



Special UYC Edition

Turn the page and pull out the 2015 United Youth Camps brochure insert!

Bridging Two Cultures

Helping our Wapishana brethren thrive in the modern world.

by Paul Syltie

For 10 days, an eight-member team traveled to the savannah hills of northeastern Brazil. In April 2014 at Passover time, plans were laid for drilling an irrigation well, and for initiating a vegetable garden and orchard to supplement the nutritional needs of the community. The May-June 2014 issue of *United News* has the background information on the project.



The hard-working crew of gardeners has completed distributing the mountain of manure across the garden, and takes a rest for a photo.

The Builders Assemble

On Dec. 16, 2014, the eight-member team assembled in Miami, Florida, to begin the 10-day project in Brazil. Members included Jorge de Campos, senior pastor from Cincinnati, Ohio; Lloyd Teetaert, an elder from Regina, Saskatchewan; Paul Syltie, a soil scientist from Sinai, South Dakota; Nick and Megan Lamoureux from North Hartland, Vermont; Abigail Syltie from Dallas, Texas; Angela Helseth from Tucson, Arizona; and Meagan Garant from Kitchener, Ontario. High spirits characterized this team as it flew to Manaus, Brazil, and then the following day to Boa Vista, the capital of Ror-

aima State along the Guyanese border to the north. The group was met in Boa Vista by Geraldo and Benedito of the Maloca de Moscou United Church of God, and by late afternoon the eight had driven to the town to set up tents and accommodations.

The Wapishana are very poor by the world's standards, and this lifestyle does not encourage more than subsistence living: Enough is enough, and making money by Western standards is rather foreign to them.

Armed with the gift of service toward their needful brethren

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Ministerial Transfers and Updates From Ministerial and Member Services

Gary Petty will be transferring to the Nashville, Murfreesboro, and Jackson, Tennessee, area in late spring or early summer. Fred Kellers will be retiring from the pastoral ministry at that time. Fred and Lucretia Kellers have served in the Tennessee area for decades and have helped to bring stability, unity and peace.

Rod Foster has been selected to replace Gary Petty in the San Antonio, Austin and Waco, Texas, areas. Mr. Foster has been



Top: Gary and Kim Petty.
Bottom: Fred and Lucretia Kellers.

appointed the assistant pastor in the area and will take on the full-time responsibility of pastoring the churches when Mr. Petty moves. Rod and Tammy Foster have served faithfully in the South Texas area for many years and are loved and appreciated by the brethren. Gary and Kim Petty will be missed after serving 18 years in the San Antonio area. They are both much loved by the brethren there.

David Dobson has been pastoring the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, congregation while living in Huntsville, Alabama. Murfreesboro is only 35 miles from Nashville and makes a

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Rod and Tammy Foster

UCG Canada Sponsors Open House Events



by Canadian National Office Staff

Last year the Canadian national office decided to conduct a test by sending invitations to subscribers to attend an open house in select congregations. Darris McNeely was asked to be the presenter for these occasions. The hope was that a *Beyond Today* presenter would add name-recognition to the occasion. Since Darris and Debbie McNeely were planning to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Prince Edward Island, an open house was planned on the Sunday during the Feast, even though we do not have a congregation in that province. Below is a report on the response received in each of the areas.

Prince Edward Island

Mr. McNeely's topic was "Seven Prophetic Signs Before the Return of Jesus Christ . . . a Deeper Look." The result of the open house was quite amazing as 10 guests made their way to the Stanley Bridge Country Resort. Mr. McNeely had the opportunity to speak with most of those in attendance. Brethren attending the Feast were very warm as they mingled with our visitors.

Hamilton and Toronto

The McNeely's drove through rainy weather from Cincinnati to Toronto for the two open houses planned for Sabbath of Nov. 1. The attendance was 28 with two guests who had come to hear Mr. McNeely.

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Youth Corps Sponsors Second Year at Guatemala Orphanage

by Lisa Fenchel, Jonathan Magee

For the second year in a row, the United Youth Corps sponsored a two-week long service project at Eagles Nest Children's Home in Solola, Guatemala. From the time the bus pulled up to the orphanage, team members were surrounded by children who welcomed them to their lives and home. Eagles Nest directors Pedro and Felis Patlan emphasized that the greatest need was to show love and affection to the children, whether we were spending time playing sports together, having fun at the pool party, simply hanging out or teaching classes on English, art, music or drama.



didn't speak the same language, but we felt the same emotions. They were so understanding, so willing to open their hearts and let us in. [My experience in] Guatemala has prompted me to treat the people around me differently: to love my family a little deeper, to spend a little bit more time with my younger siblings, to say 'I love you' more often to the

Special Donations and Facility Improvements

Thanks to the generous donations from LifeNets, All God's Children and United Church of God local congregations, the Youth Corps team was able to make several important facility improvements including paving the playground so that it's usable year round, installing several new pieces of playground equipment, and helping to design and purchase equipment for a newly designated toddler and special needs playroom.

Local congregations and team members also donated clothing items for our Guatemalan brethren.



One of the highlights was a field trip to La Aurora Zoo in Guatemala City, which started at 6:30 a.m. when we loaded all of the children on a school bus.

The Youth Corps Experience can best be summed up comments from the team members themselves:

Sophia Del Signore from North Canton, Ohio, said:

"Those children gave me more and taught me more than I ever dreamed possible. We

people who matter to me."

Debra Ham from Pineville, Louisiana, shared:

"I am so very grateful for the opportunity to have gone to Guatemala. I am still processing through all of the memories, meaningful conversations, beautiful scenery, lasting connections and the overall experience of the trip. I feel that I have grown from the short amount of time that we were there in so many ways. My outlook and perspectives have been challenged and I am continuing to aspire to something greater than myself, and more towards fulfilling the call to love others as Christ loves the Church."

This year's team was made up of Garrett Fenchel, Kathryn Youngblood, Debra Ham, Jordan Smith, Sophia Del Signore, Rachel Mez, Allison Churchill, Ryan Shallenburger, Courtney Horvath, Montana Hermann, Freddy Perez Zeld, Manuel Figueroa, Werner Solórzano, and Nasser Robledo Falabella.

The project coordinators were Jonathan Magee, Esther Magee and Lisa Fenchel. Lena VanAusdle is the United Youth Corps coordinator.

To read more from the team in their own words, with written blogs, video blogs and pictures, visit <http://goodworks.ucg.org/blog>.



Interested in volunteering for a Youth Corps project like this? Visit www.ucgyouthcorps.org to see what projects are coming in the future.

UCG Canada

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The McNeely's left Hamilton for Toronto later that day; total attendance in Toronto was 96 with 10 guests who had come to hear Mr. McNeely. Most of the 10 stayed after the service concluded, joining the brethren and partaking of the food and drink prepared for the occasion. The Toronto brethren welcomed the new people and invited them to return in the near future as circumstances would permit.

The McNeely's and Dennis and Paula Horlick had to leave at about 5:30 that evening to begin their travels to Ottawa for yet another open house scheduled for the very next day.

Ottawa

The next day (Sunday, Nov. 2), there were 27 brethren who came to support the event in Ottawa, and 17 guests came to meet Mr. McNeely and hear his message.

A literature display along with request forms was offered. The interest was great and it was rewarding to see a hunger for the truth exhibited by those in attendance. When clean-up time came, there was not one piece of literature remaining.

Windsor

On Nov. 8, 2014, the Windsor congregation hosted an open house. Mr. McNeely returned to deliver his presentation to 28 people. Seven guests came the Windsor congregation that day.

Mr. McNeely's presentation sparked

many good comments and fellowship with everyone.

Conclusion

It seems to be helpful to have a speaker with name recognition. Both Ottawa and PEI held the open house on Sunday, and both had a higher percentage of subscribers attend.

A total of 46 invited guests attended one of the five occasions. As far as could be ascertained, two of these had attended a previous event. Only time will tell how many might actually begin attending. We know from experience that we cannot "grow" the Church in numbers. We can only try different approaches that may appeal to those whom God is calling to help them to respond to God's calling. **UN**



The first fruit tree of the orchard has been planted, a mango, and the workers pose to commemorate the occasion.

Bridging Two Cultures

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ren, and selflessly devoting their time, the group of eight set about the task of “priming the pump,” to demonstrate to their Amerindian brethren how they can capitalize on their land, crops, and energy to bring in more income to better support their families, and be lights to others in the community. Land on the reservation is free, and lumber and other building resources are readily available, so overhead costs are low. Armed with a water well recently dug and financed by United Church of God, Good Works and LifeNets contributions, the work officially began on Dec. 17, 2014. The community had recently built a barbed wire fence around several acres to keep out cattle, with about a third of an acre in one corner fenced with chicken wire to keep out wild hogs that roamed the area. The hogs are capable of extensive damage, even during a single night.

It soon became obvious that God was blessing the project. Seemingly impossible tasks were faced, attacked, and completed by the combined efforts of the volunteers and the church community. A “mountain” of cattle manure outside the garden fence needed to be spread across the garden, yet within two hours the first morning the entire pile had been spread evenly over the soils using wheelbarrows and shovels, sacks, and sheer human muscle power.

Ministry

Continued from page 1

natural circuit with Nashville. Mr. Dobson has been pastoring five congregations and this will level out the workload for him and his wife, Denise.

Also Gary Beam has been appointed the assistant pastor of the Tupelo, Mississippi, congregation, where he and his wife Rhonda have been serving. This will leave Mr. Dobson with three congregations to actively pastor: Huntsville, Birmingham and Gadsden, Alabama.

Steve Shafer, pastor of Seattle and Sedro-Woolley, Washington, will be retiring from the pastoral ministry this coming spring. Steve and his wife Evelyn will be retiring to Michigan where their

family resides. Steve has been serving in the full-time ministry now for more than 32 years and has been in the employment of the Church for more than 35 years. As Mr. Shafer recently commented: “For Evelyn and me it has been an extremely rewarding experience serving God’s people for the past 32 plus years.”

John and Merrie Elliott, who currently serve in Phoenix East, Show Low, and Yuma, Arizona, will be replacing the Shafer’s in Seattle and Sedro-Woolley, Washington. Randy Schreiber will assume the responsibility for all of Central Arizona and will be assisted by elders in that area. He and his wife Kay will begin serving the congregations Mr.

Now the obstacle of adding lime to the garden faced the group. There appeared to be none available. Fortunately a church member knew of a neighbor not far away who owned a lime grinder, and within a few hours about 500 pounds of lime had been ground from limestone rocks and was delivered in bags to the garden site. The willing workers heartily loaded into wheelbarrows and spread this supply by hand across the garden. The fertility was in place! Moreover, a tractor and disk arrived before sunset to incorporate the materials into the soil. How the pieces all fit together in one day was miraculous!

An Orchard and Pipeline as Well

Meanwhile, a portion of the people began work on the orchard, first measuring and making rows, and then digging holes to plant trees at intervals along the rows. The holes each had a berm built up around it to hold water. Construction of a water pipeline, from the well atop the hill above to the garden and orchard below commenced on the first day as well. Picks and shovels rapidly dug a shallow trench from the well, along which water was run to soften the hard, sun-baked soil and allow easier digging. Used plastic pipes were laid and connected.

The talents pulled together for the project coalesced by an unseen hand. Nick’s experience with irrigation systems, my own knowledge of soil fertility, gardening, and orcharding, Lloyd’s talents in engineering, and the nascent wisdom of everyone worked together in a rhythm that was hard to comprehend by any rational judgment.

There is still much work to be done on both the garden and orchard. During a parting teaching session, we taught the brethren what to do next. A more secure lower border around the garden fence must be constructed to keep the hogs from burrowing underneath; more fruit and nut trees need to be planted; crops must be thinned, watered properly, and mulched for weed control and water conservation; the garden must be filled with additional crops; and fertility needs to be maintained in the garden for subsequent plantings, which thankfully can be supplied by an abundance of freely available manure.

The brethren came up with the magnificent idea of composting the manure to make an even better fertilizer, so instructions were given for such a project.

A Basis for Growth

Now that the garden, orchard, and well have been established, the potential for improving the nutrition of the Wapishana community, as well as selling excess produce in the local markets, gives the people hope for greater self-sufficiency in monetary needs for their families and for the Feasts. The price of cassava, their main cash crop, has dropped significantly these past months, so vegetable and fruit sales should help make up for this



Four young lively volunteers point to newly emerged cucumber seedlings in the garden.

loss and boost incomes over the coming years.

There can be no doubt among any of us that were there in Brazil for those 10 days of hard work and joyful diversions, that the spirit of the living God was the guide and sustainer of the effort.

Thanks to the selfless contributions of time and effort by six Youth Corps volunteers, working side-by-side with their Wapishana brethren, a bridge to the modern culture—and especially to God’s unique culture—is being built. This bridge will not damage the inherent good of Maloca de Moscou’s strong family traditions and contentment with the basic essentials of life, but rather will help them confront the realities of a present-day society that demands they provide better for their day-to-day needs. It is a “pump-priming” from which all will benefit. **UN**



Top: Dave and Denise Dobson. Bottom: Gary and Rhonda Beam.



Top: Steve and Evelyn Shafer. Middle: John and Merrie Elliott. Bottom: David and Sandy Mills

Elliott is leaving in addition to their current churches Northwest Phoenix, Northern Arizona and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

David Mills, pastor of Greensboro, Raleigh, and Jacksonville, North Carolina, and Roanoke, Virginia, will be retiring from the pastoral ministry in late spring or early summer. He and his wife and Sandy have been serving in North Carolina since the United Church of God began back in 1995. Craig Scott has been appointed an assistant pastor of the Raleigh,

North Carolina, church. Craig and Laura will be well known and appreciated in that area, and are looking forward to serving God’s people in a greater capacity. Plans for Roanoke and Greensboro will be announced soon.

Tom Adams has also been appointed an assistant pastor for the Jacksonville, North Carolina, church area. He and his wife Jody have already been serving steadily in that church area.

Gary Antion will be retiring as the director/coordinator of the Ambassador Bible College program after the current semester. Mr. Antion has provided able

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North Carolina, church. Craig and Laura will be well known and appreciated in that area, and are looking forward to serving God’s people in a greater capacity. Plans for Roanoke and Greensboro will be announced soon.



Top: Craig and Laura Scott. Bottom: Tom and Jody Adams.

New Portuguese Language Website Launches

by Mitchell Moss

After much diligent effort and hard work, Portuguese language UCG literature and other material will be available on a new Portuguese language website: <http://portugues.ucg.org>.

The new site is designed as a copy of the main UCG.org site, mimicking that site's design and also running on the same underlying software, which is easier to manage and maintain than the previous site, which required manual HTML coding. Because of the expertise required and manpower and time constraints, only PDFs of the final layout of each issue of the Portuguese version of *The Good News—A Boa Nova*—were posted online before. With the new site's easy-to-use content management software, everything Portuguese senior pastor Jorge de Campos translates can be posted with minimal additional effort.

Besides being easier to manage and post new, regular content, the new site also provides a seamless link between the Spanish and English UCG.org sites. For any Portuguese-speaking people who may also understand English or Spanish, they can see the Church's other resources in those languages—*Beyond Today* programs

(in English or Spanish), live webcasts (in English or Spanish), etc.

"The work of God in Portuguese will effectively be viewed as a portion of a greater work in various languages, giving it a wider scope, and not just as the 'Portuguese work,'" said Mr. de Campos.

In addition to translating each issue of *The Good News*, Jorge de Campos is also working to translate all of the Church's booklets and other literature. So far he has completed 32 booklets and all of the *Bible Study Course*. He intends to translate the remaining three booklets by the end of this year. Besides these efforts, the new site will be populated with the video sermons Mr. de Campos records every week as well as occasional blogs.

Senior Web developer Tom Disher, who developed the site with input from Mr. de Campos, said: "Last year we did a similar relaunch of the Spanish website [<http://espanol.ucg.org>], and over the course of about a year, its traffic has grown from about 100 unique visitors per day to about 1,000—a 1,000 percent increase. We hope to see a similar growth pattern with the Portuguese site."

Many thanks go to Joe Muralla, who worked on getting the already-translated booklets onto the site during his



tenure as an intern while he attended the ABC class of 2014. Also thanks to Whitney Creech (who was previously employed by the Church as the receptionist), who now works part-time doing the layout for *A Boa Nova* and will be posting most of the content to the new site.

Mr. de Campos stated, "Please pray for the success of this great step forward of the work in Portuguese, and that God may bless it with godly fruit and more laborers."

Church Media Effort Showing Record-breaking Growth

The year of 2014 saw the highest number of visitors ever to our Church website at UCG.org—6.89 million unique visitors—a 7.6 percent increase over 2013. And currently Alexa.com ranks UCG.org in the top 20 in the world among Christian denomination websites.

Our goal is for UCG.org to become the leading online Christian content source. To accomplish this

requires God's blessing, talent, teamwork, member involvement and hard work. We pray that we will continue to make good progress in this regard.

The 2014 calendar year saw more than 48,000 responses to our *Beyond Today* broadcast—the best year so far, and a 17 percent increase over 2013.

Here are some encouraging figures as of Jan. 31 this year:

- *United News* circulation is the highest it's been in almost four years—13,301.
- Our coworker count is now the highest it's ever been—3,694 (17 percent higher than a year ago).
- Our donor list now includes 7,258 people. That's a 50 percent increase over the same time last year.
- Combined with our coworkers, we now have more of our readers and viewers contributing to the work of the Church than the total number of members in the U.S.
- 2014 was an all-time record for the number of personal correspondence (PC) answers sent.
- Pieces of mail containing donations for December 2014 were the highest since United began—8,233—an 82 percent increase over December 2013.

Please continue your ongoing prayers for success in preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God around the world, and for God's blessing on the work of His Church in this age.

Peter Eddington

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CALLING ALL CAMPER AND STAFF ARTISTS AGES 13-25!



Do you want to see your artwork printed on hundreds of shirts? This year we want you to design the 2015 UYC camper shirts! The submitted design can be hand drawn or computer designed in any format. The deadline for submission is April 1, 2015.

A 50-percent scholarship will be offered for a 2015 camp if the winner is a camper. The winning artist will also be featured in a future *United News* publication and their artwork printed on all 2015 camper shirts!

More details, including how to submit your design and design requirements, can be found at the UYC website at <http://uyc.ucg.org>.

One of your designs will be chosen! It's time to get creative!

Ministry Continued from page 3

leadership, taught many classes, and has been a steady influence on the whole program since its inception in 2000. We deeply appreciate the dedication that both he and his wife Barbara have provided for ABC.

Frank Dunkle will be taking over as coordinator for the program beginning this August with the incoming class of 2016. Dr. Dunkle has a B.A. degree from Ambassador University; a M.A. from UT Tyler and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M. Dr. Dunkle and his wife Sue have already moved to the Cincinnati area, giving him the opportunity to be trained by Gary Antion on the operation of ABC.

Dr. Dunkle currently continues to oversee the congregations in Portsmouth and Athens, Ohio, and Prestonsburg, Kentucky, mentoring Kevin and Debbie Call. Mr. Call has been appointed the assistant pastor for those three congregations and will take over once Dr. Dunkle is involved full-time with ABC. **UN**



Top: Gary and Barb Antion. Middle: Frank and Sue Dunkle. Bottom: Kevin and Debbie Call.