



## News At a Glance

### Treasurer's Report

We now have the final results in for Pentecost, and we are pleased to report an encouraging 5.5 percent increase over last year for a total of \$867,000. In fact, each of the Spring Holy Day offerings this year has been encouraging. The final results for the First Day of Unleavened Bread was a 3.9 percent increase over last year for a total of \$856,000, and the final results for the Last Day of Unleavened Bread was a 3.1 percent increase over last year for a total of \$828,000.

As reported earlier, the months of February (9.39 percent increase), March (8.78 percent increase) and April (6.8 percent increase) were all trending higher than the 2 percent increase in income that we were experiencing year to date. The last two months, however, have not been as encouraging. In the month of May regular mail income was down 4.9 percent compared to last year, and for the month of June (through June 25) income is down 2.8 percent compared to last year.

While just a month and a half ago, I was confident that we would close the fiscal year with income \$23,500,000 or higher, we will most likely end the year slightly less than that—somewhere between \$23,400,000 and \$23,500,000. Even with the sluggish last two months of the year, we still expect to end the year with close to a 2 percent increase in income over last year, and we can be thankful for that.

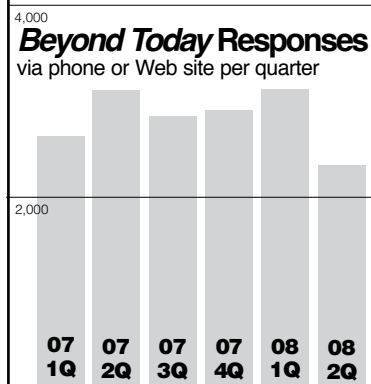
Jason Lovelady

### Internet Manager Attends Web Conference

From June 10 to 13 UCG Internet Manager Aaron Booth attended a Web design conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

See "News at a Glance," page 2

### United Statistics



## Feast Sermon Video to Focus on Our Heritage

Video crew travels to Eugene, Oregon, and Big Sandy, Texas, to tape sermon, historical locations and interviews with Church pioneers.

It's been quite an exciting time for



Clyde Kilough taped on location near Eugene; KORE radio station first broadcast Herbert Armstrong in 1933 the video production staff at the home office these past couple of weeks. Video footage is being recorded and interviews conducted for this year's Feast of Tabernacles sermon video.

The theme of this year's presentation is our spiritual heritage of keeping God's Feasts in the modern age of the Church. Highlights will include sites in Oregon where Herbert Armstrong conducted his ministry during the foundational period of the Church in our days. A video crew visited Eugene and the surrounding areas June 26 to 30.

While in Oregon, President Clyde Kilough gave the sermon on June 28 that will form the backbone of the Feast video. Peter Eddington, Clay Thornton, Clint Porter and Eugene pastor John Cafourek then accompanied Mr. Kilo-

ugh to various historical sites mentioned in the *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong* that showed the beginnings of the Church of God keeping the festivals for the past 75 years.

Larry Salyer, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Eddington traveled to Big Sandy June 22 to 24 and interviewed longtime members now living there about their Feast experiences at various sites. With Les McCullough as guide, they also toured early locations where the Feast was held on the former Texas campus of Ambassador College to gather footage. Please pray for the success of this



Sermon taping in Eugene congregation, which is celebrating 75 years this year's sermon production. It promises to be educational, informative and, we trust, inspiring for young and old alike.

Peter Eddington/Larry Salyer

### Summer Camp Season Starts



Campers at Woodmen riflery class June 29 (photo by David Dobson)  
by Larry W. Greider

June 29 the camps at Hye Sierra, California, and Woodmen, Alabama, began. This summer marks the 14th season of the United Youth Camps program. Each year has demonstrated that a week at camp for junior high and high school students can provide an oasis of faith, growth and hope.

This year our six summer programs are running almost at maximum attendance for the facilities and staff that we have. Currently around 800 campers have been accepted, with some camps still trying to fit latecomers in. Several have waiting lists due to limited space. Making this work are the

See "Camp," page 12

### Beyond Today Commentaries Now Available on Apple Web Site

UCG gets on ground floor with application to reach mobile Web users.

by Aaron Booth

The release of the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch provided a new opportunity to reach mobile Web users with the gospel message. Internet Manager Aaron Booth, with assistance from Chris Stewart, developed a Web application that allowed UCG to get in on the ground floor.

The Apple Web site now features the *Beyond Today* commentaries as one of the Web applications an iPhone or iPod Touch user can access. These mobile Web users can watch or listen to the short commentaries on these mobile devices. We have already noticed an increase of Web traffic coming from the Apple Web site.

In July, Apple will be releasing an improved iPhone at a lower cost, so we are eagerly anticipating more people accessing our Web material from these types of mobile devices. The *Beyond Today* Web application can be accessed directly on the Apple Web site at [www.apple.com/webapps/news/beyondtodayunderstandingyourfuture.html](http://www.apple.com/webapps/news/beyondtodayunderstandingyourfuture.html). UN

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## United Youth Corps Volunteers Announced

Doug Horchak and Dave Baker, coordinators of the United Youth Corps program, announced the names of the volunteers chosen to serve on three projects this summer and one lengthier project in 2008-2009.

### Ghana and Nigeria Camps

Serving at the youth camp in Ghana in August will be Dawn Deininger of Whitehall, Montana; Olivia Pettigrew of Charlotte, North Carolina; Zach Zimmerman of Louisville, Kentucky; and Kelly Whitley of Houston North, Texas.

Volunteers chosen to serve at the youth camp in Nigeria in August will be Cody and Bobbi Kitts from the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation; Rachel Luecke of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and Jamie Veale of Des Moines, Iowa.

### Six Weeks in Jordan and Israel

Volunteers chosen to participate in the six-week service and dig project in Jordan and Israel from June 18 to Aug. 2 are Jessica Schultz of Charlotte, North Carolina; Elizabeth Cannon of West Palm Beach, Florida; Kristin Waldrup of Dallas, Texas; Melea Martin of Ruston, Louisiana; Patrick Shabi of Orlando, Florida; Josh Messerly of Portland, Oregon; John Nichols of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Garrett Wayne of Cincinnati North, Ohio.

### 10-Month Project in Jordan

Volunteers for the 10-month project in Amman, Jordan, teaching at the Amman Baccalaureate School

and the YMWA school for the handicapped are Lewis and Lena VanAusdler of Akron, Ohio; Tina Banda of Lusaka, Zambia/Dallas, Texas; and Zach and Emily Smith of Cleveland, Ohio.

Applications are still open for the Kenya youth camp project in December. The early deadline for applications is July 1. Interested young adults can get fact sheets and application forms at [www.ucg-youthcorps.org](http://www.ucg-youthcorps.org).

Mr. Horchak said, "We are excited about these opportunities for service abroad for our young people in UCG, and hope to have a flyer available during the Feast of Tabernacles detailing the upcoming projects for 2009 for all interested young adults." UN



## News At a Glance

### Continued from page 1

see, presented by New Riders publishing. New Riders publishes books for Web professionals, and the conference provided the opportunity for attendees to hear presentations by their expert authors.

Conference seminars focused on improving the overall design and usability of an organization's Web sites. Seminar titles included "Color for the Global Web," "Findability: Design Comp to Code," "Designing for Today's Browsers" and "How to Improve Each and Every Page on Your Site."

Many of the recommendations will be used to make gradual improvements to the United Church of God's Web sites and enhance the Church's presence on the Web. These include:

- Improving our Web sites so our content is accessible to a wider global audience using different types of Internet browsers both on computers and mobile devices.
- Improving our Web sites' content and coding structure to make our Web sites more prominent in search engines.
- Implementing simple design strategies that will guide Web visitors to the content they are searching for on our Web sites.

Aaron Booth

## "Share This" Viral Marketing Added to Web Sites

Internet Manager Aaron Booth recently applied "viral marketing" techniques to many of UCG's Web pages. "Viral marketing (word-of-mouth) is a process where Web visitors find your Web site content valuable and want to share it with others," said Mr. Booth. "We have added a 'Share-This' feature to many of our Web pages. If a Web visitor clicks on one of the 'Share-This' links featured on an article Web page, then the individual can share this particular article with a friend via an e-mail message or post the article link to numerous social networking Web sites such as Facebook, MySpace or Twitter.

"What does this mean? If one Web visitor found our content valuable and shared it with others via a social networking Web site, then that article could possibly be viewed by hundreds of additional people. Then those people could share it with their friends. By using viral-marketing techniques like this, we can increase the visibility of our Web sites to more people on the Web."

## Ministerial Orientation Held for New Hires

Ministerial Services held its second Ministerial Orientation seminar for the

See "News at a Glance," page 16

## Profile: New Council Member Robin Webber

Robin Webber was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1951, but has lived most of his life in California. He has been a part of the Church of God community since 1963. He attended Ambassador College in Pasadena from 1969-1973. He majored in theology and history.

Upon graduation, Mr. Webber married a fellow classmate, Susan Leimbach, of Ohio. They have now been married for 35 years and are blessed with three married daughters and five granddaughters.

Before becoming a full-time pastor, Mr. Webber worked in the insurance industry. He was ordained as an

elder in 1975 and transitioned to pastoral ministry in 1979. Over the past three decades, he has served nine different congregations in the Southern California area.

He currently pastors the Redlands and San Diego congregations and serves as a Festival coordinator for Escondido, California.

Mr. Webber also contributes to the Church's editorial efforts as a senior editor for *World News and Prophecy* and has written a featured monthly column for 10 years titled "This Is the Way."

"The focus of this column has been to note the productive and courageous

efforts of men and women and how we as Christians can develop personal leadership skills and enhance our own walk with God by recognizing the contributions of ordinary folk," Mr. Webber said.

Mr. Webber's interest remains in the study of history, socio-economics and literature. Over the years, he has offered his services to museums as a docent to share his enthusiasm and passions regarding these areas of expertise.

When time permits, he loves to go mountain biking on nearby ranch land and meet his wife as she hikes toward him. **UN**



Susan and Robin Webber

If you would like to recommend a member to be featured in the "Profiles" section, e-mail [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

## FORWARD! Serving God With Energy and Synergy

by Larry Salyer



"Oh Lord, you fill my life with wonder...my spirit soars with Your wondrous gift of grace...with a heart forever grateful I will sing Your glory and Your praise."

So rings out line after line of uplifting, inspiring words, sung in harmony and joy by the Ambassador Bible Center choir. The atmosphere is electrified. The voices and enthusiasm of youth praising God seem to provoke a special response from the congregation.

This is a Sabbath service special music presentation in Lafayette, Indiana, but it could be anywhere that godly young people are serving God. By the time I begin the sermon, I am inspired and anxious to add to the message their music has already conveyed.

The Church of God is abundantly blessed with young people of all ages. Our traditions rightly emphasize their value to God—from the blessing of little children ceremony through summer and

winter camps, winter family weekends, local teen development programs, ABC education opportunities, Youth Corps and a host of other youth-oriented activities.

In his Pentecost sermon at the founding of the New Testament Church 1,977 years ago, the apostle Peter was inspired to say, "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39).

The numbers of second-, third- and even fourth-generation children who are now adult members of God's Church show that He has indeed called many. As long as God allows the human experience to continue, children and youth will be valued servants in His Church. They are bright spots in a dismal world that desperately needs their example and the message their dedication to God's truth carries.

It is the time of year when we congratulate and honor our high school graduates. The time when our children pack up and head off to summer camp. It's the time when several Youth Corps projects are launched and ABC enters its final rush to completion. It's when many of our young people are making decisions about further education, a new career,

marriage—perhaps even baptism. You will notice references to all of these in this very issue of *United News*.

Just as the Church needs the energy and enthusiasm of youth, so the young people need the experience and wisdom of those older than they. We are all one Body "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share" (Ephesians 4:16).

I encourage those of us who are older to take to heart both the present and future of these young people. Add them to your prayer list. Share your Christian experiences with them. Let them see your example of faith and trust in God and how He has worked in your life. They indeed live in the midst of an increasingly "crooked and perverse generation." Help them fully learn to "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). God is working His miracles in their lives.

I can still hear the voices of vibrant young people as the choir's refrain rings in my memory, "He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God." **UN**

Larry Salyer is Media and Communications Services operation manager.

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## News From Around the World

### Santiago, Chile, Church Hall Inaugurated

by Reba Walker

On the Sabbath of June 14, the new Church building in Santiago, Chile, was inaugurated with 450 people present. Many members from around Chile and one family from Argentina made the trip by bus for the occasion. Also present were Leon Walker, regional director for the Spanish area, with his wife, Reba, and special guests Jim and Sharron Franks from the home office. Mr. Franks is Ministerial Services operation manager.

The ceremony began with the cutting of the ribbon by Mr. Walker, Saul Langarica, pastor of the congregation, and Roberto Hernandez, a member and the builder and supervisor of the project. A beautiful plaque was then uncovered that stated in Spanish, "The Word of God is the Foundation of all Knowledge" and "This building was constructed for the honor and glory of God."

After the ceremony, the members took their seats for services. Before the formal services began, Mr. Walker spoke briefly, giving a history of the growth of the Church of God in Chile through the years

and explaining how we had grown to the point where having our own hall was a necessity.

He mentioned the many blessings from God during the building process and that the project was completed without debt and without a loan. He also rec-



Inauguration of new meeting hall and offices in Santiago, Chile (photos by Alvaro Matamala)

ognized all who had participated in the construction process.

The new building has rooms for Sabbath school classes, as well as the church offices.



after sunset, an "esquinazo" or short show of music and dances was presented to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Franks.

On Sunday, Mr. Franks presented a series of seminars on Church doctrines for the ministry and other leaders of the area. More than 50 people were present for these presentations and very much appreciated the opportunity to have these classes. Many mentioned that the seminars were a very fitting conclusion to a special weekend. **UN**



### Australian Media Goals Accomplished

■ Australia adds 14,000 *Good News* subscribers.

by Ruth Root

It is with a great deal of thankfulness that we are able to report that, in spite of considerable setbacks during the financial year because of health trials experienced by Australian Operations Centre staff members, the goal of replacing all subscribers lost from the most extensive renewal we have undertaken to date has been accomplished.

#### Bible Course Advertised

Approximately 14,000 new *Good News* subscribers have been added from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008. Of that 14,000, over 3,400 have requested and received the *Bible Study Course* as well.

We have had a number of calls from people who have studied the first three lessons, expressing their gratitude for receiving such priceless, life-changing material. A few have asked about church services.

In addition, whenever we ran a print ad offering the course, the number of visits to the interactive *Bible Study Course* quiz on the Australian Web site nearly doubled, as

a result of advertising the Web site address on the print ad.

Between 6 to 8 percent of all hard copy *GN* subscription requests received from the Web site request a subscription to the *Bible Study Course* as well.

#### Does God Exist? Booklet

In the last six months UCG-Australia advertised the *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?* booklet for the first time in *Reader's Digest* and in a targeted card deck drop. Responses are still coming in, but we have received nearly 2,000 requests for the booklet and a subscription. **UN**

### Canadian National Council Meets in Winnipeg

The summer meeting of the Canadian National Council was held June 1 and 2 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Quite a few Church members along with their pastor, Herb Teitgen, sat in on the meetings. Prior to this, the Media and Ministerial Services Teams met on Thursday and Friday.

Since this was the first meeting of this fiscal year, the Council Code of Ethics and Council Member Job Description were read. New council member Patrick Read was welcomed and was asked to give a short icebreaker. Following that, Herb Teitgen talked about the rewards and challenges of serving a Canadian congregation while living in the United States.

A PowerPoint presentation from the Canadian office contained various graphs depicting growth patterns. Graemme Marshall reported on personal correspondence questions he has received.

The Media Team PowerPoint presentation showed statistics from the *Beyond Today* television program and the results of the recent *Reader's Digest* ads. The coun-

cil was informed of future plans for the rest of the year.

Next, the Ministerial Services Team reported that leadership development is still an important issue for the Church. Canada is tapping into some of the U.S. programs. There will also be a ministerial conference later this year for all Canadian elders, as well as the Western Canada leadership workshop weekend in Calgary, Alberta, on June 21-22.

Each pastor gave an update on how the Spring Festival season went in his area. The trends are positive.

The National Office was asked to do a study regarding the potential need to move from the current office space. The council reviewed the study and referred it to the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee for further discussion. Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the new Strategic Plan and Operation Plan that UCGIA approved. The question as to whether Canada should model next year's plan after these was also referred to the committee.

Monday began with a report from the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee. They submitted a resolution for ratification of expenditures to keep charitable purposes ratio in acceptable CRA guidelines. The committee will continue to work on the Strategic Plan for 2008-2009 to have it ready for council approval during the September teleconference. The committee also worked on strategies for the National Office to use for finding new office space.

The Governance Committee presented a proposal to amend the policy on establishing new churches and Bible study groups. A motion was passed to accept the amended document. An Elder Appeal Policy for Canada was approved by the council. Refinements to the lay member nominations process were also discussed.

The regular session ended with a brainstorming session. Then the council went into executive session to discuss designated funds and reserves and conduct the annual review of the director of operations.

Linda Wasilkoff

### International News At a Glance

#### Peace Returns to Kenya; Members Face Drought

The violence that troubled Kenya at the beginning of this year (leaving 1,500 dead and 600,000 homeless and/or displaced) has long since faded away. However, the rift among tribes continues below the surface. Only by allowing both rival parties to win (through a power-sharing agreement) was the bloodbath halted.

Meanwhile, many of our members there have been impacted by a seasonal drought. Their crops failed and they have been unable to grow food or purchase it without assistance. World prices of food, seed, fertilizer and petrol have all skyrocketed, and Kenya's 20 percent inflation rate further compounds the situation.

A Good Works project to assist the members there with supplemental food is listed on the UCG Web site at [www.ucg.org/goodworks](http://www.ucg.org/goodworks).

During July Tim Waddle and his wife, Valerie, will visit the region. Some of the items on his agenda include leadership training, Festival logistics assessment and congregational visits.

A meeting with leaders of a group that left WCG years ago and attended with another affiliation is also scheduled. They have formally requested to be part of United. Their additional numbers could potentially swell Feast attendance this year and may dictate a change of venue. Thankfully, a suitable site has become available at a price that would be considerably less per person than in previous years.

John Elliott

#### Public Bible Lectures Set for Brisbane and Melbourne

The congregations in Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia, are busy with meetings to organize the public Bible lectures scheduled for Brisbane on July 12 and Melbourne on July 19.

Melvin Rhodes and Gary Petty from the United States will be delivering sessions on "What the Bible Says About Australia in the 21st Century" and "The Day Christ's Message Was Changed." Bill Bradford will follow with an address titled "The Biblical Message of Salvation—Do We Have the Whole Story?"

The lectures have already been advertised on the address sheets of *World News and Prophecy* and *The*

*Good News*, as well as on a reply-paid postcard in *Reader's Digest*. An announcement was also posted on the Australian Web site.

As the April-June 2008 *United News Australia* went to print, reservations for over 150 seats for Melbourne and over 130 for Brisbane had been received, and the expectation is that more people will register their interest after the mailing of the July/August *Good News*, which will advertise the lectures one more time. An announcement will also be sent via e-mail to all those who have signed up to be notified of Web site updates.

Please join us in praying for God's blessing.

Ruth Root

#### New Group in Far North of South Africa

A dedicated and faithful group of men and women from around the Polokwane, South Africa, area contacted the United Church of God in October 2007, desiring to become part of our fellowship.

Morgen Kriedemann went to visit them on Dec. 8, 2007, and found that they were already having weekly Bible studies and Sabbath services with around 12 to 15 in attendance. After counseling, they were delighted to find the Church after losing contact with God's Church the last few years. Most of them were baptized in the 1970s.

They welcomed all the Church literature and especially the DVD messages from the home office. After regular counseling and several visits to conduct services at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Petrus Sabati in a small village in the mountains, we had the privilege of sharing the Passover with a group of 10 baptized members there.

The evening was very sobering and at the same time encouraging for our brethren there and for us as well.

Please remember our group in the far north of South Africa in your prayers, that God may bless them and add to their small number.

Joleen Kriedemann (previously published in the June 2008 United News South Africa)

#### Llandudno Picked for 2009 British Isles Site

The UCG-British Isles Council confirmed the selection of Llandudno as the Feast of Tabernacles site for 2009. Llandudno is a seaside resort on the north Wales coast.

UCG-British Isles National Announcements, May 31, 2008

# Treasure Digest

## Lightbulb Man Lessons

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,” James tells us (James 1:2, New International Version). So easy to say, but oh, so hard to do! After a recent fiery trial, I discovered a good lesson from the lightbulb man, who helped remind me to see the light.

I came across a most interesting story about Thomas Edison, a story that can help put an end to self-pity. I had a 36-hour bug of that recently and, lo and behold, I stumbled across this story and it, along with the book of James, reminded me that trying times are a normal part of this life. They present an opportunity to strengthen my foundation of joy.

Thomas Edison invented over 1,000 things in addition to the lightbulb and phonograph.

As amazing as his inventions are, I was particularly interested to discover that this man of genius and invention struggled with dyslexia, a learning disability I also faced. Since it was undiagnosed, it was all the more frustrating. Despite this, Edison found ways to learn from his failures.

Did you know that in 1914 one of Edison's buildings caught fire and it quickly spread to most of his other factory and laboratory buildings? Thomas Edison, his employees and fire companies from all around did their best to fight the fire and protect the remaining buildings, but little was spared.

The next morning as he looked at the smoldering rubble, Edison is reported to have said, “There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew.”

What an incredible attitude! This story caught my eye big time since I have recently been through a house fire that produced some real pain and sorrow those first couple of days afterward. (My house was saved, but

there was structural damage, as well as some water and smoke damage that left me with a bad case of that 36-hour bug of self-pity.) However, upon reading about Mr. Edison's experience, I realized I needed to see it like Edison did—to be able to see beyond the disaster to the potential ahead.

His words pierced me like a knife, since as a pastor, father and husband, I was in somewhat of a state of shock as I thought about my defeated and discouraged attitude of the day. Where I had lost some noticeable money and time, this man had lost much of his life's work. Where I had chosen to see the remaining rubble of the day, this man chose to see the future that awaited him. When I longed to hide under the covers, this man took joy in the good that would come from his loss.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, “Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (NIV).

If you're feeling frustrated, defeated and discouraged by the trials in your life today, I want to encourage you to look beyond the rubble to what lies ahead. It can be difficult to face our trials with the kind of spirit that sees great value in disaster, but that's what God expects from us if we are to be men and women who walk on their foundation of joy.

Thomas Edison's statement sums up the truth about spiritual growth perfectly: trials are the foundation of joy for spiritual maturity. God is growing us in the image of His Son, the Captain of our salvation who was made perfect through suffering (Hebrews 2:10).

A major way we grow is through the trials that arrive on our doorstep. Through it all we can rely on God: “For You are my rock and my fortress; for Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me” (Psalm 31:3, New American Standard).

*Stuart Segall*

*Pastor of the Crescent City, Eureka and Red Bluff, California, congregations*

## The Wedding Invitation

*(Matthew 22:1-14, based on a sermon by Carl Dailey. See “Tribute” on page 15.)*

## Turning the Hearts . . . Hanging Out and Dating

When you spend time with those of the opposite sex—is that hanging out or dating? In Practical Christianity class at Ambassador Bible Center we have had this discussion. We came to the conclusion that the terminology has changed through the years. What used to be called “dating” is now considered a part of “hanging out.” At the present time “dating” refers to what we used to term serious dating or “going steady.”

Whatever term is used, the Proverbs reveal that “there are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand: . . . the way of a man with a virgin” (Proverbs 30:18-19).

Something almost magical seems to take place when that special connection is made between a man and a woman that leads to them liking each other. They want to spend time with each other. They put on rose-colored glasses and see each other in a fantasized manner. Something actually occurs in the brain that helps them gloss over any flaws and elevates the strengths of the beloved.

To make sure you are not overwhelmed when in love, it is good to force yourself to stop and think. What is needed for a relationship to continue to develop?

Here are several things to consider when going from “hanging out” to dating. Does the person you are interested in have these characteristics:

- Adaptability—Is he or she able to accept changes in schedule and circumstances?
- Empathy—Does he or she feel for others; read your moods; relate?
- Problem-solving—Does he or she seek resolution instead of sweeping problems “under the rug”?
- Is he or she able to give and receive love?
- Emotional stability—Is he or she usually even in moods rather than having wide mood swings?
- Similarity in family background—Are your family values and family rituals similar?
- Similarity in interests—Are you able to relate in leisure time?
- Good communications—Are you able to talk to each other about any and everything?
- Spiritual soundness—Does the person maintain a deep love for God and His way?

Marriage and family counselors consider these characteristics essential for having successful relationships.

So, when moving from the “hanging out” stage to serious dating, please keep your eyes open and your mind active to note if that special person has the characteristics that will contribute to a happy, successful, lasting relationship.

May God bless you in your quest to find the loving person for you (Proverbs 18:22).

*Gary E. Antion*



There once was a king who loved his subjects so much that he sent out an invitation to all to share in the marriage feast for his son. But his subjects refused the invitation saying they had better things to do.

Though distraught, the king sent his servants again to tell of the wonderful feast in store for them. The people listened with scorn and killed the king's servants.

The king was furious and sent his army to destroy all who had been invited. Then he told his servants, “My people were unworthy of my gift. Go and find others to fill my house.”

So the servants went out into the highways and byways and invited all they came to regardless of their status. And they came with joy and delight that they should be included in so grand an occasion.

But at the wedding, when the king came in to see his guests, he saw a man in his work clothes. The king asked him why he would come to a royal wedding without cleaning himself up and putting on his best. The man was speechless. So the king called the guards and had the man thrown out into the black night, banished forever from his kingdom.

It would be a great honor to be invited to a royal wedding, and no one would expect to be allowed entrance if he or she were disheveled, ungroomed or in dirty work clothes. (Though it is not for us to determine if someone else is unworthy—only the King can do that.)

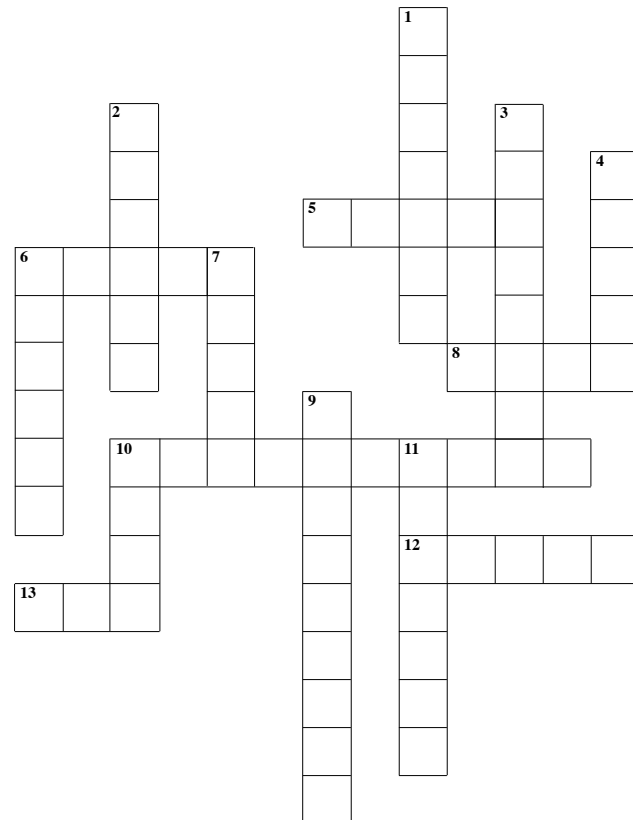
We have been invited to a marriage feast unlike any that has ever been given—the marriage of the Lamb to His Bride, the Church. We are not worthy of such an invitation nor is there anything we can do to earn it, but we cannot attend unless we are wearing the garments of a “new man” in Christ. There are new attitudes to wear, dirty sins to discard and protocols of the royal household to learn.

Although God's invitation is a gift, our acceptance means we must put on the “wedding garments” suitable for the marriage of the Son of the King or the invitation will be revoked! God's Word spells out just what those “wedding garments” are. We must find out what we must do and be there!

*Carol Taylor*

*Los Angeles, California, congregation*

## Children's Corner The Three Temptations of Jesus



### ACROSS

5. Another name for the devil is (Matthew 4:10).
6. The devil said that Jesus should turn the stone into (Luke 4:3).
8. Jerusalem is also called the (Matthew 4:5) city.
10. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the (Luke 4:1).
12. Jesus quoted: “You shall not (Luke 4:12) the LORD your God.”
13. Jesus quoted: “You shall worship the LORD your (Luke 4:8).”

### DOWN

1. Another name for the devil is the (Matthew 4:3).
2. After the devil left, the (Matthew 4:11) ministered to, or took care of, Jesus.
3. The devil offered to give Jesus all the (Matthew 4:8) of the world if Jesus would worship him.
4. Jesus was tempted for (Luke 4:2) days.
6. Jesus was with the wild (Mark 1:13) in the wilderness.
7. Jesus was tempted by the (Luke 4:2).
9. The devil took Jesus to (Luke 4:9) where he put Him on top of the temple.
10. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every (Luke 4:4) of God.”
11. For 40 days Jesus ate (Luke 4:2). —John McClain, Cincinnati, Ohio, East



# Congratulations, High School Graduates 2008

## Nina Acquisto

*Parents:* Joseph Acquisto and Roslyn Ramos  
*Congregation:* Worcester, Massachusetts  
*High School Accomplishments:* Nina completed a three-year "Capstone Project" involving sign lan-



Nina Acquisto

guage, receiving a Certificate of Initial Mastery. She was a member of the volleyball and swimming teams.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Nina enjoys swimming, spending time with family and friends and playing volleyball.

*Plans After Graduation:* Nina will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall of 2008. She is undecided about her major at present, but hopes to pursue a career in chiropractic and/or physical therapy.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

## Elizabeth Adolphi

*Parents:* Gregory and Nancy Adolphi  
*Congregation:* Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
*High School Accomplishments:* Liz received a letter in choir with two bars and received a letter in



Elizabeth Adolphi

band with three bars. She was a staff writer and coeditor for the fine arts for the school yearbook and staff writer for the school newspaper. She has been published in the *Insight* youth magazine, along with poetry contest books.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Liz participated several years at the Winter Camp in Wisconsin and attended Pinecrest in 2007. She has been a member of the Wisconsin Dells Feast orchestra for the last four years. Her dream would be to play in the "pit" for Broadway musicals. Her hobbies include reading, writing,

collecting penguins and listening to a variety of music. Her aspiration is to have a library in her home someday! One of her interests is manga/anime (Japanese illustrated books/episodes). She has always enjoyed oriental culture and hopes to study abroad in Japan her junior or senior year of college. She also has an interest in helping children. She cosponsors, with her mother, a little girl in Guatemala named Ixchel. Liz hopes to meet her someday.

*Plans After Graduation:* Liz plans to attend Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa, to achieve an associate's degree, then go to St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa. She plans to major in Spanish and minor in international studies. After achieving her bachelor's degree, she would like to attend ABC. She would like to either join the Peace Corps or work for a humanitarian organization.

*Favorite Quote:* "Be the change you wish to see in the world"—Gandhi.

*Advice:* Never lose sight of your dreams!

*Favorite Scripture:* "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

## Katie Anderson

*Parents:* Cary and Christine Anderson

*Congregation:* Wichita, Kansas

*High School Accomplishments:* Katie participated in varsity dance team all four years, musicals, softball and state piano festivals.



Katie Anderson

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Katie enjoys piano and dance—ballet, jazz and lyrical.

*Plans After Graduation:* Katie plans to attend Wichita State University to major in music performance and minor in dance performance.

*Motto:* Never believe you can't dream.

*Favorite Scripture:* "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13, New International Version).

## Heather Bennett

*Parents:* Mike and Becky Bennett

*Congregation:* Cincinnati, Ohio, East PM

*High School Accomplishments:* Heather was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and had a straight-A average throughout high school. She played clarinet in the symphonic band, was in French Club and participated for three years in Teen Counseling, an



Heather Bennett

antidrug education program where a team of high school students prepares and teaches lesson plans to sixth graders.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Heather plays piano for hymns, church choir and this year's ABC choir, and plays clarinet in the congregation's ensemble. She has enjoyed camp at Pinecrest, Heritage and Tetons. She achieved her goal of reading through the Bible for the first time and completing the *Bible Study Course* before graduation.

*Plans After Graduation:* Heather plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to study middle childhood education to prepare to teach math and science.

*Favorite Scripture:* "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

## April Gwendolyn Boyd

*Parents:* Jeannie (Cloyd) Boyd

*Congregation:* Phoenix, Arizona, East

*High School Accomplishments:* April was morale officer for Mesa Dobson High School advanced women's choir. She had dual enrollment in two college classes, including one scholarship class at Arizona State University. She received the President's Scholarship for Mesa Community College honors program, starting in the fall of 2008. She graduated in the top 15 percent of her class. She was chosen by her American Sign Language instructor to be one of the interpreters signing the "Star Spangled Banner" at the high school graduation ceremony.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* April volunteers as an interpreter at church. She performs



April Gwendolyn Boyd

regularly with the McTeggart Irish Dancers, including local television and radio appearances and guest performances with the Celtic band Oceans Apart. She also competes in Irish dance competitions throughout the United States, now

moving up into the championships.

*Plans After Graduation:* April plans to attend Mesa Community College for transfer credits, followed by Arizona State University's preveterinary medicine program, while working part-time and continuing to compete in and perform Irish dance.

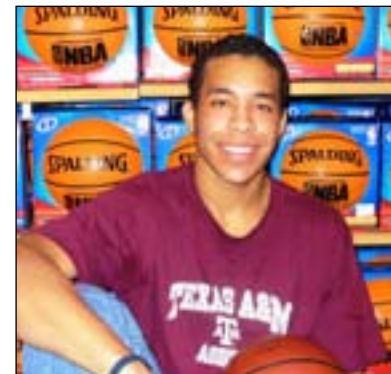
*Advice:* Beauty can be found everywhere; you just may have to look for it harder in some places.

## Jeff Brooks

*Parents:* Jeff and Kris Brooks

*Congregation:* Dallas, Texas

*High School Accomplishments:* Jeff graduated with dual credits from Richland College while home-schooled his last three years of high school. He received academic awards such as All-American Scholar, Who's Who and People to People. His athletic and peer awards included MVP Basketball Player of the Year, Outstanding Junior Man of the Year, Falcon of the Year and 2008 National Honorable Mention All-American. He was a starter defensively and offensively in football, placed in track and field for Rowlett Class 5A High School and was a starting center fielder for baseball. He played



Jeff Brooks

for three years on the varsity Home School Athletic Association team, placing second in state and 10th nationally out of 88 varsity teams in 2007-08. He obtained a full basketball scholarship—the first player in his Home School Basketball Association ever to accomplish this.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Jeff attended Church camps at Carter and Pinecrest. He is active in the Dallas congregation, serving on the security crew and babysitting for Passover. He also served one year as vice president of the teen speech club. He is fifth generation in God's Church and is the grandson of Tom and Pam Kuver of San Antonio, Texas. He has snow skied the Rocky Mountains, canoed rivers in Missouri, water-skied on lakes in Texas and New York and enjoyed visiting Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and Washington, D.C.

*Plans After Graduation:* Jeff will attend Ranger College this fall with a full scholarship and hopes to transfer later to Texas A&M.

*Favorite Quote:* "With great power comes great responsibility"—Spiderman.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14).

## David Browning

*Parents:* Walter and Sharon Browning

*Congregation:* Portland, Oregon, East

*High School Accomplishments:* David played trombone in pep band four years, band four years (including the top band for two years) and jazz band





**David Browning**

three years. He received the 2007 Most Improved Award. He also played tennis four years, receiving two varsity letters and becoming 2008 cocaptain. He ran track one year, receiving one varsity letter, best first year award and sixth place at districts for the triple jump. He was also named Academic All Star for Fine Arts 2008.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* David played Church basketball for eight years and was 2006-2008 MVP. He also played Church volleyball for eight years. He helped with the cherry stand fund-raiser for LifeNets for two years and participated in the instrumental ensemble, Spokesman's Club and the congregation's coffee crew.

*Plans After Graduation:* David plans to attend Clark College for two years and then attend ABC. Upon returning he plans to go to Washington State University—Vancouver and major in business.

*Advice:* Don't hold back because you are afraid to try something new, because you will look back and wish you had made the right decision. Live your life to the fullest.

### Daryn Gabrielle Campbell

*Parent:* Karen Bradley

*Congregation:* Phoenix, Arizona, East

*High School Accomplishments:* Being homeschooled, Daryn did not participate in many "typical" high school activities. Instead she became active in many community service organizations and programs, all the while maintaining a 3.8 GPA. As a result of her community service, she was awarded a scholarship by the Volunteer Center of Maricopa County, nominated City of Tempe Youth Volunteer of the Year and recognized through the President's Volunteer Service Award.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Daryn enjoys attending United Youth Camps. She has attended camp Hye Sierra since she was 13 and hasn't missed a summer yet. Daryn was also able to attend Camp Kenya in 2004, an experience she regards as "awesome." Daryn also loves traveling and has been to various countries. Her goal is to one day make it to all seven continents. Before starting college in the spring, she intends to return to Ethiopia where her sister was adopted and volunteer at the orphanage.

*Plans After Graduation:* Daryn plans to pursue a teaching degree. She would like to become a teacher for grades K-2.



**Daryn Gabrielle Campbell**

*Favorite Quote:* "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops"—Henry Adams.

*Favorite Scripture:* "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

### Angela Churchill

*Parents:* Jason and Stefanie Churchill

*Congregation:* Roseburg, Oregon

*High School Accomplishments:* Angela graduated one year early and was on the President's List for high GPA. She was honored with a Rotary scholar-



**Angela Churchill**

ship and is halfway to a two-year degree in graphic design/desktop marketing.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Angela has studied piano for 10 years and loves to read, lap swim for exercise and play with their white German shepherd.

*Plans After Graduation:* Angela plans to go to Camp Davidson, then work to finish up a two-year degree in graphic design/desktop marketing.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:4-5, New Revised Standard Version).

### Adam Clark

*Parents:* Tom and Mary Clark

*Congregations:* Wichita, Salina and Liberal, Kansas

*High School Accomplishments:* Adam played soccer, ran track, participated in band all four years and was a Student Ambassador.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Adam attended UCG teen camps for eight years and was on staff at preteen camp for four years—counselor or assistant counselor for three of those years. He attended the Feast in Ghana in 2006. He likes to play soccer, sing in the shower, work on cars, smell



**Adam Clark**

good, listen to music, make new friends, feel grass between his toes, swim and soak up the sun and watch movies he hasn't seen.

*Plans After Graduation:* Adam plans to go to a community college to get some prerequisites out of the way while he decides what career path to pursue.

*Favorite Quote:* Every weed in the desert is still a flower.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

*Motto:* Live each day as if it were your last, because one day it will be.

### Kevin Daniel Clark

*Parents:* Kurtis and Krista Clark

*Congregation:* Garden Grove, California



**Kevin Daniel Clark**

*High School Accomplishments:* Kevin participated in cross country and track and the California Scholarship Federation honor society.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Kevin attended Camp Hye Sierra, teen Bible studies and teen weekends. His hobbies include dirt biking, snowboarding and off-roading.

*Plans After Graduation:* In the fall he will be attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, majoring in mechanical engineering.

### Aaron Creech

*Parents:* Glenn and Ronda Creech

*Congregation:* Cincinnati, Ohio, East



**Aaron Creech**

*High School Accomplishments:* Aaron graduated third in his class, maintained a 4.0, was a member of the Honor Society and graduated with honors. He was a delegate to the Buckeye Boys State Convention.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Aaron played soccer for 12 years, tennis for three years, was on the academic team for three years and plays volleyball in the Church league.

*Plans After Graduation:* Aaron plans to attend Northern Kentucky University to receive a bachelor's degree in biology and minor in mathematics. After that he plans to go to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, to get a master's degree in statistics.

*Favorite Scripture:* "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

### Kayla Michelle Doak

*Parents:* James and Jacqueline Doak

*Congregation:* San Antonio, Texas

*High School Accomplishments:* Kayla was an honor student all four years and was recognized as a



**Kayla Michelle Doak**

Distinguished Scholar this year—having made the top 10 percent. She was a member of the following groups/organizations: the International Thespian Society (has won numerous awards for her acting), Junior State of America, Youth Activists United, Web Design Team, Greenpeace, French Club, Art Club and National Art Honor Society—the latter two of which she was vice president—and the National Honor Society. She has been nominated as a national scholar three times and been recognized at her school for excellence in English, French, sociology and digital graphics. She codesigned a book cover and was recognized by the mayor for her excellence in art.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Kayla participated in UCG basketball (cocaptain for two years), UCG cheerleading (captain for one year), UCG volleyball and UCG choir. She also helped with the hymns and ushering. Kayla has won numerous awards for her poetry and has been published 13 times since the age of 12. Her hobbies include the performing, visual and written arts, physical fitness, reading, watching movies and music.

*Plans After Graduation:* Kayla conducted an independent study on schizophrenia and stigmas that she hopes will help to spur increased awareness of mental illnesses. Kayla graduated under the Distinguished Achievement Plan with merit in the Gifted and Talented Program. She plans on attending university, studying psychology and possibly going into law.

### Emily Epperson

*Parents:* Raymond and Annette Epperson

*Congregation:* Chattanooga, Tennessee

*High School Accomplishments:* Emily is a three-year member of the volleyball team, a three-year member of the track team, secretary of Beta Club, was chosen Best All-Around Senior, a one-year member of the Chattanooga Youth Philharmonic, year-book editor and valedictorian.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Emily will be serving on the Camp Woodmen staff for the first time this summer. She spends a good deal of time working at Sonic Drive-In, but she also enjoys running, riding her horse, cooking, eating, jumping on the trampoline, swimming and reading.

*Plans After Graduation:* Emily plans to attend Tennessee Technological University and pursue a major in civil and environmental engineering. She hopes to be able to study abroad as well as attend



**Emily Epperson**



ABC sometime in the next few years.

*Favorite Scripture:* "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11, New International Version).

### Kara Foraker

*Parents:* Kent and Kristy Foraker

*Congregation:* Wichita, Kansas

*High School Accomplishments:* Kara was on the drumline her freshmen and sophomore years and in choir all four years.



Kara Foraker

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Kara has been to Pinecrest, Winter Camp and the Midwest preteen camps. She enjoys music, hockey games and playing sports and cards with her family.

*Plans After Graduation:* Kara will attend Butler Community College this fall, and plans to major in business and minor in Spanish.

*Favorite Scripture:* Proverbs 31.

### Genevieve Corinne Francis

*Parents:* Dana and Eva Francis (granddaughter of Joy Francis and the late Lewis and Catherine Long, all longtime Church of God members)

*Congregation:* Tulsa, Oklahoma

*High School Accomplishments:* Genevieve received various awards for art/photography, creative writing and academics; various essay contest awards, including first place in the state of Oklahoma for the Patriot's Pen essay contest and 20th in the nation for the same essay. She was awarded an OSU-Okmulgee Institute of Technology Institutional Nominee Scholarship and various privately funded scholarships.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Genevieve attends church regularly with her family and has attended Church summer camps for three summers. She enjoys her job as a coffee shop barista, as well as photography, music, animals and traveling.

*Plans After Graduation:* Genevieve plans to enroll in the photography technology program at the OSU-Okmulgee Institute of Technology and would like to eventually specialize in underwater photography.



Genevieve Corinne Francis

*Favorite Scriptures:* "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:13).

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

### Jesse Nolan Gatlin

*Parents:* Nathan and Denise Gatlin

*Congregation:* Tucson, Arizona

*High School Accomplishments:* Jesse went to Marana High his freshman and sophomore years. He finished high school with homeschooling through American Schools. He ran track his freshman and sophomore years and played basketball his freshman year.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Jesse serves on the church setup crew. He likes to work on mechanical things, American muscle cars and extreme sports.



Jesse Nolan Gatlin

*Plans After Graduation:* Jesse plans to work for a member of the Church with his own business.

### Dena Nicole Gens

*Parents:* Warner and Merri Ellen Gens

*Congregation:* Dayton, Ohio

*High School Accomplishments:* Dena participated in band for eight years and was in the high school choir. She was on the Academy of Scholars Honor Roll and was voted "best all-around" senior.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Dena was a teen leader for two years. Her hobbies include reading and singing.

*Plans After Graduation:* Dena is currently attending Southern State Community College for two years



Dena Nicole Gens

to get a degree in applied business.

*Favorite Quote:* "What's done is done"—Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

*Favorite Scripture:* "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

### Kayleen Elizabeth Hannaway

*Parents:* David and Kimberly Hannaway

*Congregation:* Salem, Oregon

*High School Accomplishments:* Kayleen was valedic-



Kayleen Elizabeth Hannaway

torian and a member of the National Honor Society. She was class treasurer and a German summer exchange student. She played varsity softball (where she was named All-State Outfielder—1st Team by unanimous decision), varsity volleyball and basketball. She was principal bassoonist for Corvallis Youth Symphony and her high school symphonic band, which won a Grammy award. She received the Outstanding Musician Award, was first trumpet for the jazz band and successfully completed Oregon's Piano Theory syllabus (11 years). She was the Zinch scholarship winner thanks to all the support of United members and family (see article in the "Local Church Updates" section).

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* At Church Kayleen has played in the instrumental ensemble; been an accompanist; sang in the choir, vocal ensembles, duets and as a soloist; served as children's choir director, and has been an avid summer camp participant.

*Plans After Graduation:* Kayleen plans to attend Vanderbilt University and major in neuroscience and minor in bassoon. She hopes to study brain function/differences and develop better instruction methods for autistics, savants and prodigies.

*Favorite Quote:* "Fight for the value of your person. Fight for the virtue of your pride. Fight for the essence, which is man, for his sovereign rational mind. Fight with the radiant certainty and the absolute rectitude of knowing that yours is the morality of life and yours is the battle for any achievement, any value, any grandeur, any goodness, any joy that has ever existed on this earth"—Ayn Rand.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14, New International Version).

### Kourtney Elysia Hannaway

*Parents:* David and Kimberly Hannaway

*Congregation:* Salem, Oregon

*High School Accomplishments:* Kourtney was named Outstanding Literature Student. She wrote a book entitled *Deep Roots* about a couple's experience living overseas during the Green Revolution. She was a member of the National Honor Society and a German summer exchange student. She was principal oboe with the Corvallis Youth Symphony, played bass and piano in the jazz band and oboe and English horn in the symphonic band (which placed fourth in state competition and was a Grammy winner). She sang in the concert choir (which placed second in state competition) and was the female lead in the school musical. She was voted Most Outstanding Musician, was the Maestro award winner for outstanding solo work and successfully completed Oregon's Piano Theory education (11 years). She played volleyball, softball (All-League and All-State Honors) and basketball.

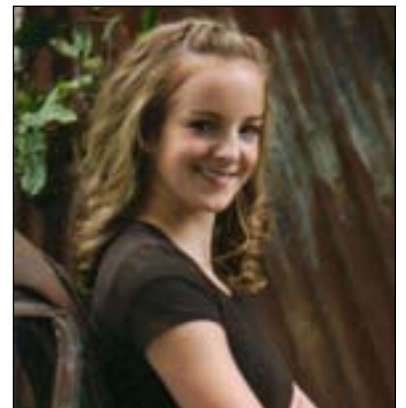
*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Kourtney's Church activities included instrumental ensemble, accompanist, choir, vocal ensembles, duets, soloist, children's choir accompanist and avid summer camp participant.

*Plans After Graduation:* Kourtney plans to study Eng-

lish and journalism to become a developmental editor and work for a publishing house. She will attend Scripps College or the University of Oregon. She hopes to include music in her college studies.

*Favorite Quote:* "To put meaning in one's life may end in madness, but life without meaning is the torture of restlessness and vague desire—it is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid"—from "George Gray" by Edgar Lee Masters.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am,



Kourtney Elysia Hannaway

therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11, King James Version).

### Alicia Jean Hargarten

*Parents:* Jim and Amy Hargarten

*Congregation:* Minneapolis, Minnesota

*High School Accomplishments:* Alicia completed two years of college while in high school.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Church is a big part of Alicia's life. She enjoys camps and various other Church activities. She enjoys sports, including basketball, baseball, football and basically anything else. She also enjoys photography, graphic design and hanging out with friends.

*Plans After Graduation:* She plans to finish her graphic design degree next year, and then finish an online degree in 3D modeling.

*Favorite Scriptures:* "A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy



Alicia Jean Hargarten

mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

### Denzel Hawker

*Parents:* JoAnn Peterson-Hawker and Derek Hawker

*Congregation:* New York City, New York

*High School Accomplishments:* Denzel graduated on June 16 from Northeastern Academy. He was chosen to participate in the Global Scholar Program, designed by Americans for Informed Democracy. The program prepares outstanding high school students for college and the world beyond. Denzel spent two weeks at Washington





Denzel Hawker

& Lee University learning about global affairs from scholars, practitioners and policymakers in the forefront of international issues.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Denzel enjoys international travel, playing his drums, cross-country skiing, music, basketball and the performing arts. Denzel is a volunteer for LifeNets International and enjoys volunteering for various community organizations that help people.

*Plans After Graduation:* Denzel plans to attend Andrews University as a business major in the spring.

*Motto:* No one is perfect...that's why pencils have erasers.

*Advice:* Relax.

*Favorite Scripture:* "For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her" (Proverbs 8:11, New International Version).

### William Lee Hewston

*Parents:* Stanley and Ann Hewston

*Congregation:* Augusta, Georgia

*High School Accomplishments:* William was in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, German Honor Society, German Club, Mu Alpha Theta, FBLA as an officer and Interact Club. He was also on the academic top 4 team. William lettered on the varsity tennis team and also lettered on the varsity track and field team in the pole vault. He was a student council representative and a member of the senior executive council. William was a South Carolina Palmetto Boys State delegate as well as an officer. He was also listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. He was named an Erskine Fellow and a USCA Scholar; he received the Newberry Leadership Award, the Kristen Julia Drenten Memorial Scholarship Award, the Frank M. Gunby Memorial Scholarship Award from Clemson University and the Life Scholarship. William was also a national finalist in the Elder and Leemaur Publishers competition and is nationally published in the book *Authors of Tomorrow* for creative writing.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* William has served in the Augusta congregation operating the PA equipment and volunteering for other church media needs. He has been to Camp Woodmen for the past eight years. William has a passion for



William Lee Hewston

running, tennis, playing guitar, listening to Journey and other '80s bands, good people, good food and good times.

*Plans After Graduation:* William will attend Clemson University in the fall and pursue a bachelor of science in bioengineering and possibly attend medical school afterward.

*Favorite Quote:* "Forgive many things in others; nothing in yourself"—Ausonius.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

*Motto:* Try as hard as you possibly can and just see what happens.

### Felicia Hoefker

*Parents:* Scott and Gayle Hoefker

*Congregation:* Omaha, Nebraska

*High School Accomplishments:* Felicia was homechooled since fourth grade and graduated with a diploma from American School. She took Spanish and has been able to use it extensively in her travels to Latin countries.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Felicia has volunteered three to four hours a week at a physical therapy clinic for 2½ years. She also



Felicia Hoefker

volunteered for two seasons at Children's Theatre in Omaha. She loves to travel, and went to Chile in 2003 for a month and in 2006 for a month. She has been to Italy, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Guatemala (eight times), Argentina (four times), Chile (two times), Mexico and Canada. She has been to camp every year since she was 9. She has been a counselor at the Osage preteen camp in Oklahoma for three years and will also be this year. She likes to rollerblade, play piano and study Spanish.

*Plans After Graduation:* Felicia plans to attend Creighton University and major in exercise science. She would also like to study Spanish further.

*Motto:* Making memories.

*Favorite Scripture:* "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

### Krystal Lynn Hofmeister

*Parents:* Peter and Tracy Burchard

*Congregation:* Minneapolis, Minnesota



Krystal Lynn Hofmeister

*High School Accomplishments:* Krystal graduated with high honors.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Krystal's activities include teaching Sabbath school, working at Macy's, playing first base in softball, figure skating, reading and baking.

*Plans After Graduation:* Krystal plans to study nursing in Wisconsin.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

### Zachary James Hoover

*Parent:* Roxanna Smith

*Congregation:* East Texas

*High School Accomplishments:* Zach is a graduate of Big Sandy High School, where he received academic awards in world history, English, writing, band and volleyball. He was ranked seventh in his



Zachary James Hoover

class and also achieved the A and B honor roll. Zach was awarded two scholarships: one from Imagine America and the other from Westwood College.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Zach plays the guitar and writes songs. He also enjoys working on computers. In addition, Zach is a music and movie buff. Zach has participated in Church basketball for four years and volleyball for five years. This summer he looks forward to camp and getting to see friends he hasn't seen all year and to meet new people in God's Church.

*Plans After Graduation:* Zach has been accepted to Westwood College in Dallas, Texas, where his major would be computer network engineering. Another possibility is to move to Cincinnati, Ohio, and attend DeVry College to pursue a career in computer technology. In the future Zach would like to attend ABC.

### Ian Charles Hougland

*Parents:* Rick and Betty Hougland

*Congregation:* Lafayette, Indiana

*High School Accomplishments:* Ian was on the honor



Ian Charles Hougland

roll and received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence and the Academic Award in Telecommunications.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Ian participated in Church teen Bible studies and performed special music. His interests and hobbies include

writing, filmmaking and guitar.

*Plans After Graduation:* Ian will attend Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, seeking a double major in telecommunications and education. He would like to be a film studies teacher.

*Favorite Quote:* Each snowflake in an avalanche pleads not guilty.

*Favorite Scripture:* "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

### Amy Hunt

*Parents names:* Denise Lett and Christopher Hunt

*Congregation:* Bend, Oregon

*High School Accomplishments:* Amy received a letter in orchestra and softball. She played the viola in the



Amy Hunt

"pit" for the school's spring musical. She took part in Link Crew, who help the freshmen on their first day. Amy also worked with the life skills program, which works with disabled kids in the school.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Amy plays softball and volleyball and has attended the Oregon camps for nine years. She enjoys reading and hanging out with friends.

*Plans After Graduation:* Amy is taking a year off to work, then plans to go to Linn-Benton Community College. Then she will transfer to Oregon State, where she plans on majoring in early childhood education.

*Favorite Quote:* "Make time to dance alone with one hand waving free."

### Rachel Emily Jackson

*Parents:* Steven and Sarah Jackson

*Congregation:* Boise, Idaho

*High School Accomplishments:* Rachel graduated from Jackson Christian Homeschool. She excelled in history, geography, accounting and record keeping and literature.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Rachel has been active in her local church with such activities as setup and takedown of equipment and helping out with potlucks. She is on the committee for recycling tapes for the shut-ins. Rachel helps out with the sound system and taping equipment. She has also played special music on her guitar. Rachel is an avid reader, a horse enthusiast and a teen leader. She has received many honors and awards



Rachel Emily Jackson



through 4-H and in her community. Rachel was nominated to the county 4-H Leaders Council as secretary, where she has served two terms.

*Plans After Graduation:* Rachel plans on spending the summer training her blazer horse, Chateo. The fall of 2008 she will be attending Northwest Nazarene College where she has received a scholarship. Her area of study will be pre-veterinary.

*Motto:* To make the best better.

### Hillary Kay Johnson

*Parents:* Marty and Angie Johnson

*Congregation:* Columbia, South Carolina

*High School Accomplishments:* Hillary completed a homeschooling program using Switched on Schoolhouse and Lifepac from Alpha Omega Publications.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Hillary has enjoyed going to UCG camps very much. She also enjoys arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, puzzles and playing music on her flute, violin and guitar. She loves kids and had a job her junior and senior years in which she helped with babysitting infants and preschoolers during a local Mom2Mom organization's meetings. In the past, she has also assisted



Hillary Kay Johnson

the Sabbath school teachers. Hillary loves animals and has helped with a number of family pets and animals such as cats, dogs and chickens.

*Plans After Graduation:* Hillary plans to pursue a degree in veterinary technology.

*Favorite Scripture:* "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9).

### Sarah Michelle Jutson

*Parents:* Jim and Geri Jutson

*Congregation:* Roseburg, Oregon

*High School Accomplishments:* Sarah was a member



Sarah Michelle Jutson

of the Spanish Honor Society and had a GPA of 3.0 or higher all four years of high school.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Sarah has been to summer camp for seven years and this year will be her eighth. She has attended Camp Oakhurst, Hye Sierra, Northwest Camp and this year will be her first time attending Camp Davidson. She attended the Northwest Weekend for the first time in 2007. Her hobbies are hanging out and

going to the movies with friends. She also likes to chat with her friends on the Internet.

*Plans After Graduation:* Sarah plans to go to Umpqua Community College for two years then transfer to a university either in Oregon or California. Her major is going to be elementary education.

*Favorite Quote:* "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them" — Walt Disney.

*Favorite Scripture:* "A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25, New International Version).

### Ethan Kinney

*Parents:* Ken and Ruth Kinney

*Congregation:* Beloit, Wisconsin

*High School Accomplishments:* Ethan received the



Ethan Kinney

2008 Outstanding Student of the Year in Physics award and Prudential Spirit of Community award. He was a WYSE team silver and bronze medal winner, National Honor Society member, Eagle Scout and 4-H member.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Ethan has attended summer and winter camp every year, has worked on staff at the preteen camp in Minnesota, is active in the local church youth group/speaking club, volunteered at the annual clothing giveaway that benefits the local community and is a member of the church choir. His interests include canoeing, camping, watching musicals, hanging out with friends, setting up/tearing down the hall for church, attending camps, science and mathematics.

*Plans After Graduation:* Ethan will be attending the University of Wisconsin—Madison in the fall, majoring in mechanical engineering and physics.

*Motto:* Be prepared.

*Favorite Scripture:* "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

### Faren W. Koontz

*Parents:* J.F. and Cheryl Koontz

*Congregation:* Macon, Georgia

*High School Accomplishments:* Faren graduated from Faith Academy with high honors (top 20 percent of her graduating class).

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Faren attended Camp Woodmen in Alabama for the past two



Faren W. Koontz

years. She played volleyball her sophomore year. She plays guitar and has a full-time job.

*Plans After Graduation:* Faren plans to attend Gordon College and major in physical and occupational therapy (chiropractic and sports medicine).

*Favorite Scripture:* "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11, New International Version).

### Jeremy Lallier

*Parents:* Lora and Rene Lallier

*Congregation:* Worcester, Massachusetts

*High School Accomplishments:* Jeremy was a member of the Quill and Scroll Society and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica and graduated with honors. He received the Rensselaer Medal Award, two awards for Excellence in Mathematics at the AP Calculus level and a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program. He was voted class essayist.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Jeremy was baptized Aug. 25, 2007. He is a contributor to both *Vertical Thought* and *The Sun Chronicle*, his local paper. He was formerly a staff member of *Eagle's Eye*, his high school paper. He has played guitar for about a year.



Jeremy Lallier

*Plans After Graduation:* Jeremy plans to attend the upcoming session of ABC and then study engineering at Georgia Tech.

*Favorite Scripture:* "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD" (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

### Josh Lamoureux

*Parents:* Don and Donna Lamoureux

*Congregation:* Worcester, Massachusetts



Josh Lamoureux

*High School Accomplishments:* Josh participated in varsity track. He was in the top 15 percent of his class, was an honors graduate and graduated early.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Josh enjoys

rock climbing, music recording/producing and track.

*Plans After Graduation:* Josh attended college in Minneapolis and is taking online classes now while working full-time.

### Jenny Lewis

*Parents:* Terry and Dixie Lewis

*Congregation:* Coleman, Texas

*High School Accomplishments:* Jenny has been in the National Honor Society, four years in Key Club, Spanish Club, Pals, two years in FFA, two years in FH and has 30 college credits obtained by taking dual credit courses during her last two years.



Jenny Lewis

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Jenny likes to participate in Church volleyball, basketball and teen groups. She also likes to help out at preteen camps, loves reading, botany and cooking.

*Plans After Graduation:* Jenny plans to finish her A.A. degree at Cisco Junior College. After that she plans to go to University of Texas and eventually a culinary school.

### Alex Lord

*Parents:* Scott and Monica Lord

*Congregations:* Buffalo/Elmira, New York

*High School Accomplishments:* Alex's achievements included Orchestra Student of the Year, Breakfast with the Principal, Student of the Month and Tri-M nominee. He participated in Chess Club and high



Alex Lord

school musicals (four years) and was a freshman orientation leader.

*Favorite Quote:* "A friend is like a rare book, of which only one copy is made."

*Favorite Scripture:* "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

### Jessica Christine Martell

*Parents:* Robert and Christine Martinez

*Congregation:* Central New Jersey

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Jessica enjoys cooking, baking, texting friends, listening to various genres of music and spending time with family and friends.

*Plans After Graduation:* Jessica plans to continue with





**Jessica Christine Martell**

college, and is undecided about her degree program at this time.

*Favorite Quotes:* "It's kind of fun to do the impossible"—Walt Disney.

### Kathryn Massana

*Parents:* Robert and Barbara Dowling  
*Congregation:* Asheville, North Carolina

*High School Accomplishments:* Katie graduated from Madison High School where she received awards for social studies, science and biology. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is a NC Scholar.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Katie enjoys baking, swimming, soccer, tennis, traveling and being with family and friends. She speaks fluent Spanish and visits her native Puerto Rico often.



**Kathryn Massana**

*Plans After Graduation:* Katie will be studying biology this fall at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, where she received a four-year tuition scholarship.

*Favorite Quote:* "Persevere and you shall triumph."

### Destiny McKinney

*Parents:* Daniel and Hazel McKinney  
*Congregation:* Freeport, Bahamas

*High School Accomplishments:* Destiny filled many positions during her school years: prefect (2007-2008), vice president of marketing Junior Achievement (2005-2006), president Junior Achievement (2006-2007), secretary Sigma Gamma Rhors (2006-2007), Top Achievers Grand Bahama (2005-2008), catcher Sunland Baptist



**Destiny McKinney**

Academy softball team (2005-2008), power forward Sunland Baptist Academy basketball team (2005-2008), member of Interact Club of Sunland Baptist Academy (2005-2008) and member of Student Christian Movement Sunland Baptist Academy (2005-2008).

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Destiny enjoys swimming, reading, playing basketball and playing cards. She enjoys meeting new people and making new friends.

*Plans After Graduation:* Destiny aspires to one day become an attorney. After graduation she will attend the College of the Bahamas for a year, with a major in law. After that she will go to England to continue her studies in law and also obtain a bachelor's degree in economics.

*Favorite Scripture:* "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

### Leigh Anne Mills

*Parents:* Clay and Renee Mills  
*Congregation:* Austin, Texas

*High School Accomplishments:* Leigh Anne received the Texas Scholar's Award, Gold Level. Her course



**Leigh Anne Mills**

of study included "Career Passports" in theater arts, fine arts and American Sign Language. As an art student, she participated in set design and production for school plays.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Leigh Anne has been to Camp Carter every year since 2002, and will be a camper there this year. She has enjoyed attending regional UCG youth weekends, especially the yearly prom in North Texas. Leigh Anne loves painting, photography and making people laugh. She also enjoys traveling, especially family trips to New Mexico.

*Plans After Graduation:* Leigh Anne's plans include attending Austin Community College to study English and fine arts, then eventually transferring to a university to complete her degree. Leigh Anne wants to be a stand-up comedian or a writer of children's books. She also plans to be baptized and get married in the future.

*Advice:* Enjoy the time you have in high school because you'll miss it when it's over.

### Michael J. Mitchell

*Parents:* Ivor and Maxine Mitchell  
*Congregation:* Houston, Texas, North

*High School Accomplishments:* Michael excelled in English and government, with an average of 98 percent in each subject. He received a certificate for guitar performance from the Royal Schools of Music in London, England, and a certificate in computer technology.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Michael has played Church basketball and sung in the choir, vocal octet and family group. He enjoys basketball and playing the guitar. He also enjoys following the Yankees and Astros in baseball; Cowboys, Patriots and Colts in football; and the Rockets and Celtics in basketball. His other interests include listening to music and watching *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*.

*Plans After Graduation:* Michael plans to attend Lone



**Michael J. Mitchell**

Star Community College and then transfer to a four-year college to continue studies in communications. He would also like to someday get married and start a family.

*Favorite Scripture:* "The just shall live by faith" (Hebrews 10:38).

### James Myers

*Parents:* Steve and Kathe Myers  
*Congregation:* Austin, Minnesota

*High School Accomplishments:* James was on the honor roll.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* James enjoys showing and training reining horses. He started riding as an amateur rider six years ago, and has progressed to train his own horses. Three years in a row he has won Reserve Championships in the national competition finals. He also enjoys water-skiing, four-wheeling, hunting and sports. He has



**James Myers**

attended several Church camps over the years and served as staff at the regional preteen camp. Music is also an interest, and he occasionally sings special music for church services.

*Plans After Graduation:* James plans to attend a local college for two years and then transfer to a four-year college to major in either engineering or business management. He hopes to be able to continue his program with horses as well.

*Favorite Scripture:* "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

### Anna Pearson

*Parent:* Deborah Augherton  
*Congregation:* Worcester, Massachusetts

*High School Accomplishments:* Anna was assistant



**Anna Pearson**

conductor of chorus, received award of excellence in music, participated in master class with Air Force Liberty Pops band. She also won the Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony award and the John and Abigail Adams scholarship.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Anna plays special music and helps out in the kitchen at church. Her hobbies include textile crafts, music, animals and drawing.

*Plans After Graduation:* Anna plans to major in music performance on bassoon at UMASS Lowell.

### Traci Pflaum

*Parents:* Connie and Bob Pflaum  
*Congregation:* Munster, Indiana

*High School Accomplishments:* Traci graduated from Hanover Central Senior High fourth in her



**Traci Pflaum**

class with distinguished honors. She participated in Spanish Club, Art Club, Operation Snowball (anti-substance abuse) and Key Club (a community service organization). While in high school, she attained six different technical certifications in the areas of computer repair, networking, server maintenance and administration, and general network security. She also is a certified Microsoft Word and Excel specialist. Traci has worked at McDonald's throughout her high school career and has been a manager for two years.

*Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:* Traci has participated in some of the events with the Church women's club, and she has helped with the sound system on occasion. She loves computers and most everything associated with them and loves hanging out with friends. She has been in several art shows. She loves sculpture, and she paints and works with charcoal and a few other two-dimensional mediums.

*Plans After Graduation:* Traci will be attending the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in the fall, where she plans to major in either computer or electrical engineering.

*Favorite Scripture:* Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

### Jason Kristopher Pulliam

*Parents:* Jeff and Beth Pulliam  
*Congregation:* Cincinnati, Ohio, East AM  
*High School Accomplishments:* Some of Jason's accomplishments include playing



**Jason Kristopher Pulliam**



clarinet and percussion in the high school band and being nominated to participate in the Land of Grant Honors Band acknowledging outstanding musicians regionwide. He was a member of the gifted program and was active in Science Challenge and Mind Match. He participated in the Mock Trial Team Competition in the county. He attended a gifted summer honors program designing video games. He received awards for superior work in calculus and the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. He played high school baseball and graduated with a 3.6 GPA.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Jason has participated in camps including Pinecrest, Hye Sierra, Heritage and Winter Camp. Jason played clarinet in the Church ensemble and at Feast sites. His interests include karate (third-degree black belt), baseball, wrestling, music and camping.

**Plans After Graduation:** Jason plans to attend Ohio State University for five years in the honors program majoring in computer and electrical engineering. He hopes to study abroad and participate in the research program.

**Motto/Advice:** Don't judge others on first impressions; you may be working for them some day.

**Favorite Scripture:** "For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content" (Philippians 4:11).

### TJ Radtka

**Parents:** Fredrick and Karen Murphy

**Congregation:** Canton, Ohio

**High School Accomplishments:** TJ lettered in baseball three years, receiving several awards—Best Defensive Player of the Year, the Mike Tryner Award, Pack 7 League 1st Team Award and Best of the Mustangs Award.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** TJ really enjoys going to Camp Heritage, YAT (young adult and teen) night at Pastor Moen's house and other youth activities with United. He also enjoys fishing



TJ Radtka

and camping with his family and friends and enjoys playing baseball.

**Plans After Graduation:** TJ will be attending the University of Akron and plans on getting a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

**Favorite Scripture:** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### Jessica Lynn Randle

**Parents:** Thomas and Debbie Randle

**Congregation:** Minneapolis, Minnesota

**High School Accomplishments:** Jessica maintained honor roll status while enrolled in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) during 11th and 12th grade at North Hennipen Community College.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Jessica volunteered at the Camilla Rose Nursing Home, Community Emergency Assistance Program Office, Ebenezer Senior Living Care facility and at the UCG preteen camp in Rochester, Minnesota. She has enjoyed playing piano for 12 years and has composed some songs. She regularly accompanies



Jessica Lynn Randle

congregational hymns at church services and performs special music and also played for the Feast choir in Jamaica in 2007.

**Plans After Graduation:** Jessica completed two years of college in the PSEO program and had a part-time job. Since graduation, her part-time job at American Pride Home Services became full-time in the customer services, sales and marketing department. She also does some secretary and loan processing work. She is going to continue working and transfer her college credits to the University of Minnesota—Minneapolis campus to continue her education.

**Motto:** When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!

**Favorite Scripture:** "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105, King James Version).

### Patrick Shabi

**Parents:** Rick and Deborah Shabi

**Congregation:** Orlando and Jacksonville, Florida

**High School Accomplishments:** Patrick ranked third out of 246 seniors in his graduating class at Matanzas High School in Palm Coast. He was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the dual enrollment program while in high school. As a result, at high school graduation he simultaneously received his two-year associate's degree from Daytona Beach College. Patrick was a member of the swimming team and participated in community service activities. He has received a Florida Bright



Patrick Shabi

Futures four-year college scholarship.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Patrick attended several UCG camps over the years, including Pinecrest and Heritage, and has participated in the teen activities in his church area. He enjoys video games, spending time with friends, racquetball and water activities. He currently works at Palm Coast Data.

**Plans After Graduation:** Patrick will participate in the United Youth Corps project in Jordan and Israel this summer, then work for a year before returning to college in 2009 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

### Whitney Smith

**Parents:** Derick and Sheila Smith

**Congregation:** Louisville, Kentucky

**High School Accomplishments:** Whitney was a

National Honor Society member, in the top 3 percent of her graduating class and received an Academic Honors Diploma and the President's Education Award. She played four years of varsity soccer and was the school newspaper editor-in-chief.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Whitney will be attending Camp Woodmen this summer for the second year. She enjoys playing soccer and



Whitney Smith

ultimate Frisbee. She also likes to write columns for various publications.

**Plans After Graduation:** Whitney will attend Indiana University Southeast in the fall and plans to study public relations and advertising, with a focus in journalism.

**Favorite Scripture:** "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1).

### Joshua Michael Stewart

**Parents:** Dan and Jackie Stewart

**Congregation:** Youngstown, Ohio

**High School Accomplishments:** Joshua received a two-



Joshua Michael Stewart

year carpentry certificate along with his diploma.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Joshua helps with the sound crew and enjoys skateboarding and music.

**Plans After Graduation:** Joshua plans to attend Hocking College.

**Favorite Quote:** Don't ever give up!

### Erik Summers

**Parents:** Gary and Peggy Summers



Erik Summers

**Congregation:** Canton, Ohio

**High School Accomplishments:** Erik graduated with honors. He was a National Honor Society member, was on the Honor Roll and was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students. He was a HOBY Nominee and received the President's Award for Educational Excellence and the State Board Award of Merit.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Erik participated in the Church teen speech club, was an assistant counselor at preteen camp and sang in the Feast choir. His interests include golf, guitar and basketball.

**Plans After Graduation:** Erik is planning to attend Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio.

**Favorite Scripture:** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

### Jonathan Aaron Tuck

**Parents:** Jim and Joan Tuck

**Congregations:** Oakland and San Jose, California

**High School Accomplishments:** Jonathan is on the



Jonathan Tuck

honor roll and was voted the "Best Artist" by the senior class. He received a special award for "Outstanding Achievement in Physical Education." His favorite sports are dodgeball and basketball.

**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Jonathan has attended the United Youth Camps in first Oakhurst, California, and then Hye Sierra, California, for seven years. He is an active member of the Bay Area teen group and has participated in ski trips to Mt. Shasta and the Sierra Nevada mountains, as well as being involved in many other local activities. His hobbies are parkour (free running), karate and concept art. He has a passion for playing the piano and especially likes improvisation.

**Plans After Graduation:** Jonathan plans to stay in the Bay Area and go to Diablo Valley College for two years and then transfer to a four-year college in pursuit of a degree in civil engineering.

**Favorite Scripture:** "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil..." (Ephesians 6:10-17).

### Austin Vance

**Parents:** Ronnie and Jane Vance



Austin Vance



**Congregation:** Cincinnati, Ohio, East  
**High School Accomplishments:** Austin's favorite subject was information technology. He played on the high school golf team for four years, and his senior year he participated in a marketing program called DECA. He is currently working part-time at Milacron Incorporated in the service parts department.  
**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** One of Austin's highlights in the Church was attending United Youth Camps. His favorite hobby is being with people and doing fun and safe things. He likes to play with and operate computers.  
**Plans After Graduation:** Austin plans to continue following his interest in computers by attending the University of Cincinnati, Clermont and majoring in the field of networking engineering.  
**Favorite Quote:** Life's a garden. Dig it!

### Kayla Rose Weaner

**Parents:** Alan and Christina Weaner  
**Congregation:** Akron, Ohio  
**High School Accomplishments:** Kayla graduated third in her class and has been on the honor roll all four years. She has been involved in Drama Club, Teen Institute, jazz band, concert choir, National Honor Society and Canton Youth Symphony. She has



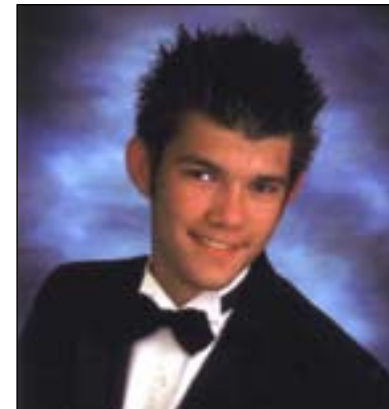
Kayla Rose Weaner

received the GAR Roadway scholarship, the Ohio Board of Regents scholarship, the English Department scholarship and the Bronze Student award from the *Akron Beacon Journal*.  
**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Kayla enjoys reading, baking, crafts and music. She plays trombone and piano. Recently she has begun playing hymns for services. She assisted with child care during "Growing Kids God's Way" classes and participated in Teen Speech Club and Ladies' Club dinners. She has also served on staff at Camp

Buckeye and Camp Kiwanis.  
**Plans After Graduation:** Kayla plans to attend the Honors College at Kent State University and perhaps major in education with a minor in music or Spanish.  
**Favorite Scripture:** "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

### Chad Preston Williford

**Parents:** Jack and Marie Williford  
**Congregation:** Raleigh, North Carolina  
**High School Accomplishments:** Chad was a member of the National Honor Society and was on the Principal's List and Honor Roll.  
**Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:** Chad has played piano special music for church services and the Feast. He also helps set up and take down PA equipment. He likes basketball and speedway. He enjoys cutting grass and keeping the yard neat, cooking and having good clean fun.  
**Plans After Graduation:** Chad plans to attend the local community college and continue working installing satellite dishes, audio and video equipment.  
**Advice:** You can do anything you set your mind to.



Chad Preston Williford

Can't is not an option. Never give up.  
**Favorite Quote:** "There's nothing to fear except fear itself."  
**Favorite Scripture:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

**If you graduated but are not listed, please send your information and photo as soon as possible and we will try to get them in a future issue. Send to mike\_bennett@ucg.org or United News, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027.**

# Learning Leadership Through Service

■ We learned many spiritual lessons from the Challenger II Rock Climbing Program.

by Leslie M. Schwartz

As a participant in the December 2007 Challenger II Rock Climbing Program on Mt. Lemmon in Arizona, I came away from the weeklong experience with more than thicker calluses on my fingertips and many newly formed friendships. The environment of Challenger II also instilled a renewed desire for practicing leadership through service as an ongoing, lifelong commitment.

Based on the notion that *leadership is not office; leadership is influence*, this camp program is designed intentionally for young adult leadership development. It stressed the importance of living a life of *conviction, commitment and courage* in order to continue to develop godly character.

In a world that challenges our beliefs and values on a daily basis, the lessons I learned from participating in Challenger II and the related service component have helped me continue to stay strong in God's way of life and overcome, knowing that we seek out a greater reward directed at a higher purpose (1 John 5:4; Matthew 5:12; 6:20; Luke 6:23; Romans 8:28).

The following reflections illustrate how service can be defined as *leadership in action* directed toward a godly purpose that helps us build character and influence others, while allowing God's grace and the fruits of His Spirit to serve

as a greater testimony to the work He is accomplishing now on earth in each of our lives.

### Finding and Filling Needs

One of the initial building blocks of servant leadership is realizing that *anyone* can—and should—serve. There are no prerequisites to participation besides your willingness and personal commitment. We often make many excuses for not stepping up to serve or lead even when opportunities are all around us. There are many ways you can serve, from simply brightening someone's day through offering encouraging words to organizing an ongoing program to help meet reoccurring needs in your local congregation or community.

Taking an active role as a member of God's greater family requires awareness of these needs combined with enthusiastic and dedicated participation in order to meet them. In this way, servant leadership is both an *attitude* and an *action*.

The choices we make to participate and invest our time, energy and effort into something larger than ourselves can lead to greater acts of service that have far-reaching effects. The impact of your service goes beyond the action itself, influencing the lives of those you serve and others who see your example of good works (Matthew 5:15; Ephesians 2:10).

Begin by recognizing the innate strengths and talents you have been blessed with as a unique individual, intentionally designed by your Father to do great works (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:6). Then apply these talents to become

a person of influence in the lives of others. Allow God's glory to be revealed through your actions as a servant leader.

Servant leadership is not just a week-end project, a one-time visit to a sick friend or simply mailing a card of encouragement to someone who is experiencing a hard trial. Rather, *service is a lifestyle*—the ongoing dedication of investing your time and ability into helping others in need.

### The How and Why of Service

Additionally, godly service doesn't always have to involve *doing* something. It can simply involve being there as an encouraging and comforting presence. The attitude we bring to the active component of service can be more important than the product of our service.

In this way, service is not just focused on where you serve or who you serve, but extends into *how* and *why* you serve. While it is hard to stop *doing*, and simply *be present* with others, sometimes our attention and consideration are what the other person truly wants and needs. Serve with an open heart and willing attitude.

True service occurs when we submit to God, showing His love to others through our attitude and actions (Galatians 5:13). Jesus Christ is the ultimate example of a servant leader who submitted His life to God's greater purpose in order to demonstrate a greater love for humanity. Knowing that His death was eminent, Christ still modeled servant leadership through humility by washing the disciples' feet

during His last Passover with them (John 13:3-5, 13-17).

Even when tempted by Satan, Christ humbled Himself and overcame the world by sacrificing His very life for the sake of our eternal salvation (Matthew 4:1-11; John 16:33). The love and example Christ showed through His ministry on earth and ongoing love for us as sisters and brothers is the greatest example of service (Matthew 20:28).

### Responsibility

Leadership through service also requires *responsibility* that extends beyond our personal desires and considers the broader implications and needs of those you are serving and leading. This process involves understanding the situation from multiple perspectives and counting the costs involved in order to act guided by godly wisdom and appropriate counsel (Proverbs 11:14; 15:28; Luke 14:28).

Because of this added responsibility of leadership, serving in this capacity may require making difficult decisions that inevitably disappoint some of those who are following and participating. Therefore, leadership is not always doing what is popular, but rather it is doing what is wise and necessary given the circumstances.

These biblical lessons of servant leadership illustrate the pressing necessity for us to submit our lives in service to others, while being led by God's greater purpose for humanity (Proverbs 3:5-6). The many opportunities to become involved in service now are valuable training tools

to help us develop the character necessary to serve and lead in God's coming Kingdom.

Don't wait to be invited to serve or make excuses to prevent your participation now. Start small and locally by forming deeper and more authentic relationships with others that will allow you to better recognize their needs. Encourage and motivate others using your unique talents and gifts. Pray often and be proactive in your service mentality. Ask for opportunities to get involved and be mentored by others.

Remain teachable and humble, seeking to learn from all experiences in order to grow. Accept feedback and respond graciously to correction. Don't be discouraged, but rather remain steadfast in your ongoing desire to serve.

While the life of a servant leader is oftentimes thankless and occurs behind the scenes, know that God is always watching and taking note of our attitude and actions, helping guide us along the path to eternal righteousness. And as we continue to persevere and overcome in this life as we practice servant leadership, God has promised a much greater reward in His coming Kingdom (Romans 8:18-25). **UN**

*Leslie Schwartz is a member of the Los Angeles, California, congregation. She recently graduated with a master's degree in education from UCLA and works in college and university student leadership development. She has participated in the United Youth Camps program both as a camper and now as a staff member for the past 14 years.*

### "Camp," continued from page 1

hundreds of volunteers who are willing to give up some of their vacation time and serve at camp. We are thankful for such a fine spirit of service and for those who share their talent and energy to help create the positive, millennial "Zone."

This year online registration helped streamline the application process and made the difficult chore of collecting hundreds of pages of paper less demanding. Many thanks to Paul Wasilkoff and Richard Kennebeck for their many hours of work to create this excellent tool for our camp program.

The theme of our Christian Living

classes, which are a major emphasis in our program, is "A Bridge to the Future." The Church understands that we are living in what the apostle Paul called "this present evil age" (Galatians 1:4). The bridge we have is God's truth and way of life as outlined in the Holy Bible. Each day we will explore how to bridge from our world today to

the coming world tomorrow, a time of peace under the capable leadership of Jesus Christ.

Christian Living classes will explore how to use the bridge with God's help to provide a safe way toward the Kingdom of God. Areas such as family, friends, faith, truth and the Kingdom will all be discussed, with many

practical applications modeled and explained.

The future of God's Church is in the hands of our youth, and it is refreshing to see their enthusiasm for God's way of life. This is a tribute to parents and pastors who help make the UYC experience a highlight of the year for many of tomorrow's leaders. **UN**





## Local Church Updates

### Staff Members Get Wilderness First Aid Training

Twelve ministers and other adults completed a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course following the annual General Conference of Elders at Cincinnati. The 16-hour course covered basic skills needed to deal with emergencies and other health situations in the wilderness and other back-country settings.

The focus of training was on response and assessment, musculoskeletal injuries, environmental emergencies, survival skills, soft tissue injuries and medical emergencies.

Those certified in this Wilderness First Aid skills course included staff members from the United Youth Camp program (Gary Black, Howard Davis, Frank Dunkle, Cody Kitts, Scott Lord and Nathan Willoughby); the Challenger II young adults program (Jon Pinelli and Paul Luecke); and ministers who serve in international areas



Participants in Wilderness First Aid training display treatment for victims

with possible neck injuries and victims "stampeded by wild boars"! (Tim Waddle, David Baker, Joel Meeker and Tom Clark).

For the camp program, WFA certification is required of staff members who conduct challenge-type activities. For Challenger II and ministers who travel internationally, this information is very helpful in knowing what to do when medical emergencies arise anywhere medical services are not readily available.

The course included both class time and "hands-on" time, where teams practiced dealing with emergency scenarios that were set up by the instructor. The course was taught by SOLO (Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities), an organization that specializes in training and certifying various levels of medical skill sets.

*Paul Luecke*

### Arizonans Enjoy Night at the Ball Game

The Phoenix, Arizona, Northwest congregation along with members from Phoenix East got together for the third time to enjoy a Major League Baseball

game on June 17. All of the brethren enjoyed sitting in the same section watching the game, fellowshiping and cheering on their hometown Arizona Diamondbacks.

This year's numbers were not as robust as last year's due to scheduling difficulties; but all in all, the 35 attendees who made it to this year's game enjoyed the cool confines of the air-conditioned ballpark and camaraderie.

*Dan McGee*

### Members' Home Spared in Wildfire

*Fred and Angelina Jaques and their children, Erica, Caleb and Levi, attend in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Angelina Jaques reported:*

Our property in Edgewood, New Mexico, consists of five acres of open dry desert brush—very dry at this time of year, with extreme fire danger. On June 11, 4½ acres of our property were consumed by fire. The half acre that was not burned up is where our house is located.

We are very grateful to God for protecting our home that day. The firemen supposed that our home would be burned up, and so they did nothing to try and save it. Instead, they said that they had decided to concentrate on the fire not spreading throughout the whole countryside because of the high winds that were in excess of 50 miles an hour.

It was amazing to walk around our property afterward and discover all the ways our house should have burned up. The fire had crept up to the back and sides of our house and went around it. It even burned up part of the front yard. A shed in the front was burned to the ground, but our dogs, puppies, cats, home, vehicles and we ourselves were all spared, by the grace of God.

Our neighbor's house, where the fire started, was burned to the ground. In all, there were about 15 to 20 acres that burned up that day, and it all seems centered around our house!

*Angelina Jaques*

### Five Baptized in Georgia

On April 13 a wonderful event took place at the home of Tom and Bonny Riner, deacon and deaconess in the Macon, Georgia, congregation. Five individuals were baptized prior to Passover by pastor Ken Martin.

Three were from the Columbus, Georgia, congregation: Terra Nelson, Megan Gable and Jada Blankenship; and two were from the Macon congregation: William Wildman and Mark Huff.

Family and friends attended the



Baptized April 13: Terra Nelson, Megan Gable, Jada Blankenship, Mark Huff and William Wildman, by pastor Ken Martin

event, and snacks were provided for the fellowship period that followed.

*Ken Martin*

### Dallas Holds Young Adults' Weekend

We have grown up in a world of iPods, computers, Blu-ray and Wii. We access information and communicate quicker than ever before in history. However, as communication has progressed, it also has become easier to blur the lines between what it means to be male and female. "Men and Women: Be the Best You Can Be" was the theme this year at the Dallas Young Adults' Weekend, Feb. 16 and 17. The focus was on defining the differences between men and women, and how this plays into our roles in marriage and as servants for God.



Dallas young adults' costume dance; left: Rebecca Horschak, Amanda Damour and Chelsea Hughes

The Dallas Young Adults' Weekend, held at the Quality Inn, was host to over 100 young adults, guest speakers Clyde and Dee Kilough, Ken and Kathy Giese, Gary and Kim Petty, Britt and Donna Taylor and local pastor Doug Horschak and his wife, Tanya. Seminars were centered around the God-given differences between men and women and how vitally important it is to learn and appreciate our respective strengths.

On the Sabbath Mr. and Mrs. Giese gave a session to the women about modesty and purity, while Mr. and Mrs. Kilough spoke about what it means to be a true man. In his sermon titled "You Think Funny," Mr. Kilough pointed out the differences between how men and women think. That evening, the young adults enjoyed a costume dance and contest.

On Sunday morning, seminars for the men and women focused on defining what men and women want (and need) as mates and as partners in God's Church. The weekend came to a conclusion during brunch on Sunday with

concluding comments by Mr. Kilough, accompanied by a Q&A session with all of the guest pastors and their wives.

*Rebecca Horschak*

### Teen Receives Citizenship Award

Justin Matthew Wildman received the Citizenship Award from his high school in Jones County, Georgia, for good leadership, character and integrity. Justin is 15 and the son of Bill and Ida Wildman. He attends the United



Ida, Justin and Bill Wildman with pastor Ken Martin

Church of God in Macon, Georgia, with his family.

*Ken Martin*

### Church Members' Efforts Secure Scholarship for UCG Teen

When Kayleen Hannaway, a 2008 high school graduate in the Salem, Oregon, congregation, learned she had been accepted at Vanderbilt University, she was very excited. Her parents were too, until they saw the \$54,000-a-year price tag. They told Kayleen to work for scholarships. One she applied for online was the Zinch. com scholarship that offered \$20,000.

Early in the spring, Kayleen received an e-mail from Zinch.com informing her that they had selected her as a finalist from 150,000 applications. Zinch then asked the 200 finalists to vie for online votes to win the scholarship. Neither Kayleen nor her parents were thrilled with the twist the competition took to online voting. But since the odds had improved immensely from 150,000 to 200 and Kayleen had already put in time and effort, she endured.

The online voting was a hybrid of *American Idol* voting and March Madness basketball bracketing. Each week, Kayleen was pitted against another applicant and was expected to solicit votes online. That is difficult for someone not keen about door-to-door sales, school candy drives or other solicitation. Not to mention that Kayleen lives in a town with a population of 4,530 people.

Kayleen also knew her biography, which featured her religious viewpoint, would now be seen by many others as she tried to earn more votes. As time progressed, religion came to the fore in many discussions.

One week, with 14 minutes to go before the voting ended, Kayleen went to her old middle school. The office personnel used the intercom to ask if everyone who was in the building who had not voted for Kayleen would meet in the computer lab to vote. Students in the middle school jazz band were in school early that morning and rushed to the library to vote. Kayleen won that morning by a slim margin thanks to her previous band teacher who escorted her jazz novices to the computer lab in time.

As the weeks passed, it was obvious that networking would need to escalate, so e-mails were sent to radio, TV and other media sources. A television station in Eugene reminded viewers almost daily to vote for the local contestant. The local radio station encouraged their morning commuters to vote at work.

Kayleen's aunt, Kit Mohr, a professor at the University of North Texas, sought help from students. A cousin at the University of Wisconsin plastered his Facebook and MySpace pages with links and prompts. Other family members in Colorado, Indiana, Maryland and Florida contacted everyone in their business and personal address books who, in turn, did the same.

Local Church members began to learn about the scholarship opportunity and contacted other Church members for help. As Kayleen advanced through the brackets, information was placed on the Elders' Forum, and Victor Kubik put a link on his Web site. Even amidst the Spring Holy Days, the scurry and creativity brought success, and on April 23, Kayleen was named the Sweet Diggity Dawg \$20K Scholarship winner.

Kayleen wishes to thank the many Church members who endured to support one of their own in this unconventional opportunity.

"Thank you for all who were generous enough to give their time to help me. I know it was an annoyance for some, while for others it was exciting and energizing. Of course, I could not have won without the willingness of others to take time and send the information to their contacts that I did not know. I definitely do not know 7,400 people," Kayleen said.

After winning, Kayleen had a number of radio, newspaper and TV interviews. She tried to emphasize in the interviews that her Church family had been a major pipeline of support and diligence.

*Kayleen, Kimberly, David and Holly Hannaway*

**Local Church Updates:** If your congregation's news and events are rarely covered in *United News*, why not check with your pastor and write something for him to send in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.



# Announcements

## Births

Michael and Kirsten (Korthuis) Nelte of the Tacoma, Washington, congregation are very excited to announce the birth of their first child, Gareth Daniel Nelte.



Gareth Daniel Nelte

Gareth was born on Oct. 25, 2007, at 9 pounds 3 ounces and 22 inches long. Two days later, he had dangerously high jaundice and was at high risk for hearing loss and brain damage, but God healed him completely. Gareth began as a blessing and became a miracle!

Proud grandparents are Roger and Diane Korthuis, Washington; Barb Riley, Colorado; and Frank and Kathy Nelte, Texas.

Sam and Sena (Martens) Bradley of Cambridgeshire, England, would like to announce the birth of their first child.



Joshua Richard Bradley

Joshua Richard Bradley was born June 24, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds 5 ounces. Joshua is the first great-grandchild of delighted Paul and Jennie Lang of Eugene, Oregon. His grandpa, Tim Martens, and stepgrandma, Linda Martens, attend the Bentonville, Arkansas, congregation. Joshua is a happy, healthy and very loved little boy!

David, Vicki (Grant) and Abigail Lawson of Lubbock, Texas, are pleased to



Samuel and Daniel Lawson

announce the arrival of not one, but two little boys to our family. Samuel Gordon (5 pounds 10 ounces) and Daniel Robert (5 pounds 9 ounces) arrived on Nov. 11, 2007. They came a little early at 34 weeks and were in NICU for a short while to help with their breathing, but came home healthy and have been growing ever since. We are not wealthy, but we truly are rich with these little blessings from God.

Happy grandparents are Wanda (Selman) Lawson of Lubbock and Gordon and Lynette (Griffith) Grant of Cypress, Texas. They were also welcomed by many aunts and uncles and numerous cousins.

Andy and Lisa (Lausted) Wagner of the Minneapolis, Minnesota, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their son, Elijah James. Elijah was born Aug. 14, 2007, weighing 9 pounds 3 ounces and measuring 21½ inches long. Elijah is the first grandchild for both sets of grandpar-



Elijah James Wagner

ents, Dennis and Kathy Lausted and John and Teri Wagner, all of Menomonie, Wisconsin. Great grandparents are Lloyd and Norma Nelson of Rochester, Minnesota, and Joyce Marine of Menomonie.

Elijah had a rough start and is a testament to many answered prayers. Please visit his CaringBridge Web site for updates ([www.caringbridge.org/visit/elijahwagner](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/elijahwagner)).

Anna Graciella Evangelista Larosa was born May 30, 2008. She weighed 7.3 pounds (3.31 kilograms) and was 16.53 inches (48 centimeters) long. Anna Elizabeth, the mother, was supposed to have a cesarean section operation due to swelling veins, but with God's help she was able to have a normal delivery. Father



Anna Graciella Evangelista Larosa Noel, 12-year-old brother Emmanuel and 7-year-old sister Anna Viktoria were ecstatic to receive the latest addition to the family. The Larosa family attends the UCG-Manila, Philippines, congregation.

Karen Bradley is thrilled to announce the adoption of Macyn Aynadis, who was born May 1, 2007, in Awassa, Ethiopia. Big sisters Micah and Daryn traveled with her to Ethiopia to bring their little sister home on Dec. 25, 2007. Anxiously awaiting her



Macyn Aynadis Bradley

arrival in Phoenix were big brothers Kevin and Clay and sister Bryndan. Macyn is the ninth granddaughter and 13th grandchild for Tim and Mary Ann Hazelip.

Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff are pleased to announce the arrival of Jayden Isaac. Jayden was born on May 8, 2008, weighing 8 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 20¾ inches long. Jayden's older brothers,



Jayden Isaac Wasilkoff

Logan and Anthony, are thrilled to have another playmate.

Javier and Cheryl (Howell) Riquelme of Dayton, Ohio, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Michael



Michael Allen Riquelme

Allen. Michael was born Jan. 28, 2008. He weighed 10 pounds 9 ounces and was 22½ inches long. His two big sisters, Kimberly and Jennifer, are so excited to have a little brother to play with. The proud grandparents are Clyde and Donna Howell of West Milton, Ohio, and Luis and Sonia Riquelme of Santiago, Chile.

## Engagements

Cheryl Roth, of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, congregation, together with Renee Huff of Kalamazoo, Michigan, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Elizabeth "Annie" Kendall-

Roth and Kyle Huff. Elizabeth and Kyle have been best friends for a number of



Elizabeth "Annie" Kendall-Roth and Kyle Huff

years and the couple will be united in marriage Aug. 17, 2008.

Mr. and Mrs. William Leonard as well as Mr. and Mrs. Keith Powers are pleased



Christopher William Leonard and Amber Nichol Powers

to announce the engagement of their son Christopher William Leonard and daughter Amber Nichol Powers. The wedding will be Oct. 12, 2008, the day before the Feast of Tabernacles, at Jekyll Island, Georgia, on the beach. The happy couple will continue to reside in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and attend the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation.

## Weddings

On Dec. 16, 2007, in the sunlit garden setting of the historic Chateau Yering in



Graeme and Susannah Dean

the Yarra Valley, Victoria, Australia, a wedding took place. This celebration of the marriage between Susannah Inessa Watson and Graeme John Dean was a special event for their families and friends from both extended Melbourne

and Sydney congregations.

Susannah is the eldest daughter of Kevin and Lorraine Watson, Melbourne East members, and Graeme is the son of Sydney pastor Bruce Dean and his wife, Jeanette.

The beautiful bride was attended by Sophia Karagiannidis and Susannah's younger sisters, Esther and Laura Watson. Graeme was attended by Todd Johnson, Jonathan Backman and Antoine Smiley.

The wedding theme was white and gold, a string quartet played and, in answer to many prayers, the sun shone. Melbourne pastor Bary Williams performed the ceremony.

A formal reception was held in The Oak Room with toasts, speeches, laughter and, of course, fantastic dancing. Guests came from near and far. Amy Fann (Graeme's grandmother) came all the way from South Africa for the occasion. Guests formed a long hand arch to honor the bride and groom on their journey into married life.

Mike and Holly Beyer of Kansas City, Missouri, and Glenn and Ronda Creech of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce



Caleb and Valerie Creech

the marriage of their children Valerie Ann and Caleb Alan on May 25, 2008.

The ceremony was held in Independence, Missouri, officiated by Greg Sargent. The wedding attendants included Caleb's brothers, Joshua, Aaron and Nathan Creech, and Valerie's sisters, Jill Webster, Katie Froedge and Heather Hare. The newlyweds relaxed on a cruise through the Western Caribbean including Key West, Cozumel and Belize. The couple will be residing in Kansas City for the summer before returning to school in Morehead, Kentucky, where they will attend the Cincinnati congregation.

## Anniversaries

Norm and Donna Myers celebrated



Donna and Norm Myers



their 60th wedding anniversary during a weekend of festivities in February. The setting was the beautiful Miracle Lodge near Stewartville, Minnesota, which housed all guests. The 70 family members and friends celebrated together with sleigh rides, snow tubing, games, food and great fellowship!

It was a wonderful weekend with all of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren present. Norm and Donna have five married adult children, all Church members, Debby and Jerry Jaeger, Skip and Marilou Myers, Steve and Kathe Myers, Dave and Pam Myers and John and Patricia Myers; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Norm and Donna have served the Church in Pasadena, California; Denver, Colorado; Dayton, Ohio; Kenosha and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and started the Milwaukee and Oshkosh UCG congregations. They currently serve as an elder in the Oshkosh congregation. Norm also serves as a city alderman and county supervisor. Donna enjoys gardening, painting and any time she can spend with her great-grandchildren.

## Obituaries

Toy Mastey, age 75, of Lawton, Oklahoma, died of cancer May 18, 2008, in



Toy Mastey

a local care center. She was born April 14, 1933, in Nagana, Japan. She married Robert Mastey in Tokyo in 1957 and worked as a beautician for more than 30 years.

Survivors include her husband; a sister, of Japan; and three brothers, all of Japan. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Toy became interested in God's Church in Lawton in 1994. She was baptized on April 20, 1998. Obvious to all who knew her, God's way of life was a fervent passion.

Suzanne A. Kieler, 68, was born Sept. 24, 1939, in Waterloo, Iowa. She married Steven Kieler in 1991, and



Suzanne A. Kieler

they resided in Fort Dodge, Iowa. They moved to Lakeland, Florida, in 2007. Suzanne died of lung cancer May 10, 2008, at her home.

Suzie was baptized in 1995 and served the Church in many capacities.

She is survived by her husband, Steven; four daughters, all of Fort Dodge; 12 grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter. She was preceded in death by her parents and a grandson.

Grace Elzora Myers, a member of the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, congregation, died March 26, 2008, at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from a heart attack at the age of 80.

Grace was a faithful servant in God's Church for over 30 years and was bap-



Grace Elzora Myers

tized, along with her husband, Walt, in 1976. They were married for 45 years until Walt's death in 1997.

Grace will be greatly missed by the brethren and especially by her three daughters, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister (Catherine), several nieces and one nephew.

A memorial service was conducted April 2 in Coeur d'Alene by her pastor, Mark Mickelson.

Maryann Barger Lagoda, 73, of Bainbridge, Georgia, died March 30, 2008, at her residence. Mrs. Lagoda was born June 13, 1934, in Langhorn, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Nicholas Grimm Barger and Isabelle Edna Price Barger. She graduated from Langhorn High School, was a homemaker and a member of the United Church of God in Geneva, Alabama.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Steven C. Lagoda of Bainbridge, a UCG member; her son Robert C. "Bob" Lagoda of Wallace, South Carolina; five daughters: Deborah Gail "Debbie" Lagoda of Bristol, Pennsylvania, Cynthia Lee "Cindy" Parker of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, Linda Mary Brown of Kenneth City, Florida, Sabdra Marie "Sandy" Gundy of Langhorn and Rebecca Lou "Becky" Klinger of Wiconisco, Pennsylvania; three brothers: Bill Barger, Sam Barger and David Barger; three sisters: Grace Dorman, Dolly McKibbin and Sue Barger; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

James Edward Evans, 69, of Dothan, Alabama, died April 16, 2008. Mr. Evans was a retired machinist for General Motors and a member of the United Church of God in Geneva, Alabama. He is survived by his daughter, Kathy Leanne Dorado, and granddaughter, Nicole Dorado, of Maryland; his brothers, David Evans of Birmingham, Alabama, Thomas Evans of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Doug Evans, Wayne Evans and Marty Evans, all of the Shoals, Alabama; his sisters, Wilma

## Tribute: Carl Dailey

Carl Dailey was born March 20, 1930, in South Bend, Indiana. He died suddenly of a heart attack June 16, 2008. He was 78 years old and very active in the Church and in his career until his death.

His family moved to Chicago, Illinois, when he was very young. His mother died soon after, and then he and his two brothers were reared by their father who was a barber, and they lived in the back of the barber-shop.

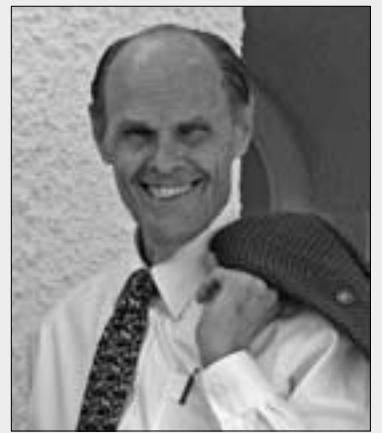
He married Susan Ohlson in 1953 and soon after was drafted into the Army and served as an education specialist in Korea from 1953 to 1955. He graduated from Roosevelt University, Chicago, with a B.A. degree in 1958.

Four children were born between 1956 and 1964. The family moved from Chicago to Phoenix, Arizona, in 1962, and Carl was called by God in 1968. The family moved to South-

ern California in 1972. After Susan died, Carl married Nancy in 1995. He retired from Farmers Insurance Company in 2006 after a long career as an insurance agent. He continued teaching insurance classes part-time until his death.

Yet behind this normal narrative is an extraordinary spiritual account of Carl Dailey. When he learned about God's truths, he adopted them with great fervor. He sacrificed much to follow God's commandments. He learned to overcome. He grew from member, to deacon, to elder and faithfully followed and taught God's Word. He faithfully served as an elder in the United Church of God, first in the Redlands, California, congregation, then in the Garden Grove, California, congregation from 1995 until his death. We deeply appreciate the tireless service Carl and Nancy have given to the Church over the past several decades!

Over 200 friends and family, from as far away as Chicago, Cincinnati (Ohio) and Phoenix, attended the



Carl Dailey

graveside service held at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. Mario Seigle, pastor of the Garden Grove and Hawaii congregations, presided at the memorial service.

Carl is survived by his children, his grandchildren and his wife. His wife, Nancy, attends the Garden Grove congregation.

Mario Seigle

Oswalt of Birmingham, Myrle Dewberry of Lakeland, Florida, and Jewel Patterson, Judy Patterson and Susan Bevis, all of the Shoals.

Barry MacFarlane, a longtime member of the Oakland, California, congregation, died May 19, 2008, in his downtown San Francisco apartment at the age of 62. Barry battled various serious health problems over the years, the last years being confined to a wheelchair. Barry was a unique and beloved member of the congregation, who came to San Francisco from Florida in the 1970s. For over 30 years he was a San Francisco sidewalk musician, known (and heard) by many in the community. Prior to being called he served in the U.S. Navy.

Memorial services were held for Barry on May 31, conducted by Mark Rorem shortly after regular Oakland Sabbath services. The memorial ended with a record-



Barry MacFarlane

ed bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace." Barry looked forward to the second coming of Christ and the first resurrection. He will be greatly missed by the brethren who knew him.

Barbara McCormick, 82, of the Garden Grove, California, congregation, died June 5, 2008, after several years of declining health.

Barbara was born in January 1926 in New York. She had varied interests while growing up, but her passion for music stood out, and she excelled in piano and organ. In 1951 she was first runner-up in

the New York state pageant of the Miss America contest. After that she worked for a while as a TV actress and model. Most of her work career was for the government, and when she retired in 1983, she was a revenue representative for the Internal Revenue Service.

Barbara was married in 1963 to Air Force Lt. Robert McCormick. She was able to travel abroad, living in Japan and Hawaii. She loved traveling, reading and learning.



Barbara McCormick

In 1968, she began subscribing to *The Plain Truth* magazine and was baptized in 1970. Barbara enjoyed serving the local congregations, especially with her musical talents on the piano and organ, accompanying the choir, special music or setting the tone by playing before services began.

A memorial service was held June 21 with Mario Seigle presiding.

Wayne Mullins, age 80, of the Asheboro, North Carolina, congregation, died May 10, 2008. He was born Oct. 2, 1927, in Pound, Virginia, where he grew up to adulthood. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to his home area and married the girl who grew up across the street, Gaythleen Griffith, a marriage that would last for over 55 years.

Wayne and Gay met a baptizing tour and both were baptized on June 27, 1963. They went to their first Feast of Tabernacles that fall, and soon after the Feast in November they were charter members of the new Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation.



Wayne Mullins

lived for and looked forward to becomes a reality on the earth at the second coming of Christ.

**Announcements:** Members are welcome to submit announcements of the births, engagements, weddings, significant anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60, etc.) and obituaries in their families. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Most items are 50 to 100 words and should not exceed 250 words. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give them to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.



## News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

two recently hired ministers and their wives, along with the pastors and wives under whom they will be working for the next year or two.

Shawn and Beth Cortelyou and Ed and RaeAnn Dowd (new hires) and Vernon and DeLee Hargrove and John and Merrie Elliott (pastors in whose churches the two new hires will be working) plus the staff from Ministerial Services and other experienced pastors all took part in this employee-orientation seminar.

Richard Pinelli

## Top Booklets Ordered Through Online Ads

The last six months showed some exciting results for United's online booklet advertising. Here are the most popular booklet and magazine requests for January to June 2008 at Google, Yahoo and MSN.

Please note that if not already a *Good News* subscriber, a *GN* subscription is given along with a booklet. Also, many thousands of additional literature requests come in that are not a direct result of our Google, Yahoo and MSN advertising and are not in the request totals below.

<i>Good News</i> stand-alone request.....	8,395
<i>The Ten Commandments</i> .....	7,944
<i>You Can Understand Bible Prophecy</i> .....	4,485
<i>Marriage and Family</i> .....	4,438
<i>Holidays or Holy Days</i> .....	3,405
<i>The Church Jesus Built</i> .....	3,021
<i>Jesus Christ: The Real Story</i> .....	2,944
<i>What Happens After Death?</i> .....	2,803
<i>The Middle East in Bible Prophecy</i> ..	1,847
<i>Vertical Thought</i> .....	1,779
<i>Is the Bible True?</i> .....	1,644
<i>The Book of Revelation Unveiled</i> ....	1,226
<i>Are We Living in the Time of the End?</i> .....	1,086
<i>World News and Prophecy</i> .....	923
<i>Who Is God?</i> .....	628

Peter Eddington

## Staff Prepares for U.S. Postal Changes

Connie Seelig (Mail Processing Department) and Chris Stewart (Information Technology Department) attended the National Postal Forum in Anaheim, California, May 16 to 21. These four days included two general sessions (including an address from the postmaster general) and 17 seminar sessions.

The focus of the forum was on the new barcoding system. The Postal Service is moving toward including many of the existing barcodes and information into one "intelligent" barcode that will take up less space on the envelope. For United Church of God mailings, it would include the address change service code and the postnet barcode. If we chose to use confirmation in the future, it would include that as well.

One benefit to the Church would be reduced cost on mail returns and quicker information return regarding changes of address. The new barcode will also help the Postal Service move toward reducing paperwork and submitting postage statements electronically.

Connie Seelig

## Greece Tour Video Available on Web

The first video edited from the lectures that were presented in April during the Biblical Education Tour of Greece is now



David Johnson's lecture in Corinth is now available online

on the Web. "The Cultural Background of First Corinthians" by David Johnson was given on the streets of ancient Corinth. Peter Eddington edited in some video footage of ancient Corinth and included scripture references. It is 26 minutes long.

The file may be viewed in Flash format

### ■ New ABC Video.

View the new 2008

Ambassador Bible Center video—

*Gaining Godly Wisdom, Building Godly Character*—online at [abc.ucg.org/video/](http://abc.ucg.org/video/).

### ■ Educational Tour Video.

Watch a video presentation by ABC instructor David

Johnson covering the "Cultural Background of First Corinthians" on location in Greece at [abc.ucg.org/tours/](http://abc.ucg.org/tours/).

On the Ambassador Bible Center (ABC) home page the lecture is also listed in the right-hand column under "Listen to Classes" at <http://abc.ucg.org>. Eventually we hope to list all the edited videos there for Church members to view. The next video will be the "Mars Hill" scripture reading by David Register, which will be about five minutes in length when completed.

Peter Eddington

## Transfer Announced

Tom and Sarah Kirkpatrick will move from the home office to pastor the Birmingham and Gadsden, Alabama, congregations. They should make this move and assume the pastorate before the Feast. In the meantime, David Dobson will continue to pastor the congregations.

The Kirkpatricks served in the U.S. field ministry prior to his becoming treasurer for the Church in 1998.

Jim Franks

## Springfield 50th Set for Aug. 9-10

The Springfield, Missouri, congrega-

tion will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special Sabbath and weekend Aug. 9-10. The celebration will begin Aug. 9 at the Teamsters' Union Hall, 1850 East Division, Springfield, Missouri. Fellowship and snacks will begin at 1 p.m., with services to follow at 2:30. Members will have time for reminiscing after services, with pictures and stories of the "early days" of the Springfield congregation.

### ■ Beyond Today Commentaries.

Access more than 60 short video commentaries covering topics from after death to the spirit world at [www.beyondtoday.tv/programs/commentary/](http://www.beyondtoday.tv/programs/commentary/). After you watch the commentary, share the video with friends via an

A catered dinner will begin at 6 (cost \$5 per adult, \$3 per child 4-12), followed by more fellowshiping. We'll top off the evening with music for dancing, as well as table games and cards. Members who have attended in Springfield over the years are invited to bring old pictures (be sure to put your name on the back). On Sunday we'll have a picnic at an area park for everyone who would like to attend.

In order to help us plan for the evening, if you plan to attend, please respond by e-mail to [donppir@aol.com](mailto:donppir@aol.com) or to [michael\\_blackwell@ucg.org](mailto:michael_blackwell@ucg.org) or by mail to P.O. Box 4045, Springfield, MO 65808. If you could give us the names of all in your family who attended in Springfield as well as the years you attended, it would help.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who would be interested in helping us celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Springfield congregation.

Michael Blackwell

## Calendar of Events

July 10-13: Family Music Festival Week-

e-mail message or post a link at your favorite social networking site by using the "ShareThis" link.

## Featured Link

### ■ Singles'

Web site for singles in the Church. [ucgsingles.org/](http://ucgsingles.org/)

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



end, near Cadiz, Ohio ([www.ucgnet.org/wheeling/bluegrass](http://www.ucgnet.org/wheeling/bluegrass)).

July 17-20: Third Teen/Young Adult weekend sponsored by the Garden Grove, California, congregation ([Luky2binhb@yahoo.com](mailto:Luky2binhb@yahoo.com), [Ehsjock14@yahoo.com](mailto:Ehsjock14@yahoo.com) or (714) 378-6143).

Aug. 3: White-water Ocoee rafting trip, Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation ([allendance@hotmail.com](mailto:allendance@hotmail.com)). See article, this page.

Aug. 9-10: Springfield 50th anniversary, Springfield, Missouri, [michael\\_blackwell@ucg.org](mailto:michael_blackwell@ucg.org) (see article, this page).

Aug. 10: ABC graduation.

Aug. 12-14: Council of Elders' meeting.

Aug. 28-Sept. 1: Annual Leadership Workshop, home office.

Aug. 29-Sept. 1: Singles/Couples Labor Day Weekend, Kansas City, Missouri ([www.kc2008transformation.com](http://www.kc2008transformation.com)).

Aug. 31: Houston Music Festival (see article, May issue, page 16).

Sept. 7: ABC orientation.

Sept. 8: ABC classes begin.

Sept. 27: Eugene 75th, Eugene, Oregon (see article, May issue, page 16).

Dec. 16-18: Council of Elders' meeting.

Dec. 23-27: Winter Family Weekend, Louisville, Kentucky, from Tuesday evening through Saturday evening (more details to follow).

Feb. 24-26, 2009: Council of Elders' meeting.

May 3-4, 2009: General Conference of Elders annual meeting.

Please send calendar items to [mike\\_bennett@ucg.org](mailto:mike_bennett@ucg.org).

## Interesting Development: Arabic Translation Offer

This spring the United Church of God received a letter from an Iraqi national now living in Bonn, Germany, who offered to translate our booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* into Arabic. Peter Eddington, from Media and Communications Services, asked Paul Kieffer, UCG pastor and coordinator in Germany, to contact the man and determine whether his offer was genuine.

June 2 Mr. Kieffer met with the man. His English is excellent, and he has already translated five books from Arabic into English. Mr. Kieffer asked him why he wants to translate our booklet. He said he has been reading *The Good News* for some time now. He mentioned that he couldn't find anything wrong in our literature compared with the Bible. He said the booklet provides excellent insight into the background of the Middle East situation that needs to be made available to Arabic readers.

He agreed to translate the booklet introduction for us to evaluate and, upon getting the green light, he would do the rest of the booklet. He said he believes by translating our booklet for free he would be helping to promote peace. Mr. Kieffer was surprised the next day to receive an e-mail with the completed translation assignment. It has now been proofread and checked for doctrinal accuracy. Since then, two more chapters have been translated and are now being proofread.

Many factors have to be considered in expanding into another language, such as whether the Church has the expertise and resources to answer questions and maintain contact with Arabic speakers who may respond to the message. And doing professional booklet layouts in Arabic will be a challenge. There are millions of Arabic-speaking Christians in the world, so your prayers about this are appreciated. **UN**



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