



Ordinations in Ghana. Back row (from left): Annor Jones, Joseph Baah, Benjamin Agyapong, Frank Arthur, Kwaku Ofori-Amanfo, Joel Meeker; front row: Les McCullough, Ofori Manu, Richard Duah, Clement Amoako-Atta, Tom Kirkpatrick, Azariah Maxwell Coffie, Adonijah Blay-Miezah, Reuel Appiah-Dima and Melvin Rhodes

11 Elders Ordained in Ghana

by Joel Meeker

Eleven pastors serving in the Remnant Church of God in Ghana, West Africa, were ordained as elders of the United Church of God in an ordination ceremony during Sabbath services in Kumasi, Ghana, on Jan. 19.

United Church of God president Les McCullough, treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick and pastors Melvin Rhodes and Joel Meeker performed the ordinations before a congregation of approximately 350 people, including members who had traveled from many different regions of Ghana. Dr. Kirkpatrick first gave a split sermon on the topic of humility. The ordinations of the 11 men occurred in the middle of the service, after which Mr. McCullough gave a second split sermon on the topic of the Church's

mission to do the work of preaching the gospel as a witness to the world.

The 11 men ordained are Benjamin Agyapong, Clement Amoako-Atta, Reuel Appiah-Dima, Frank Arthur, Joseph Baah, Adonijah Blay-Miezah, Azariah Maxwell Coffie, Richard Duah, Annor Jones, Ofori Manu and Kwaku Ofori-Amanfo. Following the service Mr. Coffie said it had been "a very important occasion, one we have prayed and longed for

(See "GHANA," page 2)

Media Meetings Explore Ways to Better Fulfill the Church's Mission

Jan. 10 and 11 the Media and Communications Committee of the Council met with home office employees and others to discuss the Church's media efforts—from preaching the gospel through to welcoming and teaching the new disciples God calls.

Discussions were wide-ranging, from plans for *The Good News* and booklets, to the Internet, to radio, to cable-access TV, to a magazine for young people.

Dozens of ministers, members and employees are involved in the many aspects of the Church's media efforts. As Vic Kubik, committee chairman, said, the Church is striving to provide "full-service" to make sure those we reach feel genuinely cared for.

Peter Eddington, operation manager for Media and Communications Services, summarized the promotional efforts that brought the *GN* to 470,000, and reported on subscriber development efforts including the tapes being offered to *Bible Study Course* graduates.

Richard Pinelli, operation manager for Ministerial Services, report-

ed on the 750 people who contacted UCG pastors as a result of media last year. These people had no previous contact with Sabbatarian churches (another 1,005 contacts had previous Sabbath-keeping

"fishers of men"—led to assigning future *United News* articles defin-



Scott Ashley and John LaBissoniere present information about media promotional efforts Jan. 10 (photos by Vic Kubik)

experience). Not all of the 750 actually attended, but of those who did, 130 have continued to attend and 19 have been baptized so far.

The discussion of the Church's mission to "make disciples"—to be

ing this team effort. As God calls, the Church and membership have a role in welcoming and teaching those disciples.

Answers will also be prepared (See "MEDIA," page 15)

United Youth Corps Projects Announced

The United Youth Corps International Project team announced the 2002 Youth Corps projects.

This year we are making available to qualified young adults the opportunity to help staff a Church youth camp in the Philippines in April, to teach computer skills to brethren in Ghana in June and July and to staff a Church wilderness awareness camp in the veld of South Africa in July. The South African project will also include a photo safari in South Africa's famous Kruger Park.

Each of these projects offers the opportunity to serve our brethren, visit interesting places and acquire a priceless international cultural education.

Fact sheets for each project,

downloadable application forms, as well as updates and photos from past projects, are all available on the Church's youth Web site at

www.ucgyouth.org/youthcorps/ and at www.ucg.org/youthcorps.

Specific questions can be directed to Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org. *U/N*



Teaching computer skills in Ghana; inset, scene from South African camp

Bible Reading Program News

The new Bible Reading Program was launched Feb. 1. Many visited the Web page (www.ucg.org/brp) even before the month began to download the first month's program in PDF format.

One reader commented: "Thank you for the new program of study. I have just downloaded a copy of the February studies, printed it and am getting ready to head for Office Max to start making copies. One copy will be conveniently left on the office break table. The format of the study should not offend and may be the enlightenment some are looking for. I look forward to many joyful hours of study."

For more information, see page 4.

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"GHANA," (Continued from page 1)
for years." Mr. Duah added, "we will never forget this special day."

The following day 33 elders and two congregational representatives of the Remnant Church of God met in the church's rented house in Kumasi for a historic meeting. Mr. McCullough first made welcome remarks to all those present, especially to the new UCG-recognized elders to whom he presented UCG ordination certificates.

Following this the official business of the meeting began. By unanimous ballots the elders and representatives voted to dissolve the Remnant Church of God, and associate as the United Church of God—Ghana, adopting a new constitution and bylaws based on the model of the United Church of God, *an International Association*. The new UCG—Ghana general conference then selected its first national council, which in turn selected association



Les McCullough and Melvin Rhodes fellowship with member Jonathan Oben-Atiemo

officers and began work on a strategic plan and budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Upon the recommendation of the UCG administra-

tion, Melvin Rhodes was approved by UCG—Ghana to act as senior pastor and liaison between UCGIA and UCG—Ghana to assist the latter in its integration into UCGIA.

It is planned that the remaining 22 elders formerly with the Remnant Church of God can in the near future be ordained and recognized as elders of the United Church of God according to the procedures outlined in UCGIA governing documents. *UN*

Reflections on the Trip to Ghana

by Tom Kirkpatrick

This was my first trip ever to a developing nation. It was an intense experience for an American. I've intellectually understood that the physical blessings and abundance we enjoy in the United States are unparalleled in the world, but there is an emotional impact when you actually experience the conditions under which many of the people of this world live. It is very difficult to put it into words. Some of them have so little, and yet the brethren we have there are just as much a part of the Body of Christ as we are here.

The simplest summary is to say that we should be very grateful for the blessings we have. It is so easy to be ungrateful and take our physical blessings for granted. Even more dangerous is the trap that material blessings can be, spiritually.

It is an odd aspect of human nature that some of the most ungrateful people are the ones who have the most. Sometimes, the more we have, the more we desire. Those swimming in wealth are the most eager to acquire more and more of it. One could almost come to the conclusion that those with just their basic needs met have an advantage over many of us in the developed nations, especially America.



Melvin Rhodes, Les McCullough, Tom Kirkpatrick and Joel Meeker try on the traditional Ghanaian shirts generously given to them

The part of the model prayer that says "give us this day our daily bread" has very real meaning to many in the developing world. Perhaps they sympathize with the "trial" it is for us to be so easily caught up in materialistic pursuits, or comparisons among ourselves over who has the most toys!

On the other hand, we sometimes see contentment and thankfulness from those who have the least. Our brethren in Ghana are warm and friendly. All of us from America on this trip were the recipients of their hospitality and friendliness.

There was a great spirit of joy and thankfulness at the Sabbath services in Kumasi, during which 11 elders of the former Remnant Church of God

were set apart, ordained, as pastors of the United Church of God. They might not have much of this world's goods, but they are not lacking in God's Holy Spirit, and a heartfelt desire to see the Kingdom of God come to the earth. They, too, want to be a part of helping Jesus Christ "restore all things" according to God's will. *UN*

Q&A: Looking for Leavening

Q. For those who have recently come into the Church and those of us with bad memories, could you list the names of types of leavening to look out for before the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

A. During Unleavened Bread we are to have no leaven or leavened products in our home (Exodus 12:15; 13:7). This includes any agent that produces fermentation and causes dough to rise—yeast, baking powder, baking soda, potassium bicarbonate and sodi-

um bicarbonate are ingredients to look for on labels. Items such as bread, cake, crackers, cookies and prepared cereals and pies that contain leavening must be put out. Doing this is symbolic of putting both the visible and hidden sins out of our lives.

Homemade cream puffs, angel food cake, popovers and sponge cake, while light and fluffy, need not contain any of the above ingredients. Most pie crust recipes (except for graham cracker crusts) are unleavened.

However, these products, when purchased from stores or bakeries, frequently do include leavening. Check the ingredient list.

Pita bread, flour tortillas and graham crackers, while flat, contain leavening. Even some brands of matzos marked "kosher for Passover" can also list baking soda or baking powder in the ingredients!

Brewer's yeast, yeast extract (a flavoring) and cream of tartar (a dry acid) are not leavening agents.

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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.ucgsa.org> the Southern Africa Web site.

Presidential Selection Process Nears Completion

by Gary Antion

The Council of Elders will ballot for the position of president of the United Church of God, an *International Association* (UCGIA), during its next round of meetings Feb. 27 to March 5. This will complete a process that was begun nearly one year ago.

When the Council met last year in March, one of its duties was to reaffirm its officers according to the bylaws (Section 9.1) established by the General Conference of Elders (GCE). This task is scheduled every three years. At the meetings last March, Les McCullough was given one more year to complete his presidency. This meant the Council had to search for a new president. Some members of the Ethics, Roles and Rules Committee were asked to meet to begin drawing up a process of selection to present to the Council.

Following the GCE meeting in May 2001, the Council briefly addressed the topic and gave some direction. In August 2001, the Council approved a process titled, "Process and Timeline for Selection of New Executive." At the conclusion of the meetings, each Council member was presented with copies of two booklets on recommended processes for choosing a chief executive. Each Council member was encouraged to read the material.

In September, the Council fine-tuned the document by establishing essential qualifications and abilities for a president. While the governing documents place the responsibility for selecting the officers in the hands of the Council of Elders (Constitution section 3.2.2.5), in October the input of the General Conference of Elders was sought for candidates for the position.

The GCE had the opportunity to put forth up to three names of elders of UCGIA. A list of 23 candidates for president was suggested by members of the GCE. Each candidate was asked, "Would you be willing to serve as president if the Council selected you?" The list was narrowed to nine, then six and finally to the final five by some withdrawing their names and by others not being advanced by the Council itself. (Each Council member put forth two names from the list of nine in the second round, then one name from the remaining list in the third round). Input was also sought from the home office staff through an anonymous questionnaire.

The final candidates filled out resumes with references and answered several questions of a demographic nature. The Council then created interview questions that were then sent to the candidates. Each of the remaining five final candidates—Roy

Holladay, Clyde Kilough, Dennis Luker, Les McCullough and Richard Pinelli—was sent the finalized interview questions. Each candidate then made a 45-minute presentation to a closed Council session in December. The candidates gave a sense of what they might do if selected as president and presented their vision for the Church. The Council then had the opportunity of questioning each candidate for up to 45 more minutes.

With a great deal of prayer and careful consideration, the 12 Council members will ballot on who will occupy this position of service to the Church in the next round of meetings.

Paul Kieffer, the chairman of UCG-Germany, wrote to the Council: "As the process for the selection of the president draws to its conclusion in the next weeks, please allow me to commend the Council for having exercised its responsibility in this regard in a well-planned and deliberate fashion. I doubt

that any leading corporate officer of the Church of God in its recent history will have been selected with as much planning, examination and prayerful deliberation. Kudos to you!

"On a personal note from Europe, what a marked contrast to the situation four years ago when the Council exercised its responsibility to make a change in the office of president. The criticism of the Council and its

motives greatly affected the United Church of God in Europe, as you know. The timely information via Council reports and *United News* has resulted in a totally different situation this time—a peaceful one, if I may say so."

Since the Council and president must work closely to effectively fulfill the Church's mission and to implement any new programs, it is essential that the Council select the appropriate person to fill that position. In Galatians 2:9, Paul wrote how

the leaders of the Church discerned that he was the one who was needed to go to the gentiles and gave him their approval through their handshake. In like manner, it is the Council, with God's guidance, who selects the individual to lead the management and operations. To this end, the prayers of the brethren are requested for the Council to perform its responsibility. It is fully expected that whether the current president, Les McCullough, is reappointed or replaced, that there will be a smooth transition of power as the bylaws (which all Council members and members of the General Conference of Elders have agreed to uphold) require.

The Church is more than one man and one position. The Church is composed of the faithful brethren shepherded by dedicated pastors and elders, overseen by the Council, officers and home office management team and staff and led by the living head, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23).

This new presidential selection process has been thorough, agreed upon and enacted. So, in one more month, the Council will select the president and announce to you the results. May God guide us all to support that prayerful choice. *UN*

Gary Antion serves as chairman of the Ethics, Roles, Rules Committee of the UCGIA Council of Elders.



Roy Holladay



Clyde Kilough



Dennis Luker



Les McCullough



Richard Pinelli

Excerpts From the Council of Elders' Feb. 6 Letter

In a letter dated Feb. 6, the Council of Elders asked the brethren to pray and, if possible, "set aside a day of fasting prior to the next Council meetings and beseech God to guide all the discussions and decisions that are before us..."

"We will be approving the Strategic Plan, the Operation Plan, the 2002-2003 budget, as well as the selection of the president." Other discussions will be on doctrine, planning the GCE meetings and reports from two international areas.

"The Council and the General Conference of Elders very much appreciate the solid and consistent support and participation that the members have given our system of governance. Thanks to that support and God's blessings, this method of administration has worked very well in United's seven-year history.

"One responsibility of the Council is to provide the oversight for the Church, which includes selecting and reaffirming the officers of the corporation. The Council will be exercising its responsibility in this regard at the upcoming meetings by selecting a presi-

dent. While the final decision will be made at these meetings, the Council has actually spent the last 11 months considering candidates, their qualifications, needs of the Church, biblical criteria for leadership positions, recommendations for the candidates and the selection process itself. By all standards, the Council has performed its responsibility prayerfully, thoroughly and deliberately..."

"When a president is selected, how will that affect the operation of the Church? Regardless of who is chosen we are confident that the work will move forward. We will continue preaching the gospel through the *Good News* magazine, *GN* radio programs, the Internet and our large stock of literature. Caring for the congregations is an equally important priority and it is the firm commitment of the Council to see that every congregation is being properly pastored, meets in good halls for Sabbath services and has enough funds to operate effectively. The Council is committed to being wise stewards of the Church's resources in order to fulfill the biblical commission for the Church. It is

the responsibility of the president and his staff to follow the policies and oversight of the Council in carrying out the day-to-day operations of the organization. The Council is dedicated to continuing to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all programs currently in operation..."

"By far the most important point to remember, though, is that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, the Great Shepherd and the Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 1:22; 2:20; Hebrews 13:20). It is to Him we look to lead, guide and direct the Church according to the will of the Father. Our focus is on Him and the work He has given us to do—and not on any man or group of men. He places us in the Body as it pleases Him (1 Corinthians 12:18). During the entire history of Israel and the New Testament Church, human leaders came and went—but the Father and Jesus Christ were always there, always constant (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). Our responsibility is to maintain faith and unity, walking in humility and love, knowing that God is on His throne and He will guide us (Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 4:1-6)." *UN*

New Bible Reading Program Launched Feb. 1

by Tom Robinson

As we continue our work of preaching God's truth and preparing Christ's Bride for His return, the United Church of God, *an International Association*, is preparing to launch a new Bible study program involving the entire Church. Adopted from the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, whose ministry was recently added to our own, the program is essentially a Bible reading program, in which we read through the entire Bible, book by book, within three years.

"Words of Eternal Life"

As CGCF's former president, Larry Salyer, explained when he first introduced the program, it is in the pages of the Bible itself that we find the "words of eternal life" (John 6:68). What better source of information, then, can we direct people to? Indeed, every Christian should make it a goal to read the entirety of God's Word. Reading the Bible from cover to cover provides us with a broad familiarity and overview of the truth God has revealed.

While we often stress the subject study method as the best way to understand what God has to say on a particular topic, the only way to be sure we know all that God has to say on *any* topic is to have read everything in the Bible. Consider that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would help bring Scripture to remembrance (John 14:26). Yet that requires us having heard or read it to start with. And if we haven't read the whole of God's written revelation before, the time to start is now.

Of course, as Mr. Salyer mentioned, there is also a need for ministerial guidance in our study of Scripture (Nehemiah 8:8; Acts 8:30-31; Romans 10:14-15). To that end, each month's issue of the program will, in addition to providing a reading schedule, pose some questions and give some commentary. We will cover the background, history and authorship of each book, discussing its time frame and major themes, the many intriguing people whose lives the Bible records for us, many of the doctrinal truths presented, interesting facts that bear on the readings, and the crucial lessons God wants us to learn. Sometimes participants will also be directed to supplementary, though usually optional, reading material from Church publications.

Shared Understanding and Greater Unity

Furthermore, we are asking our field ministry to deliver occasional sermons and Bible studies, or assign sermonettes, to supplement the program—perhaps once a month or so. However, just to actually have all participants reading the Bible—and reading it together—is the primary goal. Not only will some wish to delve deeper and study into things they are covering, but the

fact that members will be reading the same verses each day will engender conversation over what's been read—helping bring shared understanding and greater unity to the Body of Christ.

We are also inviting others to join with us in the program. Any visitors to our Web site will see a link to it. And the program has already been advertised in the *Good News* magazine.

It should also be mentioned that there will be breaks in the program around the

program, in addition to Noel Hornor, Don Hooser and Bob Berendt. Managing editor for the project will be Tom Robinson, who served in that capacity in CGCF.

Two-Tiered Program

The starting date for the new program was Feb. 1. It must be noted that it will be two-tiered. We are beginning fresh for newcomers to the program with Genesis. This will actually be the main program—*The Good News Bible Reading Program*—pro-

Of course, those of you in the continued program may also participate in the main program if you desire. Indeed, we encourage you to stay abreast of where the main program is, perhaps even regularly reviewing the material being covered by it as you are able so as to more fully participate in Church discussion.

Both programs, new and continued, will be posted on the Web—but the new one, as the official one, will be given greater prominence. In general, we will try to have a particular month's issue posted at least two weeks prior to its start date.

If You Can't Get It From the Internet...

While the BRP is an Internet-based program, this should, it is hoped, pose no problem for those without Web or e-mail access, as we are asking those who do have access to provide copies of the monthly program for those who don't. Please discuss this within your local congregation to see who needs what program (main or continued) and who can help whom. Pastors should coordinate this. Or if you are not able to attend anywhere, please contact the pastor for your area or the home office.

We hope you are excited about this new program and will join it with enthusiasm. As we focus on reading the Bible and letting its words dwell richly in us (Colossians 3:16), God will be pleased.

As we talk with one another in the fear of the Lord, bringing honor to His name, allowing Christ to complete the work in us, we can have confidence in the promise recorded in Malachi 3:16-17: "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate upon His name. 'They shall be Mine,' says the LORD of hosts, 'on the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.'"

Tom Robinson is an employee of Media and Communications Services, writer for *The Good News* and managing editor of the *Bible Reading Program*.



Bible Reading Program ad from the back cover of the January/February 2002 *Good News*

annual Festivals to allow more time for personal reading and Feast-related study during those periods.

The original idea for the Bible Reading Program came from a field pastor in the northeastern United States, Jack Hendren, formerly of CGCF. He had instituted a similar program in his church area locally, which turned out to be quite successful.

When he introduced the program to the whole of CGCF, he drew attention to the hours before Christ's final suffering. Jesus prayed to His Father for all His followers, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth . . . that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me . . . that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me" (John 17:17-23).

The resurrected Jesus Christ now serves as the living, active Head of the Church of God (Ephesians 1:22). He will accomplish the work of unity He discussed with the Father by cleansing the Church "with the washing of water by the word." He will remove its spots and blemishes and present it to Himself—radiant, holy and blameless (5:26-27). It is in light of yielding to Christ's work of unifying His Church that we undertake the Bible Reading Program.

Larry Salyer and Jack Hendren will continue to serve as official reviewers for

moted on the Web and in Church publications, etc. Much of the work on these already-published installments was already done in CGCF. However, these are being revamped.

The other tier of the program is for those who have already been participating. For them we will be continuing from where we left off, starting with the book of Isaiah. This will be referred to as the continued program.

This arrangement was carefully considered. One of the main purposes of the Bible Reading Program, as stated, is to have most of the Church reading the same parts of the Bible at the same time—to provoke biblical discussion between members. The two-tiered approach, granted, does hinder that somewhat. But another important purpose of the program, as mentioned, is to have all members read through the entirety of God's Word. And since the UCG at large has not been participating, a major goal is to have the membership start—and we realize that most of you are much more likely to start at a beginning point rather than late in the game (you'd be likely in that case to wait till it ends and starts up again). Yet if we had everyone start with Genesis, this could be discouraging to those of you who have persevered with the program already up to its present point. Many might drop out altogether. With the two-tiered approach, we will add the most new participants and retain the involvement of past participants.

Program Highlights

Where? www.ucg.org/brp

When? Starting Feb. 1 readings and commentary have been posted for daily use, but each month's program can also be downloaded in PDF format and printed out for those who can't access the Internet.

Interesting Comment: "I am interested in your upcoming BRP. Please let me know when it will start. I work for the postal service and noticed the announcement on the back of...your publications."

International News...

Philippines Office Opens; *UN* Philippines Reports on Growth

Approaching the anniversary of the sixth year since the United Church of God in the Philippines was incorporated, God has provided an office facility where His work can be done in a more organized manner.

After about two years of gradual construction, the facility was finally inaugurated by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and dedicated for God's work by prayer led by Edmond Macaraeg on Dec. 1. Church leaders and members in the area attended the ceremony.

The facility, which is part of a new two-story, concrete, tile-floored building, consists of a ministerial services office and an operations department office consisting of 240 square feet of air-conditioned office space, 130 square feet of lobby area, plus 80 square feet of storage room on the first floor—bringing the total area to about 450 square feet. The office facility is part of a two-building complex in a secure 300-square-meter property in Buhangin, Davao City.

Equipped with two telephone lines, Internet, cable and fax connections, the UCG Philippine office takes care of ministerial services for all the congregations in the Philippines, plus acts as a link with the home office in the United States and other UCG offices around the world. It also takes care of business office operations—bookkeeping, accounting, maintaining the ucg.org.ph Web site, video and VCD production, church music services, *Good News* circulation file maintenance, mailing operations and media promotions.

Philippine Mailing Operations

About three months ago, the Church in the Philippines started processing and mailing out literature to the subscribers in the Philippines. Charles Macaraeg, while studying at Ambassador Bible Center in 2001, was trained at the home office for this purpose.

There are over 4,000 subscribers to the *Good News* magazine (approximately 1,000 over last year) and 324 people on the *Bible Study Course*. The office receives about 500 requests through the mail and about 30 requests through the Internet each month. Aside from *The Good News* (which is still being mailed from the United States since it is cheaper and more efficient to bulk-mail it from there) the office processed and mailed out a total of 1,026 pieces of mail last month.

In a move to streamline operations, all the church pastors agreed Dec. 14 to transfer the *Good News* mailing address from Makati to Davao beginning with the January-February 2002 issue.

National Council Meeting Fruitful

The National Council (also known as the Board of Trustees) conducted a general membership meeting on Dec. 30 at the

Benjamin Hall in Bacolod City to discuss, modify and approve certain amendments to the original articles of incorporation and bylaws of the United Church of God, *IA* (Philippines) dealing with structure and organization. The Council agreed to set the number of Council members to seven. The Council also discussed and agreed to the creation of a management team to carry out the day-to-day activities of the work in the Philippines.

It was a harmonious and peaceful meeting, and everyone seemed to want to move forward together in getting on with the Work of God in this part of the world.

Member Acquires FM Station

Local Church leader Elbert Gargar, who lives in the capital town of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, with his wife, Florabelle, and their two children, recently acquired a small FM radio station through a development project initiated by a national broadcasting company.

Mr. Gargar has had some background in radio broadcasting while in college and has been through Spokesman Club, so Mr. Macaraeg encouraged him to experiment doing a local religious broadcast in Cebuano. In consultation with Media operations manager Peter Eddington, Mr. Macaraeg said the U.S. English radio program cannot be used “as is” because of the frequent reference to “*Good News* radio,” which is a name already associated with another religious station in the Philippines. Also, the U.S. version is specifically targeted for U.S. audiences.

The Church in the Philippines asks for the prayers of the brethren for God's will in this matter. They hope that broadcasts can be started early in 2002. Based on this experiment, they will evaluate the effectiveness of radio before trying the big cities.

Elder Ordained in Bacolod

During Sabbath services in Bacolod City Dec. 29, one more servant was ordained to the work of God. Norman Retita Julag-ay of Bacolod was ordained an elder in the UCGIA. Edmond Macaraeg, pastor from Davao City, and Florante Siopan, an elder of the Bacolod congregation, officiated in the ordination ceremony.

Mr. Julag-ay works as regional director for the National Statistics Office.

Camp 2002 Goes Higher

From the plains and the island of last year's camp, camp 2002 will once again move to higher ground.

For the first seven days (April 14 to 20) we will hold camp at Eden Nature Park (www.edennaturepark.com), a new and beautiful mountain resort cradled at 2,630 feet on the slopes of Mt. Talomo. The camp has breathtaking views of the Davao Gulf and the majestic Mt. Apo.

Camp activities will include rappelling down cliffs, hiking through lush pine forests and streams, identifying various kinds of wild animal and plant life, swimming, dance, riflery, volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, table tennis, badminton, fishing, backwoods engineering and more!

The next five days (April 21 to 25) will involve a 10,311-foot ascent to the Philippines' highest peak, Mt. Apo.

For further inquiries, please contact the camp director, Edmond Macaraeg, at ed_macaraeg@ucg.org. International visitors are always more than welcome.

Bible Study Course Ad Runs in Yellow Pages

Last July 6, we decided to run a quarter-page ad featuring our free 12-lesson *Bible Study Course* in the yellow pages of the 2001-2002 Davao PLDT Telephone Directory. The ad directs readers to the source of the answers to their deepest questions about life and the Bible. The ad is found under the heading “Churches.” The Church is also listed as a highlighted white-page entry, with our Web site and telephone number.

New GN Outlet Opened

When SM-City Davao opened Nov. 17, the idea for a *Good News* outlet was born. This became a reality when we placed 100 copies of the November-December issue on National Bookstore counters Dec. 24, bringing the total number of *GN* outlets in Davao to three. The other two are at Blessings Christian Bookstore at JS Citimall and National Bookstore in Gaisano Mall of Davao. We were able to get to know the Davao manager of National Bookstore since she was a *Plain Truth* subscriber in her college days up until she said it was no longer available.

This material is from United News Philippines, www.ucg.org.ph/unpvol1no1.htm.

UCG-Germany Publishes 2001 Stats and News From Holland

The January-February issue of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine was mailed to 3,928 subscribers in mid-January, a 23.4 percent increase over the previous issue.

Responses continue to come in from the half-page ad that appeared in November in the health food magazine *Schrot & Korn*. To date 1,843 responses have been received at an average cost per response of \$4.45.

UCG-Germany's income for the year 2001 was 1.8 percent higher than in 2000. Normal donation income increased by 2.0 percent and the offerings on the seven annual Holy Days were 1.2 percent higher than the previous year.

During the year 2001 UCG-Germany received a total of 3,503 pieces of “mail,” an increase of 8.2 percent over the previous year. Of the total, 282 were received as requests by fax and another 202 requests came in as e-mails. The mail total for 2001 was the highest yearly total so far.

UCG-Germany reprinted the booklet about God's Holy Days in January. This is the second booklet already published that needed to be reprinted when its initial print run was depleted.

UCG-Germany's 12th booklet, *Making Life Work*, has been completed.

In a test at the end of January *Intern* (German-language *United News*) is being offered for the first time to regular subscribers of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine. The readers selected for the test have all been subscribers to *Gute Nachrichten* for four years, have ordered literature and have also renewed their subscription. If the response is good, this offer will become part of UCG-Germany's regular direct mail program.

New Booklets and Pastor for Holland

UCG Holland's third booklet, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, was printed at the

end of December. Work continues on *The Road to Eternal Life and Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*

UCG Holland pastor Paul Kieffer said farewell to UCG Holland brethren at Sabbath services on Jan. 19. Although he will continue to visit the Netherlands occasionally as a guest speaker, a change in the Kieffer's family situation prevents Mr. Kieffer from continuing to shoulder the pastoral responsibility for the Netherlands in addition to his duties in the German-language region. John Jewell, Council of Elders member and senior minister in the United Kingdom, is the new UCG Holland pastor.

UCG-Germany will continue to provide editorial and address file support for UCG Holland.

This information is from the Jan. 23 UCG-Germany e-mail update. To receive updates, write to info@gutenachrichten.org.

Good News Circulation Around the World

Anguilla1	Cyprus3	Indonesia227	Nauru2	St. Kitts & Nevis7
Antigua & Barbuda9	Czech Republic26	Iran155	Netherlands808	St. Lucia430
Argentina297	Democratic Rep. of Congo1	Iraq12	Netherlands Antilles5	St. Vincent & Grenadines7
Aruba2	Denmark10	Ireland30	New Caledonia2	Sweden159
Australia10,137	Dominica304	Isle of Man45	New Zealand1,861	Switzerland43
Austria55	Dominican Republic19	Israel6	Nicaragua48	Tahiti2
Bahamas466	Ecuador51	Italy5,340	Nigeria934	Taiwan6
Bahrain6	Egypt31	Ivory Coast1	Niue Island3	Tanzania45
Bangladesh1	El Salvador901	Jamaica1,785	Norway13	Thailand31
Barbados1,287	Eritrea10	Japan19	Oman9	Togo6
Belarus15	Estonia12	Jordan7	Pakistan74	Tonga2
Belgium46	Ethiopia216	Kazakhstan1	Panama38	Trinidad & Tobago2,312
Belize6	Finland13	Kenya813	Papua New Guinea259	Tunisia2
Benin1	Fiji200	Kuwait14	Paraguay4	Turkey15
Bermuda12	France29	Kyrgyzstan1	Peru1,255	Turks & Caicos3
Bolivia166	French Guiana1	Latvia11	Philippines5,271	Uganda4
Bosnia-Herzegovina6	French Polynesia1	Lebanon5	Poland25	Ukraine43
Botswana5	Gabon2	Libya8	Portugal22	United Arab Emirates36
Brazil124	Gambia93	Lithuania18	Qatar3	United Kingdom1,511
British Virgin Islands1	Germany3,780	Luxembourg11	Romania21	Uruguay15
Brunei1	Ghana652	Macau2	Russia63	United States412,301
Bulgaria16	Greece17	Madagascar2	Rwanda2	Uzbekistan1
Cameroon23	Grenada6	Malawi225	Samoa3	Vanuatu14
Canada13,140	Guadeloupe1	Malaysia223	Saudi Arabia50	Venezuela99
Cayman Islands2	Guatemala1,234	Malta11	Seychelles1	Vietnam18
Central African Republic2	Guinea2	Martinique2	Sierra Leone3	Yugoslavia34
Chile2,557	Guinea-Bissau1	Mauritius242	Singapore65	Zambia281
China26	Guyana224	Mexico5,100	Slovakia14	Zimbabwe1,005
Colombia275	Haiti1	Moldova10	Solomon Islands10	
Cook Islands2	Honduras78	Morocco2	South Africa7,810	
Costa Rica83	Hong Kong40	Myanmar31	South Korea14	
Croatia12	Hungary14	Namibia3	Spain33	
Cuba111	India753		Sri Lanka27	

TOTAL489,171
Includes all language editions and versions as of the January-February 2002 issue.

Youth Camps...

Campers Experience “Wonderfully Uplifting” Camp Down Under

“Nearly everyone I spoke to said it was their best camp ever—it does seem they get better with each year,” said Paul McQueen, 21, from Melbourne, describing the latest camp in Australia.

Martin Kusz, 21, from Wollongong, who has been to every camp except for one since the beginning of United camps said: “The attitude of all the campers was outstanding. It is great to see the younger campers and the new campers take on what we have taken many camps to achieve.”

Or as Bruce Dean wrote to the 40 donors from throughout Australia who donated over \$4,000 towards helping campers attend camp: “I wish you could all have been at camp to see what a great group of young people we have in the Church. I can say without any exaggeration that I have never worked with such a fine group of young people in all the years of working at summer camps. God is working in their lives in a great way and they are responding very positively.”

This was our second year at Camp Mac on the banks of Lake Macquarie, the largest salt-water lake in Australia. We had 55 campers ranging from 11 to 23 years of age

and 18 staff members. We have developed a program of using the older campers as leaders while still being campers. Some older campers are dorm leaders while others are activity team leaders. The camp is divided into four teams covering all ages for activities, while dorms are divided in age groups. Our aim is to develop leadership skills in our older campers while they act as older brothers and sisters by still participating in all aspects of camp life.

Our program had to be adjusted because of the high winds that the region experienced, which fanned the many fires around Sydney. We had to cancel sailing in the afternoon twice and the canoe trips had to carry their canoes overland as the high winds in the afternoon made it too difficult to paddle back. We also had to cancel our evening bonfires due to total fire bans and our last hike was canceled as all National Parks were closed during the crisis. The fires did provide the most incredible sunsets, and campers would go down to the lakeside pool and watch brilliant sunsets over the mountains. The Sabbath sunset was quite moving.

Our theme for our morning Christian Living classes was the Ten Commandments with our ministers rotating through the three different age groups.

This year we had a series of life skills activities. Omar and Jacqui Afiouni presented team-building exercises; Felicia Stokes gave a

health and fitness presentation to the senior girls; Bruce Dean presented activities to

teach empathy and communication skills and, for the older campers, principles of dating.

We also had speech workshops for each age group, followed by a speech banquet where a girl and boy from each age group spoke. The young people did an outstanding job considering they had only one or two days in between activities to prepare.

We have a camp tradition of having a semiformal last evening. This year we had some added highlights. We had a live band perform, made up of young people from the Sydney area—Matt Sieff, Peter Forster, Martin Kusz and Jamie Ryan. This really added to the atmosphere on the last night. We also had the finals of line dancing, which had been part of the dance classes. The campers were thrilled to watch a slide show from the CD-ROM developed over the last days of camp.

Jemima Robertson, 19, from Brisbane summarized it all well when she wrote: “The Bible studies, activities, people and overall Christian spirit at the camp combined to make it a wonderfully uplifting experience.”

Bruce Dean



Early morning Bible study and sailing at Camp Mac

"The Zone" Descends Upon Winter Camp

Winter's first snow in southern Wisconsin descended just in time for camper orientation on Sunday, Dec. 23, and nicely set the stage for a record 87 enthusiastic campers to enjoy "the Zone" at this unique United Youth Camp. The seventh annual UCG Winter Camp emphasized that God's way of life does work in the lives of youth on a day-to-day basis in their relationships.

At orientation, campers welcomed one another and learned that they came from 16 states and three nations, including campers from Mexico and Canada. It was a joy to see the campers make new friends and renew friendships as they went through a combination of indoor and outdoor activities during the four-day camp.

Relationships were emphasized in daily "Compass Check" Christian Living classes. Jim Servidio taught "The Early Life of Christ," Dave Myers discussed the need to include others in our relationships, while



Doug Horchak discussed how to have a daily compass check by studying the Bible. Dave and Pam Myers each conducted a class on "Modesty," which included concepts dealing with male/female relationships.

Special guests included Dave Treybig, a member of the Camp Team. Two question-



Scenes from Winter Camp (group shot by Bob Fahey Jr.)

and-answer sessions allowed the campers to ask questions of the ministry about the Bible and practical situations in life. Daily dorm inspections encouraged campers to keep their dorm rooms and personal items clean and neat.

Dance class helped the campers to learn new dance steps that they displayed at the two camp dances decorated with the theme "Tropical Paradise." Other activities included photography, newsletter class, floor hockey, orienteering, basketball, volleyball, team challenge, novelty Olympics, game night and arts and crafts. A traditional favorite at Winter



Camp is the fun show, and each dorm contributed a skit or a musical presentation. The staff and campers thoroughly enjoyed the show and the talent that was displayed.

All these activities were designed to help campers

bond as a dorm, bond to one another and grow in their spiritual life with God. According to the campers, it worked. Special thanks to our very dedicated staff for generously giving of their time and talents to these future leaders. We commend all the campers for growing in their commitment to God and increasing their understanding of "the Zone" that pictures God's true way of life.

Winter Camp in 2002 is scheduled for Dec. 22-26. Many photos and camp stories of this year's camp can be found on the Winter Camp Web site at www.wintercamp.org.

Steve Nutzman

Chile Camp Successful, But Too Short

The summer (summer for this part of the world) camp for the youth in Chile began Dec. 28 in Maitencillo, which is the same place where we have the Feast of Tabernacles. Normally the camp is in La Serena and starts several days earlier than the one we just had. This last one was a little shorter than the normal camp because my family and I were just transferred from Guatemala and needed first to take care of some personal items before having the camp.

The 38 happy campers and eight adults

(which happened late at night) and went to bed. Each cabin had an adult to "keep the youngsters in order."

On the Sabbath we had services in the morning and a Bible study in the afternoon. All of the subjects were, of course, dedicated exclusively to the youth of the Church.

On the other days we had an hour called "Remember Your Creator" in which each person studied his or her Bible and prayed. There was complete silence in the facilities. After that we had a Bible study with questions and answers.

In the afternoon we normally had sports on the beach, and later an hour for the campers to give short speeches on their worries, their problems, their expectations and their plans for the future.

All of the meals were served by the employees of the facility. After dinner we normally had an activity for fellowship. We had a dance, a night for organized games and a mini-talent show.

The comments from the campers were very positive. They all had only one complaint:

The camp was too short. Next year we plan to have a full camp.

At the end of each day I would think the campers would be very tired and ready for bed, but that was not the case. Every night they asked me for permission to take a walk to a hill behind the hotel. There they continued to fellowship, laugh and sing. They normally went to bed at 1 in the morning, but were again ready for activities at 8!

Saul Langarica



Chilean campers on the beach at Maitencillo

departed from our Church office in Santiago boarding three small buses. The whole way to Maitencillo everyone was already in a happy camp mentality. All of the youth were singing, telling jokes and laughing a lot. That afternoon we had a meeting of instruction before the Sabbath began.

All of the boys stayed in one cabin and all of the girls in another. That was very successful because they continued with their laughter and singing until they got tired

93 Enjoy Youth Camp in Guatemala

There was a little of everything for the 93 potential leaders of the Church at the youth camp in Guatemala: sports, talent, jokes and sermons aimed at the actual needs of young people today. All of the campers participated very enthusiastically in all of the activities. As in the last two years, the camp was held in Chimaltenango, about 30 miles from the capital, Guatemala City. The camp ran from Dec. 14 to 20.

There were 16 hard-working staff members from Guatemala, El Salvador, the United States and Honduras. This team

cooked and sang for the campers from their heart. Our motto was "all for them."

During the six intense days of camp, friendships were strengthened and mutual service was practiced. Some of the campers who came for the first time expressed their satisfaction and surprise at having the opportunity to be involved in activities that looked at the pressures of a society going away from God and helped them deal with these pressures. These campers are already making plans to attend again next year.

Luis Mundo Tello



Some of the campers in Guatemala making signals of "victory"

Camp Volunteers: We Couldn't Do It Without You!

by Larry Greider

Another year of summer camp is now history and memories. The laughter, encouragement, high fives, itching mosquito bites, sunburns and heartaches are now just reflections in our mind and hearts. Each year we get letters thanking the staff for their efforts to make the United Youth Camps so special and I would like to take the time to express our appreciation to all those who volunteer their time to work on the staff at one of our eight regional camps.

This year we had over 400 men and women come to camp to work long hours without pay, often giving up vacation time to make an investment in the lives of our future leaders. I asked some of these valiant workers why they came to camp, and this will be their story. (Besides these we have the majority of our full-time ministry offer to come to help as well.)

Barry Richey of Dallas, Texas, worked at Camp Carter and explains the phenomena:

"From the outside looking in, one might assume these are all highly-skilled and well-paid staff members doing a phenomenal job. This would be correct if properly understood that highly-skilled means they love what they are doing and care deeply for the welfare of the young people entrusted to them. More perfectly understood, when well-paid means that the smiles, laughter and thank yous heard so often from these young people add a new dimension to their lives.

"The staff at Camp Carter as well as all the United Youth Camps come out to do more than just a job. Anyone can do a job. They come out to do a work of building character, instilling lessons and creating great memories. [They] do more than simply follow a routine or keep a schedule. These workers are the people of God, so much more than just the staff at camp. As such, there is a beauty found contained in their hearts that this world cannot produce. A special 'something extra' that can't be bought with money nor built and groomed into one not having the Spirit of God in and around them.

"This 'something extra' is a 'servant's heart.' Anyone can be paid to do a job, but there is no guarantee they will consistently put their hearts into it. In much the same way, anyone can serve. They can put forth an effort when it fits their schedule or doesn't inconvenience them too much. They can give a little time or offer a few dollars to help with a worthwhile project. But the staff at these camps are not just anyone. For these with a 'servant's heart' do more than just serve. They willingly make a sacrifice. One of time away from their families, sometimes a loss of income from work. They use precious vacation time to be here, and they forfeit their normal time to relax and often their time to sleep. They are up at daybreak working 16 to 18 hour days, walking many miles a day in 100-degree heat caring for the little ones entrusted to their care. The absolute beauty of it all

is this: Because they have this 'servant's heart,' they don't feel they have made a sacrifice at all. They love every minute of it. To sit in the dining hall and listen to the buzz of the day, to hear the laughter, to witness the successes of each day are like sweet music to their ears. They give so much yet feel the rewards to be worth much more than the effort.

"Nowhere in this present world can such a thing be found. Only within the family of God is this demonstrated year in and year out. True servants of the Living God being blessed by the sacrifices they make. Young people seeing firsthand that God's way works. The preparation of a new generation to assist in ushering in the very principles they learn at camp to a new world to come. No one else could do what God's people can do.

"Like the swinging pendulum of a fine clock, everything moves and changes in time. It's the sweet sound of success at its best, the beauty of God's people doing a great job. Can you hear it? There is no other sound like it."

Another staff member, **Michelle Elliott**, a counselor at Oakhurst, writes the following:

"This year was my first experience ever to be a counselor at one of our United Youth Camps. As a college student with a goal of being a teacher, I benefited greatly by the experience. Not only did I get to meet nine of the coolest 11-year-olds around, but I was able to be their 'mom,' sister and friend for a week straight. We bonded in ways that I could never imagine bonding with anyone but my own children. We slept together, ate together, played together and laughed together. They all cared and looked out for one another as they would for one of their own sisters.

"Each night around the Oakhurst 'camp-fire' (which was never lit) all of the dorms



Michelle Elliott and her G2 dorm at archery

would do a cheer for either themselves or for their brother dorm. My girls did not need one piece of guidance when it came to coming up with cheers. Each night they would develop ideas, asking for suggestions from time to time, but each cheer was completed by the work of the girls, not the efforts of the counselor. They defined the concept of teamwork in my eyes.

"Respect was the theme of Oakhurst this year. I feel that the whole camp felt that. Respect was given to all of the staff

and returned to all of the campers. When the younger children wanted to play a sport, the older children invited them to join them and they encouraged them. They respected the younger children's feelings.

"I feel that the camp experience is so much greater and much more meaningful as a counselor. You can really see God working with and through even the youngest of children. As a counselor I was able to take a step out and serve and make sure everyone else was having their best camp experience. In turn, I had my best camp experience. I want to thank Courtney, Britini, Elena, Victoria, Janelle, Lacey, Stephanie, Ashley and Sarah for being the best girls a camp 'mom' could ever ask for."

Pattie Wayne, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a staff worker at Pinecrest, observes:

"United Youth Camp at Pinecrest is like a 'mini-Feast'! A beautiful setting in Missouri and very comfortable quarters, 'working' at Pinecrest for a week was a wonderful break from my usual hectic routine. I didn't realize how much 'attitude' I deal with on a regular basis in the world and how different working with God's people would be. I came to camp to serve and learn, but it was a very fun experience. It was great to rub shoulders with old friends and meet new people. There is a wonderful sense of camaraderie at camp. The daily compass checks and Christian Living classes were thought provoking and helpful. Since they are interactive, it was interesting to see what subjects our children have on their minds.

"Our local church puts on a preteen camp every summer. I always thought it would be great to see how the United Youth Camps operate and pick up many pointers to help our preteen camp run smoother. Since both of my kids were old enough to come to camp this year, it was a great opportunity for all of us to go to camp. My kids, aged 12 and 13, loved their experience at camp and have already asked if we can go to camp again."

Leah Gibson, who served at Camp McKenzie, shares this insight:

"After a busy school year of being involved in my children's classrooms, president of the PTA, community volunteer, Sabbath school teacher, etc., I think that I look forward to summer vacation as much as my kids do! Why then, do I take 10 days of my summer break to volunteer at Camp McKenzie? The answer is simple. I am mentally and spiritually renewed after being at camp, though physically exhausted! The daily Bible studies, the positive atmosphere (the 'Zone'), the fantastic staff, the amazing

youth, all do more to rejuvenate my mind and spirit than anything else I'm involved in all year. It's truly a millennial atmosphere, where we partake of meals together, pray together, laugh together and all share a common goal of growing in our relationship with God and teaching our youth to do the same. I wish for everyone the opportunity to volunteer at a United Youth Camp. Be prepared to get back way more than you are able to give!"

Jill Stefanin, who served at McKenzie, shares her concern about volunteering:

"When I decided to apply to Camp McKenzie as a worker for the first time this year, I was a bit hesitant. I talked to a couple of friends who had worked there before. They convinced me that it was an experience



Volunteers at Pinecrest (photo by Gary Black)

that I would never forget. Were they right! Camp is such a wonderful place to go for the teens as well as the staff!

"Arriving at camp for the training session, I decided to put all my worries behind me and concentrate on the youth. I wanted so much to set a good example and put the kids first. I was so enthralled with the camaraderie of the staff, how they could discuss issues of a serious nature and still joke with one another. The feeling of unity really reigned.

"The morning before the campers arrived, there was a buzz of excitement in the air. The focus shifted to preparing for the kids. As last minute details were being worked out, the air of anticipation was growing. I was able to experience for myself what everyone was telling me about!

"I went over my schedule many times and then went into the dorm to pray; I wanted to have all my focus on the kids. Everyone was telling me what hard work it was going to be during the week and how well worth it it would be.

"Finally the kids started arriving. I had to be at the pool to watch the kids who wanted to swim. As the kids came, I began to play a few games with them. We made little competitions out of seeing who could splash the most when they jumped in. The boys especially loved this! By the time free time was over, all my fears were completely erased!

"The rest of camp was as wonderful as the first day. It was very inspiring to see the kids interact with their counselors just as if they were family. And the counselors treated

the kids with respect and just like a younger brother or sister. The way the youth interacted was inspiring also. They worked together and supported and encouraged one another. When someone was afraid, the whole dorm would cheer them on. It was a wonderful sight to see.

"Camp was by far the best experience I'd had in a long time! Yes, it was a lot of work; but it felt more like play. And that was because of the campers! They were the ones who made camp so worthwhile. We as staff went there to teach the kids, but in doing so, we also learned something from the kids. Christ said to become childlike; and we can see at camp more what that means. At camp you don't really hear complaining, there is no belittling or put-downs. Everyone works together for the good of everyone. It is quite a humbling experience. By the end of camp, I was physically exhausted, but spiritually refreshed! I sure hope to return next year and see some of the kids I got to know this year and meet new ones. I am also looking forward to renewing friendships I have with other staff members!"

Gina McCrady, who served on the Camp Carter staff, asked, "What is a week worth?" I think you'll enjoy her insights:

"What is a week worth? Well that depends.

A week of what? A week of not doing dishes or mowing the grass might seem worthwhile, but a week away from your husband, that is worth big bucks. Add to it a week away from your 2-year-old, her smiles and laughter, her hugs and kisses, a bedtime story each night—now we are talking priceless. A week away from everything I love is worth more than anything money can buy! So the real question should be: Why would a young adult in the family of our great God take an entire week away to serve at the United Youth Camps?

"I had the opportunity to serve at Camp Carter in Ft. Worth, Texas, this year and loved every minute of it. I started early each day with a routine that could only be rivaled by the energy needed for a 2-year-old. The only difference is that she usually gives up by 8 p.m., and this job often kept going on until the wee hours of the night. So why did I do this? To some the answer is so simple, to others it may be hard to understand and to a few it may go unseen. To me I can sum it up in a word. IGIIIW (well, if you're a 2-year-old, it could be a word). It simply stands for: **If God Is In It, It Works!** Not too many years ago I was at a summer camp where others set the stage for me, not to just learn something academically, but to see it with my heart. That lesson was this: God's way works. A week away from my family is indeed worth a lot. But the opportunity to open young people's eyes to the calling being granted them is worth far more.

"For me the simple part is that I am just

a few years older. Young people at camp look at the volunteer staff, not as they might their parents, but as big brothers and sisters. They see that we made it in spite of [the] difficulties presented to one who chooses to follow God. I remember clearly not being a part of a sports team during junior high and high school because the Sabbath day was a big issue. Explaining why you cannot attend an activity on Friday night is not always enjoyable.

"Camp takes away those obstacles. However, being at camp is more than being in a protected environment of so many doing the same things. The campers interact with the staff. They ask us questions, and they begin to look at things differently. The payoff for us is worth more money than can ever be offered for our services. We get to see the lights going on through a lifted eyebrow, the glow in their eyes and the smiles on their faces. Proof positive, if God is in it, it works!



Heritage volunteers

"I can remember the challenges because they are not that far removed. These young people entrusted to our care for a week are touched just as much by what they see as what they do. They won't recognize it at first—I didn't. But the experience is etched into memory and will be nurtured by the Spirit of God. God will call to mind more than the thrill of a specific victory or accomplishment. He will also help them remember the feelings of safety and security that accompany following His way. They will remember the people who served and the relationships developed in such a short time. In time they will begin putting two and two together with an understanding that God's way doesn't just work. They will see that if God is in it, it works really well! What they lived for a week can be theirs for a lifetime. Marriage with someone of a like mind called to the same great purpose as they are. Happy families working side by side as my family did this year for the sheer joy of sharing this most wonderful of messages: If God is in it, it works.

"Mommy, mommy it's time to get up." Nothing on this earth could be more precious for me to hear each morning as I strive to make God's way work in my life. But guess what? Next year we will willingly separate again for a week so that others just like me 10 years ago, can experience firsthand the miracle in the making. It is an awareness that shines brighter than any light ever made by man. It is an awareness that God's way works really well. An awareness that they too want to be a part of this way as they become the

next generation of counselors and assistants and, more importantly, sons and daughters in God's family."

Fred Crow explains why he volunteers at Camp Oakhurst:

"A coworker once asked why I volunteer for youth camp each year. It was a good question. Time off work is a precious commodity and has value. Offering a week of time is quite a donation. Why did I volunteer?

"It couldn't be because I enjoyed moving from a comfortable home to a dormitory existence replete with squeaky, spring-framed beds, lumpy mattresses and snoring companions that offered no privacy. It couldn't be because I wanted to experience modern life with all the inconveniences of doing without. It couldn't be because I enjoyed eating camp cuisine made en masse and served en masse in a loud and crowded dining hall.

"Probably not. I'm not partial to lolling about in dust and dirt and enduring bug bites, heat and humidity. So the question remains, why do I volunteer for camp duty year after year? What brings me back?

"Could it be that I, too, enjoy being in the camper's safe 'Zone,' void of negative, critical comments and attitudes? Could it be that I am energized when surrounded by young people excited by the camp experience willing to prove 'God's way works'? Could it be that I am thrilled when I see personal growth borne from facing and exceeding camp challenges? Could it be that I enjoy the family camaraderie and closeness of campers and staff in a not-so-millennial environment? More than likely.

"If I were to bank my vacation time, I would grudgingly receive back only what I put on deposit along with minimal interest. However, by banking my time at youth camp, the return exceeds my every expectation every time.

"Against all mathematical logic, the more I give in service to others—in this case, the most precious of resources, our youth—the more I receive. The more I receive the more I have to share.

"Albert Schweitzer once stated, 'I don't

know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.' He understood the personal value of giving.

"I could give money. But then I'm out money. I would not receive 10 times what I gave. By giving of myself, of my time and energy, I find I am unable to fully measure the return. It is a spiritual law in action.

"Returns can be unexpected encouragement. This year, between water sessions at

Bass Lake, Oakhurst, a lady approached me asking what group we represented. She and her companions were enjoying the peaceful lake and took note of our kids. I told her. She said she had noticed us last year and wanted to tell me 'how impressed we are with your campers' behavior!' I was pleased to receive this public praise for our young people. It was a real demonstration that living God's way will be noticed...and that being a volunteer played a part."

The United Youth Camp Team is comprised of camp directors and other administrators who work hard at putting together a cost-effective program to connect our youth to the work of the Church. Our camp directors meet at the end of the summer camp season to plan for the next year. Our greatest asset is the fine volunteer staff that works our plans with skill and enthusiasm. Matt Fenchel, member of the team and a camp director, observes the following:

"The best compliment that I can give the staff at this year's Camp McKenzie was that they fulfilled the role of mentor very well. Every year we stress that 'who you are' is more important than the specific skills you bring to camp, because the 'who you are' is going to make the biggest impression on the campers. Overall, the staff at McKenzie showed themselves to be the converted, committed, mature, friendly, caring, fun people that are ideal as staff. The campers left camp knowing that they had bonded with caring adults who will be additional pillars in their lives. Thanks, staff, for another outstanding year!"

On behalf of all the team, parents and teens, thank you staff volunteers for your sacrifice and service.

Larry W. Greider, camp coordinator of UYC



Phil Dick



Fred Crow

If You Would Like to Serve

If you've decided you'd like to join the dedicated team of volunteers who serve at United Youth Camps, you will need to fill in three forms:

- Application (each camp has its own form based on its specific needs).
- Health History and Examination Form.
- Youth Program Volunteer Application Supplement (for all but UYG employees) -or-
- Youth Program Employee Application Supplement (for employees of United Church of God, an International Association).

Check the UYG main Web site at www.ucg.org/youthcamp or the United Youth camp page at www.ucgyouth.org/youthcamp. They will direct you to a page from which you can download the forms as one file. Or you can contact the camp director to request them.

What are your hopes and desires? Many in the United States and the Western world enjoy great blessings and have much to live with. Sadly, many don't have that much to live *for*. The wise King Solomon moaned, "All is vanity."

Sixty million Americans are overweight. The ballooning of America may be indicative of a malaise that strangles true success. I doubt if most people want to carry the extra pounds. It just sort of happens—much like a lot of life.

Why are some people able to achieve more fulfillment and deal with the ups and downs of life? Perhaps there are keys that predict why some have a more meaningful life.

Ability to Make a Commitment

What do you want to do with your life? We all need dreams and goals. Ready-made entertainment and distractions can easily fill the vacuum of a day, week, month and, eventually, a life. If your goals aren't clear and powerful, they will drown in the sea of distractions around you like so many pieces of driftwood.

Make a Commitment

It is rare to find people who stay with a house, car, job or even a marriage for too

Making a Success of Your Life

The ability to make and keep a commitment has become rare, and even more important.

by Larry W. Greider

long in the frenetic pace of this modern era. With so many options and an urge to try the new, it is easy to abort plans and dreams. Technology marches ahead and you are often out of date before you start. Perhaps societal changes affect our ability to stay with a plan. A few years ago, when outlining a baptismal counseling class, I realized I had to add a step in teaching about making a commitment. That was how to gain the ability to make one! Sadly, many are too influenced by the world around them, and staying a course (any course) is difficult.

Four hundred years ago America's forefathers were driven by a dream of religious freedom and embarked on the adventure of their lifetime. They sought for a New World and new way of life. A transat-

lantic voyage was risky at best with the threat of sickness, bad weather and hostile Indians. When the United States began there were very trying tests that could have discouraged even the most valiant. John Adams wrote to his wife and trusted confidante, Abigail, after the signing of the Declaration of Independence: "I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend



Make the Commitment

Commitments need conviction coupled with a resolve to stay the course, no matter what happens. When some wanted to be disciples of Christ, they were told to count the cost. Two examples are worth mentioning: "If a man starts to build a house

and only gets the foundations laid and then discovers he lacks the resources to finish it, he will be mocked for poor planning" (paraphrased from Luke 14:28-30). Another example was of declaring war on an enemy and, after the battle begins, realizing you are outnumbered. It is too late to say you were kidding (verses 31-32).

Real commitment takes the determination to stay the course through any adversity! Christ also said that anyone who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:62). This same attitude works for a career or a relationship.

Keeping the Commitment

Once you start a worthy project, the challenge is to see it to the end! Good intentions and fair-weather sailors abound. Perhaps the most important area to think about commitment is in the really important matter of life itself. Where are you headed? Is life more than vanity and just passing of time? Do you want to be more driftwood in the sea of life? God has offered the gift of eternal life to those who are willing and able to make a commitment of living a life based on conviction. Christ set the example for man by living as a mortal on the earth in the midst of the temptations common to all. We are challenged to follow His example and build a life with concern for others rather than just ourselves. The amazing discovery is that this commitment gives meaning and direction in a world that is hectic and confusing.

Can you make a lifelong commitment? How about making one that will make your life a real success? For more information on commitment, read *Making Life Work* and *Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion*. Let us know if you would like a free copy of these booklets. *UN*

Don't Let Praise for Others Pass You By!

by Lynn Marshall

A year ago I worked with a dozen other ladies in a busy office. Looking back over the course of that year at work I know I cheated some of my fellow workers. I'm sure if you were to personally ask them about it, they wouldn't agree. But in my heart I know I did. Noted American poet of the early 1900s, Edgar Guest, penned it well in his poem *The Cheat*. He wrote this about what is on my mind.

*I cheated a good friend yesterday,
Kept what was his and went on my way
WRONGED him by my SILENCE—for in haste
I let a glad thought go to waste.*

*The praise was his by right to hear
To him belonged my word of cheer
In silence, though, from him I turned
And cheated him of what he'd EARNED.*

More familiar to us perhaps is King Solomon, who wrote similarly: "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so" (Proverbs 3:27).

So I ask occasionally, why do we withhold encouragement when we know it puts strength into others? I know for me that I often think of doing it, but, as the poem says, "in haste" find I've moved onto something else. Other times it may be not being sure whether our words will be appreciated.

Such was brought home to me some 12 years ago while organizing a three-day equestrian coaches exam. There was one lady who was an excellent rider, in fact she was already a coach and had even been a reserve for the Olympic team. But there are many aspects to these coach exams and, though she was a superb rider, she failed.



She was bitterly disappointed and somewhat angry with the coaching system. I knew where her trouble lay and how she could easily pass if she tried again. So I bought her the most beautiful card I could find, but hesitated to send it as I knew she was angry and upset with everyone who was part of her exam, which included me at the time. I did, however, send the card, but was certain it would not be well received. I said something like, "Don't give up now, we'll help you, I know you can do it."

As the weeks went by with no reply, I was now certain it hadn't been well received. I imagined her tearing it up into little pieces and stomping on them in her long black riding boots.

About two months later a complete stranger came up to me at a horse show and asked if she could buy me a coffee. Over a cup this person explained how she knew I had sent a card to her best friend. She wanted to tell me how much it had helped her. She explained that though her friend was not at all a sentimental type, she had in fact carried that card around with her for weeks. She did

later come back into the coaching system, took the exam the following year and passed. In some small way I had contributed to her success, yet at the time almost never sent the card at all.

One of my favorite scriptures from Hebrews fits into all this too. It says we should be "encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25, NRSV).

So I try harder these days to not let a good thought of praise for someone pass me by. When in doubt as to whether someone needs it, take the action the Nike motto suggests: "just do it." You won't regret it. And the other person may be greatly encouraged by your words. *UN*

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Most professing Christians look for redemption in the Easter celebration. The Easter sunrise service is seen by its adherents as pointing to a resurrected Jesus Christ, but when it comes to the meaning of His death and resurrection, the sun sets quickly.

The differences between Christ's Passover and the holiday of Easter are staggering. The Bible doesn't speak of Easter (except as a KJV mistranslation in Acts 12:4) for these reasons: It doesn't represent Jesus Christ; it predates Christianity by millennia; and it was adapted to Christianity from the heathen (*The Encyclopedia Britannica*, 1910, Vol. 8, pages 828-829). The Bible does, however, speak of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, also referred to as the Passover season. Both of these God-given feasts were kept by Jesus Christ and His apostles.

The Passover season, which can include both the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, provides for us the death and the life of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Without the results of these two major events, "we are of all men the most pitiable" (1 Corinthians 15:19).

The Passover and Jesus' Death

God begins the systematic, redemptive process of saving mankind with the Passover feast. This is the very first feast of His seven annual festivals. Each festival depicts a significant step forward to mankind's ultimate salvation as well as its glorious conclusion.

Passover is not a Holy Day, but it is a feast; its primacy and meaning makes it the greatest of all feasts. For if there were no Passover, if Jesus as Passover never died for mankind, then we could forget about all the rest. They simply could not be fulfilled. Every feast that follows the Passover is utterly dependent upon it.

Our Passover is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7). For over three decades Jesus lived a sinless life, though He was tested in all areas as we are (Hebrews 4:15). The hours before His crucifixion, He suffered great physical and mental pain for our healing (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus was nailed to a stake and remained faithful to God (and by extension, to us) to His death. He died when a Roman soldier pierced His side and His life's blood (and water) poured to the ground (John 19:34).

Jesus' sinless blood was shed for all mankind in order to save all (John 3:16-17), for our justification and reconciliation (Romans 5:9-11). What does this mean to us? Jesus' shed blood satisfies the holy requirements of God the Father (and God the Son). God demands holiness. God cannot allow within Himself even the tiniest amount of sin or unrighteousness. Mankind is unholy and sins against God and His laws, and these sins keep man separated from God. The Passover brings God and human beings together.

The Passover Season: the Death and Life of Jesus Christ

Christian churches nominally accept the death of Jesus Christ, but most seem unaware of the true meaning of His resurrected life. God expects His people to understand both.

by Jerold Aust

After we were called and repented of our sins, Jesus' blood covered our sins. This justifies us before the Father (Romans 5:9). That is to say that our sins are blotted out, covered by the blood of Jesus Christ, and we are seen as clean before God our Father. Simultaneous to our being justified (washed clean from our sins), we are also reconciled (restored) to the Father, having been made at-one with the Father through Christ Jesus (Romans 5:10-11; John 17:21-23).

Jesus' sinless blood began the process of salvation for us and all mankind. No part of the overall process of our salvation (i.e., living our lives out in a saved state) could proceed any further without this vitally important event and glorious gift. God confirms the primacy of the Passover in the fact that Jesus, as our Passover, begins our journey and passage into life eternal. Secondly our annual observance of the Passover memorial begins God's annual festivals and Holy Days.

Although this primary gift of justification and reconciliation (restoration) begins the salvation of human beings, there is another great gift that concludes or finishes it—the vibrant life of a resurrected Christ Jesus who now sits at the Father's right hand. Both of these great events are important; one cannot happen without the other. They are interdependent. A resurrected Christ Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of the wave sheaf offering.

The Wave Sheaf and Christ's Life

God instructed Israel to begin the spring harvest season by waving an omer of barley grain (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1966, page 355). This event symbolically typified the beginning of God's harvest of human lives (John 4:35; James 5:7). The first to be harvested was Jesus, our Savior (John 3:16-17). Second, the Church is to be harvested, symbolized by the Feast of Firstfruits or Pentecost (1 Corinthians 15:23, 35-38).

The last harvesting is the ingathering (end-gathering) harvest, the remainder of mankind. This greater harvest of human beings begins at Christ's second coming, continuing through succeeding generations for 1,000 years and including multiple billions resurrected for the White Throne Judgment (Ezekiel 37; Revelation 20:11-13). The Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day symbolize the final and

greater ingathering harvest (Leviticus 23:34-39).

Jesus Christ is the wave sheaf offering (Leviticus 23:10-14; John 20:17). The important point to remember here is that Jesus' resurrection from the dead and His ascension to God the Father's throne shows our Savior no longer dead, but vibrantly alive and all-powerful. Without this concluding part of Jesus Christ's holy sacrifice, we would not have any hope of eternal life. "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, *much more*, having been reconciled, *we shall be saved by His life*" (Romans 5:9-10; see also 1 Corinthians 15:12-19).

The Feast of Unleavened Bread signifies a time of sincerity and truth. For seven full days no leavened products remain in the home and unleavened bread is eaten. We know that this symbolizes removing sin from our lives and dining on Christ's unpolluted truth.

The apostle Paul instructs us that Christ is (now) our life (Colossians 3:4). Christ is our life in that God the Father sees us as alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:5-6), views each of us through Christ's holiness (Galatians 2:20) and ascribes or reckons Christ's righteousness to us through faith (James 2:23). Christ is also our life through the holy truth and the Holy Spirit (John 14:6).

The celebration of Easter is a "feel-good" attempt to treat the death of Jesus in ways acceptable to modern Christianity. Although Easter outwardly speaks of the death of our Savior and His resurrection, its source and customs are an abomination to God. It is easy for Christians to nominally accept Christ's life for them (Colossians 3:4; Ephesians 2:5-6;

Galatians 2:20), but when it comes to the part Christ requires of Christians—to obey God and show faith through works—many well-meaning Christians seem unaware of the many relevant scriptures.

Let me put it another way: Most Christians do not recognize or honor the role that God requires of a true Christian disciple. This part requires sacrifice—repentance from dead works and faith toward God. If Christ—in truth—is to live for you and me, then there are things we must do (Ephesians 2:10; James 2:18) in order for Him to live for us and in us. These two distinct acts (Christ accepted as our life and our application of faith proved by works) appear to be seamlessly integrated as one in a true Christian's life.

Again, never forget this important key to our salvation: God is holy and He requires us to become holy, to live lives that befit holiness (1 Peter 1:16). This brings us to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, another significant part of the overall Passover season.

Unleavened Bread and a Holy Life

The Feast of Unleavened Bread signifies a time of sincerity and truth. For seven full days no leavened products remain in the home and unleavened bread is eaten. We know that this symbolizes removing sin from our lives and dining on Christ's unpolluted truth. God's Church has been doing this for nearly 2,000 years.

It's important as well to consider that this also represents the unleavened life and unleavened love of Christ Jesus. Since Christ's resurrection and ascension, He has been immortal and divine (as He was before He was made flesh). He is holy and because He is, we are holy in Him (Hebrews 3:1; Romans 8:30, Living Bible).

We should also note that there are two Holy Days during the Feast of Unleavened Bread: the first Holy Day opens this feast and the last Holy Day concludes it. At the beginning and at the end of our spiritual lives, God expects holiness. We are made holy through Christ who is our life and who is the divine unleavened bread. As well, we must do our part in becoming holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:16), by putting sin out of our lives and taking into our minds and hearts the unleavened truth and love of Jesus Christ.

The Passover season (Passover and Unleavened Bread) includes both the death and life of Jesus Christ. Those who "keep" Easter will one day understand Paul's words about the death and resurrection of their Savior: "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). We are justified and reconciled by Jesus' death and we are saved (Romans 5:10) and delivered by His all-powerful life (Revelation 5:1-14)! Have a meaningful Passover and joyous Feast of Unleavened Bread, brethren. *UNA*

I thought all bathwater was gray! Ours always was! In our home, we children had a bath once a week—whether we needed it or not. My mom seemed to think it was necessary. She would get out the tub and begin heating some water on our coal and wood stove. When it was hot enough the tub would be partially filled and the girls were allowed to have a bath. We boys learned early in life that it was “ladies first.”

As each child used the soap and had their bath, a little more hot water was added to the first batch. By the time our turns came, the water was always gray. The shade of gray did not seem to change—just gray.

We did not get clued in until we were about 10 years old that it was not this way all over the world. That was the time we began to look forward to being men. When you were a man (at about age 12) you could have a shower in the shower house. This was a long building that had about 40 showers (with clean running water, hot and cold) that the coal miners used after they came off shift. What a great day that was when we were allowed to go on Saturday morning to have a shower—once a week and with clean water! Every boy in town who was about to be a man would show up there on Saturdays.

Real Cleansing

In mankind's relationship with God one can also see a parallel to my gray bathwater. God instituted a system of sacrifice for sin that did not remove the sin completely, but only acknowledged it. The system of animal sacrifice was like bathing in gray bathwater (to my mind). Humans were washed, but not really clean.

Hebrews 9:11-15 explains that the blood of bulls and goats sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, but Christ's blood really purges and cleanses us. Up to the time of Christ's sacrifice, humans came to God with the shed blood of animals. These sacrifices all looked forward to the Messiah who was to come.

We read in Hebrews 9:22: “Without shedding of blood there is no remission.” Paul also writes in Hebrews 10:4 “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.” Christ was the pure and clean water that truly cleanses humans from sin.

Defining Good and Evil

The moment God stated that “I am the LORD your God . . . you shall have no other gods before Me,” He also stated that any other form of worship was sin and therefore evil.

It is like driving down a road. You can only get a ticket for speeding once there is

Gray Bathwater Isn't Good Enough!

My childhood experiences trying to come clean have some interesting parallels for the Christian life.

by Robert Berendt



a speed limit put on the road. If the speed limit is 100 kph and you go 120 kph, you are breaking the law.

God has laws that are eternal. The Ten Commandments reflect those laws of God. Since the definition of good created evil, God also took it upon Himself to design a system whereby the sin can be removed (once repented of). He began by showing Adam and Eve that the penalty of sin was death, and required blood. God then killed an animal and cov-

ered Adam and Eve. The process of blood for sin continued until the time of Christ. The need for blood has not changed, but now we receive the clean and pure blood of Christ, which really does make us clean.

This gift is not automatic. We still have to become men (mature); we still have to go to the washhouse (repent and come to God through Christ); we still have to use the soap and water and then dry off (learn what sin is and what the sacrifice of Christ really means); we still have to try and stay clean for a week (go and sin no more).

Our trips to the shower house were free, provided as a service by the mining

company for the boys of the town. (The girls had been given first crack at the tub for years, so we thought it was just and fair that we should have free showers.) Christ is free. God does not charge for His love or His gift.

He does demand our loyalty and commitment to Him, to His plan and to His way of life. That is the only way—there is no other.

There are some who still do not realize that not all bathwater is gray. Some think they are clean even if they are the fourth into the gray water. After the first real shower, we boys never again set foot into the gray bathwater. Now we knew what clean really was!

When Christ cleanses us, we know that we are clean. One day the whole world will be able to come to the “shower house.” What a great day of celebration that will be!

More information about the cleansing power of Christ can be found in our booklet titled: *Transforming Your Life: the Process of Conversion*. Our *Bible Study Course* also has excellent material. I encourage you to order and read this material. It too is free of charge. *UN*

Cultivate the Spiritual Fruit of Humility

Humility is an essential quality we must have to thrive in eternity. Consider this: In the Kingdom, all the top jobs are already filled. We'd better be able to accept—and love—the role God has planned for us! God will not have another rebellion like the one Lucifer staged (Ezekiel 28:11-17 and Isaiah 14:12-14), when he and his angels “did not keep their proper domain” (Jude 6). We must never become frustrated or get angry because we think we haven't been given a sufficiently prestigious assignment. We must be able to patiently serve in the role God assigns to us.

It's easy to see the value of cultivating love and joy, but the value of really working at becoming humble is harder to grasp. It is easy to forget that we must take action to cultivate this essential quality in our character. The world doesn't value humility, but *God does*. “For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit” (Isaiah 57:15). “But on this one will I look: on him who is poor [humble] and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word” (Isaiah 66:2).

God names humility among the most basic requirements He expects of us: “What does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

Humility is the quality that enables us to get along with all sorts of people without taking offense. It is being down to earth and free of pretense. It is fully accepting our station in life, and our status before God and man. It is accepting our-

selves as we truly are, so that we feel no urge to inflate our social status or to pretend to be something more than we really are.

It is easy to forget to be actively cultivating this essential and valuable spiritual fruit. And humility is a fruit that is very perishable—it can quickly wither on the vine from inattention. Have the noxious weeds of pride and vanity sprouted in our spiritual gardens while we weren't looking? How often have we taken offense because we thought someone was acting or speaking disrespectfully towards us? How often do we take offense because we think someone is looking down on us? Do we ever feel shame when we think someone has measured our social status and found it smaller than we'd like?

Human beings are very status-conscious. We are like wolves in a pack, constantly measuring ourselves against each other, and constantly jostling for position. We want to be highly regarded by others, and we want to be seen as having a higher status than we truly deserve. But this is not God's way.

Jesus taught us to be humble: “Blessed are the meek” (Matthew 5:5) and said of Himself, “I am meek and lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29, KJV). “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).

It is also powerfully liberating to be free of the burden of trying to maintain a pretense of being more than we are and to be free of the constant gnawing fear of being found out.

Our status in this world matters very

little. It is God's view of us that matters. We are important enough that Christ was willing to die for us, and we are important because God has called us. But we must not think that any measure we can see distinguishes us before God.

Neither knowledge, nor length of service as a Christian, nor stature in the Church, nor material prosperity, nor any other measure of personal status makes us any more special or exalted before God. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). God “desires all men to be saved” (1 Timothy 2:4). And “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34).

Paul warns us that none of us should “think of himself more highly than he ought” (Romans 12:3), and he warns us not to compare ourselves among ourselves (2 Corinthians 10:12). Rather, “in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:3).

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant . . . And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

Peter urges us to “be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:5-6).

Jay Turner

Local Church Updates...

Cincinnati North Hosts Family Tournament

While the world was involved with Santa, reindeer and thinking about New Year's resolutions, something awesome was taking place in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dec.



Jim O'Brien, pastor of Cincinnati North; Youth Congress; young basketball players

27 to 30 more than 1,600 people traveled from many states and several countries to be part of the Fifth Annual Family Tournament, hosted by the Cincinnati North congregation. The event was held at Kings Island Resort and at Sports Express.

The Family Tournament offers something for everyone. But most of all it offers fellowship with people of like mind who share the same beliefs. Many people call this event a mini-Feast.

Thursday evening the event kicked off with free pizza by the pool. Those who did not want to swim danced to the live music of Southern Brothers. Mike Dance, Scott Kelfa, Steven Robinson and the Beam boys, Jonathan and Loren, played a variety of music throughout the evening.

On Friday, games for all ages were offered such as volleyball, basketball, Ping-Pong and tennis. If that wasn't enough, ice-skating was available nearby.

Friday evening seminars filled quickly, many with standing room only. Something new for the teens this year was the Youth Congress attended by more than 300 teens while parents participated in seminars of their own. The youth broke up into small groups facilitated by an adult couple. Teens were quick to express appreciation for the opportunity to give input to Church leaders on a wide variety of issues.

Sabbath activities included six seminars for the adults and five for the teens and young adults. Darris McNeely gave the sermon entitled "The Golden Key." During announcements, Roy Holladay and Jim O'Brien gave special recognition to two outstanding teens.

The Ezekiel Award was presented to David Kennebeck and Joy LaBissoniere for outstanding examples of leadership.

Evening activities following the Sabbath included a young adult dinner dance at the popular Dave & Busters

Restaurant. Another dance took place at Sports Express while a pool party was occurring for the youngsters. At the same time "Singles in the Middle" had a dance of their own and finally the evening ended after more ball games. Sunday everyone was able to play even more games and fellowship. Then it was time to pack up and say good-bye to old friends and new ones.

Janet Treadway

Fourth Grader Organizes "Nickels for New York"

Annie Thomson, age 10, of the Twin Falls, Idaho, congregation, started a fundraiser right after the Sept. 11 attack on America. With the help of her mother, she not only got her classroom involved, but the whole school and eventually the community. Annie is fourth grader at Hansen Elementary School.

She called her fundraiser "Nickels for



Annie Thomson, 10, raised \$1,375.85 for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks

New York," and on Nov. 30, 2001, she gave the local Red Cross a check for \$1,275.85. A picture of this event and a short article appeared in the local newspaper. The total donation reached \$1,375.85.

Bill Jahns

Phoenix East Has Four Baptisms

The Sabbath of Dec. 1, 2001, 30 to 40 happy family and friends gathered in the home of Jim and Joan Tuck to witness the



Mark Strebeck, W. Robert Fenwick, Vivianne Chelgren and Kris Garverick of the Phoenix East, Arizona, congregation were baptized Dec. 1 by Jim Tuck (right)

baptisms of four new members of the Body of Christ. Tears of joy and hugs of brotherhood were much in evidence as Vivianne Chelgren and W. Robert Fenwick, Kris Garverick and Mark Strebeck were baptized.

After drying and changing the four were welcomed by all present with a champagne toast. The brethren of the Phoenix East, Arizona, congregation thank the Eternal for these workers in the harvest to come!

Stephen Kennedy

Garden Grove Holds Friendship Tea

The Garden Grove, California, Woman's Club held a Friendship Tea Sept. 9, 2001. Each table was set up by a member using her own china and glassware, along



Participants at Garden Grove Friendship Tea

with a centerpiece that was raffled off. The themes of the tables were all so interesting and different. The program consisted of a singer, Leona Forstre, and a speaker, Sonali Fiske, who spoke about friendships.

The arts and crafts table, chaired by Kristine Talbot, was kept busy selling items donated by members. Profits were sent to the World Trade Center fund and another charity.

Members donated food items such as tea sandwiches, fruit, cookies and scones with clotted cream. Erica Schmid and her team outdid themselves.

Four brave men from the congregation volunteered to be servers, keeping the tables supplied with tea and water, always with a smile. The servers were Dave Davis, Joe Young, Knute Josifek and Homer Moore.

Visitors and family members were a part of this happy group.

Anna Moore

Young Adults to Explore Columbus Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 24, through Sunday, May 26, the Great Lakes Region will host "Explore Columbus: a Voyage for Young Adults." This event will be held in Columbus, Ohio, at one of the finest downtown hotels, the Adam's Mark.

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for education, fun and fellowship for young adults in the Great Lakes Region. Young adults are a vital part of the United Church of God and will be the base from which future leaders of the organization will come. Therefore, it is crucial that we seek to encourage and develop the talent in those married and single in the 18 to 35 age group.

The event will kick off at 7:30 on Friday evening with a reception for all attendees. Sabbath morning will feature a deluxe continental breakfast followed by two Christian Living seminars. Church services will begin at 3 p.m. highlighted by split sermons oriented toward young adults.

That evening you will be able to explore the downtown Columbus area enjoying the fine restaurants and entertainment in that part of town. You can walk to many locations or take a bus from one location to another for 25 cents.

Sunday will begin with a deluxe continental breakfast followed by a Christian Living seminar. The rest of the morning and afternoon you will be free to explore the Columbus Zoo, COSI (the Museum of Science and Industry) or the Museum of Art; shop at the City Center Mall; or just hang out at the hotel. Everyone will come back together in the evening for the final leg of the voyage. There you will enjoy a semiformal dinner dance in the Adam's Mark ballroom to music selected by the young adults. The voyage will end at midnight giving everyone a chance to rest and return home on Monday.

Make plans to join us for this very special voyage!

For more information or to make reservations, contact Gary Smith at: 690 St. Rt. 551, Waverly, Ohio, 45690; (740) 947-4029 or ucgp@dragonbbs.com.

Gary Smith

Articles and photos for "Local Church Updates" are welcome! If your congregation's events aren't being reported on, check with your pastor and volunteer. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Announcements...

Births

Andy and Cynthia McClain of Indianapolis, Indiana, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Nathan Reese. He arrived Oct. 30, 2001, weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and measuring 20 inches long. Big brother Bryan is thrilled with the new addition to the family. The proud grandparents are John



Nathan Reese McClain

and Peg McClain of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Earle and Joy Reese of Pasadena, California.

Ken and Mary Pat (Girard) Proctor of Plano, Texas, would like to announce the birth of their third child, Melissa Garis Proctor. She was born on Jan. 4, 2001, weighing in at 8 pounds and measuring 20 inches long. She was warmly welcomed by her sister, Sydney, and brother, Christopher. Grandparents



Melissa Garis Proctor
with Sydney and Christopher

are Pat and Carol Dean Shouvin of Jacksonville, Florida, and Jerry and Lucy Girard of San Antonio, Texas.

Tony and Julie Buck proudly announce the birth of their first



Izaak Garner Buck

child, Izaak Garner Buck. He was born Dec. 26, 2001. He weighed 7

pounds 9 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long.

Vincent and Marie (Gueller) Hirschler are pleased to announce the early arrival of their new daughter, KateLynne Marie Hirschler. Due Jan. 5, KateLynne surprised them by showing up Nov. 19, nearly seven



KateLynne Marie Hirschler

weeks early. She weighed 5 pounds 1 ounce and was 18 4/5 inches long. After nine days in NICU, she came home and has been doing great since. Her sister, Janine, loves her and often bestows kisses on her. The proud grandparents are Gordon and Janice Gueller of Rugby, North Dakota, and Kathryn Hirschler of Aurora, Missouri.

Leonard and Kathryn Hatter of Brodhead, Wisconsin (Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation), are happy to announce the joyous occasion of the birth of their daughter Ruth Michaelle Hatter. Ruth was born on



Ruth Michaelle Hatter

Sept. 7, 2001, weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces. She was 20 inches long. Ruthie joins siblings Lora (15), Daniel (10), David (8), Sarah (5) and Michael (2). They are all very excited to welcome their new little sister.

Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Don Henson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Mr. and Mrs. Lairl Westfall of Wheeling, West Virginia, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Ryan Henson and Kylie Westfall. The wedding took place in Wheeling on March 31, 2001, and was performed by Don Henson. The



Kylie and Ryan Henson

couple resides in Herndon, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shemet of Pasadena, California, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, Michelle Renee, to Steven Carlen. The wedding took place on July 8, 2001, and was performed by Robin Webber.



Michelle and Steve Carlen

The maid of honor was Tracy Thornton; and the bridesmaids were Jessica Ott, April Shemet and Lauren O'Bryan. The best man was Charles Grgrich; and the groomsmen were Ian Carlen, Brent Shemet and Tom Bulharowski.

Dale and Nona Vance of Pawnee, Oklahoma, and Conal and Bridget McGarvey of Luton,



Mark and Darla McGarvey

England, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Darla and Mark. They were married in Pawnee July 7, 2001, by Bill Cagle, an elder in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation.

The wedding party included flower girls, Leslie Iron and Nicole McCowan; bridesmaids, Leslie Echalk and Kimberly Ellis; best

man, Dan McGarvey; and groomsmen, Owen McGarvey. The couple currently resides in Luton.

Fred and Susan Crow of San Jose, California, and Sandra Ogaz of Montclair, California, would like to announce the marriage of their chil-



Tracy and Bobby Ogaz

dren, Tracy Renee Crow and Robert Joseph Ogaz. The wedding took place in Pomona on March 11, 2001, and was performed by Bill Bradford, pastor of the San Jose and Oakland congregations. Tamara Crow, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor, and Michael Ogaz, the groom's brother, was the best man.

Tracy and Bobby now reside in San Jose, California.

Anniversary

Tom and Irene Hoffahrt of Edina, Minnesota, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on Jan. 28, 2002. They were married in 1967 by Sherwin McMichael in



Tom and Irene Hoffahrt

Minneapolis. Mr. Hoffahrt is a deacon in the St. Paul congregation. They have one daughter, Joan Sheets; one son-in-law, Dennis; and one granddaughter, Lily, who live in Madison, Wisconsin.

Obituaries

Chris Parker Kolk of Dallas, Texas, died Oct. 1, 2001, on the way to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for the Feast. She was diagnosed the week before with congestive heart failure and was released from the hospital determined to attend the Feast. She went into respiratory arrest and suf-

fered a heart attack along the side of the road. She never regained consciousness. She had attended the Church since 1957.

Mrs. Kolk was survived by one daughter, Rhona Springfield; three sons, Devon, Kip and Rick Parker; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; two sisters; one brother; and a husband of 2 1/2 years. She was also survived by many friends in the Church. Thank you all for the cards of comfort that have been sent.

Thelma "Sara" Hans, a member of the Salem, Oregon, congregation, died from complications of old age on Nov. 8, 2001. Mrs. Hans was a baptized member of the Church of God for 48 years. She enjoyed sending letters of encouragement to others and visiting other brethren who were ill or lonely. She provided an excellent example of stalwart and feminine godly character to those in her family and others.

Mrs. Hans' husband, Arthur Hans, preceded her in death on Jan.



Thelma Hans

22, 2000. She is survived by many loved ones: children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who are members and coworkers of the Church of God.

Linda Cody, 57, a member of the Post Falls, Idaho/Spokane, Washington, congregation since 1987, died Dec. 18, 2001, after suffering from a brain tumor for the past two years. She is survived by a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by pastor Mark Mickelson.

Walter Henderson, 72, of Houston, Texas, died on Dec. 11, 2001, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He and his wife, Carol, were baptized in 1959. Walter is survived by his wife, Carol; three daughters, Kathy Hegvold, Pat Link and Laurie Tate; one son, Michael Henderson; and seven grandchildren, all of Houston. He was preceded in death by his son, David Henderson.

Shirley Ann Endres, 76, died Dec. 12, 2001, after battling cancer for nearly one year. Raised and baptized in Eugene, Oregon, Shirley was a member of God's Church for over 30 years. During their retirement, she and her husband, Warren, lived full-time in their RV and traveled regularly between Oregon,

Arizona and Tennessee visiting friends and family along the way. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Warren; her children Karla Sefcak of Redlands, California; Susan Whitlark of Fort Worth, Texas; and Gary Endres of Kingsport, Tennessee; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in Eugene, Oregon, on Feb. 9.

Polly Burrow died quietly at home on Jan. 16, 2002, just two weeks short of her 38th wedding anniversary. She had struggled with ovarian cancer for nearly six years.

Polly served in several capacities

in the local congregation until her health made it impossible for her to attend. She was the local pianist, and also took many photos and created a photographic history of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation since its founding in 1995. She was very loved in the local congregation and will be deeply missed.

In the years since her first prayer request was made, she and her husband, Clark, received many hundreds of cards, notes, letters and children's drawings from all over the world. They deeply appreciated the overwhelming outpouring of love shown for them. Polly was buried in Pocahontas, Arkansas, on Jan. 20.

"MEDIA," (Continued from page 1)
for questions some pastors have asked about their role in evangelism.

Editorial Board

As part of the meetings on Jan. 10, several other writers and editors joined the group by teleconference. This Editorial Board discussed article content and booklet plans for the next several years. The proposed booklet, *This Is the United Church of God*, being written by Darris McNeely, was moved high on the priority list. The board also discussed encouraging more women to write articles.

Internet

Since the December Council meetings, much work has already been done on upgrading the effectiveness of the Church's Internet presence. Discussion included setting up a "fast-track" team of writers and reviewers to

refresh current news items on our Web site. Tom Robinson, managing editor of the new Bible Reading Program, also discussed its launch (see page 4).

The group also discussed the importance of reaching and caring for our youth, including the possibility of printing the *Youth*



Tom Robinson discusses Bible Reading Program (photos by Vic Kubik)

United magazine (www.youthmagazine.org) in the future.

Radio and TV

Gary Petty, the host of the *Good News* radio program, reported on the things the team has learned in the process of developing a radio program. The program serves as a witness, but is also designed to bring response—to bring people onto the *GN* list as part of the media mix.

Don Ward and John Jewell also discussed radio programs being done in their areas. Dr. Ward's program, *World News and Prophecy*, is now on three stations and he has produced 69 broadcasts. John Jewell



John Jewell presents international view

reported on *The World Tomorrow* program aired in the British Isles. It is a 15-minute program with a British voice (David McDermott). It is aired just before the news on both AM and FM in the Isle of Man.

There was also discussion of expanding the *Tomorrow* TV show to more markets. It is now on 41 cable-access stations in 32 cities. Mr. Eddington suggested setting up a review team in keeping with the process for all official media projects as a step toward expansion in the cable-TV niche.

John Jewell concluded the conference with a stirring presentation on the urgency of the times in connection with international media efforts. *UN*

News at a Glance...

Festival Coordinators Attend Conference in Tampa

UCG Festival coordinators traveled to Tampa, Florida, Jan. 28 to Feb. 1 for meetings and to attend the Religious Conference Management Association (RCMA) Conference—a venue that provides educational seminars for meeting planners as well as leads for future Feast sites. Those attending included U.S. Festival coordinators, several wives of the coordinators and Anthony Wasilkoff and Rainer Salomaa from Canada.

On Monday the group met with Richard Pinelli, operation manager of Ministerial Services, and Charles Melear, corporate meeting planner, to review last year's Feast of Tabernacles and to plan for the Festival this fall. Several employees of the home office participated in the meeting via teleconference. In his opening remarks, Mr. Pinelli told those gathered that 2001 was an outstanding year in almost every way. Overall atten-

dance was up, no major problems affected any site, the sermons were considered outstanding and the entire Festival operation came in under budget.

During the meeting, the group discussed a wide range of Festival-related subjects including ways to make the opening night service a special occasion that members would not want to miss, possible Bible



Festival coordinators meet in Tampa, Florida, to plan the 2002 Feast (photo by David Treybig)

studies to be held during the Feast, articles for the housing brochure and how best to conduct housing negotiations. Several coordinators mentioned how much they appreciated the opportunity to develop their professional skills as meeting planners by attending the RCMA Conference.

David Treybig

New Home Office Employee Hired

Greg McCloud, a 2000 graduate of Ambassador Bible Center with experience in the construction and maintenance field, began work Jan. 14. Office manager Tom Kirkpatrick said he will be helping out in a number of areas. "His primary duties will involve

maintenance of the building and grounds of the new office building. In addition, he'll be making the daily pickups at the post office, and helping with some aspects of the mailing operation as time permits."

Submissions Needed for "United Brethren Around the World"

Victor Kubik, chairman of the Media and Communications Committee of the Council, announced the need for submissions for the "United Brethren Around the World" page on the Life and Resources

section of our Web site found at www.ucg.org/a.

"We are looking for short stories about brethren and elders in the local church areas whose stories would be interesting, inspiring and beneficial to share with the Church membership," said Mr. Kubik. Please send submissions to Victor Kubik at vic_kubik@ucg.org or by mail to Victor Kubik, 3707 Turfway Court, Indianapolis, IN 46228-2095.

Victor Kubik/Peter Eddington

Cyclone Narrowly Misses Mauritius; Members Safe

Surendra Proag, a member in Mauritius who looks after the mailing of *The Good News* and answering mail with Church publications, reported that "intense tropical cyclone Dina caused major damage to Mauritius on [January] 21 and 22, bringing with it torrential rain. We are thankful that the centre (eye) did not pass through the island, as it was estimated that winds gusting about 270 km/h (about 170 miles an hour) would have caused absolute havoc."

He reported that the members in Mauritius are safe. "One of our members who lives in a housing estate told me that water did get into his house, but there was no damage. According to a press report, some other houses in the same housing estate were quite damaged."

News at a Glance...

Personal Correspondence Answers Up 50 Percent

Personal Correspondence writer Cecil Maranville answered 79 letters during the month of December, closing out 2001 with a total of 1,086 letters answered by "snail" mail. The monthly average was 91. This represents a 50 percent increase over 2000!

One of the most unusual letters came from a *Good News* subscriber living in Gambia in West Africa who wanted us to know why we had not heard from him for the past eight months. He had been imprisoned by Muslim fundamentalists for attempting to convert Muslims in his province. (In addition to encouraging him, we wrote to him about not attempting to convert others.)

Another out-of-the-ordinary letter came from a subscriber in India who wanted

to know if he should follow a miracle-working prophet there. A couple of humorous ones—a fellow asked if we could help him find "Noel" in the Bible and sent us Christmas greetings; another person asked us for booklets in comic book style.

Three people asked for copies of the photograph that we ran on the November/December issue of *The Good News*—the firemen raising the flag in New York City.

A former member (1966-1983) wrote to ask for meeting locations for Holy Days. A member of a small Church of God group wrote an enthusiastic letter of appreciation for our literature and asked some questions about UCGIA.

The most-often-asked question in December was again the topic of UCG's origins. There were several additional questions about our Church and teachings.

Cecil Maranville

ABC Student Body Leaders Named

Student leaders for the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2002 were named at the end of January. Brett Harris was chosen as student representative, Laura Kersey as secretary and Barbara Sackett as treasurer.

Social Activities Committee: Brian Damour, Rebekah Evans, Ray Gwin, Mindy Matson, Sonja Kireilis, Jennifer Pennington and Amanda Smith.

Service Projects: Clarissa de Campos, Joy LaBissoniere, Tim Johnson and Logan Smith. Cards: Audrey Noel and Joni Strauss.

Kitchen Care: Ann and Mike Blencowe, Margie Jacques and Carol Griffith.

ABC Message Board: Sally Foster, Barb Griffith, Mitra Lebastchi and Ruth Reynolds.

ABC Times/Web Page: Dana Deininger, Nathan Ekama, James Hostetter, Tarah Kirkpatrick, Dan Miller, Sherri Renfro, Andy Shamblyn, Mark Tannert and Carrie Zollner.

ABC Music Representatives: Mike Blencowe and Heidi Kerestes.

baptisms have been reported. They bring the total baptisms reported for 2001 to 296.

Bolivia	2
Brazil	1
Chile	15
Colombia	2
Guatemala	14
Mexico	9
United Kingdom	1

British Isles' Site: Make Reservations Early

In the British Isles the Feast of Tabernacles 2002 is planned for Grange over Sands in the beautiful South Lakeland area, part of the Lake District National Park of Cumbria in the northwest of England. It's the country that gave so much inspiration to Wordsworth, it's the country of Beatrix Potter and the area that so many call "mini Switzerland." It's a step back in time to a gentler and quieter age.

There is a wide variety of accommodations and the Tourist Information Office will be happy to make reservations for you for a nominal fee or you can book them yourself.

Reservations: To obtain a Feast Pack with map, details of the area, the accommodation booking service, the Church's introductory letter and volunteers form, please contact the Grange Over Sands Tourist Information Centre. The address is: Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6DP, England. Telephone them at: +44 (0) 15395 34026 or fax them at: +44 (0) 15395 34331 or contact them by e-mail at: grangetic@southlakeland.gov.uk. Please be sure to mention that you are attending the United Church of God convention in September. Please obtain the initial information from the Information Centre. However, in the event of particular difficulties please feel free to either call me, John A. Jewell, at +44 (0)1257 450829 or e-mail me through john_jewell@ucg.org.

It is necessary to make your accommodation reservations at the earliest moment as it will still be the tourist season. We look forward to seeing you in Grange over Sands.

John A. Jewell

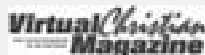
What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

- Join us in the new *Good News* Bible Reading Program. This page will be updated daily with Bible readings and notes. The material for the month can also be downloaded in PDF format. <http://www.ucg.org/brp>
- Information and applications for the United Youth Corps 2002 projects are available at: <http://www.ucg.org/youthcorps>
- Listen to the streaming video or audio sermon titled "Terror and Fear" by Gary Antion. Downloadable versions also available. <http://www.ucg.org/RealAud>
- See the January 2002 issue of *El Comunicado* in HTML format: <http://www.ucg.org/articles/spanish/ec0201.html>
- View pictures of the beginning of the year for the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2002: <http://www.ucg.org/abc/progress.html>

On vcmagazine.org

- The February *Virtual Christian Magazine* includes articles on: "I Am a Guilt Addict," "Enhance Your Prayer Life With Meditation," "They Are Listening...Are You?" and "Absolutely No Absolutes." <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://ucgyouth.org> (Youth and young adult site)

<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



Michele and Keith Wilson

Elder Ordained

Keith Wilson of Washington, Pennsylvania, was ordained on the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 18, 2001. He and his wife, Michele, serve the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation.

More Baptisms Reported

In addition to the 252 baptisms listed in the January issue (page 15), the following

United News

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