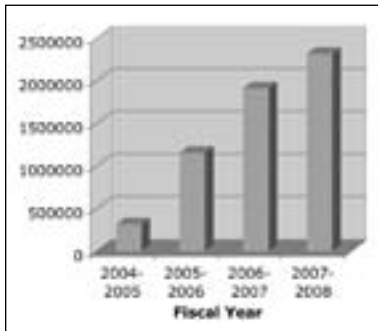




News At a Glance

GNmagazine.org Continues Rapid Growth

In the four years since the redesign of the *Good News* magazine Web site, GNmagazine.org, we've seen extremely encouraging growth. Please see the bar graph below that highlights this growth by fiscal year. It shows that from the 2004-2005 fiscal year through the 2007-2008 fiscal year, we



GNmagazine.org visitors

have grown from just 310,455 annual visitors to more than 2.31 million per year!

The Internet presence of the Church is a very significant tool in preaching the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations. In addition to GNmagazine.org, we also have several other very key pieces of Internet real estate at verticalthought.org, beyondtoday.tv, wnponline.org, ucg.org and thisis-theway.org. With several sub-domain sites, like members.ucg.org and abc.ucg.org, plus content in almost all the major languages of the world, we're setting a good foundation for an even stronger Internet presence.

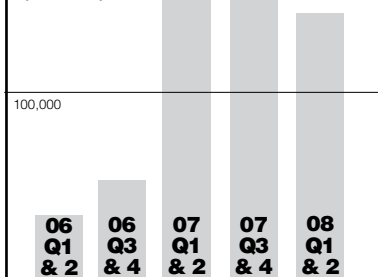
Please pray for God to grant us ever increasing coverage and exposure in our gospel efforts around the world.

Peter Eddington

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics

verticalthought.org
Visitors
per half year



Web Task Force Prepares to Powerfully Reach World

by Larry Salyer

Aaron Booth, Larry Salyer and Clyde Kilough traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, for an all-day Web development meeting July 20. The agenda called for the Web planning task force to end the day with a projection of phase one actions to increase our Web traffic and a plan for future work.

The discussion was fast and scintillating. Many previous ideas were addressed and sorted, with action steps and individual assignments posted on the wall. Some actions can be taken right away, such as editing our literature to increase our search

visibility and developing new key word strategies for search engine optimization.

Member volunteers selected to participate in this meeting included men and women with experience in business ownership, project management, strategic planning, survey analysis, information management and Web design. The meeting was held in the offices of David and Jennifer Gosse, owners of an Internet search business who attend the Las Vegas congregation.

Present were Mike and Samantha Moore, of West Palm Beach, Florida, who own and operate a nationwide human resources business; Gilbert Javier, a senior

program manager at Microsoft in the Seattle, Washington, area; Andy Edinborough, a Web developer/programmer from the Salina, Kansas, congregation; Ewin Barnett, an entrepreneur in the Columbia, Missouri, congregation; and Julie Zutz, who currently manages a subsidiary of Alcoa in Houston, Texas. Unable to attend were Brian Krueger, vice president for talent acquisition at Amazon.com (Seattle) and Jeff Baker, president of a fulfillment and teleservices company (Asheville, North Carolina).

This meeting was the fourth in a series of discussions with members around the United States with varying levels of involvement

in Web marketing and technology. I deeply appreciate the time and energy all of these brethren have spent in moving the Church toward a comprehensive Web strategy. No doubt we will need increasing numbers of talented, experienced people to serve in these areas as we move from high-level planning to action items and growth occurs. We fully expect these efforts to catapult us into the forefront of preaching the true gospel on the Internet and offering life-changing material to those whom God calls. We recognize that we must rely completely on God's guidance and blessing if we are to be successful. (For more, see page 7.) **UN**

ABC Charity Auction Breaks Records



Ashley Moen displays dessert with auctioneer Gordon Pennington; David and Goliath in Real Biblical Heroes skit; Lucretia and Fred Kellers in Nigerian garb (photos by Michelle de Campos)

by Linda Merrick

On July 13, the 2008 ABC class held a charity auction at the home office to help raise money for the Children's Education Fund, Nigeria.

As special guest Fred Kellers, senior pastor for Nigeria, explained, Nigeria is one of the most populous countries, and one of the poorest. More than half the population is below the poverty level, with many living on less than a dollar a day. Getting a good education is difficult and expensive.

The highlight of the evening was a variety show put on primarily by the students with items (mostly baked goods) auctioned off between acts. ABC students Matt Beech and Sarah-Beth Shoemaker were the emcees for the show, and Gordon Pennington was the auctioneer. The show consisted of an African dance, songs and skits, including the famous Real Biblical Heroes skits depicting David and Goliath as well as the story of Jezebel.

See "ABC," page 7

Special Summer Gathering Held in Scandinavia

by Jim Franks

The United Church of God is an international work. July 16 to 29, five of us from the United States had the opportunity to see that firsthand.

July 29 I returned from a trip to Estonia and Sweden with Victor and Beverly Kubik, Johnnie Lambert and Britton Taylor. We traveled to these two countries for very special meetings. Both areas are showing signs of growth and development, which is very exciting to witness.

See "Ministers Visit Estonia" on page 3 for news about the first part of the trip.

Leksand, Sweden

From Estonia we flew to Stockholm,



Fellowship was a major part of the historic gathering in Sweden, highlighted by a baptism (photos by Vic Kubik and Jim Franks)

Sweden, where we caught a train to Leksand. This is a small village in central Sweden. We stayed at a camp resort that lacked somewhat in facilities but more than made up for it in the fellowship and

worship of the group that came for the weekend.

The facilities consisted of small rooms with three beds. It was very hot

See "Scandinavia," page 12

27 Invited to Seventh Leadership Workshop

Ministerial Services has invited 14 men and their wives from congregations around the United States to the seventh Leadership Workshop. The seminar will run Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 (Labor Day weekend) at the home office in Milford, Ohio.

The invitees are: Steve and Amy Allwine, St. Paul, Minnesota; Dan and Valerie Deininger, Whitehall, Montana; Michael and Sarah Greider, Columbia, Maryland; Dave Johnson, Fort Worth, Texas; Cody and Bobbi Kitts, Cincinnati East, Ohio; Dave and Rita Pennington, Louisville, Kentucky; Daniel and Linda Porteous, Olympia, Washington; Jerry and Tammy Rehor, Louisville, Kentucky; Barry and Donna Richey, Fort Worth, Texas; Joe and Janine Sanchez, Stockton, California; Craig and Linda Scott, Raleigh, North Carolina; Mark and Kristine Vincen, Indianapolis, Indiana; Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff, Cincinnati East, Ohio; and David and Terry Pavlik, Akron, Ohio.

There will be five days of classes covering topics such as: teaching as we have been taught; relevancy in speaking; developing sermonettes, split ser-

See "Workshop," page 9

Inside:

- 2 Profile: New Council Member Paul Kieffer; Forward! 9/11 Reminds Us Why We Need 9/30
- 3 Around the World: Australia, Canada, British Isles, Estonia
- 4 Camps: Philippines, Woodmen, Davidson, Hye Sierra, Carter
- 7 Preaching the Gospel on the Web
- 8 From the Word: Glory; Compassion; Prayer
- 11 Treasure Digest: Children's Corner, more
- 13 Local Church Updates, Letters
- 15 Announcements

News At a Glance

Continued from page 1

Treasurer's Report

We ended last fiscal year with a total income amount of \$23,478,000. While this was 6 percent under what was projected, it still represented an increase in income of approximately 2 percent over the previous year. Expenses for last year were \$24,878,000. If you add back the capital purchases made this past year, specifically the land purchase in Denton, Texas, of \$1,600,000, we had a net income over operating expenses of approximately \$200,000. In addition, we ended the year with an unencumbered cash balance of \$5,907,000. This represents 12.54 weeks of cash reserve. While this is encouraging, we still anticipate our cash balances to temporarily drop below the desired 10-week cash reserve level between now and the fall Holy Days.

For the month of July, the first month of the new fiscal year, mail income was \$1,478,000 compared with \$1,468,000 of last year. This is good news when compared with May and June results. At the same time, however, because we ended last year with less than anticipated income growth, we will need to see a greater level of income growth this year, that of approximately 4 percent, to hit our budgeted number of \$24,500,000.

Jason Lovelady

Strategic Planning Process Moves Into Action Phase

As the new fiscal year began in July, the administration and staff at the home office continued busily working on the next step in the strategic planning process, said Treasurer Jason Lovelady. This step is developing the action plans needed to achieve each of the strategies approved by the General Conference of Elders in May. (See the Strategic and Operation Plans in the June *United News*, pages 8 and 9.)

According to a handout from the contracted strategic planning facilitator, Leadership Strategies, action plans detail the specific steps to be taken to implement a strategy. They state what will be done, by whom and by when.

Leadership Strategies is scheduled to meet with the administration in October to further educate and assist the administration in this process, Mr. Lovelady said. In addition, Leadership Strategies will also further educate and assist the Council and administration during the Council meeting in December in how to properly monitor and assess the implementation of the plan.

ABC Update

ABC graduation weekend activities

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Profile: New Council Member Paul Kieffer

Paul Kieffer was born in 1951 in St. Louis, Missouri. He first heard the *World Tomorrow* broadcast in 1964.

He graduated from the Pasadena, California, campus of Ambassador College in 1973 and was assigned to work in the Duesseldorf, Germany, office of the Worldwide Church of God.

Mr. Kieffer had met his wife, Monica, earlier on a visit to the Big Sandy, Texas, campus. They were married in June 1974.

Mr. Kieffer has lived more than 30 years outside the United States and has fulfilled pastoral and administrative responsibilities in Asia and Europe. He currently resides in Troisdorf, Germany, and serves as chairman of UCG-Germany and UCG-Holland.

He and Monica have two adult children and three grandchildren, all residing in the Dallas, Texas, area.

Mr. Kieffer was selected as an international member of the Council

at the General Conference of Elders meeting in May.

Asked about his selection to the Council of Elders, Mr. Kieffer said, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve our members and help them fulfill United's motto of preaching the gospel and preparing a people." **UN**

If you would like to recommend a member to be featured in the "Profiles" section, e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.



Paul and Monica Kieffer

FORWARD! 9/11 Reminds Us Why We Need 9/30

by Clyde Kilough



Next month commemorates another anniversary of the horrific deaths of nearly 3,000 people seven years ago on "9/11," as it has come to be simply known.

Don't you wish everyone knew about "9/30" this year—the Feast of Trumpets—and could join us that day to commemorate the future, when God begins the process of restoring humanity's relationship with Him?

Sept. 11 has become more than just an event. It has become a powerful symbol of hatred, strife and division. As we are now planning for the last cycle of Holy Days for the year, we consider that God's festivals, too, are not just events, but powerful symbols.

Trumpets, Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day represent that upon which we stake so much of our faith and hope and calling. Everything ranging from understanding what will happen after we die, to judgment, to Satan's fate, to God's intervention in world affairs, to His spiritual reconciliation with His creation, is wrapped up in the meaning of these feasts.

What a contrast of times: Sept. 11 representing the ultimate insecurity; Sept. 30 the ultimate assurance!

What a contrast of predictions: Security experts warning us that terrorists will come again; God's Word assuring us that Christ will come again!

What a contrast of worlds: The world today, versus what we call, based on the prophetic visions, "the world tomorrow"!

Commentators have observed that "the world changed forever" on Sept. 11, 2001. But in the most critically important arena—the spiritual—there is no evidence that humanity is changing for the better.

Our world changed forever, too, when God called us. But we face a spiritual terrorist, Satan, and the ways of his world are our spiritual enemies. God's feasts help us immensely, though, to guard against this threat to our lives. God gave us His festivals, not only to understand the future, but to change our lives now by deepening our knowledge, faith, love and commitment to Him.

How so? Consider the following. The Barna Research Group, which surveys cultural and religious trends in the United States, published an astonishing report a few years ago identifying "Seven Paradoxes Regarding America's Faith." Among these seven indicators of a weakening spiritual state, it stated that only 7 percent of people attribute a successful life to spiritual faith and wholeness. Instead, they define "success" by issues such as "individual achievement" and "emotional fulfillment."

The concept of commitment, Barna found, offers another inconsistency in our spiritual condition. While the large majority of Americans claim faith is important, even describing themselves as "deeply spiritual," less than half said they were absolutely committed to Christianity. Furthermore, 9/11 did not result in a lasting change in "spiritual practices" such as going

to church services, Bible study or prayer. The report noted that less than half of Americans said their faith played a significant part in helping them deal with the 9/11 tragedy.

Perhaps the most disturbing segment of the report is the discovery that while nearly all Americans believe that truth exists, the great majority does not believe in absolute moral truth. Over two thirds of adults and four fifths of teens buy into relativism, the philosophy that truth is relative to the situation or person. And these are mostly self-professing Christians who declare belief in the Bible! When determining right and wrong, however, they rely on their feelings, emotions or experience.

Barna also observed: "Americans are more likely to buy simple sayings than a system of truth that takes time and concentration to grasp. People are more prone to embrace diversity, tolerance and feeling good than judgment, discernment, righteousness and limitations. People are more focused on temporal security than eternal security and its temporal implications."

What does that portend for God's people? It means we have to thrive spiritually in a world that offers little in the way of spiritual sustenance and offers a lot of deception and shallow values.

Thank God that He has given us His feasts, not only to inspire us with a vision of the future, but also to feed and strengthen us spiritually! Let's prepare well for 9/30, and the following 21 days of God's festival season, to gain the most spiritually that we possibly can! **UN**

Clyde Kilough is president of UCGIA.

August 2008
Vol. 14, No. 7



United News
News of the United Church of God, an International Association

United News (ISSN 1088-8020) is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, an International Association, 555 Technecenter Drive, Milford, OH 45150. © 2008 United Church of God, an International Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

UCG/A Council of Elders: Robert Berendt, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick (chairman), Bill Eddington, Roy Holladay, Paul Kieffer, Clyde Kilough, Victor Kubik, Darris McNeely, Richard Pinelli, Richard Thompson, Robin Webber

President: Clyde Kilough Media and Communications Services operation manager: Larry Salyer

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

International addresses:

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

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

BENELUX countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg): P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020 8386 8467 Fax: 020 8386 1999

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 876-9966, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 876-0569 E-mail: info@ucg.ca

CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027,

Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

EAST AFRICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): United Church of God—East Africa, P.O. Box 75261, Nairobi 00200 Kenya. E-mail: kenya@ucg.org

FUJI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 11081, Laucala Beach Estate, Suva, Fiji.

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

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

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24121 Bergamo Centro, Italy. Phone/Fax: (+39) 035 4523573. E-mail: info@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

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

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 01-8113644. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63) 82 224-4444 Cell/Text: (+63) 918-904-4444

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 3535, 111 74, Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail: sverige@ucg.org

SOUTH AFRICA (and Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland only): United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694.

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

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 2617, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples.

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

Doctrinal reviewers: Roy Demarest, Bill Jahns, Arthur Suckling, Chuck Zimmerman

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

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

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitwe, Zambia. Phone: (02) 226076. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 928, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011716273 E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

Internet access on your computer:

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



News From Around the World

Australia Adds Manpower

In addition to Grant and Kim Chick who were hired to assist in the ministry in Queensland, Australia (see "Minister Hired to Serve in Australia," January *United News*, page 3), a part-time associate pastor and a full-time ministerial trainee have been hired to assist Bruce Dean. Mr. Dean's area includes six congregations in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Doug Gray has accepted a position with the United Church of God—Australia as an employed elder and will serve as the associate pastor for Bathurst.

Mr. Gray and his wife, Eve, are planning to travel to Bathurst for two Sabbaths a month to pastor the congregation and take care of the visits in that area. He will also be speaking in Sydney and other outlying areas on a regular basis.

Matthew Sieff was also hired as a full-



Eve and Doug Gray (above) and Matthew and Leah Sieff (right), hired to serve in New South Wales

time ministerial trainee to assist Mr. Dean. Mr. Sieff and his wife, Leah, are currently serving primarily in the Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong areas and have also visited the Canberra/Goulburn congregation.



As part of his training, Mr. Sieff will take part in the ongoing education provided by the home office in the United States in the form of written materials and CDs.

"I am personally very excited about these developments and, now that we have the necessary manpower in place, we believe God will be able to add more people to our local congregations here in New South Wales," Mr. Dean said. **UN**

Canadian Statistics Show Growth

by Edwin van Pelt

UCG-Canada has 16,500 subscribers to *The Good News* magazine on file. That is an increase of 3,875 (30.9 percent) over one year ago. Most of the increase is attributable to the two ads in the Canadian *Reader's Digest*, as well as *Beyond Today* and the Internet. This is a net increase, taking into account those who have not renewed their subscriptions or have not responded to any of the three renewal letters that were sent over a six-month period.

Our daily incoming mail from all sources is currently 14.9 percent higher than last year, averaging 68.7 items per day. That compares to 59.8 items per day last year, and it is more than double what it was in 2005. If current trends continue, we will receive more than 25,000 items this year, considerably more than the record of 21,816 items received last year.

The Internet continues to be a popular source of incoming mail. This year, about 39 percent of incoming mail in Canada is via the Internet. The vast majority of items from the Internet are subscription and literature requests from new contacts as well as those already on file. Requests received via the Internet are about 12.2 percent higher than last year on a daily basis, averaging more than one per hour.

With all the mail coming in, there's also a lot of mail going out. In the first six months of this year, the average amount of outgoing mail stood at 21,355 items per month, or 704 items per day. That is considerably higher than last year's monthly average of 17,105 items.

The most popular booklets this year are: *Making Life Work* (1,800 copies distributed), *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* (1,476 copies) and *Are We Living in the Time of the End?* (1,422 copies). Running a distant fourth at 890 copies is *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy*. Rounding out the top five at 606 copies is *Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Observe?*

Sabbath service attendance across Canada is 4.1 percent higher than it was last year. Holy Day attendance is up 1.7 percent over last year, with new records set for Passover and the Last Day of Unleavened Bread.

Income for the first three months of the new fiscal year is about 3.5 percent ahead of budget. Holy Day offerings, on the other hand, are slightly below budget for the year. Overall, our total income is 0.1 percent ahead of budget for the year.

We continue to receive responses from both of the recent ads in *Reader's Digest*. Responses from the November 2007 ad

currently stand at 4,012 while the most recent ad in the May 2008 issue has drawn 1,612 responses to date. These two ads have drawn more responses than any other ad we have done in any publication in the past.

We recently surpassed the 4,000 mark for total number of responses from *Beyond Today*. We have now had 4,044 responses since the program began airing in Canada in May 2006. Although the number of responses has dropped a little over the past few weeks, we are still averaging 36.1 responses per week. Sixty-five percent of the responses are from people not already on file. Two thirds of the responses are by phone. The other third of the responses are via the Internet. More than 2,200 new subscribers to *The Good News* magazine have been added since the beginning of this effort in Canada.

There continue to be many positive signs of growth in Canada. The growth tends to slow down a little during the summer months, but it's still there. We look forward to seeing more results from our efforts in the coming months. In the meantime, we're able to catch up on some of the many projects that we're working on. If the current trends continue, we will finish the year setting a number of new records. **UN**

British Isles Holds Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the registered charity United Church of God—British Isles was held July 20. Members of the charity reappointed Laura Payne as a member of the National Council and ratified the budget for the financial year ending June 30, 2009.

Chairman Bryan Ellams highlighted the increasing involvement of young people in the Council's business and announced that the ministry had reappointed David Fenney as a ministerial member of the National Council.

Chief Executive Officer Peter Hawkins reported that there is increasing interest

in the work of the Church, and there has been congregational growth during the past year.

This financial year UCG—British Isles distributed 40,000 copies of *The Good News*, about equal with last year. The resulting mail was 16,600 items of normal mail plus 7,900 Internet requests, resulting in over 27,000 items of literature being sent from the office. This excludes the 6,100 *Bible Study Course* lessons sent by volunteers in Warrington. The Church also sent around 380 copies of *World News and Prophecy* per issue, 220 of *United News* and 289 of *Vertical Thought*.

The National Council approved an advertisement in the form of an advertorial, which will probably be placed shortly after the summer break.

In March a subscriber letter sent to 4,790 on the mailing list offered *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*, receiving 528 responses, or 11 percent, with 51 donations included.

A total of 4,820 new readers received *The Good News* for the first time during the financial year. The average response to the renewal sent after the three issues was 20 percent, including 165 new donors and 1,124 requests for the Bible course. **UN**

International News At a Glance

Changing of the Guard in the Australian Mailing Department

Reg Wright has been training a new employee in the Australian national office. John Vaughan has been hired to be the new mailing coordinator.

"With our Australian *Good News* sub-



John Vaughan, new mailing coordinator for Australia

scriber list now over the 33,000 mark and generating requests for our other publications and the public taking an increasing interest in our Web site, there's plenty of activity," said Mr. Wright. "We also maintain *The Good News* subscriber listing for New Zealand, the Pacific Isles and Papua New Guinea, and serve those areas with the literature requested."

David Sandland took an early retirement from the mailing coordinator position due to health-related issues. He was employed in the mailing area for eight years. "During that time his expertise and effort contributed significantly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service provided to members and subscribers," wrote Bill Eddington, chairman of UCG—Australia in the April-June *United News Australia*.

Mr. Sandland handled the consistent growth of *Good News* circulation (52,000 subscribers have been added since 2004) with the help of his wife, Lynn, who originally volunteered her service but who became a part-time employee as the volume grew.

The Sandlands have relocated to Coff's Harbour where they will be closer to family members. "The Church greatly appreciated their joint endeavors in the mailing area and wishes them well in this new phase of their life," Mr. Eddington said.

An Open Door to Ireland

The following appeared in the July/August 2008 *British and European*

Supplement to The Good News:

The United Church of God began a small congregation in Northern Ireland just a few years ago. We meet in Ballymena, about 30 miles north of Belfast, several times a year, especially on God's annual Holy Days.

United meetings in the Irish Republic began just over two years ago, and we meet there nearly every weekly Sabbath day in County Carlow. We hope to begin a Bible study in Dublin in the near future.

The *Good News* mailing list in the Republic of Ireland has grown considerably over the last several years. We hope God is indicating that a greater harvest is just around the corner in both the north and the south.

John Ross Schroeder

Ministers Visit Estonia

Vic Kubik, senior pastor for Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, visited Tartu, Estonia, July 18 to 23. He was accompanied on the trip by his wife, Bev, and by Jim Franks, Ministerial Services operation manager, and Britton Taylor, pastor of the Fort Worth and Coleman, Texas, congregations.

Friday evening, July 18, members from Estonia and a group from the neighboring country of Latvia met for dinner and discussion. Ten people drove up from Smiltena, Latvia, about 90 miles south of Tartu.

"It was a great meal with great socializing and people getting to know one another," said Mr. Kubik. "I was happy to see the intermixing between the Latvians and Estonians. Their languages are so different that they have to resort to Russian... Most older people know Russian well. Younger people, however, are not learning Russian" since the Soviet Union ended.

"After dinner we gathered in a circle to have discussion about the Church, the Bible and other questions," Mr. Kubik said. "People also told the story about their coming to understand the Bible and its relevance to them."

When the discussion ended just before 10 p.m., Robert Schultz, the leader of the Latvian group, suggested that the group have a prayer. "Britt Taylor asked a meaningful blessing, mentioning the various nationalities meeting for a common purpose," Mr. Kubik said.

July 19 the Estonian members met for Sabbath services. Mr. Taylor spoke on the importance of prayer, and Mr. Franks spoke about being a light in your community.

On Sunday, July 20, the visitors prepared the mailing for *Good News* and *Bible Study Course* subscribers in the region.

July 21 the mailing was delivered to the post office and the group visited Pere Raadio, a Christian radio station that the Church has used to advertise the *BSC* and *GN*. July 22 they visited a member in prison, before traveling on to Sweden (see article, page 1).

Philippine Campers Strengthen Their Faith by “Laying a Sure Foundation”

Thirty-two campers and 34 staff (including three United Youth Corps volunteers) gathered May 4 to 11 at Eden Nature Park in Davao City for the 10th United Youth Camp in the Philippines.

For the fifth consecutive year, the four “dorms” (groups of eight campers and two counselors) slept in tents and cooked their own food. It was a rainy week, but with God’s protection and help, the camp proved to be an exciting and a challenging adventure. Here are three of the highlights:

Christian Living Class Expanded and Improved

The carefully chosen theme for this year’s camp was “Laying a Sure Foundation.” We decided to dedicate the whole morning after breakfast exclusively for the Christian Living class. After briefly introducing the topic for the day, camp director Ed Macaraeg would get all the campers and staff involved in discussing the prepared questions on the selected topic.

The topics covered the basics such as the existence of God, the authority of the Bible and finding the true Church. In addition, common issues like digital addiction, sexual immorality, Sabbath compromise, dating outside the Church and fashion and lifestyle were discussed as well.

After the discussion, the dorms would present their findings and conclusions before the entire group, backed up by Scriptures. Not to be outdone, the staff came up with a series of comical skits on the fly to illustrate the specific points of the Christian Living topics. It was educational as well as highly entertaining.



Wilderness Skills and Confidence Course Made More Challenging

There are three reasons the confidence course and wilderness skills activities this year were more challenging. The first was the heavy rains. The second was the cover of darkness. The third was the raw egg that each camper was supposed to carry uncracked until he or she crossed all four “obstacles” eight hours later.

The first obstacle was the wall climb. Each camper had to climb a 40-foot high vertical wall by grabbing onto holds fastened to the wall. These holds became slip-

pery due to the rain and mud. Climbers, of course, had helmets and safety harnesses (as they had for all the other obstacles). After that, they had to descend 40-feet down by rappelling. As they hiked to the next obstacle, they were overtaken by darkness. It was pitch black (except for the flashlights), it was raining hard, and it was getting cold—since practically everyone was soaking wet.

The second obstacle was the 50-meter pulley slide across a deep ravine. They had to cross this chasm carrying their food, water, firewood and other supplies—and the raw egg!

When they reached the other side, they assigned one person or two to start the fire. They needed to prepare their food without regular conveniences and utensils; they cooked their rice using bamboo tubes and baked their bread without ovens. But since it was raining hard, the food didn’t cook that fast.

The third obstacle was to cross a 25-meter monkey bridge across another deep ravine. Then, finally, the food was ready.

The fourth obstacle was arguably the toughest one—the mud tunnel. Due to the heavy downpour, the tunnel was as slippery as oil. The tunnel gradually sloped upward, and it got narrower and steeper as you went. Finally, the campers entered a small horizontal concrete tube about 18 inches in diameter and had to squeeze their tired bodies through the length of it, about 20 or 30 feet.

The wonderful thing is, nobody was complaining. Everyone was excited, upbeat and enthusiastic. We were cheering each other on. Nobody wanted to quit. And every single camper passed through that confidence course. It was an accomplishment when we finally arrived at the campsite at around 10 or 11 p.m.

By the way, all the girls arrived with their raw eggs uncracked. As for the guys, about 50 percent of their eggs were cracked, broken...or eaten!

Lest one think this was nothing but a senseless torture, the objective was to help them develop the confidence to

face challenges and difficulties in life. Safety was always a priority.

Youth Corps Volunteers and Ultimate Frisbee

This year, we were privileged to have three United Youth Corps volunteers: Luke and Kristina Crane from Spokane, Washington, and Bobby Ouellette, from Dallas, Texas. Luke and Kristina helped in the wall climbing and also introduced a new sport that was really exciting for everyone—ultimate Frisbee. We also played that under the pouring rain—it was a lot of fun.

Kristina and Luke also taught volleyball, while Bobby helped out in soccer and basketball. We really appreciate their taking the time to travel to the Philippines to volunteer and help us. They made a lot of friends and left a lot of positive memories.

Other Activities

Other activities were dance, first aid, inline skating, riflery and swimming. We also had workshops to pass on a marketable or useful skill. Each camper could choose to attend up to two workshops: art illustration, baking, basic electronics, beading accessories, calligraphy, conversational English, envelope production, journalism, LPG/home fire safety, organic fertilizer production, public address system and rubber slipper making.

For the other evenings we had orientation night, novelty games, fellowship time, a Bible study open forum and a talent show and dance night. For the Sabbath, we had Bible bowl and Sabbath services. We thank God for a very successful camp, with many valuable lessons learned.

Daniel Macaraeg

Planning for Hassle-Free Feast Travel

by Suzanne Lavaty

Last year, my travel to the Feast turned out to be an adventure! My trip to Jordan had been planned for months. The anticipation was building, and finally the time had arrived! The night before I was due to leave, I called Travelocity to reconfirm my reservation to Chicago, where I would change planes and continue to Amman, Jordan. The system confirmed my itinerary exactly as it had been booked.

The next day, I showed up at the airport two hours early to check in for my first flight (on United). They only gave me a boarding pass for the first leg, telling me that I’d have to check in for the second flight in Chicago. The second flight was operated by Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJA) and code-shared with US Airways. Since I had plenty of time, I walked over to the US Airways counter and asked if they could check me in. The agent searched his computer, shook his head, and said I’d have to check in once I got to Chicago.

Things Started to Go Wrong

If I had known better, I might have been concerned enough to ask some more questions, but I didn’t. Once I arrived in Chicago, things started to go wrong. I had

trouble finding the check-in counter for RJA (the directions United had given me were wrong). Most of the ticket counters (including US Airways’ counter) were dark and unstaffed.

I eventually made my way to a US Airways baggage claim office, where I presented my itinerary and asked for help checking in for my flight to Amman, which was due to leave in about an hour and a half. They searched their computers, but found no information. I went back upstairs in search of RJA’s counter, and finally found it—it was also dark and unstaffed. Finally, I located a security guard and asked if he knew what was going on. What he told me made my heart sink: “Oh, that flight was canceled. They’ve all gone home.”

I tried to find a hotel. Unfortunately there was a convention in town, and after an hour on the phone with Travelocity I was informed that there were no rooms within a 30-mile radius. The next flight to Amman wasn’t until 11 p.m. the next day, so I would have to sleep in the airport.

When I arrived in Jordan, a day after the Feast had started, my luggage did not arrive with me. In fact, it never did arrive, even after I got home from the Feast! Thankfully, I had a number of friends at

the Feast who were close to my size and generously loaned me clothes.

Free Advice

In the aftermath of these adventures, I received a lot of advice from friends and coworkers. I’d like to pass their advice on to you in hopes that it can help you avoid similar hassles.

1) Think about how you are going to pay for your travel, and consider travel insurance.

Most of us have a variety of credit cards, and the travel protection benefits vary greatly from card to card. After my luggage was lost I found out that, had I charged the air ticket to a different card in my wallet, I would have been eligible for \$800 in reimbursement! As it was, I received nothing.

Travel insurance policies and their benefits vary. However, some provide “travel interruption” coverage that would have been helpful in covering my unplanned stay in Chicago and could have provided some funds to replace essentials from my lost luggage.

2) Reconfirm your ticket 24 hours before departure.

Note: It is best to contact the flight operator directly. I was on a foreign operator, code-shared with a domestic carrier,

and I was connecting to it on a different domestic airline. The entire itinerary had been purchased through a third party, Travelocity. I made the mistake of confirming my flight only through Travelocity (who did not know my flight had been canceled) and though I inquired at the two domestic airlines, even the code-sharing partner was unaware the flight had been canceled about a month before!

3) Mark your bags in multiple ways.

Bag tags can be torn off. Use the labeling/tag that comes with a bag (often a slide-in window) as well as a bag tag. Before your departure, check the address and phone number to make sure they are up-to-date. Put a copy of your itinerary and contact info inside the suitcase. This will help the airlines know whether they should forward a lost bag on to your travel destination or just send it home.

Many suitcases look alike. To decrease the odds of someone taking your bag accidentally (this has happened to a friend of mine), try marking your bag with a large ribbon, colored elastic band or tape.

4) Keep all valuables with you.

It goes without saying that you should keep travel documents, camera equipment, laptop computers, jewelry and cash with you in the cabin. However, if you have expensive makeup, perfume,

medicines, etc., you may want to consider keeping that with you as well.

5) Consider packing enough essentials to get you through one to two days in your carry-on, including clothing, shoes and toiletries.

Imagine your bag being lost for several days. What would you wish you had in your carry-on? Probably a few changes of underwear, basic toiletries, pajamas, several changes of clothes and some comfortable shoes.

If you are traveling with family members, consider putting a few essentials in each others’ bags as protection in case one of the bags is lost.

6) Bring the phone numbers of your airline’s customer service, travel agent info (as applicable) and the number of one or two car rental/hotel reservation agencies.

If you end up running into delays or cancellations, it will be helpful to have those numbers handy. If you have friends in the area where you have layovers, you may want to bring their phone numbers as well (crashing on someone’s living room sofa sure beats sleeping in an airport lobby!)

7) Charge your cell phone!

I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and uneventful trip to the Feast! **UN**

Camp Woodmen Draws Campers From 19 States

The week of June 29 through July 6 marked the 11th year for Camp Woodmen, Alabama. This year 107 campers from 19 states joined 54 volunteer staff workers for a wonderful week in the "Zone." God's blessing on the weather was evident as high temperatures fell in the mid-80s early in the week to around 90 degrees late in the week. Low temperatures ranged from the low 60s to around 70 degrees.

Since camp last summer, the camp facility had been given a facelift. Sidewalks had been poured all the way down to the boys' dorms, buildings had been painted, a new ceramic tile floor had been installed in the dining hall, bunk beds were sandblasted and repainted, and the girls' bath-houses had been refurbished.

Each morning's Christian Living topic focused on aspects of this year's theme of rising above today's world by building a bridge to the future. Daily activities included basketball, dance, flag football, golf, high



Woodmen campers participated in dance class, flag football, the climbing wall and water sliding, along with other activities and Christian Living classes

ropes, low ropes, riflery, speedway, swimming, water sliding and sand volleyball. It had been a few years since having an actual dance class. Angela Moen and assistants taught the Cleveland shuffle and other line dances.

Evening activities included two dances, an open activities evening, novelty Olympics and a challenge sports night. For Friday night Bible study, small groups composed answers

to actual questions received by the *Vertical Thought* Personal Correspondence team.

On Thursday, July 3, the camp was delighted to have UCGIA President Clyde Kilough and his wife, Dee, spend the day with us. Mr. Kilough spoke to the combined camp that morning about the Ambassador Bible Center and also the importance of looking to the Kingdom of God. Throughout the day, the Kiloughs toured the various activities and joined in a number of times.

Feedback about the success of

Camp Woodmen 2008 has been very positive. One camper in Dorm 1G wrote on her survey, "I learned that the physical aspects of life are so unimportant in comparison to rela-

counselor wrote, "Camp is a great motivator that God's culture is far better!"

Over the years, we have watched young 12- or 13-year-old campers come to camp for their very first time. This year's staff included several we have seen grow up at camp over the years. What an inspiration it is to now see them serving on the staff, giving back to those who are younger. In some cases these young staffers have attended ABC or are baptized members of God's Church. Truly the UYC program is bearing tremendous



tionships with God and His other children."

A first-time member of the counseling staff wrote, "Being a counselor taught me so much about myself and ensured me that our Church is developing an amazing group for the next generation of believers." In comparing the Zone to the carnal world around us, another

fruit not only for today's Church, but also for the future as we walk across our Father's bridge to the Kingdom of God.

David Dobson

Camp Davidson Appreciates Lukers; Enjoys Campfires

Campers and staff from 10 states and two Canadian provinces enjoyed a weeklong stay in the beautiful Oregon Cascades from July 6 to 13.

This marked the 14th year of United Youth Camps sponsoring one of its teen camps in the Pacific Northwest. The 97 campers and 52 staff members enjoyed their time together in the Zone—God's way of life in action. It was a trouble-free camp where campers and staff appreciated the blessing to be able to learn and grow together.

God blessed the camp with wonderful weather (in the 90s most of the camp week), unity among both campers and staff and spiritual growth. Campers identified with the UYC-wide theme of "Rising Above the World Today" in their daily Christian Living classes.

Denny and LeeAnn Luker gave two classes on Excellence in Living on the theme of identifying your love language. They also gave a class on femininity and masculinity. This marked their 12th straight year as staff. Because of their upcoming retirement from the full-time ministry next summer, both staff and campers gave words of appreciation to them for their years of loving service to hundreds of campers over those 12 years.

Camp activities included the ever-popular evening campfire.

At these campfires the dorms give greetings to one another and campers can sing songs or participate in lighthearted contests with one another. Each campfire ends with an inspiring story and a closing prayer.

Each evening is concluded with a visit by the "dorm parents." Dorm parents visit each dorm before bedtime for a chat about the day and God and His way of life in some regard.

Camper comments included: "I believe this year at camp taught me more about how to deal with the world around me with real-life experience" and "I am going to read the Bible more and pray in the morning instead of night." The staff was impressed with the maturity of the campers in terms of their desire to connect with God and His way of life.

Daily activities included the morning Christian Living class, waterskiing, kayaking, dance class, volleyball, basketball, arts and crafts, archery, golf, swimming and water polo, rock wall and high and low challenge courses.

Two camp dances gave campers an opportunity to relax and practice the dance steps they learned in dance class. Staff and campers concluded the week of activities on Friday afternoon with indoor games.

On the Sabbath, split sermons were given by Rex Sexton and Larry Walker. Beautiful special music was given by a large brass ensemble made up of campers and staff, plus a camp choir. A question-and-answer session for each dorm was also a part of the Sabbath day.

We wish to thank our staff who donated 10 days out of their summer

Here is how one camper summed up the camp experience: "I am going to keep the Zone going even after I go home."

Camp Davidson will be held at the same facility from Aug. 2 to 9, 2009.

We certainly see



Davidson campers gather for campfire activity; above, right, Denny and LeeAnn Luker (pictured with Annie Thomson) were honored for their 12 years of service to the camps in the Northwest (photos by Michelle Pate)

and who drove many miles to serve the youth. Without their dedication, camp would not be possible.

evidence that the United Youth Camps are training, mentoring and inspiring the next generation

of servants for service in God's Church. This is truly exciting!

Steve Nutzman

Building Bridges at Camp Hye Sierra

High in the Sierra Nevada mountains campers and staff from across the United States, and as far away as New Zealand, learned to build bridges to the future. Following this year's theme, and the message of "rising above the world today," campers and staff were not only at a 4,200-foot elevation, but they were also above the

There was a lot of enthusiasm from and interaction between campers and staff, and bridges were built in many ways.

Several evenings were enjoyed around a campfire, and the camp skits were some of the funniest the campers have delivered.

Campers were able to take a day hike

and rappelling, hiking, fishing, a Ping-Pong tournament, novelty Olympics, campfire skits, a talent show, team building and capture the flag.

On the Sabbath, camper Aaron Meidinger gave a sermonette, and in the afternoon we were privileged to have a visit from Dave Register, director of Educational Programs, discussing the

ABC program. Several campers then gave speeches before everyone attended the evening banquet and dance.

God's way of life permeated the camp this year and was an example once again to everyone present that God's way of life works. The camp manager, Gary Langely, stressed several times that among all the groups using the camp, we

were by far the best. He said he wished all the camps were like the United Youth Camps, and that it is a delight to have us use their facility.

Campers left with a full week of fun, fellowship, wonderful memories and lessons that will be a "Bridge to the Future."

Paul Carter



Hye Sierra campers enjoyed breathtaking views from Moro Rock

world in attitude, service and being in the "Zone." God's blessing was on the camp and the weather. According to many, this was the best year of Hye Sierra!

Morning Compass Checks and evening Christian Living classes focused on the theme and subthemes of family, friends, faith, truth and the Kingdom.

through the giant sequoias and see the earth's largest living thing, the General Sherman tree. They also climbed Moro Rock and took in the breathtaking views it has to offer.

Activities during camp included kayaking, basketball, volleyball, speedaway, swimming, dance, crafts, rock climbing

Campers Seek Challenge at Extended Session

After a full week at California's Camp Hye Sierra, 18 adventurous campers didn't go home—not yet! Instead they headed higher up and farther in to the mountains of the dramatic Sierra Nevada range to participate in a challenging three-day extended session.

Day one was a "down day" to rest from the previous week and set up our base camp at Big Meadows, 7,600 feet in elevation. We climbed to the top of nearby Buck Rock fire tower for a spectacular view of the surrounding mountains, had dinner and a Christian Living discussion around the campfire and prepared for the next day's activities.

After breakfast and a Compass Check, we set out on a 12.4-mile round trip hike to Jennie Lake, gaining over 1,600 feet in elevation and topping out over Poop Out Pass at 9,250 feet before dropping down to the crystal-clear lake for lunch and a refreshing swim. Campers took turns leading the group during the hike, responsible for map-reading, route-finding and the general well-being of the group, to get a feel for leadership responsibilities.

After dinner back at base camp, we traveled to Boyden Cavern, located beside the tumbling rapids of the Kings River at the bottom of Kings Canyon, the sheer rock walls of the Windy Cliffs rising 1,500 feet above us. We spent the evening on a flashlight tour, climbing among the rock formations and crawling through narrow passageways to explore the "off the beaten path" sections of the cave, then spread out our ground pads and sleeping bags to spend the night in the cavern.

After breakfast and a Compass Check beside the Kings River, we spent the last day canyoneering in the Boulder Creek canyon. Most felt this was the real highlight as we hiked, boulder-hopped, scrambled, bush-whacked and rock climbed our way up the creek through true, trailless wilderness rarely visited by any but the most adventurous. We waded the narrow and shallower sections of the creek, swam the deep, clear pools, slid down water shoots and rappelled a waterfall.

Back at base camp, our final Christian Living discussion around the fire—as our clothes were drying and our bags were mostly packed in preparation for leaving early the next morning—was on "The Challenge of Leadership" and reviewing our experiences during the extended session.

James Capo



Camp Carter: Rising Above the World Today

This year 95 campers from 12 states and one European country came to Camp Carter July 6 to 13 to make new friends and renew old friendships. Most came from Texas and the surrounding states, but there were also campers from Florida, Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and even Holland. They were served a week of activities, social time and exploring biblical principles by 41 dedicated staff members.

Although the temperatures were in the 90s each day, we were grateful for some clouds, nice breezes and the huge trees throughout the camp. Getting to the lake or the pool every afternoon helped keep everyone comfortable. The YMCA moved our dates up this year from the end of July to the early part, and it was a blessing for the camp since there isn't usually such a nice breeze at the end of July.

The staff helped campers focus on this year's Christian Living theme of "Camp as a Bridge: Rising Above the World Today" to help them see how they are to stand out as lights in a darkened world.

Our morning Compass Checks each focused on an aspect of how we stand out. They began with an overview reminding everyone that our way of thinking sets the stage for who and what we are. The next topic was appear-

ance, where the main point was that it's not just what we wear, but our attitude and mental approach are also critical. That was followed by a reminder about how our speech should be "a cut above" the world. Thursday the focus was on the influence of media and a reminder that we must monitor what we listen to or watch.

Wrapping up our Compass Checks for the week was the topic of our work ethic. The camp was reminded that we should work as though we're working for Christ. Those who show a good work ethic—being dependable and hard working—

topics of respect for God and others and of the importance of vision to keep us motivated to stand out from the world.

The activity schedule changes from year to year and old favorites—basketball, crafts, dance, football, afternoon at the lake (with skiing, tubing and kayaking), strength training, swimming and volleyball—continue to rank high on the camper surveys.



This year we added speedaway, a cross between soccer and football, and had a life skills class on nonverbal communication. We also switched the evening Bible study Q&A sessions to include an all-boys and all-girls session and one with each individual dorm. And we added a new addi-

will stand out from the rest.

The split sermons on the Sabbath also followed the same theme, exploring the



Camp Carter activities included archery, basketball and football

tion to the Friday night meal that we hope to make a tradition—grilled steak and chicken.

Evening activities are a chance for more fellowship, and on two nights campers were able to choose which activity they wanted to participate in. Monday night we added a camper-staff volleyball challenge, while other staff and campers did a mix and match in speedaway.

Tuesday night was our Getting-to-Know-You Dance with mixers and line

dances, and Thursday night the entire camp participated in Novelty Olympics. Bible-based skits were presented by each dorm for Friday night, followed by ice cream and more friendship building.

Every year bonds are strengthened among campers and staff, and eventually it's time to go back home. E-mail addresses and phone numbers are exchanged, and plans are made to reunite at the Feast of Tabernacles, regional sports events or at camp next summer.

Ken Treybig

Going Through New Doors to Preach the Gospel With Power

■ Members with expertise in the latest technologies and methods are helping map out an effective plan for preaching the gospel to the 21st century world.

by Larry Salyer

What do you want the Church as an organization to be doing? The resounding answer from recent member surveys is, "Let's preach the gospel more effectively." This is a universal sentiment because it goes to the heart of why we are in the Church. Yes, we all want to be in God's Kingdom, but we also want everybody else to be there! We want to see the horrific suffering of mankind come to an end.

An important part of our calling is to preach the gospel, walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who made the supreme sacrifice to save mankind from destruction. Our Heavenly Father did not send Jesus into the world "to condemn

every practical endeavor. When God says that Satan "deceives the whole world" (Revelation 12:9), He means just that. From the beginning, the serpent did not attempt to convey only false knowledge, but rather a deadly mix of good and evil. This volatile mixture has allowed man to assist in his own confusion by accomplishing things he can be proud of while thinking he doesn't need God.

Our feeble flesh, endowed by the Creator with a human spirit component, has collectively been able to learn about the physical world and the factors that make it work—in minute detail. Yet while we depend with great faith upon the laws of gravity and inertia—and don't hesitate to call them laws—we are incapable of seeing the parallel spiritual laws that govern our quality of life. We can kill people with gunfire from drones controlled by computer operators half a world away, but we cannot live in peace within families.

Without God's intervention, man would destroy himself. Jesus said so! We are blessed with the knowledge that God will send Jesus Christ to save mankind from

Taking Advantage of Communication Advances

Having confounded man's communication way back at the tower of Babel, a loving Creator has now allowed man to discover progressive technologies that give His Church the potential to project the gospel into the whole world. Every previous advance in communication tools has been used in that effort to date.

Today, however, it is becoming increasingly clear that the most far-reaching and cost-effective tool available to us is the Internet. We are already using it at a high level, and I want to publicly thank Aaron Booth, our Web managing editor, for his tireless efforts in this pursuit. Still, we must find new ways to position our message that will make it much easier for people to find on the World Wide Web. Using the Internet, we have the potential to reach many times more people than we can reach in print—or even television.

One of the greatest advantages of communicating with people on the Web is that we can provide vast amounts of information and allow each user to determine what he wants to see and hear. The Web gives us the capacity to lead people from milk to meat at whatever speed they choose to go. Those who want to study deeply can do so, but those who reject the message and click off it will have had an opportunity to hear what they chose. They will also be able to find their way back to the material at any time! By contrast, a printed booklet thrown in the trash may be gone forever.

Efficient and Cost-Effective

Preaching the gospel electronically does not require the high costs of printing and postage, which can go on for years. It reduces the ever-present concern that magazines and booklets are being mailed at great expense to people who simply don't read them, while others go wanting.

Many of us believe that we now have the most thorough and accurate written explanations of the true doctrines that the Church has ever had. On the Internet, we can arrange the message in ways that give interested parties almost instant access to anything we teach. By contrast, the time lag for viewers receiving printed literature is several weeks.

More and more people are reading such material on the Web, but much of ours is too long and complex for it to attract first contacts. It is also not written with the Internet audience in mind—particularly the need to be highly visible to search engines.

Moving more and more of our work to the Internet does not mean we will not use printed literature. Rather that literature will be used more appropriately to help those who are being called by God to a deeper understanding of the truth. However, we will undertake in the immediate future an editing process for converting all of the teachings to shorter, more specific pieces.

These will be tailored to the Internet, taking advantage of known words and phrases that the world most often uses when looking for answers to life's problems and biblical questions. We believe that we can attract much more Web traffic to our sites without paid advertising just by careful content management.

doing some of these things—but we will also need full-time staff and equipment.

The money to meet these needs will come from print and postage savings as we put more emphasis on communicating with first-time respondents via the Internet instead of through printed magazines and booklets. You should be prepared to see



Web planning task force discusses ways to multiply the Church's effectiveness on the Internet

Investing in the Future

The primary expense in building up our Web presence will be in manpower. Once we have gained a contact through the Web, it is important to serve that person regularly through electronic means, rather than in print. As knowledge increases and many run to and fro, as described in Daniel 12, people need a place to turn for answers and help.

Since we have been freely given the truth and instructed to freely give it to others, it is critical that the Church become a primary resource for people who are willing to seek God's solutions to the problems they face.

If we are going to provide compassionate, personal guidance and counsel in a timely manner to those who seek us out, we will need more people who can respond to their needs.

For example, we might need staff to help maintain around-the-clock chat rooms or answer desks. We might ask a number of people with special expertise to maintain blogs about their specialties and link them to Church Web sites. Members will be able to assist in increasing our Web visibility by social bookmarking and social networking. As we reach beyond our current language capacity, we will surely need individuals who can work with subtitles to interface with online translation software.

Much of our future manpower needs will be met by volunteers within the Church—and some of you are already

print circulation numbers go down in the short term, not continually up. Nevertheless, printed literature will be sent to all who request it and will be used to feed those who want to study more deeply and prefer having printed material in their hands.

The Web will give us access to far more people than we can ever reach in print. Magazines and booklets will continue to be used, but not as our preferred means of sowing the seed throughout the world.

Planning to Multiply Our Effectiveness

This description covers only part of the planning that is now underway to multiply our effectiveness on the Internet. Many capable, qualified members are working to find the best ways to use the Web for preaching the gospel and to give the administration sound counsel on how to walk boldly through this exciting door. As time goes by, brethren will be asked to answer surveys to help us stay on track with the message and its delivery. We expect more and more members to have the opportunity to get directly involved in spreading the gospel as our Internet strategy develops.

As mentioned in the first paragraph, we in the home office know that you are dedicated to preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God and anxious to see us make significant progress in reaching the world. Toward that end, we request your fervent prayers and enthusiastic support. **UN**



Web planning task force of industry experts meets July 20 at the offices of David and Jennifer Gosse, owners of an Internet search business in Las Vegas, Nevada

the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17). God is in the process of "bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10).

The world is in the throes of a knowledge explosion. According to e-learning expert Dr. Tony Karrer, the "amount of new information doubles every two years." Yet man has not found the true knowledge of why he exists and what his future will be. Nor can he!

Humankind has been cleverly and thoroughly deceived by the god of this world. His nefarious lies have corrupted man's thinking in every academic discipline and

that fate. Such assurance changes the way we think about the future and how we live today. If we are truly converted and looking forward to salvation that brings eternal life, then surely we want to share that "good news" with all people.

Our message is the same one that Jesus brought, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). The need for that message grows more desperate every day. Think about your family, your friends, your coworkers who see no way out of their troubles. How much do they need God's precious truth?

designed by Laura Jeffords.

The ABC class put in a lot of work to prepare for the event. Eric and Laura Jeffords, heads of the Service Committee, put together the charity auction, with faculty member Gary Antion overseeing the event.

Other students headed specific areas. Denise Schmidt and her kitchen crew prepared and served African dishes at the auction. Jeff Cox organized the procuring, with the help of many of the ABC students, and Eileen Sharkey took care of organizing the silent auction.

"It was a very successful fundraiser that raised more money than any previous ABC fund-raiser," said David Register, director of Education Programs. The gross income raised was \$11,567.50. After expenses for food, decorations and advertising,

the net income that was sent to the Children's Education Fund, Nigeria was \$10,465.70.

Mr. Kellers administers the funds and Oludare Akinbo, an elder in Nigeria, handles distributing them to those in need. **UN**

"ABC," continued from page 1

There were also raffles and a silent auction to help raise money. Some of the items sold were jewelry, a guitar, books, artwork and even some of the decorations used for the auction,



From the Word

The Glory to Be Revealed in Us

■ It can be hard to wrap our minds around the fact that we can be sons and daughters of the Most High, now and forever!

by **Tim Groves**

Proverbs declares, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, King James Version). Many of God’s people have fallen away because they have lost the vision of our potential. We must be vigilant to hold on to this precious truth.

We read in Isaiah 43:7 and Hebrews 2:10 that God the Father created mankind for His glory, yet He also intends to bring mankind to glory. What exactly is that glory? Do we have that glory now, or is it yet in the future?

Our Present Glory

Scripture records that humans have physical glories now, can have spiritual glories upon receiving God’s Holy Spirit and will have unimaginable God-plane glories when we are changed to spirit.

In Genesis we read that even as humans we were created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Psalm 8:4-8 clearly states that God has crowned man with glory and honor and given him dominion over the earth now.

How often do we stop and think about the glory that is already in us? As humans we look like God, not animals. God has given each of us a powerful mind, and a human spirit to go with it. We have emotions to express ourselves. We have the power to choose. We can think, plan, design and create.

We have various talents and abilities. We can learn. We can make and sing beautiful music. We can build incredible buildings and even send man to the moon. And although we cannot presently comprehend the universe, we can begin to calculate the vastness of it.

We have the ability to have intimate relationships. Husbands and wives can learn to be “one” as the Father and Christ are one. The glory of marriage (a divine institution) is even symbolic of the relationship of Christ and the Church!

The angels were created by Christ and cannot reproduce. Yet we have been given the glory of reproducing God’s future offspring.

God has given us dominion over the earth. He entrusted mankind to take care of the earth and make it a better place. He wants us to take the glory given to us and use it to glorify Him. Some have chosen the good and lead exemplary lives. But often that has not happened.

Corrupted Glory

Instead of using the glory given to us for God’s praise, mankind has often defiled that glory, producing a mix of good and evil. That is the result of an evil influence.

Lucifer had a lot of glory given to him. He was intelligent, musically gifted, beautiful and had a lot of other angels working with him. As a covering cherub, he was to use the glory given to him to further God’s glory. Yet he corrupted his glory and used it to defy God instead of glorify God. A glorious name, meaning “Light Bringer,” was changed to “Satan,” meaning “adversary.”

Satan influenced naive Adam and Eve. Just as he corrupted his own glory, Satan influenced man to corrupt his glory. Today mankind often uses godly attributes to produce evil—bad music, sexual immorality and vanity, to name a few (Romans 1:20-32).

Today, we see the fruits of using our glory for selfish gain. If God would not intervene, we would destroy ourselves with this misdirected power (Matthew 24:22). But God’s will is for us to develop the character we need to rightly use the glory given to us now, so He can give us more glory later.

The New Man and New Glories

Even with all the physical glories we have, we cannot glorify God without righteous character. God does not instantaneously create in us perfect character; character requires us to exercise our free will. It is the indwelling of God’s Spirit that helps us develop righteous character, and that righteous character allows us to use our physical abilities to glorify God.

Without God’s Spirit, our physical glories are just that—physical. And being physical, they are only temporary and will pass away. The glory of beauty and strength soon disappear. And as our bodies age, even natural abilities and talents will fade away.

Even though time causes our physical abilities to fade, our character stays renewed daily because of God’s Spirit. As we develop more righteous character, God is able to give us even more glory that will not fade away (2 Corinthians 4:16-17; 1 Peter 5:1, 4).

With our human spirit, we have the power to choose. With God’s Spirit, we have the power to change. Indeed, God’s Spirit is a spirit of power (2 Timothy 1:7; Luke 24:49)! We should stay tapped into that power, which the Father wants to give us (Luke 11:13).

Scripture is clear—when we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive new spiritual glories. We must not limit glory to only outward appearances. The fruits of God’s Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23 specify what these glories are. Even though some of these fruits may be able to be practiced to a degree without God’s Spirit, they cannot reach their ultimate level without God’s Spirit.

Take the fruit of “peace” for example. Godly peace surpasses all human understanding (Philippians 4:7; John 14:27). Christ spoke about “His joy” in us (John 15:11). Unconditional godly “love” is on a higher plane as well. Years ago Herbert

Armstrong said the closest thing to godly love is a mother’s love for her child. Yet, he said, even that is selfish, as it is unconditional love for just her child.

The Holy Spirit in us is part of God in us. So when God’s Spirit joins our human spirit, we become a new creation (Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Becoming lights in a darkened world, our spiritual transformation by God’s Spirit is apparent to those around us by our good works. We are indeed a new man (Ephesians 4:22-24)!

As with natural abilities and talents, we must develop these spiritual glories. At baptism, we do not immediately have a lot of the fruit of God’s Spirit. But as we use and are led by His Spirit, we produce fruit.

As we spiritually mature, we are able to use our physical and spiritual glories to praise God. Individually and collectively we glorify God when we bear much fruit (John 15:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

When we are younger, it is seemingly easy to find opportunities to serve. But as we get older, we sometimes think there isn’t much we can do for God. Yet Scripture says God’s people will still bear fruit in their old age (Psalm 92:13-14). Our legs may not move us very fast. Our eyes may be dim and our hearing may be gone. But we still have God’s Spirit. And with His Spirit we can still be lights and glorify Him—if we look for and seize opportunities when they come (Galatians 6:9-10).

Even if all we can do is pray, that can still bring results (James 5:16). We can’t let physical limitations hinder us from serving.

Partaking of the Divine Nature

Even though we have eternity dwelling in us through God’s Spirit, our bodies still grow old and will finally die. In His wisdom God allows our bodies to wear out so we will desire to have the divine nature. As Paul said, “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven” (2 Corinthians 5:1-2). Paul continues to encourage us to be confident, knowing that God’s Spirit in us is a guarantee of eternal life (verses 5-6).

Do we take time to consider that all the trials and problems we go through in this life are to prepare us for eternity? Do we stop and think about our destiny?

The Bible clearly states that we are destined to be members of the God family (Psalm 82:6; John 10:34-35)! We are to be on the God-plane, above the angels (Hebrews 2:5-8). Christ even calls us His brothers (verse 11).

After our mortality has put on immortality, our righteous character will have a glorious body to go with it. This outward glory seems incomprehensible to us now.

Just like the Father and Christ, we will



© 2008 JupiterImages Corporation

shine like the sun in full strength (Matthew 13:43; Daniel 12:2-3). Whenever God’s glory appeared to humans, they could not stay in its presence. After Moses saw part of God, he had to wear a veil because of his shining face (Exodus 34:29-35).

When the glory of God entered the tabernacle of meeting, Moses could not enter it because of the bright light (Exodus 40:34-35). When King Solomon dedicated the temple, the presence of God’s glory caused the priests to leave (2 Chronicles 5:13-14). And it is God’s glory that will light New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:23).

As incredible as God’s glory is, we are to have the same glory when we are changed to spirit (1 John 3:2). In the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared in glory with Christ (Luke 9:28-31). Even the glorious manifestation of the angel Gabriel caused Daniel to faint (Daniel 8:15-18, 27). Our new bodies will be more glorious than the angels!

But what other glories will we have in God’s Kingdom? Does the Bible shed more light on our future?

Speaking of the resurrection, Paul says, “There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:41-42). The sun, moon and stars are all celestial bodies, but they still have different glories. We will all be God’s children, yet we will have different glories. We will not all be “yellow pencils” in God’s Kingdom. We will each have different abilities, talents, roles and responsibilities (Romans 12:3-6; 1 Corinthians 12:18-20).

It makes sense that the talents and abilities we have now will continue as children of God, at even greater levels. So whether we are musically gifted, mechanically inclined or whatever our talent, it seems that will carry over into eternity with our righteous character. It is part of who we are.

God is the great Creator, and He has given us creative abilities now as humans. As spirit beings, it seems we will have vastly greater creative powers. We will have our part in ruling and finishing the vast universe (Romans 8:19-22; Hebrews 2:8).

In Ezekiel 1:4-28 we read about God’s glorious portable throne. God gets around

in style! His portable throne, as well as the splendor of New Jerusalem, are extensions of His glory. Even as humans, our automobiles and homes are sometimes extensions of our present glory. And as children of God, we will enjoy extensions of our God-plane glory.

Even though there are many things we can see, we still “see through a glass, darkly” (1 Corinthians 13:12, King James Version) concerning the glorious things God has in store for us. Just as an infant cannot comprehend what it is like to be an adult, we cannot fully comprehend what it will be like to be on the God-plane (Isaiah 55:8-9).

When we become children of God, it will only be the beginning. The good news is that there will be no end!

Our physical lives are very short. It seems like only yesterday we were young, strong and beautiful. Now many of us are old, tired and full of ailments! But we must look forward to the time when Christ will transform our old, tired bodies to new, glorious ones (Philippians 3:20-21).

It won’t be long now until God will make us strong and beautiful again. And as partakers of the divine nature, our energy will never fade away. Yes, our spirit bodies will last us forever. And with the righteous character to go with our new bodies, we will have glory and will glorify God.

As the apostle John said, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God!... Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:1-3).

Let’s never lose this hope, this vision. Let’s endure the aches and pains of this life, knowing a glorious future awaits us. Remember the words of the apostle Paul, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

So the next time the sun gets in your eyes, let that bright light be a reminder of your future glory as a son of the Most High God! **UN**

Tim Groves is a member in the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation.

A Compassionate Response to Global Tragedy

■ Christ's return is the only permanent answer to this world's problems. But are there things we can be doing in the meantime to be wise stewards and compassionate neighbors on planet earth?

by Jay Turner

We're living in a unique time in human history. Overpopulation, pollution and environmental degradation have primed the world for suffering on an unimaginable scale. Is there anything we can or should be doing about it? Does it even matter what we do? Jesus warned us that the decades before His return would be times of great suffering.

"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8).

We frankly don't know when Christ's return will happen (Matthew 24:36). Only the returning King of Kings can ultimately solve the colossal problems humanity has created. We didn't choose to live near the end of the age—we didn't make the world the way it is—but we do have to live in it. How should we respond to the challenges that lie between now and Christ's return?

Right and wrong are eternal principles. Being true to our Christian values is right whether or not we reap immediate benefits. The generations that have grown up under the shadow of the atomic bomb have developed a fatalistic, "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we may die" way of life. This attitude rubs off on all of us, but followers of Jesus Christ must fight it.

The burden of so many people consuming so much of the earth's natural resources and creating so much pollution is pushing the natural world to the brink. Forests are vanishing, deserts expanding, toxic pollution is contaminating the food chain, fisheries are collapsing, food prices are soaring and air pollution is sending asthma rates skyrocketing.

"Love Does No Harm"

Paul wrote, "Love does no harm to a neighbor" (Romans 13:10). If I am doing harm to people by my ordinary, daily activities, then I am not practicing love, and God will judge me for it. Jesus counsels us to be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves

(Matthew 10:16). I felt compelled to find out more about the causes of the pollution that is damaging our planet. I became convicted that I had to get serious about doing my part. Living in a way that demonstrates our love for God and our fellow human beings is essential to who we are as Christians.

Remember how Christ identified those who would be in His Kingdom:

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was in prison and you came to Me'" (Matthew 25:34-36).

Jesus counts the kindness we do to others as done to Him, and this sort of kindness is something that all His followers do (see verses 37 to 46). It is fundamental to who we are. To be a Christian is to love God and to love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40).

In the Genesis creation account, we see God giving the man and woman the authority and responsibility to use and maintain planet earth (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). Because we love God, we respect and appreciate His creation.

And we also know that God's indignation burns against those who despoil the earth, since God has said He will destroy those who destroy the earth (Revelation 11:18). Caring for the natural world is a way of loving God, and it is a way in which we must also love our neighbor.

According to Worldwatch Institute's *Vital Signs 2007-2008* report, humanity is collectively exploiting the resources of the planet at a rate 25 percent beyond what the eco-

In the Genesis creation account, we see God giving the man and woman the authority and responsibility to use and maintain planet earth (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). Because we love God, we respect and appreciate His creation.

system can sustain. It's like a factory manager extracting huge profits from his business by not maintaining the equipment and failing to pay his suppliers. Times may seem good for a little while, but the bills will come due and the system will break down.

When God lent humanity the earth, He told the man and the woman to dress and keep the earth. We're authorized to develop the earth, but we're required to maintain it. We have to care for the soil in which we grow our crops, and we have to maintain the forests and watersheds that provide us with clean air and clean water. The alternative is that famine and disease

will stalk the earth and hundreds of millions of the poorest of humanity will perish.

We do not have the right to simply use up the earth and shortchange our children. Proverbs 13:22 says, "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."

We reap what we sow. God allows us to suffer the consequences of our choices (Galatians 6:7). We have a choice in the matter: we can act selfishly, further harm the environment and cause more suffering; or we can act compassionately and alleviate suffering. It's easy to give in to human nature and close our hearts to the needs of others, and it's hard to give up what we feel is our right in order to make life better for others.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:9-10).

God's compassion extends to everyone. He is not in a hurry to deal out death and destruction. He says, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked" (Ezekiel 33:11). When people change their ways, He extends mercy to them.

What We Can Do

There is quite a lot we can do as individuals. As I studied the state of the world and the problems humanity faces, I was struck by these two key facts:

- Our habits are enormously wasteful.
- The knowledge of how to dramatically improve our use of the planet's resources is already available.

There are huge opportunities for making our homes, businesses and cars more efficient.

By insulating my home, switching from electric to gas heat, switching to more efficient lighting and more efficient appliances, I was able to cut my use of electricity by about half. As a single man I was able to replace my gas-guzzling SUV with a small hybrid, thus cutting my use of gasoline by about half.

Cutting back on the use of gasoline, oil and natural gas not only saves money and helps clean up the air, but it also takes some of the upward pressure off the prices of these commodities. That, in turn, could help the poor to be able to afford fuel for agriculture, business and transportation.



© 2008 JupiterImages Corporation

The 20th-century green revolution was made possible by fossil fuels—in the form of fertilizers, pesticides and fuel for farm equipment and transportation. The recent sharp rise in food prices has been caused by the sharp rise in the cost of fuel, loss of soil productivity and the spate of droughts and floods. (Of course, the short-sighted decision to promote turning corn into ethanol has also contributed. Other types of vegetation seem to have greater potential in producing biofuels.)

By polluting less and using less fuel, we can contribute to the solution and hopefully help increase the availability of fuel to the less fortunate.

Another contributing factor in the world food crisis is the diversion of land and food crops for animal feed. One way we can help is simply to buy less meat. That will free up water, land and feed for direct human uses. Many more people can be fed with plant products than with the meat that can be raised with those plant products. There is also good evidence that eating less meat than the average American eats is better for our health. Growing some of our own food can also help our health and the environment.

We can also reduce fuel consumption by cutting back on our purchases of goods that have to be transported long distances. Buying less stuff, buying second-hand items and giving away what we no longer need, can all help in reducing the pollution that is generated by businesses on our behalf. One helpful book in this area is *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices* (by Michael Brower and Warren Leon).

The good news is that we do actually have choices. We already possess the knowledge necessary to more than double the use we get out of the resources we take from the earth. Some experts claim that we can read-

ily get 10 times the use. Living more simply—whether to clean up the environment or to free up resources for others—is a compassionate response. It is also a sober and godly response that shows respect for the sufferings of others.

Paul urged the Philippians to show a deep concern for the welfare of others:

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

The Christian duty to act compassionately is clear. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). To love God and love our neighbor is the heart and core of Christianity. And this is no mere platitude. Love must be proven in action (James 2:14-17).

The scientific community has served notice that continuing business as usual—overexploitation of the planet's resources and imposing an ever-increasing burden of toxic pollution—means that countless millions will suffer and die.

"A prudent man foresees evil, and hides himself, but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3). It is only prudent to take action. Living simply is a way to provide relief to others in need, and caring is basic to who we are as Christians.

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17-18).

There will be great suffering in this world until Christ's return. It's time to love our neighbor in deed and in truth. **UN**

Jay Turner is a member in the San Jose, California, congregation.

"Workshop," continued from page 1
mons and sermons; working with your

pastor; history and overview of UCG's governing documents; the importance of sound doctrine; appreciating differ-

ences—understanding yourself and others; a women's section on how to be all things to all people without losing

yourself; Church ceremonies; the heart of a servant; developing wisdom and judgment; working with the next gen-

eration; preparing effective messages; the importance of discernment; and answering doctrinal hot topics. **UN**

Answered Prayer Through Opportunity

■ God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we would like. Often He provides the *opportunity* to develop characteristics He desires in us, along with the end result we desire.

by Dale Schurter

"When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will *reward* you *openly*" (Matthew 6:6, emphasis added).

Let's carefully examine two of the words Jesus Christ uses here to describe how our Heavenly Father promises to answer our prayers. These words are *reward* and *openly*.

Reward: A benefit obtained as a result of an action taken or a job done; something positive that follows a desired response and acts to encourage desired behavior.

Openly: Willingly, responsively, directly, truthfully, publicly, sympathetically (*World English Dictionary*).

As the meanings of these words sink in, we willingly desire to go to our "room" (private place), shut the door and pray to our Father. "Our room," is not the only place we pray, but also represents a state of mind, the mental attitude in which we pray. This environment provides a "private place" for personal fellowship with our God, any time, any place.

In contrast, praying hypocritically is described in verse 5:

"And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward."

How Does God Answer?

How does our Heavenly Father answer? Does He always answer in a manner we personally desire at the

time of our request? Are we sure our "idea" of answered prayer is always the correct one? If an answer is provided differently than we expect, are we discouraged or disappointed?

Sometimes we do receive an immediate answer to our petitions, don't we? I well remember one of these immediate answers early in my ministry. After giving the sermon one Sabbath in Shreveport, Louisiana, a member in his middle 80s requested prayer and anointing for his wife, also in her 80s. She was at home in bed with severe back pain. Several brethren, my wife and I accompanied him to their home.

We knelt at her bedside before our Creator. When I removed my hands following the anointing and prayer, she did not move or make a sound. Had she passed out?

I quickly asked, "Are you okay?" She opened her eyes, "I don't have any pain at all, and I'm afraid to move."

She slowly began to move to the edge of the bed, sat up, stood up, bent over nearly touching the floor with her hands, then straightened up and repeated the exercise—both crying and laughing at the same time. We joined her with joy and sincere gratitude toward our Healer (Exodus 15:26).

Sometimes we receive an immediate answer and sometimes a little at a time, over time. As we watch and pray, we watch the fruits in our life and pray to always know and be in His will.

Through Opportunity

Another way of answering prayer our Heavenly Father uses provides multiple benefits. I call it "opportunity answered prayer" or answered prayer through the opportunities God provides.

The key word is *opportunity*. God provides the opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge while we are receiving answers to our requests. This method of answering prayer includes our personal involvement and participation.

How many of us have prayed for courage? When watching and reflecting on my own experience, the answer to praying for courage often came by way of an opportunity to be courageous. Opportunity was provided, but I had to choose, in faith, to make the decision to accept the opportunity or reject it. In reality, the choice was mine to accept or reject my Father's answer.

Through this process of answered prayer, we receive and retain the courage to meet the challenge again, and with expanded courage to meet even greater challenges. We not only develop more courage, but also more confidence, more peace of mind, strengthened faith and less fear. We grow in godly character and are truly encouraged.

We pray for faith—we are given the opportunity to be faithful.

We pray for strength—our Maker provides the opportunity to be strong, to stand strong, to make a difference. And as we meet the opportunity with faith, and now with more courage, we become stronger, more resolute and steadfast in righteousness. That's answered prayer.

We pray for knowledge—He provides the opportunity to learn.

We pray for understanding—He provides the opportunity to receive understanding. For example, when we received knowledge of the Sabbath, we were given the opportunity to observe the Sabbath. We stepped out in faith and acted on the opportunity. We began to observe the Sabbath where we were in faith and knowledge. As we did, we received understanding of why—its purpose—its value and benefits. Another answered prayer.

"A good understanding have all those who do His commandments" (Psalm 111:10).

"I will run the course of Your commandments... And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your

statutes" (Psalm 119:32, 47-48).

David ran into action to keep and guard the commandments of the Almighty, and he became a man after His heart. As we do the same, we continue to grow in grace, in knowledge, in understanding, in godly character. We, too, become a person after the hearts of our Father and Savior. And as we continue to observe these laws of freedom as a way of life, we continue to grow in godly character—purging (and replacing) the ways of the god of this world, with the way of the Kingdom (Hebrews 9:13-14).

Is not the ultimate of answered prayer a continuing walk in physical and spiritual healing and maturing in righteousness for the rest of our natural life and beyond? Isn't it a purifying of conscience and heart resulting in a mature godly character? Absolutely.

Ask, Seek, Knock

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8).

Asking, seeking and knocking include personal action. When we pray, we need to be alert and watching for opportunity to participate in receiving our request. In the middle of a raging flood, mentally or physically, we pray for rescue. But when a boat or airlift opportunity arrives, we must take action to get on board to be saved.

We praise Him in prayer, with thanksgiving and within the loving guidelines of His laws (commandments, statutes, precepts, testimonies and judgments). Within this environment we can be confident we are making our praises, our petitions and requests according to His will. As we do this, we know we will receive what we ask for, either directly or through opportunity—every time! Either way, is it not still a miracle?

Included in this, we must fully accept His timing, even when we offer up urgent requests. Our faith and trust is that He always has our ultimate best interest at heart. Truly, this is the way to peace—peace of mind and inner tranquility!

Praying for Fruit

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering [patience], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness [meekness], self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Consider how God often answers our prayer for more of the fruit of His Spirit.

Love: We pray for more love, and He gives us the opportunity to

express and demonstrate love to Him and to others. And as we do, additional character is developed in us and we become more loving. That's answered prayer.

Joy: We pray for joy and are often given the opportunity to provide a joyful environment for others. And when we do, we receive and share in the joy. Another answered prayer.

Peace: We are often given the opportunity to be a peacemaker.

Longsuffering (patience): We are given the opportunity to exercise patience.

Kindness: We are given the opportunity to be kind, to offer and demonstrate kindness and we become a kinder person.

Goodness: We are given the opportunity to do good.

Faithfulness: We are given the opportunity to be faithful and our faith increases.

Gentleness (meekness): We are given the opportunity to be gentle and meek, and we become more gentle (Proverbs 15:1).

Self-control: We are given the opportunity to exercise control over our personal behavior.

The fruit of the Spirit is fruit our Father and Savior in us produces. It is up to us to harvest the fruit, lest it decay on the vine or fall to the ground.

The harvest of the fruit the Spirit produces is God's nature and character in us. This character is then reflected in our life every day, leading how we think and what we do. It provides our most effective method of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. As we harvest these fruits, our opportunity and responsibility is to plant these seeds wherever we are, wherever we go, whatever we do.

And as we do, our "branches" (yes, pruned from time to time), continue to grow to produce more fruit, more seeds, for a greater harvest for the Kingdom of God. That's how He uses opportunity to answer prayer.

"So then, whenever we have an *opportunity*, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith" (Galatians 6:10, New Revised Standard Version).

What a joy! What a privilege! What an opportunity! **UN**



© 2008 Design Pics

Vain Repetition: A Dangerous Race in the Desert

In teaching His disciples to pray, Jesus Christ said: "And when you pray, do not use vain [useless] repetitions as the heathen do [do not keep on babbling like the gentiles]. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

"Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:7-8).

I'm reminded of an example of "vain repetition" I saw some years ago when on assignment in Saudi Arabia. The day following our arrival, the king's brother, Prince Mamdouh Al-Saoud, invited us to a meeting and banquet in the desert near the Red Sea, some 70 miles southwest of Jidda.

We took off across the desert sands "cruising" between 60 and 75 miles an hour. It quickly became evident this was more of a race to see which vehicle could "nudge" closest in line behind the limo of the prince.

A professor from the university and I were the only ones in our vehicle with Richard, our driver. We raced along in the dust, our "steed" literally leaving the ground when encountering sand mounds.

Richard was determined to move forward from our present ninth position. As the lead car turned a partial corner, we cut out of line and headed "cross-country" aiming at fourth position.

I turned to check on the professor, but did not immediately see him. Looking over the back of the seat, there he was on the floorboard praying, babbling away as he moved his fingers from bead to bead, repeating the same words over and over—looking down, then looking up with fear-filled eyes.

As we approached the line of vehicles, it seemed certain we would crash into one of them. Then a space opened behind car four and we were now fifth in line. The professor slowly returned to the seat.

Though I was thankful we were safe, I don't believe our safety had anything to do with the professor's rote prayers. Repetitious babbling is what he had been taught to do. Quite different from the instructions of the Bible.

Dale Schurter

Treasure Digest

“You Can Do It!”

“You can do it!” I still remember those loud words yelled out to me years ago, and I have never forgotten the effect they had on me. We were at a church picnic, and one of the activities was a ladies’ softball game. I hated sports and was never good at them. But my motto in life that I have tried to live by is “take part and be supportive”—even of a picnic softball game.

I was not bad at batting. It was catching and throwing the ball that were my downfall. If I threw the ball, it seemed to just drop in front of me. So I hated the outfield!

Well, it was time for our team to go to the outfield. I grabbed the glove and took a position as far out into the field as I could get. Glove in hand, I was praying fervently, asking God, “Please don’t let that ball come in my direction!”

I thought I was safe, because I had gone out into the field as far as I could go. No one will hit the ball out here, I told myself.

Well, the unthinkable happened! I could hear the bat crack and to my surprise the ball was headed in my direction, whizzing past the other outfielders. All I could do was open up my glove and hope for the best. Then, all of a sudden, I heard this loud voice from the crowd



saying, “You can do it!” Those words gave me the courage to reach out and catch that ball. I’ve never forgotten that experience.

The power of encouragement should never be underestimated. We all need it, and we all need to give it in order to make it in this life. While it is easy to find fault with one another, encouragement is often more needed.

Jesus Christ said: “For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:35-40).

One of the greatest services you can give in the Church is to be an encourager. Encourage a fellow worker, a spouse, a child or another Church member. God commands us to do it! Hebrews 10:24 says, “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” And 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says to “encourage one another and build each other up” (New International Version).

It doesn’t take much time, but the results can be amazing! Consider what it did for me in that outfield!

*Janet Treadway
Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation*

The Impact of Our Actions

On the radio I heard a medical doctor express

his opinion that the growing tendency of people to focus on the acquisition of material goods and give an inordinate amount of attention to satisfying one’s self often leads to frustration and heightened levels of stress.

His suggestion for coping with stress involved asking yourself some simple questions: “What did I do yesterday? And how did my actions make me feel? Did some of my actions cause me to feel more stressed or anxious?”

Those are good questions. As Christians with the goal of becoming like Christ, however, we can raise the level of scrutiny of the impact of our actions by asking additional questions, such as; “How did my actions make someone else feel? What was the impact of those actions on someone else?” In other words, what we do almost always has repercussions beyond the immediate sphere of our own lives.

In one of the apostle Paul’s letters to the church at Corinth, he instructed the members to examine themselves as a means of insuring their conformity to the will of God (2 Corinthians 13:5).

We often think about self-examination as an element of the Passover, and Paul’s statement in 1 Corinthians 11:28 clearly establishes it in that context. But evaluating the patterns of our lives is something we are to do on an ongoing basis.

Along with asking about our impact on others, we might ask further: “Have my actions strengthened and solidified my relationship with God?”

Most of us have, no doubt, said at one time or another something to the effect that “I intended to do (such and such) but it slipped my mind.” We had good intentions but we failed to follow through.

In the book of James we are reminded that our good intentions have to be transformed into positive actions in order for anyone to derive benefit from them. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:21-22).

James reminds us that we are not only to seek instruction from God through His Word

but also that once that word is implanted in us, it must be nurtured into production. We must act upon the instructions we receive and we must periodically assess our progress by asking of ourselves, “What was the impact of my actions on other people’s lives?”

Learning to ask the questions and then making corrections in our lives as we learn to answer them honestly and objectively will help us to accomplish the ongoing task of self-examination, which Jesus Christ expects of each of us as we grow in grace and knowledge.

*Joe Horton
Elder in the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation*

The Basics

When I am out washing windows, I am often asked what the “secret” to cleaning windows is.

Everyone expects some “special solution” in the water when, in fact, the answer is soap and water and a good squeegee.

Our society is one that likes “quick fixes” for everything...the latest fad diet that is guaranteed to be quick and easy. In reality, there is no “quick fix” or “magic pill.” Losing weight takes the basic ingredients of exercising more and eating less.

When it comes to our spiritual life and prayer, it comes down to the basics too. We will not find those basics in most of the books on the shelves at Barnes & Noble, but in God’s Word, the Bible. When we read the Psalms, we learn what David, a man after God’s heart, prayed about. His prayers were full of praise and thanksgiving to God for His Word, mercy and law, as well as asking for forgiveness, guidance and deliverance.

In an Ambassador Bible Center class, Dr. Don Ward suggests praying with the Psalms. Take the Bible and read a psalm every day in your prayers. It is amazing how this guides you to more fervent prayers. Psalm 119 is espe-



Turning the Hearts . . . Teach Me to Pray

“Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples’” (Luke 11:1). Jesus’ disciples needed to learn how to pray! Then Jesus proceeded to give them the outline known as the “Lord’s Prayer.”

Our children do not naturally know how to pray. They need their parents to teach them not only how but also the importance of prayer. Here are some tips on how to teach your children to pray.

- Remember that they are children. Don’t expect too much from them at first.
- Help them understand God. It is difficult praying to someone you do not see. Perhaps explain it’s like talking on the phone to someone. You can’t see the person, but you know he is there even when he does not speak. Explain how great God is so your children may know He can do anything they ask.
- Help them with words initially, but later give them concepts to pray about in their own words.
- Show them the usual position in prayer (on our knees) and explain why we bow on our knees—He’s the God of the whole universe and our Creator!
- Set the example for them in your prayers at mealtime and in family prayer before bedtime. In other words, pray with them.
- Give them opportunities to pray at mealtime and bedtime. Coach them if they need help and explain that to conclude they should say, “in Jesus Christ’s name, amen.”
- Put confidence in your children by asking them to pray about upcoming trips, whether for a church picnic or in a bad storm. Ask them to pray for you in your work or personal travel. Those requests make the children realize that their prayers are valued by their parents.
- Explain some of the scriptures relevant to prayer (Matthew 6:1-15; Luke 11:5-10; Luke 18:1-8; various Psalms; Jeremiah 29:13; etc.).
- Finally, encourage them to pray on their own over various matters of importance to them, the family, the Church and the world.

Please remember to set the right example for your children. I remember older children who remarked that they knew their parents were godly folks because their parents were people of prayer and faith.

May these tips be reminders to help you teach your children to pray!

Gary E. Antion



Children’s Corner God Uses Angels to Protect People

Fill in the blanks (turn to the verses when you need help):

1. An angel released _____ from prison (Acts 12:7-10).
2. An angel saved _____ from a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:28).
3. An angel saved _____ from a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:28).
4. An angel saved _____ from a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:28).
5. An angel rescued _____ from the lions (Daniel 6:23).
6. An angel rescued _____ from Herod’s clutches (Acts 12:11).
7. An angel rescued the _____ from prison (Acts 5:17-20).
8. Angels attended _____ after He fasted 40 days and nights (Matthew 4:11).
9. _____ prayed for angels to rescue him (Psalm 35:5-6; see also the introduction to the Psalm, called the superscription).

Mavis M. Jolin, Tampa, Florida, congregation

Answers: 1. Peter 2. Shadrach 3. Meshach 4. Abed-Nego 5. Daniel 6. Peter 7. Apostles 8. Jesus 9. David

cially good when you take eight verses at a time. Another book that can be used in prayer is Proverbs.

When it comes to praying for brethren, a prayer list is helpful. A good relationship with the brethren in our congregation also helps us know how to pray specifically for one another. And of course, loving one another (John 15:12) leads to praying for one another.

I have found that if I feel my prayers aren't going past the ceiling, I need to be studying more. Bible study brings me closer to God and helps me keep focus and substance in my prayers.

What is the key to a good prayer life? There isn't a magic quick fix; it is simply the basics: Bible study, fasting, meditation and obedience to God's law.

Janet Keisel

Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, congregation

Remembering Answered Prayers

When we were serving in the ministry in the Bay Area in 1963, my husband bought me a lovely coat, but there were no extra buttons. One evening during the Spring Feast I noticed that one of the buttons was lost! We searched the car thoroughly that evening and failed to find it.

That night I prayed and mentioned to God that it was the only button of its kind and asked if He would please



help us find it. The next morning we got in the car to go to services, and the button was sitting on the dashboard!

I've found that we should break our prayers up fine and give God details of what blessings we want. For example, if you are looking for a home and you want one with a fireplace, ask God to find you one with a fireplace. We were transferred many times in our ministry and God always gave us what we asked for in housing—and more!

When our children were little, we had a kitten that was mauled by one of our dogs, and the children were upset and thought it would die. I told them to ask God to heal him. They did, and the next morning they all ran out to the barn and looked for the kitten. They found him playing with the other kittens. They knew that God had answered their prayers!

Another time when I was almost full term with our fourth child, the other three children ran to tell me they had accidentally locked the closet door and couldn't retrieve something they had put in there. I tried and couldn't open it either, so I encouraged them to pray and ask God to help them open the door. They did, and the door opened for them.

These situations build faith in our children and teach them to ask God for help and blessings. As they grow up and have children of their own, they in turn build faith in their children to ask God for help and blessings!

Judy Swanson
London, Kentucky

Swim Upstream! Don't Shrink Back!

When I was a little girl, I remember reading about one of the most interesting fish—

the salmon!

What amazing creatures! God created them to swim out to sea as youngsters to live most of their lives until they are ready to reproduce. Then they make another great journey; they swim back to freshwater, back against the cur-



rent of the stream to spawn and, soon after, die.

I've thought about this journey many times, relating it to our own fight against the current of this world. For we are to "come out from among them and be separate" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Salmon fight against some of the toughest rapids and some of the strongest currents to accomplish their objective. They fight so much that they even change color and their muscles weaken! The life and times of today are becoming ever more full of distractions and wastes of time, which, if we're not careful, can take our minds off of God. What's more, they can become idols if we put them ahead of Him!

Satan is a master deceiver, using even the

most gradual and cunning methods to throw God's children off course! So what are we to do?

We are to fight, to do whatever we can to stand firm with the abilities given to us by God and His precious armor (Ephesians 6:13-17).

God also warns us against the dangers of weakness. "And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved" (Hebrews 10:38-39, New International Version).

We are essentially to swim upstream. With God's help, we are to swim against the forces pulling against us, never forgetting that it is He who strengthens us and we can do all things with Him (John 15:5; Philippians 4:13).

Salmon would never make it back to their spawning areas to produce offspring if they gave up or if they were weak. They would never achieve their goal.

What about our goal? How much more important is the reward God is promising us if we press on toward the vision and endure to the end? Swim upstream, fellow family members, swim!

Rebekah Leyden
Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to *United News* at the home office. Guidelines available on request (mike_bennett@ucg.org).

"Scandinavia," continued from page 1

in Sweden, and we were without any air conditioning. All the rooms had windows but many of them could not be opened at night because of the mosquitoes. The shower was a separate building located about 50 yards down the hill on the shores of the lake. The area was beautiful, but the facilities created a minor challenge. It was like the old days at Big Sandy, Texas, for the Feast.

Earlier this year, Victor and Beverly Kubik traveled throughout Scandinavia visiting with all those who were interested in United, in addition to a few scattered members of United. After making these visits, they worked with two primary families in Sweden to organize the first-ever gathering sponsored by UCG. The two families were Paul and Kira Spenser and Bernt and Olga Saxin.

The people arrived on Thursday, and we stayed until Sunday afternoon. We held a total of six services and one special presentation in the evening. We alternated speakers using all four ministers who were present.

Among our visitors were individuals who had experience leading songs, so we called on various ones to take on this responsibility. We sang a total of five songs during each service. Those in attendance were excited about hav-

ing regular services since they can only listen to tapes or tune in to a service over the Internet.

We had a total of 38 people attend the meetings. We had people from each of the Scandinavian countries. Some came from far distances and traveled for more than 15 hours. There were 12 languages represented in our group, but all understood and spoke English.

Historic Sabbath

July 26 was quite historic since it marked the very first formal service of UCG in Scandinavia. We hope it will not be the last. It is our desire that it be the beginning. We are hopeful that this meeting will ignite a spark that can advance the work in this part of the world.

One of the highlights of the time spent in Sweden was the baptism of a young man by the name of John Wännstrom. John is Swedish but he is working in Oslo, Norway. A little over a year ago, he was searching for the Church, so he "Googled" the phrase "true Church of God." An old article by Herbert W. Armstrong came up at the top of the list.



After reading the article, he searched for more material written by Mr. Armstrong. That led him

on Tuesday evening, July 29. Mr. Lambert traveled on to Tartu, Estonia, where he will be working out of the office for the next three weeks.



Fellowshipping in Leksand, Sweden, as 38 gather for first UCG Sabbath and seminars held in Scandinavia (photos by Vic Kubik and Jim Franks)

to the various groups that came out of WCG. From this group he contacted UCG. He met with Mr. and Mrs. Kubik in January when he began counseling for baptism. More baptism counseling took place in Sweden, and John was baptized on the Sabbath at Leksand. It was a beautiful way to conclude the Sabbath.

We returned home through Stockholm. Mr. and Mrs. Kubik, Mr. Taylor and I arrived back in the United States

Growth and Future Plans

There has been a bit of a revival of our work in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia through the diligent efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Kubik and Mr. Lambert. Two years ago when we appointed them to serve as senior pastor and associate senior pastor, there was only a handful of scattered members in both areas. Today, we have over 30 in Eastern Europe and the same number in Scandinavia.

We plan to hold another service/semi-



nar in Sweden in the summer of 2009. We are also planning for a Feast site in this region in 2009—most likely in Tartu. It is very expensive to live and travel within Scandinavia, but the brethren seem very excited about the prospects of getting together for services. In the United States we take this for granted, but in this part of the world it was exciting to see how much it meant to all those who met with us to have such an opportunity.

It was humbling for us, but it gave us hope for future development and growth. I am looking forward to traveling to this part of the world in the near future and finding weekly Sabbath services in more than one location. It won't happen in the next few months, but we are hopeful that it will one day.

For more about the trip, see Mr. Kubik's travel blog at www.ucg.org/resources/blog.htm and view an interview about the historic visit on *About Our Father's Business* on the members.ucg.org site. **UN**



Local Church Updates

Portland Women's Retreat Weaves Fellowship, Spiritual Food and Service

Women from all over the Northwest came together at the Canby Grove Conference Center March 14 to 16 for the Portland, Oregon, Women's Retreat. The theme this year was "The Master Weaver: Godly Women, Fitly Woven by His Hand."

Early arrivers came Thursday evening, and many pitched in to help make the table decorations or to assemble name tags, all while catching up with friends old and new. When it was time



Brussels sprouts played a part in team-building activity at Portland Women's Retreat

to go to bed, everyone discovered an unexpected treat on her pillow: a hand-made washcloth and some chocolate.

Friday morning was spent enjoying a group brunch in the conference hall or exploring nearby Canby for breakfast. The day passed enjoyably with crafting, fellowshiping and/or shopping.

Dinner in the nearby dining hall marked the official beginning of the retreat, and the light rain created a cozy atmosphere for being indoors to enjoy good food and friends.

After trooping back to the conference hall, we heard some enjoyable special music, followed by an opening presentation by Dyanne Dick on the background and history of the art of weaving and how it metaphorically relates to our relationship with God. Visiting continued into the evening, and the ladies' choir ensemble practice allowed everyone throughout the building to enjoy a little extra Sabbath music.

The next morning began with a delicious hot breakfast, followed by some spiritual food with a sermon by Clyde Kilough on the Mary and Martha story and how to choose wise priorities. The ladies' choir ensemble was an excellent addition to the service.

Lunch was followed by free time to explore the 75 acres on the facility, to rest or to fellowship.

An afternoon seminar led by Nicole Graham and Becky Hornor inspired

much laughter. Our team-building activity was to market brussels sprouts to our neighbors in the place of safety as the only food available for 3½ years. The activity exposed the differences between how each personality type operates, and Mrs. Hornor went on to explain communications dos and don'ts for each personality type.

Following the afternoon seminar, Dee Kilough gave a presentation full of colorful personal stories as examples urging us to develop deep and lasting friendships in our lives.

Following dinner, five women described how it was to be in God's Church and live in remote areas away from family and friends, contrasted with what it was like to now live in an active church area. This inspired many of us in the audience to be grateful for the blessings we do have. Fellowship and crafting followed and continued well into Saturday night.

After an energizing continental breakfast and closing remarks by Mrs. Dick and Mrs. Kilough, Terri Wemer got everyone started on the service project. This year the project was to make school kits for impoverished children. We had quite an assembly line going, with some women ironing fabric, some sewing the kit bags, some stuffing the bags with school supplies, some performing quality control checks and some prepping the kits for transport. The project brought everyone together, and we made 145 kits, thanks to the hard work of the many participants!

All in all, it was another enjoyable retreat weekend with much credit to be given to all those hands that helped make the weekend a success. It felt like a mini-Feast and served as an excellent springboard for us to develop those enduring friendships that result from lives woven lovingly and deeply together.

Debbie Werner

School Holds Retirement Celebration for Principal

On June 11, in a lovely garden setting at Santa Ana High School in Santa Ana, California, over 150 family, friends, coworkers and city and educational officials celebrated the retirement of Dan Salcedo. His retirement came after 12 years of being principal of Santa Ana High School, an urban school with nearly 3,700 students and staff (the size of some small cities), and 46 total years of service in education.

Guest speakers at this retirement celebration included the school district superintendent, city officials (including the city manager and a city council member), the local community college chancellor and board members of the school district and community college.

Part of the ceremony included musical selections from the school's top vocalists, chamber singers, jazz band and even a vocal solo, "The Impossible Dream," from Mr. Salcedo.

Mr. Salcedo received his B.A. in voice and education in 1962 and began his education career by teaching in elementary and intermediate schools for nine years in Monrovia, California. After earning his M.A. and administrative credentials in 1971, he continued his education career in Santa Ana and served for the next 37 years as a principal in the grade



Dan Salcedo, Garden Grove elder, retired after 12 years as Santa Ana High School principal and members of the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Dan Salcedo is an elder in the Garden Grove, California, congregation and has been an elder since 1977.

Jean Updegraff

Indianapolis Hosts Teen Weekend

Twenty-two Indiana and Ohio teens and their families spent three days together in Pendleton, Indiana, July 4 to 6. Bible games, treasure hunts, great food, a bonfire with marshmallows, football and kick ball rounded out the great weekend.

On the Sabbath, Darris McNeely, Indianapolis, Indiana, pastor, joined the crowd of just over 40 to deliver a



Teens and families gather in Pendleton, Indiana (photo by Laura Zimmerman)

Sabbath message on dreams and goal setting.

Debbie Zimmerman

Pittsburgh Celebrates 50 Years

It was a beautiful and joyous first Sabbath of the summer as the Pitts-

burgh, Pennsylvania, congregation hosted its 50th anniversary June 21. On June 7, 1958, approximately 40 people, pastored by C. Wayne Cole, gathered in a small room in the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. Since that time, there have been many who have spent seasons of their lives in the Pittsburgh congregation, and still a couple who were there on that very first day remain among us after all these years.

Guests attending the special Sabbath came from near and far, some even all the way from Oregon, Arizona, Florida, Texas and Colorado. The turnout was 182 in all.

The day began with a reception and fellowship hour, as we joined in celebration of all that God has accomplished over the years. Taking pleasure in exquisite finger foods, we took a walk down memory lane, glimpsing the past through picture collages and albums that connected us with remem-



Harry English and Don Martin hanging the 50th anniversary banner (photo by Rannie Henson)

brances from days gone by. There was even a special picture board with the Pittsburgh area "Heroes of Faith," documenting the towers of strength who have gone before us. As a cherished keepsake, every family was given a DVD with pictures set to music.

The guest speaker for the day was Larry Neff, who served in the Pittsburgh area in the early to mid-1990s. In his message, "Behold, I Make All Things New," Mr. Neff took us on

a journey to the past as he talked about a scenic railway tourist attraction that was popular north of Los Angeles in the late 1800s. He pointed out that this man-made attraction had seen its heyday as the "Disneyland" of that era, but when adversity struck, it was just a matter of time before it was all but forgotten.

The lesson was that the physical things in this life will pass away, but keeping our eyes set on what God is building in us, through proper character, approach and attitude, is everlasting!

Following a catered meal served by the Pittsburgh brethren, our current pastor, Don Henson, interviewed several ladies who were among some of the first members of the congregation. Mrs. Shirley Henn, Mrs. Frieda

Liams and Mrs. Larue Moenich told us some of their fondest memories of the early days of congregation. In addition, several former and current Pittsburgh members reminisced about their favorite memories of the Pittsburgh congregation.

The evening concluded with a presentation by Mr. Henson documenting the Pittsburgh region as a whole, the local ministry over time and some of the earlier members who paved the way.

Fittingly, one of the songs sung by the choir was the timeless "Song of Fellowship." Christian hearts were certainly tied together in this memory of the last 50 years. As the song ends, so does another landmark moment in time, until the next celebration: "May the peace of God be with us all, to guide our hearts and minds, and help us reach beyond these walls to share the friendship we find—Blessed be the tie that binds!"

Lisa Kifer

Boise Celebrates 45th

The Boise, Idaho, congregation celebrated its 45th anniversary on Sabbath, March 22, 2008, with a special service and a potluck social after services.

During services messages were read from Mark Mickelson, James Tuck, Bill Jahns and Fred Kellers, some of the ministers who had served the Boise



Members and memorabilia at Boise's 45th anniversary

church in the past. A review of the congregation's history was given by elder David Blue; and Boise's current pastor, Steve Nutzman, gave a sermon about the Church in the wilderness.

After services there was a special potluck with a beautiful cake and punch served by the Boise ladies. Members enjoyed sharing memories as they looked at the display of pictures and other memorabilia from Feast occasions, socials, picnics, campouts, Sabbath school events, teen events and Spokesman's Clubs through the years.

The Boise congregation began as a Bible study for a growing number of interested *Plain Truth* subscribers in February 1963. Church services started a few months later in June with a congregation of 30 to 40 people. The Boise congregation currently has approximately 40 members in regular attendance.

Gloria Harden

South Dakota Brethren Hold Annual Nature Center Event

Sixty-four of the young and young at heart from the Watertown and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, congregations, along with a few guests from Texas, experienced a beautiful June day at Oak Lake Field Station near Brookings, South Dakota. A large rustic lodge looming above the prairie grasslands and nestled along the western oak-forested shoreline of a



South Dakota brethren (both young and young at heart) enjoy day at Oak Lake Field Station (photos by Ken Skorseth)

prairie pothole lake was the setting for the events of the day.

“Early birds” were treated to a modest but filling brunch before Sabbath services. A highlight of the service, led by Pastor Mitchell Knapp, was a “graduation” ceremony recognizing the accomplishments of elementary Sabbath school students and the contributions of their teachers.

The sermon titled “The Blessing of Growing Old” set the tone for another special activity of the day: honoring 20 of our senior citizens. The “stage” had been set with a backdrop of artifacts, provided and arranged by Janice Spieker, from “earlier days,” including handmade quilts, metal hair curlers and curling irons, antique irons, hurricane lamps and an “as you like it” rain gauge—complete with adjustable

funnel—designed by one of our seniors, Quentin Rhody.

After an appetite-quenching old-fashioned potluck picnic, the youngest children wowed those attending with their enthusiastic, joyful singing of several inspiring action songs and performances of two of Aesop’s fables: “The Lion and the Mouse” and “The Ants and the Grasshopper.”

“Senior Moments in Time,” a PowerPoint presentation featuring photos, comments and stories

from our senior members’ lives, was the next item on the agenda. In the slide show, each honoree shared a little of what they’ve learned, how they’ve lived, what they dream of doing yet in their lives and what

advice they’d like to pass on to future generations. It was fascinating and allowed us to get to know them in a different light than before. Wit and wisdom abounded. We were all inspired to make the most of our “moments in time.”

The final activity of the day was a quiet evening along the lakeshore, complete with lawn chair conversations, family canoeing and snacks served from the grill and the tailgate of a pickup. It was a perfect June day.

Claudia Brunick

East Texas Sabbath School Gives Special Presentation

The East Texas Sabbath school children provided a special presentation to the combined East Texas and Texarkana congregations on Pentecost afternoon, June 8. This is the third year the children have treated members to presentations, as part of the Pentecost services.

This year’s presentation was titled “Finding Great Treasures.” Thirteen



East Texas Sabbath school children present “Finding Great Treasures”

children shared with the congregation what they have been learning this year. As the Sabbath school children traveled down the narrow path fighting the good fight, they discovered that there were treasures to be found along the way. By using God’s Word as their map, they were able to find many *great* treasures, including loving God and your neighbor, forgiving others, making peace, exercising self-control and exhibiting humility.

Participating in the presentation were Ben Holcomb, Ittai Perez, Hunter Crawford, David Holcomb, Olivia Urwiller, Zachary Kennebeck, Kyleigh Moody, Jordenn Phillips, Will Ditto, Karina Moody, Liam Urwiller, Hannah Shipman and Kate Trotter.

Stephen McNeely II wrote, composed and performed the opening song titled “All That Glitters Is Not Gold.” In addition, Mary Beth Philp wrote lyrics and composed music to several inspiring songs performed by the children.

The Sabbath school program is under the direction of Harriet Walding, with Laura Moody and Penny Urwiller as the other primary teachers.

Sarah Baker

Neffs Honored for 50 Years of Service

On Pentecost, June 8, the East Texas congregation honored Mr. and

Mrs. Leroy Neff with a gift and flowers for their 50 years of service in the ministry. Mr. Neff was ordained a local elder by Herbert Armstrong at the Shakespeare Club in Pasadena, California, on June 7, 1958.

Mr. Neff had been working since Dec. 1, 1955, for the Church and Ambassador College (sometimes for one, sometimes for the other). At the time he was ordained, Mr. Neff had just completed his junior year of college and was managing the Mail Receiving Department.

Mr. Neff said he feels it has been a



East Texas congregation honors Maxine and Leroy Neff for 50 years in the ministry June 8

privilege to be able to serve God and His people for such a long time.

Ken Treybig

Mansfield Meets at Malabar State Park

The Mansfield, Ohio, congregation met together for a “Springtime Sab-



Joel and Naomi Martin enjoy Sabbath in the woods

bath in the Woods” at peaceful Malabar State Park on May 24.

At the rustic Pugh Cabin, the brethren enjoyed a great potluck and fellowship after Sabbath services and a Bible study.

Joel (13) and Naomi (1) are shown here enjoying the afternoon. They are two of six children of Mansfield elder and wife, Leonard and Julie Martin.

Regina Wilson

ABC Breaks Records at Car Wash

Many Ambassador Bible Center students served at this year’s car wash June 22 to earn seed money to put on the annual ABC charity auction, which this year raised money for the Children’s Education Fund, Nigeria (see page 1).

The energetic advertising crew used several methods of attracting customers. Slogans such as “take 10 minutes to support kids in Africa and you’ll feel great all day!” were shouted to cars stopped at the nearby intersection. Sally-Ann Hambleton and Ashley Moen managed to collect over \$50 in donations from people just driving by.

Both Subway and Quiznos donated sub sandwiches and drinks for all the volunteers. Several Church members even brought ice cream bars and an ice cream cake, and some helped wash cars.

The total profit exceeded \$800 and surpassed all previous ABC car washes.

Jim Springer

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*.

Letters

“I Had No Idea”

I have learned so much from my *Bible Study Course*. I had no idea I was celebrating wrong holy days and holidays. Thank you. I will go over my 12 lessons again to try to learn even more or something I may have missed the first time. Here is a small donation.

Pennsylvania

“Great Pleasure to Be Able to Contribute”

I have truly appreciated the materials I have so far read online or had mailed to me. I have found them thorough and clear. It gives me great pleasure to be able to contribute to your effort to spread the truth and knowledge of God and His Kingdom.

Ohio

“So That Others May Be Equally Blessed”

Just a brief note to express my humble gratitude for all your wonderful help in preparing me for my role in God’s soon-coming Kingdom. I consider your wonderful ministry to be one of God’s greatest blessings of the modern era.

Also please accept the enclosed donation so that others may be equally blessed.

In closing I wish to say I love you, God bless you and keep up the great work. You are truly making a difference.

Iowa

“Proving It With Scripture”

I absolutely love [your booklets]. They’re so insightful; I learn so much from them. You don’t teach religion or a specific

denomination; you teach the Bible in its true form, and I thank you for keeping it real and even proving it with Scripture.

Oklahoma

Bulgarian Reader of WNP

I receive your bulletin *World News and Prophecy* and would like to say thanks so much, it helps me get a wider view of the current events worldwide with its details that I can never hear on the news here, like the meeting in Lisbon of the EU leaders, the visit of the Turkish president in Germany and so on.

Bulgaria

Longtime Reader in Brazil

I first read your magazine in 1998. My life has never been the same ever since; it became much more Bible-oriented. I

just finished reading one of your amazing booklets, *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*. It is just amazing. As an English-language professor at a municipal institution, I always set aside a little time to discuss your articles with my students; they are learning such a lot.

My prayer is that your insightful, thought-provoking, God-inspired free literature may be translated into the Portuguese language, so that thousands of Brazilians (and other Portuguese-speaking people) can learn what the true gospel of Jesus Christ is all about.

I used to have many doubts about too many things, but as I proceeded reading your Bible-taught and Scripture-based articles, I started to see things from a God-minded perspective. I thank God for that.

Brazil

Closest to Following Jesus

How will I know what church in this area faithfully follows the true gospel? I have visited a few... and don’t believe they are following the way of Jesus. I have been receiving and reading (and referring to the Bible) the information from your e-mails, books and booklets, and I have found all to be the closest to the following of Jesus’ way. I am continuing to research.

Internet

Letters to the Editor: Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please let us know if you would like your name printed. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 or e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Announcements

Births

Mike and Mary (Miller) Beyer of the Eugene, Oregon, congregation would like to announce the birth of their second child, Brooklyn Marie. Brooklyn



Brooklyn Marie Beyer

was born on April 8, weighing in at 7 pounds 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. This is Wes and Terry Miller's (also of the Eugene congregation) second grandchild and Bob and Debbie Beyer's sixth. Big brother Hayden is thrilled, as she is not old enough to crawl into his room and take his toys yet.

Tom and Lindsay Campbell are happy to announce the arrival of their



Shawn Thomas Campbell

son Shawn Thomas Campbell. Shawn was born on April 14, 2008. He was 8 pounds 2 ounces and 21½ inches long. He is a blessing and an answer to prayers. The family attends the Salem, Oregon, congregation.

Ryan and Stephanie McNeely of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation are happy to announce the birth



Liam Patrick McNeely

of their first child, Liam Patrick. Liam was born July 19, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20¼ inches long. Welcoming Liam are great-grandparents Joe and Bess Gabriel of Akron, Ohio, and grandparents Darris and Debbie McNeely of Indianapolis; Joseph Szymkowiak of Dover, Ohio; and Nadine Szymkowiak of Independence, Missouri.

Omar and Natalia (Seiglie) Anguiano of San Diego, California, were blessed with the birth of their first child, Gabriel Andres Anguiano, on May 10, 2008. Gabriel weighed 7.13 pounds and was 20 inches long. After four daughters, first-time grandparents Mario and Caty



Gabriel Andres Anguiano

Seiglie are very happy to finally welcome a baby boy in their family! Proud aunts are Debbie, Jackie and Rebeca Seiglie. Gabriel is the 10th grandchild of Emma and Juan Anguiano, and the fourth great-grandchild of Gerardo and Adriana Roig from the Santiago, Chile, congregation.

Engagements

John and Lynn Fox of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Mark and Glenda Elliott of Fort Worth, Texas, are pleased to



Nancy Fox and Daniel Elliott

announce the engagement of their children Daniel Elliott and Nancy Fox. A September 2008 wedding is planned in Salt Lake City. Daniel and Nancy plan to reside in Salt Lake City after the wedding.

Weddings

David and Patty Goethals of Lake Tapps, Washington, and Mick and Brenda Pendergast of Kingston, Idaho, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children Sarah and Matthew on June 15, 2008. The ceremony was held outside at Sarah's uncle's home on beautiful Lake Tapps. The ceremony was officiated by Fred Reeves of the Tacoma, Washington, congregation. The wedding attendants included Sarah's

sisters, Brenda Goethals and Amanda Goethals, and lifelong friends, Shanna Landgren and Kilty Keaton. Matthew's



Matthew and Sarah Pendergast

attendants included his brother, Gavin Pendergast, and friends, Michael Sorby, Edward Rands and Lewis VanAusdile. The newlyweds will reside in Spokane, Washington, while Matthew finishes his business and finance degree from Eastern Washington University, and they will attend the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) congregation.

Patrick Jaan and Margaret Elizabeth (Carney) Kansa were married at the Willowbrook Ballroom in Willow Springs, Illinois, on March 8, 2008. The ceremony was performed by Robert



Patrick and Margaret Kansa

Fahey, pastor of the Chicago, Illinois, and Beloit, Wisconsin, congregations.

Margaret is the daughter of Jack Carney of Villa Park, Illinois, and Margo Miles-Carney of Lombard, Illinois. Patrick is the son of Kalle and Marie Kansa of Warren, Michigan. They reside in Lombard and attend the Chicago congregation.

Anniversaries

On Sabbath, July 12, 2008, the Eagle Rock/Los Angeles, California, congregation honored their pastor Larry Greider and his wife, Bonnie, with a beautiful bouquet of roses and a festive cake. The occasion was the celebration of 35 years of marriage.

They married in 1973, immediately after their graduation from Ambassador College. At the same time Mr. Greider was sent into the field ministry, and they began their honeymoon and their journey into the ministry at the same time.



Larry and Bonnie Greider

The congregation also presented the couple with a giant card. It showed photos of Mr. and Mrs. Greider at the time of their graduation 35 years ago. Every remaining space was covered with well wishes, congratulations and signatures of the members.

Hoy and Peggy Poole of the Asheboro, North Carolina, congregation, celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 1, 2008, at the Senior Center in Troy, North Carolina. They were honored by their three children, Pearl Greene, Hoy Scott Poole and John Stanley Poole, and by many other family members and friends. The Pooles have three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They have lived in the Troy area most of their married life. They raised chickens and at one time had 32,000 chickens to care for. Today they raise organic cattle.

Hoy and Peggy were baptized in 1966, and were members of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation. In 1995 they started attending the UCG congregation in Asheboro. Due to health problems, Mr. Poole is only



Hoy and Peggy Poole

able to attend church services occasionally, and Mrs. Poole is no longer able to attend.

Many members of the Asheboro congregation were present at their anniversary celebration, and the congregation presented them with a nice standing lamp as a gift. We wish Hoy and Peggy many more happy years together.

Obituaries

Joan Smith, 64, of Fort Payne, Alabama, died June 3, 2008, from extended complications of a recent stroke and years of numerous heart problems.

Joan was born Dec. 4, 1943, in Dekalb County, Alabama, to George and Sara (Burt) Fowler. During her

childhood she lived in many places, including Alabama, Michigan, Ohio, Texas and Tennessee. After graduating from high school, she relocated to Atlanta, Georgia, where she worked in the insurance industry. She married and became a homemaker and mother to five children.

In her late 20s, Joan came across a *Plain Truth* magazine and began attending the Church in Gadsden, Alabama. She was baptized in 1973. Joan loved meeting new people and making new friends. She frequently visited various UCG congregations to see friends. She enjoyed the beauty of the outdoors and gardening, and was an accomplished seamstress. She also loved to go shopping. Her greatest joy was her children and grandchildren.

Joan is survived by her five children and two grandchildren: son Roger Jim Smith of Fort Payne; daughter Anita Bean and her husband, Alan, and their daughter, Avalee, of Huntsville, Alabama; daughter Dalene Capps and her husband, Lee, of Birmingham, Alabama; son Matthew Smith and his wife,



Joan Smith

Brandi, and their daughter, Anabelle, of Fort Payne; and Michelle Smith of Huntsville.

Funeral services were conducted June 5 with Fred Kellers officiating.

Georgia Kay Irene Wollan, first child of Josh and Alicia (Leonard) Wollan, was stillborn on May 21, 2008. She was a beautiful baby girl with a full head of hair. She weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. She is survived by her parents, grandparents Bill and Linda Leonard, aunts Anna and Alison, uncle Christopher, cousin Leroy and great-grandparents Charles and Sharon Bailey and Martha Leonard. The Wollans look forward to raising their daughter in God's Kingdom. Josh and Alicia attend the Elkhart, Indiana, congregation.

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

take place Aug. 9 and 10. We have 31 graduating students this year. We have found that this size class is much more ideal for the student/faculty ratio and the facilities we currently have.

We are also gearing up for the new nine-month ABC program that begins Sept. 7. So far we have accepted 17 students, and we have a few applications in the vetting process. We anticipate having a smaller class for this transition year as we move to the nine-month program.

David Register

Youth Corps Jordan Project Update

The five volunteers for the 10-month United Youth Corps project in Jordan gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 1 for a three-day orientation meeting before leaving for Jordan. Cory Erickson, an elder from St. Paul, Minnesota, is the project manager. He conducted the orientation after a welcome from Clyde Kilough and David Register.

The volunteers are Lewis and Lena VanAusdler from Ohio, Zach and Emily Smith from Ohio, and Tine Banda from Texas. Four of the five volunteers are ABC graduates. They will be leaving for Jordan in mid-August and return next July. (For more details, see "United Youth Corps Volunteers Announced," July 2008 *United News*, page 1.)

David Register

International Mail Clerk Job Opening Announced

Larry Salyer, Media operation manager, has announced an opening for a mail clerk to handle international mail at the home office in Milford, Ohio.

The international mail clerk is responsible for tracking and maintaining the database of literature requests and other related requests from areas outside the United States.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be able to work with and protect confidential information and demonstrate a good knowledge of world geography and a familiarity with international language styles, preferably in Spanish, Portuguese, French or German (names, streets and various terms). Being bilingual in Spanish or Portuguese is a plus. Applicants must also have excellent computer and typing skills.

High school degree or equivalent and one to two years' related experience and/or training in above average to advanced computer skills is required. Experience with databases, Web-based applications, e-mail and general office duties is essential.

For more information about the position, please contact human_resources@ucg.org.

Associate Editor Job Opening Announced

Larry Salyer, Media operation manager, has announced an opening for associate editor for *United News*. Managing Editor Mike Bennett is taking on additional job responsibilities, creating the need for this position.

The associate editor will copyedit and lay out *United News*, as well as assist in the coordination, production and editing of *United Coworker News*, the *Festival Planning Brochure*, the *United Youth Camps Magazine*, the Festival activity brochure and *World News and Prophecy*.

A bachelor's degree (B.A.) and one to two years' direct related experience is preferred, with training in communication and in using desktop publishing (Adobe InDesign) and photo editing (Photoshop) software. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Strong language, logic and communication skills, and algebra/geometry level I math skills are required. Those applying for consideration and invited for an interview must supply a portfolio of their work.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God.

For more information about the position, please contact human_resources@ucg.org.

Transfer Announced

Jim Franks, Ministerial Services operation manager, announced that Ken and Kathy Giese are transferring from Houston South, Texas, to Sacramento, California. Mr. and Mrs. Giese have been in Houston since 1996, and also served in Houston in the early and mid-'80s. He has been the regional pastor in the South Central Region since 1996 as well. "He will be replacing Joe Horchak as the pastor for Sacramento and Reno [Nevada]. Joe and Jackie Horchak will continue living and working in the area as the associate," Mr. Franks wrote in the July 31 *Ministerial Services Newsletter and Journal*.

"At the present time we do not have a replacement in Houston for [Mr. Giese], nor have we made a decision on a new regional pastor. Jim and Judy Servidio will be asked to take on the responsibility of pastoring the South congregation if we don't have a replacement when the Gieses actually move," Mr. Franks wrote. Mr. Servidio is pastor of the Houston North congregation.

ABC Alumni: E-Mail Address Updates Needed

David Johnson, Ambassador Bible Center alumni coordinator, is trying to maintain an up-to-date listing of the e-mail addresses of all former ABC students. "Since e-mail is the only way we can effectively communicate with alumni, we really need updated addresses," he said. "We currently have 369 former students on our listing, but we know some of those e-mail addresses

■ World News and Prophecy Seminars.

View recent seminars given by writers of *World News and Prophecy* at www.wnponline.org/video/.

■ Online Booklet Layout.

Check out the new online booklet layout for *The Ten Commandments*. You can view additional resources and watch *Beyond Today*

are no longer valid. On June 17 we sent a message about the new ABC video. If any alumnus did not receive that message, it's probably because the e-mail address we have is not current or correct."

Alumni who did not receive that June 17 message can update their address by e-mailing the alumni coordinator at david_johnson@ucg.org.

Address Change for Kerrville Activities

The address listed for the Kerrville Festival activity ticket order form in the recent *Festival Site Activity Announcements* brochure has changed. The correct address is: Festival Activity c/o Laura Richey, 2083 Wimpole Ct., Roanoke, TX 76262.

Britton Taylor

Bend Dinner Train Details Announced

The Crooked River Dinner Train, mentioned in the Bend-Redmond, Oregon, section of the *Festival Site Activity Announcements* brochure, has provided more details. They will add a Wednesday train to the schedule for Oct.

15 if at least 65 passengers from the United Church of God are able to commit to this train. Boarding begins at 6 p.m. The train will leave at 7 and return at 10 p.m.

The discounted rates are \$70 per adult aged 13 and above, \$65 per senior and \$39 per child (aged 3 to 12). Meal choices are beef, chicken or vegetarian.

Please make reservations online at www.crookedriverdinnertrain.com or call (541) 447-4485, and be sure to include UCG in the name on the reservation (example, UCG Smith, Jim.) This will be the only way to insure that you receive the discounted rates. Other dates, open to the public, are also available at regular rates.

Larry Walker

Space Still Available at Bahamas Site

We are still taking reservations for the Feast at the beautiful Westin and Sheraton Our Lucaya Beach and Gulf Resort, Grand Bahama Island, Bahamas. Brethren can request a Festival transfer package from Kingsley Mather at kingsley_mather@ucg.org.

Kingsley Mather

Jacksonville 40th Set for Sept. 13

Jacksonville, Florida, will be celebrat-

programs related to this booklet. Online at www.ucg.org/booklets/TC/.

■ Educational Tour Videos.

Watch video presentations "Paul Preaches on Mars Hill" and "The Apostle Paul in Athens" at abc.ucg.org/tours/.

Featured Link

■ **Good News magazine** Web site. gnmagazine.org/

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



ing its 40th anniversary as a congregation on Sept. 13, 2008. Members who formerly attended in Jacksonville are invited to attend and share in this celebration. David Mills, the first pastor, will give the main message on that day.

If you would like to attend this special occasion, please contact Drexel Shiver at sharonshiver@yahoo.com for details.

Roy Demarest

Calendar of Events

Aug. 10: ABC graduation.
Aug. 11-14: Council of Elders meetings.
Aug. 28-Sept. 1: Annual Leadership Workshop, home office.
Aug. 29-Sept. 1: Singles/Couples Labor Day Weekend, Kansas City, Missouri (www.kc2008transformation.com).
Aug. 31: Houston Music Festival (see article, May issue, page 16).
Sept. 7: ABC orientation.
Sept. 8: ABC classes begin.
Sept. 13: Jacksonville 40th, Jacksonville, Florida (see article, this page).
Sept. 27: Eugene 75th, Eugene, Oregon (see article, May issue, page 16).
Dec. 16-18: Council of Elders meetings.
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 meetings.
May 3-4, 2009: General Conference of Elders annual meeting.



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