make his concluding comments. He said there are times when the church of God has addressed major issues, as in Acts 15, and he urged for the highest of Christian conduct in our proceedings as a Church. Sometimes, when you're in the middle of issues, it's hard to see the conclusions. He hopes that this body of ministers will realize that we have to respect that, for a body to remain united, it must respect the diversity of opinions in that body. However, this is one body and one faith, that we are all a part of, with one God and one Lord. We "must be the work of God, before we can effectively do the work of God." We, as the sons of God, must understand that a phenomenal part of doing the work of God, is being the work of God. He concluded with Philippians 1:6, "He who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Les McCullough gave his final presentation, explaining where he sees us going. A theme that runs through his sermons is that of the kingdom of God. "It has always been very important to me," he said. He feels the kingdom of God is the key to what we are to represent in doing God's work. We need to be vocal about what we know in this regard. He recalled Jim Franks' sermon from last Sabbath about the zeal the early Rhode Island Sabbatharians had for the gospel of the kingdom. We need to find as many ways as possible to preach that message, and ask God to provide the fruit. The areas outside of the U.S. need our assistance in so many ways, and we need to help our brethren there, especially in Third World regions.

He closed with Romans 8:24-30, the hope of glory. He said, "We have the most incredible hope" of being a part of the family of God.

Mr. Dick returned to the stage, announcing that Coopers & Lybrand would not be finished tabulating the results of the proposed resolutions and amendments until late Tuesday. They will be forwarded on cc:Mail by the secretary when available.

Cincinnati elder, Ed Smith, led the ministers and wives in a hymn to close, "God Will See Us Through," and Leonard Schreiber gave the final prayer.

Peter Eddington

## Plans for Preaching the Gospel

*The following question was asked at the general conference on Monday, March 9, during a Q&A session with the Council. Les McCullough's response follows:*

"I agree with Mr. Bob Dick's sermon, that God's work is being done via *The Good News* and booklets, but there is a lot of concern expressed about inadequate amount, or proportion of budget, being put into 'preaching the gospel.' What are the plans for increasing this?"

Well, it's a little bit difficult right at this particular moment to say what plan you have in mind as to how to handle that. We have an over-preponderance of budget that is committed to salaries and related expenses. If you are going to commit more to another area—whichever other area it would be—it has to come from somewhere. Either there has to be new income, or the income that is being produced has to be reallocated. And that's a very difficult thing to try and determine at any given point.

We're in an unusual situation. Right now the budget for salaries is 52 percent of our income. In business, that would be terrible. We're not a business. We're a service organization. What I mean by us not being a business, is that there are certain things that we can't do in the way that would be done in a business situation. In one way that's very bad. In another way that's very good.

Look at how we are positioned at this particular time: *The Good News* magazine has been going out for roughly two years. In times gone by, response to the *Plain Truth* magazine by its readership, to the point of them becoming donors, coworkers, etc., has been somewhere around two years—as a rough figure. Then, as time goes on, you have more involvement from them.

## You Do Not Have Because You Do Not Ask

I have a favorite scripture—one in the book of James, chapter 4. It says, "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). I've challenged people in times gone by: *When was the last time you asked?* When was the last time that you took it upon yourself to go before the throne of God, and say, "Father, I know your message is going out—your message *has* gone out. I know that there are people out there who have heard of the church of God. I know there are people out there who have heard of the kingdom of God—the soon coming return of Jesus Christ to this earth—who are very confused and don't know which way to turn. Would You please open their mind? Would you please call them? You're the One that does the calling. We try to go ahead and pluck the fruit. Would you please call?"

Pick a city. What's your city? Cincinnati? Okay. How many of you in the Cincinnati area have gone before God and said, "Please, Father, will You open the minds of some of those in the Cincinnati area—that have heard the truth for many years, who are just sitting doing nothing? Would you please turn the lock, open the door, and give us some reaction?" I've seen it work in the past.

I've seen people that took it to heart, and done that. I feel very strongly about some of these things. They've taken it to heart and they've gone about doing that, and some growth came along. So all I'm saying is, when was the last time that we, as a group sitting here—the ministry of the Church of God, the United Church of God—when was the last time that we gave a sermon where we encouraged our congregation: "There is a whole field out there around the world that needs to have the Word of God spoken to it, and that needs to begin to react to the Word of God they already know. And why don't you members make sure you take it upon yourself to go ahead and ask?" Because God does answer.

## We Have the Manpower

We're in an optimum position if growth comes along. Much of any new

growth can be dedicated to other areas—the preaching of the gospel, or whatever other areas there might be—because we already have the manpower, we already have the congregations, and we have people out there waiting to do something.

If we, as a group, make a prolonged effort to ask God to go ahead and bring some of that fruit to harvest—or bring it to fruition so it can be harvested—then as people begin to *involve* themselves as a result of reading the magazine and reading the literature, and if they begin to respond with tithes and offerings, we *have* the manpower to serve them. We have the budget already committed to the manpower.

Now, one choice is that we can—please pardon me—we can fire some of you. We don't want to do that. We'd rather not do that. I know the Council feels that way.

We can't make bigger sacrifices, for the most part, and give more of our own personal income, but we can certainly tell God, and *ask* God, and *call out* to Christ, and ask Him, to begin to really bless our efforts. I'm very deeply appreciative of the support that the General Conference here has shown to the Council—to the Church. I hope this means that God can look down, and say, "Hey, these guys are serious! They have their frustrations and they have their problems, but they say that they're going to try and pull together and get something done. So why don't we just give them something to do!"

So that's what I meant when I said that we're at an optimum position. Just think, if we had 2,000 more people this time next year, how many more ministers would we have to have? Probably none. If we had 5,000 more in the next two years, how many new ministers would we have to have on the payroll? Very few. And so, if we do our part, and God chooses to go ahead and respond (and this is God's business—it's not my business, it's not your business—it's *His* business), and if He chooses to give that growth, we're ideally positioned!

If He doesn't give that growth we have problems, and they're not just my problems, they're all of our problems.



We share it mutually. But, let's aim to see it go the other way. Let's get excited. Let's be encouraging. Let's talk to our congregations.

### Look to the Future!

I get the sense that there is a great lethargy that has come upon the church brethren and some of the ministry, because they're so frustrated over past problems and difficulties. They spend time rehashing past problems and difficulties. But that's past, that's over, that's done, that's finished.

What we need to be thinking about is the future, and, as I said, asking God. There's no magic panacea, there just isn't. And I know this is a very simplistic way to say it—it's a very simple thing that I'm saying. But I believe with all my heart that if God tells me, "You have not because you ask not," that I'm supposed to be asking!—and I'm asking you to ask. I'm asking you to ask your congregations to ask.

Let's see things take off and go like a bomb, because *there's a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done!* Everywhere you turn there's just so much that needs to be done. I believe that we have the most precious knowledge on the face of the earth and that in some cases, perhaps, we've sat on it. We need to be excited about it, we need to be enthusiastic about it, and we need to be encouraged about it. We have a great calling! We need to get in there and do something with it, and let God go ahead and say, "Okay, you're not all that busy, why don't we give you some work."

I've talked with various ones, and I was talking with one of the regional pastors. He said that when he goes back after the conference he has eight baptisms or so to do. Great! Wonderful! I know some of the other areas that have had a few baptisms also. It's beginning to come along, so how do you solve the problem? Well, the way we solve the problem is to be so completely dedicated, committed and filled with zeal for the Word of God that God says, "Okay you turkeys, I'm going to work you to death!" That's it.

*Les McCullough*

## Ballot Results

The audit firm of Coopers & Lybrand, LLP, has reported the following results for the balloting of the following items of business of the General Conference of Elders at the 1998 Annual Meeting. The number of ballots needed for passage on the first four (4) items is a simple majority of all "YES" and "NO" ballots cast.

*Gerald Seelig, secretary*

ITEM	# Yes BALLOTS	# No BALLOTS	PASSED
1. 1998-99 Strategic Plan	278	64	Yes
2. 1998-99 Provisional Operations Plan	304	69	Yes
3. 1998-99 Provisional Budget	283	95	Yes
4. Resolution – Policy Regarding Media and Evangelism	226	147	Yes

The number of ballots needed for passage on the remaining items, all amendments, is two-thirds approval of the entire General Conference of Elders as it was constituted at the time of the meeting. The number of "YES" ballots needed to pass these amendments is 312.

ITEM	# Yes BALLOTS	# No BALLOTS	PASSED
5. Amendment–Article 1.0 of Constitution	227	146	No
6. Amendment–Article 4.1 (1) of Constitution	167	200	No
7. Amendment–Article 5.3 of Constitution	353	23	Yes
8. Amendment–Article 7.5.2 of Bylaws	333	33	Yes
9. Amendment–Article 7.5.3 of Bylaws	175	194	No
10. Amendment–Article 7.6.2 of Bylaws	311	47	No
11. Amendment–Article 7.9 of Bylaws	351	25	Yes
12. Amendment–Article 7.9.3 of Bylaws	338	30	Yes
13. Amendment–Article 7.9.5 of Bylaws	336	31	Yes
14. Amendment–Article 8.1 of Bylaws	262	95	No
15. Amendment–Article 8.6.2 (7) of Bylaws	214	144	No
16. Amendment–Article 9.1 of Bylaws	148	216	No
17. Amendment–Article 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 of Bylaws	108	262	No
18. Amendment–Article 9.1.1 of Bylaws	241	127	No
19. Amendment–Article 9.5 of Bylaws	324	46	Yes
20. Amendment–Article 9.6 (1) of Bylaws	346	22	Yes
21. Amendment–Article 8.5 of Bylaws	195	181	No
22. Amendment–Article 8.6.2 (1) of Bylaws	265	109	No
23. Amendment–Article 11.6 of Bylaws	355	20	Yes
T1. Technical Amendment to 6.1 of Bylaws	318	65	Yes
T2. Technical Amendment Cast & Casting to Submit, Submitted or Submitting	277	105	No
T3. Technical Amendment Elect, Elected or Election to Appoint, Appointed or Appointment	268	118	No
T4. Technical Amendment 7.2.1 of Bylaws	305	75	No
T5. Technical Amendment 8.7.4.1a of Bylaws	313	69	Yes

For a copy of the text of the proposed amendments as they were submitted, please refer to pages 16–23 of the September 8, 1997, *New Beginnings*.

**“ADDRESSES”** (Continued from page 1)

elsewhere, where God has said to us, “We are one body.” In fact it is so eloquently stated it’s better to read it than quote it: “There is one body, and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4–6).

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***I still believe with all my heart that we must be the Work of God before we can effectively do the Work of God.***

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Yet it goes on to state that the measure of grace that has been given to each individual is distinct and different. We have shared many thoughts, and many ideas, many views, many opinions. Our great challenge is coming back to the square that brought us here in the first place—one God, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one common destination—and then to work within the diversities that are here geographically, racially, ethnically, and in some cases administratively.



**Bob Dick**

I’ve thought several times, moving into this particular event, of the sermon that I gave last year to start the beginning of the conference. It was a smaller group at that time. I still believe with all my heart that a fundamental part of what God is doing with us as a body is to bring us back to square one and teach us that we must *be* the Work of God before we can effectively *do* the Work of God. Some took that message last year as one of contrast—either or. It was

never meant as either or. It was meant, at the time—I still believe—that the issue is that we, as the sons of God, must understand that a phenomenal part of doing the Work of God is *living* the Work of God.

I would like to close my comments by reading the same scripture that I read last year in the conclusion of that sermon. The words are just as true today. I think a year later it’s sobering that we come to comprehend that the learning curve is slower than any of us would like. And yet, it’s still the learning curve that God has placed before us.

As Paul said: “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:1–6).

**Leslie McCullough:**

I would like to say thank you to all of those who have offered me congratulations, and condolences, because a number have. I appreciate your kind thoughts. I hope I can prove myself worthy of them.

Many of you know me, because many of you were students at Ambassador College at the time that I was there. And so many times, when I go to the Feast, I have people come up afterward, and they say, “Oh, just like old times. Awfully nice to hear you—took me back to when I was a kid.” And that’s encouraging, I guess. If it took them back when *they* were a kid, what does it take *me* back to? But anyhow, it’s always good to hear that, and I do appreciate it, and do enjoy it.

But, as I said earlier this morning, people often wonder, “What is your motivation? What is behind you? What are you made of? Where are you going?” I think that those that know me, and have heard me speak frequently, probably know a theme that runs through my sermons more often than not is the theme of the kingdom of God. And it’s always been very important to me, and it’s something that I’ve always felt that we needed to be reminded of and to be encouraged

about, to be thinking of.

From my point of view, I have always thought that the kingdom of God was the *whole* mission statement, because if you’re going to be there, you’re going to have to accept that Jesus Christ is your Savior. You’re going to have to have repented. You’re going to have to have been begotten by God’s Spirit. You’re going to have to live your life to the best of your ability, according to God’s way of life and His law. And so, when I say, “kingdom of God,” I mean the whole picture—the whole schmear—everything that it represents. And I very often have, and quite probably nearly every sermon has had, some comment, or something in it with regard to the kingdom of God. And I think that’s something that we all really need to continually keep before the people’s eyes.

We all really need to continually keep before the people that according to His judgment and His wisdom, He’ll reach down and chooses various people at various times, and call them into His kingdom. *We* can’t do that calling in any

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***The theme of the kingdom of God has always been very important to me, and it’s something that we need to be reminded of and be encouraged about.***

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way, shape or form. But, we *do* have the opportunity to ask God for blessings, and we do have the opportunity to ask God to provide for us, and to call those whom He sees fit to call, as He sees fit to call them—and to look at ourselves and realize that at one point, God decided to call each one of us.

God’s kingdom was the furthest thing from my mind when I started dating my wife. I met my wife on a blind date. It’s the best blindness I’ve had! Her history is Church of God, at least in family background, and we got to talking one night and she brought up something about Easter, and how Christ was resurrected after three days and so on.

I didn’t care whether He was raised in

three days, ten days or what. At that point in life it didn't make the least bit of difference. But I like to argue. As a result of my wife, I



Les McCullough

received the call. We were transferred on my job to Aberdeen, Washington, with the rain pouring down all year long—98 inches of rain that year—and you couldn't get TV. Radio reception wasn't much and you were reduced to reading whatever happened to be lying around the house. My wife seemed to conveniently leave certain things lying around the house—*The Key to the Book of Revelation*, which scared the liver out of me, *The Sabbath*, which cost me my job—and ultimately, God called me.

Now, I'm deeply appreciative of that, and I like to try and encourage people to think about what a tremendous calling it is, what wonderful things we have had made available to us. Everyone of us have had the exposure to, and have been called to be recipients of the very Spirit of God. We all would do well to be so filled with the knowledge of the calling we have, and doing everything we can to broadcast, to disseminate, to write, to promulgate, in whatever way we can, the message of the kingdom of God. I'm a great believer in Matthew 24:14. I think we *do* need to give a message to as many people as we can get it to.

Exactly how it should be done, exactly what kind of a "warning," gets into all of those technical arguments. I think that God has been preaching, has been forecasting, has been telling, has been warning for a very long time. And not very many people have heard it. It's still a responsibility that we have. And it reflects on future times, obviously. But I think it's been a progressive thing that's continued down through the ages, and that we need to do our best to get a message out—to get a witness out—in

whatever way that we can get it out there.

Then, we need to ask God for fruit, and if He doesn't see fit to call anybody, I guess that's His decision—nothing we can do about it. But if we're sold on it, and we're such an example of what it all represents, there are bound to be some people that are going to begin to come along, and there are bound to be some people that then make it possible for us to go ahead and do that much more.

Today I had lunch with Peter Hawkins, talking about some of the circumstances in New Zealand, and a need that they have down there. After that meeting I was given information and asked questions about Gabon. So, I've been from Africa to New Zealand so far today and those people need help! And they need all of us doing everything we can to attract more people, to make the message available so if God wants to call somebody, they're there, so that those people can have the blessing of knowing what we know.

I first began writing in 1960 to Pedro S. Ortiguero and to various other Philippines ministers, plus several other ministers in Africa, and have, in one way or another, been involved in some form or another, with the international work ever since that time. I wrote an article back in 1963 as a result of a baptizing tour with Dibar Apartian to Martinique and St. Lucia, and the title of the article was "Thy Kingdom Come."

When you stand down there and you look at these people, and you go into these areas—these third world areas, or wherever it may be—and you see how much they don't have physically, you realize how much you have physically, as well as spiritually, and you can't help but feel like, "Oh, we have to do something to help them." We have to at least let them know that there's a much better future lying ahead.

And so I guess that's my message. That's sort of been the message that I've carried from one place to another in times gone by, and shall continue to do so. So, in closing today, I'd just like to read one scripture to you out of Romans, chapter 8, beginning in verse 24. It says, "For we were saved in this hope, but

hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we *eagerly* wait for it with perseverance."

We *eagerly* wait for the coming of the kingdom of God. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought." We don't necessarily know all the time the things that we ought to ask for, and exactly how to ask for it, and for whom we should ask it. And sometimes we have to hope and pray that God's Spirit is going to do what it says here. "But the Spirit [itself] makes intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered." And I have to assume that the Spirit's been doing a lot of groaning.

But it goes right on to say: "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

"For whom he foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom

He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He justified; whom He justified, these He glorified" (Romans 8:24-30).

We certainly ought to be anxious to be glorified. We ought to be very enthusias-

tic about all kinds of other people being glorified and having the same truth, and the same knowledge, and the same incredible blessing that we have.

I appreciate very much—have appreciated very much—the opportunity to be a part of the body of Christ, to be a part of the service to Him and to His people. I hope that I can continue for a long time. I hope all of you are as enthusiastic about it as we all should be, because we have the most incredible hope. It's awfully easy to get bogged down because of the things that go on around us. But when we stop and realize the hope we have—the *incredible wondrous hope*—of being a part of the very family of God, all we can do is say, "Thank you." **NB**

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*We have to do  
something to help  
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# Feast of Tabernacles 1998...

In this special supplement are descriptions of Feast of Tabernacles sites in alphabetical order by country.

More sites are being added, but sufficient information was not available to print in this issue. At this time, additional Festival sites are expected in Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Estonia, France, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines (Dumaguete City, Negros), and Rwanda. Information for these additional areas will be printed in *New Beginnings* as it becomes available.

The *Festival Housing Brochure* will be mailed to households at the end of April. It will contain additional site information, a list of housing establishments for U.S., Canadian and some other sites, helpful tips for planning your Feast, and articles on the meaning of this eight-day festival.

On the following pages, the "+" sign at the beginning of international phone numbers signifies the country code. Dollar amounts are in U.S. currency unless noted otherwise. *NB*

## Australia

### Launceston, Tasmania

Home of the renowned Tasmanian Devil, Tasmania has a lot to offer the visitor. For those wanting a quieter pace of life, Tasmania is one place where you can easily get away from the crowds. Only 450,000 people live in an area the size of West Virginia. Beautiful scenery must surely be the hallmark of this delightful island. Only 2 hours 15 minutes by car from Launceston is Cradle Mountain—a world-renowned natural attraction that boasts numerous walking tracks to some stunning scenery.

A two-hour drive will bring you to the capital city, Hobart, the city of greatest historical interest in Australia. Eighty minutes away is Lillico Beach, where you can watch penguins returning from their day out at sea. Within a 30-minute drive from Launceston are numerous wineries, historic homes, and lots of lovely scenery and walks.

Downtown Launceston itself boasts the amazing Cataract Gorge—a must for visitors. Quality restaurants abound.

Regular flights from both Melbourne and Sydney service Launceston. For the more adventurous, an overnight ferry from Melbourne would be a more interesting way to arrive.

For further information, visitors should contact: Barry Williams, P.O. Box 403, Ulverstone, Tasmania, 7315, Australia; telephone, +61 3 6425 3495; fax, +61 3 6425 5139; or write to [barrywilliams@a130.aone.net.au](mailto:barrywilliams@a130.aone.net.au) (e-mail).

*Barry Williams*

### Merimbula, New South Wales

Situated on the Sapphire Coast of New South Wales is the picturesque resort of Merimbula.

The town is well served by daily air services from Sydney and Melbourne and is a comfortable day's drive from either city. Australia's capital, Canberra, is just a three-hour drive away. If renting a car, it is best to make reservations as part of your trip as numbers of cars may be limited.

Merimbula has been a popular Feast site since 1981 and we are pleased to announce that the Merimbula-Imlay Bowling Club is the venue for our services. Their new auditorium is located on the main street of town and is close to shops and reasonably priced accommodations.

Merimbula has some of the best priced self-contained accommodation in Australia, with two- and three-bedroom apartments having cooking facilities for around \$A350 to \$500 per week. Bookings should be made through Fisk and Nagle Estate Agents. International visitors should call +61

64 953222 or fax to +61 64 953154. Their local phone number is (064) 953222.

Temperatures in October range from 12 to 20 degrees Celsius (54 to 68 Fahrenheit). Spring showers can be expected but generally the weather is ideal for the Feast.

The highlight of the Feast last year at nearby Eden was whale watching. At this time of year, visitors from around the world come to observe humpback and southern right whales during their migration to antarctic waters.

There are many activities for young people with Magic Mountain amusement park being popular. For the adults, there are golf courses, fishing trips and fine restaurants.

We are expecting two hundred members at this site, and to ensure a place, early bookings are essential.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact: Rod King, Box 1066, Croydon, Victoria, 3136, Australia; or write to [rodking@c031.aone.net.au](mailto:rodking@c031.aone.net.au) (e-mail).

*Rod King*

### Nelson Bay, New South Wales

Nelson Bay is a wonderful location for a Feast of Tabernacles, with beautiful bays and beaches, and much of the accommodation having bay or

sea views. Nelson Bay is part of Port Stephens, which is about a 2½-hour drive north of Sydney and a 45-minute drive north of Newcastle. From Newcastle airport at Williamtown, it's a 30-minute drive to Nelson Bay.

About 250 are expected, and will meet at the Nelson Bay RSL Club on Shoal Bay Road, Nelson Bay. Good-quality accommodation is found within walking distance or a short drive from the hall. Prices for fully self-contained houses or apartments can range from A\$250 to A\$800 a week. There are many motels available, as well as luxury accommodation at a number of resorts. The Feast falls during the school holidays this year and as such accommodations need to be booked early.

Expected daytime temperatures are 18 to 26 degrees Celsius (64 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit). Activities include swimming, fishing, bushwalks, boating, family golf centers with par-three courses and night golf, as well as top-class golf courses, wineries (the site is close to the renowned Hunter Valley), cinemas, dolphin cruises, water sports and much more.

Nelson Bay proved very popular last year. It is a very relaxed site where friends can easily meet together and families can enjoy many activities.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact Bruce Dean, P.O. Box 453, Dapto, NSW 2530, Australia; (042) 62-1427 (domestic call); +61 42 62-1427 (international call); or write to Bruce\_Dean@ucg.org (e-mail).

*Bruce Dean*

### Noosa Heads, Queensland

Often termed "The jewel in the crown of the Sunshine Coast," Noosa is an appealing blend of excellent climate, superb coastal scenery, golden beaches and a city of 33,000 flanked by the most visited national park in Australia.

Noosa is a subtropical paradise with sheltered bays, international standard shopping, and gourmet dining. Just a 90-minute drive north of Brisbane, and 20 minutes from Maroochydore Airport, this city will again host the Feast.

Services for the expected 300 will be at the Noosa Bicentennial Community Centre.

## Key Dates to Remember

**April 4, 11 & 18** U.S. and Canadian head-of-household members should clip out their completed *1998 Festival Registration* form (page 17 of this issue of *New Beginnings*) and give it to their local Festival advisor at Sabbath services.

**Late-April** *Festival Housing Brochure* to be mailed to member households.

**May 9** Notification at Sabbath services if any sites cannot accept all transfer requests.

**May 17** Members attending a U.S. or Canadian Feast site may begin making reservations from the list of accommodations supplied in the *Festival Housing Brochure*.

An air temperature of 16 to 24 degrees Celsius (61 to 75 Fahrenheit) and a water temperature of 21 degrees Celsius (70 Fahrenheit) make this an ideal location for boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving, camel treks, whale watching and four-wheel driving. Close by for a day's outing is the largest sand island in the world, the renowned Fraser Island.

Accommodation is plentiful, ranging from budget prices to Sheraton Hotel class. Off-season weekly rates this year will range from A\$400 to A\$900. Some resorts may offer small discounts for Church bookings.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact: Graemme Marshall, P.O. Box 929, Beenleigh, Queensland, 4207, Australia; 07 3807-8968 (domestic fax); +61 7 3807-8968 (international fax); or write to gmarshall@b022.aone.net.au (e-mail).

*Graemme Marshall*

### Cottesloe Beach (Perth), Western Australia

Perth offers an easy going lifestyle in a pleasant Mediterranean type climate. There are many attractions including Rottnest Island, miles

of beautiful beaches, a world class zoo, historic Fremantle, underwater world, the vineyards of the Swan Valley, views at Kings Park and much more.

Perth's international airport is just eight miles from the city center. Rental cars cost about \$40 per day and are recommended.

Our Feast site this year will be at Cottesloe, one of Perth's finest beach suburbs, seven minutes from Fremantle and fifteen minutes from Perth.

Services will be held each day at the Cottesloe Civic Centre, Lesser Hall, corner of Broome and Napier streets, Cottesloe. This is only seven miles from the city center.

Accommodations range from A\$40 single, to A\$110 for five people, per night. They include television, phone, tea and coffee facilities, and a refrigerator. All units have their own bathroom. Plenty of accommodation, restaurants, shopping and bars are available nearby.

Maximum day-time temperatures in October would be 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit).

Currently, one U.S. dollar buys \$1.40 to \$1.55 Australian.

Expected attendance is 80 people

## 1998 Feast of Tabernacles Sites

### Australia

Launceston, Tasmania  
Merimbula, New South Wales  
Nelson Bay, New South Wales  
Noosa Heads, Queensland  
Cottesloe Beach (Perth), Western Aust.

### Canada

Kelowna, British Columbia  
Mont-Orford, Quebec

### Chile

Maitencillo

### Denmark

Ebeltoft

### Germany

Winterberg

### Guatemala

Antigua

### Italy

Sabaudia (Latina)

### Kenya

Naro Moru

### Mexico

Acapulco

### The Netherlands

Wezuperbrug, Drenthe

### New Zealand

Taupo

### Philippines

Davao City, Mindanao  
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

### South Africa

Uvongo

### Tonga

Nuku'alofa

### United Kingdom

Llandudno, North Wales

### United States

Branson, Missouri  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Escondido, California  
Jekyll Island, Georgia  
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Orlando, Florida  
Poconos, Pennsylvania  
Redding, California  
Snowmass Village, Colorado  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

### Zimbabwe

Mutare

*Additional sites are expected in the following countries, although no information has yet been provided:*

Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Estonia, France, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines (Dumaguete City, Negros), and Rwanda.

This will be United's third Feast held in Perth.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact Stewart O'Neill for further details by phone, +61 8 9279 6154; or write to ivanhoe@q-net.net.au (e-mail).

*Stewart O'Neill*

## Canada

### Kelowna, British Columbia

Kelowna is located in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. This is the fruit-growing region of the west and, along with a variety of fruit trees and vineyards, there is an abundance of forest. The settled area lies in the valley along the shores of Lake Okanagan, which is about 120 miles (nearly 200 kilometers) long and 3 to 6 miles (5 to 10 kilometers) wide. The surrounding countryside is wild and untamed, though laced with mountain logging roads (many old and unused).

The climate in October is usually cool but not cold. It can be warm enough for swimming in the lake. Rain is usually not a

problem as the area is fairly dry. One can expect cool mornings and evenings with some very nice afternoons. It is a good idea to bring clothing that is suitable for weather in the 50s and 60s (13 to 18 Celsius).

Kelowna has a metropolitan population of about 100,000, with some smaller cities within an hour's drive. It offers a variety of activities, such as bowling, theater, ice skating, dance halls, good restaurants, and a large shopping mall. There are unending miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, trail riding and family walks. The lake and the numerous smaller lakes that surround it are great for boating, fishing, canoeing and swimming when the weather permits.

There are about 18 golf courses within a short drive, and most will be open until the end of October. There are centers

for family outings, mini-golf and kids' attractions, including Old MacDonald's Farm.

*Rainer Salomaa*

### Mont-Orford, Quebec

Here's your opportunity to sample a taste of Europe with a French flavor! Without leaving North America, you can enjoy beautiful scenery, fresh air, golf courses, woods and ponds, and many recreational facilities at our convention site location, the Cheribourg. This resort hotel will be the site of the meetings and one of our main hotels for lodging. (A limited number of condominiums, villas and other resort hotel rooms are also available in the vicinity.) Nearby is the magnificent Mont Orford, as well as scenic Lake Memphrémagog.

Many recreational, cultural and tourist attractions are readily available in the region. Most of these are suitable for family outings. This area is famous for its massage therapy of various types, performed by trained professionals in therapy centers at the hotels.

Montreal, with its cosmopolitan atmosphere, is

only an hour-and-three-quarters away. A day tour of Quebec City, the capital of Quebec, is being planned during the Feast. There are many historic sites to see. Closer to the Festival site are Sherbrooke and Granby, both medium-sized cities within a 30-minute drive, which will accommodate any major shopping needs.

The food in the area is outstanding, as many chefs gather yearly to exhibit their talents in a contest of culinary skills. French cuisine is considered among the finest in the world.

This site has room for 375, and with a favorable exchange rate of C\$1.38 to US\$1, our American neighbors should see their dollars stretch about 40 percent.

We invite you to enjoy this unique region of Canada, get to know some of

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*Members may begin making reservations for housing in the U.S. and Canada on Sunday, May 17, beginning at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the site they plan to attend.*

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your Canadian brethren, and enjoy the warm, sincere hospitality of the Canadian people. Bienvenue! We look forward to welcoming you this fall to beautiful Mont-Orford!

*Anthony Wasilkoff*

## Chile

### Maitencillo

The Feast of Tabernacles will again be held in the popular beach resort, Centro Javiera Carrera, in Maitencillo, Chile.

During the Feast in this part of the world, we are entering the spring season. Temperatures range from 60 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 27 Celsius). At night the temperature becomes chilly. Prices for the entire Feast, including round-trip transportation from Santiago, and food and lodging for the eight days at the Feast site, is US\$230 per adult and \$200 per child.

The beach resort is a three-hour drive from Santiago, and because buses are used for the trip, no rental cars are needed. Expected attendance is 450 brethren from the entire region. There is a family atmosphere at the site since everyone is close by, and because it is the off-season, we have the place virtually to ourselves. Everyone eats together in the large dining hall at the Feast site.

There are many activities for those who attend: tennis, horseback riding, basketball, soccer, beach games and swimming. The meeting hall is in the same hotel facility, so no transportation is needed. Services are in Spanish with translations available in English.

To help with planning, and for more information, members interested in transferring to Maitencillo should contact Mario Seiglie in Chile, by phone at +562 555-2004; by mail, Mario Seiglie, Casilla 10384, Central de Casillas, Santiago, Chile; or seiglie@interactiva.cl (e-mail).

*Mario Seiglie*

## Denmark

### Ebeltoft

The Scandinavian Feast will be in

Ebeltoft this year, on the eastern coast of central Jutland, the peninsula of mainland Denmark. It is a picturesque market town dating back 700 years and with a maritime history that embraces the Viking Age. Many of the half-timbered "Olde Worlde" listed buildings date back to the 16 and 1700s.

Running through the center of the town, parallel to the sea-front, is the traffic-free, cobbled main street which has been made into a shopping precinct. Standing proudly alongside the promenade is the three-masted wooden sailing ship, the frigate *Jylland*, which was launched in 1860 and has been restored and is open to the public.

Ebeltoft is ideally situated for our visitors. Aarhus Airport is only a 15 kilometer (10 mile) taxi ride. There are direct daily flights from London, Oslo, Gothenberg and Stockholm. For international visitors arriving via Copenhagen there are numerous daily connections to Aarhus. Major car rental companies are represented at the airport. If you want to bring your own car there are excellent ferry services from Norway and Sweden. From England, Scandinavian Seaways sails from Harwich to Esbjerg. Of course, our brethren from continental Europe can easily drive to Denmark.

There are many attractions to visit. Ebeltoft Family Park is a nature and animal park with over 500 species from all over the world and a children's playground. The glass museum is an internationally recognized exhibition of contemporary glass art. There are no fewer than six glass workshops to visit. There will be a free day when tours will be arranged to Copenhagen, the capital, and Aarhus, Denmark's second city.

The Feast will be held in the Hotel Hvide Hus (Hotel White House), a highly commended conference hotel. The large double rooms all have a terrace with sea view, television, trouser press, hairdryer and mini-bar. The hotel has a magnificent swimming pool and a games room with table tennis and billiards. There are saunas and a solarium. For fellowship we have the use of their night club during the week. As its name suggests, the Panorama

Restaurant overlooks the bay. Services will be in English.

Prices, quoted in Danish Kroner (DKK), are for half board—breakfast and dinner and include buffet lunch on both Holy Days. In addition they include four occasions when tea/coffee is served after the evening meal.

Cost per person, per night, in the hotel: per adult in a twin bed room, DKK 440; per adult in a single room, DKK 590; extra bed for child under 16 years, DKK 160; extra bed for youth over 16 years, DKK 285; infant under 3 years, DKK 50 (for cot rent).

The hotel also has seven excellent chalet apartments that can be used for self-catering. The prices that follow are for the entire nine-day period totally self-catering. Meals can be taken at the conference rate in the hotel by prior arrangement.

Cost per self-catering apartment for the nine-day period: apartment for two persons, DKK 5000 (some apartments have an extra folding bed); apartment for four persons, DKK 6500; apartment for six persons, DKK 8000.

There is a good supermarket in town. Ebeltoft city-center is within walking distance.

Exchange rates will vary. Currently, it is DKK 11 to the pound sterling and approximately DKK 7 to the U.S. dollar. Average temperatures will be between 10 and 15 degrees Celsius (50 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit).

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site please contact Peter Shenton, 23 Cranesbill Drive, Worcester, WR5 3HX, United Kingdom; phone: +44 (0) 1905 351389, or write to PeterShenton@compuserve.com (e-mail).

*Peter Shenton*

## Germany

### Winterberg

Nestled in the midst of the "land of 1,000 hills" in a beautiful area recognized for its healthful climate, is Winterberg. Just a few kilometers south, beneath the famous Kahler Asten Mountain (842 meters; 2,762

feet), is the Dorint Hotel Holidaypark tourist resort in the village of Neuastenberg. For the third time we will hold the Feast in this beautiful area.

Temperatures at the end of October can still be very mild, but with chilly evenings.

Accommodation in hotel apartments or the holiday village includes half board (buffet breakfast, and lunch or dinner), and each unit has a kitchenette.

The hall where services will be held is within the resort-hotel complex. The hotel provides an indoor pool, sauna, bowling, tennis, beauty farm, mountain-bike rental, and a kindergarten (up to four hours daily). This area offers some beautiful sight-seeing opportunities, including picturesque old German villages and the family adventure land, Fort Fun.

Car rental may be necessary because the Feast location is approximately 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of the Cologne International Airport, or 120 miles (193 kilometers) north of the Frankfurt International Airport.

Expected attendance is approximately 180. Services will be held in German, with simultaneous translations into English provided.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should write to Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 90 06 21, D-51116 Köln, Germany. Or fax your request to +49 2224 97 29 58 (within Europe 0049) or write to Winfried Fritz, 100526.3400@compuserve.com (e-mail).

*Winfried Fritz*

## Guatemala

### Antigua

This year the Feast of Tabernacles will be held in the City of Antigua, Guatemala. The Central American brethren kept the Feast in this city several years ago during the last years of Herbert W Armstrong's life. It is wonderful that God is giving us the opportunity to go back once again, now that the church is united again under the

same doctrines that we used to practice then.

All of the Central American brethren will be keeping the Feast together at this location. We expect an attendance of about 550 from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica. In 1986, the last year we kept the feast in Antigua, the attendance was 459. God has blessed His church greatly in this part of the world.

Antigua was founded by the Spaniards in the year 1521 and became the first capital city for the country of Guatemala. The city also became a focal point for all of Central America. The first University in Central America was founded there. For the first 250 years the city grew in size and importance until it was almost completely destroyed in 1773 by an earthquake. Due to that sad event, the Spaniards decided to move the capital city to the place where it is now, Guatemala City.

Even to this day it is possible to see the magnitude of the destruction of that earthquake. In fact, those ruins are some of the main attractions of the city. One can see ruins of the magnificent construction of the Spaniards. Ruins of convents and official buildings reflect the great advancement the city had.

The city was reconstructed again in a colonial style. Buildings and streets, by law, have to be built with a colonial style in order to reflect the history of the city. At this moment, Antigua is the most visited city in Guatemala. It is a very pretty city in many ways.

Many consider this city the perfect resting place in all of Central America. The temperature ranges within the 60s and 70s Fahrenheit (18 to 24 Celsius). The accommodations are very nice. The city really invites everyone to relax. There are also many places to visit, and opportunities to learn about the history and culture of the city. The city is also nicely situated for the brethren in El Salvador and Guatemala, where the majority of them live. This will save us money in transportation costs and we'll be able to help the brethren in other necessities.

Many people would think that the city is expensive due to the fact that it

caters to tourists. However, we were pleasantly surprised to find an auditorium for 800 people right alongside the Central Park, and also found many small and nice hotels with a maximum cost of 12 dollars per adult. (Children under 12 do not pay.) So it seems that God wants to bring His people once again to this very pretty city.

Please consider making plans to visit your central American brethren during this Feast of God. You do not have to send any money for your reservations. We trust that once you say you will be coming, that in fact you will. We will make all reservations accordingly. All of us will be very happy to have as many visitors as possible in order to feel that we are in fact a united Church of God.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact: Saul Langerica, Apdo 1064, 01001 Guatemala City, Guatemala; telephone +502 (2) 56-06-92; or write to langaric@infovia.com.gt (e-mail).

*Saul Langerica  
Herbert Cisneros*

## Italy

### Sabaudia (Latina)

Each year we go from good to better! Our national council in Italy has chosen the beautiful town of Sabaudia as a new Feast site for the 1998 Feast of Tabernacles. Lying 100 kilometers (63 miles) south of Rome and 150 kilometers (94 miles) north of Naples, Sabaudia is situated along the shores of Lake Paola, within the Circeo National Park and linked over the water by a bridge.

This site is only a few minutes from the spot at the ancient Appian Way where first-century brethren from Rome came to welcome the apostle Paul, as shown in Acts 28:14-15. After nineteen centuries we can make a similar event come true again with all our brethren, who are looking forward to welcoming you personally.

The surrounding environment of Sabaudia is astonishing in the richness of its panoramas, which are typical of this very area. It will be very suitable

# 1998 Festival Fund

To meet Festival expenses throughout the world, **U.S.** members are asked to send in a 10 percent donation from their expected second tithe total (a tithe of the tithe). **Canadian** members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the spaces below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *New Beginnings* or *Good News* label.
- Make your check payable to *United Church of God* and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you recently from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN:

U \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

# 1998 Festival Registration

**United States and Canadian head-of-household members should clip out and take this form to services on April 4, 11 or 18, 1998.** It should be filled out and given to the Festival advisor in the local congregation.

Brethren wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site *from another country* may have their minister contact the home office via cc:Mail at "USFestival." The information provided should include the requester's name, address, telephone number, family size and the Feast site he or she wishes to attend.

*Any* member wishing to transfer to a site *outside the United States or Canada* should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly. Some additional information may be in the *Festival Housing Brochure* to be mailed in April.

Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Home Telephone  
( )

Work Telephone  
( )

**How many in your  
household will attend?**

Number of Adults

Number of Children (high  
school age and under)

**Where are you  
planning to attend?**

Assigned Site  
[ ]

Transfer (and I have  
sufficient funds to transfer)  
[ ]

Choice of Site  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites. Pastors will receive notification by May 8 if any sites cannot accept all transfer requests.)

Number of Single Adults

Number of Seniors (60 and over; include  
spouse even if under 60)

**Special Needs:**

Disabled  
[ ]

Wheelchair  
[ ]

Deaf  
[ ]

Hard of Hearing  
[ ]

Need Translation (specify)  
[ ] \_\_\_\_\_



*Complete the other side, clip out  
and mail to the home office  
with your donation enclosed.*

*Complete the other side, clip out and  
give to your local Festival  
advisor on April 4, 11 or 18, 1998.*

for singles, youths and family activities. Night and day temperature may vary from 16 to 35 degrees Celsius (61 to 95 Fahrenheit).

Those who will be coming from overseas can easily reach the Feast site on their own, with connection at the railway station, because the site is very near the Rome domestic and international airports.

However, those brethren who will arrive with large families or heavy luggage, and wish to make use of pre-arranged bus transportation directly from the airport to the Feast site and vice-versa, may request it on the application form. The cost is very reasonable.

Also, this Feast site is especially suitable for very economical and culturally enriching tours to various historical places like Pompeii, Montecassino, Anzio (with the Allies cemetery), and of course the famous Roman historical places like the Coliseum, Imperial Forum, Paul's prison and tomb, Christian catacombs, the Vatican museums, and several other places and monuments that are a witness of pagan persecutions of true Christianity. It is history coming alive before your eyes. All tours will be most comfortable, since it only takes about 45 to 90 minutes to get to each area.

The Sabaudia-Roman cuisine is probably one of the richest and most delicious of any in the world.

Feast participants will be able to stay at the economical, yet beautiful, upper-class three-star hotel, where our eight-day services will be held.

The hotel facility stands in the middle of the National Park of Circeo and it takes full advantage of the blooming vegetation with its well-tended gardens. The hotel faces out on one of the most limpid and uncontaminated stretches of water in the Tyrrhenian Sea, with its own private beach. All rooms are equipped with telephone, television set, hair-dryer, air conditioner and shower or bath. The meeting hall can hold up to 250 people.

The hotel management has offered us the very special price of US\$49 (approximately 85.000 lire) per night,

per adult person, full board, including mineral water, local wine and taxes. There is a 10 percent discount for the third and fourth person on a reservation. There is a 30 percent discount for children under 12 and a 50 percent discount for children under 6. No cost for children under 2.

Except for optional tennis courts and horse-riding lessons, which are to be paid if requested, the hotel offers the use of its ping-pong tables, bicycles, aerobic dance room, the private beach, a gymnasium with its sauna facilities, and a dance area, all free of charge.

This location also affords visitors the opportunity to easily reach and visit other beautiful and famous places like Naples, Amalfi, Capri, Ischia and the Pontine Islands—before and after the Feast.

If you are a talented singer, soloist, choir director, pianist or instrumentalist, who is able to enrich our Christian fellowship during formal services or casual activities, please let us know.

Services will be held in English and Italian, with simultaneous translation.

If you are interested in attending the Feast in Italy this year, and would like to request detailed information and/or an application form, please contact Carmelo Anastasi, or his Feast assistants, Daisy and Giacomo Pizzuti, at the following postal address: La Buona Notizia, Via Don Minzoni 15, CAP 24061, Albano S.Alessandro (BG), Italy; or contact the Italian office by telephone +39 (25) 583474 or +39 (35) 582107; or by fax +39 (35) 582140; or write to [anastasi@spm.it](mailto:anastasi@spm.it) (e-mail).

*Carmelo Anastasi*

## Kenya

### Naro Moru

Kenya has returned to normal now that the elections are over and most people have calmed down. Tourists have started returning to visit the famous national parks and sunny beaches.

The Feast site is located in a millennial setting at the Naro Moru River Lodge, nestled in a natural forest area, about 25 miles west of 17,000-foot Mt. Kenya. It is about three and a half hours by road north of Nairobi. Although almost on the equator, the site has pleasant weather because of its high altitude, with average temperatures in the upper 70s Fahrenheit (mid-20s Celsius), with cool evenings.

The meeting hall for services is at the lodge. The lodge also offers a swimming pool, sauna, squash court, tennis courts, horseback riding, trout fishing, mountain climbing, mountain bikes, game drives at Ol Pajeta Game Ranch, nature walks, bird watching and the usual indoor games.

Please make your accommodation bookings through Mr. Kenneth Rebeiro, P.O. Box 11794, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone/fax, +254-2-76 7161 (Kenya local time is GMT + 3 hours) or write to [JohnBart@pixie.co.za](mailto:JohnBart@pixie.co.za) (e-mail).

The daily room rates for Naro Moru River Lodge are quoted in US dollars. Half board includes dinner, bed and breakfast; full board also includes lunch.

Twin room standard: half board \$45; full board \$59. Twin room superior; half board \$54; full board \$72. Single room standard: half board \$25; full board \$32. Single room superior: half board \$33; full board \$40. Child, 2–5 years, sharing with adult: half board \$10; full board \$14. Child, 6–11 years, sharing with adult: half board \$12; full board \$16. Child in separate room, 2–11 years: half board \$20; full board \$30.

Air Kenya, a charter company, has daily commuter flights from Nairobi to Nanyuki and back. The Naro Moru River Lodge has a shuttle service to and from the nearby Nanyuki airport that they charge passengers for. They also operate a coach service (approximately a four-hour trip) between Nairobi and the Lodge.

There are several international and local car rental companies. If you choose to rent a vehicle, drive carefully as most roads have been surfaced but not properly maintained and generally have plenty of potholes. Taxi fare

from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Nairobi is about US\$20. Airport tax for international departures is US\$20 per person—take the necessary bills with you.

*John Bartholomew*

## Mexico

### Acapulco

Acapulco, Mexico, known for its beautiful weather, breathtaking views, warm beaches and great Mexican cuisine, will once again be a Festival site.

Your Mexican brethren (120 strong) are proud to welcome you to their homeland. The site will accommodate up to 400 international brethren from around the globe.

The host hotel will be the Fiesta Americana Acapulco Plaza Resort. The Official Hotel Guide classifies the hotel as a “superior first class” proper-

ty, while it received “4 stars” from The Star Service Rating Guide. The impressive beachfront hotel was renovated in 1996 and is ideally situated in the heart of hotel row. The Plaza Resort is an upgrade from the 1997 property yet the rates are almost the same.

We are currently working with several airlines to create a package that will include airfare and airport/hotel transfers with the low room rates. Of course, hotel-only pricing will be available.

Come to Mexico, spend time with your brethren, walk the warm sandy beaches and reflect on God’s plan of happiness for the whole world. One last thought, no hurricanes this year!

An information package complete with prices is available by contacting: Travel Gallery, 30 South Wilson Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106; in the U.S. call toll-free 1-800-858-6999; or write to [info@travelgallery.com](mailto:info@travelgallery.com) (e-mail).

*Larry Roybal*

## The Netherlands

### Wezuperbrug, Drenthe

On account of the very positive comments received from our Dutch brethren and overseas guests, our site for the 1998 Feast will again be Wezuperbrug in the province of Drenthe.

Wezuperbrug is located in the peaceful and picturesque province of Drenthe, in the north-eastern part of the Netherlands. The Feast site has an interesting variety of sport and recreational facilities and is surrounded by wooded areas, interesting villages and towns, with a number of historic sites. The city of Emmen, located 12 miles from the site, has interesting shopping facilities and one of the best zoos in Western Europe. Excellent walking and biking facilities are available throughout the area.

Bungalow accommodation is available at the Feast site itself, within

# *If You Want to Transfer to a Site Other Than Your Assigned Festival Site...*

### Transferring *Within* the United States or Canada

- U.S. and Canadian head-of-household members should fill out the **1998 Festival Registration Form** found on page 17 of this issue of *New Beginnings*.
- Indicate your preferred transfer site on the Registration Form.
- This form is to be given to the Festival advisor in your local congregation on **April 4, 11 or 18, 1998**.
- Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites. Pastors will receive notification by May 8 if any sites cannot accept all transfer requests.

### Transferring to a Site *Outside* the United States and Canada

- *Any* member wishing to transfer to a site *outside the U.S. or Canada* should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly. Some contact information is provided in this supplement, with site descriptions, and some additional housing information may be provided in the *Festival Housing Brochure* that will be mailed late April.
- Please do not make non-refundable travel arrangements until you receive an acceptance letter for that site.
- Further information and housing lists will be made available to those accepted for transfer.

### Transferring *Into* the United States or Canada From Other Areas

- Brethren wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site *from another country* may have their minister contact the home office via cc:Mail at “USFestival.” The information provided should include the requester’s name, address, telephone number, family size and the Feast site he or she wishes to attend.
- The home office will help coordinate the transfer of members into the U.S. or Canada, and will forward pertinent information to the respective Festival site coordinators. ♦



walking distance of the meeting hall, restaurant and recreational facilities.

A supermarket is located in the village, 1½ miles from the site. Hotel or motel accommodation is available in the surrounding towns, within driving distance from the site. Room-rates range from US\$70 to US\$125 per night per person, including breakfast.

Car rental is essential in order to reach the Feast site from Amsterdam (Schiphol) airport, a distance of about 225 kilometers (160 miles), and also to profit from sightseeing.

Services will be held in Dutch, with simultaneous translation into English.

The weather at that time of the year is cool, with average temperatures ranging from 10 to 15 degrees Celsius (50 to 59 Fahrenheit).

Visitors interested in attending the Dutch Feast site, or who need more information, should write to: Verenigde Kerk van God, P.O. Box 55940, 2505 BA, The Hague, The Netherlands; or telephone Bram de Bree at +31 346-572280 or Hans Elders at +31 70-3235217; or contact them at basjbe@bart.nl (e-mail).

*Bram de Bree*

## New Zealand

### Taupo

Taupo has been selected as the 1998 site for the New Zealand Feast of Tabernacles. This beautiful town is on the North Island. Located four hours drive south of Auckland International Airport, Taupo may be reached by rental car or bus, traveling through the green countryside of the lush Waikato farmland. There are also regular domestic air flights from the main cities.

The town of Taupo, population approximately 15,000, is nestled on the northern end of the beautiful Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest lake. Lake Taupo is famous for its rainbow trout, and has a wide range of chartered fishing boats to hire. There are many places of interest in the area, including the Wairakei Geothermal Project, Aratiatia Rapids, Huka Falls,

and Craters of the Moon boiling mud pools. There are a number of thermal hot pools and some accommodation units have private pools attached.

Within an hour's drive of Taupo there is the city of Rotorua, with its many Maori and thermal attractions. Close by are areas for fly fishing, hunting and bush walking. Taupo offers visitors a wide range of attractions making this a truly marvelous Feast site.

Mount Ruapehu is a two-hour drive to the south of Lake Taupo. The mountain, an active volcano, is known for its excellent skiing. The ski fields are normally operating during the Feast.

There is an excellent range of accommodation, from four-star hotels, to motels, to lodges, to homes to camping grounds. Prices for good quality hotels and motels cost from \$NZ60 per night. Other less expensive accommodations may also be found for those on a limited budget.

The weather is normally temperate, with cooler nights and warm sunny days. Visitors should bring warm clothing, as it can be cooler in the evenings.

The New Zealand United Church of God welcomes all visitors to the Feast at Taupo. As a smaller church, the members look forward to having overseas visitors who can contribute towards making the occasion a time of rejoicing and learning about God's way of life.

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site please contact the Feast coordinator, Peter Boyes, 1-75 Iles Rd, Lynmore, Rotorua, New Zealand; or call +64 7 345-3162; or write to Ian Webb at ianwebb@clear.net.nz (e-mail).

*Peter Boyes and Ian Webb*

## Philippines

### Davao City, Mindanao

In the Philippines, due to economic and distance factors affecting travel, it has been decided to have three Festival sites this year, catering to each of the major island groups in the

Philippine archipelago. Once again, Davao City will be a site because it is centrally and strategically located in this part of the country.

Located one-and-a-half-hours away by jet, south south-east from Manila, Davao City is the capital of Region XI or Southern Mindanao. The city boundary itself covers both populated and forested areas, its size making it the largest in the world in terms of land area.

It enjoys fine weather throughout the year, uniform rainfall, average 2,000 millimeters (79 inches) yearly, and temperatures which average 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit). The city is home to a million people, most of whom can understand and speak English to varying degrees of proficiency.

It is also blessed with fertile, volcanic soil, producing bountiful tropical fruits and vegetables. This city boasts of the "king of fruits, and the fruit for kings"—the exotic "durian." Other rare fruits are the "marang" and "rambutan" among many others. Beautiful tropical flowers such as orchids, vanda, and waling-waling abound. Davao City is also home to the endangered Philippine monkey-eating eagle, where efforts and programs have been established to successfully breed them in captivity.

Some of the most beautiful white sand beaches border its coastal blue waters. Most of the hotels and resorts are of international standards, together with international dishes, all at reasonable prices.

Transportation in and out of the city is on a 24-hour basis. Davao City is connected to the rest of the country by land, sea and air transport. Visitors will find the convenient city public transportation system inexpensive, using the popular Philippine Jeepney, or they can avail themselves of air-conditioned buses for longer journeys. Davao City is the first in the country to deploy the phone-in taxi service equipped with transceivers among its 2,500 taxi vehicles.

Unless we find a better venue between now and Feast time, we will again use one of Kristin Restaurants' meeting halls along Bonifacio Street in

downtown Davao City. It is within walking distance of the best hotels and lodging places and restaurants, and one of the biggest shopping malls.

International standard hotels have room phone, hot and cold shower, cable television, air conditioning, and fridge, and range from about \$35 per night and up. Other types of housing cost less. For more details, bookings or reservations, you may contact: Edmond D. Macaraeg, P. O. Box 81315, 8000, Davao City, Philippines; telephone, +63 82 241-0733; or write, macaraeg@mozcom.com (e-mail).

*Edmond D. Macaraeg*

## Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

This year's Feast of Tabernacles for the Visayas area in the Philippines will be held in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. The city, with a population of 420,000, is the capital of Negros Occidental province, known as the sugar bowl of the Philippines. The city has a domestic airport which serves three different local airlines. It also has a domestic shipping port that caters to large ships and fast ferries.

Expected temperatures will range from 28 to 34 degrees Celsius throughout the day (82 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit), although the thermometer could dip a couple of degrees Celsius during nighttime rain showers.

The meeting hall is located on the third floor of the new Kundutel Hotel in the Goldenfields Commercial Complex located next to the airport. It is only three kilometers (two miles) from the downtown area.

The hotel contains three categories of rooms: deluxe rooms, fully air-conditioned, with color television (cable available) and refrigerator, telephone, and hot and cold water; family rooms, fully air-conditioned one queen bed and two single beds, with color television and refrigerator, telephone and hot and cold water; and executive suites, two queen beds, dining table and sofa, fully air-conditioned, color television, refrigerator, and hot and cold water.

Goldenfield Kundutel has a good food and beverage outlet catered by one of the best steakhouses in the city.

It also has audio and video facilities for small crowds.

The room rates, which do not include the 10 percent tax, are as follows (at Php40=US\$1): standard, Php850=US\$21.25; deluxe Php950=23.75; deluxe (with three single beds) Php1,100=US\$27.50; family room (good for four people) Php1,200=US\$30; executive suite Php1,200=US\$30.

For additional inquiries and special needs please write to: Mr. Bernardo Castillon Sr., #6 Block 9, PHHC, Bacolod City, 6100 Philippines; telephone +63 34 25691; or write to ucg-bac@bsure.com.ph (e-mail).

*Bernardo R. Castillon*

## South Africa

### Uvongo

This year the Feast of Tabernacles in southern Africa will again be observed in the small town of Uvongo, which is situated on the eastern coastline of South Africa. Uvongo is roughly a one-hour drive from Durban International Airport, so it is recommended that overseas visitors rent a car. Car rental companies such as Avis have offices at the Durban airport and will arrange to have the vehicle of your choice available upon arrival.

The climate is subtropical and the temperatures should reach the lower 70s Fahrenheit (lower 20s Celsius). Feastgoers should take note that the Feast falls during the rainy season.

Accommodation is mostly self-catering, with a wide variety of two- or three-bedroom holiday apartments available. Hotels are scarce, but there are two in close proximity to the meeting place. Since this area is a premier tourist attraction, there are numerous restaurants as well as shopping centers that cater to most requirements. Accommodation costs will range from US\$30 to \$50 per day for self-catering units. Hotel rates fall into the same price range per person per day, inclusive of dinner, bed and breakfast.

Uvongo is situated close to a golf course and other sporting activities such as tennis, horse riding, swimming and

surfing (the area enjoys a warm sea current).

There are also a number of scenic drives, such as the well-known Oribi Gorge. Another place of interest, especially for overseas visitors, is the Zulu village near Durban.

Attendance is expected to be about 250.

Visitors interested in attending or who need more information, should write to: John Bartholomew, P.O. Box 1331, 2032 Fontainebleau, South Africa; or write to pak03062@pixie.co.za (e-mail).

*John Bartholomew*

## Tonga

### Nuku'alofa

The Feast this year will again be held in Nuku'alofa, the capital city and center of the government of Tonga.

The meeting hall for services and activities will be at the Pacific Royale Hotel, right in the heart of the city about three blocks from the waterfront and the beach.

There are a number of cafeterias nearby, and it is only a few minutes by walk to the shopping center and banks.

Activities will include scenic tours with wonderful views, as well as visits to historic sites. Coral-reef tours and snorkeling will be available, and the traditional dancing at the Tonga Cultural Center would also be interesting for visitors.

During the Festival period, the temperature may fluctuate between 26 degrees Celsius (79 Fahrenheit) by day, and 20 degrees Celsius (68 Fahrenheit) by night.

Rental cars are available, as are taxis and buses.

The best hotel I can recommend for our people is the Pacific Royale Hotel where we will be meeting for services. Room rates at the Pacific Royale range from US\$65 (single, economy) to \$175 (fully furnished penthouse). Other hotels are also available.

The general manager offered a 25 percent discount for cost of rooms only for people booking through me. Bookings for the above should come directly to me at my address: Tolu

Ha'angana, P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (South Pacific); +676 32-122 (phone); or write to

*Tolu Ha'angana*

## United Kingdom

### Llandudno, North Wales

This year we have organized just one Feast site for the U.K., situated centrally along the north coast of Wales. Llandudno is the premier conference town of Wales and a popular holiday resort. It nestles at the end of a peninsula between two limestone headlands—the Great Orme and Little Orme—and is cradled by surrounding hills and fine beaches. It is situated in an area of outstanding coastal and mountain beauty and stands at the gateway to the renowned Snowdonia National Park, just 20-minutes drive away.

Llandudno's history is closely linked to the copper mines which once thrived on the Orme (which comes from the old Norse meaning "sea monster"). When mining activity collapsed in the 1840s,

Llandudno began to carve out a new career as a Victorian resort, complete with pier. It capitalized on improved road and rail communications from the prosperous industrial centers of Manchester and Liverpool, and also on the new Victorian craze for sea bathing. The master plan for the town's conversion was controlled by the Mostyn family who enforced strict control of development. The town's unique charm and air of quality comes from the way it has preserved its original character.

We will be using the recently modernized North Wales Conference Centre, situated centrally on the famous crescent-shaped waterfront, and within easy access of most of the town's accommodation. The meeting hall we are using can handle up to 1,000 delegates. The area affords the broadest range of varied tourist facilities: as a shopping center, Llandudno has no rival in North Wales. Nineteenth-century cast-iron canopies still shelter the shop fronts, creating an unusual atmosphere of a grander age; there is a dry ski slope and 700-foot toboggan run, ten-pin bowling, sports center and swimming pool, hill walking,

scenic drives by bus or car, slate mines, mountain railways, medieval castles, art galleries and museum, and state of the art theatre.

On the Great Orme (679 ft), which stands guard over the town's western approaches like a miniature Rock of Gibraltar, an industrial museum demonstrates 4,000 year old copper mines—the oldest in Europe. The summit can be approached on foot, by San Francisco-style passenger trams, or by alpine-style cable car. Spectacular views from the summit take in the mountains and surrounding coasts to the nearby isle of Anglesey.

Daytime temperatures will normally average in the high 50s or low 60s Fahrenheit (16 Celsius), dropping to the low 50s (10 Celsius) in the evenings. The town is well-linked by train to all parts of the U.K and Ireland, as it is on the main line to the Holyhead ferry services. Intercity services take four hours from London, three hours from Birmingham and two hours from Manchester. Road connections are also excellent for those coming by car or coach, with the A55 Expressway linking to the national

## Montrose Travel Festival Travel Discounts

All of us here at Montrose Travel look forward to assisting you with your Festival travel plans as well as any other travel needs that you may experience throughout the year.

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- no service fees
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The Church also benefits. Montrose Travel will donate 10 percent of all air travel commissions generated by Church members *back to the Church*.

In addition, a number of airlines have agreed to provide free tickets to the Church based on the accumulative number of tickets members buy through Montrose Travel.

Discounts of up to 15 percent are also available on rental cars when arrangements are made through Montrose Travel.

If you feel you could benefit from our services, please contact us and ask for the United Church of God travel desk.

You may contact us at: (800) 766-4687; (213) 245-0732; (818) 553-3210; or write to Feast98@montrosetrvtl.attmail.com (e-mail).

Montrose Travel is located at 2355 Honolulu Avenue, Montrose, CA 91020-1821.





motorway network, and Liverpool/Manchester being within an hour's drive.

International air access is from London, Birmingham or nearby Liverpool and Manchester airports. Car rental is readily available from all the main operators at airports. There are plenty of local taxis. We hope to organize several coach (bus) tours for those wishing to experience the surrounding countryside.

There is an Accommodation Booking service available to facilitate your stay. Visitors are welcome to directly contact this unit for brochures detailing the wide range of accommodation available in the area. A special UCG conference booking form has also been prepared. There are hotels and guesthouses, and some self-catering accommodations. Prices for hotels/guesthouses range from \$25 to \$75 per person per night. Please feel free to contact: Accommodation Bookings (Conf. Dept.), Business Tourism Unit, Conwy Borough Council, 1/2 Chapel Street, Llandudno, LL30 2SY, United Kingdom; telephone 01492 574005 (from outside the UK +44 1-492-574-005); fax, 01492 872585 (from outside the UK +44 1-492-872-585).

Visitors wishing to transfer to this site should contact John Meakin at 8 Pennys Meade, Ilton, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9HH, United Kingdom. He can be reached by telephone at 01460 54240 (or from outside the UK +44 1-460-54240); or at John\_Meakin@compuserve.com (e-mail).

*John Meakin*

## United States

### Branson, Missouri

Situated in the middle of the beautiful Ozark mountains near the Missouri-Arkansas line, Branson, Missouri, draws visitors from around the world. Famous for its beautiful scenery, crystal-clear lakes and music theaters, it offers something for almost everyone.

Branson is situated in the hardwood forests of the Ozark mountains, and sits on two lakes, Table Rock and Taneycomo, with Bull Shoals Lake only a short drive away.

Fall foliage and scenery in the Ozarks can be simply spectacular. Many hiking trails and secluded coves on the lakes add to the enjoyment.

Branson is home to about 50 music shows, ranging from country artists such as Mel Tillis, Roy Clark, Charley Pride, Anita Bryant, Mickey Gilley and Moe Bandy, to long-time favorites including the Lawrence Welk Orchestra, Bobby Vinton, the Glen Miller Orchestra, Andy Williams, Wayne Newton and Tony Orlando. It also hosts such entertainers as Yakov Smirnoff, Jim Stafford and many others.

For families, Branson has a wealth of attractions including the very popular Silver Dollar City amusement park, patterned after an 1890s city, complete

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with over 100 craftsmen and a fall national crafts festival. Branson also has an IMAX theater, many go-cart tracks and miniature-golf courses, museums, paddle-boat rides on the lakes and other activities too numerous to mention. Boats, ranging from canoes, fishing boats and ski boats, all the way up to pontoon boats and even houseboats, are available to rent on the lakes.

Table Rock Lake is noted for its bass fishing, while Taneycomo is noted for its trout. For golfing enthusiasts there are several PGA-rated courses in the area. For the shopper, Branson has many unique shops, antique stores and even three factory-outlet malls with more than 200 outlets.

A variety of housing is available in

Branson, including resorts on the lake, new high-rise hotels, condominiums, houseboats, and small, quaint motels. For those who have heard horror stories about Branson's traffic, you can relax. New roads have been built in the past couple of years, which have greatly reduced traffic problems. In addition, the facility for the Feast is located well outside the high-traffic area.

Whether you are looking for a site with a lot of activities for the family, or wish to get away to the peace and quiet of the lakes and hills, there is something for all who attend this site.

Expected attendance is 2,200.

*Michael Blackwell*

### Corpus Christi, Texas

Corpus Christi, "the sparkling city by the sea," is located on the Gulf of Mexico in southeast Texas. It is situated near the Padre Island National Seashore, the longest white, sandy beach in the world.

Local attractions include tours of the Texas State Aquarium, authentic replicas of Columbus's fleet, and the aircraft carrier USS *Lexington*.

Temperatures range from 60 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 32 Celsius), with high humidity.

The Houston Intercontinental Airport is 215 miles away, and offers connecting flights to Corpus Christi. A rental car is advised for this site.

Room rates range from \$33 to more than \$80 per night, plus 13 percent tax. Condominiums are also available. Expected attendance is 1,100.

*Britton Taylor*

### Escondido, California

The California Center for the Performing Arts, in Escondido, is probably the nicest facility used by the United Church of God for its Festival sites. The beautiful fixed-seat auditorium in the heart of the Civic Center of the suburban community of Escondido is about a 20-minute drive north of San Diego and about 20 minutes inland from the Pacific Ocean.

The Civic Center campus includes an adjacent park, an art museum and plenty of free parking. It is easily

accessed from Interstate 15 and Highway 78. The traffic in San Diego North County is generally much less congested than in San Diego proper.

Plenty of good, affordable housing is available within a few minutes drive of the meeting hall. Housing prices range from \$35 to \$95 per night.

Nearby attractions include the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the San Diego Zoo, Seaworld, Temecula Wine Country, San Marcos Restaurant Row, the mountain community of Julian, Palomar Observatory, historic Old Town, Coronado Island, the beautiful beaches of San Diego County, and Tijuana, Mexico.

The San Diego Airport, Lindbergh Field, is only 35 minutes from Escondido. Average temperatures range from highs in the 80s (27 Celsius) to evening lows in the 60s (16 Celsius). Expected attend is about 2,000 in San Diego this year.

*Steve Buchanan*

### **Jekyll Island, Georgia**

This Festival site is off the coast of southern Georgia. Beautiful beaches, walking, hiking, fishing, golfing, tennis, and wildlife viewing are available. A tour of Millionaires' Village is one of the highlight attractions.

Temperatures range from 60 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 24 degrees Celsius), with the possibility of rain.

Major airports for arrival and departure are Savannah, Georgia; Brunswick, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Florida. A rental car is advised for this site.

Room rates vary per night, with motels costing from \$35 to \$70 and condominiums from \$57 to \$167; local taxes are 11 percent. Rental homes and cottages are also available.

Expected attendance is 1,200.

*Bob Jones*

### **Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii**

United Church of God members will have the opportunity once again to meet in the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall at Lihue, Kauai, for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Kauai is called the Garden Isle with

good reason! It is the Hawaiian islands' most lush island, with verdant valleys, countless waterfalls, streams and rivers, and tropical gardens overflowing with exotic plants and flowers—a bounty of stunning color and beauty.

Kauai has more than 60 lovely beaches, from the famous Barking Sands Beach on the west, to Poipu Beach on the south, to the beaches of the Na Pali Coast on the north. Kauai also boasts the wettest place on earth—Mount Wai'ale'ale—with 480 inches of rain per year. (That's only in the center of the island; the rest of the island enjoys normal tropical weather.)

On the west side of the island is the famous Waimea Canyon, labeled by Mark Twain as the Grand Canyon of the Pacific—a spectacular sight indeed.

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The convention hall in Lihue is an air-conditioned theater-style auditorium. Housing will be available from Princeville near Hanalei, to Kapa'a, to Lihue, to Poipu. Prices for hotel rooms and condominiums range from \$65 to \$160 per night.

The island of Kauai is located approximately 100 miles from Honolulu. Hourly flights from Honolulu are available.

Daily temperatures should be in the 80s Fahrenheit (26 to 31 Celsius).

Expected attendance at Kauai is about 500.

*Earl Roemer*

### **Louisville, Kentucky**

Louisville is a warm and friendly

destination sitting on the Ohio River. With its 2,500 restaurants and 80 attractions, there are plenty of choices available for everyone. Of course, Louisville hosts the world-famous Kentucky Derby, but it is also home to other exciting attractions such as the Kentucky Derby museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Bat Factory, and one of the world's best amusement parks, Kentucky Kingdom.

Louisville is also rich in the arts, with the nationally acclaimed Actors Theatre and Kentucky Center for the Arts offering some of the country's finest performances. Shoppers enjoy everything from antiques to unique Kentucky crafts. And visitors find the world at their table through Louisville's impressive selection of fine restaurants.

Housing costs will range from the mid \$30s to \$70 per night to accommodate all budgets.

Temperatures should range from 55 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit (12 to 21 degrees Celsius).

The Louisville International Airport is about 5 minutes from the Holiday Inn Airport South, where services will be held.

Expected attendance is 1,100.

Come and enjoy the southern hospitality of Louisville, Looahvul or Looeyville—your kind of place any way you say it.

*Mark Winner*

### **Orlando, Florida**

Orlando is the number-one family vacation destination in the world. Disneyworld, EPCOT Center, Sea World, MGM Studios, Universal Studios, Splendid China and a host of other attractions will provide enjoyable activities for all family members.

A huge selection of housing is available in all price ranges, including motel rooms, suites, villas, condominiums and private homes (\$25 and up per night).

Weather at that time of year is usually sunny, with daytime temperatures in the 80s Fahrenheit (26 to 31 degrees Celsius) and evening temperatures in the 60s Fahrenheit (15 to 20 Celsius).

Afternoon thunderstorms are frequent in the fall.

Hundreds of restaurants are within easy driving distance of the meeting facility, as are all housing accommodations. Orlando should once again prove to be a very popular Feast site for members, especially those with children.

The Orlando International Airport is approximately 20 miles from the site; a rental car is advised.

Expected attendance is 1,600.

*Roy Demarest*

### Poconos, Pennsylvania

For the second year in a row, the Feast in the Poconos will be held at the beautiful Fernwood Resort and Country Club in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. This site is only a little over one hour driving time from New York City and we are planning again for a bus trip to the city for a Broadway show and dinner.

The temperature is generally a little cool but very pleasant at that time of year, between 40 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit (4 to 21 Celsius). It will probably be warmer than last year as the Feast is earlier. The fall colors should be spectacular as always.

Irrespective of which housing you choose, all those attending the Feast here will have full and free access to almost all of Fernwood's many facilities (excluding Tree Top Villa facilities), including indoor and outdoor pools, recreation areas and golf courses.

A wide variety of accommodations will be available. Whether you like to rent a house, villa, spacious suite, or you just need a single room, we should be able to take care of most needs.

There are many natural sites in the immediate area such as beautiful Bushkill Falls and the Delaware Water Gap. The area also offers many tourist sites, restaurants and even a nearby outlet mall.

This year's projected attendance in Fernwood is 1,000. We hope to see you there!

*Marc Masterson*

### Redding, California

Towering mountain peaks, dense

forests, limestone caves, breathtaking waterfalls and winding rivers are at least partially responsible for the five million or more visitors who flock to Redding each year.

Redding enjoys four distinct and colorful seasons. The temperatures in October should be somewhere in the 80s Fahrenheit (26 to 31 Celsius) by day and mid-60s Fahrenheit (17 to 19 Celsius) at night. Room prices range from \$30 to \$90, plus a local tax of 10 percent. Expected attendance is 1,200.

Services will be held at the Redding Convention Center, which is located on the banks of the Sacramento River in a parklike setting, with plenty of free parking. There are enough attractions on the grounds to enjoy a pleasant lunchtime break or spend the entire afternoon. Or, you may drive a

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short distance to any of the 200-plus restaurants and enjoy a variety of fine food and service. A restaurant guide is being prepared for your pleasure.

This will be the 11th year that the Feast has been held in Redding. One of the most consistent comments heard is about the warmth and friendliness of the local citizens. The people of Redding have learned to appreciate the Church and its well-mannered, thoughtful families.

The Sacramento Metropolitan airport is 140 miles from Redding with connecting flights. The San Francisco International Airport, is 220 miles from the Feast site. A rental car is advised.

One of the "must sees" is Burney Falls State Park. Teddy Roosevelt

declared this the "eighth wonder of the world." It has a 129-foot waterfall over moss-covered lava rock. Shasta Dam is the second largest and highest concrete structure in the world. A visit to Lake Shasta Caverns includes a walking tour of underground wonders, as well as a boat ride. Mt. Lassen Volcanic National Park provides for an interesting afternoon. The volcano last erupted in 1917, and today you can see the fascinating results of volcanic activity.

Also in the area: museums, parks, art center, hiking trails, biking, four-wheeling, fishing, rafting, mountain climbing, gold panning, antiques, beautiful vistas, golf, tennis, bowling, skating, sailing, and water sports of all kinds. Consider trying out the houseboats! In addition there are lakes, streams, rivers—all here waiting for you to enjoy.

If you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and breathe clean, smog-free air, then Redding is the place for you! You will also find one of the nicest and most convenient convention centers—one that lends itself to lingering conversation and fellowship.

*Jim Chapman*

### Snowmass Village, Colorado

The Colorado Rockies have some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States. If you would like to experience a beautiful mountain setting for the Feast of Tabernacles, Snowmass Village, Colorado, is a wonderful choice. The Snowmass Village Conference center is a high quality location for services and other events.

There are many recreational opportunities you can participate in if you wish. If you enjoy hiking in the mountains, Snowmass Village is the place for you. Several fine restaurants are located right in town, or you may wish to travel the short distance to Aspen, where you will find numerous additional choices.

Rates for rooms and condominiums vary from \$57 per night to \$120 per night. Housing in Snowmass is lower priced than Keystone or Vail for similar properties. Cost for food is higher than average for most U.S. sites but comparable to Keystone and Vail. Those



attending should remember that Snowmass has a high elevation (8,200 feet), so you should consult your doctor if you have any respiratory or heart problems.

The Aspen airport, serviced by several airlines, is only 10 minutes away from Snowmass Village. During the dates of the Feast, the following air carriers will service the Aspen airport: United Airlines, Aspen Mountain with connection agreements with American and Frontier Airlines, and Western Pacific. Complimentary transportation is readily available from the Aspen airport to the Village. Aspen is about four hours by car from the Denver airport.

Snowmass is a great value for those wishing to keep the Feast in a beautiful mountain setting.

*Bill Jahns*

## Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Spectacular autumn colors, unique sandstone formations, go-cart racing, riding the famous amphibious "Ducks"—all this and more is what makes the Wisconsin Dells a great Festival site for the entire family.

Services will be held at the beautiful Crystal Grand Music Theater. This two-year-old facility seats more than 1,400 people and is equipped with heat for those occasional cold spells that hit northern sites.

The Dells offers a large variety of motels, cottages and condominiums. Many have indoor swimming pools and offer amenities such as Jacuzzi suites.

Wisconsin Dells is a unique site in its family atmosphere and accessibility. Most accommodations are within a few minutes' drive of the Crystal Grand Music Theater as well as the dozens of attractions and quaint shops.

The weather at Wisconsin Dells can change suddenly. Come prepared for the possibility of chilly autumn weather.

*Steve Nutzman*

## Zimbabwe

### Mutare

Dr. David Livingstone was the first European to see the "smoke that thun-

ders," about 35 years before Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, was formed. He named it Victoria Falls after the British queen at that time. This awe-inspiring waterfall, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, has made Zimbabwe a major tourist destination, as has the famous Hwange National Park. Another attraction, the Kariba Dam, is a magnificent witness to man's engineering ingenuity.

With independence and self-rule, the country was named Zimbabwe, "stone house," after the intriguing, massive, stone-built structures at Great Zimbabwe, dating back to the ninth century.

The Feast site is located at the picturesque La Rochelle Hotel, nestled in the scenic mountains of the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. A breathtaking country estate of a bygone age, resplen-

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*Members may begin  
making reservations for  
housing in the U.S.  
and Canada on  
Sunday, May 17,  
beginning at 10 a.m. in  
the time zone of the site  
they plan to attend.*

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dent in 40 acres of peaceful and tranquil botanical gardens, it has been refurbished and transformed into an ideal Feast venue.

The daytime temperatures should be warm to hot, and the evenings can become quite cool.

This elegant hotel, with four self-catering cottages and a caravan (trailer)/camping site, is located about 20 kilometers (13 miles) north of Mutare, the main commercial and industrial city of the region. The proprietors, Mike and Lyn Wicksteed, will convert the beautiful hotel lounge into a meeting hall for our services.

The site is 280 kilometers (175 miles) southeast from Harare by road, which is surfaced and in good condition. There is no commuter airline service,

but there are several luxury bus services from Harare to Mutare, or a car may be rented from one of several international and local car rental companies.

Please make your accommodation bookings through: Mr. Faxson Katiza, P.O. Box 796, Harare, Zimbabwe; telephone/fax, +263-4-77 6869 (Zimbabwe local time is GMT +2 hours); or write to JohnBart@pixie.co.za (e-mail).

Unfortunately the Zimbabwe dollar has been devalued this year and the accommodation prices are up by that amount on last year. Extra accommodation is available at the nearby resorts. All prices quoted are in Zimbabwe dollars (Z\$) and include sales tax and government levy.

La Rochelle Hotel, P.O. Box 34, Penhalonga, Zimbabwe; telephone/fax, +263-20-22250. Hotel tariff includes dinner, bed and breakfast, per room per night: All rooms have en-suite bathrooms: suites for two, Z\$945; single occupancy, Z\$945; double rooms, Z\$840; single occupancy, Z\$525. Meals: breakfast Z\$55, buffet lunch Z\$58, and dinner Z\$95.

Self-catering cottages: basic charge, Z\$190 per person per night; children under 11 years, Z\$105 per night; children under 3 years, free; single occupancy, Z\$265.00 per night.

Caravan/Camping: site (up to 6 people), Z\$50 per night plus Z\$20 electrical connection.

Airport tax for international departure is US\$20 per person—take the necessary bills with you.

*John Bartholomew*

## Remember...

**April 4, 11 & 18, U.S. and Canadian head-of-household members should clip out their completed 1998 Festival Registration form (page 17 of this issue of *New Beginnings*) and give it to their local Festival advisor at Sabbath services.**

# Letters From Our Readers...

## **Bible Study Course**

"I would like to thank you for the wonderful work you did on the first lesson of the Bible course. I am young in the church and do not fully understand how to study the Bible. This tool helps quite a bit.

"I hope you will continue this course after the first twelve lessons as it is a good tool for people such as myself who do not study well on their own.

"Please keep up the good job you all are doing in God's work."

New Mexico

"I'm going through the *Bible Study Course* and am really enjoying it.

"New people God calls will certainly have a good tool for learning. I've been in God's church over 22 years and really find this Bible study exciting and love the way you start out with the very basics and foundation to build your Bible knowledge upon.

"I devour *The Good News* as soon as it arrives, then slowly go over it again to allow the knowledge there to really sink in. Wow!

"I pray daily for your inspiration and thank *all* of you behind-the-scenes staff."

California

## **Good News appreciated for value and high quality**

"Thanks greatly! Your publication is a blessing to our home study-group (usually 20 adults in our living room weekly).

"May I request *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and *What Is Your Destiny?* booklets.

Missouri

"It is long overdue, but I want to thank you for your devotion to preaching the gospel. I have a friend at work who used to receive another religious magazine (*The Plain Truth*). We frequently have religious discussions and she became interested in *The Good News* from the beginning. She has been receiving it almost since it began. She cancelled her subscription to the other publication about the same time.

"My friend has told me how much she values *The Good News* and has commented on a number of articles. She has also

mentioned the high quality of its composition.

"Please keep up the good work and high quality. We support the Council of Elders and the fine job they are doing in leading United. Theirs is a very difficult task."

Minnesota

## **Good News helps with reconciliation**

"Thank you for your magazine—it came this time as my dad was dying and I took it to his hospital room to read. My family and I were starting on the road to reconciliation and you had the article on that very topic.

"Such a blessing, thank you."

Wyoming

"Each issue of your magazine gets very well to the point of times we are in. If anyone gets to read and absorb the issues you have been bringing up, there is really *no excuse* not to heed to the calling of the times. Indeed, your message via the magazine is aptly reconcilable, encouraging us to surrender to God and his love for us.

"May your institution, your ministry, and especially your brilliant writers be blessed as more people seek the way, the life and the truth."

California

## **Literature appreciated from behind bars**

"I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the literature that has been sent to me from the Church. I really enjoy reading the sermons and *The Good News*. I can't express how grateful I am for the literature as I am an inmate in jail and am waiting to be sent to prison to serve five years.

"God has really turned my life around and blessed me. I pray that God will guide the church through the future and continue to use it to complete His work."

Georgia

## **Off the Internet**

"The *New Beginnings* article "Guns or Butter," is a great start at explaining the prudent path the Council has chosen. Folks need to grasp that we are not (yet!) a \$120-

million-a-year organization that can spend tens of millions on media, and that Mr. Armstrong quite painfully learned that there must be balance in spending on nurturing the congregations for the Church to grow.

"Our media exposure must be built up prudently. It will take consistent, faithful sacrifice by all of us, over a period of years. That's not glamorous, but it's the truth."

"You have a great Web site! I have been using some material published by your organization on Genesis. I am involved in a study of it with my 12-year old and needed answers to some questions and your site has so much *great* information—all backed up with scripture—which I appreciate and respect.

"In trying to find out who published the information, I was checking out your site and ran across your Fundamental Beliefs page. Very thorough and encouraging."

"Just want to thank you for giving me a free subscription to the *Good News* magazine. I subscribed through your Web site. I already received my first copy, the January/February 1998 issue, together with the other booklets I requested. I enjoyed reading them and I look forward to receiving more of your publications.

"I am a former subscriber of the *Plain Truth* magazine and it's only lately that I have learned what happened to the publishers, because when *The Plain Truth* stopped arriving, I didn't know what or whom to contact. I was recently given the chance to regularly connect to the Internet and found out what really happened when I came upon the UCG and WCG Web sites.

"I read most of Mr. Armstrong's publications and want to stick to the truth. I believe UCG still is holding on, and firm, on that truth. Again, thank you very much."

Philippines

*Editor's Note:* The letters in this section may be edited for length and clarity.

# Youth Updates...

## How You Can Go to Summer Camp, Although You Don't Now Have the Money

*A teen raised \$1000 one year, with a little help from her (adult) friends*

by Bill Jacobs

Last summer over 1,000 young people attended summer camp in the United youth camp program. Most of them had a great time and learned important lessons about life.

Every summer another group of young people want to attend but don't because they don't have money for tuition and transportation.

Are you one of these? Read on! Here is a plan for you to attend summer camp, even if you don't now have the money.

You are an important part of the Church. God has plans for you. How can you prepare? First, you can begin by building your friendship and support network while you are young. Second, you can learn and practice God's way among your friends. Summer camp is a great place to work on both these goals.

Since UCGIA started four years ago, multiple hundreds of adults have expressed appreciation for the camp program. They've expressed repeatedly how good camp was for them as a teen and how good camp was for their children. These appreciative adults wish every teen in the Church could go to camp. Every year we have to turn down more staff than campers because so many adults want to be involved in helping our young people in a personal way.

How can these people, who want to help, be drawn into service?

Those of you who want to go to camp can play a big part. Here's how:

- Start a savings account dedicated to your camp fund.
- Get a job or do various money-making projects to increase your fund.
- Write a letter to all the adults you know, in the church and out. Tell them about the United youth camp program. Tell them which camp you want to attend, what it will cost, and what you want to learn while you are there. Tell them

about your savings account, your savings plan, and your work projects. Ask them to send you what ever contribution they can afford. If you like, you can send a copy of this article with your letter.

- Write them a thank-you card immediately their contributions come in. Keep a record of everyone who helped you attend camp.
- Write up your experience when you return from camp and send a copy to all who helped you, along with another note of thanks.

### How This Successful Plan Started

This plan will work for two reasons: one, there are many caring adults in your Church, and two, I have seen it work. A teen did this to go on a trip to Mexico with her

Church's youth group. She raised \$1,000 in a year by selling candy and fruit and by the support of her family, relatives and other adult friends.

Yes, this plan is not as easy as asking your parents for the money, but it has other benefits. For instance, while working on this plan, you will build perseverance for your future adult life. (Perseverance is one of the seven laws of success.) Also, involving adults in your plan will help you build closer relationships with them. You can never have too many adult friends.

Another reason is that if you make a project out of camp, it will probably be more meaningful to you than to those who have not earned their way.

So, hope to see you there. If you want to talk more about it, contact me at UYCamps@aol.com, or write me at this publication. *NB*

## Its Party Time – Lets Celebrate!

**St. Louis UCG  
CELEBRATION – Prom 1998  
Saturday Evening, May 23  
6:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.**

Join us as we honor and acknowledge our 1998-graduating seniors.

A fun-filled evening is planned for all in the beautiful ballroom of King Henry VIII Hotel and Convention Center. Party time begins at 6:30 p.m. with a dinner buffet of chicken, pasta, salad, various desserts and an unlimited soda bar. There's dancing until midnight to the music-and-light spectacular provided by W. Productions.

Youths, age 13 and up, are invited, as well as the classes of 1992–1998. Parents and those providing transportation are also invited.

This memorable evening of dinner, music and dancing is available to you at the reasonable price of \$25 per person. Formal attire or Sabbath wear is the recommended dress. Don't forget your cameras and your picture-perfect smile!

If you would like to attend, please send your name, address (or a list of names), and check(s) made payable to United Church of God St. Louis. Reservations are due by April 25. All graduating seniors are requested to send a brief description, including

their age, school attended, hobbies, accomplishments and future plans. Please send your reservation to the following address:

Celebration  
13250 West Watson Road  
Sunset Hills, MO 63127  
Attn: Ellen

If you have any questions, please call Ellen at (314) 849-4016 or write to CELEBRT98@aol.com (e-mail).

### Six Flags Over Mid-America

The party continues the following day, May 24, at "Six Flags Over Mid America." This amusement park will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The group rate is only \$19.95 per person (tax exempt). This is a great savings over the regular price of \$29. If interested in participating in this activity also, please send the added amount with your prom reservation. Information on housing, area hotels, and maps to church and the dance, or any other information, will be sent upon request.

We look forward to celebrating with you and wish to thank all of you who helped make last year's prom, Fantasy Island and Six Flags outing a tremendous success!

Remember it's a *celebration!*

*Greg Sargent*



# Passover and Unleavened Bread...

## True Freedom: A Passover Season Lesson

by Jerold W. Aust

“My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

Similar words to the traditional song above must have rung loudly from the lips of our forefathers that first liberating Passover when they were redeemed from death, then set free!

Their time had come to be saved by the One typified as our Passover more than 1,400 years before He lived on this earth.

Earlier that night, Moses had told all the Israelite families to kill the unblemished lambs, called Passover lambs, selected for this time.

“Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, ‘Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to

“For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.”

“And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’” So the people bowed their heads and worshiped” (Exodus 12:21–27).

God vividly detailed this event to help us remember that without Christ having been our Passover sacrifice, sin would result in our having one inevitable end—eternal death (Romans 6:23).

But the Father wants us to also remember that because Jesus Christ was resurrected to eternal life, eternal death itself can be conquered.

### Life Mocks Death

Jesus Himself knew that after His death, death itself would be conquered. Near His physical life's end, He desired that His followers would grasp the magnificence of that new life—for Him and them—that hinged on that death.

He revealed to His listeners that “the hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.”

He continued, explaining in terms they might comprehend: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain” (John 12:24).

Then He told them what they in turn would have to face: “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also.

If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor” (verses 25–26).

While they were considering all this they were stunned by a voice like thunder from the clouds—the voice of God!—affirming Christ's words.

Through His word and His Son's spirit in us, that voice of God still speaks

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*Having repented of our sins and accepted Jesus' sacrifice for them, we have a responsibility to continue removing various sinful habits from our sinful nature.*

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loudly to us today, whereby we're stirred to remember His wonderful promises pictured by His great Holy Days.

Paul, when he was counteracting some who doubted an eternal future, enhanced Christ's metaphor for His death. To Christ's' earthy metaphor, he added those two seeds of human life, Jesus and Adam, to contrast their fruit: “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Paul continued to build his case for the resurrection. He enthrallingly compared the spiritual and natural realms, revealed that our change will come at the last trumpet's sound, and demonstrated how “this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”

His conclusion must have then left speechless those still doubting. If they had in fact ever realized it, he reminded them what their revered prophets Isaiah and Hosea had proclaimed: “Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades

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*God vividly detailed this event to help us remember that without Christ having been our Passover sacrifice, sin would result in our having one inevitable end—eternal death.*

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your families, and kill the Passover lamb. And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

[grave], where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:53-55).

Because death cannot exist in eternal life, as darkness cannot exist in light, everlasting life then “mocks,” as it were, both the grave and death. It “cheats” the grave and death.

This is why the glorious symbolisms of the Passover and Unleavened Bread are so important to us. They signal the road to eternal life.

### Christ's Sinlessness and Our Responsibility

The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23) points us to the righteousness, the holiness, of Almighty God.

This helps Christians realize two important factors: first and most importantly, the feast highlights the sinless character of Jesus Christ, the unblemished “lamb” sacrificed for our sins.

Secondly, having repented of our sins and accepted Jesus' sacrifice for them, we have a responsibility to continue removing various sinful habits from our sinful nature. Why? Because sin weakens and destroys.

This is what the apostle Paul was addressing to the Corinthian Church in 1

Corinthians 5:7. The apostle Paul is clarifying this point: establish in your lives what you profess to know.

The church's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice for their sins was their first step in becoming uncontaminated, like a new batch of unleavened dough. After accepting Jesus Christ's sacrifice, they were then also required to live a clean life, free from past habits of sin. Not to continue putting sin out of their lives would make a mockery of Jesus Christ's holy sacrifice.

### Let True Freedom Ring!

The Passover represents Christ's holy sacrifice, therefore the Passover season constitutes for us true freedom. Freedom from anguish, from debilitating weaknesses, from guilt; freedom from fear and from Satan's wicked manipulations of us; freedom of separation from God and freedom to bond with Him through Jesus Christ.

This is true freedom. *NB*

• *Jerold Aust is a staff writer for the Good News magazine and serves as an elder in the Garden Grove, California, congregation.*

## Wave Sheaf Offering: Let the Harvest Begin!

The Wave Sheaf Offering was harvested during the days of Unleavened Bread. In Old Testament times, the priest took a sheaf of the early barley harvest, cut it, and waved it before God for His acceptance. Only then could the harvest season begin. In like manner, Jesus Christ had to be “harvested” first by God the Father before the rest of mankind could be harvested (John 12:24; 17:1, 19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

This was confirmed by Paul: “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits [i.e., Firstfruit, singular] of those who have fallen asleep [died in the faith]” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

God depicts Himself as the Master Harvester: “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest’” (Matthew 9:37-38).

The apostle James adds another perspective: “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until He receives the early and latter rain [the two harvest seasons in Palestine]” (James 5:7).

God's acceptance of the Wave Sheaf Offering—in type (Leviticus 23:10-14) and in reality (John 20:17, 26-27)—allowed Israel's harvest to begin, and more importantly, depicted God's spiritual harvesting of all mankind.

Based on God's orderly design of man's salvation, the resurrection for any other man or woman could not begin earlier, not before Jesus' resurrection and change.

—JA

## What's New on the Web?

- March/April *Good News* magazine:

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- January and February 1998 issues of Spanish *Nuevos Comienzos*:

[http://www.ucg.org/html/espa\\_ol.shtml](http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml)

- 1998 General Conference of Elders Louisville, Kentucky, meeting reports:

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- March 10-11 Council of Elders Louisville, Kentucky, meeting reports:

<http://www.ucg.org/html/literat.shtml>

- March/April 1998 German *Gute Nachrichten*:

<http://www.ucg.org/html/deutsch.shtml>

- January/February 1998 Italian *I Difensori della Fede*:

<http://www.ucg.org/html/italiano.shtml>

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact:*

**webmaster@ucg.org**

# Around The World...

## India's Warm and Thriving Congregations

by André van Belkum

On Friday, January 30, I arrived at Hyderabad airport at 1:35 p.m. to begin a two-week visit with the Sabbath-keeping group who have their headquarters on the south-eastern region of the Indian continent.

There to meet me their smiling faces were G. Sumanth Kumar, his brother G. Vara Prasad and their mother Mrs. Mary Sundari Murty, all who had traveled 250 kilometers (156 miles) from their home. Also present were three members of the church in Hyderabad where there are about 15 in attendance. After exchanging greetings and being adorned, as is their custom, with colorful, sweet-smelling garlands, we left by taxi to the railway station.

After a five-and-a-half-hour train journey, we arrived at a town called Vijayawada where we overnighted. At the station we were met by other members of the church including Sumanth's wife Rupavani.

### Looking for Physical Healing as Well

The next morning we traveled by taxi to a place called Tenali, in the province of Andhra Pradesh, where Sabbath services had been arranged. There were about 80 in attendance.

After the service, a small band of people asked to see me. I soon realized why. In front of me stood about ten people, in desperate need of help, either physically or mentally handicapped, crippled or otherwise infirm. They requested prayers for healing.

I asked them to come into a nearby house normally used as a Sabbath service venue. This gave me more privacy to anoint and pray for them.

A mother brought her young daughter of 17 years, a lovely open-faced girl, who was unable to speak since birth.

There was a small baby with a hernia protruding from her navel. As the word got around, others began to stand in line as well!

I realized that I was dealing with a situation which could only be effectively dealt with in the Millennium. So I called them all into the room, possibly 20 or more by then, and gave a general prayer asking God for deliverance for these and all of suffering humanity.

At every meeting after this the many sick and infirm would request prayers for healing. It was one of the most distressing aspects of my visit. I felt overwhelmed and inadequate to assist these helpless people.

### 300 Leave Error Behind—4,000 to Follow?

After the service we traveled to Bhimavaram, which is the headquarters of the church in India. I marveled at our taxi driver's extraordinary ability to avoid pedestrians, cars, bicycles, water buffalo and pigs, while at the same time keeping his finger on the horn. How he managed to squeeze through some gaps I don't know. I closed my eyes!

Traveling by car is a slow process on the country roads, about 29 kilometers (18 miles) an hour. After about three hours we arrived at our destination, to be warmly met by Mr. G. Paul Murty, the leader of the group, and the rest of his family. They are an extremely warm, kind and generous family. During my eight-day stay I never had one meal at the hotel where I stayed. The Murty family provided lovely meals, flavored and prepared the Indian way.

The next two days, seminars for the ministers had been arranged. However, early on Sunday, February 1, Sumanth came forward with a special request. The leader of a group that had split off from a local Protestant church wanted me to speak to a section of his followers. The reason for the split was that he now realized that Saturday, instead of Sunday, was the correct day to observe. Another two-hour journey followed, made longer by a flat tire.

On our arrival, between 250 and 300 people packed into a hall. They were attentive and well behaved, especially the children sitting at the front. Every time I looked at them they would smile broadly. I am surprised how happy the children are in India, despite their poverty. I spoke about the Church Christ built and the promises associated with those who are a part of it who would endure to the end. The leader seemed a fine man, who assured me he was keen to learn more about what the Bible taught about God's plan of salvation. I encouraged him to keep studying. Later I learned that his church had a membership of 4,000 followers!

### Four More Meetings: Feast Site Considered

The afternoon and next day I spent in discussion with 17 of the full-time elders. We discussed the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread at length. It is hoped that one of our ministers from United will be there to conduct the first Passover service with them and remain for a portion of the Days of Unleavened Bread. Many other subjects were discussed, and questions answered.

On Wednesday, February 4, I visited a pre-primary and primary school in Bethany for children of church members. There are about 50 pupils. I asked them questions in English from their text books and told them stories about the wild animals of Africa. As with all children, they enjoyed hearing stories, especially from exotic places.

That evening we visited another church area to meet with more church members. In all, I visited and conducted meetings at twelve different places in the state of Andhra Pradesh, all within a few hundred kilometers of Bhimavaram, the church headquarters. Sometimes we traveled by taxi, sometimes by train, auto-rickshaw, human-drawn rickshaw, and once even on the back of a scooter. Activities were very well organized. Each meeting place had canvas overheads, straw mats, chairs, and even gen-

erators for electricity. There were very few problems.

Each of the meetings displayed hand-drawn banners bearing the inscription: "Welcome to Mr. Steven Andrews (U.S.A) and Mr. Andre van Belkum (S. Africa)". Sometimes the words "Good News Seminar" were added. (Mr. Andrews had to cancel his trip just days before departing. By then these banners had already been prepared.)

On Friday the 6th, we visited a proposed venue for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. The place is called Perupalem. I joked that if you changed just two letters it would read Jerusalem. It is located next to the sea, and the area is covered with fir, palm and coconut trees. However, there are a few logistical problems to be worked out before a final decision can be made, but they are determined to observe the Feast again this year, as they did last year.

The Sabbath of February 7 was observed with two groups at a place called Kovvur, about 96 kilometers (60 miles) north of Bhimavaram. There are seven groups meeting in this area. After the second meeting we were delayed longer than intended, and as a result missed the train, despite a frantic taxi ride to the railway station.

Apart from the driver, there were seven children on the front seat, and four adults in the rear. As a result of missing our train, we were obliged to catch another train to a place called Bukaro, from where we hired a taxi to take us back to Bhimavaram.

### Wanting to Rectify Error

On the last day before beginning my return trip, I held an open and frank meeting with the seven key ministers, or regional pastors. I pointed out that the church in India had unknowingly and in ignorance, incorporated doctrines and liturgies from mainstream Christianity. At the end of the day it seemed the leadership acknowledged these errors, and stated they would make sure changes were made no matter what the consequences. This will not be easy, and we need to pray that God will give them the understanding and courage to make these changes.

That same evening, Mr. and Mrs.

Murty, Sumanth Kumar, and Vara Prasad and I, left by train for Hyderabad, arriving after a ten-and-a-half-hour journey. At the station we were again met by three members in Hyderabad. That evening we held a Bible study at the home of one of the members. There were ten present, and it turned out to be a warm, friendly meeting. This was the twelfth church meeting, besides the ones held with the elders.

The next day I caught a flight back to Bombay, now called Mumbai, and after a delay of 12 hours, another flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

There is yet much work that needs to be done with the group in India. They still have to be grounded further in a number of the basic doctrines of the Church. Their office needs equipment which will enable them to function more effectively and communicate better with our home office. They have in the field 30 full-time and 25 part-time elders. These need training and educating. Thank you for your prayers and financial support for the group in India. They asked me to convey their greetings to all our members worldwide. *NB*

• *André van Belkum pastors the Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth congregations in South Africa.*

## New Zealand: Peter Hawkins' Residence Appeal Turned Down

On Friday, February 20, Peter Hawkins received a 12-page explanation from the Residence Appeal Authority of New Zealand, explaining that his appeal for residency was turned down.

In a message to the New Zealand brethren, Mr. Hawkins wrote: "My family and I can only thank you for the prayers you have offered in the last year. The answer from the New Zealand Residence Appeal Board does now appear to close out our option of serving the brethren in New Zealand as residents."

Peter Hawkins has been serving the brethren in New Zealand from his home in South Africa. He encouraged the brethren, stating that "We will continue to pray that a minister and his wife can be found and sent to help you soon, or that some other arrangement can be made for you to have the encouragement, guidance and counsel needed."

## Gemueticlichkeit 1997

Singles from the Midwest, and as far away as Texas and North Dakota, converged on Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for four days of fun-filled activities and fellowship during the second annual Gemueticlichkeit singles weekend December 24 to 28, 1997.

Participants commented on the warmth, friendship and opportunity to get to know others. The theme for the weekend and the Bible studies was male-female friendship and understanding. Bible study topics included male-female differences; femininity and masculinity, biblical roles for men and women; innermost secrets that men and women wish each other knew, and a question and answer session. Bible studies were open to comment and input from the participants which allowed for much much lively discussion.

Activities included roller-skating, bowling, volleyball, pictionary and dancing—including line dance lessons and some ethnic dances.

Plans are under way for next year's Gemueticlichkeit singles weekend. Your input and suggestions would be appreciated. Send any suggestions for themes or activities that you'd like to see included to: Cathy Folker, 573 South Concord Road, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, or e-mail to folker@globaldialog.com

All singles are welcome. This year's participants ranged in age from 10 months to over 60!

Cathy Folker



# Announcements...

## Births

Stan and Holly (Luginbill) Cook of Wolcott, Indiana, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Benjamin Allen, born October 15, 1997. Ben weighed 9 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Big sister Alyssa was thrilled to welcome him home.

Proud grandparents are Jerry and Jacque Cook of Wolcott, and Al and Sharon Luginbill of Las Cruces, New Mexico.



**Kayla Faith Epps**

Kevin and Belinda Epps are delighted to announce the birth of their "bundle of love," Kayla Faith. She was born on day six of the Feast of Tabernacles, October 21, 1997, at 2:28 p.m. She weighed 5 pounds 15 ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Kayla was welcomed home by her 17-year-old sister, Kristi, who helped decorate her nursery.



**Brianna Claire Lewis**

Jason and Laura Lewis of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, congregation, are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Brianna Claire Lewis.

She was born on Friday, October 24, 1997, at 11:22 p.m. Brianna weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed into a big loving family, including proud grandparents Larry and Gloria Williamson of the Kansas City, Missouri, congregation.

Russell Shawn and Sandie (Burke) Marshall of Wichita Falls, Texas, joyously announce the arrival of Russell Shawn, Jr. (Rusty) on Thursday, February 12. His weight was 7 pounds 12 ounces and his length was 21 3/4 inches. Sandie and Rusty attend in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Grandparents are Guy and Barbara Burke of Wichita Falls (who also attend in Lawton), and Charlotte Terry of Paris, Texas. Great grandparents are Elmer and Elsie Conley of Booker, Texas. They attend in Amarillo, Texas.



**Logan Erik McKeon**

Scott and Carrie (Iverson) McKeon of Phoenix, Arizona, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son Logan Erik. He was born on October 12, 1997, and weighed 9 pounds 5 1/2 ounces. He was 21 inches long.

His proud grandparents are Kirk and Sue Iverson of Phoenix, and Richard and Patty McKeon of Black Canyon City, Arizona.

Steve and Annaleigh (Neither) Novak of San Jose, California, are pleased to

announce the arrival of their second daughter, Rebecca Kuétina. She was born on October 29, 1997.



**Bethany Alanna Gray-Witney**

Judith Gray (formerly of South Africa and Australia), and Simon Witney, now of Gloucestershire, England, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, a girl, Bethany Alanna Gray-Witney, born on December 29, 1997.

The very proud grandparents are Doug and Eve Gray of Sydney, Australia, and Meg Witney of Hertfordshire, England.

## Engagements

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Sharon Berg of Kirkland, Washington, are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, J.A. Eirik Berg, to Stephanie Nicole Kramer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred and Emmie Kramer of Bellevue, Washington. A September 27 wedding is planned.

Clifford and Roz Carless of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sheri, to Dr. Gary Schoutsen of Hamilton, Ontario. A late August wedding is planned.

## Anniversary

Chalmer and Thelma Pifer of Sullivan, Illinois, celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on February 21, 1998.

They have one son and daughter in-law, Garry and Connie, of Bloomington, Illinois; four grandchildren, Anna Hagen, Mark, Darryll and Craig; and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Pifer would attend the Bloomington congregation if they were able.

## 100th Birthday



**Frank Krick**

Frank Krick celebrated his 100th birthday with family, friends and brethren after services at the Tampa, Florida, congregation.

His only daughter, Doris Thompson, came from Berry Creek, California, to be there for the occasion. Frank has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

During the celebration, hosted by the church brethren, Don Waterhouse, pastor, presented Mr. Krick with two plaques, one commemorating his birthday and another for being a 30-year member of God's church.

Frank was 86 when he married the former (Virginia) Kay Tribble on January 29, 1984, in Tampa. He was born in Germany on January 16, 1898, and came to this country as a young man. Before retiring he was a senior designer in an electrical engineering plant near Lakehurst, New Jersey.

## Obituaries

Vernon L. Bosset, 77, of Spokane, Washington, died February 11, 1998, after a courageous battle with cancer. He had no pain after asking the congregation

for prayer. His faith never wavered and God was merciful.

Vern was baptized in 1963, attending the Oakland and then the San Francisco, California, congregations. He was attending the Spokane congregation.

Vern is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Zel, who attends in Spokane.

Christopher Timmothy Goodrich, 10½ months, died during a visit to General Hospital in Eureka, California, on Monday, January 26, while in the nursery waiting to be admitted for treatment of an apparent kidney infection. He unexpectedly stopped breathing at 11:15 a.m. Efforts to revive him were unsuccessful, and he died in his mother's arms.

Memorial services were conducted by Wayne Dunlap on Thursday, January 29, 1998, in Eureka, with many relatives, brethren and friends in attendance, including baby Christopher's pediatrician, Dr. Christopher Cody, who had shown deep concern for Christopher's well-being since his birth on March 6, 1997.

He is survived by his parents, David and Kandy Goodrich of Loleta, California; his two brothers, Brian and Joshua, both of Loleta; his grandparents, Ernest and Kathleen Buck of Fortuna, California, and Gayle Goodrich of Coalinga, California, and Robert Goodrich of Eureka; plus great-grandparents and a great-great-grandmother; and numerous other relatives.



**James L. Ramey**

James L. Ramey, 69, of Jonesville, Virginia, died February 7, 1998. James attended the Kingsport, Tennessee, congregation.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma, who attends the Kingsport congregation; sons Mark, of Johnson City, Tennessee,

and David of Pennington Gap, Virginia; one brother; seven sisters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

James and Wilma Ramey began following the ministry of Herbert Armstrong during the 1950s. Wilma was baptized February 2, 1980, and James was baptized November 23, 1985. For many years they attended the Harrogate, Tennessee, congregation and for the last two years in Kingsport.

Funeral services were conducted by David Dobson, Kingsport pastor, on February 8, which would have been the Ramey's 49th wedding anniversary.

During James' battle with cancer, Mr. and Mrs. Ramey received over 250 cards from members around the world. The family is deeply appreciative of the love and concern which was demonstrated by so many.



**Anna Hazel Schmidt**

Anna Hazel Schmidt, 99, of Kirkland, Washington, died February 1, 1998. She was born November 9, 1898, in Clearspring, Indiana.

Mrs. Schmidt's husband, son and daughter-in-law preceded her in death. Three granddaughters survive her: Nancy, Patty and Robin.

Anna first contacted the Church of God shortly before her husband's death in 1960. She was baptized in the Evansville, Indiana, congregation in 1964. She has lived in Seattle, Washington, since 1974.

Virginia Starkes, 79, of Wilmington, Delaware, died December 7, 1997. She was a member of God's church for 31 years. She fellowshipped widely and tap-danced at church talent shows.

She is survived by a son, Clayton, and daughter, Marlowe Lee, and two grandchildren.

## Wisconsin Winter Camp Wins Praise

Months of preparation for the youth winter camp were completed and we welcomed 66 campers and 33 staff to the shores of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Just days before camp began, four inches of beautiful, powdery snow blanketed the area in time for the four-day camp which ran from December 28, 1997, to January 1, 1998. This put a beautiful touch on a fun-filled and educational experience for youth from the ages of 10 to 18, held on the grounds of George Williams College in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

Youth attended from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Some have asked, "What can you do at a camp during the middle of winter?" The answer is, a lot! Special activities included outdoor survival training, cross country skiing, snow tubing and broom hockey. Other activities were Internet Web page development, etiquette and poise classes, dance classes, CPR, basketball, volleyball, newsletter production, Christian living, a variety show, and two dances! And what is winter camp without some snowball fights (all in fun of course) and an impromptu touch-football game in the fresh snow.

This year's theme was "learning while having fun in the safe zone." One unusual activity that was added this year was the Internet Web-page class. Over 20 computers, all linked to the Internet, were at the campers' disposal as they made Web pages, and wrote and sent e-mail messages across the United States and even abroad.

For some campers, it was

their first time writing and sending e-mail. Every single camper and staff was pictured on the camp Web page in dorm photographs or in various activities.

During the Web class, each dorm was assigned to write their individual answers to various questions provided by the staff. A girls dorm was asked, "If there was one person from history you could meet in the resurrection, who would it be?" One camper wrote, "I would like to meet Adam and Eve because I'd like to know what it was like carrying on conversations with God and what it was like living in such a perfect place."

A boys dorm was asked, "What are you most looking forward to in the kingdom and why?" A camper wrote, "What I

look forward to in the kingdom most is complete happiness. No wars, no famine, no disease.... It's so wonderful it's almost hard to imagine."

Camp ended with a variety show with various dorms and staff participating in skits, songs, and laughter. A final dance ended the very enjoyable evening. Special thanks for the assistance of the very capable staff, without which the camp could not have taken place. The camp lived up to its motto, "Learning while having fun in the safe zone."

*Steve Nutzman*

• *Steve Nutzman pastors the Beloit and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, congregations.*



**Lake Geneva, Wisconsin,** clockwise from left: dorm 2G learning the correct techniques in CPR class; girls' dorm 1G learning teamwork during outdoor survival training; after receiving Christian living instruction, boys' dorm 3B gathers for a photo before the remainder of the day's activities; and Ronald Jacoby catches his breath after a tubing run!