



## News At a Glance

### Good News Radio Program Turns Two

Gary Petty recorded six new radio programs on June 11 and 12. Three of the programs included an interview with Jerold Aust, and one each with Ken Giese and Ken Treybig. The new programs have been edited and will go on the air in August as the program begins its third year.

The new program titles are as follows: "Managing Finances," "The Beatitudes," "Who's Telling You What to Think?," "Ghouls, Ghosts, Goblins and Halloween" (airing October 26 and 27), "Peace on Earth" and "The Good News and the Bad News."

The program is currently on 12 stations, and the Church will be adding more new stations in August to bring the total up to 16. Some new cities to be added will include Buffalo, New York; Greenville, South Carolina; Kansas City, Missouri; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (See Radio Log, page 16.)

*Good News Radio* continues to be a good avenue for preaching the gospel on a weekly basis in various cities across the United States, and is providing the Church with a growing base of interested listeners who receive our publications and booklets. Some are growing in their interest in the truth and what United is doing. Please continue to pray for the continued success of the program.

Peter Eddington

### Youth Corps Helps With Camp in Ghana

Kimberly Franks, from Dallas, Texas, and Lori Lambert, from the Houston North, Texas, congregation, will serve as Youth Corps volunteers at a camp in Ghana. The camp will run

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### United Statistics

#### Radio Calls

2,000		
1,000		
	00-01	01-02

## Council Considers Plans for 2003-2004

"One of the major items we will consider concerns future planning for the Church," said Council Chairman Clyde Kilough about the latest set of Council of Elders meetings that began Aug. 5.

"Roy Holladay and the operation managers will present the administration's needs and plans for the 2003-2004 fiscal year so the Council can be thinking well in advance about the priorities and corresponding budgetary requirements," Mr. Kilough said.

The agenda for Monday, Aug. 5, included reports of the last fiscal year as well as operation plans for this year and the next year. These reports and presentations involved Mr. Holladay (president) and the three operation managers, Tom Kirkpatrick (Administrative Services), Richard Pinelli (Ministerial Services) and Peter Eddington (Media and Communication Services).

Tuesday's agenda included an executive session and updates from the Doctrine Committee on a study paper on

the Last Great Day, a doctrine paper on the covenants, and Sabbath issues concerning business operations.

Wednesday, Aug. 7, the Council was scheduled to discuss several issues presented by the Ethics/Roles and Rules Committee regarding amendments and appeals. The Media and Communications Committee was also on the agenda to discuss media expenditures, the Internet initiative, the Integrated Media/Evangelism Oversight Plan, *Tomorrow* television and the Editorial Board.

Thursday's agenda included reviewing the new booklet about UCG, discussing the 2003 GCE and various policies and questions. Gary Antion brought forward a proposal for an ABC scholarship for an international student. Doug Horchak was also scheduled to give an update on the youth program.

For reports of the meetings, see [www.ucg.org/a/council/council.htm](http://www.ucg.org/a/council/council.htm). A list of Council Committees and the current members of each is on page 12 of this issue. **UN**

## 50 Graduate From ABC Aug. 4



Roy Holladay addresses ABC students at graduation Aug. 4 (photos by Peter Eddington)

"Your first priority as you step into the future is to put into practice in your own life the information that you have been given. There is a great need for leaders in the Church," said Roy Holladay during the third Ambassador Bible Center (ABC) graduation Aug. 4.

The Council of Elders and more than 200 family and friends celebrated the exciting event with the 50 graduates. During the ceremony the Ambassador Award of

See "ABC," page 7

## Leadership Workshop 2002 Set

■ The Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate Program moves into the next phase as 17 men and their wives are invited to attend a workshop Aug. 29 to Sept. 2.

Ministerial Services has invited 17 applicants and their wives to attend the first ever Leadership Workshop as part of the Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate Program. The workshop will be held at the new home office building in Milford, Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati.

The Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate Program is designed to help fill the growing need for pastors, since the average age of U.S. pastors is 58. Four or five new pastors are currently needed. The program was presented to the Council of Elders in February and to the General Conference of Elders in May. (See "Ministerial Candidate Program Developed," May *United News*, page 1.)

Ministerial Services operation manager Richard Pinelli visited many of the candidates in June and July, and he told the Cincinnati East congregation that he is very excited about this group.

The workshop will cover specialized training in speaking, counseling and more. For more background and the names of the candidates, see Jim Franks' article on page 2. **UN**

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## Treasurer Reports at Beginning of Fiscal Year

by Tom Kirkpatrick

The United Church of God ended its fiscal year on June 30, 2002, in good financial condition. For the year, the income exceeded the budgeted amount by a little over 5 percent. Total operating expenditures exceeded the budget by about 2 percent. These positive operating results permitted the Church to reduce its operating reserves by only a very small amount, after making a substantial down payment on the new home office building in Cincinnati.

Our auditing firm of Clark, Schaefer, Hackett and Company will have personnel on site at our offices during the week of Aug. 5 to perform their field work on our financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30. We anticipate

receiving their final audit report before the end of August.

The new fiscal year has begun on an encouraging note, with income up about 8 percent for the month of July, compared to last year. Obviously, one month does not make a trend, but the start is good. We are especially grateful for recent positive trends in income in light of the dramatic convulsions in the U.S. financial markets.

In light of these upsets, and with prophecy in mind, we all perhaps speculate on how long the U.S. economy will hold up, and what effect its condition will have on the financial condition of the Church. We may find ourselves wondering, "Isn't it impossible for this or any other nation to receive the blessing from God necessary for prosperity, when so

many in the nation have rejected so many of the principles and laws of God?"

We simply don't know all the particulars, do we? But consider this. It was impossible for Peter to walk on water, wasn't it, but he did for a short time, when Christ miraculously allowed it to happen for His purpose to be fulfilled. By the same token, we might believe that it is impossible for the U.S. economy to prosper and grow indefinitely, in light of the corruption, sin and God-rejecting attitude of so many in our society. But I believe that it can and will be held up, miraculously, by God, for so long as it serves God's purpose for this country to be the prosperity background against

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## News At a Glance

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Aug. 15 to 20 on the grounds of the university in Kumasi, Ghana. Plans are for 100 Ghanaian youth to attend the camp, and the staff will include Council member Doug Horschak, four of the pastors in Ghana and other Ghanaian brethren.

Doug Horschak

## Home Office Dedication Video Sent to Churches

A 30-minute video chronicling the construction of the new home office facility and the dedication ceremony of May 4 was sent to all pastors in July to be played for the congregations.

"We hope this videotape presentation will give the brethren a glimpse of what went into the construction of the new home office and its dedicated purpose to do the work of God," said Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager.

## Loan 2 Percent Less Than First Quoted

July 24 President Roy Holladay signed the final loan documents for the



Tom Kirkpatrick and Bank One Vice President Sharon Stengel (right) look on as Roy Holladay signs loan documents (photo by Peter Eddington)

new home office building. Representatives from Bank One as well as Gerald Seelig (corporate secretary) and Tom Kirkpatrick (treasurer) were there to witness the event.

Mr. Holladay said: "The good news was that the interest rate for this loan was 2 percent less than what we were originally quoted [in December 2000]. That will save the Church tens of thousands of dollars over the life of the loan. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the tireless work that Tom Kirkpatrick has contributed during the entire process of building the home office facility and his work in negotiating the financial package. It is all deeply appreciated!"

## Retirements Noted

In addition to the ministerial retirements announced in the May issue, three more were announced by Minis-

# Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate Program Will Help Meet Needs

by Jim Franks

It is a true saying that no one plans to fail, but often people fail to plan. The end result is the same. We are told in the book of Proverbs that where there is "no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18, King James Version). The word for *vision* here is *chazown* and it means "a dream, revelation, oracle; a vision."

We know that God has a plan of salvation that we learn more about each year as we observe the annual festivals. We see that from the beginning God had a goal and a plan. As human beings we also must have plans. We must be able to look into the future and develop a vision of where we want to go and how we want to get there.

In the United Church of God we spend considerable time each year reviewing and refining our strategic plan, our vision for the upcoming year. Our budget and other activities are all driven by the strategic plan.

In the early days of United we were thankful that God had given us so many qualified elders and pastors. We committed to providing a level of service to the brethren that seemed impossible for a new organization. We promised that every congregation in the United States would have a full-time pastor.

Today this promise is becoming increasingly difficult to fulfill. Currently we have 91 pastors in the U.S. ministry. Some of them have five congregations to pastor, several have four congregations and virtually all have at least two or three congregations. We have 91 full-time men covering a geo-

graphical area that at one time was served by several hundred men.

The average age of these 91 men is 58. Several men are experiencing severe health problems or simply the problem of growing older and no longer being able to drive the miles they once could as younger men. Several have reached an age where retirement is a reality.

Earlier this year Ministerial Services presented a plan that would prevent us from reaching the place where we could no longer provide a full-time minister for each congregation. The plan was approved by the Council of Elders in February of this year. In May the plan was presented to the General Conference of Elders.

The plan involves a program called the Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate Program. This program consists of several phases. At the end of August and the beginning of September we will enter one of the most important phases of the program.

The initial stage of the program called for men who were interested to fill out an application. We made it clear to everyone that this wasn't a job application nor was it an application for ordination. We simply wanted to find out if there were those men in the congregations who had the desire (and possibly the calling) to serve in the full-time ministry. We are told in 1 Timothy 3:1 that this is a good thing—"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work."

We received a total of 22 applications. Some men were ordained and already serving as elders in their congregations, while others were not yet

ordained but were serving in their local areas. We asked the pastor and the regional pastor to provide an evaluation of each man. Next someone from Ministerial Services also interviewed and evaluated each man. Since we believe very strongly that the ministry is a calling and that being a pastor is an additional calling, we are looking for men who show the fruits that God is calling them to the full-time ministry. This isn't an easy task but with much prayer and fasting we believe we will reach the proper conclusions.

The next phase of the program is now upon us. From the 22 applications we have selected 17 men and their wives to attend the first ever "Leadership Workshop 2002." It is our desire to develop an annual workshop for those men who have expressed an interest in the full-time ministry and have also received favorable evaluations from the pastor, regional pastor and Ministerial Services.

There will still be only a small num-

ber of men chosen for the full-time ministry. The vast majority of those invited to the workshop will receive focused training that should assist them in serving in their local congregations. Most of the men will not go on to become full-time ministers in the organization, but all should receive invaluable instruction.

The first workshop will be held in Cincinnati at the beautiful new home office building. Instructors will include several home office employees along with a number of men from the field ministry. Topics will include specialized training in speaking, researching, program development, counseling, organization and structure. We will also be doing specialized testing to determine the strengths of those being invited to the classes.

The dates for the workshop will be Aug. 29 through Sept. 2. We look forward to this next phase of the Ministerial/Pastoral Candidate program, a plan that is very much needed in the Church today! **UN**

## Leadership Workshop 2002 Invitees

Philip and Sarah Aust, Bloomington, IL  
Gary and Gale Black, Beloit, WI  
Andrew and Lisa Burnett, Roseburg, OR  
Paul and Tracy Carter, Joplin, MO  
Scott and Gayle Hoefker, Omaha, NE  
Joseph and Jacquelyn Horschak, Loma Linda, CA  
Michael and Joyce Lince, Spokane, WA/Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Tom and Pam Kuver, San Antonio, TX  
Scott and Monica Lord, Buffalo, NY

Jason and Wendy Lovelady, Nashville, TN  
Gary and Jane McConaughy, Worcester, MA  
Scott and Carrie McKee, Phoenix Northwest, AZ  
John and Susan Miller, Cambridge, OH  
Chris and Angela Moen, Atlanta, GA  
Ed and Shannon Oliver, Portland West, OR  
Braden and Georgia Veller, Tampa, FL  
Tim and Valerie Waddle, Colorado Springs, CO

## Treasurer's Report

Continued from page 1

which the work of the Church operates.

I believe that God has worked and continues to work through the modern descendants of Joseph to provide the wealth that is a blessing to many others, just as He worked through Joseph in

ancient times. We know that so long as the Church is doing the work God wants it to do, He will provide it with the resources it needs to do that work, including the financial resources that it takes to do business in this world. Certainly in the last century, modern Joseph has served as the financial engine to

enable the work of the Church to grow. We also know that nothing is too hard for God. He can provide the funds needed by the Church even in the midst of a downturn in the overall economy. He owns all wealth, ultimately, and He has a thousand ways we don't even know of to send what we need.

All of this brings us back to a familiar conclusion. We trust God to give us what we need to please Him and do His work. We thank all the brethren and others who support the work of the United Church of God for their faithful financial support and their prayers for God's blessings and guidance of the Church. **UN**

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

**International addresses:**

AFRICA (except as listed below): United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A.  
E-mail: info@ucg.org

AUSTRALIA: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia.  
Phone: (07) 555 202-111 Fax: (07) 555 202-122

BAHAMAS: United Church of God, P.O. Box N8873, Nassau, Bahamas.  
Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

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

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada.  
Phone: (905) 876-9966, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 876-0669

Fiji: United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji.  
Phone: 723-678

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie—France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany.  
Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637  
E-mail: info@guetenachrichten.org

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy. Phone: (+39) 035-462.16.26 Fax: (+39) 035-58.21.40 E-mail: redazione@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kiteve, Zambia. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

John A. Jewell, Clyde Kilgough (chairman), Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seiglie, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker  
President: Roy Holladay

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MAURITIUS: P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius.  
E-mail: mauritius@ucg.org

THE NETHERLANDS: United Church of God Holland, P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Auckland, 1015, New Zealand. Phone: 0608-463-763

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Forenede Kirker, Mailbox 144, 111 73 Stockholm, Sweden.

SOUTH AFRICA: United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694. E-mail: rsa@ucg.org

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

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

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kiteve, Zambia. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 3393, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

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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.labuonanotizia.org> the Italian Web site, <http://www.guodnews.org.uk> the British Isles Web site, <http://www.ucg.org.ph> the Philippines Web site and <http://www.ucgrsa.org> the Southern Africa Web site.





## News From **Around the World**

# United Youth Corps Volunteers Teach Computer Skills in Ghana

by **Andy Lausted**

June 24 I started a journey that took me to three continents in one day. The destination: Ghana in West Africa. This was my first time to sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, it was my first time out of North America. My journey started June 24 and ended July 10.

This trip to Ghana was part of a United Youth Corps project. More information can be found on UCG Youth Web site ([www.ucgyouth.org](http://www.ucgyouth.org)). I started the trip to Ghana from Minneapolis and met Melvin Rhodes in Chicago. I was reassured traveling to Ghana with Mr. Rhodes because he had lived in Accra for many years. I enjoyed getting to know him. From Chicago we traveled through Germany, Nigeria and finally Accra.

The project this year included teaching computer skills to members, elders and pastors in Ghana. A few had used computers before but many had no experience with one. It was our goal to get the students familiar with the computer by the end of our stay.

Oludare Akinbo was my teaching partner and friend from Nigeria. The first few days teaching we worked with about 12 elders. Oludare and I started with the basics: turning on a computer, different types of computers and storage devices. Our remaining lessons



Computer skills class in Kumasi, Ghana

covered Microsoft Office, specifically Microsoft Word.

During the week, members came from the Kumasi congregation. Throughout the course of the week we tailored our lessons according to what the students wished to learn. At the end of the week we took a field trip to the Internet café in Kumasi where students set up Yahoo E-mail accounts for the first time.

We enjoyed much enthusiasm and attentiveness during the computer classes. Everyone was eager to learn

and thirsted for more knowledge. In total we taught about 30 people with four computers. I brought two donated computers with me from the United States. The donations were from members in Minnesota and the Kumasi brethren were extremely grateful.

I've wanted to make this trip since United first offered the United Youth Corps. Finally, I decided to do it. My employers were more than accommodating. However, it had to be an unpaid absence since I didn't have enough vacation time.

Ghana is similar to what I had imagined. I found out it isn't something you can prepare for, however. The images, smells and sounds paint a picture not available in a book. Initially, I felt like a stranger in a strange land. I remember feeling a bit lost and out of control. It's a different country. It's a different currency. It's a different culture. All of it was new to me. It took me out of my comfort zone.

According to *Lonely Planets, West Africa*, "If an award were given for the country with the friendliest people in West Africa, Ghana would definitely be among the finalists (1999, page 382)." I'd have to agree with that assessment. I wasn't a stranger for long. Within a short time I adapted to my temporary home thanks to the warmth of the members.

The concept of time in Ghana is different than what I know in the United States. I felt a more laid-back approach to each day. My observation is Ghanaians are not driven by time as in the West. It is a less stressful lifestyle. The West may have more convenience, but we tend to busily go from one place to the next.

Once again, I have entered the world of instant messages, E-mail and cell phones—all of which are distractions. It may make my life more convenient, but it also makes it busier and faster. It leaves less opportunity for quiet time and med-

itation. The trip to Ghana made it clear to me that our fast-paced lifestyle can be a trap if we're not careful.

I miss the people, but I'm glad to be home. As I walked through customs at the Chicago O'Hare International Airport, the agent said, "Welcome back!"



Oludare Akinbo, Andy Lausted and Melvin Rhodes in Ghana

A sense of comfort and happiness came over me to be on U.S. soil again.

I will continue to pray for our brethren in Ghana. I will cherish the memories and friendships. I would encourage the youth to take advantage of the opportunities such as the United Youth Corps. It's an opportunity to serve and learn. Different projects are available to you and they open up a whole new world. **UN**

## Jahns Welcomed to South Africa

by **Jorge de Campos**

Bill and Cheryl Jahns landed at 7:07 a.m. July 26 at the Johannesburg, South Africa, international airport, safe and sound in the midst of great excitement.



Bill and Cheryl Jahns welcomed to South Africa by André and Elize van Belkum and Jorge and Kathy de Campos July 26 (photo by Nolan Richter)

They had a long flight from Salt Lake City, Utah (where they had pastored five congregations), with a short stopover in London.

They were welcomed by the United Church of God, Southern Africa, National Council chairman, André van Belkum and his wife, Elize. Jorge and Kathy de Campos and Nolan

Richter, Johannesburg Church members, were also at the airport.

The Jahns plan to be in South Africa serving the South African brethren and possibly the brethren in another Southern African country for three years.

The Johannesburg congregation organized a special potluck meal after the services on the Sabbath of July 27 to welcome the Jahns.

A whole new "African experience" awaits them. We wish the Jahns a most memorable, safe and pleasant time in Southern Africa serving God's work in this region. **UN**

## British Isles National Council Meets

The British national council met on Sunday, July 14, at the Tithe Barn Hall at Polesworth in Warwickshire, with the meeting opened at 11 a.m. by the chairman, Frank Jarvis. The minutes of the previous meeting in April were approved after an amendment. The meeting then discussed various topics.

First was a presentation by David McDermott of a CD the Church might produce to be made freely available. He is going to do more work on this for the next national council meeting.

### Financial Report

Then came a financial report by the CEO, John Jewell. During this he presented a draft budget for the new financial year. This was discussed item by item and after some amendments was approved by the council.

Mr. Jewell reported that 4,000 pounds had been placed in reserve to bring the balance back to 10,636.12 pounds. The plan is to place a further 5,000 pounds in reserve to return it to the required level. This will be done at the "earliest possible moment." The constitution says that the reserve can be drawn when need is agreed, but monies withdrawn should be replaced at "earliest possible moment," and obviously when pru-

dent. It should be understood that the reserve is not a savings account. It is there to compensate for the unexpected peaks and troughs of income.

Other reports followed about circulation, correspondence and a report by the office manager, Barbara Slater.

### Feast Report

Tina Jewell gave a progress report regarding the Feast of Tabernacles. She said everything was coming together and that we knew of at least 160 from the United States who are planning to come. We are expecting a total attendance of around 300.

Mrs. Jewell gave a further progress report regarding sites for 2003 and 2004. She mentioned how very difficult it is to find locations that meet all needs and that can cope with our likely numbers at a reasonable cost. Already dozens of locations have been approached and several visited.

### Media Advisory Committee Established

Following a proposal from Mr. Jewell, the council agreed to the establishment of a Media Advisory Committee to help in the development of a media strategy. Members of the committee are: David Jones,

David Jardine, Brian Greaves, David McDermott and Mr. Jewell.

Other topics discussed included a brief update by Mr. Payne on the summer family camp that was about to begin. A report on the camp is planned for the next issue of *United News*.

The meeting concluded with an agreement on the date of Oct. 27 for the next council meeting. A possible date for the annual general meeting is Sunday, Nov. 17.

### British Teens to Travel to U.S. Camp

Joanna and Susanna Karas of the Gloucester congregation were chosen to attend Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania funded by the Ozzie G. Engelbart Memorial Youth Fund. (For more details, see the article, "OGE Memorial Youth Fund to Help International Campers," July *United News*, page 3.)

They will be leaving on Wednesday, Aug. 7, from Birmingham and returning on Monday, Aug. 19. This is a wonderful opportunity, and we are so happy that this has been made available for two of our young people.

*This material first appeared in the United Church of God—British Isles "National Announcements."*

## New Congregation Started in Leyte, Philippines

by Florante Siopan

The Leyte brethren and the Bacolod congregation are happy to see another milestone in the work of God in the Philippines when another congregation was officially opened in Tacloban, Leyte.

The Visayan group of islands now has three congregations, served by Florante Siopan. Assisting him in caring for the welfare of the congregations are the newly ordained deacons, Raul Villacote of Tacloban City and Candido Merino of Inopacan, Leyte. The two were ordained on the Day of Pentecost.

The number of brethren who used to come from the Tacloban area to Sabbath services in Sabang, Baybay (our first congregation in Leyte), kept on increasing until the multicab vehicle owned by one of our deacons could no longer car-

ry them all. Also there were requests by some of the members' relatives in Tacloban to open a congregation in Tacloban as they could not attend in Sabang, Baybay, because of distance. Tacloban City is more than 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Sabang, Baybay.

The building we use for Sabbath services in Tacloban is owned by the Villacote family. This building was constructed while the Villacote family was still with the Jerusalem Church of God, but was never used by that group since it was not finished yet when Raul Villacote and his family joined the United Church of God. I can see that God, through the owner of this building, prepared this house of worship for the use of His people and we praise the Eternal for this blessings.

The opening Sabbath services saw some new faces and relatives of mem-

bers who attended services for the first time. We had 28 in attendance for services.

My wife and I left Bacolod for our trip to Leyte early Friday morning, June 14. Our first stop was in the northernmost part of Negros Occidental, where Bacolod is the capital city. Next we took a ferry boat for a two-hour trip crossing the sea between Negros Occidental and Cebu. We took another land trip to Cebu City arriving at 5 in the afternoon.

From Cebu we took another boat that brought us to Ormoc, Leyte, arriving early dawn the next day (Sabbath). Then we proceeded to Sabang, Baybay, for the morning Sabbath service. Although at present members in Sabang are fewer in number because of the absence of the Tacloban brethren, they are happy that the work is progressing. We ended the services at 11 a.m. and took our trip to

Tacloban to conduct the Sabbath service in our newly established congregation in that city. We started the services as soon as we arrived at 2 p.m. We found out that those who attended for the first time have an immediate need for Bibles and Church publications such as the *Good News* magazine and different booklets. Potential and associate members appreciated very much that we now have a place to meet every Sabbath in their area, saying that many more will come in the immediate future.



The new Tacloban congregation in front of building

The whole membership in the Visayas area would like to ask for the prayers of the brethren in other places that God would continue to bless His Work and to call more people, especially their relatives and loved ones who are not yet in the Church. **UN**

## Member Profiles: Canadian Couple Has Deep Roots in the Church of God

by Robert Berendt

John Thomas Hrenyk and his wife, Olga, were married in 1949 and are celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary this year. They raised a family of two girls and seven boys (one died). John and Olga live on a farm near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, with some of their children nearby.

John has a long history of Sabbath keeping, but when he first met Olga, she was a determined Baptist. Olga tried to "convert" John, but in the process she also became a Sabbath keeper, married him and bore him a full quiver of children. Their lives have been full and rich in many ways.

Both John and Olga have remained faithful to God's way of life during their marriage and through the doctrinal errors that appeared in the Church. Although all of God's people have stories to tell, some seem to stand out for certain reasons. John Thomas Hrenyk's family history is remarkable as he traces his family roots back to early Sabbath keepers.

### Sabbath-Keeping History

John's father was Thomas Hrenyk. He was a Seventh-Day Adventist and became part of the Church of God (Seventh Day) as time passed. In 1936, John Kiesz of the Church of God (Seventh Day), came to the Prince Albert area to hold a campaign. He stayed with Thomas Hrenyk for three months and campaigned in the area. Mr. Kiesz taught about the Millennium and that Christ was in the grave for three days and three nights. Thomas Hrenyk accepted this belief and became part of the Church of God (Seventh Day). Quite a few relatives of the Hrenyk family also followed the teachings of Mr. Kiesz.

Thomas Hrenyk had 11 children and attended a small church of Sab-



John and Olga Hrenyk, long-time members who live near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

bath keepers. In 1937 A.N. Dugger arrived and did follow-up work in Prince Albert for about two weeks. As time passed, Mr. Dugger began to believe that the headquarters of the church should be in Jerusalem, and so he moved to Jerusalem in about 1938 or 1939. He encouraged others to join him in Jerusalem.

Thomas Hrenyk, one married daughter and her husband as well as two other daughters moved to Jerusalem some time later (about 1950). John and Olga were encouraged to move to Jerusalem also, but Olga refused and thus the family stayed in Canada.

Although John and Olga did not move to Jerusalem, John did visit his father and family members in Israel in 1987-88. Thomas Hrenyk died in about 1996 at age 93.

### Hearing Herbert Armstrong

In 1950-51 John and Olga first heard Herbert W. Armstrong on a

radio station from Texas. It turned out that Mr. Kiesz, who had preached to John's father in the 1930s, actually attended the Feast of Tabernacles for a few years with Mr. Armstrong around 1947 or 1948. Mr. Kiesz began attending with the Radio Church of God (before the name change to Worldwide) but left some time later.

John and Olga started attending the Radio Church of God in Saskatoon in 1965 under Richard Pinelli, and in 1972 requested baptism (re-baptism) by James Wells in Prince Albert. Their children have not all taken the route of their parents.

John Thomas Hrenyk and his wife have personal experience—through his father—that dates back a long time in the history of the Church. God promises that those who truly seek Him will also find Him (Matthew 7:7).

This couple has shown strength and determination in following God. Their history is of interest to many because of the richness of their experiences.

### Holding Sabbath Meetings in Prince Albert Again

Now, as the years have taken their toll, health has become a factor. Distances are harder to manage, but nevertheless John and Olga, along with two of their grown children, have attended the United Church of God in Saskatoon whenever they are able to. In the coming months we will have Sabbath meetings in their home near Prince Albert and we hope and pray that God will bless the efforts to once again start a live and vibrant congregation there.

In this couple we find fulfilled the meaning of Proverbs 16:31: "The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness." **UN**

## Canada Employs Subscriber Letter, Internet Advertising

In just the first week, 260 responses were received to the latest Canadian subscriber development letter. This was an 8 percent response to the letter sent in mid-July to 3,827 individuals.

The letter was sent to all donors who receive *The Good News* and/or the *Bible Study Course*, as well as all those who receive just the *Bible Study Course* and those who have received *The Good News* since January 2001. The letter offered two booklets: *What Happens After Death?* and *Heaven & Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?*

There were also eight first-time donations among the responses.

### Internet Advertising Program

The following report was submitted by Paul Wasilkoff, who serves as the UCG-Canada Web master.

"We have begun a new on-line marketing campaign! This campaign will endeavor to capitalize on renewed interest in the end time (see the July 1 edition of *Time* magazine featuring an article entitled "The Bible & the Apocalypse"). The campaign will be run at Kanoodle.com which offers us a very flexible and economical way to advertise.

"The Media Committee selected eight end-time-related keywords and drafted attention-grabbing descriptions designed to bring people to a special End Time page on the GoodNewsMag.ca Web site ([www.goodnewsmag.ca/apocalypse](http://www.goodnewsmag.ca/apocalypse)).

"The Web page features our prophecy-related literature (*The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*; *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*; *Are We Living in the Time of the End?*; *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy* and *World News*

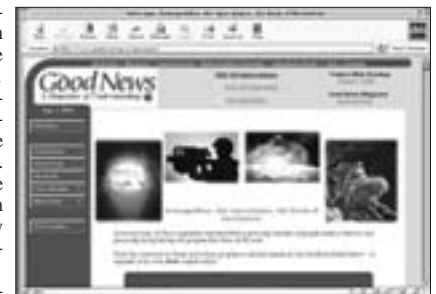
and *Prophecy*) and a form that enables visitors to easily order the literature. Please pray that God will bless this effort as He sees fit."

### Mailings and Postage Increases

Canadian office manager Ed van Pelt reported on the volume of publications that arrived in the Canadian office in one week in mid-July, including *United News*, *World News* and *Prophecy*; *The Good News*, *United News Canada* and several booklets.

"All these shipments came to a total of 18,400 pieces of literature that arrived at the office within a week. Space will be at a bit of a premium for the next few days as these items continue to be processed."

Mr. van Pelt also reported on another notice from Canada Post of a rate



New Canadian Internet advertising program leads to this page at [www.goodnewsmag.ca/apocalypse](http://www.goodnewsmag.ca/apocalypse)

increase. "For the second time in less than a year the cost to send 'Publications Mail' will go up. This time the increase is 1 to 2 cents per copy. Based on our current volume of 'Publications Mail' it will cost about \$1,000 more to send *The Good News*, *United News* and *United News Canada* next year. The rate increase goes into effect Jan. 13, 2003." **UN**





# United Youth Camps

## South African Winter Camp a "Wild" Success

by Grant and Kim Chick and Joel Meeker

A tremendous spirit of cooperation, unity and teamwork was the hallmark



Feeding Bwana, a 10-year-old black rhino (photos by Joel Meeker)

of the South African Youth Camp held in the Lapalala ("place of sleep" in the South Sotho language) Game Reserve from July 7 to 12. Twenty-three youths from Johannesburg, Durban and the United States, plus six staff members attended a six-day course at the Lapalala Wilderness School in the 36,000-hectare reserve located 320 kilometers north of Johannesburg in the Limpopo province.

Activities included daily Christian Living classes, white-water inner tubing, an interpretive nature hike, a water-

studies course, spoor molding (where campers learned to identify the "spoor" or tracks of different animals), canoeing, raft building, team-building obstacle courses, stargazing and the very popular "mud-sharing activity."

The game reserve shelters an impressive variety of African wildlife including impala, kudu and other antelope, zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, warthog, cape buffalo, monkey, baboon, hippopotamus, crocodile, leopard and black and white rhino. Campers and staff could spot some of these animals while participating in different camp

activities. Monkeys would occasionally come right into camp looking for food, and dorm windows had to be closed securely when the campers were out on activities, in order to prevent uninvited "monkey business" from occurring in the dorms.

The camp had a real outdoor flavor with all meals being eaten outside in a *boma* (enclosure) around a campfire. The campers themselves cooked most of those meals over open fires, which was an exciting new experience for many of them.

The final highlight of the camp was



A family photo after the popular "mud-sharing activity"



Showing off the winning raft at Lapalala Winter Camp in South Africa

the opportunity to feed and touch Bwana, a 10-year-old black rhino orphan. This was a rare opportunity as there are only approximately 3,400 of this endangered species left in the world. The campers could feed Bwana by placing their hands on his bottom lip and allowing him to scoop the food off their hands with his prehensile top lip.

We regretted the absence of campers from Zimbabwe, unable to attend this year because of difficulties in that country. The camp maintained its international flavor however, due to the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Meeker and

their two daughters from St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Meeker oversaw the Christian Living courses presented each evening. Laetitia Bernal from Bordeaux, France, and Renée Dean from Sydney, Australia, served on the staff as volunteers from the United Youth Corps International Service Projects team. Rounding out the staff were Grant and Kim Chick from the Durban, South Africa, congregation.

Plans are already beginning for next year's Youth Camp in South Africa. Participants from other countries would be welcome! **UN**

## Oakhurst: Learning New Skills, Building Character and Friendships to Last a Lifetime

by Randy Stiver

The afternoon of Sunday, June 23, 133 campers gathered at Camp Oakhurst, joining 58 staff, including 13 pastors and five wives, for the California camp for 2002.

Located in the High Sierras northeast of Fresno near the town of Oakhurst, the camp is nestled in a peaceful pine forest and provided campers with numerous safe, but exciting, wildlife sightings of California blacktail deer, black bears, Rio Grande wild turkeys and a gray fox. This year the three bears, appropriately a papa, mama and baby bear, provided the most entertainment. Campers also learned to identify certain plants during the wilderness skills class, in particular, poison oak!

Other camp activities enjoyed by Camp Oakhurst campers this summer included soccer, water polo, traditional longbow archery, camp crafts, climbing, high ropes challenge course, hiking, plus swimming, water skiing and wake craft riding at nearby Bass Lake.

San Jose deacon and cartoonist Fred Crow served as the water safety super-

visor at the lake front. Jim Chapman (pastor in Red Bluff, California, and Reno, Nevada) and Jim Tuck (pastor in Oakland and San Jose, California) expertly skipped the powerful ski boats earning the nickname of "the Throttle Brothers."

Donnie Weis, 12, of Huntington Beach, California, received the best score during the black bear target challenge in archery, and will be awarded an all-wood longbow that is being custom carved by camp director Randy Stiver. This special challenge highlights



Dorm B2 poses at Camp Oakhurst

the activity focus of Camp Oakhurst—learn and hone new skills while building character and friendships to last a lifetime and beyond.

Persevering in the face of adversity proved to be another profound lesson learned by many of the challenger campers (16- to 18-year-olds) when they made their ascent on Half Dome, one of the most beautiful mountains in Yosemite National Park. Of the 30 plus campers and staff starting the mid-camp hike, only four were unable to complete the 18-mile climb and descent. But even for those four and about a dozen others who took an alternate, slightly shorter hike, challenging their bodies and minds to sensible limits brought deeper appreciation for God's creation and His limitless strength, not to mention a newfound confidence born of not a little, soul-deep, sore muscle satisfaction! Council chairman and Sacramento, California, pastor Clyde Kilough led the challenger hike.

Camp is for learning about yourself, others and especially about God. The Christian Living theme this year was "Learn to Discern," with daily

classes about the true values of fairness, honesty, chastity and responsibility. Each dorm of adventure campers (11- to 15-year-olds) also participated in two special, if unusual, 50-minute Bible classes during the week entitled, "Jesus Christ as a Kid," and "Christ's Disciples as Kids."

Camp Oakhurst concluded with a fine Sabbath of inspiring services. This included three pieces of special music: a camper duet by Amber Bosserman and Kamryn Creamer of Sacramento, a camper solo by Mary Miller of Ohio and a counselor duet by Michelle Zollner of Illinois and Amanda Stiver from Oregon.

Some outstanding camper reflection speeches came later, including one by Amber Bosserman called "Choices." The assembled campers and their intrepid counselors enjoyed hymn singing in the afternoon led by several of our older male campers, and a scintillating

question-and-answer session chaired by UYC Director Larry Greider.

Saturday night provided time for



Dorm G6 at Camp Oakhurst

camp's social highlight—the camp dance, deejayed by camp counselor/Web master/photographer Brett Washington of Oakland.

Camp Oakhurst 2002 was a gift for our eager and capable campers primarily due to God's blessings and to the dedicated, faithful and immensely talented team effort of our counselors and activity and organizational staff. **UN**

# Woodmen Wins Rave Reviews From Campers and Staff

by Denise Dobson

The 112 campers and 51 staff members at Camp Woodmen in rural north Alabama began a wonderful week of fellowship and activities on Sunday, June 30. Christian Living classes each day helped everyone maintain a spiritual focus during the activities and challenges.



Audra Nichols and Grant Pennington in the grapefruit relay at the Novelty Olympics at Camp Woodmen

Camp activities included classes in outdoor living skills, manners and dance, along with swimming and water slide, volleyball, softball, basketball,

flag football, riflery, archery, rock climbing and rappelling and high ropes course.

The "2002 Camp Woodmen Pentathlon" challenged campers' skills in archery, riflery, basketball, swimming and the climbing tower. Many campers successfully completed the five-event challenge!

Following dinner and fellowship in the evenings, campers participated in activities such as the Novelty Olympics, camp dances, a fun show and a Friday evening Bible question and answer session. On July 4th, we were also treated to an exciting fireworks display to celebrate America's Independence Day. Campers ended each evening in their dorms with a goodnight talk with one of the staff members.

Director David Dobson commented, "Once again, I really believe that across the board we had the best staff ever." The outstanding staff volunteers set a beautiful tone for the whole week of camp. Counselor Lisa Sproul described the way the campers carried out that tone: "The campers love each other and demonstrated that love through their support for each other daily." Crystal Whitley of the volleyball staff said, "I saw nothing but positive attitudes at camp."



Todd Carey works with girls' dorm 3 in flag football at Camp Woodmen

Campers deeply appreciated the love, support and encouragement from their fellow campers and the staff. One 16-year-old girl said, "Camp renewed my faith in God and His people." An 18-year-old boy said, "My experience has been amazing! I enjoyed every second of it. I developed better relationships with my friends and with God."

Other campers made the following comments: "After camp you know you aren't alone, that there are some people who believe, think and experience the same things as you." "Camp helps you

realize what things are important in life. It's good to be refreshed with these things." A great number of campers stated that Christian Living classes and Bible activities were the most helpful parts of camp.

The Sabbath wrapped up a beautiful week of camp. The boys' dorms served a special sit-down breakfast. Dorm photos were taken, and then Sabbath notes were shared. After lunch, Sabbath services were held in the dining hall. Chris Moen gave the first split sermon entitled, "Can You Handle the Power?" followed

by Todd Carey's split sermon on "The T and T (Tender and Tough) Love of God." Dinner and fellowship were followed by the annual end-of-camp dance.

Campers and staff departed Sunday morning, July 7, after many hugs and emotional farewells. Once again, the most common plea was for camp to be lengthened. A 15-year-old girl summed up her feelings as she departed, "I have met some of the most wonderful people here, and I'm so glad that I came!" **UN**



A.J. Dean on the zip line, which goes from the top of the climbing tower to the trees, around 300 feet

## Teton Challengers Hike the High Country, Read the River, Climb the Canyon

by Paul Luecke

"I should have brought more film!" This was a common remark during the seventh year of the Teton Challenger Camp. Before camp began, drought conditions threatened this year's experience. But just in time rains and snow came to raise the river and lake levels and bring the mountains to life. The result was dazzling mountain wildflowers, especially in the high country where all campers went on a challenging overnight backpack trip. The most common remark after returning was,

"The place where we camped was so beautiful!" After the first day of hiking campers slid on snow and threw snowballs.

One team (20 campers) focused on survival skills for their hike, taking no tent or sleeping bag. They made shelters and used only thin emergency blankets to cover with—an experience they won't soon forget. At 3:45 a.m. they built a bonfire to warm themselves.

Canoeing conditions on the Snake River were great. Campers were taught how to "read" a river and navigate it safely. Some had the chance to canoe in

a canyon, where they got a taste of some white water (some literally). A few capsized and lost their canoe for a while, but their training kept them safe as they floated down the river with their feet out front.

Some campers saw moose, elk, deer, bald eagles, buffalo, bears and other wildlife. Even the rock climbing areas



White-water canoeing in the Snake River Canyon (photo by Paul Luecke)

at Cascade Canyon and Blacktail Butte were picturesque. This was the second year we rented shoes for rock climbing, advancing the ability of more campers to "clean" more climbing routes.

The weather was virtually ideal—cool at nights (but not too cold), warm or hot during the day (but not humid),



Mark Mickelson congratulates camper Nathan Froedge for "cleaning" proficiency climb. A fire is being prepared for Christian Living discussion to follow (photo by Paul Luecke)

with some refreshing rains on two nights. The rain one night caused the river level to rise six inches by the next morning!

The camp food also received rave reviews, especially considering that all cooking was done outdoors. Several campers observed that they could eat all they wanted and yet still lose weight! So many calories were being burned during the activities that belts often could be tightened a notch or two by the end of camp. Not only the food service staff, but this year's staff overall was exceptional, pulling together in a unified team effort obvious to everyone.

Every night was a Christian Living

discussion around the campfire. Several asked that the discussions could go longer. But eventually it was time to end the day by singing a hymn together, and then retrieving toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc., from the "bear-proof" trailer. Anything that has a scent must be stored in the trailer. Just before we had arrived at camp, a bear clawed into someone's tent to get to the raspberry-scented skin lotion he smelled in the tent! By adhering to strict bear control rules, we had no problems with bears this year.

Look for more pictures of this year's camp in a few weeks at [www.cgca.net/tetoncamp/](http://www.cgca.net/tetoncamp/). **UN**



At the top of two-day hike: Carla Erickson (counselor), Greg Sargent (hiking director) and Rachel Luecke (camper) (photo by Rachel Luecke)



# ABC Graduation Caps Busy Year

Continued from page 1

Excellence was presented to Clarissa de Campos and Andy Shamblin, and the Council of Elders Service Award was given to Joy LaBissoniere and Michael Blencowe.

Even before graduation, students were reflecting on the year. Several mentioned sadness that it was ending, as well as tiredness from the combination of classes, work, service and social activities. Tonya Jennings, a student from Georgia, said she was "tired, but so thankful for the opportunity."

Joy LaBissoniere, from Tennessee, summed up what she learned from the program this way: "Understanding how all of the books of the Bible are unified and connected to describe God's purpose and the way we are intended to live has made me more convicted that this is the way I want to live my life."

Of course, some of the "memorable" lecture quotes were of a less serious nature. One student contributed these favorites. Ralph Levy, ABC academic officer and resident instructor, was quoted as saying, "I only sing in the shower and in the presence of my enemies." Visiting instructor Larry Greider asked the

students, "Why did He make us male and female? Just to frustrate us?"

In addition to the intensive course of study—the whole Bible and more in just seven months!—and the long, late hours many students worked, students still made time for service and for fun. Social events included Friday evening Bible studies, a costume party, picnics, Frisbee golf and outings to the opera and symphony. Julie



(Braswell) Warren, from California, said her favorite activity was the costume party, where "all our alter egos came out!" Tony Duncan, from Texas, said, "I loved hanging out with friends of like mind for seven months."

The service opportunities the students participated in are summarized in the accompanying article, "Students Set Example of Service."

The year also included many sad and happy events. A number of students lost loved ones during the year. Happy events included two engagements, a wedding and seven baptisms.

Noting the baptisms, Gary Antion, ABC coordinator, said, "We are thrilled that they made the commitment to God and Jesus Christ to walk His way of life."

The students also helped greatly in the much-anticipated move to the new home office building. The projected move date was "moved" so many times, the student newsletter *ABC Times* described it this way: "The home office move is like the Kingdom: It's coming quickly, yet no one knows the time or the day."

For more news and photos, see [www.ucg.org/abc](http://www.ucg.org/abc). UN

## Students Set Example of Service

In spite of the hectic pace of ABC, students made time for an array of service projects throughout the year. Students donated hundreds of hours helping the home office staff with mailings and other projects.

Students sent get-well cards to mem-

brethren with their musical talents.

One of the highlight service projects was the Talent Show and Bake Auction July 14. Roy Holladay described the event this way: "The ABC class hosted a variety show and baked goods auction for the brethren in the area. The students initiated the project as a way to raise funds for LifeNets, which is offering scholarship help to United's young adults in developing countries who otherwise could not afford to continue their education. This has been very helpful so far, and the pastors in those areas have written glowing letters about its success."

"Anyway, the variety show was most enjoyable—and so was the auction! You never saw people have so much fun trying to see how much they could spend to buy baked goods. In the end, more than \$1,150 was raised—which goes a long way in those countries towards financing education."

Joy LaBissoniere headed up the Service Projects committee, which included Clarissa de Campos, Judy Hernandez, Tim Johnson, Jeffery Kramer and Logan Smith. Audrey Noel and Joni Strauss organized the cards. UN



Auctioning goodies during variety show and bake sale July 14 that raised \$1,158.70 for students in Latin America

bers around the world and visited ill and elderly people in hospitals and nursing homes. They helped collect stuffed animals for children as well as gathering material for a container going to Malawi. Chorale members traveled to surrounding congregations to serve the



Class of 2002: (back, left to right) Andrew Shamblin, John Sackrider, Nathan Ekama, Raymond Gwin, Brett Harris, Mark Riley, Adam Boise, Brian Damour, Anthony Duncan, James Hostetter, Dana Deininger, Daniel Miller, Garrett Pennington, Mike Blencowe, Mark Tannert, Logan Smith, Barbara Sackett, Reuben Boise, David Evans, Beverly Henry, Tim Johnson, Laura Kersey, Jeffery Kramer, Tonya Jennings; (middle) Clarissa de Campos, Rebekah Evans, Judy Hernandez, Mindy Matson, Lindsay Wildt, Barbara Griffith, Jennifer Heesch, Sonja Kirellis, Joy LaBissoniere, Mitra Lebastchi, Jennifer Staats; (seated) Sally Foster, Tarah Kirkpatrick, Carol Griffith, Carrie Zollner, Lisa Lausted, Erin Persons, Ann Blencowe, Mandie Smith, Heidi Kerestes, Julie Braswell, Cheryl Chuprinko, Margie Jacques. Not pictured: Audrey Noel, Ruth Reynolds, Joni Strauss

Students serve in many ways, from ABC Chorale trips to surrounding congregations and nursing home visits, to helping at the home office with literature mailings and cleaning up around the new building





## From the Word

# Jesus Christ: God's True Servant

■ Jesus Christ set the example by His "hands-on" approach to serving.

by Richard Thompson

The healing was indeed a miracle. But there was more to it than the miraculous power of Jesus Christ. After having left the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus and the disciples went to Peter's house where Peter's mother-in-law lay sick. Jesus had been called to help and went immediately to her side.

Mark's description of what Jesus did shows His gentleness and kindness. His compassion and feeling for Peter's mother-in-law.

Mark 1:31 says, "So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them." Note what Mark's account tells us about the actions of Jesus: He took her by the hand and lifted her up. It was not some kind of "lightning and thunderclap" type of healing. It was a suffering human being in the gentle hands of her Creator. Mark shows the extra effort on Jesus' part to touch and aid her to her feet.

Jesus was the Perfect Servant. The New Testament attests to that fact.

More than a servant who gave orders and sent people to do things for Him. He was a "hands-on" type of servant. He still is.

### Man Born Blind

John 9 gives an account of the healing of a man born blind. This account is covered in some detail and provides very helpful insight into the type of servant Jesus was.

After clearing up the misconception of the day—that a physical ailment was always due to some kind of spiritual sin—Jesus told the man what he should do in order to receive his sight.

The blind man followed through with Jesus' instructions and washed in the pool of Siloam. After he received his sight, the enemies of Jesus had great consternation. Their anger against Jesus expanded to include the man who had just received his sight and his parents as well.

In a rather threatening manner the Pharisees sought out the man's parents. They asked them how their son had received his sight. The parents, instead of being able to rejoice in the healing of their adult son, "feared the Jews" (John 9:22). The parents, knowing the power of the Pharisees in the religious community, feared being put out of the synagogue. So they told the resentful Pharisees to talk the matter over with their son if they wanted to know any specifics about the healing.

The son was confronted by the Pharisees and stood his ground with them. He, too, knew that to be associated with Jesus could lead to his being banned from the synagogue. When the man

made the statement, "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing" (John 9:33), he had crossed the barrier of tolerance. The Pharisees excommunicated the man from the synagogue.

### Jesus' Personal Search

When Jesus heard about these incidents following the man's miraculous healing, He sought out the man. Once again we see that His genuine interest in serving did not stop at "doing" the good deed. The effects of the healing on the man had reached Jesus' ears.

As God oftentimes does, Jesus went looking and "found him" (John 9:35). God seeks us out. He "goes looking" for us when turmoil and difficulties hound us.

Jesus did more than teach the man about who He was. He did more than lead the man through the entire account to a deeper, more profound understanding of the true identity of Jesus. He was more than a servant teaching a disciple and leaving the disciple to fend for himself.

Jesus was well aware of the difficulty of being cast out of the synagogue. He knew that submission to Him and the Father carried with it rejection by this present world.

Where would the man go?

How would he handle his new life without blindness? Would it have been better if he had not been healed? After all, his parents had felt the accusatory

threats of the Pharisees. He no longer had access to the religious community. What was he to do?

Jesus made certain that a spiritual connection was made between Himself and the man. The man's "spiritual life" in the synagogue had ended. Jesus found him. Jesus desired to lead him to the next step in his spiritual growth.

But it took the extra effort of Jesus to lead the man to see spiritual things. Jesus wanted the man to be more than physically healed. He desired the man to become spiritually whole. So Jesus went looking.

### A Spiritual Walk Begins

When Jesus found the man He asked him a poignant question: "Do you believe in the Son of God?" (John 9:35). The man answered with another question, accompanied by a commitment: "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" (verse 36).

The man wanted to believe in the Son of God but was uncertain who, specifically, the Son of God was. Jesus clearly identified Himself as the Son of God.

Immediately the man believed that Jesus was the Son of God and fell down to worship Him.

As we read and study this 2,000-year-old example, one of the primary qualities of Jesus as our eternal Servant shines through: Since He puts high value on our commitment to Him, He is willing to give us His personal touch and, if nec-

essary, to "search" for us. He will not leave us for the wolves.

### Mark's Final Comments

It is very interesting to study the final statements made by each of the Gospel writers in their books.

Mark's Gospel, though the briefest, includes many personal touches and evidence of the ongoing concern Jesus has for His followers.

The Gospel of Mark emphasizes the servant-role of Christ. It has been there for Christ's followers to read and apply for 2,000 years. It's there for us today.

How does Mark end his Gospel?

After Christ ascended into heaven and sat at the right hand of God, Mark 16:20 tells us the disciples "went out and preached everywhere, *the Lord working with them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs."

Mark left us with the very real picture of Jesus Christ continuing to work with them. Jesus continues to work with His followers today. And He showed us how that was to be done.

Those who follow Jesus, who keep His precious law, have the example of the True Servant.

Peter's mother-in-law and the man born blind experienced the kind of special care—physical and spiritual—we can still expect today.

Thank God our Father for the calling and leading He has done to bring us to His Son—God's True Servant. **UN**

# Friday Evenings: One of My Fondest Memories

by Karie Greider

We take many things for granted every day. In the more advanced countries, we can easily take for granted waking up in a nice warm bed, hot showers, electricity, jobs and the vehicles to get us there. We can take for granted such things as families, movies and sunsets. In fact, it is so easy to concentrate on the things that we *don't* have that we often don't give due credit to the many things that we *do* have. It's easy to forget that many people do not have many of the things we so often take for granted.

Lately I've tried to single out what I have that has influenced my life and that has helped shape me into the person that I am. As I thought about it, it was easy for me to pick out one special time that I know I have taken for granted. That special time is Friday night dinner.

Some of my fondest childhood memories go back to Friday nights around sunset. I can remember that we always had a tradition to eat together as a family. Comings and goings during the week and the hustle and bustle of everyday activities often didn't allow much time for family bonding. But Friday night, no

matter what else might be going on, was a special family time for us.

### Friday Evening Family Roles

With our traditional dinner came our traditional individual roles. My sister and I always argued over who was to set the table—a chore we became exceptionally proficient in passing down to our two younger brothers. Our mother always somehow found the time to cook a scrumptious main dish and only on a few occasions did we have to take the batteries out of the smoke detectors.

Dad picked out his favorite classical music and adjusted the volume on the stereo so that everyone could enjoy its melodious sounds. I tossed the salad and my sister would put it on the table while my brothers chased each other around the house until they were caught and sentenced to sitting in chairs.

Over the years, things have stayed favorably the same, with few exceptions. My sister no longer shares in Friday nights because she attends college in another state, and I have to travel a few more miles because I no longer live at home. But no matter what time I arrive, I know that as soon as I open the door,

my mother will be cooking something delicious. I know that Dad will be playing Beethoven or Bach. I can imagine my brothers still chasing each other around the house until they get reprimanded. But I also know that as soon as someone lights the candles and calls everyone to come to eat, that another Friday night has officially begun.

Dad says a prayer and we all raise our glasses in a toast of coming before God to celebrate His Sabbath and in thanks that He has helped us through another week and brought us together again.

It takes a little while to eat, probably because while we indulge in the treats that Mom has prepared, we all can't wait to tell each other all the happenings of our week. After we have all cleaned our plates, the men get the pleasure of clearing the table while the ladies load the dishwasher. It is amazing to me how the men always seem to get lost on their route to the kitchen to help.

After dinner comes my favorite part. When we were younger, it was a time to tell our parents just how little we knew about our Bible lessons or how much less we knew about our memory lessons. We would play Bible trivia or take walks

around the neighborhood until we were tucked in with a Bible bedtime story.

I learned a lot about God's ways and the lessons of the Bible on those evenings. I learned to look for the rewards of tomorrow and not just the sacrifices we make today. Most importantly, though, I learned about the wonderful family that I have and how truly blessed I am to have them. I've come to see that I often take them all for granted.

### Different Activities Now

Now that we are all much older, we play a little less but talk a lot more. We talk of the weeks gone by and of the weeks to come. Sometimes we pull out the old photographs and look at where we have been and where we are in life. We laugh at our mistakes and appreciate the progress that we have made.

It is a time to reevaluate our lives and to create ways to make ourselves better individuals. It is a time of sharing our hopes and dreams and a lifestyle that few are fortunate enough to even know much about. It is a time to get advice or just sit by the fire and share a peaceful silence.

Recently I went to a friend's house to pick something up before I headed over

to my parents' house on a Friday afternoon. My friend's father entered the room and asked if I was going out for the evening. I smiled but told him that I was spending the evening with my family as I do every Friday night.

He couldn't believe it! He told me I could probably see my parents because I am over 18 and they legally can't keep me at home with them. I told him I didn't mind staying home on Friday nights. He looked at me with a funny expression and asked, "Karie, you mean to tell me that you would rather stay at home with your parents on Friday night than go out and party with your friends?" I didn't hesitate before I nodded agreement and told him I looked forward to Friday nights all week.

Even now that I no longer live with my parents, I still look forward to going home for Friday nights. It is our special time that God gave us—no one should be able to take it away. I'd like to thank my parents for making Friday nights such a wonderful time. Those times did much to shape me into the person I am today. I just hope that some day I can create the same atmosphere of warmth and godly love for my children. **UN**



# The Message to Laodicea: Be Zealous and Repent

■ Christ gives an antidote to the deadly Laodicean attitude.

by David Treybig

Jesus' seventh and last message to the congregations of Revelation 2 and 3 was in stark contrast to His previous one to Philadelphia. Whereas Philadelphia is unique in that it did not receive any condemnation, Laodicea is unique in that it does not receive any commendation.

There were apparently several cities named Laodicea in Syria and Asia Minor. The one Jesus was referring to lay in the fertile Lycus Valley in Phrygia on the river Lycus. It was about 45 miles southeast of Philadelphia, 100 miles east of Ephesus and 10 miles west of Colossae. "The great Roman road stretching to the inland of Asia from the coast at Ephesus ran straight through its center, making Laodicea an important center of trade and communication" (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*).

"After having been successively called Diospolis and Rhoads, it was named Laodicea in honor of Laodice, the wife of Antiochus II (261-246 B.C.), who rebuilt it. It was destroyed by an earthquake (A.D. 66 or earlier) and rebuilt by Marcus Aurelius . . . The town was located on a flat-topped hill. A wall (about a kilometer long on each of its four sides) surrounded the crown of the hill. Gates pierced this wall on the N, E, and NW. At the SW edge of the plateau stood a stadium, built and dedicated to Vespasian in A.D. 79" (*New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1988, article "Laodicea").

"Though Laodicea stood on the great highway at the junction of several important routes, it was a place of little consequence until the Roman province of Asia was formed in 190 BC. It then suddenly became a great and wealthy center of industry, famous specially for the fine black wool of its sheep and for the Phrygian powder for the eyes, which was manufactured there (compare Rev. 3:18). In the vicinity was the temple of Men Karou and a renowned school of medicine . . ." (*International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, Electronic Database, 1996 by BibleSoft, article "Laodicea"). Although the city also produced ear ointments, it was widely renowned for its Phrygian powder, a medicine famous for curing eye defects.

So situated and blessed with economic prosperity, this city "became extremely wealthy during the Roman period. For example, in 62 B.C. Flaccus seized the annual contribution of the Jews of Laodicea for Jerusalem amounting to 20 pounds of gold. Moreover, when the city was destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 60 (along with Colossae and Hierapolis), it alone refused aid from Rome for rebuilding" (*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers, article "Laodicea"). History also records Cicero cashing large bank drafts here without problem.

For all of its prosperity, Laodicea had

one significant physical flaw—its water supply. "A six-mile-long aqueduct brought Laodicea its supply of water from the south. The water came either from hot springs and was cooled to lukewarm or came from a cooler source and warmed up in the aqueduct on the way" (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*).

"The ruins, now called Eski Hissar, or old castle, lie near the modern Gonjelli on the railroad, and they have long served as a quarry to the builders of the neighboring town of Denizli. Among them nothing from before the Roman period has appeared. One of the two Roman theaters is remarkably well preserved, and there may still be seen the stadium, a colonnade, the aqueduct which brought the water across the valley to the city by an inverted siphon of stone pipes, a large necropolis, and the ruins of three early Christian churches" (*International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, Electronic Database, 1996 by BibleSoft, article "Laodicea").

## The Author

Jesus began this message by describing Himself as "the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14). There are all titles or names of Jesus that represent His trustworthy nature and involvement in creation.

The word "Beginning," from the Greek, *arche*, has been misunderstood by some to mean that Jesus was a created Being. Several biblical resources note that this interpretation is incorrect.

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words* explains that *arche* can be understood as "the origin, the active cause, whether a person or thing, e. g., Col. 1:18" (1985, article "Begin, Beginning, Beginner"). The *Expositor's Bible Commentary* adds: "The 'ruler' (*arche*, 'source,' 'origin') further amplifies the Amen statement. Paul used *arche* in Colossians 1:18 to describe Christ as the source or origin of all creation (not the first created; cf. Prov. 8:22; John 1:3), no doubt to correct a heresy."

"Since Colosse was a neighboring city of Laodicea, it is not improbable that the same heresy was also affecting the sister church at Laodicea. But this is not explicit. What is plain is this: When Christ addresses a church that is failing in loyalty and obedience, he is to them the 'Amen' of God in faithfulness and in true witness, the only one who has absolute power over the world because he is the source and origin of all creation (1:17; 2:8; 22:13)."

## A "Lukewarm" Condition

Jesus began His message saying, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (verses 15-16). As we noted previously, works are important to Jesus. Showing that He was intimately aware of all their actions and circumstances, Jesus likened their indifferent spiritual condition to their city's poor water supply.

Seven miles north of Laodicea, lay the city of Hierapolis with its famous hot

springs. Jesus may have had this in mind by His use of the word "hot." His use of "cold" may have referred to useful cool water at Colosse, only 10 miles east of the city. Though historians are not sure whether Laodicea's water source was cold or hot, by the time it arrived in Laodicea, through the six-mile aqueduct to the south, it was lukewarm and, apparently, distasteful.

After comparing the congregation's works to the temperature of the city's water, Jesus continued the analogy to reveal His reaction to their spiritual condition. Just as drinking distasteful or contaminated water can cause people to vomit, Jesus said He would vomit them out of His mouth. What a detestable picture!

Continuing, Jesus said He would vomit them out of His mouth. "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (verse 17). Sadly, the Laodiceans did not know their true condition. They were blinded by their economic prosperity and wealth. They undoubtedly assumed these blessings from God represented His approval. Yet physical wealth and spiritual wealth are not necessarily the same (see Matthew 6:19-20 and Hebrews 11:26). Unfortunately, the Laodiceans were unaware of their real spiritual state.

## Self-Deception

The problem in Laodicea was not unusual. The Bible has numerous warnings regarding humanity's deceitful nature. Jeremiah 17:9 says the human heart is "deceitful above all things, and

*Even though the Laodiceans had become lukewarm and spiritually blinded, Jesus did not reject them or disassociate Himself from them. He warned them to wake up and change.*

desperately wicked." Proverbs 14:12 and 16:25 say, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." And sadly, self-deception continues today, especially in religious matters.

Recent reports indicate that with increasing regularity, many people today desire spirituality in their lives but are unwilling to follow specific instructions on how to achieve it. Instead of accepting a single organization's teachings, many now pick and choose from numerous ideas in assembling their own eclectic collections of religious ideas. This phenomenon has been called "Cafeteria Christianity" and "The Religion of the Sovereign Self."

Like the Laodiceans of the first century, people who engineer their own religions are generally pleased with their choices and believe God approves of their ways—ways that are in direct contradiction with others holding similarly self-designed religious ideas. Even though Scripture tells us God is not the "author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33), some mistakenly believe there are many paths to God and that all are acceptable to Him. Paul shows the falla-

cy of this view saying there is only "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5).

Because of our self-deceptive tendencies, God says, "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:10). In the message to Thyatira, Jesus said, "all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works" (Revelation 2:23).

In order to truly follow God, humans need new hearts (Ezekiel 11:19; 18:31; 36:26)—ones submissive to Him and those He establishes as teachers in His Church (Ephesians 4:11-12; Hebrews 13:17). In sharp contrast to the human proclivity to pick and choose one's own religious ideas, Paul described first century believers as people who had yielded hearts to God, His ministers and the Church. In writing to the Thessalonians, Paul called them "followers of us and of the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 1:6) and "imitators of the churches of God" (1 Thessalonians 2:14).

## The Antidote

Even though the Laodiceans had become lukewarm and spiritually blinded, Jesus did not reject them or disassociate Himself from them. He warned them to wake up and change. And He gave them advice on how to do this. "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may

black wool of the area, Jesus advised buying "white garments." In doing so, He wasn't simply referring to a different colored garment—but different behavior. In Revelation 19:8, at the marriage of the Lamb, Jesus said His wife, the Church, "was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." In the context of the great battle that will take place at Armageddon at Christ's return, He also said, "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame" (Revelation 16:15). Jesus told the Laodiceans they needed to be concerned about their spiritual clothing.

Thirdly, Jesus spoke of their need for eye salve so they could see. While the Laodicean's famous Phrygian powder was widely used for eye problems, Jesus was referring to spiritual insight, wisdom and understanding. Upon the successful return of 70 of His disciples who had been sent to various cities to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, "Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes'" (Luke 10:21). Jesus told the Laodiceans they needed the spiritual vision to see their real condition and change.

## Encouragement

Lest some think He was uncaring in His correction, Jesus concluded His warning with an explanation of why He had been so critical: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (verse 19). Because He has no desire to see anyone suffer (2 Peter 3:9), Jesus' strong words of correction were delivered to the first century Laodiceans and us today. It is His hope that those who are in need of this advice will be zealous (eager) to repent.

Those who respond to Jesus' words are promised a great reward: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (verses 20-21). What a wonderful blessing and opportunity!

Jesus concludes this message saying, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (verse 22). This message and the ones to the other cities were not intended only for the instruction and correction of first century Christians, but for the entire body of Christ in all ages and parts of the world.

Those who are part of this body will undoubtedly resemble these first century congregations in both their actions extolled by Christ and in their sins and weaknesses. God, as a loving parent, will deal justly and fairly with all. The rewards and punishments will remain the same regardless of the age. May God grant us today the spiritual wisdom and understanding to heed our Savior's advice in His messages to His Church. UN

# The Feast of Tabernacles: A Time for Family

■ Even at the Feast family members can be pulled in many directions. Enjoy the blessing of having physical family at the Feast by making time to spend time together.

by Mark Winner

Every summer where I live many of the builders in the area have an opportunity to showcase their labors in a "home expo" or "home-o-rama." There are usually at least three of these in various locations throughout the city. For a period of one to two weeks usually eight to ten homes are open so the public can go through and see firsthand the work of each builder. The homes are fully decorated by an interior decorator and many luxury items are added to showcase additional companies, such as pool tables, home theater systems, hot tubs, etc.

When my wife and I go through these homes each summer we enjoy seeing what new ideas are out there and what we might be able to add to our home. And, inevitably, each year I'm always struck by the number of toys available to take family members away from interaction with one another.

In recent years one of the trends in these showcase homes is to be fully wired for all high tech equipment. Often each room is wired to accept everything from cable television to home theater systems.

After all, no matter how many people are in a family apparently it's important that each person be able to choose what he or she individually wants to watch on television all at the same time. Or for that matter if one chooses to play video games, it's important that he be able to do so on a large screen with all the latest equipment. Even many of the master bathroom suites have televisions at one end of the large spa tub so that one can simply sit in the Jacuzzi tub and watch television or listen to the stereo for hours if he chooses.

## Families Doing Less and Less Together

I must admit, there are times I too would like to simply withdraw from everyone and go "veg" for an extended period of time. Every human being needs some "down time." Still the thought has crossed my mind on many occasions that within Western society we seem to be choosing more often than not a life of separatism. That is, a life of "you go do what you want and I will do what I want." As a result, there are many negative side effects. One of those side effects is that the average family is doing less and less together, and this means parents have less influence in the lives of their children.

One of the blessings God has given in His Church is the blessing of the Holy Days. It is through these days that we are reminded of His plan of salvation for all mankind. It is through these days we can

gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the value of sharing *time* together and *God's Word* together with the entire family.

Although it is enjoyable to be able to spend time with our extended family (other Church members) at the Feast, it is also important that those of us who have the blessing of physical family at the Feast spend time with them. With all the activities and distractions, we can very easily take the approach, "you do what you want to do and I will do what I want to do." Before we know it, the Feast is over and we are traveling home without having taken advantage of the time and opportunities we had to do things together.

Matthew 13 brings out a number of Kingdom parables in which Christ



shows that those who are focused, not distracted, are successful in His Kingdom. Notice verses 47-48: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away." There is conscious thought and effort put into gathering good and throwing away bad.

Is this how we approach the Feast each year? Do we make a conscious effort to spend time together teaching our children about why God's way of life is so important to live? Do we make a conscious effort to not allow time to slip away without having spent much quality time together as a family? Need we be reminded that in the Millennium the saints will be spending time teaching others, not simply sitting on the sidelines watching everyone scatter in different directions void of instruction.

## Sharing the Pearl of Great Price

As parents and grandparents, we have a responsibility to teach the next generations the value of what the Feast pictures. We have the responsibility to teach that we come together at the Feast not only because God commands us to, but also because we recognize what the pearl of great price really is (verses 45-46). What we plant in our children's minds now should be part of their character and value system as they grow into adulthood (verses 31-32). It may take some time to see the results, and yet those who diligently, sincerely plant seed in the minds of the next generation now will see good fruit borne in the future.

Although the flavor of each Feast site may differ somewhat, typically in the

larger sites there are so many attractions and restaurants to choose from that it's easy to focus on what we want or like and become distracted from a much bigger purpose for the Feast. That purpose is building family unity and preparing for our role in what is yet ahead. Perhaps if it isn't already, one of our goals this Feast should be to simply sit down as a family and talk about what we envision our responsibility to be when Christ rules on this earth.

It isn't difficult for us to turn to scriptures that describe what will take place during the Millennium as well as at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment and beyond (see Isaiah 11 and 35, Revelation 20 and 21). However, shouldn't we all ask as we approach each Feast of Tabernacles, "Am I setting the kind of example within my family that clearly shows I understand and appreciate what God has given me through the Feast?"

Just as each one of the new homes at a home expo allows space and outlets for each person in that home to "do his own



thing," the Feast often allows the same opportunities. This is not, however, always good. In fact, if we take advantage of all those opportunities to the exclusion of spending time together as a family and focusing on the meaning behind the Feast, we risk not understanding or treasuring the pearl of great

price. What a tragedy that would truly be.

The Feast is a time to be thankful to God for what He has given us. The Feast is a time to focus on what is ahead in the future. The Feast is a time to focus on family unity and togetherness. Don't let this Feast slip by without a steady diet of family interaction. **UN**

## The Feast of Tabernacles Forecasts Better Days Ahead

■ In the shadow of 9/11, who doesn't look forward to better days? They are coming. God guarantees the world many centuries of better days ahead through the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

by Jerold Aust

God's ultimate goal for human beings is to enjoy peace and prosperity (Luke 2:14; Amos 9:13). Today, you and I enjoy peace and at least spiritual prosperity as members of God's Church. Still the shock of 9/11 motivates us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." While we patiently wait for Christ's return, we are encouraged to enjoy peace and prosperity at the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast is a foretaste of better days ahead.

## Today's World: Confusion, Violence and Sorrow

You and I live in Babylon (that is, confusion) the Great (Revelation 17:5). Check out the Middle East and see how confusion, violence and sorrow are characterized as Palestinian children strapped in vest bombs. As if this weren't crazy enough, Muslim extremists vow to utterly destroy the infidels of America. But Christ will dispatch Babylon the Great and transform those who remain alive (Revelation 18; 19; Hebrews 8:10-12). One day peace will pervade international societies: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord

of hosts has spoken" (Micah 4:3-4).

Today's world, stumbling around in spiritual darkness (John 12:35; 2 Corinthians 4:4), cannot be compared to the spiritual light of the world tomorrow. Yet right now, you and I possess the light of Christ (John 1:9). As spiritual lights to and in a darkened world, we have the privilege to illuminate God's way of peace and prosperity during the Feast of Tabernacles. Our examples count!

## Feast of Booths Speaks of Peace and Prosperity

Once a year God commands us to come under His tabernacle (Deuteronomy 14:26; Leviticus 23:34-42) during the Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16) and rejoice in His freedom, peace and prosperity. That means we pull up stakes and head where God has placed His name. There we dwell in a booth or temporary dwelling for eight inspiring days.

Dwelling in a booth (a temporary habitation) at the Feast of Tabernacles is a very positive act. At once we get away from our everyday surroundings, our jobs, repetitive thoughts and familiar personal contacts; and we show by our thoughts, words and actions, God's promise of world peace.

Please don't assume that God intended dwelling in a booth as a test, although things of God can test the human condition. "The booth in Scripture is not an image of privation and misery, but of protection, preservation, and shelter from heat, storm, and tempest; refer to Psalm 27:5; 31:20; Isaiah 4:6" (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*, 1966, page 359). In fact, the word *booth* can substitute for the word *tabernacle*. The Feast of Tabernacles can also be expressed as the Feast of Booths.

How did ancient Israel view the Feast of Tabernacles? "The dwelling in

booths was a matter of joy to Israel. The dwelling in booths was to be a reminder to them of the fatherly care and protection of Jehovah while Israel was journeying from Egypt to Canaan (the Promised Land). In comparison with the 'house of bondage' the dwelling in booths on the march through the wilderness was in itself an image of freedom and happiness" (ibid.).

## Feast Promises Better Days Ahead

God has prepared better days ahead for all mankind. Until the ultimate fulfillment of God's coming Kingdom, you and I can enjoy eight days of Utopia while in this life. What we enjoy during the Feast of Tabernacles today portrays the prophesied promise of a coming universal Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 36:35-38).

King David asked, "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle?" (Psalm 15:1). The implication is that some *can abide within God's tabernacle*, and today, that group is the New Testament Church. This protective environment is made possible through Christ's shed blood to cover our sins (Romans 5:8-9) and His resurrected life, now reckoned as our life (Romans 5:9-10; Colossians 3:4). God's tabernacle today is not a convention center, though it certainly can serve as a type of Christ's ultimate tabernacle/temple, the Body of Christ, His Church (Ephesians 2:19-22). Christ is building His tabernacle or temple and we feast with God within that spiritual temple. Though we see and feel the shadow of 9/11, we can still enjoy the peace and prosperity under and within God's tabernacle. This Feast of Tabernacles forecasts better days ahead in the wonderful world tomorrow. Prepare now to enjoy every single day of this Feast. **UN**



# Barn Again: What I Learned From Our Family's Barn

■ Watching our family's barn being torn down was an emotional experience. It takes so much more to build than to tear down.

by John McClain

Old barns dot the landscape in farming communities. Even in Bible times barns and storehouses were essential for storing the crops. Often the barn was built before the house. That is a biblical principle found in Proverbs 24:27, which says: "Make it fit for yourself in the field and afterward build your house." In fact, my dad remodeled the barn before he remodeled the house. The barn was used for the dairy operation and therefore was profitable. We didn't make any money from the house.

The barn and the farm have been in our family for 200 years. I have lots of memories about the barn, some pleasant and some not so pleasant.

Let's take the pleasant ones first: playing in the haymow, building hiding places among the bales of hay and straw, feeding the baby calves with milk in a bucket and watching men paint the metal roof with silver paint. I also have pleasant memories of filling the silo next to the barn when all the neighborhood teens would work together to haul the wagon-loads of chopped corn from the field to the silo.

The less pleasant ones included: milking the cows twice a day, feeding the cattle in the mangers, cleaning the stables every day, and then each

*We can do a lot of wrecking with our deeds. We can wreck in a day or two what took years to build. And you know what? We can do even more wrecking with our words. In minutes we can seriously damage or destroy a relationship that took years to build up.*

spring hauling out the manure pile which had accumulated behind the barn.

## Saying Good-Bye to the Barn

Last summer Dad had the barn torn down because it was too expensive to repair, it was no longer used to store crops or for dairy cattle, and there were taxes and insurance on the building. Dad could not bear to watch it fall down from neglect and decay, as happened on neighboring farms, so he had it dismantled. The wood was all salvaged and reused.

Watching the sturdy old barn come down was an emotional experience. And reflecting on it has made me think of the quality of the workmanship needed to build and the quality of workmanship to tear down. There's a clear comparison between constructive work and constructive words, between building up a structure and building up each other, between building an edifice and building edification.



The McClain family's barn (photos courtesy John McClain)

## The Story of Building the Barn

Building the barn took careful planning. It took lots of preparation to gather and prepare the materials. The timbers did not come from Home Depot. They were hewn by hand, one chip at a time from trees that grew on the farm. That took hundreds of hours. Some of the timbers were 40 feet long and still straight after all these years. The nails were hand made, tapered and square-shouldered.



women to feed the men who worked on the barn. Barn raisings must have been wonderful events, which built up the people who built up the barns.

## The Destruction Crew

But the barn came down in just three short days with a crew of three men and a few tools: crowbars, chain saws and an extendible boom forklift.

The old barn fought the destruction crew every step of the way. It was still strong after all those years, which was a testament to the quality of the materials and workmanship.

The whole family found it very sad to watch. Several times I felt like shouting for the men to stop the destruction. They removed the siding first. There stood the bare frame with the roof still intact. The roof came off in sections in a brutally ugly procedure. I did not stay to see them cut the joints to remove the timbers as each of the four vertical racks were lifted and laid on the ground to be cut apart.

Ironically, 30 days after the barn was dismantled, we heard about a new national preservation program to save old barns. The program is called "Barn Again!" It provides money for maintenance so that the barns do not have to paint advertising like "Chew Mail Pouch" (chewing tobacco) on the side or "See 7 States From Rock City" on the roof.

But it was too late for Dad's barn. So what lessons are there for you and

How can we compare building a structure to building relationships with other important people in our lives?

Below is a poem that makes the first comparison. It is called "The Builder," by Jess Kenner.

We can do a lot of wrecking with our deeds. We can wreck in a day or two what took years to build. And you know what? We can do even more wrecking with our words. In minutes we can seriously damage or destroy a relationship that took years to build up.

Each week I drive past the office of a local wrecking company. Their sign reads: "Big or small, we wreck 'em all."

What are we doing? Are we building up with our deeds and words, building an edifice and edifying? Or are we wrecking and tearing down?

Paul gave several instructions about how to live in his first book to the Thessalonians. In verse 11 he sums up the first 10 verses of chapter 5 this way:

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." In other words, build each other up. Don't wreck your relationships. Edify. It is such an important principle that Paul wrote similar instructions to the Romans, Corinthians and Ephesians.

Dad's old barn lasted through several lifetimes. Our close relationships should last for our lifetime, and they can last if we build them up, if we edify with our words and deeds, if we are "patiently doing the best we can."

Let's be builders, not wreckers. It takes more skill, but look at the wonderful results. As Paul also told the Romans, "Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Romans 14:19).

Can we build it? Yes, we can. UN

## The Builder

I watched them tearing a building down—

A gang of men in a busy town,

With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell

They swung a beam and a sidewall fell;

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled  
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"

He gave a laugh and said, "No indeed

Just common labor is all I need;

I can easily wreck in a day or two

What builders have taken a year to do!"

And I thought to myself as I went away  
"Which of these roles have I tried to play?"

Am I a builder who works with care,

Measuring life by the rule and square?

Am I shaping my deed to a well-made plan,

Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I wrecker, who walks the town,

Content with the labor of tearing down?

Jess Kenner

# Are You a Good and Faithful Steward?

■ On the *Queen Elizabeth I*, I got to see stewards in action. How can we be good stewards of everything God has given us?

by James D. Cannon

The first time I ever heard of a steward was on the HMS *Queen Elizabeth I* on my way to England in 1963.

My father had recently been transferred to manage the start-up of a plant in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as director of European operations. We took our first trip across the so-called "pond" (the Atlantic Ocean) on board the *Queen Elizabeth I*—at the time, the largest passenger liner afloat. At 86,000 tons, it was a literal floating city.

While on board, guests were treated to the ultimate care in everything from dining and recreation to relaxing and sleeping. Each cabin, in first class and cabin class, was assigned a steward who was absolutely responsible for you while on board.

The steward cleaned the cabin, made the beds, changed the linens and gave directions so you could find your way about the ship. The steward answered all your questions pertaining to the ship. He made sure your voyage was well managed and as worry free as possible. The stewards were very faithful. They took their job very seriously and you could count on them.

## God's Faithful Stewards

God places high regard on stewardship, and He expects His people to become faithful stewards as well.

*Steward* as used in the New Testament (translated from the Greek word *oikonomos*) means an administrator, a caretaker, a custodian and a manager. This word refers to a person who is a faithful manager, overseer and caretaker

over his or her own or others' property and interests.

God inspired Paul to make it clear that He requires His people to be faithful stewards of all that He gives them (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Let's understand the role of a faithful steward especially as it applies to us today in God's Church.

One of the most important, if not the most important, keys to faithful stewardship or management is vigilance. A vigilant steward is to be watchful, alert, attentive and awake in every aspect of life.

Our lives can be boiled down to four areas that require faithful and vigilant stewardship or management. These areas include our time, our possessions, our health and our relationships with God and man.

When we think of becoming good stewards, we most often think of how we manage our finances and our faithfulness in paying God's tithes and offerings.

However, because our lives are made up of much more than our finances, our growth as faithful stewards must encompass the vigilant management of every area of our lives. Otherwise we will miss the mark that God wants us to hit.

## Time Robbers

This world is filled with time-robbing distractions. We, as God's people, must learn to manage our time so the most important tasks are accomplished ahead of the many time robbers that can preoccupy us. These time robbers titillate our senses and make us feel as though we are doing something important. For example, playing golf, watching a sports event, going out to a show or doing anything else that occupies our time when our prayer and Bible study have been left undone is poor stewardship and management of our time. If we place things that this world offers ahead of our growth in character through local church

Bible studies, choir rehearsals or visiting shut-ins, we are mismanaging our time.

The principle of good stewardship applies to every area of our lives including how we manage and maintain our possessions. Our possessions really belong to God. If we neglect to clean and repair our homes, our cars, our "stuff," we make it evident to God that we are putting other less important things ahead of our stewardship of the possessions with which God has blessed us.

Our health is also an area that requires stewardship and management daily. Our daily diet, our daily exercise and the time we allow for a good night's sleep, are all areas that require diligent stewardship.

## Stewardship of Relationships

Finally, our relationship with first God and, next, our fellowman must be managed as the top priority in our lives.

Nothing must be allowed to distract us from our daily

worship and relationship with our Creator. We must make the time, in spite of our busyness, to pray and to study God's Word every day. Otherwise, we are going through life as a soldier who is naked in battle, with no weapons or armor to protect him from his adversaries.

Our relationships with our fellowman must also be a daily priority. Our example at home, on the job, at school, on the road and in fellowship with our brethren must also reflect Christ in us and outgoing concern, away from the self.

## Stewardship Parables

Let's look at two familiar parables from the perspective of faithful and vigilant stewardship.

First consider the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). As we understand, they all slumbered and slept. Perhaps they all neglected their stewardship responsibilities for a while. However, eventually half of the virgins woke up and got to work as vigilant and faithful stewards. But the other half remained neglectful of their stewardship responsibilities. They continued to mismanage, they continued to lack vigilance, they kept following the crowd and they did not pay attention to the proper stewardship of their life.



When the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) returned, the faithful stewards were able to enter into the marriage supper with the Groom, but the unfaithful stewards where denied entrance and lost out on their reward.

The parable of the talents directly follows (Matthew 25:14-30). In this parable, Christ uses talents or monetary units that He figuratively distributed to His servants to maintain and increase until His return. These talents actually represent individual abilities and qualities that Christ expects His people to cultivate

once they are called and placed into the Body of Christ—the Church.

As is pointed out in this parable, those who grow in stewardship are rewarded and those who mismanage—who float, who do not pay attention and fail to even begin to make the slightest improvements and growth—are punished and lose out on their reward.

## Looking for Growth

The lesson for us is this. God and Jesus Christ are looking for an increase from us. By doing our very best by growing in stewardship and not floating or doing nothing, we fulfill what Christ says in Luke 16:10, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."

However, once called and placed into the Body of Jesus Christ, the stewardship that is required of us is not a result of our own power or abilities. The strength, inspiration and growth in the management of our lives must come from God through the Holy Spirit in us, otherwise, our labor is in vain and the growth in stewardship is self-righteous, human growth.

We must always remember the source of our strength to please God, as Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." And in 1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

Let's strive to be continually growing as vigilant and faithful stewards of God's way through His Spirit in us. We will then hear this from Christ when we are standing before Him at His second coming: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:23). UN

# Committees of the Council of Elders Announced

by Matthew Fenchel

A quorum of the Council of Elders met by teleconference July 2 to discuss appointing two new members for the Christ-Centered Servant Leadership task force, to determine members of the various Council committees and to discuss a personnel issue (executive session). Aaron Dean was not able to participate due to a business trip, and Gary Antion needed to drop-off before the teleconference concluded to teach an Ambassador Bible Center class.

As of July 1, the Council has two new members—Jim Franks and Doug Horchak. Because of these changes, the Council took the opportunity to discuss, change and approve the members of the various Council committees.

By way of reminder, Clyde Kilough first pointed out that Bylaw 8.8.1 requires the Council to approve the

members of the committees by a simple majority ballot. He also reminded everyone of the Council resolutions which require each committee to select its chairman by blind ballot.

After a few more comments, it was decided that only two committees will need to ballot for chairmen—the Doctrine Committee (due to Leon Walker's desire to step down as chairman) and the Education/Ministerial Services Committee (the previous chairman is no longer a member of the Council). During the August meetings the Council will ask these committees to select their chairmen.

After some discussion about the size of each committee, and the preferences of each Council member as to his respective assignments, the quorum of the Council unanimously approved the members of the Council committees.

Doctrine	Ethics/Roles & Rules	Media and Communications
Robert Dick Jim Franks John Jewell Mario Seigle Richard Thompson Leon Walker *	Gary Antion * Aaron Dean Robert Dick John Jewell Richard Thompson Leon Walker	Robert Dick Doug Horchak John Jewell Victor Kubik * Les McCullough
Education/Ministerial Services	Executive	Strategic Planning & Finance
Gary Antion Jim Franks Doug Horchak Victor Kubik Mario Seigle Richard Thompson	Aaron Dean Jim Franks Clyde Kilough * Leon Walker	Aaron Dean * Doug Horchak Les McCullough Mario Seigle  (* Chairman)





## Local Church Updates

### Californians Dress for International Costume Social

The San Diego and Loma Linda, California, congregations came together for combined services on Feb. 9, 2002. But this wasn't just a regular



The San Diego and Loma Linda, California, congregations dressed up for an international costume social Feb. 9

combined service. We were treated to a musical presentation by seven members from the Eagle Rock (Los Angeles) congregation, and after a profitable sermon by David Register, there was a wonderful potluck dinner and an international costume social.

Many members dressed up in costumes from their native lands as well as Old West America. There were games for children and games for grownups as well. Some people even learned how to "dress" a mummy in toilet tissue! There were lots of helium balloons and prizes galore. Everyone enjoyed the evening of fellowship, and all 160 members went home with smiles on their faces.

*Bette Young*

### Texas Preteens Enjoy Summer Fun

Seventy-nine campers plus adult and teen staff attended the Houston Regional Preteen Camp from June 2 to 5. Campers, ages 7 to 12, enjoyed recreational games, music, crafts, fishing,



Gary Petty talks with campers at Houston Regional Preteen Camp

swimming and Christian education. Campers and staff came from many parts of Texas and Louisiana.

Camp Director De Lynn Buchanan commented, "My favorite aspect of camp is seeing the defensive shields our children must wear in this world melt. The campers are able to practice the 'golden-rule' principle and develop friendships with each other and connect with the many wonderful and talented



adults and teens who volunteer their time and energy for the camp."

One of the daily highlights for everyone was the arrival of UCG member Hendrienne Switz and her concessions



Campers enjoy teamwork at Houston Regional Preteen Camp

truck serving many flavors of snow cones.

Friendship was one of the main reasons many campers attended camp this year. Laura Bart, an 11-year-old from Houston North, summed up her experience, "I like dorm time because of the good snacks, and it's fun just talking."

*Gary Petty*

### East Texas Congregation Welcomes the McCulloughs Home

The East Texas congregation welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Leslie McCullough back to Texas with a reception after Sabbath services June 8. The McCulloughs recently returned from

the Cincinnati area, where he had served the Church as president for four years.

A large "Welcome Home McCulloughs" banner hung on the back wall of the Gilmer Civic Center, where the congregation meets.

Members had prepared the reception area with a Texas theme including an arrangement of Texas sunflowers, Western boots, a silver-buckle leather belt, a cowboy hat and a large brightly decorated cake. Snacks, cake, fruit punch and coffee were served.

Before finishing his term, Mr. McCullough saw the completion of the new home office building in the Cincinnati suburb of Milford.

Much of Mr. McCullough's time in the past several months was spent on this major undertaking, which included the purchase of the land and planning the construction of the building.

The structure houses not only the corporate offices but the local congre-



Marion and Les McCullough with cake presented by East Texas congregation June 8 (photo by Jacques McNeely)

gation and the Ambassador Bible Center.

The McCulloughs said they already miss Cincinnati and the people there, but that it's good to be back in Texas.

The McCulloughs have a home on acreage east of Big Sandy.

Mr. McCullough remains active as a member of the Council of Elders. He also serves on the Media and Communications Committee and the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee.

Mr. McCullough says he also plans to stay busy on his property.

The reception allowed friends and family the opportunity to express their happiness to have the McCulloughs back in Texas.

*Ellis Stewart*

### McNairs' 48 Years of Service Celebrated

July 13, over 100 friends and family members, including their three children, Kerry, Mark and Susie, gathered

at the Ramada Inn, Victoria, Texas, to celebrate Burk and Billie Sue McNair's retirement after 48 years of service in the ordained ministry.

Everyone enjoyed a musical program presented by the combined Houston choirs, followed by a sermon by Mr. McNair. After a delicious buffet lun-



Ken Giese presents gift to Billie Sue and Burk McNair in honor of their 48 years of service

cheon, Ken Giese reviewed the McNair's ministry and read congratulatory messages sent by fellow pastors and friends from various church areas around the country.

Two of the McNairs' grandchildren, Kerry and Hannah, gave a special musical performance; and Tom Henager and Ella Mae Tyrkalo shared their personal memories spanning 40 years of friendship. Poems, written by Mr. McNair, were read by his two sons, Mark and Kerry, and followed with the Victoria congregation's presentation of gifts by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Tucker.

Next, Mr. McNair presented a crystal retirement plaque from the United Church of God. The entire congregation joined in singing the final song, a longtime McNair family favorite, "Let the Rest of the World Go By." Mr. and Mrs. McNair cut their lovely cake, which was then enjoyed by all. This special day of warmth and love was a fitting way to thank this loyal and dedicated couple for their many years of service to God's people.

The McNairs will be residing in San Antonio, Texas, and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary next year.

*Ella Mae Tyrkalo*

### Oshkosh Teen Wins \$25,000 Arts Scholarship

Katie Merriman, who attends the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation with her parents, Kirt and Judy Merriman, was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship for artistic excellence.

An article in the *Sheboygan Press* by Nhia C. Yang said, "Not only is Katie Merriman intelligent and well-rounded in the arts, but she's 'a wonderfully nice person.'"

"Those were the simple words South

High language arts and drama teacher Ty Wesley used to capture the essence of Merriman, South's first recipient of the prestigious \$25,000 Ruth DeYoung Kohler Scholarship for Artistic Excellence."

The article was titled "Merriman stunned with Kohler arts scholarship," and the paper quoted Katie as saying, "I still can't believe it. I keep looking at the envelope and seeing my name and I just can't believe it... I can't begin to express my gratitude."

Katie has been involved in a number of productions in the Sheboygan Theatre Company and for her high school. "Her latest project is the John Michael Kohler Arts Center's production of *Cinderella*," said the article. Katie is also talented in music and visual arts.

Laura Kohler presented the award named after her grandmother.

Katie graduated from high school in June and will be attending the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point in the fall.

### Detroit Musician Part of International Competition Winner

Anna Stewart (now Shafer), of the Detroit, Michigan, congregation, was welcomed home recently from a two-week European tour with Western Michigan University's Chorale.

The 32-member University Chorale was one of 39 choirs from 16 countries selected from recorded auditions to participate in the three-day Robert Schumann Choral Competition in May in Zwickau, Germany.

Western University's Chorale was named grand prize winner, the first ensemble from the United States to receive the grand prize in the four-year history of the festival. In addition to receiving a cash prize of 2,500 euros (approximately \$2,400 at the time), the chorale was selected to perform at the final award ceremony.

The competition was part of a two-week tour that included performances in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

Anna has played piano for the Detroit congregation and performed special music for services and Holy Days.

Anna was raised in the Church and was home schooled by her parents, Diane and Wayne Stewart, from the sixth to 11th grades. She graduated from Algonac High School.

In college she received various small scholarships and appeared on the dean's list every semester. She graduated summa cum laude from Western Michigan University in April with a bachelor of music. She married Dan Shafer on June 23.

*Mavis Jolin*

# Announcements

## Births



Big sister Rachel with Katie Jo Arner

Stephen and Lisa (Fergen) Arner of Tri-Cities, Washington, joyfully announce the birth of their second child, Katie Jo, on March 28, 2002. Katie weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 19 inches long. Big sister Rachel, age 3, is very proud and happy to have a new baby sister. Katie is the 10th grandchild of proud grandparents Bob and Joanie Fergen of Tri-Cities, and she is the fifth grandchild of proud grandparents Rad and Josephine Arner of Big Sandy, Texas.

Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce the arrival of their first



Logan Andrew Wasilkoff

child, Logan Andrew Wasilkoff. Logan was born on April 27, 2002, weighing in at 9 pounds 3.2 ounces and measuring 22 1/2 inches.

Jeff and Alisa (Ferdig) Lockhart of Nassau, Bahamas, would like to share the news of the birth of their son, Benjamin Randell. He was born June 17, 2002, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. Big sister Adrianna thinks "he's so sweet" and so do



Benjamin Randell Lockhart

grandparents Art and Elaine Ferdig and Randell and Alice Lockhart.

Scott and Tammy (Neely) Haapasaari of Frisco, Texas, joyfully announce the birth of their first child, Luke Allen, on Oct. 1, 2001. Luke weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Rudy and



Luke Allen Haapasaari

Patricia Neely of Nashville, Tennessee, and Allen and Lori Haapasaari of Panama City, Florida.

Alfredo and Alejandra (Riquelme) Arboleas of Mendoza, Argentina, are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Sofia Ester. Sofia was born May 24, 2002. She weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was



Sofia Ester Arboleas

20 inches long. The proud grandparents are Luis and Sonia Riquelme of Santiago, Chile, and Alfredo and Josefa Arboleas of Mendoza, Argentina.

Tabitha Darlene Moody was born April 2, 2002, and was 8 pounds 7



Tabitha Darlene Moody

ounces and 20 1/4 inches long. She is the daughter of Paul and Darla Moody of Spokane, Washington. Big brother Austen, 7 years old, is enjoying her immensely. The proud grandparents are Carl and Darlene Hendrickson of Spokane and Pat and Jack Moody of Colville, Washington. The very proud great-grandparents are James and Anne Kippen of Hiawassee, Georgia, and Doris Burkhardt of Dearing, Georgia.

## Engagements

Randy and Kay Schreiber of Phoenix, Arizona, would like to announce the engagements of both of their daughters: Brandy Schreiber to Ross Klobucher and Amanda Schreiber to Travis Thomas. Wedding dates to be announced at a future time.

## Weddings



Laura and Michael Phelps

John and Sandy Laing of Macomb, Michigan, and Floyd and Doris Phelps of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Laura Lynne Lynne Laing and Michael Dean Phelps on May 26, 2002.

John Elliott, previous pastor of Cincinnati East and close family friend, performed the ceremony. The day was made special by the family and friends who shared the occasion, many of whom traveled a long distance to attend.

The new couple resides in Cincinnati where they attend the East congregation.

## Anniversaries

On June 8, 2002, Charles and Betty Oldroyd were honored by the Tampa, Florida, congregation on



Betty and Charles Oldroyd

the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Oldroyd were baptized July 16, 1959, making them Tampa's longest-baptized members. The Tampa congregation is also home to the Oldroyd's son and his wife, Mike and Ann Blencowe, members who attended ABC this year, and the Oldroyd's grandson and his wife, Donn and Maria Blencowe and their two children, making them a four-generation family in the Church. The Oldroyds were joined by others in their family for this special celebration.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Styer, members of the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2002. A reception was held in their honor after services on June 8, with an additional celebration held for traveling family members on June 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Styer were presented with a beautiful set of dishes from the Nashville congregation. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Styer were later presented with a memory album from their children, where friends and family members con-

tributed letters and personal memories about their life.

A video presentation of their life together, set to music, was made for them by their son Tony.



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Styer

Mr. and Mrs. Styer have been baptized members since 1971, and have four children, Michael Styer, Tony Styer, Wendy Kovalchick and Shari Fooshe. In addition, the Styers have 10 grandchildren (including five grandsons and five granddaughters) and one great-grandchild.

## Obituaries

Earl T. Wegner, 80, died March 24, 2002. He was a native of Michigan and a veteran World War II Navy aviator. He was a longtime resident of Columbus, Ohio, and a longtime member of the Church of God. He retired from North American Rockwell and General Electric.

A memorial service was held April 7. He will always be remembered for his great sense of humor, explaining his nickname (Earl the Pearl).

He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, two grandchildren and a sister.

Nick Stacy, 63, formerly of Memphis, Tennessee, died July 13, 2002, at his home in Talbott, Tennessee, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Judy; his son, Shawn; and his stepson, Darren Gibbs.

Share your announcements of births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25th, 50th, etc.) and obituaries with the United Church of God family.

Photos can be sent by mail or E-mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a photo returned.

Send announcements to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or E-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).



# Letters

## U.K. Feast Correction

The U.K. Feast update in last issue, page 16, inadvertently had the wrong month for the Feast. The opening night service will, of course, be Sept. 20 (not in October). We regret the error.

## Cybercast Visitors Want to Attend Feast

I am sending this message to ask for permission for my family and maybe a few friends to attend the Feast of Tabernacles with the United Church of God. We live in Arkansas and wanted to attend the Branson, Missouri, site. We are not officially members but have been members of WCG for about 19 years. We (that is my family) no longer attend WCG but have been listening to UCG's cybercast for about a year now and sincerely appreciate the different congregations accepting us as a cybercast family. Maybe one day there will be a congregation closer to us, but until then we will continue to listen to the cybercast services and archives.

We listened to the cybercast Feast last year and it was great. We even got to chat with some of the brethren there.

There is still much work to be done and we appreciate your efforts and pray that God will bless your work in all areas. Thanks again for the cybercast services, archives, *Good News* and booklets.

Arkansas  
Thank you very much for your interest.  
We welcome all who wish to worship with us in peace.

## Recently Aware of UCG

It's getting late on a Saturday night. I was looking for a good way to finish out the Sabbath and decided to look around on your Web site. Let me interject here that I was a member of WCG in the '80s and early '90s, had stopped attending altogether and just recently became aware of the existence of UCG. I started attending services a couple of weeks ago and thank God every day for His calling and being able to be a part of His Church again. So anyway, I just read through one of the sermon transcripts and loved it.

Wow! What a blessing to have all of this so easily available over the Internet.

Colorado

## "Helped Me Understand"

I would like to thank all of you who have made this Web site and the free literature possible. I have read a few of the booklets, and they have helped me understand quite a bit of the Bible. I truly believe in your words that have made sense to me. I wish that one of your churches was closer to me. Is there a church like yours? I would like to know the best church to get baptized in and go to. Who else follows the sacred days?

Ohio

## Relationship Articles Fill in Some Gaps

I have just requested some free literature for a New Zealand friend [*Good News*, July-August 2002].

I have discussed the articles on relationships, e.g. "Marriage and Sex," with my friend and said I would get him a

copy but did not feel at ease to hook him up with a two-year subscription. He can make that choice for himself.

The articles on relationships in this magazine were excellent, by the way. I became a Christian five years ago and

realized the Christian way of relationships had considerable merits, even though I wasn't entirely sure what they were. I was just convinced that the way I had gone about it hadn't produced the results I was after. So in faith I have gone

out with the resolve to make friends only and not have sex again outside of marriage. God has taught me much over this time, but your articles certainly filled in some gaps. Thank you.

Australia

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* are welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or E-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

# Bible Reading Program Supplement for the Fall Festivals

DATE	READING TOPIC	SCRIPTURES
5 Sept.	Trumpets preparation (The Feast of Trumpets introduced to Israel; trumpets for feast days; calling an assembly; alarm of war; warning of coming devastation)	Leviticus 23:23-25; Psalm 81; Numbers 10:1-10; Amos 3:1-8; Jeremiah 4:19-31; Ezekiel 33
6 Sept.	Trumpets preparation (the Day of the Lord; end-time calamities introduced with trumpets)	Joel 2; Revelation 6:12-17; Revelation 8-9; 11:15-18
7 Sept.	Feast of Trumpets (the resurrection of the saints at Christ's return)	1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 12:1-3
14 Sept.	Atonement preparation (the Day of Atonement introduced to Israel; goats for the Eternal and Azazel; acceptable vs. unacceptable fasting)	Leviticus 23:26-32; Leviticus 16; Isaiah 58:1-12
15 Sept.	Atonement preparation (the Jews finally recognize Christ and repent; Satan bound)	Zechariah 12:1-14; Revelation 20:1-3
16 Sept.	Day of Atonement (year of release and Jubilee; acceptable year of the Lord proclaimed)	Leviticus 25; Isaiah 61
17 Sept.	Tabernacles preparation (the Feast of Tabernacles introduced to Israel; observed with new temple; sojourners awaiting a permanent home)	Leviticus 23:33-43; 2 Chronicles 5:1-14; 7:1-10; Hebrews 11:8-16
18 Sept.	Tabernacles preparation (late harvest festival; all nations will keep it during Millennium)	Exodus 23:14-17; 34:22-24; Zechariah 14:16-21
19 Sept.	Tabernacles preparation (time pictured by the Feast—world ruled by Christ and saints)	Micah 4:1-8; Isaiah 2:1-4; 25:6-9; 30:18-26
20 Sept.	Tabernacles preparation (a world at peace, even in nature; salvation available to all)	Isaiah 11-12
21 Sept.	Feast of Tabernacles (deserts made fertile as God provides for the whole world)	Isaiah 35; 41:8-20
22 Sept.	Feast of Tabernacles (Israel and Judah restored)	Jeremiah 30
23 Sept.	Feast of Tabernacles (remnant saved; New Covenant)	Jeremiah 31
24 Sept.	Feast of Tabernacles (Zion assured of salvation)	Isaiah 62
25 Sept.	Feast of Tabernacles (Satan rebelled before man's creation, removed forever after Millennium)	Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 20:7-10
26 Sept.	Last Great Day preparation (more tolerable for ancient pagans in judgment; living waters for all)	Matthew 11:20-24; 12:38-42; John 7:37-39
27 Sept.	Last Great Day preparation (resurrected in flesh)	Ezekiel 37:1-14
28 Sept.	Last Great Day (Great White Throne; second death; new heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem)	Revelation 20:11-22:5

## The Feast of Trumpets

The Feast of Trumpets this year falls on the weekly Sabbath, Sept. 7 (beginning, as does the weekly Sabbath, the previous evening at sunset). Three days of readings have been allotted to prepare for and cover the day. Called Rosh Hashanah (Hebrew "Head of the Year") by the Jews, this day is the beginning of the civil year. A new beginning indeed, it is the first day of the seventh month on the Sacred Calendar. As seven signifies completion in the Bible, this month symbolizes God's plan of redemption being brought to a close. While this particular day symbolizes the terrible crisis at the end of this age on one hand, it is also joyous as it heralds the beginning of a wonderful new age—representing, as it does, the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings along with the resurrection of His saints. In conjunction with the assigned passages, it would also be helpful to read "The Feast of Trumpets: A Turning Point in History" from *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* (pages 30-37). After the Holy Day, we will resume our regular reading for a few more days before breaking again.

## The Day of Atonement

The Day of Atonement, known to the Jews as Yom Kippur, this year falls on Monday, Sept. 16 (beginning the previous evening at sunset). Three days of readings have been allotted to prepare for and cover the day. A solemn occasion on which we are to "afflict our souls" by fasting, i.e., abstaining from food and water, this spiritual "feast" represents the binding of Satan the devil and, also, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ being applied to all of mankind following His return, beginning with Israel. As the day upon which the Jubilee year was proclaimed, it also heralds the wonderful freedom that mankind will experience once these events have occurred. In conjunction with the assigned passages, it would also be helpful to read "The Day of Atonement: Removal of Sin's Cause and Reconciliation to God" from *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* (pages 38-43).

## The Feast of Tabernacles

The Feast of Tabernacles this year runs from sunset Friday, Sept. 20, through sunset Friday, Sept. 27. Nine days of readings have been allotted to prepare for and cover most of the Festival. They have, however, been kept to a minimum to accommodate Feast travel, activities and personal study. During the Feast, we are to dwell in tabernacles or booths, that is, temporary dwellings. As Israel dwelt in tents on the way to the physical Promised Land, so we reside in temporary dwellings—our fleshly bodies—on the way to our "promised land," the Kingdom of God. When that Kingdom is set up, we will be given permanent bodies, and in that sense will no longer live in temporary dwellings. However, until the later establishment of the New Heavens and New Earth, the whole world of the Millennium will still be a temporary dwelling for us, though more beautiful and wonderful than ever before—and the Feast helps us to focus on these facts. Moreover, the rest of humanity will still have temporary, fleshly bodies at that time—until they later join us as glorified members of the God Family. Nevertheless, they will learn the way of God and the entire world will at last know peace and harmony—through God's Holy Spirit. As Tabernacles celebrated the great late summer and fall agricultural harvest in ancient Israel, so it pictures the later "harvest" of mankind, when everyone living will be offered salvation. What a wonderful world to look forward to.

Yet as wonderful as it will be, the Millennium will end with a serious downturn—the temporary release of Satan to deceive the nations once more, which is reflected in the reading. Let this serve as a warning to us as we venture back out into this evil world he controls following the conclusion of the Feast. In conjunction with the assigned passages, it would also be helpful to read "The Feast of Tabernacles: Jesus Christ Reigns Over All the Earth" from *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* (pages 44-50).

## The Last Great Day

The Last Great Day this year falls on the weekly Sabbath, Sept. 28 (beginning the previous evening at sunset). Three days of readings, beginning near the end of the Feast of Tabernacles, have been allotted to prepare for and cover the day. Again, the readings are being kept to a minimum to allow for Feast activities and personal study. Referred to simply as the "eighth day" with regard to the Feast of Tabernacles in Leviticus 23, this day nonetheless constitutes a separate Feast since Tabernacles itself actually comprises only seven days. Continuing on the fall harvest theme of Tabernacles, the eighth day expands upon it to events that transpire after the Millennium, when all who have ever lived without being given an opportunity for salvation finally will be. This period culminates with a new heaven and new earth—and a New Jerusalem descending onto this planet. What unspeakable joy is bound up in the incredible events this Last Great Day represents. In conjunction with the assigned passages, it would also be helpful to read "The Last Great Day: Eternal Life Offered to All" from *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind* (pages 51-57).

Regular reading for the Bible Reading Program resumes Oct. 1. See [www.ucg.org/brp](http://www.ucg.org/brp).

## September 5-7

## September 14-16

## September 17-25

## September 26-28

## News At a Glance

### Continued from page 2

terial Services: Les McCullough (who continues to serve on the Council of Elders), Bill Swanson and Frank McCrady Sr. Mr. Swanson and Mr. McCrady Sr. were part of the Church of God, a Christian Fellowship, before joining with United last year.

### Jamaica Feast Information on Web

Information about activities and other Feast-related announcements for the site in Jamaica are available on the Church's Feast Web page at [www.ucg.org/feast/](http://www.ucg.org/feast/).

*Kingsley Mather*

### Clarification: Two Sites in Guatemala

In the July issue we announced that the brethren from El Salvador will be holding the Feast of Tabernacles in Esquipulas, Guatemala. Because the site for El Salvador will be in Guatemala, some members have assumed that the previously announced site for Guatemala will not be in Antigua, Guatemala. This is not the case and members who have made travel arrangements to Antigua should not change them.

We wish to make it clear that there will in fact be two sites for the Feast of Tabernacles in Guatemala this year. One will be in Antigua, Guatemala, for members in Guatemala and for members who wish to transfer there since we will have translation equipment available. The other site will be Esquipulas, Guatemala, but it is primarily for members from El Salvador and others who speak Spanish who wish to transfer there.

We wanted to clear up any confusion that may have been caused because of having two sites in Guatemala.

*Leon Walker*

### Christ-Centered Servant Leadership Seminars Planned

In mid-July the Christ-Centered Servant Leadership task force met in the Louisville, Kentucky, area, and July 17 task force members gave an in-depth update about their work to Roy Holladay and others at the home office. "Personally, I was very excited and motivated by what I saw and heard," Mr. Holladay said.

The task force proposed a plan for presenting seminars on the subject. The first opportunity will be at the leadership seminar for the Ministerial Candidate Program (see article, page 2). In December the task force plans to conduct a workshop for the Council of Elders, the home office management team and the region-



## What's New on the Web?

### On [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org)

■ See reports of the August Council meetings. <http://www.ucg.org/a/council/council.htm>

■ See video and audio versions of "Skilled at Life" by Don Henson and "The Sabbath in History and Prophecy" by Peter Eddington. <http://www.ucg.org/RealAud/>

■ See new sermon transcripts of "The Golden Key" by Darris McNeely, "The Lesson of Job" by Doug Horchak and "The Power of Example" by Clyde Kilough. <http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html>

### On [vcmagazine.org](http://www.vcmagazine.org)

■ The August *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on "The Middle East: Worlds in Collision," "Only God Knows What He Knows," "Is Your Family Manipulated by Mass Media?" and "Take Responsibility for Your Own Health." <http://vcmagazine.org>

### On [youthmagazine.org](http://youthmagazine.org)

■ The latest issue of *Youth United* has articles on family, living with one parent, when parents and friends clash, getting along with brothers and sisters, managing money, questions and answers and more.

<http://youthmagazine.org>

### Other Helpful Links

■ **Good News radio program site.** Listen to Real Audio files of the program and see the radio log. <http://www.ucg.org/radio>

■ **Youth** and young adult site. <http://ucgyouth.org>

■ **Singles'** Web site dedicated to items of interest to singles in the Church. <http://www.ucgsingles.org>

■ **UCG Race Relations** Committee site. <http://www.ucgrace.org>

■ **Good News Bible Reading Program** PDFs and HTML with Bible readings and commentary.

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

■ **Good News Web site.** Sign up for e-mail notification!

<http://gnmagazine.org>

■ **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 the Isle of Man.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/locale/multimedia.htm>

■ **News page** with Council of Elders meeting reports, President's Letters, Home Office Updates, etc.

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

If you have any questions or comments, please contact: [webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)

al pastors. From there, those groups will develop additional seminars for the field ministry, the home office staff and the Church membership.

### Singles' Web Site Growing

The Web site, [www.ucgsingles.org](http://www.ucgsingles.org), has now been in operation for about three months and we have received many comments from singles expressing appreciation.

The site includes or will soon include book reports, Bible studies, sermons, seminars, a bulletin board of upcoming events, a page devoted to singles' events at the Feast, a question-and-answer section and an E-list that allows E-mail communication without giving E-mail addresses. Submissions to the site are appreciated.

There have been more than 5,100 distinct "visits" and over 118,000 "hits" on the site according to the Web-hosting service counter. The E-list has seen some action with over 240 registered at this time. We'd especially like to see some of our singles who reside outside the United States add their information to the E-mail listing. If you have suggestions or comments, we'd be happy to hear them.

*Ken Treybig/Peter Eddington*

### PCB Singles' Luau and Dance: Order Tickets Now

Tuesday night, Sept. 24, singles attending Panama City Beach, Florida, for the Feast are invited to a Polynesian luau and dance poolside on the grounds of the Edgewater Beach Resort next to the Gulf.

An extensive buffet dinner will include mixed garden greens with varied dressings, tropical fruit display, ambrosia salad, Hawaiian chicken with sweet and sour sauce, grilled mahi-mahi with tropical fruit salsa, stir-fry veggies, Polynesian rice, warm dinner rolls, assorted cakes, pies, mousse and beverages all accompanied by music and a dance afterwards.

The price is \$35 per person. Space is limited to the first 150 people. Send check payable to the United Church of God (please indicate on check that it is for the luau) to the following address: United Church of God, 631 S. Loomis Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

Questions about the event can be sent by E-mail to [USFestival@ucg.org](mailto:USFestival@ucg.org) or call (970) 484-5878.

*Charles Melear*

## The Good News Radio Log

City	State	Call Letters	Station Frequency	Power (watts)	Scheduled Airtime
Birmingham	AL	WERC	960 AM	5,000	Sundays 7 a.m. Central
Buffalo	NY	WBEN	930 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. Eastern
Chicago	IL	WJMK	104.3 FM	4,100	Sundays 11 p.m. Central
Cincinnati	OH	WKRC	550 AM	5,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. Eastern
Douglas	AZ	KAPR	930 AM	2,500	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. Pacific
Florence	SC	WJMX	970 AM	10,000	Sundays 8 a.m. Eastern
Globe	AZ	KFAA	1240 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. Pacific
Greenville	SC	WSPA	98.9 FM	100,000	Sundays 6:30 a.m. Eastern
Indianapolis	IN	WIBC	1070 AM	50,000	Sundays 7 a.m. Eastern
Kansas City	MO	KCMO	710 AM	50,000	Sundays 9 a.m. Central
Memphis	TN	WREC	600 AM	5,000	Sundays 9 a.m. Central
New Orleans	LA	WWL	870 AM	50,000	Saturdays 9:30 p.m. Central
Pittsburgh	PA	KQV	1410 AM	5,000	Saturdays 7 p.m. Eastern
Sierra Vista	AZ	KNXN	1470 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. Pacific
Tucson	AZ	KGMS	940 AM	1,000	Saturdays 10:30 a.m. Pacific
Tulsa	OK	KHJM	100.3 FM	6,000	Saturdays 11:30 a.m. and Sundays 1:30 p.m. Central



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