

Chairman Reports on Council Meetings

Greetings to everyone from the Council of Elders,

With this letter, the Council would like to initiate a regular method of communicating with the ministry and membership. We all appreciate Doug Johnson's work in reporting Council meetings while they are in progress, but when a series of Council meetings are completed, the Council would also like to share its perspectives on some of the major items discussed. Our objective is keep everyone informed as much as possible of the business and role of the Council.

The year-end administrative reports by the president, treasurer and media operation manager were very encouraging. We hope you will take the time to read Doug's report on the magnitude of the work accomplished this past fiscal year and the corresponding financial blessings God has given us. [For summary and link, see page 15.]

Family Life Studies

The Council also established a new Family Life Studies subcommittee under the direction of the Education Committee. It will study into various aspects of the family and make available its results to produce booklets, seminars and Web-based information. The mission of this subcommittee is to cover the entire subject of marriage and family life and build on our knowledge of one of the most important areas of our lives—our families.

David Treybig has been selected by the Council to chair this subcommittee, which will consist of the following men and their wives: Gary Antion, James Capo, Jim Chapman, John Elliott, Roger Foster, Mitchell Knapp, Victor Kubik, Burk McNair, Steve Myers, Greg Sargent and Jim Tuck. This subcommittee will welcome input of anyone interested in contributing to Family Life Studies.

John Jewell inaugurated a regular feature of future Council meetings by giving a report from a national council outside of the United States, on its organization and method of operation. Since the Council has oversight in many areas dealing with the national councils (such as appeals, ordinations and credentialing, subsidy approval, etc.), it is very important to fully understand their operations. This will give the Council a chance to interact with the chairman of the national councils or his representative in a personal way. It will likewise give the chairman or his representative the opportunity to observe meetings of the Council of Elders. As we learn more about the needs

(See "COUNCIL," page 15)



Karen and George Meeker, formerly a pastor with CGCF and now employed by UCG, with Norma and Roy Holladay and Marian and Greg Sargent at combined services in St. Louis July 28 (see article, page 12; photo by Greg Swartz)

UCG Hires Former CGCF Employees

Six elders who served in the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship (CGCF) were credentialed as elders of United by the Council of Elders August 8. Several other elders have expressed interest in being credentialed in the future. After interviews with UCG administration, the five who had been employed by CGCF were hired to serve full-time in United's field ministry August 20. This will help fill the manpower shortages in several areas.

The hired elders are Eric Evans, Jack Hendren, George Meeker, Larry Salyer and Rex Sexton.

Also hired as an employee of the Media and Communications Services area was Tom Robinson, who worked with publishing for Global and CGCF. "Tom will be working closely with Scott Ashley on several of our gospel-preaching projects," said Peter Eddington, operation manager.

"Additional fellow laborers are a welcome relief as we look at present and future needs of the Church," said Council Chairman Roy Holladay in announcing the credentialing. "These men will be assisting the local pastors in their home areas while they learn some of UCG's processes."

Eric and Jeannie Evans live in the Birmingham, Alabama, area, and have also served brethren in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia since his ordination in 1993.

Jack and Mary Hendren live in the Worcester, Massachusetts, area, and have served congregations in New England and Atlantic Canada. He served as managing director for CGCF.

George and Karen Meeker live in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. He was ordained in 1955, and has served in England and throughout the Mid-West.

Larry and Judy Salyer live in the Fort Worth, Texas, area. He was ordained in 1968 and most recently served as president of CGCF, as well as pastoring.

Rex and Patty Sexton live in the Portland East, Oregon, church area. They have also served brethren in Washington, Alaska and Western Canada. He was ordained in 1979.

Future pastoral assignments have not yet been announced. *UN*

Packed Audience Attends ABC Graduation

A packed audience of over 200 watched 38 students receive their certificates of completion from Ambassador Bible Center August 5. Members of the Council

of Elders were in Cincinnati for the event before their August meetings.

Council Chairman Roy Holladay wrote, "These students have spent

nearly seven hours per day, five days a week, for seven months to achieve this milestone. More important than the certificate is the knowledge of God's Word that they have received and the changes it has effected in their lives."

In a letter to the elders August 8, Mr. Holladay also praised the students' service to the home office, saving over \$13,000 in labor, and to the local congregations and the community.

"Please welcome them as they return to your area and to their regular routines once again. May God bless them as they yield to Him in loving service." *UN*



Clockwise from left: ABC students; student representative Daniel Graham speaks; Les McCullough presents certificate to Glenn Hammon (photos by Peter Eddington)

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Next issue: November 5, 2001

Your Opinion Matters!

by Gary Antion

Any time a person gives an opinion to another, that opinion helps make a difference. When United began, the Church leadership realized that there is strength in a multitude of counselors (Proverbs 15:22). United took its model from the New Testament Church, which gathered input from many sources before making major decisions.

We may look to the book of Acts chapter 15 for those examples. The gentile brethren were being told by some of Jewish heritage that they had to conform to the customs for entrance into Israel before they could gain a part in the Church and ultimately be saved. This opinion of those believing Jews brought consternation to the gentiles and to the apostle Paul who was their mentor. The elders were consulted at Jerusalem and through much input, the proper answer was derived and sent forth.

Often, when one offers input, that input tends to come with an expectation that the opinion will be endorsed and followed. Unfortunately, that cannot always be the case. While all input matters to the final decision on an issue, in some instances, one's input may not be evident in that final decision. Some will then reply, "Then why did you ask me for my input if you aren't going to follow it?" Since many different points of view and a variety of factors often must be considered, not all can be chosen. Each does, however, offer a perspective that might or might not be what is finally used. However, an opinion does help sometimes to know what to rule out and what might work. So, input is of value even if that opinion is not directly followed.

Paul's Example

Take the example of the apostle Paul in Acts 21. Paul desired to go to Jerusalem to bring Christ's gospel to that city. After all, had he not been one of the former chief Jewish prosecutors? Now he was preaching for the same group that he had tried to destroy. To Paul, that was an opportunity he could not pass up. He was given input, opinion and strong admonition not to go to Jerusalem as his very life would be in jeopardy.

Notice Acts 21:10-11. A prophet named Agabus came to Paul at Caesarea and illustrated that Paul would be bound by the Jews and ultimately turned over to the gentiles. Upon hearing the prophet's input, Paul's companions also gave their opinions to Paul that he should not go to Jerusalem (verse 12). This was sound input since the Holy Spirit led his companions to care about Paul's personal safety. They cared about him with brotherly love. They gave their input that he should

not go to Jerusalem since they feared for his safety. Good input!

Paul, however, was the one who had to make the decision. While the input he received was caring and concerned, Paul had a greater mission in mind than to worry about his own personal safety. His reply to them is inspiring and helps us put opinions or input in proper perspective. "Then Paul answered, 'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus'" (verse 13). Then in verse 14 we read, "So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased saying, 'The will of the Lord be done.'"

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receiving input.*

The input Paul received was good advice as far as his personal safety was concerned. However, Paul had a mission that to him was greater than his personal safety. He felt the need to bring the gospel to the Jews in Jerusalem. He made his

decision after receiving their input and his decision was different from what he heard.

Our Input

Sometimes we have opportunity to give input on amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and certain policy papers. United's governing documents call for amendments to be distributed in each congregation for input. The Council and congregations are authorized to use members as advisers. Do we take advantage of these opportunities? Or do we feel that our input will not be received? Or, we may offer our input in such a way that we demand that it be followed.

While it is admirable to be enthusiastic about our opinions, we must put them in proper perspective. We need to realize that our opinions count, but sometimes they form only a portion of the picture. Others may have offered opposing opinions as forcefully and thoughtfully as our opinions. Those in the decision-making position will hopefully consider all of the input and come to a proper decision. All of the input is important to that process.

In Proverbs 18:17 we read this wisdom, "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him." There is wise advice in this inspired scripture of the wisdom literature of the Bible. I have often seen in our Council of Elders meetings a very good idea put forth that looked like it would be suitable, only to receive other input that modifies or replaces the first good idea. This is the way we may make better, informed decisions, by giving and receiving input.

This principle also works in families, in speech clubs and among friends.

So, let's be willing to offer our opinions on issues where they are invited or expected and realize that our opinions do matter. *UV*

Doctrinal Submissions to the Council

Occasionally the Council of Elders receives a write-up from the membership expressing a doctrinal position. The objective of the writer is not always clear to the Council. Is the member only expressing a concern about a doctrinal topic or does he want to give input to the Doctrine Committee? In order to deal with the paper in the appropriate manner, the writer should clearly state that it is a doctrinal submission.

All doctrinal papers should be submitted to the chairman of the Doctrine Committee, Leon Walker. Submissions can be e-mailed to Mr. Walker or mailed to the home office. They will be forwarded to him. A doctrinal subcommittee has been established to assist the Doctrine Com-

mittee in reviewing these submissions.

If there is a current discussion on a doctrinal topic, the write-up will be considered along with all of the other submissions. There could be many papers submitted on a given topic, some expressing different opinions.

A paper might also be submitted on a topic that is not currently under discussion. Those write-ups will be held in reserve until the subject comes up for deliberation.

Any write-up about a doctrinal concern may be sent to the whole Council. However, to be considered by the Doctrine Committee, please clearly state that it is a doctrinal submission.

Roy Holladay

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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.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.

International News...

CGCF and UCG Hold Combined Services in Jamaica; Good News Circulation Leaps in Trinidad

The work in the Caribbean continues to show encouraging signs of progress. Kingsley Mather traveled to several countries in the region the latter part of June.

Mr. Mather took a two-week trip through the Caribbean June 18 to July 2. He visited Ocho Rios, Jamaica, June 18 to 21 to finalize plans for the 2001 Feast of Tabernacles. About 350 brethren from North America and the Caribbean are expected to meet at Renaissance Jamaica Grande Hotel in Ocho Rios. The site is on the north coast of the island about a two-hour drive from the capital, Kingston.

After completing Feast business in Ocho Rios, Mr. Mather traveled by car to Kingston. He met with a longtime friend of the Church, Robert Macmillan of Macmillan Advertising Agency. Mr. Macmillan's company represented the Church during Herbert W. Armstrong's life. He also helped UCG Caribbean with its first advertising campaign about four years ago, and helped to distribute *The Good News* in Jamaica during our early years. Peter Eddington prepared an ad for *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* booklet and *The Good News* and the agency placed two ads in the *Gleaner*, the leading newspaper in Jamaica. Responses to the ad continue to come in. Desmond Gilbert and Harry Grant, members of the Kingston congregation, have collected and sorted about 250 responses.

The highlight of this trip took place on Sabbath, June 23. The long-planned-for combined services of the CGCF and UCG Jamaica took place. It was a most delightful Sabbath service followed by a combined potluck meal. Herchiel Paul Fisher, pastor for CGCF in Jamaica and Mr. Mather, pastor of the Kingston congregation of UCG, gave split sermons. Both men discussed "Working for Unity in the Body." CGCF's chorale presented special music and the entire event was well received by members of both groups. The combined attendance was 64.

Satan tried to disrupt this event. Harry Grant, the contact person for UCG in Jamaica, got his finger caught in the engine of his car that was under repair on Friday, June 22. Another leading member of the congregation, Desmond Gilbert, who uses his car to transport brethren and church equipment,



Growth in Trinidad

Mr. Mather also visited Trinidad June 25 to 29. He and Dorian Fredericks, member and contact person, spent time plan-



Photos of combined CGCF/UCG services in Jamaica June 23. Upper left, CGCF pastor Paul Fisher; far left, Harry Grant, deacon; left, Kingsley Mather making a point. Upper right, the CGCF Choir performs

ning for the work in Trinidad. They also arranged to place two ads for the booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *The Good News*. These ads have proven to be a great success. Mr. Fredericks reported that as of July 7, the ads had brought in 85 requests for subscriptions to the *GN* and the booklet. He said, "77 requests came via the post and eight came in person, of which I gave the individuals some back issues of the *GN* due to their zeal for the publications. This has made me feel even more a part of God's work."

Mr. Fredericks said he is going to process the request list instead of mailing them in. "My wife will be helping me in this process, so soon the list is going to be completed. The list is about 600+, of which 200+ have already been sent, so we have to date 352 requests to complete," he said. This is very encouraging, especially when one remembers these ads were placed in a local newspaper July 1 and 4. God is really blessing our efforts in this area.

Mr. Fredericks has also increased the number of newsstand outlets and magazines that are distributed in Trinidad. He distributed 100 magazines in June, but requested that number be increased to 1,000 for the July-August issue.



Dominica and Beyond

The trip to Dominica was also very encouraging. Maxwell Victor and Mr. Mather visited two radio stations. They are hoping to test the United Kingdom's radio program on a station in Dominica. Mr. Mather was hoping to take copies of the program to Dominica, but they did not arrive in time, so the test will be planned for a later date.

Brethren were encouraged by the highest attendance for services in Dominica, on Sabbath, June 30. There were 15 present for the meeting, including two local visitors and a deacon and his wife from Martinique, the French-speaking island that is close to Dominica.

That evening the local board held a meeting to discuss the work in Dominica. The evening finished with a sumptuous buffet that was prepared by Mrs. Victor.

Arnold Hampton and the brethren in Barbados are working on several spot radio ads that will be used to advertise several booklets. If the test is successful, the ads will be placed on radio stations in other countries in the region.

The Nassau, Bahamas, congregation moved into leased premises in January 2001. The congregation previously met in a hotel, but it became increasingly difficult, so a contract was signed for a small office. It is also used for conducting Sabbath services and Bible studies. The UCG Caribbean regional office is located in Suite 6, Deals Plaza, Mackey Street, Near FNM (Free National Movement, governing party in the Bahamas headquarters), Bahamas. The telephone number is 242-325-1365. Services begin at 11 a.m. each Sabbath.

God is really blessing the work in the Caribbean. Please pray that God will send laborers to help in the work that has to be done in the Caribbean region.

Kingsley Mather

United Youth Camps...

Teton Challenger Camp

This year 64 campers from Canada, Germany, France and across the United States



came to be instructed, encouraged and "stretched" by 43 staff members. For a week or so, July 11 to

20, home was the base camp—group site #6 in Colter Bay village, in the majestic Grand Teton National Park. We literally start with a bare campground and set up dozens of tents, plus canopies, tables, cook stoves, kitchen, pantry, etc. At the entry gate one visitor was told, "Just look for the little city set up in the woods."

Soon after camp got underway we began seeing that God was granting us favorable weather. Before camp the area experienced near-drought conditions, raising fire danger and lowering reservoirs. But just as we began camp setup, refreshing rains came. Then each day rains came only at times that did not hinder setup, meetings or program activities. The result was blooming wildflowers, ideal temperatures, clear air and lower fire danger. Immediately after camp ended, dryness returned and at this writing a major wildfire is raging near the town of Jackson, pouring smoke into the area.

Soon after arrival boys went to work gathering and cutting wood for the campfire. Although most days were very warm, temperatures quickly dropped with the sun, and every morning and evening many huddled around the blazing fire to stay warm. It is around the fire that meals were eaten on picnic tables and where our Christian Living sessions took place.

Friday evening the boys and girls met separately for Christian Living. The issues of male and female differences and relationships, treating each other with respect and marriage preparation were raised. During the evening it rained. The boys continued their discussion with ministers around their fire—out in the rain. The girls, however—with other ministers and their wives—retreated under the canopy shelters to continue their discussion.

The Sabbath is a highlight during camp;

this day the men do the cooking (an opportunity for the camp to trust in God's protection). Actually, the men's custom-made omelets are becoming famous. Services and a Bible study were held in the woods. We were taught to fear God, recognize the spirit of compromise, prove there is a Creator and serve in the Church. Sabbath afternoon, a staff member was baptized in Jackson Lake, with



The "Red" girls' team at Hidden Falls: scenes from the three-day backpacking trip (photos by Paul and Ryan Luecke)

many campers witnessing the meaningful ceremony.

Activities during camp included canoeing, rock climbing, rappelling, hiking and backpacking. During one of the canoe excursions on the Snake River, campers witnessed a bald eagle scouting the river from above,

then diving down and snatching from the river a large, surprised trout! With difficulty the eagle airlifted its heavy prize

to shore where it began dining.

Several perceptive campers articulated a common observation this year: "This is an experience where a person's true heart and motives really come out by the end of camp." And with many campers, we were pleased with what surfaced through the camp program and experiences this year.

Paul Luecke

Camp McKenzie

From July 15 to 22, 112 campers and 59 staff attended Camp McKenzie in western Oregon. For the fourth year, camp took place along the McKenzie River in the beautiful Cascade Mountains. Campers and staff were asked to accept the chal-



Scenes from the pool and the woods at Camp McKenzie

lenges offered at camp—of building better relationships with God, mentors and peers; of trying new activities and improving their

Campers Climb South Sister

After the main session of Camp McKenzie, an Extended Session was offered to the older campers. The goal was to climb South Sister, a 10,358-foot mountain in the Cascade Range. This three-day adventure also involved all aspects of wilderness life: camping in tents, preparing your own food and bathing in ice water! Jamie Robinson was one of 15 campers (along with 10 staff) who participated in this activity. This is her report.

Where do I even start? This has to have been the most exhilarating experience I have ever had. Being in the wilderness for three days with a new family of 24 other people, and having accomplished an amazing thing like climbing a mountain together, is a great feeling.

After the main session of Camp McKenzie ended on Sunday, we drove to Lava Lakes at the base of South Sister and set up base camp. We could see already that the (somewhat) primitive camping on this trip was going to be a lot different than the dorms and professionally cooked meals during regular camp. But that was a part of the adventure and the fun! We all worked together, set up the tents, helped with the food and slept well that first night.

On Monday, we hiked up to Green Lakes in the bright sun with our backpacks carrying everything we needed for the next two days. We set up high camp near the lake, and when our tents were set up, we dipped into the lake. The thing is, this lake is a glacier lake, and it was freezing, but so refresh-

ing. The rest of the day was spent relaxing around the camp area, resting and eventually making dinner. Most of us were pretty tired from Camp McKenzie the week before, so we wanted to get rested for the big day on Tuesday: climbing South Sister.

We woke up early, ate breakfast, checked our day packs and took off for the trail. The whole climb to the summit took about seven and a half hours, the last section taking the longest, because it was so steep. It was neat getting to the top, because at the edge it was rocky, but in the center was a large snow field that we had to cross to reach the actual highest point of the peak. Many of us went over and stood on the true summit. It was fantastic! We could see as far north as Mt. Adams in Washington, as far south as Mt. Shasta in California, and as far east as the Idaho border. The views were truly breathtaking!

We finished lunch on the top then came down off the mountain. It only took us three hours to descend off the mountain and get back to the high camp. We were able to slide down most of it. Exhausted, hungry and sunburned, some jumped in the lake again, with the rest just relaxing. This was our last night before leaving the mountain. About six or seven of us stayed up late out under the stars and watched the shooting stars streak across the sky while we talked. We truly

were becoming closer to our family—our new camping family and spiritual family.

The next morning we packed up our high camp and headed down from Green Lakes back to the trailhead. For many of us, these three days were a life-changing experience, and I'm sure none of us will forget it. Even though this adventure made us appreciate our homes and things like a refrigerator, shower or restroom, it also made me really appreciate God's creation. The feeling of being under the stars on a clear night, away from the city's disturbance, is almost indescribable.

You seem so close to God in the wilderness—and especially being on the top of a 10,000-plus-



Campers prepare to climb South Sister

foot-high mountain. Many people see what the view from the summit looked like in my photos and say, "Wow!" Yet the photos do not come anywhere close to capturing the true feeling of being there. I'd personally like to thank everyone involved in planning this, and for the chance to have an Extended Session. Mostly, I encourage everyone to come discover this great experience for himself! It was fantastic!

Jamie Robinson

skills; of making a solid contribution to camp as a small picture of the Kingdom of God. With God's blessings, the weather was sunny, the staff was outstanding, and the campers were "old pros" at building "the Zone."

After breakfast, every day at camp began with a 45-minute Christian Living



class. The theme for these Bible studies and camp overall was "Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ." The Northwest ministry had worked on each day's subject and an outline was sent to the teens and staff prior to camp. Right after lunch, everyone participated in a 15-minute Compass Checks—a shorter presen-



tation to keep spiritually focused for the rest of the day.

Campers had the opportunity to enjoy a wide-range of activities. The usual favorites were offered, like softball, basketball, flag-football, ropes course, arts and crafts, archery, hiking, river rafting, volleyball and swimming. Camp again had a newspaper class this year, where the campers were taught the basics of writing, photography and desktop publishing. New this year was flat-water kayaking and a high-ropes course. Also new was a class titled "Facing Life's Challenges"—a practical course on how to handle the pressures teens face at various ages.

The evenings gave campers and staff additional opportunities for fellowship and participating in their favorite activities. Dance instruction was also offered after dinner. Each evening at camp concluded with a lively campfire, followed by a "bedside chat" for each dorm with its dorm parents. Saturday evening ended with a final dance.

Camp McKenzie enjoyed welcoming three special guests to the site this year. David Dobson, director of Camp Woodmen, visited during the first couple days of camp. Les McCullough, president of UCGIA, came midweek, and enjoyed fellowship with the campers and staff. Rex Sexton, a minister

in the Portland area, came towards the end of the week.

On the Sabbath, the campers enjoyed some extra rest, Bible discussions with their dorm parents and Sabbath services. The first split sermon was given by Matthew Fenchel. The second split sermon was given by Larry Walker, ropes course director and pastor of the Bend and Medford, Oregon, congregations.

But camp did not end there! This year, Camp McKenzie offered an Extended Session for older campers—a three-day hike/climb up South Sister, a 10,358 foot mountain in the Cascades. (See "Campers Climb South Sister.")

Camp McKenzie was truly blessed this year, and many of the campers and staff remarked that it was the best that they had ever experienced. The level of cooperation, respect, focus, unity and camaraderie was outstanding. Several campers remarked about how friendly and down-to-earth everyone was, without the cliques and "dissing" that can happen in schools. A great team spirit pervaded the dorms and activities throughout camp.

Plans are already underway for 2002—at a new site, Camp Davidson on Suttle Lake from August 4 to 11, 2002. Ideas for next year call for expanding the kayaking, white-water rafting and hiking activities, as well as introducing water-skiing, mountain biking and wilderness survival as new classes. Another Extended Session is also being planned from August 11 to 15.

Matthew Fenchel

Camp Carter

On Sunday, July 22, "the Zone" descended on Camp Carter in Fort Worth, Texas, for the second year as 34 staff members warmly welcomed 91 campers to their new home for a week of excitement and fun. After camp ended, 14 campers joined four staff members for the first Camp Carter Extended Session—a three-day excursion to the San Antonio area for some historical touring and a visit to a unique water park.

At orientation the opening night, the campers learned that while a little over half of the campers came from Texas, they also came from 17 other states ranging from Alaska to Florida, and from California and Arizona to West Virginia and Connecticut and many points in between. There were also campers from two other countries—Mexico and the Bahamas.

Campers were given an overview of the week, including a number of new activities that were introduced this year, and were encouraged to meet, appreciate and build relationships with as many campers and staff as possible. Comments such as "awesome" and "this was the best camp ever" were common from the campers.

The concept of relationships was the focus of the week's Christian Living classes, with Compass Checks (10- to 15-minute

messages right after breakfast) and longer discussions at night after open activities and a chance to visit the camp store for snacks. On Monday morning Ken Giese (head counselor) discussed our relationship with God, stressing the point that God has His hand out to all of us asking us to respond. Tuesday morning, Ken Treybig (camp director) discussed relationships with parents and siblings, pointing out that those have the potential for being the longest relationships of our lives and stressing the point of putting yourself in the other person's shoes as a key to building relationships.

Doug Horchak (lakefront supervisor) spoke on our relationship with the Church on Wednesday, pointing out that the human body has "forced unity," but we must make a choice to get along with each other. Thursday Eric Evans (music activity head) explored relationships with friends, using his team's gold medal from hockey to point out that we need each other because "Together Everyone Accomplishes More."

Friday's Christian Living was by Gary Petty (Christian Living coordinator) on our relationship with society, pointing out that as ambassadors for Christ we are to strive to take "the Zone" with us everywhere so we can be an "embassy" representing the Kingdom of God. The longer evening discussions and question-answer ses-



sions went more deeply into the subject of the day. Campers and staff had plenty of opportunities to practice the points described in Christian Living as they enjoyed the wide variety of activities offered this year. Activities included basketball, crafts, dance, football, horseback riding, ropes, softball, strength training, swimming and volleyball.

There were also several new activities offered this year. Each dorm shared a half-day with another dorm at the new lakefront activity. Campers were able to do two activi-

ties of their choice from water-skiing, tubing and Jet Ski rides behind a staff member. Since we reserved a city park, our staff was able to cook a hamburger/hot dog lunch that was served in the covered pavilion.

Other new classes included a life skills class, which focused on non-verbal communication this year, pointing out that much of what we say to others comes from our dress and body language. In the new music class a discussion about music led to each dorm being challenged to create their own dorm

song, which was then performed during the intermission at the Saturday night dance. This year each dorm was assigned a page to create in the newspaper during the new newsletter/Web page class.

One unusual aspect of camp this year was building a new sand volleyball court for the YMCA while we were there. Ken Danapas ran volleyball this year and arranged for the



Top, building a new sand volleyball court (after abandoning shovels); left, Extended Session at the Alamo (photos by Philip Dick, Ken Treybig and Gary Petty)



donation of all the materials, then directed all the volunteer labor he and other staff members contributed. The total cost of all the donated materials is

around \$4,600. The staff put in many long hours Saturday night, Sunday afternoon and night as well as on Monday to install treated 6-by-6 posts and prepare the court. That included digging out the old mixture of grass, dirt and packed sand; laying down a barrier to prevent future grass growth; and then spreading the new sand and installing the new net and lines.

Laurie Johnston of the YMCA said they are thrilled with the new court. They were impressed with the hard work, diligence and resourcefulness shown in securing all the donations in such quick order since they have another group that has been promising for two years to build another court in a different location.

By the end of camp many established relationships had been strengthened and many new ones forged, showing the campers

and staff were anxious to put what they heard into practice. Those on the Extended Session built on that good foundation by spending another three days together in the San Antonio area. They camped in tents in a pasture on a member's ranch in the hills north of San Antonio. Monday was devoted to history as the group toured Mission San Jose and the Alamo in San Antonio. Local pastor Gary Petty joined the group and acted as tour guide, giving a lot of historical background to explain the significance of the mission to the history of Texas. On Tuesday the group toured Schlitterbahn—a unique, huge water park on the Comal River in New Braunfels, just north of San Antonio. Camper bonds with the staff and fellow campers were further strengthened by working together to pitch camp, cook meals and participate in Christian Living sessions at night.

This was the smoothest running camp I can remember. The campers were great and our staff this year was absolutely awesome—the best I think we've ever had.

Ken Treybig

British Isles Camp

Because of the small size of the Church community within the British Isles, summer



Richario Ramie and Michael Ellams' initiative training exercise; Sue Karas watches Alicia and Eloise Evans practice



Photos by Barbara Fenney

camp has to be flexible in terms both of attendance and of activities undertaken. A total of three preteens, 10 teenagers and two young adults, plus seven permanent staff and five other part-time staff or visiting adults, met at West End Outdoor Centre in North Yorkshire for a very successful camp (July 27 to August 5). Attendances for the two Sabbath services were 23 and 25 respectively.

The weather was near perfect. The only serious rain was on the second Sabbath when, as one person remarked, "Someone unzipped the clouds." Most of the time it was fine, warm and sunny, with very clear skies and colorful sunsets. Local foot and mouth disease restrictions did not cause any problems, indeed the footpaths around the adjacent reservoir reopened during the week.

Activities included leatherwork, painting techniques and other craftwork, sailing lessons on a nearby lake, rock climbing, initiative training, walks around local beauty spots and a trip to the nearby town of Skipton on market day. Sports included table tennis and pool indoors, plus volleyball and football outside. One evening after dark, the group played "capture the lantern" in the woods by the reservoir. Under supervision, one of the older teenage boys prepared one of the evening meals—a curry, now Britain's national dish—that everyone enjoyed. Another evening there was a barbecue.

Camp attendees exhibited an abundance of musical talent with the keyboard, violin, acoustic and electric guitars. In addition to the couple of official sing-alongs, there were also impromptu guitar and keyboard lessons.

An exhibition of the teens' artwork, including some excellent pencil portraits, was on display during the final dinner.

After breakfast most days was a forum, covering various topics such as rules and why we need them, making assumptions and being aware of the

needs of others. The suggested theme for the camp was cooperation. Each evening closed with a hymn and prayer.

There were seemingly endless discussions about rules, as the teens originally said they wanted minimal rules, then found they had to add some to make things run more smoothly.

As usual, sleep was hard to come by and everyone went home exhausted!

Barbara Fenney

Canadian Camp

As staff and campers arrived at Camp McGillvary in Alberta for the annual Canadian youth camp, the majestic thunderstorms over the Rockies cleared and sunshine burst full and warm, lasting the duration of camp. Six new campers joined the returning veterans and we plunged into our semi-wilderness schedule. This year activities commenced on Friday afternoon, August 10, so all camp members could share the Sabbath together.

Sabbath services were held in a nearby forest glen for campers, staff and visitors.

After services we enjoyed time together in fellowship and abundant wholesome camp food. The evening campfires became a focal point of questions and



answers, charades and social activities. Activities on the first two evenings extended past the normal bed time. The first

Saturday night's fellowship was just too full to minimize so soon. The next night we watched the meteor showers in the heavens. At 6,000 feet in the clear air of Alberta, the scene is exceptional. In addition, the space station passed over our heads at 17,000 miles per hour.

The weekdays were filled with archery, biking, hiking, canoeing and an upgraded two-day, overnight, semi-survival outing for all campers. The first group of junior campers blazed the way on Monday and Tuesday. The senior group then followed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Our annual pentathlon, an all-day combination of the above activities, climaxed the scheduled week on Friday. So, tired and searching for enough fresh clean clothes, we eagerly entered the Sabbath day. Again, services were held out-of-doors in our comfortable wooded area beside the valley stream.

Christian Living was capably taught by the staff members present. The theme was God's plan through the Holy Days, with emphasis on the two annual harvests and their fulfillment through history to our present time. We appreciated the blessing of having instructors from Montana and Washington, as well as Calgary and Lethbridge.

Skits demonstrating major events in the history of God's plan and a dance topped off the final Saturday evening. We seem to be blessed with a very creative group of teens who will accept most any challenge and perform it with enthusiasm.

The food was abundant and excellently prepared. In fact, the kitchen efforts inspired accolades in the form of songs and poems from each cabin of campers—on the second day no less. We deeply appreciated the ser-



Melanie Davie, Jolene Drewniak and Jani Krulc perform special music; blindfolds, an exercise in trust; orienteering and compass work (photos by Jolene Drewniak and others)

vice and sacrifice by those who served on the staff, whether in the kitchen, as counselors or as instructors. Without our volunteers, we would have little camp opportunity for our youth. And it is fitting here to offer grateful thanks to those who gave so much support and donations in preparation for this camp.

Camp offered many exceptional opportunities for learning and growth. One such experience was when the junior boys discovered how tasty, barbecued grasshoppers were. Most of the girls declined to share their enthusiasm however, although some did.

Another event, potentially more serious in nature, is worth sharing with our readers. In brief, during our wrap-up pentathlon, we discovered a team of campers had missed their compass coordinates and weren't on schedule for the final events. Immediately the search teams went into action and soon the situation was resolved with all members back together. It was highly commendable that all kept a cool head and used previous instruction. The most important and gratifying thing, however, was that the common focal point, by those temporarily "lost" and those who searched or waited, was to instantly pray together as one united team.

We of the staff are profoundly grateful to have taught and worked with the youth who came to camp. We found most to be gentle of personality, intelligent and most eager to embrace the truths of God. It is very gratifying to see the maturity in so many as they return each year. Thank you for sending them, you really made our year.

Glen White

Audited Financial Statements Reflect God's Blessings

by Tom Kirkpatrick

On this page and the next you will see the body of the audited financial statements of the United Church of God, an International Association, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001 (and comparative statements for the 15-month transitional period ending June 30, 2000). These statements reflect the continuing financial stability that the Church has been blessed with in recent times.

Also shown is the auditors' report, which is an "unqualified opinion" (a good thing!) on the fairness of the statements, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States.

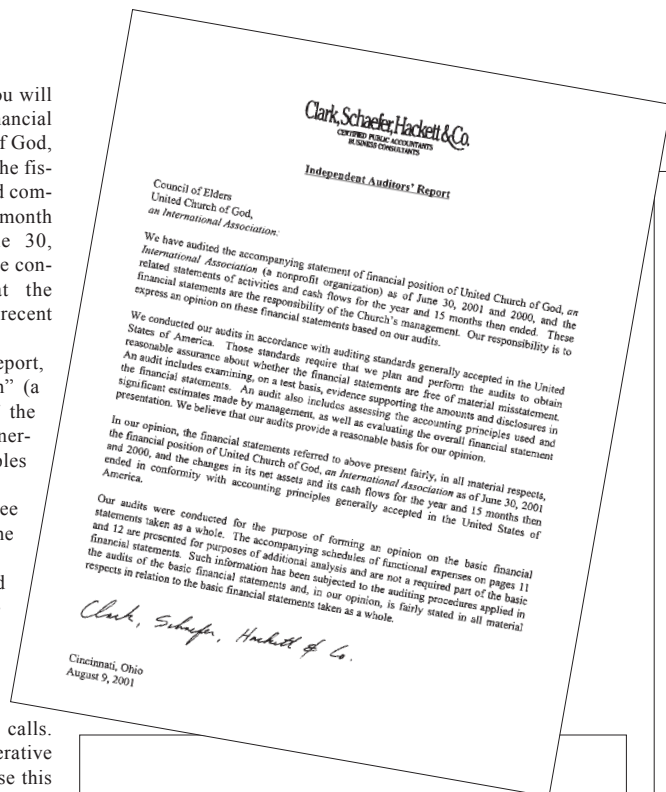
In the box below you will see several summary statistics from the statements.

I believe that God has blessed the Church with this solid financial position so that it can continue to faithfully fulfill its mission of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world and caring for those whom God calls. But I also believe that it is imperative that we not misunderstand or abuse this blessing by letting down in our efforts or forgetting how dependent we are on His continued help, or foolishly squandering the stability we have been granted. We are conscious of our daily need to look to God for the wisdom we must have from Him.

The inspired words of the apostle Paul are helpful in this regard: "Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness" (2 Corinthians 9:10).

Thanks to all the brethren and others who support and are involved in the work of the United Church of God! Thanks also to the employees and managers of the Church, who work hard and cooperate so that the Church's financial matters are carried out responsibly and prudently.

Tom Kirkpatrick is treasurer of the United Church of God, an International Association.



	2001	2000
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,327,443	4,290,451
Cash designated for retirement fund	361,015	80,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,888,458	4,370,451
Prepaid expenses	18,471	22,297
Property and equipment, net	1,142,998	110,871
Construction in progress	316,967	-
Other assets	6,245	6,245
Total assets	6,393,139	4,510,864
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	181,249	136,869
Obligations under capitalized leases, current portion	-	3,748
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	390,180	353,090
Payroll taxes withheld and accrued	18,749	19,523
Accrued matching thrift plan obligations	17,703	19,437
Accrued insurance obligations	96,939	62,598
Obligations under capitalized leases	-	2,607
Total liabilities	704,820	597,872
Unrestricted net assets:		
Unrestricted	5,327,304	3,832,992
Unrestricted - designated by Council of Elders	361,015	80,000
	5,688,319	3,912,992
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 6,393,139	4,510,864

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	2001	2000
Revenues, gains and other support:		
Contributions - individuals	\$ 10,301,615	12,671,844
Contributions - local congregations	1,238,702	985,503
Property contributions	1,070,654	-
Holy day offerings	4,646,820	5,591,020
Estate/personal property donations	281,015	120,018
Dividend and interest income	202,185	202,917
Other income	217,824	144,333
Total revenues, gains and other support	17,958,815	19,715,635
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Field Ministry / Local Congregations	7,916,083	8,926,105
Festivals	902,524	890,656
International	1,304,225	1,651,332
Public Proclamation	2,750,754	2,584,544
Total program services	12,873,586	14,052,637
Management and general:		
Council of Elders / Home Office / Insurance & Benefit Plans	3,223,639	3,353,338
General Conference	85,263	72,207
Total management and general	3,309,902	3,425,645
Total expenses	16,183,488	17,478,282
Change in net assets	1,775,327	2,237,353
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of period	3,912,992	1,675,639
Unrestricted net assets, end of period	\$ 5,688,319	3,912,992

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	2001	2000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ 1,775,327	2,237,353
Adjustment to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	68,053	140,475
Contributed building and property	(1,070,654)	-
Effect of change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	-	5,240
Prepaid expenses	(15,174)	31,431
Other assets	-	6,245
Accounts payable	44,380	37,651
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	37,090	76,223
Payroll withholdings	(774)	12,210
Severance obligations	-	(47,160)
Accrued matching thrift plan obligations	(1,734)	19,437
Accrued insurance obligations	34,341	12,598
Net cash provided by operating activities	870,855	2,531,703
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(29,526)	(64,298)
Construction in progress	(316,967)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(346,493)	(64,298)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Payments on capital lease obligations	(6,355)	(16,153)
Net cash used in financing activities	(6,355)	(16,153)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	518,007	2,451,252
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	4,370,451	1,919,199
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 4,888,458	4,370,451

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	For 12 months ended June 30, 2001	For the 15 months ended June 30, 2000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,888,458	\$4,370,451
Total Assets	6,393,139	4,510,864
Total Liabilities	704,820	597,872
Net Unrestricted Assets	5,688,319	3,912,992
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	17,958,815	19,715,635
Total Expenses	16,183,488	17,478,282
Change in Net Assets	1,775,327	2,237,353

(Continued next page)

United Church of God, an International Association							
Schedule of Functional Expenses							
Year Ended June 30, 2001							
	Program Services				Management and General		
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	Totals
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,053,458	523,695	-	429,999	1,388,488	-	7,395,640
Contracted services and fees	2,591	1,705	-	77,912	118,515	552	201,275
Broadcast media and advertising	-	-	-	263,002	-	-	263,002
Print media and advertising	19,627	7,441	-	844,136	17,102	3,346	891,652
Postage and shipping	26,979	3,114	-	592,777	31,157	5,535	659,562
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	114,310	-	7,960	170,238	199	292,707
Telephone and utilities	75,383	2,026	-	3,546	58,741	4,585	144,361
Supplies	56,594	7,967	-	10,575	53,644	1,208	129,958
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	746,704	58,762	-	3,260	166,783	69,468	1,042,977
Depreciation and amortization	-	-	-	-	68,053	-	68,053
Grants and charitable support:							
International support	-	7,335	1,304,225	495,942	320	-	1,807,822
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	675,450	117,985	-	-	-	-	793,435
Allocations to local congregations	1,207,320	-	-	-	-	-	1,207,320
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	1,134,114	-	1,134,114
Other	53,977	58,184	-	21,545	18,484	1,370	153,560
Total expenses	\$ 7,916,083	902,324	1,304,225	2,750,754	3,223,639	86,263	16,183,488

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

United Church of God, an International Association							
Schedule of Functional Expenses							
15 Months Ended June 30, 2000							
	Program Services				Management and General		
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	Totals
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,659,640	469,779	-	589,784	1,168,842	-	7,888,045
Contracted services and fees	5,060	15,717	-	159,428	153,143	1,296	334,644
Media and advertising	-	-	-	263,070	18,704	-	281,774
Printing	16,924	17,062	-	723,934	18,704	-	776,624
Postage and shipping	38,742	7,982	-	407,835	68,064	6,650	529,273
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	120,568	-	5,634	156,107	-	282,309
Telephone and utilities	89,074	3,997	-	3,546	61,970	12,776	171,363
Supplies	140,517	51,191	-	34,836	106,636	5,135	338,315
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	840,728	55,558	-	8,739	219,897	38,571	1,163,485
Depreciation and amortization	-	-	-	-	140,475	-	140,475
Grants and charitable support:							
International support:	-	45,450	1,638,452	367,203	-	7,879	2,058,984
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	807,078	-	-	4,227	-	-	811,305
Festival assistance	-	101,130	-	-	-	-	101,130
Allocations to local congregations	1,313,122	-	-	-	-	-	1,313,122
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	1,197,804	-	1,197,804
Other	15,228	2,272	12,880	16,368	42,992	-	89,630
Total expenses	\$ 8,926,105	890,656	1,651,332	2,584,544	3,353,338	72,307	17,478,282

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Today many people take a casual or informal approach toward their religious assemblies. While some churches give considerable attention to ritual and formality, our society in general seems to have moved away from the formality one might have previously associated with religious assemblies.

This informal trend in society can be seen not only in religious assemblies, but also at social events and in the workplace. It's common for businesses to have what is called "Casual Day." A day, often Friday, is designated, as a time when employees are not required to adhere to the company dress code. Some companies no longer have any dress code; every day is, in effect, "Casual Day." Our society seems to be in the process of dressing down rather than dressing up.

The lessening of formality in society is reflected not only in dress, but also in our manners and attitude. It is a natural tendency for people to embrace the styles, manners, jargon and dress of their society. Members of the Body of Christ can be influenced by society to "dress down" for holy convocations.

Thus it is important for us to reflect on how God approaches things and try to emulate Him. While our spiritual condition is of primary importance, our physical approach to God's Sabbaths can have a great impact on our attitude, as well as on other people.

We know that God is more concerned about our hearts being right with Him, than He is about making a physical show of proper form. But even though our spiritual condition is our primary focus, we still need to keep in mind that we are physical. As long as we are in the flesh, our physical appearance and approach are important, for they affect us spiritually. They also can be powerful tools in positively influencing others.

God commands us to hold "holy convocations" on the Sabbath and the annual Holy Days (Leviticus 23:1-3). These days are appointed times for holy assemblies. God's intent is not for us to keep these days by ourselves. It is not a time to rest at home, as tempting as that may be at certain times. No, the

God's Holy Convocations

Are we giving proper attention to physical details in preparing for God's Sabbaths?

by Steven Wood and Donald Ward

Sabbath and Holy Days are commanded assemblies. God sets them aside as holy times.

What does it mean to keep a holy assembly? God has at various times made many things holy. He made the Sabbath holy. Holy things have God's active presence in them. God set the Sabbath aside, sanctifying it for a special purpose. Jerusalem is referred to as the holy city, because God placed His glory in the temple in Jerusalem. The apostle Peter called the Church a holy nation because God's active presence is in each member. When Moses saw the burning bush, God said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

So, when one enters a "holy convocation," he is coming into God's active presence. How should one dress for such an occasion?

God's Instructions to the Priesthood

How did God instruct ancient Israel and the priests in particular to approach His commanded assemblies? God gave very specific instructions regarding the garments of the priesthood: "You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty" (Exodus 28:2). Throughout the remainder of the chapter, detailed instruction is provided concerning how these garments were constructed. In the final verse of the chapter, it is stated that these garments were worn when Aaron and his sons came into the tent of the meeting.

Not only did God provide these instructions for Israel, He also preserved them for our example today. When the priests were preparing to go before God, they had to give

great attention to detail in order to insure they were approaching God's sanctuary with proper honor and respect. While we no longer observe the same rituals and ceremonies that Aaron and his sons did under the Old Covenant, we are commanded to attend holy convocations.

Not only have the rituals and ceremonies of the Levitical priesthood ceased to be in effect, but also the Levitical priesthood itself has been replaced. As Christ warned (Matthew 21:43, 45), the Kingdom of God was taken from physical Israel. The Old Testament congregation failed to become "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6) to God. The New Testament Church of God is called upon to step into the role, as a royal priesthood and ambassadors of Christ (1 Peter 2:5, 9; 2 Corinthians 5:20). Of course, all Israelites were not priests. The point of Exodus 19:6 is that Israelites were to model God's way of life before all people. Similarly, we are to set the proper example to those with whom we come in contact.

God's character and standards do not change. If God required a high standard in such matters as proper preparation and appropriate attire for His commanded assemblies under the Levitical priesthood, would He expect less of us today?

Earlier we noted that God looks on the heart. And yes, our hearts must be right before God, but He is still concerned with how we approach Him and appear before Him in holy convocations. Our physical bodies serve as the temple or dwelling place for the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). In the next verse, we are given the following

instruction, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Since we are instructed to glorify God in our bodies, with our physical substance, shouldn't this especially be the case when we appear before Him at His commanded assemblies? Those times are occasions when we need to give special attention to doing our best to glorify God. This pertains not only to our spiritual perspective, but also to our physical appearance.

Worshipping God in His Commanded Assemblies

One of the principal reasons we appear before God on His Sabbaths is to worship Him. Showing the proper honor and reverence for God is vital. In order to glorify God as we should, we need to make adequate physical preparation for His holy assemblies.

The issue is not whether we as God's people are meeting a particular dress code. Rather, the issue is whether we are placing the proper emphasis on God's holy Sabbaths. We have to remember we are appearing before God, the Supreme Being of the universe. God's Sabbaths are not "Casual Days." Before we come into God's presence at a worship service, we need to reflect on who He is, what He is and what His purpose is for humankind. If we understand and reflect on His purpose and our relationship with Him, we will want to glorify and honor Him to the greatest extent possible. That desire to respect and honor God should be reflected not only in our attitude, but also in our physical actions and appearance.

So, as we prepare for God's Sabbaths, let's remember we are preparing to appear before our loving heavenly Father for the purpose of worshipping Him and learning of His ways. Our attire, our conversation and our attitude should give honor and respect to our great God. *U/N*

Donald Ward is a Council member and pastor of the Ruston, Louisiana, congregation. Steven Wood is a member in Ruston.

The senior citizens of the United Church of God constitute a valuable resource for the Church, one which can easily be overlooked or go unappreciated. The Scriptures plainly tell us, "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man" (Leviticus 19:32). This is so we can learn to demonstrate respect and appreciation so often lacking in our culture today.

Many individuals today are more strongly influenced by the practices, mores and structures of the times in which they live rather than by their heritage. The strong tendency is to act as if what is happening here and now is the sole standard of what is right, correct, proper and acceptable. Unfortunately, this vastly narrows the individual's knowledge base and his fund of available information when important decisions need to be made.

Nebuchadnezzar once said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power...?" (Daniel 4:30). When he said this, he was doing just what I mentioned. He was using the present as his only standard of measurement and evaluation. He gave no thought or consideration to the effort and labor of many other people who had preceded him, many of them at the time of his statement being "senior citizens." He gave himself credit for that which the efforts of many people had made possible.

This is a commonplace occurrence with human nature. We fail to recognize the contributions of others, many of whom may be elderly or deceased, for the privileges we now enjoy.

NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw has written a splendid book entitled *The Greatest Generation*. In it he tells the stories of a number of individuals, the unknown as well as the famous, and their contributions made during World War II. Without those collective contributions, all made by people who are today "senior citizens" or deceased, this world would be a vastly different place. You and I would not enjoy today's relative peace and tranquillity had they not, in their youth, done what they did.

An Outstanding Example

In this context, I am reminded of a truly outstanding example of a senior citizen in the Church, now deceased. She was Nina Kubik, the mother of Victor Kubik, a member of the Council of Elders in the United Church of God. During World War II she was a teenage slave laborer in Germany, taken by the Nazis when they invaded Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union. After the war she married and lived in a displaced persons camp for four years. In 1949 she (being pregnant with son Oleh), her husband, Igor, and son Victor emigrated from Hannover, Germany, to the United States.

The family traveled with a group of friends and acquaintances and settled as a group in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota. This group of Ukrainians lived in close proximity to one another and assisted one another in adjusting to a very different way of life. In doing so they, quite naturally, formed very

Right, chalk drawing of Nina Kubik that hangs in Council of Elders member Victor Kubik's office



close bonds and ties.

Later, Mrs. Kubik was called into the Church and this markedly changed her lifestyle and her priorities. She had less time than previously to spend with her friends in the Ukrainian community.

As time went on this concerned her deeply as she tried to serve both the needs of the Church and of her Ukrainian friends. So great was her concern that she left instructions that a letter be read at her funeral by the presiding minister. This was



done. My wife and I were privileged to be able to attend her funeral and to hear her words, coming, as it were, from the grave.

In the letter she stated that she realized that in recent years she had not spent

as much time with her Ukrainian friends as she had previously, but she wanted them to know that it was not because she thought any less of them. She stated that she wanted them to know that the reason was that she had found the "pearl of great price" and that she felt compelled to pursue the way which was pictured in the Bible as that incomparable pearl.

That was one of the most moving experiences of my life and I was very impressed by her expressed concern for her longtime friends as well as by the need she felt to serve the God she had learned about in the Bible.

Honoring and Appreciating Our Seniors

Such things as this constitute a part of our heritage. These are the kinds of actions which have preserved our faith in these traumatic times. We should know of and appreciate efforts and examples such as these for they have helped to make possible what we are able to enjoy in the Church today.

We should speak often with our senior citizens to learn not only about what they did as young people in a society very different from what we see today, but also to learn how they came into the truth. We can learn about the challenges they encountered in living godly principles in times so different from those in which we live today.

Many of our seniors could teach us much, not only from what they saw and did, but also from errors which, being human, they made. They can give good advice about areas and situations for us to avoid. The value of avoiding grievous errors—of learning from another's mistake and not having to live through the consequences of avoidable error—is priceless.

At the height of World War II there were approximately 15 million Americans in the armed forces. Today thousands from what

Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation" are dying every year. They constitute a diminishing and irreplaceable resource. The same is true of our Church seniors. We will not always have their examples before us.

It is time to both honor them for their contributions and to learn of and profit by their good examples.

Toward this end, we would like to have each congregation, as scheduling permits, set aside a special time to honor its senior citizens. After Sabbath services would be a good time for many.

Perhaps by doing this we can repay at least a small part of the debt we owe to those who have contributed so much to us for so long. *UN*

Crowns of Glory

The senior citizens of United have contributed so much to us for so long. They deserve our honor and appreciation.

by John Bald



In the late '50s, Bill Lederer and Eugene Burdick wrote a book titled *The Ugly American*. It speaks of the appalling behavior of many American tourists and diplomats as visitors in foreign lands. Only a few American ambassadors went to the trouble to learn the language or study the culture of the countries they had been assigned. American tourists often acted with superiority and arrogance toward those in the host country.

The prevailing attitude was, "We are American—look how great and wealthy our country is. We do everything better. The rest of the world should learn to live like we do." Billions of dollars of foreign assistance was sent to feed and help other nations in those years, but incompetence and arrogance nullified much good will that should have come to America for those efforts.

We Are Ambassadors for Christ!

Shortly, we'll be leaving our homes to journey to distant sites to keep God's feasts. We'll be going as Christ's ambassadors! "So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us..." (2 Corinthians 5:20, NRSV). We're called to be the salt of the earth, lights shining in a world of darkness—God's special, chosen people—His emissaries! Whether our destination is a hundred miles away or 10,000, each of us represents God and a part of His end-time work to those we come in contact with. Our lives, our conduct, should be a living witness of the message of the Kingdom of God.

People will see us with our families as we gather to worship God and celebrate Holy Days at a time when the rest of the world is at work or in school. We will be noticed, people will wonder about us and the Church. They may think what we are doing is strange and peculiar. But even if they are critical about our religious practices, we shouldn't give them any reason to be critical about our behavior. As one person observing families at the Feast is reported to have said, I don't agree with their religion, but I sure like the way their children behave.

For most of them it will make sense in an *age yet to come!* "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).

God will cause people in the world tomorrow to remember the members they have come in contact with at the Feast or elsewhere. Satan will have been bound. The truth will be available for everyone to understand. The people will at that time learn about God's feasts instead of the holidays they had celebrated all their lives. And they'll make the connection between

Don't Be an Ugly American

Whether our Feast destination is a hundred miles away or 10,000, each of us represents God and a part of His end-time work to those we come in contact with.

by Bruce Gore

the truth they are now learning and the examples they saw back then.

A Witness First

After His resurrection, Christ was asked if it was the time for the Kingdom of Israel to be reestablished. "Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth'" (Acts 1:6-8). Before God's Kingdom is established, His disciples must take a witness of Him and His truth throughout all the world. Today, His followers are still bearing witness of the true Christ in all the earth. Oftentimes, a personal example can be a far more powerful witness than an article written in a magazine.



Many sports figures, movie stars and musicians say they have never asked to be role models for the kids, for others—nor do they want to be. They don't want that burden. But like it or not, they are!

They could have a great positive influence for many of the younger generation. Too often, their example is one that most of us would not want our children to emulate. We may not have asked to be lights and examples of the true way of life either, but that came as part of our calling. Hopefully, when people see us and our families at the Feast, they will see happiness, love and respect reflected in them.

Paul spoke of becoming all things to all men (see 1 Corinthians 9:22). He is not saying that he was abandoning his Christian principles to live like people in the world, but that he tried to relate to and understand people of all cultures and races. We should ask ourselves how we look to those people who live where we go to celebrate the Feast. Our actions, our demeanor—how does it come across? Are we kind, friendly, humble people? Are we patient in the restaurants and grocery stores? Patience, kindness and friendliness are traits that are probably seen too infre-

quently by the waitresses and clerks. Surprise them, be different!

Elitists?

Some of the Jews who came to where John was baptizing exhibited pride in their ethnic origin. They considered themselves God's chosen people by virtue of being descendants of Abraham. And they were! This birthright was a tremendous blessing. It was not something they had earned. No one chooses who their parents will be or where they will be born. Because of Abraham's obedience, his descendants were heirs to many spiritual and physical blessings. This birthright blessing carried with it bountiful physical blessings plus a knowledge of and relationship with the Creator. But it was an unearned right of birth.

How would it be viewed? What impact would it have upon the recipients? Would they be humbly grateful or would they feel superior to others? Would they want to share it or would they selfishly exclude others? God intended for Abraham's children, Israel, to share the knowledge of the truth with the nations around them. Christ told His disciples, "freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

John warned them against having a proud and arrogant attitude. "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Matthew 3:8-9). In order to continue as true seed of Abraham, they must live as Abraham lived. They didn't and they were replaced—not by stones, but by a spiritual nation composed of both Jews and gentiles.

We are the new Israel, spiritual Israel, God's chosen. How humbly grateful we should be, not proud. It is not something we have earned. We have absolutely no reason to feel superior to others who will learn these same truths later. We are privileged to be the firstfruits, to have knowledge that even prophets and kings longed to understand, but couldn't. We're a part of the beginning of God's great plan in bringing salvation to this earth. For God we are to be a starting point, not a conclusion.

Paul reminded the gentiles who had



been grafted into the Church, the olive plant, to not let pride and arrogance destroy them.

"For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, 'Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.' Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off" (Romans 11:16-22). The replacements could also be rejected.

American television is available by satellite all over the world. It gives people a distorted view of what America is like. All that many see are what is portrayed in sit-coms, soap operas and MTV. This is hardly an accurate representation of what life is like for the average American. In like manner, people have a false and distorted idea of what true Christianity is like. Many have been pressured to come and join this or that church. They see people that live one way on one day of the week and differently on other days. They see through the facade of piety.

Christ wants the people of this world to look at His servants and see what real Christians are like. He wants them to see the fruits of the Spirit portrayed in the daily lives of His people in the 21st century—the fruits of genuine love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

We must not be like the ugly American tourist who looks down his nose at others—who treats the waitress as someone who is there to serve us. There is no better time to apply the golden rule—treat all those we come in contact with at the Feast as we would want to be treated if we were doing their job. A friendly, smiling face is a welcome sight, and it doesn't cost a thing.

God said that one of the things we are to learn at the Feast is to learn to rejoice. You can do this by spreading joy wherever you go. David stated in the Psalm 23, "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Let your trail be littered with kindness, patience and goodness. Go and rejoice! Let that joy spill out on the community where you go. Be Christ's shining ambassadors during the Feast! *uv*

Bruce Gore pastors the Birmingham and Gadsden, Alabama, and Rome, Georgia, congregations.

Are the feast days for *the Jews*, exclusively? Based on the words of the apostle John, one might be led to believe that is the case. “Now the Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles was at hand” (John 7:2, emphasis added throughout). “And the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went from the country up to Jerusalem before the Passover, to purify themselves” (John 11:55). But as we shall clearly see from the Scriptures, God’s feast days are for all of humankind—not just for the Jews.

The frequent use of the term *the Jews* is a hallmark of John’s gospel. In the four gospels, the word *Jews* is recorded 85 times—in Matthew it is used five times; in Mark, six times; in Luke, five times; and in John, 69 times. Over 80 percent of the occurrences of *Jews* are found in John’s gospel alone. If we look carefully at John’s life and the circumstances surrounding his gospel, we will see that he often used “the Jews” to distinguish between certain Jews, not just Jews and gentiles.

John’s Jewish Background

John did not believe that the observance of the feast days was for Jews only. He was a Jew and from childhood he was very familiar with Leviticus 23, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts’” (verse 2). Verses 4 and 37 say, “These are the feasts of the LORD....” John understood that all the feast days ultimately belong to God and even though the feast days were first revealed to the 12 tribes of Israel, they are for all peoples, nations and ethnic groups.

John was also familiar with the fact that the Jews associated the Feast of Tabernacles with gentiles, not just Jews. Zechariah 14:16 states: “And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” During the seven days of this festival, 70 bulls were sacrificed (Numbers 29:12-34), which the rabbis associated with gentile nations. The *Jewish New Testament Commentary* notes the following, “Rabbi El’azar said, ‘To what do these seventy bulls correspond? To the seventy nations’ (Sukkah 55b). In rabbinical tradition, the traditional number of Gentile nations is seventy; the seventy bulls are to make atonement for them” (David Stern, page 175, 1992).

When Christ returns, John will be among the resurrected saints who will keep the Feast of Tabernacles along with people from all cultures and races. John lived with this hope, even before converting to Christianity. Therefore, it’s erroneous to conclude that he noted “the Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles” (John 7:2) to reflect that the Feast is intended for Jews only.

John’s Audience

John’s audience was heavily gentile, if not predominantly so. He used the Roman reckoning of time in his gospel (i.e., John 19:14). Matthew, Mark and Luke used the Jewish reckoning of time. Therefore, John adapted his language for his primarily gentile audience. He was not saying that the feast days are limited to Jews only, but rather making a distinction

John’s Gospel and the Feast

Some additional technical research can help explain why John used the term “the Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles” for this universal Feast.

by Kevin Epps

about the feasts that Christ attended years ago.

The Jews of Judea

Sometimes “the Jews” specifies those in the region of Judea, as opposed to Jews in other areas. John wrote about an earlier time when Jews within 15 miles of Jerusalem were required to come to Jerusalem for the Feast. *Adam Clarke’s Commentary*, “John, who was a Galilean, often gives the title of Jews to those who were inhabitants of Jerusalem.” The Judean Jews were considered to be more committed to the practices of Judaism than Jews outside of Judea were. The phrase “Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles” has more to do with the geographical significance of this feast, i.e., the Jews of Judea, and is not meant to be a statement about exclusivity.

John writes, “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him” (John 7:1). Notice that “the Jews” refers to those Jews in Judea as opposed to the many Jews living in Galilee, who were not seeking to kill Jesus. John used “the Jews” qualifier to refer to the geographical setting of the feasts 60 years earlier. So the “Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles” (verse 2) described something pertaining to Judean Jews, as opposed to other Jews.

The *Jewish New Testament Commentary* states, “The several festivals which John identifies as being ‘of the Jews’...are specifically Judean festivals. Of course they are Jewish too; that goes without saying. But all the festivals that John names...are pilgrim festivals, that is festivals during which all Jews-by-religion were required by the Torah to go up to Jerusalem in Judea...” (page 159).

When John associates “the Jews” with a “feast,” it’s a feast that had a commanded pilgrimage to Judea. For instance, “the Jews” qualifier is omitted in regard to the wedding “feast” in Cana (John 2:8-9), and the “Feast of Dedication” (John 10:22), which did not have a commanded pilgrimage to Judea. But “the Jews” qualifier is included when there is a biblically commanded pilgrimage to Judea—“Passover of the Jews” (John 2:13, 11:55), “Passover, a feast of the Jews” (John 6:4) and “the Jews’ Feast of Tabernacles” (John 7:2).

By the end of the first century, gentiles in God’s Church had been keeping the feast days (1 Corinthians 5:8; 11:25) for over 60 years. God’s Church has always observed these days, but the shift from the Judean setting was most evident during the time of John’s gospel.

The Religious Leaders

John also used “the Jews” to specify a small subset of the Judean Jews—the religious leaders. As noted above, “He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill

Him” (John 7:1). This subset of Judean Jews was primarily the religious leaders as opposed to all Jews in Judea. The “Jews” (religious leaders) were largely against Him as they played a vital, instigating role in the crucifixion of Jesus. Thus, John earmarked these individuals throughout his gospel.

After He arrived, “the Jews” (religious leaders) sought to kill Him and “the people” were divided (John 7:10-12). Then verse 13 says, “However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.” Notice that the “people” were afraid of “the Jews.” But weren’t most of these people Jewish? Were they afraid of themselves? John had to be using “the Jews” to distinguish between Jewish religious leaders and the Jewish people, otherwise these passages are contradictory. The “people,” those who supported Jesus, were afraid of the religious leaders—“the Jews.” The “people,” not the religious leaders, were largely divided over Jesus.

This is confirmed in several passages of John 7, “...the Jews marveled, saying, ‘How does this Man know letters, having never studied?’” (verse 15). Interestingly, the Living Bible says, “the Jewish leaders....” Then in verse 20, “The people answered and said, ‘You have a demon.’” In verse 31, “...many of the people believed in Him....” Verse 43 records more division among “the people.” Then in verses 44 to 48 “the Jews” of this chapter are identified as—“the officers...chief priests...the rulers or the Pharisees....”

John uses the term, *the Jews*, throughout his gospel. John 1:19 states, “Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’” The *Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary* states the following about John 1:19: “By ‘the Jews’ here, and almost always in this Gospel, is meant—not the Jewish nation, as contrasted with the Gentiles, but ‘the rulers’ of the nation.” The *Wycliffe Bible Commentary* states: “The Jews. As usual in John, this means leaders of the nation. These priests were of the Pharisees (v. 24).” *Robertson’s Word Pictures in the New Testament* says, “Often he uses it of the Jewish leaders and rulers in particular who soon took a hostile attitude toward both John and Jesus....”

It was the hate-filled religious leaders who later cried out shortly before the crucifixion. “Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, ‘Crucify Him, crucify Him!’ Pilate said to them, ‘You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.’ The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God’” (John 19:6-7). After the crucifixion, “the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken....” (John 19:31). Unfortunately, the idea of all Jews hating or

killing Jesus has led to anti-Semitism. For the most part, the religious rulers spearheaded this conspiracy, not all Jews.

The Gentiles’ Feast Also?

Interestingly, John also includes some other insightful information regarding those who attended the “Passover of the Jews” (John 11:55). During the time of Christ, certain gentiles also kept the feasts: “Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast” (John 12:20). The Greek word for “Greeks” (*hellen*) typically refers to “a Greek by nationality...in a wider sense the name embraces all nations not Jews that made the language, customs, and learning of the Greeks their own” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*, 2000 by Biblosoft). These “Greeks” were uncircumcised gentiles; therefore they are distinguished from proselytes. Nevertheless “certain Greeks” observed the Holy Days and other tenets that did not require circumcision. Note the following two quotes.

F.F. Bruce, in his *New Testament History*, says, “The three great pilgrim festivals were (i)...the Feast of Unleavened Bread...(ii) the feast of Pentecost...and (iii) the Feast of Tabernacles, or Booths.... Jews from all parts of the Diaspora made an effort to come to Jerusalem for one or another of these festivals. With them would come proselytes and even God-fearing Gentiles...” (1969, page 140).

Paul Johnson writes in *A History of Christianity*, “Philo, too, projected in his philosophy the concept of a gentile mission and wrote joyfully, ‘There is not a single Greek or barbarian city, not a single people, to which the custom of Sabbath observance has not spread, or in which the feast days, the kindling of the lights, and many of our prohibitions about food are not heeded.’ This claim was generally true.... A large proportion of these people were not Jewish by race. Nor were they full Jews in the religious sense: that is, few of them were circumcised or expected to obey the law in all its rigour. Most of them were noachides, or God-fearers. They recognized and worshipped the Jewish God and they were permitted to mingle with synagogue worshippers to learn the Jewish law and customs...they were not generally expected to become full Jews...” (1995, page 12).

In all probability, it was from among the feast-keeping gentiles that God raised up the core of the gentile converts to Christianity: “The synagogue, then, provided the apostle of the Gentiles with a base of operations as he prosecuted his mission, and in one city after another it was in the God-fearing fringe of the synagogue congregation that he found the nucleus of the church” (*New Testament History*, page 147).

Thus it is obvious that John often used “the Jews” to distinguish between different groups of Jews, i.e., inhabitants of Judea and religious leaders. And when “the Jews” is associated with the feast days, John highlighted the geographical significance of the pilgrimage to Judea. John, his gospel, history and all of Scripture support the keeping of the feast days by all Christians, Jews and gentiles. *UV*

Kevin Epps pastors congregations in New York City, central New Jersey and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Local Church Updates...

Unity Prevails in Columbia/St. Louis

Members from Columbia and St. Louis, Missouri, combined for services on July 28 in what proved to be an excellent new beginning for UCGIA and former CGCF members. George Meeker and Roy Holladay both addressed subjects that spoke of unity. The 110 attentive listeners were admonished to be knit together in love and to be one with Christ as His bride in performing a compassionate work towards mankind.

Most of us are acquainted with the process that led to our two groups combining. Mr. Holladay, chairman of the Council of Elders, chose to fly to St. Louis and speak to our brethren because this area contained the largest group of former CGCF members who had decided to fellowship with United.

Members have known or have been acquainted with one another for years. The Columbia brethren have fellowshiped together for the past few years at card parties and other social events. St. Louis brethren have bowled together and have come together after the Feast of Tabernacles to enjoy food and fellowship. Therefore it seemed natural to once again congregate together in a spirit of love and understanding at church services. All have the same goal of preaching the gospel to the world; all look for the return of Jesus Christ.

Because of the increased numbers in the Columbia congregation, it was necessary to rent a different meeting facility. It just so happened that at the same time we began the hall search, the American Legion was very receptive to hosting our needs once again. American Legion had been the Columbia brethren's meeting location for 25 years, from 1967 to 1992. Over 60 people will now be attending Columbia on a weekly basis.

St. Louis has also begun bulging at the seams. The building fire code limits attendance in our present hall to 100. If all show up at the same time, we will have 104. This presents one of the good stresses that all congregations would love to have.

The St. Louis and Columbia brethren are excited about the future and their involvement in doing a greater work as fruits are borne from the preaching of God's Word. Perhaps the message on the cake that all enjoyed at the end of our combined meeting summarizes the future of God's Church in this area. The frosting decoration on top of the cake read, "How good and how pleasant



Columbia and St. Louis congregations combine and welcome CGCF members July 28 (photos by Greg Sargent)

it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Greg Sargent

Wildfires Extinguished for Salt Lake Camp-Out

The Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation held a camp-out the weekend of August 24 to 26 at Payson Lakes, a site in the rugged mountains south of Salt Lake.

Earlier in the week, God allowed a storm to extinguish the wildfires in the area that threatened the campsite area.

Services were held outdoors at 3 p.m. on the Sabbath. A total of 47 attended. Ed Foy, a deacon, gave a ser-



Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation camps out and serves by picking up lots of litter (photos by Bill Jahns)

monette on how God led Israel through the wilderness. A special treat was Felicia Villaescusa, 12, singing "One Faith, One Love" a cappella. Bill Jahns gave a sermon on how we should obey God's command to dress and keep the earth.

After an advisory council meeting and dinner, an interactive Bible study was given, discussing topics as diverse as what is the oldest book in the New Testament, to what is the greatest challenge facing God's Church today.

On Sunday morning, the youth picked up trash around the local waterfront, and enjoyed swimming later in the afternoon.

Special thanks to the Villaescusa family for organizing the activity, and to others for working hard to arrange for food.

John Fox

Reno Hosts Beach Party

The Reno, Nevada, congregation of the United Church of God hosted a very successful beach party at beautiful Sand Harbor, on the shores of Lake Tahoe August 12. More than 80 happy people attended and participated in various activities including swimming, boating, skiing and boarding, water volleyball, visiting, building sand castles, burying others in the sand, rock climbing,



Water volleyball at Reno beach party at Lake Tahoe (photos by Wayne Abraham)

diving, talking, eating, etc.

Guests attended from as far away as Sacramento, Red Bluff and Redding. The weather was perfect. The sky was blue, the clouds white and fluffy, the water clean and clear and the harmony and peace were wonderful. It was a day that brought to life many Lake Tahoe and Squaw Valley memories, so the decision was made to make this an annual affair. Any of you are cordially invited to join us next August, God willing!

Jim Chapman

Dallas Ladies Make Fashion Fun

The Dallas South ladies hosted a spring fashion show/luncheon on Sunday, May 20. The Dallas North, Fort Worth, Gladewater, Coleman, Waco and Austin congregations were invited to attend the final ladies social sponsored by the South congregation. This event was to help the area ladies become more acquainted with one another, since the two Dallas congregations were about to combine as one congregation.

There were 55 in attendance to enjoy a delicious sandwich/salad spread, presented in a garden setting. The tables were all decorated with tablecloths and matching napkins in different spring colors. Each table setting had

a gift for each guest. Drawings were made and prizes were given out with two top prizes: a \$25 gift certificate to Foley's Department Store and four tickets to the Dallas Arboretum donated by Brenda Ross.

Amanda Hendee was the first model in the fashion show, with her "spring" dress all covered in Slinky toys.

Cathy Joyner was the second model, with a broomstick skirt and a top with raglan sleeves. Cathy had whisk brooms attached to her skirt, and rags pinned to the sleeves of her blouse.

Gloria Lusk modeled the tea shirt and skirt with her deck shoes. Of course, she had tea bags pinned all over her outfit with a deck of cards glued to her shoes.

Diane Hendee modeled the print dress. Now this was the bargain fashion of the evening, being that the print dress was made out of newspaper and only cost 75 cents.

Pat Jones modeled the very tailored pinstripe suit, a shell top and a red blazer with three-quarter length sleeves. Lorena Brooks and her mother, Kris, gave us all a look at the latest in ball gowns. Adriann Tunales showed us the bell bottoms and crop top. Jackie Collins gave us a flaming look at the mix-and-match outfits enhanced by her stud earrings. Dara Vaughn modeled the more intimate apparel, the

lovable Teddy nightgown.

Of course, we could not have a Texas style show without a Western look. Brandy Sharkyr showed us what a halter top really looked like on a rhinestone cowgirl high stepping in her roper boots. Rhonda Lopez modeled the new



Lorena Brooks "balloon" gown; right, Diane Hendee modeling the "print dress" (photos by Amy Hooser)



capri pants look, but we all know they are the old pedal pushers (flower petals sewn all over her pants).

Brenda Ross, last but not least, was a great sport in modeling the utterly comfortable moo-moo dress.

This fashion spoof provided lots of laughs as the models came down the runway into view.

Before the show nine of the ladies attended a work party at Gay Oren's home to make the fashions and gifts to be given to each guest.

If you are interested in having a fashion luncheon in your area, you can contact Gay Oren at gay_oren@hotmail.com to receive the narrative and styles.

Gay Oren

Twins Win Outstanding Achievement Award

Brandi and Breanna Gearhart, twin daughters of Laurie Gearhart, recently



Brandi and Breanna Gearhart (photo by Hazel Lambert)

received a Gateway computer package for Outstanding Achievement, a merit incentive award presented to them by Broadway Middle School, Elmira, New York.

The girls voluntarily gave up their lunch periods to read to elementary classes and stayed after school to help the teachers. They also volunteered in the school lunchroom. They now attend Southside High School.

Brandi and Breanna attend the Elmira congregation with their grandmother, Betty Gearhart.

Betty Gearhart

Accordion Helps Deacon Make a Difference

Doyle Heim, a deacon in the Collinsville, Illinois, congregation, has found



Doyle Heim with Illene Clifton, who is in the nursing home with a stroke. Standing, JoAnn Heim, Pat Legge, Delores Heim and Anne Kreher, all members of the Collinsville, Illinois, congregation

a way to share his love for music with the senior citizens at the Coulterville, Illinois, Care Center.

Fellow UCG member and resident of the center, Illene Clifton, suffered a stroke recently. What began as a visit of encouragement by Mr. Heim has blossomed into a musical presentation shared by residents and staff on a continuous basis.

Mr. Heim lets his fingers do the talking as he squeezes out polkas, ballads and even the odd rock and roll medley on his accordion. Often he finds musical accompaniment as Ms. Clifton, who is unable to walk or speak, taps out a beat and claps her hands in time with the music.

Mr. Heim has found that what he gives of himself pales in comparison with the love and appreciation he receives.

Pat Legge

Essay Winner Takes a Stand

Jonathan D. Dobson, 14, was recognized by the Tennessee Law Enforcement Officers Association for an essay he wrote for his eighth-grade health class at Colonial Heights Middle School in Kingsport, Tennessee. The essay, entitled, "Why I Will



Jonathan D. Dobson

Say No to Alcohol and Drugs," was selected as the second-place winner in a contest sponsored by the association.

Along with the check for \$200, Jonathan received a congratulatory letter from Joseph P. Ruff. Officer Ruff said, "As a veteran Tennessee law enforcement officer, I take great comfort in knowing that there are outstanding young people such as yourself, who are willing to take a stand for what they know is right."

Jonathan, son of David and Denise Dobson, attends the Kingsport congregation.

Denise Dobson

Young Adults Invited to Texas Hospitality 2002

The Dallas young adults are sponsoring the first annual young adult weekend—Texas Hospitality 2002. All young adults are invited to attend on Presidents' Day Weekend—February 15 to 18, 2002.

Activities will include a Friday evening hospitality gathering, Sabbath brunch and interactive Bible studies, combined Dallas Sabbath services, Saturday evening recreation event, Sunday keynote brunch, Sunday afternoon/evening barn dance and BBQ at an

area ranch. For those who can stay on Monday, we will offer tours of the Dallas area.

For further information please check at <http://youngadults.topcities.com/index.htm>, www.ucgyouth.org/youngadult/ or e-mail questions to philip_dick@hotmail.com.

Mark your calendars and we hope to see you there!

Philip C. Dick

Garden Grove Honors 95-Year-Old Member

Rudy Shaves of Long Beach, California, had his 95th birthday in June, and the Garden Grove, California, congregation had cake and coffee for him after services in honor of this special event.



The Garden Grove congregation honors Rudy Shaves 95th

Blanche and Rudy Shaves have been married for almost 40 years and members of God's Church for 34 years.

Anna Moore

UCG, RCMP and the Queen Congratulate 100-Year-Old Member

Members and ministers from around British Columbia came together June 2 in



UCG and the RCMP (right) honoring Earnest "Gib" Gibson as he turned 100

Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island, to honor Earnest "Gib" Gibson as he turned 100. Many congratulatory messages came from Les McCullough, Richard Pinelli, Tony

Wasilkoff, Ed van Pelt, Dennis Luker, Rainer Salomaa, Bob Berendt, Glen White, Larry Delong, Mark Mickelson and many other ministers and congregations across Canada (even from the little flock in Newfoundland) and the United States to celebrate this milestone occasion. For very special music, Mr. Gibson sang a cappella "Place of Secret Prayer."

Sabbath messages were focused on honoring our oldest member. Ken Kerr Sr. told the congregation that God has much to say about old people and we should give honor and rise in the presence of the gray headed. The main message given by David Palmer was about "The Celebration of Time and Mr. Gibson." He explained how time is a wonderful gift and we should treasure every moment.

Willy Weber, a retired pastry chef, presented Mr. Gibson with a birthday strawberry shortcake and a beautifully wrapped food hamper for Gib and his wife, Helen, from the Vancouver Island brethren.

The Gibsons are an inspiration to the congregation with their continuing faith in God, their courage, strength and humor in spite of the many health trials that go along with aging. They drive round-trip three hours to attend services once or twice a month.

Mr. Gibson was also honored by many others outside the Church. He is the only surviving member of the Royal North-West Mounted Police, the organization that became the acclaimed Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). He received letters of congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and others.

He received several awards, including the Dominion President's Special Award and the Commanding Officer's Certificate of Appreciation which said: "Your personal contribution was during a critical period in the history of not only Canada, but of

the Royal North-West Mounted Police which played a central role in forging the western expansion of Canada."

Besides his time in the Mounties, Mr. Gibson also homesteaded, served in the army in World War II, became the last white Indian agent on the Kehewin Reserve in Alberta. This is where he and his wife were called in 1960 after reading *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

Jean Jantzen

Announcements...

Births

Tim and Debbie (Kellers) Haggard are pleased to announce the arrival of Lynden Bailey, baby sister of Autumn Grace. Born March 7, 2001, she weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 21 inches long. She is the grandchild of Wendell and Linda Haggard and the sixth of



Autumn with Lynden Bailey Haggard

seven granddaughters given to Fred and Lucretia Kellers. The Haggards live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Steve and Tina McGhee, of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Sydney Elizabeth. She was born July 2, 2001, and was 7 pounds 12½ ounces and 21 inches long. Grandparents are Kenneth and



Sydney Elizabeth McGhee

Freda Bauman of Louisville and Carole McGhee of Jeffersonville, Indiana, and Sam McGhee of Clearfield, Pennsylvania.

Engagement



Adam Sanders & Keri McConaughy

Gary and Jane McConaughy of Oxford, Massachusetts, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Keri to Adam Sanders, son of Wayne and Elsie Sanders of Slidell, Louisiana. The couple met at ABC, and the wedding is being planned for next year.

Weddings

Jeannie Lynne Dunlap and Steven Bradley LaRocque are happy to announce their marriage, which took place December 9, 2000. A late morning wedding and formal afternoon reception were held at The Shadowbrook in Capitola, California. Wayne Dunlap, father of the bride and pastor of the Eureka and Crescent City, California, congregations, performed the ceremony. Liz Dunlap, the bride's sister, was the maid of honor, and Tom LaRocque, the groom's brother, was the best man. The bridesmaids were Norisa



Steven and Jeannie LaRocque

(Holst) Anderson and Kim Levy. The groomsmen were Mike Hillerman and Casey Quintard. After honeymooning in Cancun, Mexico, the happy couple has made Walnut Creek, California, their home.

Sarah Colbeth, daughter of Ron and Betsy Colbeth of Loveland, Colorado, and Patrick Buckley, son of Phyllis Buckley and Jim Buckley of Grand Junction, Colorado, were united in marriage on December 23, 2000, in Fort Collins, Colorado. Charles Melear, an elder in the Loveland congregation, officiated. Maid of honor was Bekah Colbeth, sister of the bride. The best man was Rob Buckley, twin brother of the groom. The bride's personal attendant was Deborah Brown.

The couple reside in Yamato, Japan, where Patrick is an elementary school teacher and high school soccer coach for the Department of Defense's Educational Services.



Sarah and Patrick Buckley

Sarah teaches English at a Japanese preschool.

Amy Burrell and Joseph Anderson of Tucson, Arizona, were married May 13, 2001, at the Fort Worden Chapel in Port Townsend, Washington. Dennis Luker officiated at the 4 p.m. ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Keith and Fran Burrell of Port Townsend. The groom is the son of James Anderson of Phoenix, Arizona, and Judith Bennett of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Lisa Burrell, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Elizabeth Friedrichs, Hoshana Voughn-Hulbert, D'Anne DeSota and Susan Knudson were bridesmaids.

John Anderson, brother of the groom, was best man. Rick DeSota, Monte Knudson, Jason Burrell and Scott Burrell were groomsmen.

Katelin Knudson was flower girl and Rheo Knudson, ring bearer.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Port Townsend High School and is



Joseph and Amy Anderson

continuing her college education in Tucson. The groom is owner of Anderson's Office Liquidators. They make their home in Tucson.

Anniversary

For Ray and Gladys Lehmann,

June 2001 will always be a special time to remember. A dinner hosted by their daughter Naline and her husband, Joe Avila, at their home in Western Australia celebrated this special 60th wedding anniversary.

Ray and Gladys were married in Victoria in June 1941. They have three daughters, Raya, Valya and Naline, and two sons, Rex and Bruce, who both graduated from Ambassador College in Bricket Wood. The family includes 14 grandchildren from 15 to 31 years of age and eight great-grandchildren with two more on the way.

Gladys has been a member of God's Church for over 39 years, and Ray has been a member for 19 years.



Gladys and Ray Lehmann

They both have fond memories of Herbert W. Armstrong.

Obituaries

Dorothy Crowell, 90, of the Satsop, Washington, died April 5, 2001. She was born in Spokane, Washington, October 28, 1910, to Gottlieb and Wilhelmena Kiesser.

Mrs. Crowell was baptized in 1959. She was a member of the United Church of God in Olympia, Washington. Survivors include one son, Chester, who is also a member of the local congregation.

The pastor of the Olympia congregation, John Cafourek, officiated at funeral services on April 11.

Harold Yokes, 95, of the Meadville, Pennsylvania, congregation died on July 13, 2001. Born in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania, Mr. Yokes is survived by his wife of 31 years, Madeline, also a member of the Meadville congregation, and by his son, Harvey, of Palmyra, Pennsylvania. Mr. Yokes was baptized in March 1968. A memorial service was conducted by Don Henson, pastor of the Meadville congregation.

Richard L. Moore, 71, died June 29, 2001, after suffering many

health problems including the amputation of both of his legs. Mr. Moore was a long-time member of the Akron, Ohio, congregation and drove 45 minutes to Akron each Sabbath. Mr. Moore was an inspiring example of dedication to everyone. He befriended many of the children in the congregation and always came to services with a smile.

Mr. Moore was preceded in death by his daughter Pamela Chisholm. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Ernestine; three sons, Richard Jr., Eric and Richard Lathen; three daughters, Kim Moore Avant, Sandra Moore and Tomekia Moore Hayes; and 15 grandchildren.

In his earlier years Mr. Moore was a football player and a professional baseball player in the Negro Baseball League. He will be remembered as an avid Bible reader who had to often buy new Bibles because he wore them out so quickly. Mr. Moore was a dedicated pillar member whose favorite scripture was Exodus 20:8: "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." His smile and enthusiasm will be



Richard L. Moore

missed. Funeral services were conducted on July 5 by Dave Myers in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lois Tankersley Crowder, 84, of Morgantown, West Virginia, died December 31, 2000, after a long illness. She was a member of the United Church of God congregation in Morgantown. She was co-owner of Charleston Orthopedic and owner of Morgantown Orthopedic.

She is survived by a nephew, Cecil Tankersley of Charleston, West Virginia; a niece, Cynthia T. Tellez of Georgia; and caregivers David and Mary Ash of Salem, West Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold L. Crowder, June 30, 1998, and a brother, Lloyd Tankersley, February 11, 1999.

The funeral was conducted by William Winner.

“COUNCIL,” (Continued from page 1)

of the various international areas, we will be more effectively able to help and serve them. Leon Walker will give a report on the Spanish-speaking regions in December.

Another exciting possibility the Council discussed was the idea of setting aside money from each year's budget for building or purchasing local church buildings. Looking ahead, we anticipate that needs could arise where it would be prudent to have the option of having our own buildings rather than renting in some areas. Obviously, our ability to do this on a regular basis will be based upon how God blesses the Church financially. Aaron Dean and the Finance Committee will bring to the Council at our next meeting in December recommendations on how to proceed with such a program.

The Council also unanimously approved a process and time-line for determining a new president. By August 31 each Council member is to submit to the chairman the basic qualifications and abilities that he would like to see in a president. We will discuss the suggestions and finalize the criteria and job description in a September 6 teleconference, and then send it to all the members of the General Conference of Elders to seek their input for nominees.

The credentialing of six elders from the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship (CGCF), provided another highlight in our meetings. [See “UCG Hires Former CGCF Employees,” page 1.]

At the meetings for the international representatives, conducted prior to the General Conference of Elders meeting in May, one of their requests was for more contact and visits from the Council. As money and time permits, we hope to accomplish this.

Three Council members will be travel-

ing to other areas during August and September. Leon and Reba Walker departed Tuesday, August 14, for Australia, New Zealand and Tonga. Victor and Beverly Kubik were to leave Friday, August 17, for Guatemala and El Salvador. They will visit Saul and Carmen Langarica in Guatemala, and Victor will speak in one of the local con-

gregations. They will also visit Herbert and Conchita Cisneros in El Salvador. One of the main reasons for this visit is to see what can be done in a practical way to help our members in that area. John Jewell is scheduled to be in Holland on September 8 to conduct Sabbath services there. Your prayers for their safety and the success of all

Council visits will be greatly appreciated.

We on the Council appreciate the church family that God has given us to serve. We pray for you and desire your prayers for us as we all strive for the Kingdom of God together.

In Christian love, on behalf of the Council,
Roy Holladay, chairman

Some More Highlights of the August Council Meetings

The Council of Elders met August 6 to 9 at the home office. On the first day President Les McCullough reported on developments in the Church's work, such as:

- *Good News* circulation increased by 27 percent, with only a 17 percent increase in the media budget for the year.

- Total mail received increased 83 percent.

Peter Eddington, operation manager for Media and Communications Services, gave more details (see reports in “News at a Glance,” pages 15 and 16). He explained that because additional funds were available, the media area was allowed to go over its budget by 9.7 percent in proclaiming the gospel.

Mario Seiglie asked what portion of the entire Church budget was now devoted to media efforts. Mr. Eddington stated that it stands at about 17 percent for the current year, up from around 10 percent only five years ago.

Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick reported that total income for the year topped \$16.6 million (against \$15.7 million budgeted), with expenditures being allowed to rise to over \$16.3 million (from the \$15.7 million budget). The four main areas of increased spending were new office building costs temporarily increased to current expenditures (\$317,000), media budget overrun due to

increased literature production (\$215,000), a modest end-of-year bonus for all employees (\$80,000) and higher than projected local congregation subsidy requests (\$75,000). The net result was that income still exceeded expenditures by about \$227,000.

The Council also discussed the possibility of adding a new pastoral committee to interface with Ministerial Services, and Mr. McCullough moderated discussion of the vision of the Church and how to implement it.

August 7 Leon Walker, Doctrine Committee chairman, updated the Council on various research projects and papers. The material on God's covenants is near completion, with material being added on two crucial aspects (the conference of Acts 15 and an explanation of the term *under the law*). This will be ready for the next Council meeting.

The majority of the Council expressed approval of a paper written by Kevin Epps on Genesis 6:9, providing a convincing explanation that the expression that Noah was “perfect in his generations” refers to his spiritual condition, not physical. Since this is a departure from our historical understanding, the Council unanimously agreed to seek further advice from the entire GCE before submitting it to the GCE for doctrinal approval.

Because of a request from the Australian

National Council, the Council approved a statement on voting for and running for political office. The statement repeated the traditional teaching of the Church, while mentioning the Council's desire to address the issue “afresh in order to seek greater unity of belief and consistency in practice, in accordance with the biblical teaching on this topic.”

The Council also agreed to move ahead with the successful “Bible Reading Program” started by the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship. After going through the standard review process, material will be posted to the United Web site.

The Council also discussed the need to educate all elders about the ongoing difficulty caused by a number of members of the GCE not participating in GCE balloting.

The next Council session will be December 5 to 12 in Tampa, Florida. Complete reports on the meetings can be found at www.ucg.org/a/council/council.htm.

SURVEY: Do you read the Council reports and Chairman's letter right after Council meetings (printed out at Church or on the Internet)? Or do you want more coverage in *United News*? Write: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

News at a Glance...

New Pastor in Illinois and Elder in Virginia

Guy Burke was hired full-time and has moved to Illinois to pastor the Canton, Mahomet and Springfield congregations. He was ordained in 1993 and he and his wife, Barbara, were serving the brethren in the Lawton, Oklahoma, congregation.

In addition to the credentialing of six elders from CGCF (see page 1), the Council of Elders also credentialed Donald Shaw at their August meeting. Mr. Shaw and his wife, Annie, serve the brethren in the Roanoke, Virginia, area.

Card Deck Promotions Prove Cost-Effective

Card decks proved to be the least expensive print media promotions used during the 2000-2001 budget year. Through this type of program, 25 to 75 insert cards and other promotional materials from a variety of

advertisers are wrapped together in a single clear, cellophane package and mailed to targeted audiences.

Last year, we conducted nine card deck tests with a total of 1,450,000 *Good News* inserts. As a result, the home office processed 17,313 new subscriptions, equaling a 1.2 percent response at an excellent overall cost per response of \$1.69.

Three of the tests involved card decks sent to homeschooling households. From a total of 450,000 inserts mailed, 6,851 new subscriptions were received. This is a 1.5 percent response at an overall cost per response of \$1.49. For the new budget year we plan to place inserts in 600,000 card decks sent to homeschooling families in July and October 2001 and January and April 2002.

The best responding card decks were those targeting “Rural American Gardeners.” Response to our inserts reached 2 percent at just 80 cents per response! We will attempt to capitalize on this success during the 2001-2002 budget year. So far, we have contracted

with two media companies to place 1,700,000 inserts in three gardening card decks to be mailed in August, October and December. Depending on the results, the option is available to place 1,200,000 additional inserts in gardening card decks going out in January and February 2002.

Peter Eddington/John LaBissoniere

Direct Mail Tests Continue

During the 2000-2001 budget year, UCG conducted two major direct mail tests. In July 2000, we selected names of current and former subscribers to 23 publications including *Biblical Archaeology Review*, *Organic Gardening and Prevention*. Sample copies of *The Good News* and conventional direct-mail packages were mailed to 272,963 U.S. households. From the conventional packages that were mailed, responses peaked at 8,528. This equals a 3.1 percent response at an average cost per response of \$11.61.

Our second venture took place in

February. In this effort we mailed packages to several lists that responded well in our first test and to subscribers of *Time*, *Newsweek* and *US News & World Report*. From a total of 191,489 households that were offered a subscription to the *GN*, 10,442 responded. This is a 5.5 percent response at an average cost per response of \$5.79. Our second effort showed a significant improvement.

We plan to conduct further testing this year by mailing to those lists that responded satisfactorily in our second test and to several “religious interest” ones.

Peter Eddington/John LaBissoniere

400,000 Magazines Printed

The September-October print runs are:

331,057	U.S. English
54,830	International English
10,000	Spanish
5,000	Italian
3,500	German
404,387	Total

News at a Glance...

Feast Corrections and Updates

St. John's, Newfoundland: Due to circumstances beyond our control, our meeting hall for the Feast in St. John's will not be located at the Airport Hotel. Instead we will be meeting at the Best Western Travellers Inn, situated on Kenmount Road. The rates for the rooms are about the same as the Airport Hotel, except the Best Western provides a full complimentary buffet breakfast for guests. Also, children always eat free. If anyone would like to change their accommodation, the number for reservations is 800-261-5540 or 709-722-5540. Or you may reach them at www.bestwestern.com. If you are happy with your present hotel/motel

booking, you do not need to make a change.

St. John's will also be hosting a delightful Church family day activity at a facility called the Lavrock Centre on Thursday, October 4. The Lavrock is a lovely resort owned by the Anglican Church situated on a beautiful lake about a 30-minute drive from St. John's. After the morning service everyone will drive to the site where a tasty light lunch will be served. (We will endeavor to arrange transportation for those who may not have a vehicle.) After lunch we will participate in outdoor activities if the weather permits. If not, we will have activities planned for indoors. A three-course hot turkey meal is on the menu for dinner. The day will conclude with a dance starting at about 7:30. We are negotiating for a live band and hope to

provide a variety of music, especially some traditional Newfoundland music.

The site offers areas for nature walks with the possibility of seeing some wildlife. It will be a terrific day of fun and fellowship for young and old alike. The cost is a reasonable \$25 Canadian per person for everything!

We need to know as soon as possible—the deadline is September 15, but if you don't see this until later, please still let us know—how many are taking part, as we need to notify the staff. If there isn't sufficient interest, the activity will have to be cancelled. To let us know if you will be attending, please send an e-mail to dgsmith@nfl.com or write to David Smith, Box 6602, Manuels, NF, Canada A1W 1L8 or better yet, phone 709-834-5343. Please remember to mention how many people will be in your party. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Escondido, California: The wrong day and time were listed for the Hawaiian Luau at the Feast in Escondido. The Luau is scheduled for Thursday evening, October 4, at the Quails Inn Resort (not Wednesday at the Hanalai). Tickets still need to be ordered before the Feast. Please use the order form from the August *United News*, page 7.

Branson, Missouri: The correct phone number for Special Music Coordinator/Adult Choir Director Russ DeVilbiss is 828-765-1661.

Mont-Sainte-Anne, Quebec: You are cordially invited to experience an elegant Dinner Cruise at the beautiful Feast site in picturesque Mont-Sainte-Anne. Enjoy a breathtaking view of scenic and historic Quebec City. Partake of a sumptuous meal in a panoramic dining room. Relax and appreciate lovely background music. Dance to the numbers that beckon you to the dance floor.

The cost for this rare occasion is a package price including transportation to and from the festival hotel, the cruise, the meal, the dance, the taxes and the gratuity. For adults: \$65 per person. For children 6 to 12: \$50 per person. (Prices listed are in Canadian funds.) This occasion is not recommended for children under 6.

The organizers of this activity need to let the cruise company know approximate num-

bers by mid-September for staffing purposes. To make your reservation or to ask any questions, please contact Eric or Carol Livermore at livermore@acncanada.net or at 800-394-1535. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cybercast: Plans are for Feast services to again be cybercast from the Bend, Oregon, and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, sites. See www.ucg.org/feast/feast01/ for information.

GN Brochures to Be in 4,000 More Supermarkets

During the 2000-2001 budget year we conducted two large distribution tests of the "Good Neighbor" supermarket "take-one" program. Bounty SCA Worldwide, Inc. was contracted to distribute close to a quarter million 3.75-by-8.5-inch tri-fold *Good News* subscription brochures on their large wall-mounted displays in 2,000 major U.S. supermarkets and discount stores. Distribution took place in August, September and October 2000. New subscriber responses topped out at 5,315. This equals an excellent 2.2 percent response at \$4.69 cost per response.

Also, from February through April 2001, we conducted a head-to-head test, using a new, larger, bi-fold 5.5-by-8.5-inch brochure against the original, smaller tri-fold brochure. Over one-half million brochures were distributed on 4,000 attractive displays. A total of 7,292 subscriptions have been received at the home office. Of that total, the new, larger brochure registered 5,419 responses, equaling a 2.1 percent response. The cost per response is currently \$4.76. Responses are still coming in.

During the 2001-2002 budget year, we are again planning to distribute the larger brochures through the "Good Neighbor" program. For four months, starting in September, over 650,000 brochures will be distributed in a new group of 4,000 supermarkets. In a head-to-head test of cover graphics, half the brochures printed will feature the original "family" cover photo. The other half will have a new "lion and lamb" cover photo. As this effort advances, we will keep you up-to-date on details and results.

Peter Eddington/John LaBissoniere

What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

- The September-October issue of the *Good News* magazine is available in PDF (1.4MB) format: <http://www.ucg.org/articles/gn/index.html>
- The September-October issue of *Gute Nachrichten* now available in PDF (360K) format on the German Literature Page: <http://www.ucg.org/html/deutsch.shtml>
- The August issue of *El Comunicado* is available in HTML format on the Spanish literature page: http://www.ucg.org/html/espa_ol.shtml
- Check out the ABC student-developed Web site for more details about the students and the ABC program: <http://www.ucg.org/abc/welcome.html>
- New transcripts: "The Church, Europe and Jesus Christ's Return" by John Jewell, "Leaders for Tomorrow's World" by Larry Greider, "Building Courage Through Encouragement" by Steve Nutzman, "Tough Faith for Tough Times" by Ken Martin and "Effective Repentance" by Peter Eddington: <http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html>
- The Council of Elders reports are posted at: <http://www.ucg.org/html/updates.html>

On ucgyouth.org

- "Applying What You Learned at Camp" audio sermon, info about Feast seminars for teens and young adults and articles and pictures about camp. <http://ucgyouth.org>

On vcmagazine.org

- The September-October *Virtual Christian Magazine* has: "Many Paths to God?," "What I Learned in Jail," "Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime Bag?," "Making a Difference," "Do You Remember When?" and "Getting Things in Focus." <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://youthmagazine.org> (*Youth United* e-magazine site)

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

<http://www.ucg.org/a/local/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

United News

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