# United News

United Church of God P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Phone (513) 576-9796, Fax (513) 576-9795

Vol. 7, No. 6 JULY 2001

News of the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association

## **Remnant Church Elders Encouraged by GCE Ballot**

by Joel Meeker

The Executive Board and the pastors of the Remnant Church of God were very encouraged and thankful for the news of the overwhelmingly affirmative ballot of the General Conference of Elders of the United Church of God, allowing for the reformation of the Remnant Church of God as the United Church of God, Ghana.

Gerald Seelig, secretary to the

Overseer Clement Amoako-Atta said the ballot results were "very, very encouraging. We are happy for the show of support from the United General Conference."

During three days of meetings held in the city of Kumasi in Ghana's central region, the United elders presented a draft of a possible constitution and bylaws for the soon-to-be-formed UCG, Ghana. The proposed documents, based on the UCG structure in other national



Melvin Rhodes reading through proposed UCG, Ghana documents with Remnant pastors. Right, Youth Corps volunteer Grea Bartholemew teaching computer skills to the pastors (photos by Joel Meeker)

GCE, announced the balloting results June 22. There were 302 valid ballots to approve, and 5 to not approve.

During a seminar held by UCG elders Joel Meeker and Melvin Rhodes, Remnant General

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Administrative Services2
Media; Ministerial Services3
International News4
Camp Pinecrest6
What Price Peace?7
Focus on Bible Study8
Recapture Your First Love10
But I Can't Walk on Water11
Local Church Updates12
Announcements13
Letters14
News at a Glance16
What's New on the Web?16
Next issue: July 30, 2001

associations and on the UCG Rules of Association, were carefully read and considered in detail. The draft documents met with the unanimous approval of the Executive Board and the church pastors. Now the documents will be considered by all the members of the national conference of the Remnant Church of God prior to its annual meeting to be held in early September.

Mr. Amoako-Atta explained, "I know for sure that all of our national conference will be happy with the proposed articles."

Plans are for the Remnant Church of God to formally dissolve at the national conference, and to be replaced by the United Church of God, Ghana. UCG elders will be present to mark the event and to act as advisors UN



Visitors Saul Langarica (left) and Leon and Reba Walker and Les and Marion McCullough (center) join dancers for a photo in El Salvador June 2 (photo by Roberto Parada)

# **President Visits Central America**

Les and Marion McCullough joined the director of Spanishspeaking areas, Leon Walker, and his wife, Reba, for a trip to El Salvador and Guatemala at the beginning of June.

"It was a great trip. The brethren there are so warm and friendly and intensely interested in what is going on in the Church," said Mr. McCullough. "We saw, spoke to and were hugged by nearly all of the members in both countries."

Mr. McCullough mentioned that one couple traveled 12 hours by bus to the services, and another couple came by single-engine aircraft.

"It is always impressive to talk with the members in these areas." said Mr. McCullough. "One of the impressive things about the congregations is the number of medical doctors, nurses and school teachers in the group."

For details of the trip, see the articles on pages 4 and 5. un

## United Youth Camps Underway

by Larry Greider

The seventh year of the United Youth Camps (UYC) is well under way and it looks like we'll have another fine year in the "Zone."

Attendance is very strong with applicants attending several camps in many cases. Our volunteer staff is among the strongest and most capable we've ever had. Many thanks to all those who are willing to use their vacation time and come to serve at camp. This year the majority of our full-time ministry will serve at one or more camps and contribute to a spiritual orientation that offers hope and vision to our future leaders.

Please pray for God's protection and good weather that we might be able to help our youth develop better relationships with God and peers. UN

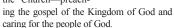


# **Administrative Services: Supporting** the Work Behind the Scenes

by Tom Kirkpatrick

Several functions comprise the Administrative Services operation of the

Church. So that things can be properly managed in a decent and orderly manner, we have employees whose jobs are to perform legal, human resource, benefits administration, accounting, cash management, accounts payable, budgeting, mail processing and data entry, literature distribution, information processing and receptionist work. We all count it a privilege to do this behind-thescenes work, to support the main work of the Church-preach-



God has blessed the Church with excellent and dedicated employees in this area, and I would like to acknowledge them for their service: Larry Darden (legal); the CPA firm of McNeely and McNeely (human resources); Chris Anderson (benefits administration); Nate Berg (accounting); Gerald Seelig (cash management); Mary Snyder (accounts payable); Connie Seelig, Alec Surratt, Doris Phelps and Emma Kennebeck (mail processing and data entry); Janet Treadway and Ralph Innis (literature distribution); Richard Kennebeck and Paul Wasilkoff (information processing); and Laura Peabody and Dorothy Shoemaker (receptionists who also do mail processing).

In the next year, we plan to "keep on keeping on." In the midst of that keeping on, we will have the opportunity to move our operations into the new home office building that is currently under construction. We anticipate greater efficiency of operation in

this new building, which will provide muchneeded additional room for our mail processing, literature distribution and literature warehousing operations. This new building

> will also house the Ambassador Bible Center classroom, library and faculty offices and be the place of weekly Sabbath services for the Cincinnati East congregation. We know we will need God's help and guidance in this next year, as always, but especially so in meeting the challenges of a move into a new facility.

> In Administrative Services, we are especially cognizant of the truth of the old proverb, "Man proposes, but God disposes." Under the guidance of the Council of Elders and top administration, we

have, through due process, established an operation plan and budget for the new year. But we are often reminded that we must look to God every day to provide us with the resources to do the work before us.

That includes money, but is not limited to money. We look to God for the money to carry out the work, but also the other tangible and intangible resources that He can provide for us-wisdom, health, a cooperative spirit, the patience to stick to our mission with renewed zeal, the guidance of His Holy Spirit, the ability to respond to unanticipated challenges and opportunities to do His work. These resources and helps are every bit as vital as money, and God must provide them all, every day. Our job is to support, behind the scenes, the carrying out of the mission of the Church, in a way that will please God. What a privilege! It is encouraging to see how often He has given us what we need in the past. We believe He will continue to do so in this coming year. UN

Tom Kirkpatrick is treasurer and Administrative Services operation manager.



Gerald Seelig and Tom Kirkpatrick at the ground breaking for the new office building June 4

## **Treasurer's Report**

As we look back over the past fiscal year, we have much to be grateful for on the financial front. As we have reported in recent months, we have been blessed with financial stability during this year. The income has exceeded our budget by about 6 percent. Among other things, this has permitted us to print and distribute many more booklets and Bible Study Course lessons than we had initially planned.

In addition, we have been able to These are the people who are truly interested

in learning more of the precious truth of God that we are privileged to share with them.

Jesus tells us that we can ask the "Lord of the harvest" to send more workers forth to the work of the harvest (Matthew 9:38). Let us all boldly ask God to continue working with these people, and to send as many of them into the work of the harvest, even as newly baptized members, as it is His will to do.

For the new year that began July 1, we have budgeted total income of \$17,000,000. This represents 4 percent growth over the normal, recurring income of this past year (excluding a few one-time items). Let us ask God to provide what we need to accomplish the work He has for us to do in the coming year. It is a rare privilege to be involved in the work of God's Church. What else can com-

Tom Kirkpatrick

increase the amount of follow-up with our most interested readers. As an example, we now offer audiotapes to all students who have completed the 12-lesson Bible Study Course. It is our belief that these individuals are among the most likely to respond positively to the gospel of the Kingdom of God, as proclaimed in the Church's literature.

## Reports From the Field

## Radio Presenter Heard Far and Near

Saturday night, June 2, I got a telephone call from an uncle I've only seen a couple of times in 20 years. He said that he was listening to the radio and heard a program that sounded like the teachings of the "Church of Christ Grover [my dad] and Gary attend." He thought he heard my name at the end of the program but wasn't sure.

Later, he was turning the dial when he heard the program again. This time he clearly heard my name at the end of the program and decided to call and tell me what a good job we were doing. What is really interesting is that he lives in Ohio and had picked up the program from New Orleans, Louisiana.



## **United News**

United News (ISSN 1088-8020) is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, an International Association. 5405 Dupont Circle, Suite A, Milford, OH 45150. © 2001 United Church of God. an International Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publica-tions mail agreement number 1487167.

Editor: Peter W. Eddington Managing editor: Mike Bennett Copy editor: Becky Bennett

UCGIA Council of Elders: Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick, Roy Holladay (chairman), John A. Jewell, Clyde Kilough, Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seiglie, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker, Donald Ward

President: Leslie L. McCullough

Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

**Subscriptions:** *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, an International Association, and their co-workers Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News*, United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 or to one of the international addresses below

Address changes: POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

#### International addresses:

AUSTRALIA: United Church of God-Australia GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

BAHAMAS: United Church of God. P.O. Box N8873.

Nassau, Bahamas Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God-British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020-8386-8467 Fax: 01257-453978

CANADA: United Church of God-Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada Phone: (416) 231-9379, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (416)

FIJI: United Church of God. P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi. Fiji

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie-France, B.P. 51254, 45002 Orléans Cedex 1, France

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09. D-53195 Bonn, Germany

Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@gutenachrichten.com

ITALY: La Buona Notizia. Chiesa di Dio Unita Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy. Phone/Fax: 0039-035-582140 E-mail: redazione@labuonanotizia.org

MAURITIUS: P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius The NETHERLANDS: United Church of God Holland, P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Auckland, 1015, New Zealand, Phone: 0508-463-763

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O.Box 4774, MCPO, 1287 Makati City, Philippines Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Forenade Kyrka, Mailbox 144, 111 73 Stockholm, Sweden

SOUTHERN AFRICA: United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-

SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS: Iglesia de Dios Unida. P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. Phone: (513) 576-9796

TONGA: United Church of God-Tonga, P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Internet access on your computer:
The United Church of God, an International Association, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address http://www.ucg.org gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of The Good News and United News, as well as our booklets. The address http://www.ucg.ca accesses the Church's Canadian Web site, http://www.ucg.org.au the Australian Web site, http://www.labuonanotizia.org the Italian Web site, http://www.labuonanotizia.org the Italian Web site, http://www.goodnews.org.uk the British Isles Web site. http://www.ucg.org.ph the Philippines Web site and http://www.ucg.org/html/rsa the Southern Africa Web site.

# Media and Communications: Establishing a Strong Base

by Peter Eddington

Establishing a foundation that gives firm support for a stable structure of preaching the gospel and caring for the disciples of God, is very important. The United Church of God is strengthening that foundation, upon which a bigger structure could be built if God so wishes. Let's take a brief look at several items from the Media and Communications Services area.

#### The Good News

Our current print run for the July/August Good News magazine is 378,000. We are in the middle of a subscription renewal effort, and of course some subscribers decide not to renew their subscription. Yet with our promotional efforts we are still seeing an overall increase in the



Peter Eddington with digital camera and video camera at ground breaking June 4

number of magazines distributed each issue. So far we are finding that about 25 percent of our readers are renewing their subscription, which is encouraging.

This month's print run is an increase of 3 percent over the May/June issue, and a 32 percent increase over the same time last year.

These are *very* encouraging positive trends! Putting our bimonthly, flagship publication into the hands of our readership is an excellent tool in preaching the truth of the Kingdom of God.

#### Bible Study Course

There is a new program related to the *Bible Study Course* that many may not be aware of. A new program is underway to offer an audiotape series to those who have already received all 12 lessons of the Bible Course. We have 4,100 such "grad-

uates" that have now been offered audiotapes on our fundamental beliefs and selected United Church of God radio programs. The current plan is to send two tapes each month (for 12 months) to each graduate, if they reply to the offer. After 12 months we'll reevaluate the program to see how it's going.

At this juncture, 1,500 *Bible Study Course* graduates have signed up for the audiotape packages. Normally we get around a 15 to 17 percent response to letters mailed to our subscribers. Having a 37 percent response (double normal!) from our *Bible Study Course* subscribers shows that they are indeed more interested in the truth than our average reader!

#### **Subscriber Development**

We plan to have a schedule of mailing four subscriber letters each year, including this new fiscal year of 2001-2002. In one letter we will offer the *Bible Study Course*, and in the other three we'll offer one of our booklets, generally a new one. That way, subscribers will hear from us 10 times a year—six issues of *The Good News* and four letters.

(See "MEDIA," page 15)

# Ministerial Services: Building on a Firm Foundation

by Richard Pinelli

About six years ago we were introduced to an article on the stages a new organization goes through to be fully established. Those four stages were *forming, storming, norming* and *performing*. I believe we are now involved in that performing stage.

Haggai 2:1–4 gives us a prophecy about the old temple and the new. In the New Testament we see the analogy of the Church being likened to the temple of God. God, through Haggai, encouraged the people not to look back at the house of God in her first glory and compare it with today, but to be strong and go forward to do the work.

Zechariah 4:6–10 shows us that God's Spirit will make it possible for us to build upon the foundation that has been laid because the one who laid the foundation will finish the work He started. He laid the foundation and He will finish it.

United began its foundational structure with the promise to shepherd the people of God as its first priority and to work at building through this foundation a work of preaching the gospel to a sick and dying world. By Christ's permission we are doing just that.

Today we have over 335 churches worldwide, with over 17,000 brethren attending and 410 elders shepherding God's people. This past year we had almost 900 new people attending the Passover with a modest 3 percent increase in Holy Day attendance in the United States

The lifeblood of the Church is the need for a renewable resource of new donors, coworkers, members and ministers. Presently we are averaging somewhere around 110 Sabbatarians per month seeking information about us and approximately 140 brand new people each month asking about the Church or fellowship who have had no knowledge of the truth before. These are people who start-

ed taking the literature and have progressed to the point that they want a closer relationship with the Church

This past year we were asked to resolve the situations with men who were put on partial salary, transfer ministers and change circuits to even out the workload as well as provide for the need for new ministers in four areas. Through nine relocations and 18 circuit changes this has been done.

Ministerial Services facilitates, coordinates and manages the work of the ministry to promote the well-being of the congregations and the ministry. We are asked to provide direction and support spiritually, educationally and administratively to the U.S. ministry and congregations and to the rest of the international areas as they seek to institute many of our programs.

We were asked to implement recommendations from the "Ministerial Workload and Remuneration Task Force Final Report." One recommendation was to staff from strength and plan assignments to maximize the talents and abilities of the field ministry. To this end we have established a Ministerial Review and Assessment program. This is a four-step program to help each man upgrade and develop his own special gifts. Presently fully half of our pastors and elders are involved in additional responsibilities such as task forces, summer camps, editorial, etc. These are functions that were carried out by our former HQ support functions.

We have instituted a Ministerial Candidate program. There is a growing need for new pastors. At our peak, United employed 125 U.S. ministers in the field. Currently, we employ 98. Retirement, health and other reasons have contributed to a steady attrition within the field. Recently we hired two new pastors and have been given budget to hire two more during this fiscal year.

With this new program to be unveiled



Mary and Richard Pinelli at camp

this summer, we hope to bring more of our young and middle-aged leadership on line and work more directly with them to see if Christ is calling them to His ministry at this time.

#### **Aggressive Plan for Education**

The Church has emphasized the need for a well-rounded educational program. The Council established a four-module program: General Education for the entire Church; Youth Education directed toward those who will be members of Christ's Body in the future; Focused Education directed to the special needs of the Church; and Ministerial Education. The Operation Plan shows a very aggressive approach toward this end.

This year we are planning new videos on evolution vs. creation, marriage seminars, the covenants, intertestamental period, history and canonization of the Bible, Acts outlined, the life and teachings of Christ (60 tapes from ABC), ABC educational seminars around the country and financial planning seminars for all the brethren under General Education.

Our Youth Education program will continue to develop our summer camp curriculum as well as Feast site instruction. We hope to complete our interactive *Teen Bible Study Discussion Guides* as well as Sabbath school curriculum. We will complete and send out our second parenting seminar video that deals

with parents teaching their children God's truth and conducting family Bible studies. Our United Youth Corps is planning a number of summer projects. We will continue to work with the development of the Youth United on-line magazine as well as continue development of the Web site link for young adults and teens of UCG.

Focused Education continues to upgrade its work in the areas of alcoholism and substance abuse, abuse, homosexuality, and prejudice and discrimination.

Ministerial Education is focused on developing our elders for the further service of equipping the saints in preparation for rulership in the Kingdom of God. We will continue to develop our ministerial Web site for education and resource materials for sermons, Bible studies and administration.

The Council has asked that the concept of Christ-centered servant leadership be a priority in both our conferences and ongoing education. Three-day regional conferences for the upgrading of the ministry are being held this summer and include development of sermons and teaching skills, preparation and presentation of expository preaching, foundational counseling skills, health of aging ministers, ministers wives' needs and job satisfaction.

Ministerial Services is very pleased with the progress that has been made over the past six years. Our job is not over. It probably has just begun. We have a very big responsibility to continue caring for God's people. God has chosen to work through human servants from the beginning. We believe He has chosen some very good servants at this stage of His plan.

Paul admonishes us: "We urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake" (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13). *UN* 

# **International News...**

## El Salvador Welcomes Guests

by Herbert Cisneros, translated by Alec Surratt

"What a wonderful blessing for members of the United Church of God in El Salvador! May God protect you and give you wisdom in leading His Church all around the world. I will pray that God give you health and energy as you continue to administer the affairs of the United Church of God..."

With these and many similar heart-felt comments and with beaming happy faces and tears of joy the Salvadoran members of the United Church of God welcomed Leslie McCullough and his wife, Marion, on their recent visit to El Salvador. Accompanying them was our dear friend, the director for the Spanish-speaking areas, Leon Walker, and his wife, Reba.

From the outset of their arrival God blessed El Salvador with pleasant weather and comfortable temperatures, thanks to the after-effects of a cooling tropical rain. This insured that all the planned activities would take place under the most pleasing conditions. On the first day of the visit I was able to show our guests firsthand "the good, the bad and the ugly" relating to the city of San Salvador. I began the tour by pointing out the different historical areas of the old part of the city. They were also able to note the increasing industrialization of the area and the boom in construction that, in spite of circumstances, is beginning to take place in this country. They saw some of the areas devastated by the recent earthquakes which affected the majority of dwellings countrywide. The awesome destructive power of these quakes made a strong impression upon them.

During their stay in San Salvador many different activities were scheduled, especially

on the Sabbath of June 2. One of these was the folk music and dance presentation by the young people in the Church. Another memorable event was the singing of a special song of welcome to our guests by the very youngest of the congrega-



tion. This musical production took place after all had listened to "good news brought from a far country" by Mr. McCullough in his sermon. Since this was a long-awaited event. members took careful notes so as to be able to review them later.

Before and after these activities there were very lively "Latin-American style" fellowshipping and

photo-ops. All of a sudden it seemed that every family just had to have their photos taken with the visitors. Our guests found themselves in a photo session lasting about an hour in order to accommodate all the members who wanted to create a record of the event by taking dozens of photographs.

Thanks to the translation provided by Saul Langarica, the visiting minister from neighboring Guatemala, many members were able to talk to our guests. In addition

Left, Leon Walker and Herbert Cisneros; below, **McCulloughs** with Sanchez family; upper right. Bonilla

family (photos by



they also had the opportunity to converse with three visiting Ambassador Bible Center students and two members from the Miami congregation who came to share in our happiness—happiness that comes from the unity we have as members of God's family in El Salvador. On behalf of the membership we presented the McCulloughs, Walkers and Langaricas with pieces of Salvadoran craftsmanship by local artisans. We hope that as they have left us with pleasant memories of

their visit, these artworks will remind them of our love and appreciation for them.

On subsequent days, the founding members of the Salvadoran congregation (established in 1970) enjoyed a dinner and fellowship with our guests. Another get-together was held with the ministers and deacons and their families. On both occasions there were question-and-answer sessions along with expressions of support for the Council of Elders and Mr. McCullough and the direction God is providing through them.

Later. I was able to show our visitors one of the natural wonders of God's creation in our country—the beautiful landscapes around Lake Suchitlán. UN

Herbert Cisneros is pastor of the congregations in San Salvador and San Sebastián, El Salvador.

## **President Visits Guatemala**

by Saul Langarica

For some months, the congregations of the United Church of God in Guatemala had been waiting for Les and Marion McCullough's visit. Several of the members had the idea of preparing a special show to let them know the folklore and traditions of this beautiful part of the world. With this in mind, these members had been rehearsing the show for months in advance. For all of us, some very important people in the Church were coming to visit. Of course, Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, but He uses human leaders to further His work on earth.

I told the members in the congregations far from Guatemala City that they did not necessarily have to come to the capital to visit with the McCulloughs, because most of them do not have enough money to travel. But they

seemed even more interested in coming to fellowship with the rest of the members and with the special visitors. So in the end, there were a total of 319 people gathered on the Sabbath to hear Mr. McCullough. Around 220 attendees were from Guatemala City and the rest from the outlying areas.

After having spent several days in Salvador, Mr. and Mrs. McCullough and Mr. and Mrs. Walker arrived in Guatemala City on Tuesday, June 5. My wife and I picked them up at the airport and began to have the time of our lives with them. We enjoyed every moment talking about the work of God, plans for the future of the Church. our transfer to Chile next November and so on. So, even though we spent time in some beautiful places in this country,



was an opportunity to receive an update on the work of the Church.

Sabbath in Guatemala City, June 9 (photos by Saul Langarica)

From Wednesday to Friday we had the chance to

most beautiful lakes of the world, Lake Atitlan. This lake used to be the crater of a volcano. In fact, around the lake you still can see the remains of other volcanoes, which are now covered with beautiful vegetation.

Again, surrounded by beauty and peace, we talked and talked and talked about the Church of God, problems of its past, worries of the present and plans for the future.

On Friday night we had the chance to

have a special dinner to officially welcome the next resident pastor of the churches in Guatemala, Luis Mundo Tello and his wife, Dorita. They also took advantage of this time to ask as many questions as they could of the McCulloughs and the Walkers.

We had services at 10 in the morning with Dr. Mundo giving the sermonette and Mr. McCullough the sermon. The sermon was simultaneously translated into Spanish by

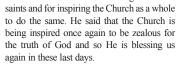
Julian Weston, a member from Costa Rica, who traveled here with his wife for this special occasion

After services all of the ministers and their wives were invited by the McCulloughs for lunch. This also was a very nice opportunity for all of us to ask questions and get to know our visitors. When the Sabbath was over a talent show was presented so our visitors had a better understanding of the folklore and traditions of Guatemala.

At the end of the show the Walkers and the McCulloughs were presented with some gifts prepared specially for that occasion by some ladies in the congregation. After this presentation everybody stayed to enjoy typical Guatemalan food prepared by the ladies of the church, and at the same time typical music was performed by a real marimba.

Members expressed appreciation for the McCullough's visit. For example, a young lady said that she thanked him for the sta-





Les and Marion McCullough, Reba

and Leon Walker and Carmen

Langarica in Antigua, Guatemala

The whole Sabbath was a very inspiring day for everybody. Some said it was very much worth the effort of traveling from far places to spend the Sabbath with the McCulloughs. The members were thankful to the McCulloughs and the Walkers for having made this opportunity available.

Sunday and Monday we visited the beautiful city of Antigua, which had been the capital of Central America for many years until an earthquake destroyed it in 1773. Ruins of the destruction are still seen.

## Members Safe Following Peruvian Quake

The following report was submitted by Manuel Ouijano responding to queries concerning the safety of members during the earthquake in southern Peru on June 23. Mr. Quijano is a minister serving congregations in Lima, Trujillo and Arequipa, Peru.

We appreciate the concern and prayers for us and for everyone enduring the horrible experience of this earthquake. During services this past Sabbath at about 3:45 p.m. a strong quake of 6.9 [papers in the United States said 7.8 to 8.1] on the Richter scale shook the southern region of the country. The cities of Arequipa, Moquegua and Tacna were especially affected being nearer the epicenter. The quake lasted approximately 50 seconds, but according to members in the area it seemed "like an eternity." In Lima the event passed practically unnoticed.

There are members in all three cities. Regular Sabbath services are held in Arequipa, and Moquegua and Tacna are Bible study locations. We have been able to contact everyone with the exception of one family. Everybody is a bit shaken up but well.

However, the city continues to be one the most peaceful and interesting places in Central America. We now have the Feast of Tabernacles in this wonderful place.

We hope and pray that the unity and harmony that we experienced during the last

One lady stated that as the quake struck, everyone gathered in a corner of the meeting hall. As each person grabbed onto his neighbor, they saw the walls of the room split. The ceiling rippled back and forth and just seemed to open up. When it was over and they went outside, it was quite shocking to see the destruction everywhere. Obviously, everybody was profoundly grateful to our Father who always looks out for His children.

We trust that the family we have been unable to contact is fine, since the area where they live suffered no major physical damage.

As you are aware in events such as this, one of the main injuries suffered is the emotional damage brought on by the aftershocks. These temblors of lesser intensity can still be felt and cause much anxiety. We ask your prayers for the brethren in the southern part of the country and also for many others who in some cases have lost all their physical possessions, even their homes. In some instances, sadly, this also includes family members. un

seven days between the membership and the leadership of the Church continues to grow as time goes by until Christ comes to establish the perfect unity and peace. UN

Saul Langarica is pastor of the five  $congregations\ in\ Guatemala.$ 

# Canadian Council Discusses Move, New Minister, Val-Pak Promotions

The national council of UCG-Canada convened in Lethbridge, Alberta, June 6 to 10 for some productive meetings. One of the benefits of holding the meetings in various cities across Canada is to allow the local brethren to see the council firsthand. There were several visiting members during the Friday afternoon and Sunday morning meetings.

On Wednesday evening, June 6, the national office update was presented by treasurer Ed van Pelt. The newest council member, Carol Livermore, then gave a short icebreaker and Robert Berendt presented an overview of the General Conference of Elders meetings in Cincinnati. The evening ended with a beneficial round of brainstorming.

All of Thursday morning was devoted to an executive session while the afternoon was set aside for extensive committee work. Friday's schedule included an executive session in the morning and committee reports in the afternoon.

On the Sabbath there was a record attendance of 86 in Lethbridge. The council made up part of the total and a number of people came down from Calgary. There were also visitors from the United States and Australia. After services almost everyone stayed for the luncheon hosted by the Lethbridge congregation.



Lethbridge, Alberta, has record attendance June 9 when the Canadian national council visits

It was a special weekend in another respect. On Sunday afternoon Bill Conway and Anna Wiebe were married.

On Sunday morning two presentations were given. Ruth Kerr, assistant editor of United News Canada, hosted a writing workshop. Richard Dubler, a chiropractor and member of the council, gave a presentation on the principles of exercise and health.

#### Office Move and Minister **Moving From Australia**

One of the items discussed during the council meetings involved the Canadian office move. The current lease expires on October 31, 2001. Your prayers would be appreciated in this matter.

The national council also made an important manpower decision affecting the field ministry of the Church in Canada. Graemme Marshall and his wife, Lynn, will be moving from Australia to serve in the eastern part of the country. They have served in Canada in the past and both of their children are living in North America.

#### Val-Pak Promotion

This summer the work in Canada will try a new venture. The Church will place a subscription card for the Good News mag-



Lynn and Graemme Marshall will be moving to serve in eastern Canada

azine in 200,000 Val-Pak coupon packets in a cross section of cities across the nation. This method has yielded very good results in the United States and we trust that with God's blessing it will yield reasonably good results for us here in Canada. In fact, we have already received a very positive sign. One response came in this week from northern Alberta, and we haven't even distributed our cards yet! It turns out this person was visiting the United States and sent in an equivalent card to the home office. UN

Compiled from updates by Anthony Wasilkoff and Ed van Pelt. The Canadian weekly update is posted on the Web at www.ucg.ca/upd/week.asp.

# Pinecrest Campers Enjoy "the Zone" for Seven Days

by Joel Meeker

From June 14 to 21, 108 campers from 23 states gathered at Camp Pinecrest near Fredericktown, Missouri, for a fun-packed summer camp. They were served by 56 volunteer staff members who worked as counselors, activity staff, support crew and administrators

We were privileged once again to have our National UCG camp coordinator, Larry Greider, at Pinecrest. He explained during staff orientation that "the mission of the United Youth Camps program is to support parents and the Church in teaching youth to develop their potential, while learning that God's values are practical ways of living." Mr. Greider explained that the camp environment provides a glimpse beyond the troubles of this present world toward the peace and harmony of the coming Kingdom of God. This special camp environment is often referred to as "the Zone."

Chances to learn about God's way of life were abundant at Pinecrest. The normal daily camp schedule included a 20-minute



"Compass Check" session during which a minister underlined key spiritual values with the campers and staff before the day's activities. There were also animated Christian Living discussions for 45 minutes each

evening. The theme surrounding Jesus Christ and the Sabbath brought messages about what Christ was really like and how we must depend on

Camp is also about fun and overcoming challenges in a safe environment. Camp activities included archery, an all-day canoe trip

down the Black River, rappelling. rock climbing, volleyball, softball, speedaway, swimming, journalism, riflery, a ropes course, a wilderness survival class and a class on "Modesty, Manners and Etiquette." Support

Him to deliver us.

activities included security, videotaping

ty, videotaping, accounting, dining hall monitoring, health services and transportation.

This is the sixth year we've used the facilities at Pinecrest," said camp director Greg Sargent, pastor of the St. Louis, Kansas City and Columbia, Missouri, congregations. Mr. Sargent also explained that the Pinecrest site has many advantages: It is centrally located and it is available early in the summer season, which means the hottest weather can be avoided. Pinecrest also lays claim to having some of the best camp food



the campers and staff. "We have a wonderful group of campers and staff, many of whom come back year after year," he said.

Mr. Sargent congratulated the parents: "Pine-

crest campers displayed outstanding character attributes this year. No doubt, teens will be teens.... Yet your teenagers stand out as brilliant beacons of light among their peers in this 'present evil age.' Overall, our staff at Pinecrest Camp found your teens to be responsive, respectful and obedient.... The questions your children are asking in Christian Living classes demonstrate their desire to know what to do and, more importantly, why to do it. Teens encouraged one another and worked together well as teams."

Mr. Sargent also extended special thanks to Fred and Debbie Yates, managers of the Pinecrest facility. "They really bend over backwards to help us," he said. To show our appreciation, he presented a beveled jade glass tower award to the Yates that was made, etched and donated by an elder and glass blower in St. Louis, Ed Koehnemann.

A final highlight came at the awards ceremony on the final day. Six teens were presented the Ozzie Engelbart Memorial Award, an honor given to teens with exceptional attitudes of encouragement and sportsmanship. The honor went to Nathaniel Carter, Matt Eddington, Rachel Luecke, Lindsey Monson, Brittni Jackson and Lindsey Croft. UN



by Melissa Fergen, 14

I know what you're thinking: "This one's gonna be boring, so I'll just skip to the next article." However, you might want to hear me out if: One, you are a parent considering sending a child to camp. Two, you are a teen wanting the chance to experience camp. Three, you are an adult wanting to change the lives of God's precious teenagers. Or, four, you have been to Church camp before and wish to return again (good, good choice).

#### Before—Reality Check

"The world is a dark, dreary place. Bad guys hide around every corner. You don't know who's worthy of your trust." OK, so I'm exaggerating. But sadly, my description of the world today is not too far off base. Many people who become interested in the United Youth Camps recognize that these are

golden opportunities to develop a relationship with our Father, the Ruler of the universe, and to escape from Satan's world. Sounding good so far? Read on.

#### During—an Attitude Adjustment

OK, you arrive at camp. Lots of people you've never seen are chatting with each other, playing basketball, hitting the volleyball, etc. Feel out of place? Then you're swarmed upon by dozens of friendly campers and staff. Overwhelming, huh?

The encouraging, sunny attitudes are definitely different, but definitely easy to get used to and enjoy. Challenges are overcome by teamwork and strong friendships within the dorm. After all, activities such as canoeing, synchronized swimming, speedaway, softball and especially the ropes course are designed to teach campers to work together, to know how to lead or follow.

In addition, in Christian Living, a class in which ministers and campers discuss questions about life, campers learn life lessons on topics such as peer pressure, following the Ten Commandments, what is or isn't accepted by the Church and being a light to the world. On top of all this, campers discover their talents, interests and inner selves.

#### After—Changing the World

Now the end of camp comes.... Tears, good-byes and promises to e-mail. With all the lessons learned, campers can't help but bring home a little bit of a more godly way of living, a new attitude toward God's world and a stellar example to other peers.

We look forward to seeing our friends again next year, and once again visiting this incredible spiritual oasis. *UN* 

Melissa Fergen is from the Wichita, Kansas, congregation and was in 5G at Pinecrest.

What kind of effort is required to win a war? Most of us do not stop to think of the tremendous effort involved. Most military leaders attend a war college for at least four years. Thousands of civilians are turned into soldiers by undergoing extensive training in the art of war

Millions of dollars are spent annually on training, equipment, armaments, materials, military installations, etc. This drains a tremendous amount of energy, money and resources from other productive endeavors (such as health, education and fighting poverty). There is a tremendous amount of planning and strategy to any actual battle. All of this activity eventually leads to actual combat where a soldier is pointing a gun at another human with the intent to kill and destroy.

Waging war is costly and destructive. Notice what the Encarta Online Encyclopedia has to say about World War II. "World War II basic statistics qualify it as by far the greatest war in history in terms of human and material resources expended. In all, 61 countries with 1.7 billion people, three-fourths of the world's population, took part. A total of 110 million persons were mobilized for military service.... In terms of money spent, it has been put at more than \$1 trillion. The human cost, not including more than 5 million Jews killed in the Holocaust...is estimated to have been 55 million dead-25 million of those military and 30 million civilian...."

How many lives were shattered by this war? How many families were ripped apart? How many marriages were destroyed? How many sons and daughters did not have the opportunity to reach maturity and lead productive lives? How many people were displaced by the war? The cost in human suffering was staggering.

One analysis of the 2000 U.S. budget indicates that \$546.6 billion was spent for all military activities or 41.3 percent of the total. Of this, \$313.3 billion was spent for current military activities and \$233.3 billion was due to past military activities. How much good could \$546 billion dollars do if it was used for other purposes beside the military?

It has been estimated that out of the approximately 6,000 years that man has been on planet earth, less than 300 years have seen no warfare. However, during those periods man was probably preparing for war. God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write, "The way of peace they have not known" (Isaiah 59:8). Man's history confirms this.

Paul repeated this statement in Romans 3:17. It is a universal principle that applies to all nations. The Amplified Bible translates it this way: "They have no experience of the way of peace-they know nothing about peace, for a peaceful way they do not even recognize." Cain killed Abel and mankind has followed that pattern ever since.

#### **Peace Requires Effort**

Most people don't realize that waging peace is more challenging than waging war! You actually have to wage peace to have peace. The beatitudes in Matthew 5 are prerequisites for the Kingdom of God. Matthew

# What Price Peace?

So many have paid the ultimate price in war. But are we willing to pay the price of peace?

by Roy Holladay

5:9 states, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Jesus Christ is clearly explaining that each of us has a commission to become peacemakers. We can all think of someone else we think this applies to, but we all need to apply it to ourselves.

Notice the emphasis that Paul places upon peace in Ephesians 4:1-3. "I...beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

The word endeavoring is the key word. In Greek it means, "to exert oneself, to give diligence." Notice how endeavor is translated in modern translations: "Making every effort" (Modern English Bible), "be zealous in love" (Moffatt), "spare no effort" (New English Bible), "make it your aim" (Phillips) and "do all you can" (Jerusalem Bible).

We have to work at peace-we must make it our goal and do all that we can do to bring about peace. We sing one of the Psalms that illustrates this principle: "Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 34:14). We must pursue peace.

How can we wage peace with our spouse, employer, friends, enemies and those in the Church? We must look to the Prince of Peace. In Isaiah 9:6-7 it says, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end..." There will be no end to peace once His Kingdom is established. There will be peace with judgment and justice.

Why is Jesus called the Prince of Peace? Isaiah 53:4-5 supplies the answer. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

Jesus made it possible for us to be reconciled to the Father (be at peace with God) and to learn to live in peace with our neighbor. His life showed that He was ever prepared to pay the price for peace. Are we?

#### The Price of Peace

Most people do not realize that peace has a price. We know that war has a price. Are we willing to pay the price for peace? What is that price? It is our willingness to take an undeserved loss.

Taking a loss is repugnant to human

nature. Carnal nature is focused on the selfon our selfish wants and desires. This is one of the chief reasons we sometimes have strife, hard feelings and even division among brethren in the Church.

Peace is much more than not fighting a war. Baruch Spinoza, 17th century Dutch philosopher, made this observation: "Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice." Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a part of God's nature. Author John Andrew Holmes once stated, "Yes, we love peace, but we are not willing to take wounds for it, as we are for war."

Many individuals have given the ultimate sacrifice for war. Many have returned home physically mutilated. Are we willing to put forth the same effort to make peace? James 4 shows that wars come from our lust-from wrong desires. The history of man is replete with the strong taking from the weak-with everyone looking after himself and failing to be his brother's keeper.

#### Taking a Loss

Notice the scriptural examples dealing with taking a loss. In 1 Corinthians 6:6 Paul tells of members willing to go to any length in order to get what they wanted. "But brother goes to law against brother, and that before the unbelievers!" Notice Paul's admonition for a peaceful settlement in verse 7, "Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?"

They were not willing to take a loss like Jesus Christ was throughout His life and in His death. Notice Paul's inspired words in Philippians 2:5-7 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

Christ had the rights and privileges of God before His human birth. He had coexisted with the Father for eternity. He did not cling to the privileges of God. He was willing to take a loss because of His love for us.

Another example is mentioned in Genesis 13:7-9. There was strife between the servants of Abraham and Lot. There is no mention of who was at fault. Probably no one was. The land could not support the herds of both families. Abraham was willing to allow himself to be taken advantage of. He gave Lot the choice of where to settle. Lot chose the most fertile region. Abraham allowed this in order to have peace.

Notice Paul's admonition in Colossians

3:12-13. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." We are admonished to bear with one another and forgive one another. Continuing on in verses 14 and 15, "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful."

The Greek word translated rule in verse 15 means "referee or arbiter, to be an umpire or to decide, determine." The peace of God is to act as an umpire in our minds and hearts.

Sometimes when there is a dispute between labor and management, the case is presented to binding arbitration. The arbitrator has the responsibility to decide the case. In most situations both sides will have to give up something to come to a settlement. Management may have to pay a higher wage than they had originally intended. Labor may have to take less than they wanted. In each case both are taking a loss to keep the peace.

Paul, in 1 Corinthians 9:1-15, explained that he had certain rights as a minister. He could have married. He could have taken the tithes from the Corinthian church, but he did not. He did not demand his rights. We live in an age where everyone demands his or her rights. Paul was willing to take a loss to serve.

It is human nature to repay evil to those who make us suffer loss. They are called enemies. We want them to suffer an equal loss. But notice what Christ said in Matthew 5:43-45: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...." Christ explains that we are to have concern and love for our enemies. We are to do them good. We are to be different—a light to this world.

Peace is an attribute of the God family (Galatians 5:22). It is a fruit of the Spirit of God being in us. It is an attribute also of His Church. In 1 Corinthians 14:33 we read, "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." God is the author of peace. Satan is the author

#### The Future

Jesus Christ is coming soon to bring peace to all people. He is calling a few today to learn peacemaking now and assist Him in the Millennium (Revelation 5:10; Isaiah

We will be used by God to bring peace to this war-torn world. Nations will not learn war anymore. All funds and resources will be devoted to bringing peace to the world.

Peace is far more than the absence of war. In the Millennium, we will be the teachers and examples of true peace. As Christ said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God " UN

# Focus on Bible Study...

The Bible is a precious resource, a great gift from our loving Creator. How can we get more out of it? On these two pages you'll find a potpourri of material on this subject. There is much more to say, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions for future articles on this important topic.



"The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver" (Psalm 119:72).

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

# How Do I Make Bible Study More Interesting?

by Joe Bellefeville

Has your curiosity ever been piqued by people's statements that don't sound quite right? In the past few years, I have been challenged a number of times to look into the Bible to see what it really says. In one case, a Bible scholar from a prestigious seminary was answering a question from a TV reporter about rulers leading less-than-perfect lives. (This was around the time of President Clinton's impeachment.) The scholar specifically cited King David as an example of an absolute ruler who could do whatever he wanted with no limitations on his power. That didn't sound quite right. I went to 2 Samuel 12:1-14. the account of the prophet Nathan going before David with a message from God. There were at least three negative consequences as a result of David's actions:

- 1. The sword would never depart from his house (2 Samuel 12:10).
- 2. Evil would come out of his own house (2 Samuel 12:11).
- 3. His child with Bathseba would die (2 Samuel 12:14, 18).

Clearly David did have consequences for his actions.

Challenges that drive us to study the Bible are one way to spark Bible study. But what do we do the rest of the time? This is a challenge specifically for us "old-timers" who have studied the basics but wonder what to study next.

Hopefully this article will stimulate some ideas on what to study and how to study. Here are some thoughts to help.

- Ask God to guide you in what to study and to make the Bible study meaningful.
- Consider the many options available.
   Develop a list of potential topics to study, books of the Bible to read or questions you have. Keep the list and when more ideas come to mind, add them to the list.
- Select one of the study options and study it.
- As you are studying, write down what you are learning. Writing things

down on a 3x5 card (or in a notebook) and then periodically reviewing it will be very helpful when someone asks you about that subject. If you can't recall the specifics at the moment, you know where to look for the information—your file of cards or notebook.

The following is a list of ideas that could be used for improving personal Bible study. They are not in any particular order

#### **Bible Study Formats**

**Read the entire Bible** clear through from cover to cover. To add variety:

- Read it in a new translation. This can add a fresh new outlook on things studied many times. I, personally, like the NASB the best, but other modern versions can also give a fresh perspective.
- Listen to the Bible on cassette tape (or CD). This is especially helpful for sight-impaired people or disabled people who cannot hold a book or turn pages. Contact your local Bible bookstore to buy a copy. If you prefer to borrow a copy, contact a nearby public library or the Society for the Blind.
- As you read, jot down scriptures on major doctrines and verses that are particularly encouraging to you. After you have a number of these scriptures, make scripture flash cards. Then when you need variety in your Bible study, take out the scripture cards and refresh your memory. This is an excellent way to review. Separate out a set of scripture cards of the verses that are encouraging to you. When facing trials, take them out and think about them. I call mine the "hope" scriptures. They have been a source of encouragement for me through many trials.
- Consider a Bible study partner. Another person can add a perspective or background that you might not have. Also, they can be a prod to make sure your study is done before the next time you meet.
- Consider reading very slowly through a chapter and consider what comes before or after in that chapter or

other relevant scriptures on the subject. One time I was wondering how Joseph and Mary made ends meet when they fled to Egypt after being warned in a dream (Matthew 2:13–15). How could they afford housing, travel and relocation expenses? I found a possible answer a few verses earlier in Matthew 2:11.

 Consider reading certain books of the Bible before or during a Holy Day season. For example, read the book of Exodus before the Spring Holy Days. Another good choice is reading the book of Acts after the Days of Unleavened Bread but before Pentecost.

I did that, reading slowly through Exodus and Acts a chapter or two a day. When reading about the plagues, I couldn't help noticing how we (locally) were experiencing drinking water problems, plagues of bugs, hail, etc.

In Acts I was amazed at the number of people who accompanied Paul on his trips. I thought he was alone most of the time. One scripture lists seven people as being traveling companions of Paul (Acts 20:4). For some reason I assumed that the bulk of the early Church remained at Jerusalem until just before A.D. 70 However, Acts 8:1, 4 and Acts 11:19 speak of the Church being scattered throughout the region. In some ways it is like the current time with

the brethren being scattered all over.

Another format is to do a Bible study on a particular word or concept using an exhaustive concordance. Divide up the scriptures on a topic into manageable chunks. Be realistic. If there are 237 scriptures listed, plan to check out a reasonable number each day, perhaps 20 or 30. Remember to mark the place where you left off.

Topics to study are unlimited, but see "Sample Bible Study Topics" for a few to give you ideas.

Consider a **creative approach** to Bible study:

- Write a hymn or song based on scriptures that are meaningful to you. It may sound easy, but "translating" a scripture into modern English that rhymes can be quite a challenge. If it takes over a week, consider laying it aside for a while and then returning to it later.
- Make a map of the areas/cities that Christ visited or a map of all the places that early New Testament Christians lived. It is remarkable the number of places that are mentioned in Scripture. Don't forget that Christ lived in Egypt early in His life.

May you have meaningful Bible study and grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). *uN Joe Bellefeville is a member in Columbia, South Carolina.* 

## **Sample Bible Study Topics**

Possible topics to study are unlimited, but here are a few to give you ideas.

- Your occupation. The Bible has over 150 different jobs listed, including carpenter, driver (of chariots), teacher, baker, writer, merchant, embalmer, singer, nurse, physician, etc. If checking a King James Version concordance, remember the occupations will be listed as they were in the 1600s. Internet providers or computer programmers will not be included.
- Friends. Who were God's friends and Christ's friends?
- Salt. What was seasoned with salt in Leviticus 2:13? Colossians 4:6?
- Mystery/secret. What mystery is in 1 Corinthians 15:51? Ephesians 5:32? Colossians 4:3?
- Hope. Where did David put his hope (Psalm 130:5)?

- Your name (first or last). My last name means "beautiful leaf." I looked it up and was pleasantly surprised to find positive references to "leaf" and "leaves."
- Personal challenges. Anger, forgetfulness—we all have areas in which we need to overcome. Use Bible study to find needed help to grow and overcome.
- Treasure. Who or what does God consider His treasure?
  - · Require. What does God expect of us?
- Literacy and education. Does God encourage literacy? Check the key words of read, book(s), knowledge, teacher, etc.
- Leper. How does the "law of cleansing of the leper" parallel the conversion process (Leviticus 14)?
- Resurrection. How many resurrections to physical life are in the Old Testament? The New Testament?

 $Joe\ Belle feville$ 



"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4).

# Make Time and a Plan for Your Bible Study

by Skip Miller

How do we spend our time? Not just our leisure time, but how do we spend our whole 24 hours per day? It might surprise us to learn how much time is spent in meaningless pursuits. We waste time because we are not directed and yet most of us chafe under the direction of others. The only solution then is to be self-directed! A self-directed person has an answer when someone asks him where he is going.

In this regard, there is one area in which we can begin to improve. And for very good reason: our eternal life might depend upon it. What is that area? Bible study!

As the United Church of God becomes older and more adroit at once again producing literature, the tendency for some is to conclude that skimming through our publications is all we need to do for Bible study.

I don't mean this negatively. But what I want to seriously convey is the necessity to daily do some serious Bible study in an organized, premeditated way. How much time do we devote to God? How much to other pursuits like television? We must make wise decisions about how to spend our precious time.

Studying God's Word is still a necessity for all of us! Those who "know it all" are in trouble! Only the Pharisees understood the whole of God's law (I jest!). If God directs our steps, we will never know it all, and yet we will constantly be led by His Spirit.

As I read George William's Complete Bible Commentary, I am continually impressed by his reverence for the Word of God. Being a non-Catholic in Dublin, Ireland, he must have felt frequently out of step with the obvious Irish pageant of religion. His refuge was God's Word. Within it, he studied and restudied the ever-living truth.

Toward the end of Psalm 119, the psalmist speaks with feeling his need to be heard: "Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word" (Psalm 119:169). He needs God to hear him, not people. The writer of this psalm was willing to forego worthless communication so that he could learn God's statutes (verse 171), speak of them (verse 172) and enjoy God's presence through personal Bible study (verse 173).

George Williams comments, "The Bible instructs the mind (v. 169), relieves the heart (v. 170), animates praise (v. 171), and inspires testimony (v. 172). It helps (vs. 173 and 175), it delights (v. 174), it quickens (v. 175), and it perfects the memory (v. 176)."

May we always see the whole of God's Word in this light! *uN* 

Skip Miller is an elder in San Diego, California.



# Bible Software Review: The Bible Library on CD-ROM

by Larry J. Walker

If you are looking for an inexpensive, powerful, easy-to-use Bible software program, *The Bible Library* is among the best.

It contains 14 Bibles, six word studies, five commentaries, six cross references and concordances, eight topical studies and 13 other historical works and helps—all on one CD. The Bibles include: King James Version, New King James Version, Revised Standard Version, New Revised Standard Version, American Standard Version, New American Standard Version and the Simple English Bible New Testament.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament by Harris, Vine's Expository Dictionary (Old and New Testaments), Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Barclay's Daily Study Bible Series, Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible, Nave's Topical Bible and Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah by Edersheim are some of the better known works included in this package.

A tutorial and brief 10-page instruction manual comprise the entirety of instructions. Because it is "intuitive" in operation,

you can figure most things out by yourself.

It is also fast and has basic features that members would profit from. The search feature is fast but goes only one passage at a time. However, it is possible to search by Strong's number. This is a shortcut way to search on the actual Hebrew or Greek word, rather than how it is translated in English. This is vital to doing a word search, as some words are translated several different ways.

I have other more expensive Bible software, but I find myself using this one more than all the others put together because of its speed and ease of operation. And I am not a computer whiz, believe me! Being able to cut and paste scriptures and quotes from the reference books is a wonderful feature.

This entire package is available from CBD for only \$32.99! You can order it by calling (888) 247-2665 or from CBD's Web page at www.Christianbook.com. The ISBN is 1893338002, and the CBD stock number is WW38002. It is copyrighted by Ellis Enterprises and distributed by Talicor. It runs on Windows 3.1 or higher. UN

This review previously appeared in the Fall 2000 Ministerial Quarterly.

# Teen Bible Discussion Guide: The Authority of the Bible

"I believe God exists, but how do I know that the Bible was inspired by God?" is a good question. It comes from a spiritually maturing mind that is seriously and sincerely seeking to know the answer. For such seekers, this Bible study guide outline was prepared.

John 17:17: "Your [God, the Father's] word is truth."

- 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."
- 1. If the Bible is the Word of God, then its statements must be true. Do you agree?
- 2. If one can find a verse that is not true, then it must not be inspired by God. Do you agree?

#### **Scientifically Accurate**

- 1. When was the Bible written? Has scientific knowledge increased in the last century and proven false earlier theories and concepts? Find out when the following scriptures were written and when scientists came to the same conclusion.
  - a. The earth is round (Isaiah 40:22).
- b. The water cycle (Job 36:27–28; Ecclesiastes 1:6–7; 11:3; Amos 9:6).
- c. There are warm and cold ocean currents (Psalm 8:8).
- d. The earth is held in place by an invisible force (Job 26:7).
- e. Human blood is the same among all races and nations (Acts 17:26).
- f. Quarantining patients with contagious disease is a vital practice (Leviticus 13:46).
- g. Sanitary disposal of human waste (Deuteronomy 23:12–13).
- 2. How do you explain that these Bible writers were able to record accurate scientific knowledge centuries before man discovered the facts for himself?
- 3. Do biblical statements conflict with known facts of science?

#### **Historically Accurate**

- 1. Has archaeology been successful for confirming the biblical record?
- 2. Other cultures have legends and historical records similar to the biblical account of stories concerning all mankind (for example, creation, Noachian Flood, Tower of Babel). What does this fact imply about the Bible's veracity?

#### **Prophetically Accurate**

- 2 Peter 1:21: "...for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit"
- 1. Do men make specific predictions about the future? How often has any man's prophecies always been right? Is only God powerful enough to make His prophecies always come true?
- 2. Did the Bible prophesy events that have occurred? Was the prophecy written

after the event, as some charge? Was the prophecy written shortly before the event showing that the writer may have only been making an educated guess about the future?

- 3. Compare the following prophecies with history:
- a. Kingdom of Edom and its capital, Petra (Isaiah 34; Jeremiah 49; Ezekiel 25, 35).
- b. Cities of Ashkelon and Gaza (Jeremiah 47; Amos 1; Zephaniah 2; Zechariah 9).
- c. City of Samaria (Hosea 13; Micah 1). What is the probability that each of these prophecies was fulfilled entirely by chance?

Luke 24:27: "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He [Jesus] expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

4. Did Jesus fulfill all the prophecies concerning the Messiah?

#### **Contradictions?**

John 10:35: "...the Scripture cannot be broken."

- 1. How many men were used to write the Bible? Over how many years were the books of the Bible written?
- 2. Are there supposed contradictions in the Bible? List some. Can they be explained reasonably?

#### Experience

- 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Test all things; hold fast what is good."
  - 1. How can one "test" the Bible?
- 2. Is this statement true or false: If the Bible is truly the words of God, then applying its commands and exhortations in one's life should prove wise. Compare with Proverbs 2:6. Read Psalm 19:7–11 and Psalm 119:1, 93, 98–100, 105, 129–130, 138, 165 and comment.
- 3. Are there plausible explanations for biblical laws?
- 4. What have you experienced as a result of obedience to God's commands as recorded in the Bible?

#### **Summary**

- 1. What does God say about the Bible?
- 2. Does God claim to have inspired every word of it? Does God want us to try applying its teachings?
- 3. What do people in the world say about the Bible's veracity? Is there a consensus that it is the "Word of God"?
- 4. Do your peers think the stories of the Bible are myths? Do they think biblical commands are outdated?
- 5. What do you believe? Are you personally convicted that the Bible is the "Word of God"? Why or why not?

Created by the Teen Bible Study Committee Volunteers. You can find 42 other Teen Bible Discussion Guides on the Web at www.ucg.org/a/teenbs/teenstudies.htm.

# **Recapture Your First Love**

Satan's attacks on the Ephesians are eerily reminiscent of trials and heresies faced today. The Bible shows how to overcome the resultant loss of "first love."

by Bruce Gore

Ephesus—the name means "desirable." It was a beautiful, affluent city on the mouth of the Cayster River in the Roman province of Asia. Three major Roman highways from the east ended in Ephesus where there was also a deep-water port. With an artificial harbor accessible to the largest ships, it rivaled the harbor at Miletus. Ephesus was the most easily accessible city in Asia, both by land and sea. It was an ideal place for the apostle Paul to begin the Asian effort.

Ephesus had its dark side also. It was a city full of idolatry, pagan temples and immorality. It was the chief center of Diana worship.

Its location accommodated Paul's evangelistic efforts to nearby cities and provinces. He used it as a base to preach the gospel and raise up other churches throughout Asia Minor.

Paul founded the congregation in Ephesus in the early 50s. A few years later on a return trip from Macedonia, as he rushed to get back to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Pentecost, he asked the elders to meet with him in nearby Miletus (Acts 20:16–17).

It was to be last time that he would personally see these men—many of whom he had personally ordained. As he reminisced, his comments took a very sobering turn for the Ephesus ministry and church.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood

"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears" (Acts 20:28–31).

The future prospects for the Ephesian church were not very encouraging. False teachings would come from not only intruders, but also some of their own leaders.

#### **Paul Fights Back**

Paul predicted the problem, but that didn't prevent him from doing his best to resist the heretical teachings and teachers. Around A.D. 60 he wrote the Ephesian church and reminded them of what God had done in their lives, of where they had come from. "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:1–2). He urged them to hold on to unity and love for one another. The introduction of heresy into the Church there would create division and a party spirit.

The real source of this attack was Satan. They must resist him with dogged determination! "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:10–12).

Around the same time, Paul admonished Timothy: "To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith" (1 Timothy 1:2–4). Some there must have already begun to stray from the true teachings.

#### Ephesus in the 90s

The apostle John wrote the last books of the New Testament. He was the last living apostle of the original 12 that Christ had chosen to assist in the founding of the New Testament Church. In his old age, Roman authorities had banished him to the island of Patmos sometime around A.D. 94 to 95. Emperor Domitian persecuted the Christian Church throughout the empire until his assassination in A.D. 96. Patmos was one of several locations where Rome imprisoned offenders whose crimes were not serious enough for the death sentence. John's offense was the preaching of the Word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9).

It was on this island that the apostle received information from God about what the Church and world governments would experience in the years preceding and following Christ's return. The information came to him primarily in a vision. The message that he was given became the book of Revelation.

He was told, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea" (Revelation 1:11)

These seven churches in Asia Minor were on a postal circuit around 30 or 40 miles apart. How was the church in Ephesus that Paul raised up doing?

Notice what Christ has to say about this church. "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary'" (Revelation 2:1–3).

Christ expresses His appreciation for their works, their labor. The Greek word for labor is *kopos*, which means wearisome toil, or toil resulting in weariness. It hadn't been easy for them for the last 50 plus years. There must have been many spiritual casualties. This remnant had hung on to "the Way."

He also mentions being aware of their patience or perseverance. They had shouldered those burdens and responsibilities. They had labored and had not quit. This was not a young congregation any longer. Patience or perseverance implies the passage of time. They had many years of service behind them

Today many of us can reflect back to the Feasts of Tabernacles in the 1960s when a minister speaking before the crowd would ask, "How many are here for your first feast?" Many hands would go up. Then he would work his way on down to the question, "How many have attended the Feast for 30 to 40 years?" There would be very few hands. Today, when this question is asked, most of the audience has attended for 30 years or more. Today God's Church is no longer a young Church.

#### **Recent History**

In verse 2, Christ speaks of what they had had to go through—the very things that Paul had spoken of. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars" (Revelation 2:2).

Evil people had come in among them. They had represented themselves as ministers of Christ, but had brought in heretical teachings in an attempt to sabotage the truth. Their doctrines were built upon religious lies.

Many of their ministers had turned away from the truth to teach lies. John had written them to try the spirits to see whether they were of God or not (1 John 4:18). Their own spiritual leaders now questioned the foundational truths that the Ephesians had devoted their whole lives to

These members had been assaulted with the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans. Many Bible scholars believe the Nicolaitans were the precursors of the Gnostics. The Gnostic heretics had a major impact on the Church in the early centuries. They mixed Greek philosophy, including the old pagan teaching of an immortal soul, in with Christ's and Paul's teachings. They also spoke out against the Old Testament writings and laws. The Christian Church of the second and third century that the world saw was very different from the one of the first century due in part to the efforts of these groups.

#### **Battle Scars**

What does it do to a congregation when its leaders betray them? These were men who had been looked up to—who were expected to teach, exhort and encourage. How does this affect one mentally and spiritually? It could not help but have a terrible effect on many in the Ephesian congregation—weakening their spiritual zeal, their Sabbath attendance and their Bible study. They had survived, but they had been scarred.

"Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4). Most of us have experienced that "first love" for the truth. It seemed we could not get enough of studying God's Word. We yearned to learn the next new point of truth! What we were learning was so exciting and we would burn the midnight oil to learn more. Christ says that this is what they had left. It's understandable in many ways after what they had gone through. They had begun with an excitement and love for truth, but the internal betrayal, the spiritual battles, had eroded much of their enthusiasm for religion.

So Christ tells them, "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5).

How they responded to the apostle John's letter, we don't know. But we know of no Church of God in Ephesus today.

How about us—have we lost some of our first love? There are many towns and cities in our brief history that had congregations of God's servants where there are none today. Christ told Ephesus to get back to the first works—those things they did from the very first. How many of God's people today have fallen away from foundational truths? He is saying to get back to those things they had fallen from.

Jeremiah admonished ancient Judah, "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.' But they said, 'We will not walk in it'" (Jeremiah 6:16).

A lot of people have found themselves at a spiritual crossroad in recent years—wondering which path to take. God says, look to the old truths. They may be old, but they are just as true as they ever were. Judah refused and was soon in slavery in the land of Babylon. We must not refuse to listen and heed, or we could find our candlestick removed.

It is possible to recapture the first love. With prayer and study the former love for God and His truths can be rekindled. God is very anxious to restore the close relationship with His people.

"For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth, that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16:9, New American Standard Bible).

There was a time when David found he had drifted away from God. He no longer felt that former joy he'd had in the past. He fervently prayed, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit" (Psalm 51:12). David was reconciled with God and went on to serve Him faithfully and zealously for the rest of his life.

God tests the heirs of the Kingdom. If faced and handled correctly, trials and tests can mature us. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James

That maturing process prepares us for a deeper understanding of God's Holy Word. When we were newer in the Church we devoured the milk of the Word. Now we are ready for the meat of the Word. We can become even more excited about the deeper truths that we are now ready for. The first love of study is restored, but now our capacity to understand is heightened.

Paul prayed that God would grant the Ephesians, "according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height" of God's love (Ephesians 3:16-18).

If we return to a diligent study of the Scriptures and ask God to restore a spiritual hunger for His wonderful truths, God will hear and answer us. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew

God is more anxious to share the good things He has with us than even we are with our own children. "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him" (verse 11)!

Then as we study it will be like God is speaking directly to us, and we will be uplifted by the hope that has motivated the faithful down through the centuries.

"You spoke to me and I listened to every word. I belong to you Lord God Almighty, and so your words filled my heart with joy and happiness" (Jeremiah 15:16, Today's English Version). UN

# But I Can't Walk on Water...

by Robert Berendt

I chose not to go scuba diving. My brain tells me that I do not belong 40 to 60 feet underwater carrying a heavy tank full of air and skirting danger from the bends.

My conscious mind is in full agreement with my subconscious mind in this matter. My decision was confirmed when I saw the list of questions asked before anyone takes even the introductory course in which you "only" go down 40 feet.

My wife has a different mind-set. She loves water! She is happiest "in, on or under" the water, as she puts it. She decided she wanted to go scuba diving! I went along to video the process up to the point of submersion.

It was interesting to see the war that took place as my wife's conscious mind said "I want to do this" and her subconscious mind began to say "you can't...don't take our body down there...it is not healthy." I am sure there were a lot of good "what if" arguments. The intrepid instructor was reassuring and said the conscious mind often has to win over the subconscious. For a moment, the struggle was so great that she looked at me and said, "I don't think I am going to like this" and "I'm not sure I really want to do it now."

The beauty of paying in advance is the added motivation that it brings. She did go! The conscious mind won the battle and in the end even the subconscious mind was smiling at this totally new experience.

The instructor kept saying "SBTA," which translates into stop, breathe, think and then act. It worked. Within 40 minutes Valerie came back overioved at the new experience and confident in what she could do. New learning experiences can be difficult, but rewarding.

#### **Controlling the Subconscious**

Faith and trust in God are a little like this scuba diving adventure. Experiences of the conscious mind defeating the subconscious have to do with self-control. God's Word instructs us to gain control of our desires and inclinations, lusts and tastes. Control of the self is the conscious mind controlling the subconscious.

It is in the subconscious mind that we store reactions that are often guided and directed by past experiences. People know that smoking is bad for their health, for example, but some inner subconscious drive just dominates and always will until they exert enough character, determination and direct conscious effort to do what is right and good for our bodies. Poor eating habits, abuse of alcohol, emotional outbursts and the philosophy "if it feels good, do it" are all a result of the conscious giving in to the subconscious. That may be simplifying things too much, but you get the idea.

Control is a conscious activity. It is a God-plane activity. God knows that humans have the ability to use their minds and He expects us to rule over the tendency to sin, as He strongly explained to Cain in Genesis 4:7. The New Testament also expresses the struggle we can win in Romans 6:1-2 and Hebrews 12:4.

The motto SBTA is helpful in keeping the conscious mind in control. We fight off panic, rage, fear, overreactions, doubts, emotions and more. These are the tactics the subconscious mind uses to stop us from doing what the thinking mind dictates. In scuba diving, thinking is essential. In the life of a Christian, thinking is also essential

God gave us the subconscious mind and it is a needed

tool for our well-being. This is where we keep things like automatic responses in sports. It is also where we store behavior patterns that are learned or experienced in childhood. Fear and trauma, as well as positive events, all take root in the subconscious mind. Panic at the sight of a mouse for some, spiders for others, claustrophobia, rage or violent action all have subconscious triggers. Life is complex and constantly changing. Wise people examine their subconscious thoughts and the reactions that surface, and correct or control them by conscious effort.

#### Walking on Water

The process of conversion calls for people to learn a whole new system of living that is at odds with the human mind. Romans 8:7 tells us the carnal, natural mind is enmity against God. Trusting in God's Word, we learn that what our conscious mind led by God's Spirit tells us can provide a new, unintuitive and often frightening-though exhilarating-experience.

We are reminded of the story of Peter in Matthew 14:27-33. Here we read that Jesus told the men not to be afraid. They had plenty to be afraid of. Their conscious and subconscious minds were in full agreement on that point! When Peter saw it was Christ walking on the water, his conscious mind said, "I want to do that!" He was able to override his subconscious mind for a few moments with his eyes fixed on Christ. He walked on the water-



far enough from the boat that he could not get back.

Peter looked away from Christ and saw the waves and the stormy sea. Doubts and fears suddenly arose and blotted out the fact that he had walked on the water. Everything in Peter cried out and said, "It cannot be done-you cannot walk on water!" Peter began to sink. Christ held him up and rescued Peter just as God rescues us.

We cannot live spiritual lives without the faith and trust promoted by Christ and the Father living in us through the Holy Spirit. The presence of God makes humans spiritually minded and enables us to soar to spiritual levels that the carnal mind cannot reach (Romans 8:6, 9). Yes, God says, you and I can walk on water!

Christians are asked to cast aside everything that is contrary to God, and that is pretty much everything human or carnal. Our conscious and our subconscious minds are to be conformed to the mind of Christ (Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 2:14-16). It may not seem to make sense to us, but in exhibiting faith and trust in God, with Christ in us, it is possible.

It is a good motto that the scuba diving instructor taught. Stop, breathe, think and act-SBTA. There is something to be said about the successful control of the subconscious by the conscious. We cannot afford to miss out on this new experience. Walking hand in hand with Christ is exhilarating. Try it-vou will like it.

Hmmm... Maybe I ought to give scuba diving another look? UN

# Local Church Updates...

#### Jonathan and Ryan **McClure Produce Prize-**Winning Documentaries

Saturday night, June 2, both Jonathan and Ryan McClure were recognized as first-prize winners in Indiana's annual History Day competition.

Ryan received a cash prize in addition to his medal and certificate. His documentary was on robots and their future impact. It had an interview with his uncle, Dr. William Peine, a graduate of the Harvard School of Applied Science, and included video of laproscopic heart bypass surgery.

Jonathan, as the middle school winner, went on to Washington D.C. for the



Above, Cathy, Ryan, Malcolm and Jonathan McClure: right. Jonathan with Aletra and Virtue Hampton, who were interviewed in his documentary on the frontiers of iazz in Indiana

national competition June 11-14 where he placed 11th out of all entrants in the Junior Division "Individual Documentaries" from all 50 states. The national competition was televised on the History Channel and cybercast

Jonathan's documentary subject was the frontiers of jazz in Indiana. It included interviews with several prominent jazz musicians. The special feature was an interview with Aletra and Virtue Hampton. They are in their 80s and have lived the frontier of jazz. Their stories of the struggles of a black family of 11 children traveling the big-name theater circuit throughout the East Coast were totally captivating.

These ladies have performed in such places as Carnegie Hall, the Savoy and jazz clubs in almost every major city. They were also recognized by the historians at Indiana's History Day ceremony.

Jonathan, Ryan and their parents, Malcolm and Cathy McClure, attend the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation.

Tom Peine



Jeremiah Johnson

#### Jeremiah Johnson **Inducted Into Honor Society**

Jeremiah S. Johnson, 13, son of Steven and Christine Johnson of the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation, was inducted into the Hartman-Wileman Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society May 17.

Jeremiah, an eighth grader at Phoenix

Middle School of Delavan. Wisconsin. met the eligibility requirements of earning a cumulative 3.5 grade point average or higher for three consecutive quarters. Those who meet this scholastic requirement are then put to a faculty vote to determine if

they meet the other NJHS qualifications of leadership, citizenship, character and service. Final determination of membership is made with the approval of the NJHS Faculty Council.

Jeremiah, one of nine new eighth grade inductees, was presented with a certificate and welcomed into the Society by its chairman, advisers and faculty at a ceremony held at the school, followed by a reception.

Steven Johnson

#### **Susan Richey Wins Presidential Award**

Susan Richey, 11, graduated from fifth grade with several awards, including the President's Award for Educational Excellence and a merit award for "All As. All Year, All Subjects."

Susan and her mother, Linda Richey, were congratulated on doing exceptionally well for being a singleparent family by the principal and staff

of Treadway Elementary School in Leesburg, Florida. They attend the Orlando, Florida, congregation of the United Church of God. She is the granddaughter of Dale and Pearl



Susan Richey receives awards

Richey, formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio.

#### Toronto Teens Attend a **Mystery Dinner**

It came in the mail, just as any flyer, bill or ransom note might have, and it came without warning-a gray-blue card with a question mark on the outside. It was the calling card of Pat and Jo-Anne Read, inviting me to a "Mystery Dinner" at the home of our pastor and his wife, Anthony and Linda Wasilkoff.

At church the next week, I discovered that the rest of the teens had received invitations too, but no one knew anything about the Mystery Dinner. "Is it a murder mystery game?" one naive teen asked. "Is the food the mystery?" another ventured. "Are you going to feed us biblical food, like locusts?" I jokingly asked. The Reads would reveal nothing although Mr. Read did smile deviously at my proposal. We waited out those next few weeks in excitement, but sometimes we had puzzled looks on our faces.

Then the day was finally upon us. We arrived at the Wasilkoffs' house and were greeted by a row of waiters in uniform who had assumed French names for the occasion. Closer inspection revealed them to be Ryan Rahel, Mr. Read, Judy Read and Mr. Wasilkoff. They led us to the table where we were given menus with about 20 dishes. We were told to take a pencil and list them in the course order we would like.

These dishes had odd names. And the final item was "locusts." Nevertheless we complied and filled out our dinner orders.

Next they told us to leave the table and wait in the den, where we were entertained by a documentary on the wonders of God's creation and a small, frisky dog. We played

with the dog, and I don't mind admitting that we went through several large bowls of snacks while we waited for our dinner. We could hear strange sounds coming from the

> kitchen where the volunteer cooks were hard at work. It was nervewracking. Then, finally, we were called in.

Soon after we were seated, our first courses were served. One teen received a bowl of rice,

which she stared at blankly for a few moments. Another received carrots and a bun, two things with little obvious connection. I was further confused, although somewhat pleased, when I received a piece of pie and some ice cream.

But then everyone noticed that there were no utensils. "Where are my utensils?" we asked in unison. We were directed to little stacks of toothpicks located along the middle of the table.

Believe it or not, ice cream can be eaten quite well with a toothpick, but pity the poor fellow who got his corn first! He had to put it into a glass to try to drink it. He didn't have the sticky interior of a perogie to scoop them up like I did when my peas arrived.

But despite the increasing strangeness of our meals, we were slowly starting to understand the mystery. Reviewing our original sheets, we saw that we were getting exactly what we had ordered and in exactly the order we had ordered it. Here are some examples: "Oh Well" was water; "Rake" was a fork; "Cactus Country" was dessert; "Ear Drops" was corn; "Scaredy Cat" was chicken; "Ben's Dish" was rice; "Tiny Pillows" were perogies; "Guillotine" was a knife; and the locusts



These mysterious servers made the Toronto Mystery Dinner a success

be chocolate turtles. What a relief that was!

Obviously, that's a lot of food, and only a few of the teens managed to eat all their food. The process was also a little unfair to some. Ezra Martin, for example, got all his utensils and no food for his last course.

Everyone agreed that the whole evening was a lot of fun.

Rosaleen Ford

# Announcements...

#### Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie L. McCullough are excited to announce the marriage of their daughter, Lynn Marie, to Matthew Ronald Gus on Sunday, February 18, 2001. The black-tie evening wedding and reception were held at



Lynn and Matthew Gus

The Stoneleigh in Dallas, Texas, where the ceremony was performed by Roy Demarest. Theresa Fenton was the bride's matron-of-honor with Liz Turner, Susan Demarest and Aislinn Fenton serving as attendants. The groom's best man was Cliff Demarest; groomsmen were Kai Hypko, Tom Turci, Zane Peterson and George Hatch. After honeymooning in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the happy couple has made Dallas, Texas their home.

Ryan McNeely and Stephanie Szymkowiak were married December 30, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana, Chris McNeely and Brenda Szymkowiak acted as best man and maid of honor. Darris McNeely, father of the groom and pastor of the Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne congregations, performed the ceremony.



Stephanie and Ryan McNeely

The couple now reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, and are attending the Ambassador Bible Center.

#### **Anniversaries**

Oral and Carol Garvin of the Canton, Ohio, congregation were surprised by their children, family and friends March 24, 2001, with a dinner party celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary (March 26, 2001).

The couple briefly met at the Poconos Feast of Tabernacles in 1968 while seated beside each other



Oral and Carol Garvin

at services. Their paths crossed once again in 1975 when Oral visited the Clarksburg, West Virginia, congregation where Carol attended. God's



Christine Tomes sent this photo of the babies born last year in the Los Angeles (Eagle Rock), California, congregation. From left, Alexandra Nicole Oesterle, Nicholas Walker Rudajs, James David Demarest, Clint Joseph Townsend, Caleb Stephen Tomes and Cora Nicole Anderson (born December 1999). Not pictured: Kailyn Grace Gomia

blessing united them through many dramatic interventions and their lives together as husband and wife have positively affected many people. Their children are Sid Loudin of the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation and Sherry Thouvenin of the Canton congregation.

Royce and Evelyn Eslinger of the Springfield, Missouri, congregation celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on May 4, 2001. They have been members of the Church of God since 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Eslinger were parents to six children: Linda (Wasilkoff), Louise (deceased), Ona (Boyd), Evelina (Hogue), Calvin and Glenda (Black). They have 12



Evelyn and Royce Eslinger

grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Eslingers have been a source of inspiration and help to all their family.

#### **Obituaries**

Marie Church, 69, died unexpectedly April 30, 2001, of a massive stroke. Mrs. Church was a longtime member of God's Church in upstate New York, and was a member of UCG Buffalo, New York, for the past five and a half years. Mrs. Church will be remembered for her kindness and her cooking. Although hampered with illnesses these past years, she was known for bringing sauce or soup to all potlucks and to people who were feeling poorly.

Mrs. Church is survived by her children, Dale Vaughan and Dianne Church, several stepchildren, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and close friends. Her husbands, Charlie Vaughan and William Church, preceded her in death.

David Baker conducted funeral services May 3.

Oland "Ollie" Goodwill, Jr., died unexpectedly May 1, 2001, of a

heart attack. Mr. Goodwill was a long-time member of God's Church and attended the UCG Buffalo. New York, congregation, since its beginning. Mr. Goodwill was well known as the congregation's "climate control coordinator." He also came early each week to ensure the church hall was ready when everyone arrived.

His wife, Mary Ann, four children, seven grandchildren, his parents and two brothers survive Mr. Goodwill. Services were conducted

Margaret Lay, 99, died February 26, 2001, in Spokane, Washington. She was a long-time member of the Church of God, being baptized in January 1965. Miss Lay taught in a one-room schoolhouse for about 40 years. She was a member of the Poetry Scribes of Spokane, and wrote and published many poems herself. Memorial services were conducted by Mark Mickelson on March 1.

Louise Black, 91, died May 17, 2001, in Spokane, Washington. She had been a member of the



Louise Black

Church of God since February 1971. She lived in Las Vegas, Nevada, for a number of years before returning to Spokane. Funeral services were held on May 21 in Spokane. Mark Mickelson conducted the service.

Hazel Bosset, 92, died May 18, 2001, in Spokane, Washington. She was preceded in death by her husband of more than 50 years, Vern Bosset, in early 1998. They had both been longtime members of the Church of God, being baptized



Hazel Bosset

in August 1963. They had lived in the San Francisco, California, Bay Area for many years before moving to Spokane in the early 1990s. There was no service at her request.

Homer E. Darling, 86, of Grand Junction, Colorado, died on April 19, 2001. He was a faithful member of God's Church since 1976. He was born on March 21, 1915, to Homer and Agnes Smith Darling at Birch Tree, Missouri, where he spent his childhood. He and Juanita M. Tvler were married at Golden, Colorado, on September 17, 1940.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita of Grand Junction; three daughters. Ruth E. Cook of Grand Junction, Virginia Young of Rocklin, California, and Bobbi Wilson of Grand Junction; sister, Grace Davenport of Pueblo, Colorado; nine grandchildren; and 24 greatgrandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bill Jahns in Grand Junction.

Rosalie Canfall, 61, of Greensboro, North Carolina, passed away June 9, 2001, after suffering a crisis with sickle-cell anemia. Rosalie moved from Hilton Head Island. South Carolina, in 1963 to be a charter member of the Radio Church of God in the Carolinas. For almost 40 years she tirelessly served the brethren by prayers, cards and phone calls. Though much of the time she was in pain, she never complained. She always had a thankful and positive attitude. Rosalie was an inspiring example to all who knew her.

She is survived by one brother. Julius Canfall; three sisters, Bessie Fellers, Georgia Mae Bailey and Elizabeth Taylor; and a foster sister, Hattie Green. Funeral services were conducted on June 12 by David Mills.

Ethel Urbauer Lutes, 66, of Deer Park, Texas, died June 6, 2001, after a long battle with cancer. She was a longtime member of the Houston, Texas, congregation.

She is survived by two daughters, Dianne Herchek of San Antonio, Texas, and Karen Gonzales of Big Sandy, Texas; two sons, Paul Lutes. III and Kenneth Lutes of Deer Park; two sisters, Ollie Stuart of Dickinson, Texas, and Jackie Jandt of Seguin. Texas: and five grandchildren, Eric and Nicholas Jacobs, Michael Harding, David and Lindsey Lutes. Funeral services were conducted in Dickinson June 9 by Kenneth Giese.

## Letters...

#### What Ever Happened to...

After reading Mr. [Aaron] Dean's answer to the question about the little Thai boy [United News May 2001, page 2], I also got to wondering what ever happened to the Waterfield Institute. The Church had refurbished a building and was sending AC students over to teach English and other skills. Is it still operating, and who is funding it? I always loved the projects we had in other countries like that and prayed for them all the time. I'm so glad we are involved in Jordan again.

Internet

We checked with Dave Baker, pastor of the Buffalo, Elmira and Syracuse, New York, congregations, who previously served on Ambassador Foundation projects and earlier this year visited India and Sri Lanka. He wrote:

"We started Waterfield Institute in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, in 1985-86. Ambassador Foundation funded the school until the mid-1990s. Sometime around 1992-93 the name of the school was changed from Waterfield Institute to Worldwide Educational Institute. The focus of the school changed somewhat.

"A few years later, 1995-96, the school was relocated to a suburb of Colombo and is now partially funded by WCG-Australia. The church and the school are now housed in the same building. They now charge tuition for the classes. I hear from some of the Waterfield graduates that the school has now lost a lot of its popularity.

"The building in Nuwara Eliya is still being used as a school. A citizen of Nuwara Eliya has leased the building and is running a small private school for elementary-aged children. One of our Waterfield graduates is a teacher at this school."

## "Nobody Told Me It Is Also Available in Spanish!"

For some time now I have been receiving quite happily your English magazine, *The Good News*, but nobody told me it is also available in Spanish! I learned about it while reading an article on Latin America in the *United News*. Please, I want to subscribe to *Las Buenas Noticias* as well as to receive any other Spanish pamphlets, booklets, Sabbath school lessons, etc.

I am a Messianic Jew, but I realize you have a very special message for this world—one quite similar to what I have been preaching for the last 29 years. I am also aware that there have been several successor organizations, but I believe you to be Mr. Armstrong's true offspring as concerns the message he preached and the quality of that message. In truth, I would be interested in knowing more about you and your teachings. Continue to press forward along this road.

Puerto Rico

#### Offended by Logo

I...received my copy of the *United News* with the picture of the new logo for the Church [January, page 8]. It looks like we are a European-based church. You do not even have the eastern part of the North American continent on the logo. Yet that is where the majority of the members live. That is where the majority of the money comes from. How is it that you didn't see fit to picture the true make-up of the Church? I for one am deeply offended. Yes, we are international, but even Asia is on the logo—how much impact and support do you get from there?

Internet

Thank you for your candid comments about the new seal for the Church, which is based on the logo which was included on the banner used at the Feast sites in the Western Hemisphere last year. The logo and the seal underwent a long period of development and refinement, and both were approved by the Council of Elders, the governing body of the Church

In portraying a globe, the intention is to represent the whole earth and thus the international nature of the United Church of God, an International Association. Of course with a two-dimensional representation only part of the globe can be displayed, and we are sorry that we have offended you.

Since most of the Church membership and most of the Council of Elders members are based in the United States, it would have been easy to decide that the United States should be pictured. However, by choosing a view of the Eastern Hemisphere, hopefully we show that we are not inwardly focused. Plus, that particular view of the world is one of the most recognizable, and includes parts of five of the six inhabited continents. It is interesting to note that the only inhabited continent not pictured is Australia, but that Media and Communications operation manager Peter Eddington, who commissioned and oversaw the development of the logo, is from Australia. He mentioned that the future focus of the Kingdom of God, Jerusalem, is pictured in the center of the globe, with the subtle notion that the return of Jesus Christ to Jerusalem is center in our minds.

Thanks again for your message. Your input is welcome, and we wish you all the best.

#### Why No Pen Pal Column?

I look forward to the *United News*, searching for news and names of brethren that I have met on special Holy Days....

In the wilderness of miles, some of us can drive miles to meet for worship, but there are others who live alone and are not able to drive, plus are deeply needing the love and support of their brethren.

Letters and phone calls that show love, care and support can be a powerful strength

in the unholy times to come. Also, there are others who are spiritually alone because of unbelieving spouses and family. I correct that last remark—as God's children we are never, ever really alone!

Can and will you find space for a pen pal column? Give us this tool, and we can help with the finishing of God's work with His family before the dark days come.

Alberta

Our heart also goes out to those scattered brethren, and we appreciate all who reach out to those in need of friends far and near. Sadly, previous experience with other Church publications has shown that some have misused such a column, and those participating have received unwanted solicitations. You wrote of people you have met at the Feast, and we encourage everyone to use the Feast, camp and other Church functions to exchange addresses and find pen pals.

#### Youth United

I would like to know how I can go about receiving your *Youth* magazine. I have read several articles and I must say I really enjoy the information. Thanks for the articles.

Interr

Dave Treybig, managing editor of Youth United, wrote: We are glad to hear that you are enjoying reading Youth United. As an on-line e-magazine, it is only available via the Internet. We do not print hard copies. Of course, if someone wants to print copies of the articles from the Web site at youthmagazine.org, they are welcome to do so.

#### Darwinism in the Classroom

I am in the seventh grade and I am homeschooled. My research paper assignment in English composition and grammar was on the topic of evolution. The article "Darwinism in the Classroom" by Mr. Dave Treybig [Youth United, Volume 1, Issue 1] was of tremendous help to me. The article was extremely well-written and it also provided several valuable research sources. I was able to find these materials in my local library. Thank you for publishing this very "timely" article.

Internet

#### A Revealing Look at Modesty

I just wanted to say thank you for the article on modesty in [Volume 2, Issue 1 of] *Youth United* Internet magazine. I think this is exactly what the youth need to be seeing and reading. Considering improper examples in recent years of sloppily-dressed young men and provocatively-dressed young women at Sabbath services and Feast sites, I believe this should be required reading for all teens in the Church.... Keep up the good work!

Maryland

#### Good News and Youth United

I really appreciate the *Good News* magazine. This magazine has helped me understand many things. I do not have e-mail at home, that is why I request it through the mail. Thank you very much for all the information that I have received from you.

I would like to know if you have the Youth [United] magazine through the mail. This would be great for my 12-year-old daughter, as she loves to read the literature that you send me. She really enjoyed learning about Clean and Unclean Meats.

Texas

Youth United is only available on the Internet (youthmagazine.org), but some read or print it at work, school or the library.

#### Magazine Changing Lives in Gabon

I want to use this opportunity to thank all of you for the spiritual bread you have been sending to us in Libreville, Gabon. God has blessed us immensly through your magazine.

The expanded edition in the May/June 2001 issue [Why Does God Allow Suffering?] helped me a lot to minister to the needs of the afflicted and those suffering. I am happy to know that God should not be blamed for the human suffering as both human beings and the devil are fully responsible for human suffering. I know also that if humans could live according to God's law and precepts I believe we should not suffer a great deal.

Thanks for your life-changing magazine that has changed my life. I am regularly using the articles in my preaching and Bible studies. Please continue to send the magazine to me and I am interested in all the booklets that you offered freely.

Gabon

## Letter From Baptist Theological Seminary

Whenever I receive your magazine, I always want to learn what change it will make in my life. Each issue always has a message for me and my pastoral ministry.

The article "Timothy: Paul's Son in the Faith" is a great blessing to me while "Archaeology and the Epistles" enlarged the coast of my scholarship, especially on the epistles. I really commend your contribution to my life in the truth of the gospel.

Nigeria

#### Downloading and Studying

Thanks! I have been downloading and studying many of the booklets and Bible study lessons on the Web site. They are great! Thank you for making them available.

Texas

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

"MEDIA," (Continued from page 3)

In addition, coworkers and donors receive additional mailings and letters.

We have also put in place a renewal program for Good News subscribers. We include a renewal effort on their last three issues; and if they don't respond, they are dropped. We also have a renewal program for the Bible Study Course. People get a renewal effort on their third and fourth lessons, and they have to respond to one of those efforts to continue receiving their lessons. We don't want to continue sending materials to people if they're not really interested. Funds can be channeled to those who are reading, and who do appreciate what is being offered.

#### **Booklets**

All of these efforts are paying off. Demand for booklets has been so high that we printed, or reprinted, over half a million booklets last year. So far this year we have printed or reprinted almost 200,000. We are adding new donors at the rate of 100 to 175 per month. We're adding coworkers-those who donate more than once—at the rate of 50 to 80 per month. For donors, we send a thank-you letter in which we offer them the Bible Study Course. For coworkers, we send regular update letters and a card offering them World News and Prophecy.

Since United began, it has printed 1.4 million booklets covering 26 major topics of importance. Our largest printing effort was in 2000 with half a million copies coming off the press-37 percent of our total in one year! The Church membership does not make up the majority to whom we distribute copies—our GN readership does.

The booklet we've printed the most copies of is What Is Your Destiny?, a foundational booklet with 135,000 copies printed! The next most popular is You Can Understand Bible Prophecy, with 80,000 copies. Most of our booklets have had between 50,000 and 70,000 copies printed.

#### Radio

We plan to continue the Good News radio broadcast with a carefully measured portion of our budget. We feel that the testing phase is basically complete, and we have the data needed to better evaluate stations, markets and airing times in order to maximize our dollar spent. Of course, we will always be tweaking our programming

We recently dropped a station in Albany, New York, from our station lineup, and we've already started getting calls from listeners who are upset that it is no longer available in their area. We periodically drop or add stations, depending on how effective they are for us. Four new stations have recently been added-Cincinnati, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Rockford, Illinois; and Nashville, Tennessee,

#### Goals for the Coming Year

Good News Circulation: It is our goal to increase the circulation of the Good News magazine to 425,000 by the end of this coming fiscal year. Much of this depends on our renewal responses and the finances available for promotional efforts. Of course, if the money is provided, we could approach a circulation of half a million. However, our currently proposed budget for 2001-2002 would not support that much growth.

Promotion Efforts: We will continue promoting the gospel as aggressively as finances will permit and will also test new avenues and marketing techniques.

New booklets: We already have several more booklets on critically important subjects almost ready to publish, including one on Satan. We have had such a growth in booklet requests that we are limited financially on how many new titles we can publish this year. We plan for at least two, but would really like to see three or four published.

Church Web sites: Our Web sites are continually being upgraded and improved. This will continue throughout the year, with new options being added, data input automated and more aggressive direct dialog with our readers through e-mail pushing.

Internet advertising: New Good News subscriptions will continue to come in through our very inexpensive Internet advertising on various search engines. New subscribers are added for just over \$1 to \$2 each.

#### Him We Preach...

The support and prayers of the ministry and brethren is very much appreciated as we work hard to spend God's money wisely. Those of us directly involved in reaching out with the gospel message truly work hard and try to emulate the apostle Paul when he wrote: "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily" (Colossians 1:28-29). UN

## **Good News Print Promotions Planned for 2001-2002**

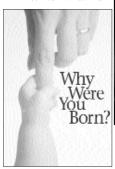
With the start of the 2001-2002 budget year July 1, we have already contracted with various print media companies to help us promote The Good News.

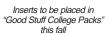
We expect to place our inserts in 600,000 card decks to be sent to homeschooling households in four efforts (July and October 2001 and January and April 2002). Last year, response to our inserts from home-schooling families was excellent. We hope to improve upon those results this budget year.

In August and September we will place 1.000,000 inserts in the "Rural American Gardening" card deck and the "Rural American Homeowners" card decks. Subscriber response to our tests last year also proved very good. We are now doubling the number of inserts going into these programs.

Also, for the first time we will experi-

ment with a new demographic market-to what is





sometimes referred to as the "net generation." In this test 250,000 inserts promoting The Good News will be placed in the "Good

Stuff College Pack" program. This is a "sampling program" at colleges and universities reaching mainly 18- and 19-year-olds. Inserts and product samples from various companies and organizations are placed in plastic bags and provided to students at college dorms at the beginning of the fall semester. We have designed inserts going to girls with the captivating message, "Why Were You Born?" The male students will receive inserts with the message "What is the purpose of life?"

Additional print media promotions are planned for the upcoming 12 months. We will keep you updated regarding plans and results.

John LaBissoniere

# Scenes of the Ground Breaking for the **New Office Building June 4**



## News at a Glance...

#### **Ministerial Transfers** and Ordinations Announced

Two new elders were ordained on Pentecost, May 27, in the Seattle, Washington, congregation. They are David Holladay and Warren Larson.

Andrew Burnett was ordained an elder on June 9. He serves in the Roseburg, Oregon, congregation.

Earl Roemer, currently pastoring in Hawaii, will be moving to serve the Boise and Lewiston, Idaho; Baker, Oregon; and Kennewick, Washington, congregations. This will allow Mark Mickelson, who has been serving the Kennewick and Lewiston

congregations, to concentrate on the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Montana congregations. Bill Jahns, who has been serving Boise and Baker, will continue to serve his other congregations in Salt Lake City, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Twin Falls, Idaho.

#### World News and Prophecy Gets a New Look

Good News art director Shaun Venish was commissioned to do a redesign of World News and Prophecy, including a new twocolor logo. The cover of World News and Prophecy will be printed in two colors (blue and black) starting with the July issue.

## What's New on the Web?

#### On www.ucg.org

· See these new sermon transcripts in our deaf/hard of hearing section: "Stirring From Within" by Mark Winner; "Uncompromising Daniel" by Ed Smith; "Do We Go to Heaven?" by Peter Eddington; and "Moving From Slavery to Freedom" by Matt Fenchel.

http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html

- See more photographs of the ground breaking for the new home office building: http://www.ucg.org/abc/progress.html
- See the latest Spanish booklet ¿Estamos viviendo en los últimos días? now available in PDF (1.6MB) format:

http://www.ucg.org/html/espa\_ol.shtml

#### On youthmagazine.org

 New July-September issue has these exciting articles: "Make the Most of Life!", "To Narc or Not to Narc?", "Born to Succeed!", "Prepare for a Long, Healthy Life," "What Is Fun?", "Choosing Music and Movies," "Here's to New Adventures...," "Planning for Life, Part 3" and "Ask Youth." http://youthmagazine.org

#### On ucgyouth.org

· Information has been posted on Camp Highlands preteen camp near Middlefield, Ohio. Also United Youth Camp and United Youth Corps information and applications. http://ucgvouth.org

#### On vcmagazine.org

· The July Virtual Christian Magazine has articles on: "Written by the Finger of God," "Fly Like a Dragonfly," "What Can You Learn From a Rooster?", "You Were Born to Win!" and "Pondering the Value of Life." http://vcmagazine.org

#### Other Helpful Links

http://www.ucg.org/radio (Good News radio program site. Listen to Real Audio files of the program and see the radio log.)

http://gnmagazine.org (Good News Web site. Sign up for e-mail notification!)

http://www.ucg.org/a/localc/multimedia.htm (Check out the local multimedia efforts by United congregations: Tomorrow television by Portland, Oregon; Good News television by Beloit, Wisconsin; World News and Prophecy radio by Donald Ward; and The World Tomorrow on MANX radio on the Isle of Man.)

http://www.ucg.org/a/news/news.htm (News page with Council of Elders meeting reports, President's Letters, Home Office Updates, etc.)

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



Mock-up of redesigned World News and Prophecy

Currently 16,000 copies are printed each issue. Without promotion, circulation of the publication has increased by more than 500 in the United States. The Australian office has also increased its request by 500 copies. Circulation is expected to continue to slowly increase

since World News and Prophecy is now being offered to coworkers.

The July issue will also carry a new column, "Restoration," by managing editor Darris McNeely, based on Acts

#### **ABC Students Volunteer Hundreds of Hours**

Ambassador Bible Center students stay busy with intensive classes, work and volunteering.

ABC coordinator Gary Antion said, "The students are undertaking some service projects to help out in the community as they are able, and they are still sending out cards of encouragement to the brethren and have helped save the home office nearly \$10,000 by volunteering to do office work during their spare time."

ABC continues to receive applications for the 2002 session, now numbering 62. with 37 accepted so far. "We thank God for the quality of the applicants," said Mr. Antion. "They should be fine students for ABC."

The 2001 graduation is set for August 5.

## The Good News Radio Log

Schedule through August 5-6, 2001. \*New station.

Arbitron Market	State	Call Letters	Station Frequency	Power (watts)	Scheduled Airtime
Akron	OH	WAKR	1590 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. EDT
Chicago	IL	WJMK	104.3 FM	4,100	Sundays 6 a.m. CDT
Cincinnati*	OH	WKRC	550 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. EDT
Dallas	TX	KRLD	1080 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9 p.m. CDT
Indianapolis*	IN	WIBC	1070 AM	50,000	Sundays 7 a.m. EST
Memphis	TN	WREC	600 AM	5,000	Sundays 9 a.m. CDT
Milwaukee- Racine	WI	WLTQ	97.3 FM	15,500	Sundays 6:30 a.m. CDT
Nashville*	TN	WLAC	1510 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9 p.m. CDT
New Orleans	LA	WWL	870 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9:30 p.m. CDT
Rockford*	IL	WNTA	1330 AM	1,000	Wednesdays 4 p.m. CDT
Rockford*	IL	WROK	1440 AM	5,000	Sundays 10:30 a.m. CDT
Tulsa	OK	KHJM	100.3 FM	6,000	Sundays 1:30 p.m. CDT

## **United News**

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