

United News™

News of the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association

United Church of God
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Church of God Task Forces Continue Positive Steps Toward Reconciliation

The task forces of the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, (CGCF) and the United Church of God, an International Association, (UCG) met for the second time in three months on Sunday and Monday, November 19-20, with the focus on developing specific, practical ways for the two organizations to draw closer and work together.

The first meeting in August laid the foundation for further talks, as the groups affirmed at that time their common doctrinal beliefs and identified the causes of division and barriers to reconciliation. Potential doctrinal differences and hurts from the past were considered the two major areas of concern. The doctrinal questions were essentially satisfied with some issues to be studied further, putting most of the attention now on promoting reconciliation and cooperation.

The task forces are presenting to their respective governing bodies (the UCG's Council of Elders, and the CGCF's Executive Council) numerous suggestions, including the following specific recommendations, to consider at their next scheduled meetings.

Priority Attention

The task forces recommend that everyone, individually and collectively, give priority attention and publicity to the biblical instructions regarding peace making, conflict resolution and forgiveness and endeavoring to dwell together in unity. A number of Feast of

Tabernacles sermons addressed these subjects, and the ministry is encouraged to magnify these themes in sermons, Bible studies and articles in church publications. Individuals who may have caused, or suffer from, past hurts are urged to give serious thought—led by prayer, study, fasting and perhaps counseling—to taking the appropriate steps toward resolving those offenses. The task forces believe that God will bless such concentrated spiritual effort by everyone and will help break down the barriers to reconciliation that may exist.

The task forces further advise that both groups prepare videotape sermons for their respective congregations, coordinated in general content and timing, that will further cover various elements of these subjects.

Information Packets

Another constructive step recommended is to coproduce information packets for the ministry and membership of both groups containing detailed explanations of each groups' doctrinal beliefs and their answers to the doctrinal questions that have been submitted, as well as descriptions of their respective forms of governance, administration and policies. Representatives from each church could also write similar articles for the other church's publications in an effort to clearly explain their organization's positions. Much information and many publications are already available on each church's Web site (www.cgcf.org and www.ucg.org).

Developing ministerial communication and rapport is seen by the task forces as another high priority. For example, they recommend that both groups exchange their ministerial phone/e-mail address lists, and encourage reestablishing contact with one another.

In terms of both groups mutually cooperating, the task forces recognized that in several areas joint actions are already taking place, and recommend several other actions that are possible pending approval by the respective

councils.

For example, campers and staff members from both churches have often participated together in summer camps, congregations and members often combine in some church areas for social and educational activities, and ministers have conducted funerals, weddings, baptisms and anointings for members in the other church. This type of mutual cooperation is encouraged to continue and expand.

Additional ideas being submitted to the councils by the task forces include coordinating certain Feast sites and activities, sharing literature and articles, working on cross-over ministerial speaking opportunities, and extending invitations to attend each others' board/council meetings and ministerial conferences.

Roy Holladay, Dennis Luker and Clyde Kilough represented UCG and Norbert Link and George Meeker represented CGCF. Warren Zehrung is also a member of the CGCF group, but was unable to attend due to health reasons.

Moving Forward

Everyone unanimously concluded that the two-day talks proved very productive, especially with the pragmatic, tangible ideas for moving forward toward unity of mind, spirit and efforts to do the work of God. The next task force meeting is tentatively planned for May 2001. *UN*



Connie Coutellier of the ACA congratulates Les McCullough and the camp team for officially achieving ACA accreditation

Camps Achieve High Standards

Connie Coutellier, director of professional development for the American Camping Association (ACA), congratulated United Youth Camps (UYC) for achieving ACA accreditation at a meeting of the camp team November 14.

"Our quest for accreditation has aided our camps by helping us design a mission statement and evaluate our program as to whether we are actually fulfilling it, improve safety, upgrade the qualifications of instructors and lessen the Church's legal liability," said David Treybig, a member of the team. "The unanimous consensus of the camp team was that the ACA served as an excellent tool to help us carry on our tradition of excellence and that we would not want to retreat from the high standards we have now established."

Ms. Coutellier presented the official scores on each section of the ACA scoresheet. Because UYC is considered one camp with multi-

ple sites, the scoring for each of the four camps visited was combined on a single scoresheet. (The four camps were Oakhurst, Carter, McKenzie and Heritage.)

In order to pass a standard, all four camps had to comply with the standard. Even though this made it harder to achieve a high score, the UYC program received excellent scores on each section.

The specific scores for each section were: site 89 percent, aquatics 98 percent, adventure/challenge 96 percent, human resources 100 percent, health and wellness 100 percent, operational management 100 percent, program design 100 percent, horseback riding 100 percent and transportation 100 percent. The combined total means that all of the UYC camps in the United States (including those not officially visited) are "Y2000" rated by the ACA, or simply accredited.

For more on the camp team meetings, see page 5. *UN*

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Next issue: January 2, 2001

Good News Promotions Reaching Millions

In the seven months between July 2000 and January 2001, more than 2.4 million households in the United States will have received a promotion for the *Good News* magazine (see chart). This does not include the 12.5 million *Reader's Digest* readers who received an ad in the June issue, or other previous promotions.

Details of the brochure program, direct mail efforts, card decks and package inserts are included in the "News at a Glance" section of this issue, pages 15 and 16. *UN*

Quantity	Promotional Program	Print Date
279,000	Direct mail #1	July 2000
250,000	Supermarket take-ones #2	July 2000
100,000	Brochure program member distribution	July 2000
50,000	Brochure distribution, Murfreesboro, TN	July 2000
10,000	Brochure mailing #1, London, KY	July 2000
15,000	Brochure insert, Penny Saver, FL	July 2000
150,000	Card deck #1, home schooling families	Sept. 2000
250,000	Package insert, rural home owners	Dec. 2000
150,000	Card deck #2, home schooling families	Dec. 2000
250,000	Package insert, rural home gardeners	Jan. 2001
150,000	Package insert	Jan. 2001
200,000	Direct mail #2	Jan. 2001
500,000	Supermarket take-ones #3	Jan. 2001
25,000	Brochure mailing #2, London, KY	Jan. 2001
25,000	Brochure mailings by other congregations	Jan. 2001
2,404,000	TOTAL	

Q&A: Paid Ministry; Using "Mr."

Q. Why does the Church have a paid ministry?

A. The UCGIA has devoted much study to all aspects of this topic. While non-salaried elders make a priceless contribution to the service of the Church of God, we believe that the Scriptures teach us it is in the best interest of the Church to have salaried pastors when and where possible.

Looking at the Old Testament first for examples and principles, we note that the Levites clearly obtained their livelihood from the first tithe (Numbers 18:20-21, 24), festival expenses from the second tithe (Deuteronomy 16:13-14), and their retirement or disability income from the third tithe (Deuteronomy 14:27-29). There were additional benefits given to the Levites in the form of property (Numbers 35:2-8), so they would have ample livelihood to be able to teach all Israel the ways of God.

All Israel suffered when it failed to provide for the Levites as God had instructed. The Old Testament records two such instances, both in the post-exilic times, in the books of Nehemiah and Malachi.

The New International Commentary on the Old Testament comments: "During Nehemiah's absence the people neglected the compulsory contributions for the support of the temple staff, so that these people were obliged to *abandon the temple service in order to support themselves*." It continues, "J.M.P. Smith rightly emphasizes that the tithes and offerings together constituted a large element in the maintenance of the temple staff of priests and Levites. Israel's robbing God therefore coincides with conditions alluded to in 2 Chronicles 31 and Nehemiah 13" (Haggai-Malachi, pages 304-305, emphasis added throughout).

We read the results of this in Nehemiah 13:10, "...the portions of the Levites had not been given them; so that the Levites and singers who did the work (forced by necessity) had each fled to his field" (Amplified Bible). *Soncino* adds here, "Either to his own field to the cultivation of which he had to devote time which should have been devoted to his temple duties, or, any field from which he could obtain the portion due to him" (Nehemiah, page 264).

The story in Malachi is much the same. The primary passage that deals with the subject of tithing is very familiar to the Church of God (Malachi 3:8). In response to the people's perplexed question, "How have we robbed you?" God responds with, "You are robbing me" (NRSV). The wording indicates an ongoing process. According to the *Expositor's Bible Commentary* "stealing means not only tak-

ing what is not yours, but *keeping back for yourself what belongs to someone else*" (vol. 7, page 720).

The application to modern times is self-evident. We must not fail to use the tithes and offerings for the adequate support of the New Testament ministry, lest the Israel of God lack the teachers and counselors it needs.

Let's look at some points in the New Testament. "The laborer is worthy of his wages," said Christ to the 70 that He sent out to do the work of spreading the gospel, clearly implying that they *would be supported by those whom they taught* (Luke 10:1, 7-8). Christ shows that the spreading of the gospel was work ("labor") and that the one spreading the gospel ("the laborer") has a right to receive ("worthy") wages or physical remuneration (food and drink).

His instruction was similar to the 12 apostles He sent to "preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons." Plainly, theirs was a spiritual work. He told them not to provide for their own support, because "...a worker is worthy of his food" (Matthew 10:5-10).

Christ taught that the spiritual work of the ministry is worthy of receiving physical things as compensation and that tithing was a continuing requirement in the New Testament. It's logical to assume that the tithe was the basis of those "physical things" that were used to compensate the New Testament ministry just as it was for the Levite in the Old Testament. (Hebrews 7 corroborates this conclusion.)

The strongest and most direct statement by Paul about the compensation of the ministry is found in 1 Timothy 5:17: "Elders with a gift of leadership should be considered worthy of respect, and *adequate salary*, particularly if they work hard at their preaching and teaching" (J. B. Phillips).

A comparison of several commentaries shows that that this wording reflects the sense of the Greek (*The Bible Expositor Volume III*, page 359; *The New Bible Commentary*, page 1175; *The Critical and Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Volume VI, pages 495 and 496; *Adam Clarke Commentary*, page 1227; *Matthew Henry One Volume Commentary*, page 1891; *Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles* by William Barclay).

In 1 Corinthians 9:5-14, Paul defends his right to receive pay for his ministerial services, *implying that it was routinely accepted that the ministry be so compensated*. What support one congregation was not able to or did not provide, others did, and Paul did not hesitate to accept it (1 Corinthians 16:17; Philippians 4:16-17).

Galatians 6:6 must also be considered. Says *Matthew Henry's Commentary*: "It is the duty of those who are taught in the word to support those who are appointed to teach them; for they are to communicate to them in all good things, freely and cheerfully to contribute, of the good things with which God has blessed them, what is needful for their comfortable subsistence. ... It is but fit and equitable that, while [ministers] are sowing to others spiritual things, they should reap their carnal things. And this is the appointment of God himself; for as, under the law, those who ministered about holy things lived of the things of the temple, so hath the Lord ordained that those who preach the gospel should live of the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:11,13-14)" (notes on Galatians 6).

This gives a good overview of the Bible's guidelines on the subject of a paid ministry.

Q. Does Matthew 23:10 forbid the use of "Mr." when addressing the ministry?

A. "Neither be called masters," is what the KJV says in Matthew 23:10. Since "Mr." is but an abbreviation for "master," some have questioned the use of this title. The Greek word translated "master" in the KJV is *kathegetes*. According to the commentaries, Vine's and Strongs, *kathegetes* means "a guide," such as a teacher. So, Jesus was not referring to the present-day custom of using the titles "Mr." and "Mrs." as a demonstration of courteous respect.

It is certainly true that these titles are used much less in business dealings today than what was customary in previous generations. Nonetheless, it is also true that using these simple titles is still regarded as a means of showing courteous respect in our Western culture. It is generally considered polite to refer to men and women who are years our senior as Mr. or Mrs. out of respect.

We have typically used the title "Mr." when addressing or referring to one of our elders in a public or official situation, not as a means of elevating him unduly, but in respect for the office that he holds. There are, of course, casual situations in friendships when the use of this formal title is unnecessary.

The heart of Christ's instructions in Matthew 23 was His criticism of the Pharisees for their lack of the attitude of a servant. That is to say, His focus was not so much on the use of a specific title, but rather on the attitude of mind. Paraphrasing His instruction, "servants must have a servant's attitude." Whatever their responsibility, however they are addressed by others, they must have the heart of a servant.

Cecil E. Maranville

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International News...

Toronto Hosts "Priceless" ABC Mini-Sampler

By Lillie Robinson

Recently a series of TV advertisements has been publicizing certain family activities and occasions to be "priceless," but declaring that for "everything else" one simply needs to use a specific credit card. The validity of the first part of this advertisement would be heartily supported by many of the brethren of the Toronto congregation. On the weekend of November 11 and 12, they experienced 12 hours of classes from the Ambassador Bible Center mini-sampler program presented by Gary Antion and Ralph Levy. Certainly no credit card could have purchased what these two dedicated, well-studied teachers of God's Word presented to those in attendance. When God's Word is "rightly divided" it is priceless!

This invaluable instruction began at the Sabbath service held at the Radisson Hotel in Mississauga, Ontario. Dr. Levy and Mr. Antion presented split sermons to 110 brethren including 16 visitors from eastern Ontario, New York and Ohio.

Dr. Levy's sermon set the background for his future classes by revealing how the post-exilic Jews until the time of Christ had developed very minute, specific laws making Judaism narrow, exclusive and a religion of traditions. As their Mishna, Talmud and oral laws developed, they became substitutes for God's merciful and just laws. He showed how Christ ripped away the Pharisaical layers of tradition and revealed the important intent of God's law and Himself as "Lord of the Sabbath." Dr. Levy asked, "Would Christ be Lord of something done away with?" Following Paul's declaration in 1 Corinthians 7:19 and John's prophecy in Revelation 12:17 and 14:12, Dr. Levy declared that we are a Commandment-keeping Church and have the testimony of Jesus.

In the second sermon, Mr. Antion began by posing the question, "Is just believing in Jesus enough?" He developed the answer by showing that a scripture must not be isolated. Other scriptures concerning any subject must be searched out to give complete understanding.

Belief or faith in Christ has two sides, asserted Mr. Antion: mental knowing and active doing (James 2:14-26). He pointed out that Jesus taught only what the Father told Him (John 14:24), and He will deny us to the Father if we are not obediently doing God's will (Matthew 7:21-23). Mr. Antion stated that Christ directed the rich young ruler to the Ten Commandments, not to just believe on Him. In concluding, he emphasized how obedience must accompany belief, and that since Christ kept His Father's Commandments, so must we.

The Sabbath service was followed by a half-hour of fellowship, after which 56 people

remained for two hours of instruction before supper. Two more hours followed after supper. Mr. Antion and Dr. Levy alternated with 50-minute presentations.

The same format continued for 42 students all day Sunday with four sessions both before and after lunch. The written handouts given by each teacher were most helpful in focusing attention and reinforcing understanding. The presentations were so thorough, powerful, animated and clear that time seemed to slip by too quickly. Those who completed the 12 hours of instruction were presented with handsome certificates much like those given at ABC in Cincinnati.

During his presentations, Mr. Antion covered 2 John, 3 John, Jude and chapters 9, 10 and 15 of Acts. Understanding for each book was established by first building the historical and spiritual background of the time. After a theme was extracted, the verses were read, compared, explained and expanded. He showed how John's and Jude's letters warn the Church and certain individuals to use truth to discern false doctrines and false teachers and that, though hospitality is important, evil men must be resisted.

When presenting Acts 9, 10 and 15, Mr. Antion showed how Paul's work with gentile converts and the giving of the Holy Spirit to

Cornelius and his family impacted the decision of the Jerusalem council to accept the gentiles. Christianity was for all people not just circumcised Jews. As Acts 1:8 reveals, Christ sent His disciples to the entire world.

Dr. Levy covered the subject "The Law in the Covenants." After defining a covenant and outlining its elements, he progressed through the establishment of the Ten Commandments as the heart of the Old Covenant with Israel. It was accompanied by a book of the covenant, a package of law designed to govern a physical nation. God knew Israel was "stiff-necked" and would fail, so in Deuteronomy 10:16 He asked for spiritual circumcision of the heart. The Old Testament and New Testament flow together. There is no disjuncture as Dr. Levy asserted and proved from many scriptures such as Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:6-13. The lines of connection are so strong that they cannot be ignored or fractured.

Taking the study further, Dr. Levy showed how Moses mediated the Old Covenant, which had no promise of eternal life, and Christ mediates the New Covenant in His blood and builds on the Old. The law defines transgression for us, said Dr. Levy. He emphasized that *only* by Christ's blood can we be cleaned up and justified. Thus, the

New brings greater glory than the Old. Dr. Levy concluded that the Bible itself elevates the decalogue mediated by Moses and shows that the love of God, codified in the Ten Commandments, constitutes the center of God's way of life, under both the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

It became clear from the remarks of those who attended this seminar, that there was much enthusiasm for and satisfaction from the studies they absorbed. One mother stated, "I just left things at home undone because I knew that this was an opportunity of a lifetime." She found the presentations were revealing, convincing and reinforced many beliefs already held.

Others commented on how much ground was covered in such a short time. Words like "inspiring," "refreshing," "instructive" and "exciting" were heard. "I wish we could have more of this," enthused a visitor. A deacon felt that he had been "equipped to more properly defend our faith." Toronto brethren and their visitors would greatly urge others to attend an ABC mini-sampler program if it comes to their area. Like us, they are sure to find it "priceless."

Lillie Robinson is a member of the Toronto, Ontario, congregation.

News Briefs From *The UCG Canadian Report*

November 15 a couple of staff members dutifully and enthusiastically transported 30 flat top containers to Canada Post's Gateway Terminal in Mississauga, Ontario. In the containers were 3,300 copies of *The Good News* destined for our nonmember subscribers coast to coast.

That same day the same crew dropped off five boxes of *The Good News* (100 copies in each box) at the local post office in Etobicoke (pronounced E-toe-bee-ko), Ontario, for those who operate newsstand outlets for our fine publication.

It's most heartening to see the seeds of the gospel being sown further and wider right here in our beautiful country.

October Statistics

The Canadian office ended the month of October on a positive note. Once again, we exceeded our budgeted amount for mail income. This time, though, the amount was only \$40 over budget. For the year to date we are running about 6 percent over budget for mail income. Holy Day offerings, on the other hand, are nearly \$6,000 below what was budgeted.

In October we added 108 new names to our files. Many of these were first-time donors who attended with us on one or more

of the Holy Days. That is an encouraging indication.

Comparing the number of members, donors and subscribers on file on January 1, 2000, and October 31, 2000, there is an increase of 3.7 percent, 19.4 percent and 29.7 percent respectively. We have about 11,500 subscribers currently on our mailing list.

So far in 2000 we have distributed 73,844 pieces of literature. *The Good News* accounts for about 75 percent of the total.

Top Five Booklets

The "Top Five" booklets in terms of numbers distributed are:

You Can Understand Bible Prophecy (932 pieces)

Does God Exist? (541)

Creation or Evolution (523)

Heaven and Hell (521)

The Book of Revelation Unveiled (450).

French Literature

Until this fall, visitors seeking French language literature on our Web site have been offered only four booklets translated by the Church. We are now pleased to offer what we hope will be only the first in a new series of articles translated into French in Canada. The first article is "Conseils Sages Pour Decisions Sages"

("Wise Advice for Wise Decisions") by Larry Greider, which appeared in the July/August issue of the *Good News* magazine.

This complex project is being ably coordinated by staff member Kevin Ford.

The initial translation is done in the Canadian office, with the rather limited help of a computer program. The computer-rendered translation is fairly rough, and a significant amount of correction has to be done by Mr. Ford before the article can move on to the next stage.

A careful review is provided by two individuals proficient in Canada's other official language, Ghyslain Palmer (from the Vancouver, British Columbia, congregation), a native of French-speaking Switzerland, and Carol Livermore (from the Ottawa, Ontario, congregation) who grew up in Quebec fully bilingual.

The final text is e-mailed to our Web master, Paul Wasilkoff, who posts it on the Canadian Web site for access by the growing number of subscribers in Quebec who may prefer to receive literature in their own language.

The UCG Canadian Report is prepared weekly by Anthony Wasilkoff and Ed van Pelt, and is available on the Web at www.ucg.org/a/news/canada.htm.

CEO Reports on Growth in United Church of God—British Isles

Excerpts from the report given to the Annual General Meeting of the United Church of God—British Isles October 19.

by John A. Jewell

At Pentecost 1998 a major split occurred which saw the United Church of God in the British Isles reduced from approximately 450 attending with 15 ministers down to around 90 attending with two ministers. The Church of God in Britain in 1995 had an attendance of around 4,500 in 40 churches.

In 1998 UCG was reduced to a point where there was no infrastructure. No office, no equipment, no mailing list, no staff, no hymnbooks, no literature, no Feast site, no summer camp—nothing except a desire within those who were still at their stations to do the work.

Things came together and today, just two years later, I can report solid growth.

Congregations

We now have five churches. The initial five people in Harpenden are now around 35 meeting in Bricket Wood and we have a small group meeting regularly in Birmingham. We hope that further groups can be established in East Anglia, South/Southeast England and the Southwest.

The speaking team now has seven men regularly taking church services and giving sermons. A further eight men are currently giving sermonettes. Last year David Fenney was ordained and brought the ministerial team up to three. We look forward to further ordinations in due course.

Infrastructure

From no facilities we now have leased premises in Lancashire, in Eccleston (which actually means “church town”), which provide general mailing facilities, literature storage, a resource facility, storage, etc.

In 1998 we had no paid staff. Everything was done on a voluntary basis. Today we still have no paid ministry, but we do have two paid employees, Jan Schroeder and David McDermott.

Circulation

In 1998 we managed to put together a mailing list of around 400. A year later in October 1999 the circulation list was up to 1,359 with subscribers in 21 countries throughout Scandinavia, Europe and the Mediterranean.

As of October 11, the list was 2,613, roughly twice that of last year. (By mid-November it was nearly 3,500!) We are now mailing into 25 countries giving those people a faster service and at the same time relieving Cincinnati from a further mailing complexity.

Finances

In our first year of restructuring the income was £59,000. The second year it was £66,000 and this year it looks as though we could reach £88,000.

New Subscribers and Subscriber Development

We must remain aware of the reason for the Church. It is to fulfill the task delegated to it by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24 and Matthew 28: To preach the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God with the hope it offers together with the warning of those events to immediately precede Christ's return, plus the duty of pastoring and nurturing those God calls as a result.

We see this first part as falling into two elements:

1. The printed word, which is a vehicle by which the gospel can be preached and a dialogue developed. Such a dialogue will result in a calling where God chooses.

2. Radio and public meetings, which are a preaching of the gospel as a witness per se.

To achieve the first it is necessary to increase the circulation list as much as we reasonably can. We have tried various meth-

ods, such as local newspaper advertising, a waiting room program, national magazine advertising and leaflet drops. These have not all been that successful. In fact, we have now discontinued the waiting room program.

• *Reader's Digest* was very successful in March 1999 giving us around 800 responses. By God's intervention we paid only a sixth of the regular cost.

We have this year tried the:

• *Sunday Telegraph*—351 responses.

• Information Service—500 responses so far. (As of mid-November this was over 1,400.)

• Direct mail—1,000 sent out, 19 responses so far.

• Direct mail in the Isle of Man—5 responses so far.

• Two Granada Motorway service areas—8,000 brochures placed so far in Edinburgh and in Tamworth, with the project to run from September to December—12 responses so far.

• Swedish *Reader's Digest*—31 responses so far.

• Web site—159 responses.

We are now more clearly seeing where the doors are open.

To develop a dialogue with subscribers we have instituted four main methods.

1. *Bible Study Course*, as a correspondence course. We have developed test papers for each lesson with test cards. This gets the individual into the habit of writing to us and helps develop a personal relationship. We have around 400 on the list.

2. The British and European supplement to *The Good News*. The thinking was that *The Good News* itself is oriented mainly to the United States. The foreign language areas are obviously able to orient a magazine specifically to their own areas. Dealing with Scandinavia, English-language Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, we needed to do so too.

So as a temporary recourse, we developed a four-page supplement with a Q&A section and letters mainly from this area.

There are also European targeted articles. I say temporary because we see the obvious direction to go as being the development of the supplement as an eventual front-line magazine with *The Good News* as the doctrinal second line with booklets, *Bible Study Course*, etc., following on behind.

The next stage in the supplement's development is now taking place with an eight-page issue for November/December.

3. Semiannual letters. These are going out every six months to the whole list, always with an offer of some kind. Always free. Always without a request for money. This encourages the written response.

4. As subscribers become donors and coworkers, we send special regular letters every eight weeks. These are addressed to members, coworkers and friends. The letters are intended to develop a closer dialogue. They speak of prophecy and world conditions and inform of what the Church is currently doing.

The Witness

We realized quite early that more than this was needed—that there would always be those who either don't write in or find it difficult to do so. We therefore developed a radio program, *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. This has now been on the air on Manx Radio (AM and FM) for 17 months, with over 80 programs now “in the can.” This year we have gone on to two shortwave stations, WWCR and WINB. This year we have received very few known responses—14 from Manx Radio and six from shortwave. But a listening audience is being built. In June we received our first complaint. This was a result of a program entitled “Return to Sodom.” The radio station was very supportive of us and has remained so. We knew then that people out there are listening.

We are negotiating with Radio Caroline on the Astra satellite. We also plan to meet with London Broadcasting, but the cost per program may be more than we can manage. We are also working towards streaming on the Internet after we get the right equipment and systems in place. Streaming on-line will enable us to speak out more strongly than is possible on regular stations.

Statistically, it takes around two years from the time someone receives his first copy of the magazine to the time he responds to God's call. If we are to respond to that statistic, we have got to think in terms of two-year bites. Each year we need to see a significant addition to the mailing list—preferably at one time, perhaps twice in the year. This will then lead two years down the line to possible public campaigns to those same people.

In the meantime we continue to develop the ministry and the congregations to be ready for that time. As the world disintegrates, we pray “Thy Kingdom come.” *UN*

John Jewell is chief executive officer of UCG—British Isles and a member of the Council of Elders of UCGIA.

News Briefs From United News Australia

The first Australian National Youth Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Sydney December 9 and 10. Don Goodger, chairman of the committee, said they will discuss summer camp, an ABC scholarship, publications, future Feasts, youth days and many other items.

“Our goal this year is to expand the waiting room program as much as possible, and this has been happening thanks to the diligence of a handful of callers who are principally targeting the New South Wales area,” said Ruth Root, chairman of the Media Committee. “As a result of their unflagging efforts, we are expecting to mail out approximately 1,700 waiting room subscriptions with the

November/December issue. This method of getting new subscribers costs less than \$2 a subscription and is very effective because readers see the magazine before they subscribe to it.

“We are planning to do our main advertising for the year in February/March as this time has produced some of the better results in the past,” she said.

The *Good News* circulation was up 39 percent over the previous year for the September/October issue, to 6,115.

Approximately A\$547,000 will be available for doing the work in Australia this year, including an 11 percent subsidy from UCGIA. “These resources are being put to very good use,” said Drew Efimov, National

Finance Committee chairman. “Some \$108,000 will be spent in national and local activities promoting the gospel in a measured fashion. An additional \$255,000 has been allocated to meeting the needs of our local church congregations.”

The Policy and Planning Committee is working by e-mail to develop the strategic plan for Australia. “Upon completion of the draft copy of phase one of the plan, it will be sent to the congregations for comment,” said Trevor Huthnance, committee chairman. “We will welcome comment both on these strategic goals and ideas on how to achieve these goals.”

United News Australia is on the Web at www.ucg.org.au/content/una.asp.

Youth Camps...

Camp Team Discusses This Year's Camps and Prepares for 2001

by David Treybig

The United Youth Camp (UYC) team met at the home office in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 12 through 14, to discuss the past season's camps and consider plans for the future. Those in attendance included the eight camp directors, Larry Greider, the overall camp coordinator, and three additional men who have been making special contributions to the camp team.

On Sunday morning the conference began with each camp director giving a report on his camp. An overall compilation of data from the seven summer camps just concluded revealed that these camps were attended by 859 campers and served by 361 staff. Several camp directors remarked that their staff this past year was the strongest and best qualified ever. Such reports indicate that United has been developing a strong team of volunteers to serve our youth.

A review of surveys from campers, staff

and parents reflected these positive reports from camp directors. According to an overall report on these surveys prepared by Mary Clark, "Campers see the main goal of camp as building a relationship with God and learning His ways. The percentage of campers who listed this as the main goal rose from 55 percent in 1999 to 63 percent this year. An additional 13 percent listed the main goal as learning about God's plan and the Millennium. The goals seem to be becoming more focused and clear."

Building relationships was also another important reason why many youth came to the camps. Many were from small congregations and were excited about the opportunity to meet and make new friends in the Church. Many also said they would like to have longer camps.

Staff surveys reflected appreciation for the training tapes that were sent out before camp. Suggestions included remaking the tapes so they would be fresh each year and

sending them out earlier so staff would have more time to listen to them before camps began. The camp team expressed their desire to implement these suggestions. Several staff surveys also noted that some of our girl campers need instruction in modest dress.

While parental surveys reflected some specific concerns about each

camp, 97 percent of those responding said the camps were successful in accomplishing their goals and 96 percent said the overall effect was good for their children. Selected remarks included: "I realize there is nothing more important for my children to do during



United Youth Camp team meets in the conference room at the home office November 12 through 14

the summer than to attend United Youth Camp." "It was the best use of money we've seen in a long time." "Camp always inspires my children that God's Way is the right way." "My daughter's favorite aspect of camp is the Christian Living classes." "They [the camps] anchor him for the rest of the year by helping him have vision."

The next item of business was to review a demographic study of youth in the Church (see article, this page).

One of the lengthier discussions centered on a review and discussion of current policies dealing with equipment inventories, non-UCG involvement, scholarships, camp shirts, the application process, international involvement, discipline matters including expulsion, interfacing with parents, our code of conduct, awards and recognition, Christian Living formats, health and fitness issues, surveys, dorm parents, legal concerns, and the use of Web pages. On each of these issues, the camp team sought to differentiate between policies (expectations of the way each camp will handle various matters) and guidelines (recommendations to be applied as appropriate by camp directors).

The next day, members of the team reviewed financial matters including cost reporting, next year's budget and how to proceed with efforts to secure corporate donations for our camps. Concerning the latter, guidelines were provided on how to approach businesses with specific requests.

Camp Magazine and Video

Peter Eddington and Mike Bennett, of the home office, then joined the conference to plan the camp magazine for 2001. Article assignments were given in addition to having each camp director provide an overview of his camp. It was noted that last year this magazine clearly identified United Youth Camps to the ACA as one camp program with different locations across the United States. It was also a great help in approaching potential cor-

(See "CAMP," page 11)

Youth Education Committee Conducts Demographic Study

by Matthew Fenchel

In August of this year, pastors in the United Church of God were asked to fill out a demographic survey of their congregations. According to Larry Greider (United Youth Camps' overall coordinator), the purpose of this questionnaire was to gather information to assist the Church in planning for our teen, preteen and other youth-related activities. In October, Mary Clark (wife of Kansas pastor Tom Clark) completed the laborious task of compiling and analyzing the results. The finished report was then presented by the Youth Education Committee to the president and operation managers for their use.

The survey contained a variety of questions, including how many children and teenagers we have in various age groups, the number of young adults, the number of families, those who have attended camp in the past, those who plan on attending next year, numbers of children who attended past preteen camps, and those children who plan on attending preteen camps in 2001. The report produced some interesting results:

- Approximately 71 percent of youth ages 12 to 19 in United have attended summer camp at least once, and 57 percent of the pastors served at camp last summer.

- Thirty-one percent of United's total U.S. attendance is between the ages of 3 and 25, with 26 percent between the ages of 3 and 18.

- United has approximately 700 young adults between the ages of 19 and 35. Based

on the results of this survey, that number could grow to almost 1,200 by the year 2003, and to more than 2,200 by the year 2009.

- At this time, UCG has about 1,200 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 18. That number is projected to decrease somewhat during the next few years. Based on those currently in the Church, by 2003 that figure would be around 1,080. In 2006 it would be down to 950, and just slightly more than 900 in the year 2009.

The various results were also analyzed by geographical region. This will help us to know where future teen and preteen camps should be located, to minimize travel and costs to families.

As with any study of this nature, it is important to note that this is a "snapshot" at

one point in time. Certainly these numbers can—and probably will—change in the coming months and years, due to a variety of factors. Those working with the youth programs of the Church will continue to monitor the numbers and locations of our young people, in order to serve them in the most effective manner possible.

While demographic studies are valuable, they are just one tool the Church is using to analyze and improve its service to our children, teens and young adults. Most important is our dedication to God and His truth, and seeking His will in all that we do. All of those working with our youth are very excited with the spiritual growth that God is providing our young people and the dedication they are showing to Him. *UN*

Youth 3 to 25: Breakdown by Category and Region

Region	Age 3-5	Age 6-8	Age 9-11	Age 12-14	Age 15-18	Age 19-25	Totals	Previous camp attendees
Northwest	66	67	72	74	84	24	387	157
Southwest	45	34	45	42	39	59	264	50
Mountain	28	32	25	30	35	28	178	44
North Central	59	47	54	72	86	58	376	92
South Central	79	72	95	98	116	110	570	130
Central	45	31	45	58	55	76	310	99
Great Lakes	55	52	75	75	109	90	456	130
Southeast	60	72	58	74	81	56	401	108
Northeast	29	40	32	56	35	31	223	58
Totals	466	447	501	579	640	532	3,165	868

Will You Jump in the Lake Too?

by Robert Berendt

When I was a little boy, my mother would often caution us against blindly following the lead of others. She would say, "If everyone else jumps into the lake—does that mean that you should too?" The answer of too many people to that question is an emphatic, and tragic, yes!

We are strongly influenced by people around us. Often the actions of others draw us simply because it seems everybody is doing it. Few people give serious thought to consequences or to the future.

We have seen the millions in Germany following the goose step of a fanatic dictator to early graves and ruined lives. We read about the tens of thousands who marched together into disillusionment and suffering in the armies of the Crusades, Napoleon and Genghis Khan. We know of the millions who devoted their lives to the growth of communism.

We Are Followers

It is obvious in clothing fads, activities we engage in, trends and styles that people are, by and large, followers. "Where you lead me I will follow" we may have said as little children when thinking of Jesus Christ, but in reality, most follow the paths that the majority of people about us take. Most people do not do that which seems wrong to them. They believe they are doing something that is right and good (Proverbs 14:12).

It is rare to find a person who thinks deeply and makes his or her choices based on logic, observation, good advice and, most importantly of course, the Holy Scriptures.

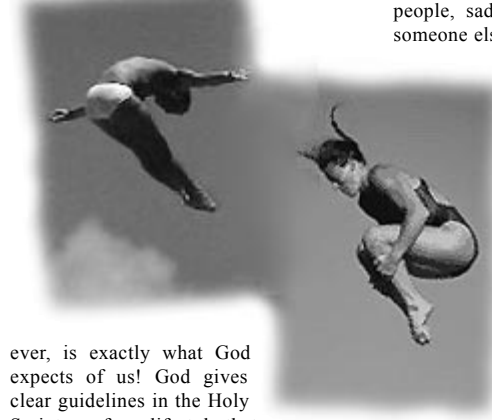
Choices are easy just as long as everyone else is doing it. When a person determines to do the right thing, no matter the consequences, then that person is showing signs of strength and the ability to think clearly.

In 1 Corinthians 15:33 God inspired Paul to caution members not to be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." We use sayings such as "One rotten apple can spoil the barrel" to help us remember certain guidelines to living well. One good apple tossed into a barrel of rotten apples will not change the bad apples to good ones. Yet, so many Christians naively believe that this can happen.

There is a huge amount of energy and zeal, enthusiasm and drive in the young. This is vital to progress and when properly directed, results in success and accomplishments. For the masses, though, this exuberance is often manipulated and used for purposes that

only result in disillusionment, regrets and pain. Humanity has not yet learned that there is only one way to live—God's way.

Our attitudes and beliefs need to be guarded and inspected often. It is a human tendency to avoid the extra effort that is often needed to reach the highest levels of a relationship with God. It is not easy nor is it natural for we humans to stand against the whole society about us. That, how-



ever, is exactly what God expects of us! God gives clear guidelines in the Holy Scriptures for a lifestyle that promotes liberty and happiness.

Liberty Carries Responsibilities

Liberty carries responsibility for choices and actions with it and ought not to be confused with license. God tells us that this society will not tolerate His way of life. In John 17:14-15 Jesus asked the Father to keep His people from the evil one. He said His followers "are not of the world, just as I am not of the world." We are not living in the world God supports and loves. He loves the people of this world and is determined to end the blindness, hardness of heart, greed and other vices that plague all of our societies.

Back to the wisdom of my mother's remarks. The easiest thing to do is to go along with the status quo. "Don't rock the boat," people will say. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus said to "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." God did not leave much room for those who are quick and eager to jump into the lake with everyone else. Just because everyone else is doing it, that does not make it right.

God has taken to Himself the task of forcing us to think for ourselves, guided by His Word, and to think correctly. We all have the freedom to reject

God's work because He wants free "children of obedience" in His family (1 Peter 1:14). He wants those who can make good and right decisions when they have been given God's Word and the understanding of truth.

This is not much different than a scientist learning to think for himself, but guided by the laws of science. He would be insane to cast those laws aside and try to work in the field of science without knowing and using the laws of the physical universe around him. Most people, sad to say, are content to let someone else think for them in so many vital aspects of life. Some manage to bury their heads in the sand for their whole lives.

Courage and Determination

God did not promise an easy life for His followers. He said it would take a great deal of courage and determination to enter eternal life. Developing and building these and other powerful and valuable character traits pleases God greatly. Jesus Christ suffered for us and He was perfected by what He suffered. Since we are to walk in His footsteps, we too are allowed to suffer sometimes.

1 Peter 5:1 is a strong admonition to the elders who have been given the privilege of serving the children God has chosen. This is a huge responsibility. Peter goes on to say in verse 6 to allow God to lead our lives. He then tells us in verses 8-10 that we are to be serious and thoughtful in how we conduct our lives. We are to steadfastly look to God for guidance because Satan has been given control over the affairs of this

world and since he is God's adversary, he is our adversary too. As we yield to God's hand and resist the ways of this world, God will in due time perfect, establish and strengthen us.

We are to come out of this world. The difficult path will become the most beautiful and satisfying.

It seems that it does us a lot of good to take a firm and strong stand based on "truth." It builds character. In the smaller scale of things such as growing up in a family with a mother such as I had, some of that kind of character was formed in all of her children.

To follow the lamp of goodness, justice, righteousness, honesty and outgoing concern, no matter what the cost, is the only way of liberty and peace. Sleep comes easily and is sweet for those who allow God to do His handiwork in their lives.

Standing on the Edge

How about you? Are you standing on the edge of the lake watching the actions of others and if they jump in, will you jump into the lake too?

We all have much too much work to do to waste our years watching others. Let us be about our Father's business and let us keep our wits about us at every turn of the road. We are to come out of this world. The difficult path becomes the most beautiful and satisfying. *UN*

Robert Berendt pastors the Edmonton, Alberta, congregation in Canada.

"Upstream"

The easy roads are crowded and the level roads are jammed,
The pleasant little rivers with the drifting folks are crammed.
But off yonder where it's rocky, where you get the better view,
You'll find the ranks are thinning and the travelers are few.

Where the going's smooth and pleasant, you will always find the throng.

For the many—more's the pity—seem to like to drift along.
But the steps that call for courage and the task that's hard to do,
In the end results in glory for the never wavering few.

—Anonymous

Feast of Tabernacles 2000

Young Adults' Seminars Presented at All U.S. and Canadian Sites

by Larry Greider

Seminars for young adults, ages 18 to 30s, were held this year at all the U.S. and Canadian sites. These seminars are a continuation of a process that began in 1996, when a survey was given to young adults asking how the Church could be of service to them. The overwhelming response was for more biblical education that related to living in this world.

Each year, ministers have been selected by the Youth Education Committee to conduct a presentation and discussion on a topic of interest to this age group. This year the theme was "Making Wise Decisions." A teleconference was held before the Feast and each presenter was encouraged to customize

60 copies were made (50 hard copies and 10 on disks)."

Many of our young adults seem eager to learn more about God's way of life and want to be involved in the work of the Church. Fred Kellers, who attended in Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec, made an interesting observation. "One of the major comments was that young people don't have much of a chance to develop leadership in the Church. They said that they attempted to serve in the local congregation, but that all opportunities to serve seemed to be reserved for the older members and deacons. One commented on all of the ways he attempted to serve and yet it was years before he was ever asked to give an opening or closing prayer. In his congregation, one must be an old-time member before being allowed to do anything at Church."

Opportunities now available for teens and young adults such as the United Youth Camps, the United Youth Corps and



the material. Karie Greider put together a Microsoft Powerpoint presentation of slides and graphics to help stimulate interaction.

Cecil Maranville, the presenter in Bend, Oregon, mentioned, "We had 61 young adults in attendance. They were an enthusiastic group and were positive about the presentation and information."

Bill Bradford mentioned, "We had 72 in attendance in Escondido, significantly up from last year. The discussion went very well and we had a number of comments that this was no ordinary Bible study where we got 'preached at.'"

At Panama City Beach, Florida, Jim Franks commented, "They were enthusiastic and very motivated. We had a total of 87 in attendance. Many commented on the presentation and virtually all asked for copies of the slide show afterwards. I explained in the beginning that I would provide copies of the material to anyone who wanted it, but did not want to make copies that would not be used.



Young Adults' seminars in Wisconsin Dells, Branson and Hawaii

Ambassador Bible Center, make the future of the Church seem more secure, especially seeing the enthusiasm demonstrated at many of the Feast sites this year.

Larry W. Greider is a member of the Youth Education Committee and is United Youth Camps coordinator.



Festival Youth Instruction at Panama City Beach (photo by Ken Treybig); right, Mont Sainte Anne (photos by Kent Spiry); below, Branson, Missouri (photo by Glenn Smith)



Festival Youth Instruction Program Serves 950 Children

This year the Festival Youth Instruction Program or Kingdom Grand Slam 2000 was presented at all 13 Feast sites in North America. An estimate of 950 children eagerly participated in the two-day class schedule. The program and lessons were extended by request to Germany and Australia.

The program incorporated various activities intended to teach the fundamental lessons associated with God's coming Kingdom, which was the focus of each class. Some highlights from the program involved the use of hand puppets, role playing, original skits, Bible stories and reinforcing art projects that students could take home.

A few typical comments from the parents and staff included:

"The lessons went well and seemed

to capture the children's imagination."

"There was enthusiastic response to the material."

"They willingly worked together and were eager to answer questions and discuss the material."

"It's exciting to see the children learn and hear them repeat what they learned after such a short time."

Many thanks to the volunteers who taught, assisted and coordinated the program this year. It takes many hours to transform an ordinary room into a learning center that allows children to catch a vision of the world tomorrow. It is our sincere hope that these specially tailored lessons will reach the hearts of the children and foster a love and understanding of God and His promises.

Jim and Judy Servidio

Feast 2000

in Pictures



South Africa (photo by Claire Hawkins)



Davao City, Philippines (photos by Charles Macaraeg)



Iloilo City, Philippines (photos by Virgilio Belga Jr.)



Taupo, New Zealand (photos by David Good)



Panama City Beach (photo by Ken Treybig)



Estonia (photo by Victor Kubik)



Cameroon (photo by Joel Meeker)



Corpus Christi (photo by Bill Callison)



Wisconsin Dells (photos by Steve Nutzman)

"The first night I was inside the door a whole 10 seconds before I was bombarded by a huge group of excited friends! We all started talking about how great this Feast was going to be!"
Wisconsin Dells



Chile (photos contributed by Jaime Guinez)





Barbados (photo by Arnold Hampton)



Noosa Heads, Australia



Lihue, Hawaii



Gettysburg



Escondido, California



Kenya



"This year's Feast of Tabernacles has been described glowingly by the old-timers here, including this writer, as the best FOT in this part of the world."
Nigeria



Jekyll Island
(photos by Solomon Downing)



Zambia (photos by Andre van Belkum)



Remnant Church of God Feast sites in Ghana (photos by Doug Horschak)



Media Principles From the Prophets

God's encouragement to Jeremiah and Ezekiel can help us in our approach to preaching the gospel today.

by Graemme Marshall

Constantinople was for 1,000 years the Byzantine capital of the eastern Roman empire with Christianity its religion from the fourth century. In 1453 that all changed for the next nearly 500 years.

Muhammed II laid siege to the city to make it capital of the Ottoman empire which at its height stretched from the Danube to the Euphrates. That empire lasted until World War I.

He climaxed the siege by taking his navy and enormous bronze cannons overland to bypass chains across the harbor mouth. He then shelled the city from the inner harbor.

On May 29, 1453, the walls were breached and Ottoman soldiers poured into Constantinople subjugating the local Christian and Jewish populations. A story from that time tells how Christian scholars in the besieged city (within days of becoming Muslim for the next 500 years!) were preoccupied with the following theological questions:

- What color eyes had the virgin?
- If a fly falls into holy water, is the water defiled or the fly sanctified?

Whether true or not, there's an unsettling parallel with our times. With the fabric of society tearing apart, many today seem preoccupied with similar debates. But we don't have to fall into that trap. We can be motivated by these dangerous times to get on with the job we've been given of preaching the gospel in all the world.

God's Church Always Involved in Promoting the Gospel

Recent home office news illustrates how we seem once again poised to grow. Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick, commenting on the Church's income, said, "Our financial stability now gives us the ability to continue strongly fulfilling the commission of the Church." This is evidenced by requests for literature more than double last year. Some callers responding to the new radio broadcast ask, "Are you the same program as Herbert Armstrong?"

We indeed strive to continue the calling and commission of our recent past. It also parallels that given Jeremiah and Ezekiel. We can learn much about media challenges from what these two prophets were instructed by God.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel's Problems

Jeremiah was called to preach God's message in Jerusalem as Ezekiel was called, 700 miles away in Babylon.

Jeremiah was told the problems he'd encounter and that, no matter, he was to fulfill his calling. His immediate response quite lacked enthusiasm. Like Moses he pleaded inadequacy, saying he was too young (Jeremiah 1:6). He may have meant he was too young as a priest and felt inexperienced. Or it could have reflected his introspective nature and that he, by temperament, felt personal inadequacy.

Paraphrasing God's response as it applies to us: "Don't you think I know what I'm doing in calling you? Don't be afraid of the looks on their faces because I will give you the right words to say" (verses 7-8).

We too can feel overwhelmed by God's calling and feel inadequate for the task. God anticipated negative reactions to preaching His truth. He told Jeremiah to not be dismayed about it. We get discouraged at the lack of seriousness from others when we speak on God's behalf. There was a personal warning too, that if Jeremiah allowed unresponsive attitudes to deter him from doing the job, God would trouble Jeremiah before his detractors (verse 17). God knew people would fight against him, but He assured Jeremiah they would not succeed because God would be with him (verse 19).

Society ever rots around us. Can we afford to idly sit back and let darkness overtake us? Have the courage and heart for the gospel. Be involved in sowing the seed!

Now it seems Ezekiel had a different personality, but he faced the same problems. In graphic language God described his audience as a "rebellious house, impudent and stubborn" (Ezekiel 2:3-4). Whether they would listen, or whether they wouldn't (because after all "they are a rebellious house"), Ezekiel was to still take God's message to them (verse 5).

God's purpose includes making sure our peoples will in the future come to know that a prophet has been among them. Much of our effort may not bear fruit until later.

Understanding how His human instruments can become discouraged, God sympathetically outlined to Ezekiel the people's attitudes: though we may be hurt by resistance, and words and looks make us afraid, we are NOT to be deterred from the task. We are told the people's reaction to

truth will be like briars, thorns and scorpions (verse 6). Thorns prick our skin and make us bleed. Scorpions sting with burning pain. In a similar way their words and looks can psychologically demoralize and weaken our resolve.

God emphasizes that whether they hear or refuse, we are to still do the job and make sure we aren't rebellious like them (Ezekiel 2:6-8). In comforting Ezekiel God further explains the reason they won't listen to us is that they will not listen to Him. They are unreceptive because their nature is "impudent and hardhearted" (Ezekiel 3:7-9). While preaching God's truth we must remember they will NOT listen because of insolent hard hearts.

As with Jeremiah and Ezekiel, a lack of response shouldn't put us off. Dirty looks and hurtful words are a natural result from a rebellious nation.

Relatives and Friends Can Discourage Too

Interestingly, even family may at times hinder the gospel. In Jeremiah's case close family, probably embarrassed before friends by what he was saying, enlisted others to deter his public preaching. God makes clear that Jeremiah was in danger of being deceived by family (Jeremiah 12:6).

Today we can have similar difficulty with unbelieving relatives. Strangely, too, some opposition to the gospel comes from within our Church family. Perhaps we err by a desire to placate others when we should step out in faith and stand for truth.

Yet, There Is Hope

God explains to Ezekiel that, even though they have eyes that can't see and ears that won't hear, he should still go ahead and preach as "it may be that they will consider" (Ezekiel 12:2-3). This is very comforting. It makes our efforts worthwhile when just one person responds to God's calling. Ezekiel would become a sign later when the people realized the words he had spoken had come to pass.

God explains that a lack of response has to do with attitudes of people who conclude, "The vision is for many days, he prophesies of days far off" (verses 6, 25-27). Isn't this true in our history? What the Church has preached hasn't happened, so they put off involvement. The task of the prophets was to be accomplished whether people listened or not. They would at a later time come to know a prophet of God had been among them (Ezekiel 33:31-33).

Yet, despite our knowing this, a lack of response can make us feel we aren't achieving much. Elijah felt this, which puts us in great company! It seems strange that after the triumph on Mount Carmel and the execution of the priests of Baal, he would throw in the towel just because of a

death threat from Jezebel. She had been trying to kill him for years. But stress can become the last straw that breaks our emotional back and he fled.

God succored Elijah for a while, then informed him of something he didn't realize. There were 7,000 who had not bowed to Baal nor kissed the idol. Elijah probably didn't know of these people. When the paganism of Ahab and Jezebel reigned supreme, God-fearing people would have quietly hid themselves. This illustration of people who remain faithful to God's covenant was used by Paul about a remnant in Israel (Romans 11:1-5).

What of New Testament Times?

Although Justus, Crispus and many others believed and were baptized through Paul's preaching in Corinth, he became upset at stubborn attitudes against him. It deterred him enough to quit Corinth and plan to go elsewhere (Acts 18:6-11). Paul concluded his work there was over.

But God knew better. Because Paul was determined to leave, God gave a vision one night saying: "I have many people in this city. So don't be afraid, no one will attack you, and I will be with you." Paul obediently stayed another 18 months. We can be so short-sighted and demoralized by resistance to our efforts.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ's first coming, so too Christ's Church prepares the way for His second coming (Mark 1:2-4).

We have a commission and obligation to preach the gospel. Paul expressed his role this way: "Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me" (1 Corinthians 9:16-17, NIV).

It was Paul's preference to sacrifice and from the heart see the gospel made available. He asked how can anyone hear the truth unless there are those who make it known (Romans 10:14-17)? If we sit back uninvolved, how will people who could have been reached by our efforts ever hear?

Christ was busy with His Father's work when He was on earth. He said, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work" (John 9:4).

Society ever rots around us. Can we afford to idly sit back and let darkness overtake us? Have the courage and heart for the gospel. Be involved in sowing the seed! *UN*

Graemme Marshall pastors the congregations in southeast Queensland and is a member of the Media and Publishing Committee in Australia. He is also a reviewer for the Church's literature.

Working Together to Spread the Gospel in Southern California

By Robin Webber

Like all of our brethren around the world, the congregations in Southern California are working together to do their part in fulfilling Matthew 28:19-20. As the Church does its part in producing written literature, the local ministry and brethren take very seriously their role, looking at Southern California as their area of responsibility.

Evangelism is a way of life for our Garden Grove, Los Angeles, Bakersfield and Fresno congregations. Camilo Reyes and I, as well as our elders and deacons, our local church councils and members, are all on the same page. While serving our own flocks, we always think outward of the world around us. Much of our time in local meetings is taken up with what to do next.

Signs and Cybercasting

Our first step in reaching out is having quality church signs for our two largest congregations of Los Angeles and Garden Grove. While church signs do not "call people," they tell people that we are here, that we are open and friendly to all who come to worship and learn in peace. While relatively few people have been attracted to our services by these signs (though several have), the greater good is the message the signs give our people. The sign is a small way of allowing our young people a sense of identity and letting them know that their parents are excited to let other people know who they are.

Over the past five years, occasionally I'll get a comment like "but are you a Christian Church?" Therefore on our church sign we have added in smaller print "A Christian Fellowship" to define ourselves for others who may be interested.

Another step we are taking in the Los Angeles congregation is to cybercast our service live as often as we can. Again, this is a means of serving the world at large. It also creates a vibrancy in that particular congregation that this message is reaching beyond the church walls. Our local church council in Los Angeles is currently laying out plans to initiate another cybercast from Los Angeles that would be totally in Spanish. Once we are totally confident in our English cybercasting,

we hope to take this next step early in 2001.

Distributing Literature

Further up in the Bakersfield and Fresno juncture of our circuit, Camilo Reyes, our associate pastor who resides in Bakersfield, is spearheading an all-out effort of "seeding" the lower Central Valley area of California. Currently, *The Good News* is being distributed in 21 locations in this area using the professional services of Traders Distribution (TDS) and Central Valley Distributors. Over the last six months this effort has spread over 26,500 magazines. Mr. Reyes has often mentioned the joy that he and his wife have when loading up their VW with magazines headed for distribution.

Our Garden Grove congregation has also taken several initiatives. Our *Good News* team has added 3,000 names to the Waiting Room Program.

Beyond this effort, we have been working in conjunction with the home office in distributing booklets within our communities. Each booklet has a sticker on it identifying the congregations in Southern California and giving our local toll-free number. Currently we have two separate toll-free numbers, one for English and one for Spanish. The Garden Grove congregation has also advertised *Las Buenas Noticias* (Spanish *Good News*) through eight display ads in the widely distributed *La Opinion* newspaper.

Open Houses

All of these efforts are geared to the next phase of local evangelism. Since last March we have had a three-week Open House series in each of the Garden Grove, Los Angeles and Bakersfield congregations. We are currently planning one for Fresno for early next year. While our places of worship are open every Sabbath, we still liked the overall name and concept of "Open House." Our members wanted to directly invite our *Good News* audience to services. We all felt that it is important and vital for "people to meet people."

The Open House Program currently is entering phase three. The first phase was to send out a letter to all on our *Good News* mailing list in a particular congregational

area. We invited them to services to hear a three-part series over three weeks. The subjects were "Why Were You Born?" (ultimately explaining our understanding of the family



of God), "Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?" (explaining this is not the only day of salvation and explaining the biblical teaching on the resurrections) and "Is This the Beginning of the End, or the End of the Beginning?" (a positive and encouraging approach to end-time prophecy).

While turnout for this initial phase has been relatively light in Garden Grove and Los Angeles with seven people attending each congregation, in Bakersfield eight people came to the first message which was about a fifth of those in attendance that day.

Our brethren in all locations have been encouraged to invite seriously interested family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers or classmates. It has been encouraging to see the openness of our members, especially our younger members, in sharing the Sabbath with dear friends. For the moment, it seems most people are reluctant to actually attend, which indeed is a big step for them. We simply may be ahead of the curve of their understanding or interest. Nonetheless, the members have shown great enthusiasm, recognizing that this is just the beginning, as we prepare for future growth.

Encouraging Results of Tape Offer

The second phase of our program was to send another letter to the *Good News* mailing

list to offer them this same series on audiotape. We targeted this second phase to first-time contacts (not our own membership or those who may be in other church organizations with common understanding). Also, the return envelope did not have a stamp so we could be more sure they really were interested. The results have been overwhelmingly encouraging. Just in the Los Angeles and Garden Grove congregations we have received 225 requests for all three sets of tapes. This is about a 15 percent response.

For the third phase our intention is to offer this group a second round of audio messages. This round

will include a two-part series on "Seven Keys to Understanding the Blessing of the Sabbath" and a message on "How the Kingdom of God Will Be Restored on Earth." All letterhead always includes the ministry's phone number, fax number, e-mail listing and the Church's Web site. We look at this Open House Program as an opportunity to place a calling card from God's people into various houses within our communities.

It is our goal to move through the three phase program annually. Our congregations have truly appreciated the support of the home office in allowing us "to work together" in a work that is greater than all of our sum totals put together because it is God's work which He allows us to do for Him.

I never cease to be amazed at the energy, desire, creativity and urgency of our members to do the work.

Is it worth it? Consider this comment that I received from a gentleman. His mother, one of our *Good News* subscribers, had asked to receive the audio messages from the Open House. As he stated, "they were just laying around the house." He was the one who listened to them and he made a profound comment upon calling me to see where we met. He said, "Your church is asking the big questions of life, and you are giving answers!" UN

"CAMP," (Continued from page 5)

porate donors. Of course, it was also helpful for families and teens in determining which camp or camps to attend.

This year in place of a one-hour video, the team decided to produce a 10- to 12-minute video illustrating one aspect of camp. The focus of the video would revolve around interviews with campers and parents about our camps' goal of helping youth develop their relationship with God. Plans were then made for taping selected youth and parents at the upcoming Winter Camp.

Observations from camp directors on things that worked especially well this past year included: adult staff members eating

with campers at the evening meal, compiling a CD with digital camp photos, a relationship class (discussing personality differences and how males and females should treat each other), team-building classes, flag raising and lowering ceremonies, special music for Friday evening and Sabbath evening meals, Sabbath notes, a Sabbath evening steak dinner, an additional Bible class during the week along with Christian Living classes, previewing talent show acts and concluding the day with a hymn ("God Will See Us Through").

The pros and cons of various styles of Christian Living classes were also discussed. Various styles currently used include short lectures (called Compass Check and conduct-

ed in the morning), formal classes (usually in the morning but occasionally at other times throughout the day) and Q&A sessions with a panel of ministers (usually conducted in the evenings). One camp, McKenzie, has also experimented with sending out Christian Living material to be studied before camp. This method seems to improve the understanding of the campers. The camp team concluded that camp directors should use a mixture of these styles depending on the material they want to cover and the abilities of those who will conduct them.

Two new challenger-type camps were also proposed. A decision on whether to implement one of these camps in 2001 was

deferred until everyone had more time to pray and meditate on the proposals. Later it was decided not to launch the camps this year.

Discussions on Monday concluded with comments and a Q&A session with Les McCullough. On the last day of the conference, Connie Coutellier of the ACA took the team through a review of risk exposure to make sure our potential liabilities are adequately addressed. After identifying current strengths and weaknesses, the team considered future opportunities such as program expansion and distance training of staff. Finally, the team identified potential threats to our program including economic factors, substandard facilities and societal trends. UN

2001 SABBATH AND HOLY DAY PLANNER

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 PASSOVER (SERVICE PREVIOUS EVENING)
8 UNLEAVENED BREAD HOLY DAY	9 UNLEAVENED BREAD 2ND DAY	10 UNLEAVENED BREAD 3RD DAY	11 UNLEAVENED BREAD 4TH DAY	12 UNLEAVENED BREAD 5TH DAY	13 UNLEAVENED BREAD 6TH DAY	14 UNLEAVENED BREAD HOLY DAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 PENTECOST	28	29	30	31		

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 FEAST OF TRUMPETS	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 DAY OF ATONEMENT	28	29

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 FEAST OF TABERNACLES HOLY DAY	3 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2ND DAY	4 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 3RD DAY	5 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 4TH DAY	6 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 5TH DAY
7 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 6TH DAY	8 FEAST OF TABERNACLES 7TH DAY	9 LAST GREAT DAY HOLY DAY	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Local Church Updates...

Formal Dinner Held for Salt Lake City Teens

On September 16, 2000, there was a formal dinner held for six teens in the Salt



Jonathan Hart, Nancy Fox, Seth Difley, Neil Hart (host), Alex Fox, Danielle Espil and Nathan Villaescusa enjoy a formal dinner in Salt Lake City

Lake City, Utah, congregation. It was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Hart. We had a five-course meal complete with "cocktails" (nonalcoholic) and hors d'oeuvres, planned and cooked by Lynn Fox, Carol Foy, Beth Hart and Margaret Villaescusa.

The dinner taught us about proper etiquette, and how to behave in a very nice restaurant. The dinner was a great success and went off without a hitch. It was a very memorable evening.

Nancy Fox

Cincinnati North Hosts 4th Family Tournament

The Cincinnati Family Tournament is scheduled for December 22 to 25 at the Kings Island Resort.

This is the fourth year for the tournament and each year it has increased in size. Last year more than 1,150 people from all parts of the United States and Canada joined us for an exciting event.

This year activities will begin on Friday evening, December 22, at 7:30 p.m. with Bible studies for teens, young adults and families. Sabbath morning seminars will begin at 10 a.m. You can choose any two seminars from a menu of a dozen thought-provoking subjects before taking a break for lunch and returning to hear a special guest speaker at afternoon services. Preteen classes will occur at the same time and a nursery will be available for those who need it.

A dance will take place on Saturday night. Games will begin after the dance and activities will conclude on Monday, December 25, at 2:30 p.m. There will be an open house of the home office for those who would like to visit on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

All basketball and volleyball games will take place at Sports Express as they have in previous years. The table tennis events will occur at Kings Island Resort. A map and directions are available on-line at www.ucgcincy.com/FamilyTournament/directions.asp.

Entry fees are \$5 per person per sport in advance or \$10 at the door. Please make checks payable to Cincinnati North Activity Fund and send them to Jim O'Brien at the address listed below. If paying for more than one person please include a note detailing who is included with the payment.

There are many ways to sign up. You can register on-line, print a registration form from our Web site (www.ucgcincy.com/FamilyTournament/) or request a registration form from: Jim O'Brien, P.O. Box 1811, West Chester, OH 45071. The e-mail is jimobri@aol.com or you may call (513) 755-0040.

Kings Island Resort is offering a spe-

cial flat rate of \$41 per room per night for those attending the tournament. It is located on Interstate 71 at exit #25. You may make reservations by calling Kings Island Resort directly at (800) 727-3050.

Jim O'Brien

Salt Lake City Ski Weekend Adds ABC Lectures

Plans are again being made for the Ski Weekend in the Salt Lake City area February 17-19, 2001. This year something new is being added, ABC sessions with Ralph Levy conducting some of the sessions. The sessions will be conducted on Saturday morning and evening.

We plan to go again to Solitude, one of the best ski resorts in the area. The cost will be \$45 per person. This includes the cost of one ski pass for Sunday, February 18, and one meal. (Note: ski rental is extra.) We have an area reserved at Solitude so we can get together while skiing.

Lodging is available at the Cottontree Best Western, 1030 N. 400 E., North Salt Lake City, UT, (801) 292-7666. Cost: \$65.05/night (up to four people per room). Be sure to mention when you call that you are with the United Church of God. The Best Western has a pool and hot tub. If you wish to room with someone (to help with the cost) fill out the form and let us know. We will try to match some with roommates to share the cost.

Some housing with brethren is available in the area. Contact Bill Jahns if you wish to stay in a private home.

Services will be held at the Cottontree Best Western, 1030 N. 400 E., North Salt Lake City, UT at 3 p.m., February 17.

There will be four ABC lectures starting at 10 a.m., February 17. A complete schedule will be sent to those attending.

If you wish to just come for the ABC lectures, you are welcome. The lectures are free, but you can stay on

Sunday and join us for fellowship and games at the Honeycomb Room in the Lodge at Solitude. The cost for the meal is \$10. If you are not a downhill skier, you can possibly do some cross-country skiing if you wish or find a slope for some sledding.

If you have any questions, call Bill Jahns at (801) 943-6786 or e-mail at bill_jahns@ucg.org. If interested, just fill out the form and send it in.

Bill Jahns

Kansas City Sells Fruit to Raise Funds

Members from the Kansas City, Missouri, congregation raised money by selling fruit in order to benefit several Church projects. Last year a \$1,000 donation was given to help send a container of supplies to Guatemala. The Malawi Birthing Center was given \$480. And the home office was sent \$480 for our festival assistance and Church assistance fund. In past years, funds were provided to send children to school in Africa. Besides all of this, teens from the Church have been helped to attend summer camp. This year \$500 will go toward this fund.

Volunteers for the fruit sale take colorful advertisements to their places of business and out into the community. The sale lasts for about three weeks and then the orders are collected and turned in. The fruit arrives very fresh—only 72 hours after being picked. Members gather together to unload the truck, separate the fruit and make the gift boxes for distribution.

Our guarantee which backs up the quality of the produce has resulted in a lot of repeat business thus making this fund-raiser a relatively easier one each year.

For those wishing information on contacts, organization and administration of fruit sales, feel free to contact Larry Williamson at (913) 592-9932.

Laura Lewis

How Can We Make *United News* Better?

What do you read first? _____
What do you not read? _____
What activities in your area would you like to see covered in *United News*? _____

Is there a person in your area you would like to see featured in *United News*? If so, who? _____

What would you like to read more about? _____

What suggestions do you have for improving *United News*? _____

Congregation _____

Name (optional) _____

Return this form to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Salt Lake City Ski Weekend/ABC Lectures President's Day Weekend, February 17-19, 2001

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Attending Only ABC Lectures: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Ski Level: ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

Cross-Country Skiing _____ Roommate _____

Cost: \$45 per person for skiing, \$10 if not skiing. Make checks to UCG-SLC.

Return this form to: United Church of God, P.O. Box 933, Sandy, UT 84091

Announcements...

Births

Courtney Nicole Franke was born September 6, 2000, in Franklin, Tennessee. She weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. Her parents are Timothy and Michele (Burnette) Franke of Franklin, Tennessee. Her maternal grandparents are George and Rita Burnette of



Courtney Nicole Franke

Springfield, Tennessee, and her paternal grandparents are Charles and Arlene Franke of Soldotna, Alaska. This is Timothy and Michele's first child.

Doug and Ann (Spieker) Murphy of Omaha, Nebraska, are thrilled to announce the birth of their twin daughters on September 29, 2000. Briana Violet weighed 8



Briana Violet and Sarah Elise Murphy

pounds 2 ounces and was 20¾ inches long. Sarah Elise weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 20½ inches long. Erin, age 4, is the proud big sister. Grandparents are Harlan and Janice Spieker of Willow Lake, South Dakota, and Robert and Nancy Murphy of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

Richard and Rachel (Velting) Averett, members of the Dallas, Texas, congregation, are pleased to announce the birth of their little blessing, Ethan James. Ethan was born on October 10, 2000, weighing 7 pounds 8.6 ounces and measuring



Ethan James Averett

20 inches long. The proud grandparents are Richard and Nancy Velting of Dallas, and Jim and Jannette Averett of Greensboro, North Carolina. Ethan is the first grandchild for the Veltings and the fifth for the Averetts.

Vince and Marie Hirschler would like to announce the birth of their first child, Janine Marie. Janine introduced herself October 12, 2000, at 8 pounds 7½ ounces and 20½



Janine Marie Hirschler

inches long. She is the fourth new addition to the Omaha, Nebraska, congregation since August.

Cliff and Susan (Thomas) Demarest are delighted to announce the birth of their second son, James David. David was born on July 12, 2000. He weighed 8 pounds 9.5 ounces and was 22.5 inches long. Big brother Derek loves his new playmate. Proud grandparents are Roy and Pauline Demarest of Boynton



James David Demarest

Beach, Florida, and Don and Edwina Thomas of Mobile, Alabama.

Engagement

Paul Spenser from the Isle of Man and Kira Engholm from Sweden are pleased to announce their engagement (November 18). A wedding is planned for late February in Sweden.

Weddings

Brendan C. Babcock, son of Col. William (deceased) and Audrey Babcock of Fayetteville, Tennessee, married Sharon Michelle Treybig, daughter of David and Teddi (Goodrich) Treybig of Lubbock, Texas, on September 17, 2000, in Dallas, Texas. The bride's father performed the ceremony. Bridesmaids Amy Smallwood, Bonnie Turner,



Brendan and Sharon Babcock

Kim Fricke, Kamie Treybig and Suzanne (Oliver) Borton wore deep blue dresses. Brian Babcock, William Babcock, Ben Parsley, Jason Ranew and Pedro Reinoso served as groomsmen. David J. Treybig, Scott Haapasaari and Darrin Keith ushered. The couple resides in Plano, Texas, and attends the Dallas North UCG congregation.

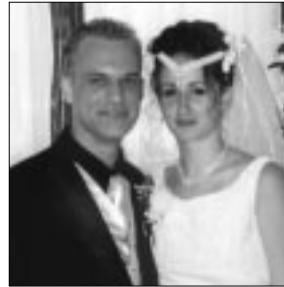
Dawn Elizabeth Schwartzrock, daughter of Gerald and Ardelle



Aaron and Dawn Booth

Schwartzrock, and Aaron David Booth, son of Les and Debbie Booth, were married October 1, 2000. The fall wedding took place in Indianapolis, Indiana, at a cottage near Eagle Creek Park. Darris McNeely performed the outdoor ceremony at 3 p.m. About one hundred friends and family witnessed the marriage along with Beth Schwartzrock as the maid of honor and Jon Pinelli as the best man. The newlyweds reside in Indianapolis.

Andrea Dae Vincent, daughter of Kirby and Jocelyn Vincent, and John Austin Flynn III, son of John and Toni Flynn, were married on August 6, 2000, in Nassau Bay, Texas. The ceremony was per-



John and Andrea Flynn

formed by Ken Giese, pastor of the Houston South congregation. John and Andrea currently reside in College Station, Texas, where John attends Texas A&M as a finance major and Andrea works as a licensed cosmetologist. They attend the Houston North congregation.

Anniversaries

On June 18, 1950, in Peoria, Illinois, a young Swedish girl was joined in marriage to a German man whom she described as her "handsome knight in shining armor who swept me off my feet." He was equally smitten with her.

Such were the beginnings for Virgil and Kathryn Priebe, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with the UCG Phoenix East congregation. When asked what advice they would give young married couples who face the trials of life or those seeking a mate, they noted the importance of "being patient with each other, compromising and putting God first."

Mr. Priebe was baptized in 1988 and Mrs. Priebe in 1991. The Priebe's shared their love for traveling and camping with their three



Virgil and Kathryn Priebe

sons, making for a lot of family togetherness over the years. They now have three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Cecil and Bonnie Campbell of Phoenix, Arizona, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary September 5, 2000. They lived in Indianapolis, Indiana, before moving to Arizona in 1974.

Cecil was baptized in 1959 and Bonnie in 1965. They were married



Bonnie and Cecil Campbell

by John Bald. They have two daughters, Renee Stenbak and Diane George, and two granddaughters, Leandra and Janessa Stenbak.

Obituaries

Helmut G. Ihde, 80, of Ocala, Florida, died October 6, 2000. Mr. Ihde was a longtime member who moved to the Ocala area in 1999 from Vero Beach, Florida. He is survived by a son and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held following the Day of Atonement services October 9 with Don Waterhouse officiating.

Charlene Stephens, 87, died October 21, 2000. She resided at the West Carroll nursing home in Oak Grove, Louisiana, and was a victim of diabetes, having suffered the amputation of her leg recently. Mrs. Stephens was baptized in September 1997.

Jacob Aaron Barbush, 20, of Spring Hill, Florida, died June 17, 2000, at home. Born in Tucson, Arizona, he moved to Florida from Lake Tahoe, California, seven years ago. He worked as an automotive technician for All American Auto Repair. Skateboarding was his favorite sport. Survivors include his parents, George and Kathy Barbush; two brothers, Steven of Land O'Lakes, Florida, and Matthew of Spring Hill; his paternal grandparents, John and Gwen Barbush of

Lockport, Illinois; uncle, John Barbush of Romeoville, Illinois; aunt, Diane Warrington of West Chicago, Illinois; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial service was conducted by John Barbush Jr. and Don Waterhouse on June 24.

Elmer Orren Royce, 89, a member of the Beloit, Wisconsin congregation, died November 8, 2000. Funeral services were conducted by local elder, Carl Falzone. Mr. Royce had been ill for a number

of years and was currently in a nursing home in Rockford, Illinois. He was preceded in death by his wife Mabel. He is survived by four children: Ronald, Terence, Gordon and Merilyn; 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Royce and his wife began listening to Herbert W. Armstrong on an old radio in the barn on his aunt's farm. He was baptized in 1963 along with his wife and daughter.

He was well known in the congregation for his background in

American history and Midwestern farm culture as well as his funny anecdotes. He will be greatly missed by those who had the privilege to know him for many years.

Ron Sackett of Olympia, Washington, died peacefully at home of cancer on July 24. He was in the Church for 28 years, first in Puyallup, Washington, and then in the Olympia area.

Because of Ron's matter-of-fact attitude toward whatever happened

(healing or death) everyone who participated in his care or was around him much came away much richer for the experience. This has made his death and the mourning period much easier to deal with.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two sons, Chris and Jason; seven stepchildren, Dean, Theresa, Bliss, Jenni, Brendan, Bridget and Bradley; four sisters; and his stepfather and mother, Ed and Dorothy Schwass. The memorial Ron had planned was conducted by John Cafourek July 27.

Letters...

"A Framework for Reconciliation"

I wish to thank you, and compliment you on an exceptional article ["A Framework for Reconciliation," by David Sandland, November issue, page 19]. I have been a baptized member for almost 27 years now. This is the very best explanation of Matthew 18 I have heard or read in all those years. I was astounded at how clear it was once I read it. It makes perfect sense to tie all the chapter together in this way. Of course we have had articles, sermons and sermonettes on each part of the chapter for years. It puts the focus back on the type of Christians we are to be, rather than focusing on how we wish "they" would be. Your article has brought about a life-changing moment for me.

Montana

A Veteran Reflects on War and Peace

A few years back I called several newspapers on December 7, and asked if they

knew what day it was. The reporters didn't know it was Pearl Harbor Day. Of course, even fewer remember Victory in Europe (VE) Day or VJ Day or other days of remembrance.

How contradictory that the world seeks peace by waging war. The horrors of war were made painfully clear with World War I and II. But the world continues to seek peace through conflicts and armed battles. Aren't we all looking for the day when the whole world will have a truly peaceful environment in which to live a happy, enjoyable life?

Rather than relying on peace treaties, what if all the world followed the Golden Rule? It certainly appears there would be a much, much more peaceful world if all the "war lords" would use the Golden Rule as a daily guide and settle their differences in more peaceful ways.

General Douglas MacArthur understood the answers to these questions at the end of World War II when he spoke aboard the USS

Missouri September 2, 1945: "Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always."

He declared: "We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh."

In all, we need to honor God on these days of remembrance—Pearl Harbor Day, VE Day, VJ Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Armistice Day—because of His giving us victory. We also honor the tremendous sacrifices Americans have made to try to bring about peace and keep America and the rest of the world free. Each time we remem-

ber these days of war and victory, we can remember the words of General MacArthur and the fact that war doesn't really make a peaceful world. More than that, we can look to the Book that teaches the Golden Rule and the true way to peace.

Iowa City, Iowa

Editor's Note: Paper on Exodus 34:22

The article "Did God Give a Calendar?" in the November *United News* mentioned a study paper pastors would have on "Exodus 34:22 and the Calendar." This paper has been approved by the Doctrine Committee, but has not yet been distributed to the pastors. We regret any inconvenience this has caused.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

News at a Glance...

115,000 GNs Distributed in Newsstand Test; Program to Expand

Over the last 14 months members have distributed *The Good News* via a newsstand program in four church areas including Bakersfield, Garden Grove and Oakland, California, and New York, New York.

From September 1999 through October 2000, 115,000 magazines were distributed through the efforts of our brethren in these congregations. During that period, a total of 602 *Good News* subscriptions were generated from cards inserted in the magazines. Subscriber response is lower compared to other *Good News* promotional programs. However, it is likely that some people are picking up and reading the magazines regularly and simply not choosing to subscribe now. If this is the case, we could consider the newsstand magazine as a "witness" in itself.

We are now planning to gradually expand the program over the next few months to include other congregations.

Pastors and former Waiting Room Program coordinators who are interested in involving their congregations should contact John LaBissoniere for more information. The program will be expanded on a first-come, first-served basis.

John Labissoniere

Brethren Display Initiative in Brochure Program

Currently 46 U.S. congregations are participating in the *Good News* Brochure Display Program. Also, 29 brethren are involved on their own, since there are too few members available in their areas to participate in a congregational effort. So far 42,000 brochures and 812 clear displays have been sent out for distribution. Also, since it is likely that the majority of our brethren have not seen the new *Good News* brochures and displays, we recently sent samples to 65 pastors representing 148 congregations.

John Labissoniere

Broadcasts on Christmas and the Sabbath to Air

Over the past 16 weeks (through November 26), calls from listeners to the *Good News* radio program have totaled 444. The numbers have been showing an average increase over the last seven weekends, with our average number of calls being 39 each time. The weekend of November 19 gave us our best response so far, with 61 calls.

Two new programs have been edited for airing in December. One is titled "Four Thousand Years of Christmas" and the other "Are You Missing Out on a Blessing From God?" The first will air the weekend before Christmas (December 23 and 24), and the second, about the seventh-day Sabbath, will air a week after that. The Sabbath program is quite strong in expounding the need for people to follow the biblical command. It will be interesting to see what response or controversy is generated by both programs! The full pro-

gram log can be viewed on our Web site at www.ucg.org/radio.

Peter Eddington



Above: Les McCullough presents a welcoming gift to Alec and Donna Surratt at a home office potluck October 31. Mr. Surratt was hired to help with the rapidly increasing mail being received by the Church, and brings experience in handling international mail. Inset: Paul Wasilkoff was also hired recently to assist in the computer area after completing the Ambassador Bible Center program

News at a Glance...

What's New on the Web?

- Listen to Real Audio files of the *Good News* radio program, posted each week. Also available is the broadcast-ready .rm file you may save on your local congregational page. Programs for December include: "What's Wrong With Our Government?," "Four Thousand Years of Christmas" and "Are You Missing Out on a Blessing From God?"

<http://www.ucg.org/radio>

- The newest *Bible Study Course* lessons 10 ("What Is the Church?") and 11 ("Christianity: A Way of Life") are available in PDF (812K and 572K) and HTML formats.

<http://www.ucg.org/articles/bsc/index.html>

- The December *Virtual Christian Magazine* is available.

<http://vcmagazine.org>

- Read the latest edition (November) of *El Comunicado* on our Spanish page in HTML format.

http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml

- The September/October *La Buona Notizia* is available in PDF (1.0MB) on our Italian page.

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

- A revised edition of our Dutch booklet *Wat is uw bestemming?* is available in both PDF (116K) and HTML formats on our Dutch page.

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

- Watch the Feast Video "Education in the Church Today and in the Millennium" in RealAudio (10.6MB) format.

<http://www.ucg.org/RealAud/>

- Regular updates from the president and home office staff, plus news of the work United is doing, are posted on our news page.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/news/news.htm>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:
webmaster@ucg.org

Breckenridge to Replace Estes Park Feast Site

Breckenridge, Colorado, will replace Estes Park as a site for the 2001 Feast of Tabernacles. This is in addition to the replacement of Louisville, Kentucky, with Gatlinburg, Tennessee, as announced last issue. More details are scheduled to be announced in the March 2001 issue.

Teens and Young Adults Wanted to Help With YOUTH United

Article assignments for the second issue of *YOUTH United* on-line magazine were made in a teleconference November 20.

Also discussed was the team's desire for more editorial involvement from teens and young adults. Young people who are interested in giving input or submitting articles for consideration for future issues can send a message to the editorial team by using the "Suggestions/Comments?" button on the magazine Web site at www.youthmagazine.org. The next issue is scheduled to be posted in mid-January.

Second Direct Mail Effort Planned for January

Last July we conducted a major test to analyze the cost-effectiveness of direct mail advertising. Mailing to 23 purchased lists, we offered 278,963 U.S. households a subscription to *The Good News*. A clear polybagged package, containing a sample copy of *The Good News*, a letter and a reply card, was sent to 50,000 of these households. The balance of 228,963 households received a conventional direct mail package with a letter, reply card and flyer. The majority of the responses are now in. We have received 8,763 subscriptions giving us an overall 3.14 percent response. Some of the individual lists have responded at an even higher level.

We are now gearing up for our second direct mail effort which will likely take place in January. For this test, we will re-test several of the lists we used last time. We also plan to test a dozen or so other lists, which will likely include subscribers to *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and other magazines. We may also target readers of magazines directed to college-age students.

John Labissoniere

800,000 More GN Cards to Go Out in Card Decks and Package Inserts

Card decks and package inserts have been used for years by many advertisers who have found them to be an effective, low-cost means to reach thousands of people. Through

Treasurer's Report

The financial condition of the United Church of God continues to be stable. For the first five months of this fiscal year (July 1 to November 30), the Church's income is above this year's budget by about 3 percent for Category 1 and 2 percent for Category 2, and below budget by 16 percent for Category 3, as indicated in the table below. (Since Category 3 consists of the types of income that are not received evenly throughout the year, it is not necessarily the case that we should expect to actually end the year with a deficit of 16 percent. Further analysis indicates that the deficit may be significantly smaller than that.) It is also encouraging to note that these year-to-date totals for Category 1 and Category 2 are 9.2 percent and 8.5 percent above last year's comparable figures.

The statistics below are based on 240 banking days in our current fiscal year. Through the end of November, we have had 94 of those 240 days (39 percent). If the trends for the first five months hold for the entire year, total income could exceed the \$15,700,000 budget by \$250,000 to \$500,000. This is, of course, all dependent on God's blessings.

Tom Kirkpatrick

Income as of November 30, 2000

	Annual Budget	Daily Budget	Year to Date Actual	+/- %
Category 1 (first tithe, assistance fund, misc.)	\$10,800,000	\$45,000	\$46,404	+3.1%
Category 2 Holy Day offerings (4 fall Holy Days)	\$2,265,000	N/A	\$2,313,000	+2.1%
(3 spring Holy Days)	\$1,815,000	N/A	-0-	N/A
Category 3 (festival fund, ABC tuition, camp donations, interest)	\$820,000	N/A	\$271,000	-15.6%
TOTAL	\$15,700,000			

these programs, insert cards and other promotional materials from a variety of advertisers are bundled or "piggybacked" together in a single cellophane mailing package.

In September we contracted with National Response Marketing, a media company that mails card decks to households of home schooling families. Our jumbo, 5½-by-7 inch insert card, advertising *The Good News*, was enclosed in a package with cards from other advertisers including those of Christian Book Distributors, Hooked on Phonics and Current Labels. Our insertion cost was only about 2 cents per insert card to offer *The Good News* to 150,000 families.

Already we have received 2,478 responses with additional subscriptions coming in daily. This is a 1.65 percent response, for a \$1.37 cost per response. In early January we will mail to another 150,000 families.

In December we plan to conduct an even larger package insert test using the services of American Home Direct, Inc. We plan to include a *GN* card in a mailing to 250,000 households in their Rural American Gardening Pack. In January we plan to mail to different set of 250,000 households using their Rural American Homeowners Pack.

Additionally, in January and February, we plan to mail another 150,000 inserts.

John Labissoniere

Year-End Donation Reminder

In order for any donation you give at the end of the year to be recorded and included in your annual donation receipt, your donation must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2000. Only donations postmarked by then will be eligible for inclusion on your 2000 tax return.

United News

Periodicals Postage
paid at Milford, Ohio,
and at additional mailing offices