



## News At a Glance

### Treasurer Reports on State of the Budget

On Feb. 22, Jason Lovelady, treasurer of United Church of God, reported to the Council of Elders that the year-to-date actual income stood at 96.9 percent of the amount budgeted as of the end of January. He commented that, with this current trend, the projected income will be approximately \$760,000 below the budgeted amount, or \$23,490,786 compared to a budget of \$24,250,000.

He also reported that, comparing the actual income for the first 33 weeks of the 2008-2009 fiscal year to the actual income of the first 33 weeks of the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the amount received is down by 1.2 percent. Currently, the expenses are down about the same amount that the income is down with the exception of healthcare costs, but he projects a budget shortfall of \$1,350,000.

He projected the end-of-the-year income at approximately \$23,491,000 and recommended a budget of 1 percent less income, or \$250,000, than this year's projected amount.

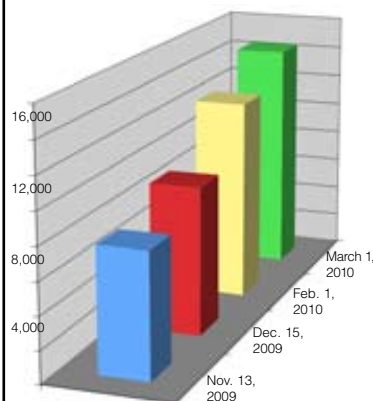
With insurance and health claims projected to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000 over budget this year, the treasurer projected an increase in premiums and claims of \$300,000 for next year. He said that this is in line with actuarial projections that were requested.

Mr. Lovelady also recommended a 1 percent unallocated reserve amount to be incorporated in next year's budget. With a decrease in income and with an increase in health-care costs, all other operation-

See "News at a Glance," page 2

## United Statistics

### Total Facebook Fans



## Beyond Today Gets a Facelift



**BEYOND TODAY PRESENTERS** Darris McNeely, Steve Myers and Gary Petty sit at the newly remodeled recording studio at the home office (photo by Peter Eddington). See "Beyond Today" on page 5

## Plans Approved to Renovate the Home Office Building

■ The Council of Elders approved a plan to remodel the home office, expanding the Media Center and creating more office space.

by Elizabeth Cannon

In accordance with a Council of Elders initiative, plans have been approved for this and next year's budget to renovate the home office in Cincinnati, Ohio. The proposal includes a new Media Center, more office space for future employees, an expanded conference room and a commercial kitchen.

### Media Center

The primary change will take place in the Media Center as Media and Communications Services prepares to launch *Beyond Today* on commercial television.

The new two-story Media Center will be located in part of what is now the warehouse of the home office and will allow the production team the flexibility of using multiple sets. It will be outfitted with soundproof walls and a second-floor production room that

will allow the video editing team to work together in close proximity.

In the meantime, *Beyond Today* as well as the *GN Commentaries* and *About Our Father's Business* will be taped in the newly redecorated media center (See "Beyond Today" on page 5).

### More Office Space

The current Media Center, which is located on the second floor, will be converted into office space with room for nine cubicles. A secondary plan includes renovating the offices closest to the Media Center to create office space for up to 15 people.

### Conference Hall

Currently, the home office has only one conference room used for various staff meetings, training programs and Council of Elders meetings. The new plan will involve expanding the current space with the option of dividing it into two rooms with a collapsible partition. With the proposed two-year pastoral training program taking place alongside Ambassador Bible Center classes, more classroom space will be essential.

### Commercial Kitchen

When the home office was built in 2002, the kitchen was designed

simply for home office employees as a lunchroom. Since then, however, the kitchen has been used to provide catering for Council meetings, pastoral training programs, media meetings, editorial and Feast coordinators conferences, as well as various meals for ABC students. As a result, we plan to upgrade the kitchen to a food preparation facility with commercial certification.

With a new commercial kitchen, a breakfast and lunch program has been proposed in order to provide ABC students with meals throughout the nine-month program. Tuition will increase slightly to account for the meal plan. Further details will be provided for those considering studying at ABC.

We will also be able to provide meals for any major staff meetings, saving the Church a considerable amount of money.

According to Jason Lovelady, treasurer of United Church of God, the planning for construction will begin immediately. The bulk of the work will be done in the summertime before the next ABC year begins. In order to be prepared for the fall launch of *Beyond Today* on commercial television, however, work on the Media Center will begin as soon as possible. **UN**

## Bible Study Guides Web Site Launched

Starting in January, the United Church of God began posting brand-new online Bible study lessons on the [www.FreeBibleStudyGuides.org](http://www.FreeBibleStudyGuides.org) Web site. So far, 22 lessons have been posted, with dozens more in the works.

These short, practical online lessons are designed to deal with questions and challenges people face in life. For example:

- How can I deal with difficult people?
- How can I deal with unemployment?
- What are some good online Bible study tools?
- Why does God allow good people to suffer?

"The Bible is a unique book full of inspiration, wisdom and practical answers," said Mike Bennett, United Church of God editorial content manager. "We want these lessons to be relevant, engaging and life-changing."

The plan is to not only have this material available to Web searchers (to increase first-time Web visitors) but also to create an interactive course that will allow students to be able to test themselves, receive feedback and keep track of their progress toward certificates. This will help increase Web visitor loyalty and the percentage of students who complete the course.

The site is frequently updated with new material, and so students are encouraged to sign up for the brand-new Bible Study Guides e-mail newsletter. E-mail subscribers will receive updates about all the new lessons, as well as other relevant Bible study material the Bible Study Guides team posts.

We welcome suggestions for future lessons or for improving the lessons. **UN**

Find the new online Bible study lessons at [www.FreeBibleStudyGuides.org](http://www.FreeBibleStudyGuides.org).

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## News At a Glance

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al expenses will require a decrease of \$1,500,000.

He then commented that salaries for current employees total 40 percent of the budget, while total salaries and related benefits for current and retired employees, combined, total 57 percent of the budget. In addition, those other items that can be considered as overhead, including salaries, hall rental, assistance and international subsidy makes up over 72 percent of the budget.

When the other items—lease cars, mileage, telephone, travel, utilities, etc., primarily for the U.S. ministry—are added in, that makes up 79 percent of the total budget. This leaves 21 percent of the budget to handle the variable support areas.

Go to <http://coe.ucg.org> to read the full Council of Elders reports.

Gerald Seelig

## End-of-Year Ministerial Statistics Reported

During the February Council of Elders meeting, President Clyde Kilough presented statistics from Ministerial Services in 2009.

Average attendance in the United States was 11,522, up from 11,466 in 2008. There are 214 U.S. congregations, and we currently employ 91 pastors.

Mr. Kilough also reported on the 10 largest congregations in the United States. They are:

Houston, Texas, North . . . 353  
Dallas, Texas. . . . . 264  
Los Angeles, California . . . 217  
Portland, Oregon. . . . . 205  
San Antonio, Texas . . . . . 182  
Garden Grove, California . . . 176  
East Texas, Texas. . . . . 173  
Phoenix, Arizona, Northwest 169  
Cincinnati, Ohio, East P.M 169  
Fort Worth, Texas. . . . . 168

With regard to the current budget, Mr. Kilough stated that various cuts, totaling about \$291,000, are planned for the rest of this fiscal year.

Gerald Seelig

## Feast Coordinators Plan for 2010 Feast

On Feb. 9-10, 2010, Feast coordinators representing sites in Canada, the United States, Kenya and the Caribbean met with members of the administration at the Holiday Inn Eastgate in Cincinnati, Ohio, in the midst of inclement weather to review last year's Feast of Tabernacles and to plan for the upcoming year.

Jim Franks, head of Ministerial Services, opened the meetings

See "News at a Glance," page 20

## Profile: Dossibai Ali

by Karen Meeker

Born in 1928 to a Christian mother and a Parsi father, Dossibai Ali enjoyed a happy childhood with loving parents. Eventually she attended a medical college in New Delhi and received her medical degree in 1951.

Later, she traveled to the United Kingdom for postgraduate studies. While there, she married another doctor, a Muslim, who promised not to interfere with whichever religion she wished to follow. They were blessed with three lovely daughters.

"One morning I switched on the radio and heard the voice of Mr. Armstrong loud and clear over Radio Luxembourg. His message drew me like a needle to a magnet. It was about the history of God's true Church, and it brought back to my memory names mentioned by my grandmother...who was a Sabbatarian Christian. I wrote to London and received *The Plain Truth* magazine and other literature from the Radio Church of God," she recalled. In 1960, Dr. Ali was baptized in the River Tees.

What was a wonderful occasion to Dr. Ali only infuriated her Muslim husband. In 1962 the family returned to India, and her husband grew increasingly antagonistic. He took her Bible from her and destroyed all the Church literature she had. He beat her severely and tried to destroy her medical certificates so she couldn't practice medicine. Her only comfort was God.

Ultimately, the marriage ended in divorce. During the proceedings, the court offered her custody of her children if they would be brought up Muslim, which she refused. The girls, sent to live with their father, refused to be taught from Muslim books. Two of her daughters were later baptized into the Church.

For 11 years, Dr. Ali lived and practiced God's way of life alone. She endured various trials in her job concerning keeping the Sabbath and recounted several instances where God miraculously intervened on her behalf.

In 1973, Dr. Ali was able to observe the Feast of Tabernacles with others in her native India. She has continued all these years (she is now in



Dr. Ali with daughters Arjumand and Nargis

her 80s) to keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days, even when the Church went through its difficulties in the mid-1990s, and she found herself with no place to worship.

When asked what advice she would pass on to others, she wrote, "God's truth is beyond price. Never allow Satan to lure you away from your Creator by rejecting God's Sabbath, our lifeline through Christ our Creator to our Father in heaven." **UN**

## FORWARD! A Spiritual CAT Scan



by Larry Salyer

"I just got a call from the radiologist. You have appendicitis, and you need to get back to the hospital right away!" So said my family doctor in an urgent phone message.

The ordeal had begun early Friday morning with nausea and a concentrated pain in my far right abdomen. I had already missed five days of work. By late Friday afternoon, feeling increasing pain and not wanting to have a crisis on the Sabbath, I called my family doctor to see if an immediate appointment was possible. Remarkably, he took me right in.

After the routine exams, he came up with no diagnosis. I thought, okay, all my fears of some tragic disease are unwarranted—just let me go home and rest. But he insisted I go to the hospital for a CAT scan right away. By midnight, after my doctor left that phone message, I was going into surgery.

Sometimes we don't look hard enough for the problem because we really don't want to have to deal with finding a solution. But sometimes we can't see the problem because we don't use the right tools. Had the

doctor not insisted, I would probably have gone home thinking it would all work out—only to suffer a crisis in the middle of the night.

Since this was my first CAT scan, I took no chances and told the technician where my pain was located. She assured me that it would cover the entire area from a perspective of more than 180 degrees. Whatever was there, the scan would find it.

Watching and listening as the machinery revved up to high speed, I thought about what a remarkable instrument this was. How could it see everything and discern what was not normal?

In pre-op, several doctors asked about my symptoms, poked my flabby abs and commented that they would not have concluded that I had appendicitis except for the incontrovertible evidence from the CAT scan. This statement made me realize the potential limitations of a traditional, hands-on external examination. Experts could have misdiagnosed my condition.

Looking back on this and looking forward to Passover, it occurs to me that we could fall into the trap of routinely examining ourselves in a cursory way and thereby miss something critical. Even though we may be experienced at self-examination, could we be misled because the most serious deficiency is covered or

disguised? Or worse yet, neglected?

In following the command to examine ourselves, we might do well to consider a spiritual CAT scan—one that can, with laser accuracy, pinpoint our spiritual shortcomings and verify our need for the healing power of Christ's sacrifice. No doubt we have particular methods for examining our own spiritual condition. Perhaps we are eager to get through the basic exam and get on with our lives. Maybe we don't really want to have to deal with the most serious symptoms.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ, our Savior, is the perfect remedy for whatever ails us. But we need to know what those spiritual maladies are so that we can repent and appreciate what Christ has done for us. We must not shrug off our symptoms and fail to confront them with both repentance and asking forgiveness.

This year as we examine ourselves, let's remember that we do not just need to acknowledge our numerous sins, whatever they may be. We also need to ask and answer the much more definitive question of our spiritual relationship with Christ overall: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Perhaps this year a spiritual CAT scan will be just what the doctor ordered! **UN**

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# News From Around the World

## Preteen Campers in Chile Learn Unity

by Jaime and Lily Guíñez

This year Chile's highly anticipated preteen summer camp took place in Santiago Feb. 14 to 16 for children under 11 years of age. During these three days, the children had a very intense and busy agenda with activities like swimming, outdoors games, a play, visiting a zoo, searching for treasure and eating plenty of good food every day.

On the first day, the campers enjoyed lots of outdoor activities, swimming in a nice and cool swimming pool at the house of the Matamala family and playing other games like throwing water balloons and running in various races. In order to regain strength for the other activities, they had a bountiful lunch, a barbecue prepared by some of the parents.

On the second day, the campers transformed the church meeting place into an immense island, decorated with boats, vegetation, fish and waves. Upon arrival, all the boys were given pirate costumes while the girls became little mermaids with the appropriate makeup and crowns.

The entertainment began with a treasure hunt game, and then the children sat down to watch a play



Preteen campers gather for outdoor games and races (photos by Jaime and Lily Guíñez)



Campers dress up as pirates and mermaids for a treasure hunt

ite dessert—ice cream!

On the third day, the campers and parents visited a recreational garden with a big swimming pool, a small park with lots of green areas, a mini-zoo and a fabulous German-style restaurant, where the servers dressed up in traditional German garments. Of course, the dessert was a delicious pie.

The average attendance for the three days was 53 children and 50 adults, including parents and older siblings.

The United Church of God in Santiago has been reminding the members of the importance of the Church's responsibility to "turn

that emphasized biblical values. On the first and second days, the children enjoyed their favor-

the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6). This activity was very important in fulfilling this scripture.

As usual, the main purpose of the camp was to encourage the children to develop important values and attitudes, such as healthy fellowshiping, unity, caring for one another and developing new friendships since there were children attending from other congregations of the United Church of God in Chile. This year's camp contributed a great deal to accomplishing that goal.

Through the many diverse activities, the children succeeded in being teachable. But most important of all, they showed the type of unity that we all should imitate, especially as the Holy Days approach. They were good examples of how we all should be converted and become as little children (Matthew 18:3). **UN**

## Five Baptized in Ivory Coast Amidst Political Instability

During the months of January and February French regional coordinator Joel Meeker made a five-week pastoral trip through France, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

This trip allowed visits to members of 10 small congregations, leadership training seminars in

three countries and visits to a number of people new to the Church of God. Côte d'Ivoire, Congo and Burundi all have ongoing United Nations peacekeeping operations to prevent civil war from breaking out again after recent cease-fires took effect.

During the visit to Côte d'Ivoire, five people were baptized in a stream near the village of Yapleu, in territory still occupied by rebel troops. A United Nations interposition force currently mans an interior "border" between the government and rebel forces. The cease-fire that was signed two years ago, ending fighting in a long civil war, may now be

in danger since President Laurent Gbagbo has just dissolved both the government and the electoral commission that was to organize presidential elections.

President Gbagbo's term expired five years ago, but the electoral commission has regularly deferred elections, so no elections have been held in the interim. The prime minister, a former rebel leader, is now in negotiations to form a new government.

There are 15 other potential members in Yapleu. If open war breaks out again, it will make follow-up visits for them and our new brethren more difficult if not impossible for quite some time. Our brethren in Côte d'Ivoire would appreciate prayers that they "may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (1 Timothy 2:2). **UN**

Read more about this trip by visiting Joel Meeker's travel blog <http://tinyurl.com/JMFeb2010>.



Joel Meeker officiates a baptism in the village of Yapleu in rural Côte d'Ivoire

## International News At a Glance

### Member Spared in Madeira Flood

On Feb. 20 a flood struck Madeira Island, killing upwards of 70 people and leaving hundreds homeless. Jorge de Campos, who coordinates the Portuguese work, reported that God protected Susana Marques, an elderly member in Funchal, Madeira, during the disaster.

Madeira is approximately 300 miles north of the Canary Islands. It usually offers a surprisingly mild climate and has had great economic development in the last few years. The recent flood has destroyed much of the infrastructure in downtown Funchal.

The neighborhood where Susana Marques lives is located in a part of the city that is at a higher altitude and was thus spared from the floodwaters. Susana, herself, is not in the best physical condition and experiences difficulty walking and various illnesses.

Thank you for your prayers and concern for God's people all over the world.

Jorge de Campos

### Elder Ordained in Barbados

The Sabbath of Jan. 30, 2010, was a special one for the brethren in the Caribbean area of the United Church of God. It was an opportunity for the ordination of Osmonde Douglas. The proceedings were conducted by Kingsley Mather, senior pastor for the Caribbean, and Arnold Hampton, pastor of the West Palm Beach, Florida, congregation.

Mr. Douglas was baptized on March 5, 1968, and was ordained a deacon in Dec. 8, 1979. He served as Youth Opportunities United (YOU) coordinator and Festival adviser for many years.

He became a member of the United Church of God in 2003.

Two brethren, Carlisle Hurley and Denis Edmund, traveled from neighboring Grenada for the occasion, which was also witnessed by a total of 91 in Barbados. As well, congregations in Freeport and Nassau, Bahamas; St. Kitts; Dominica; St. Vincent; St. Lucia; and Trinidad viewed the services online.

Mr. Douglas is the father of three sons and six grandchildren. He will continue to serve the brethren in Barbados, Guyana and Grenada.

Jenifer Daniel

### "Mr. Netherlands" Ordained Elder

On the Sabbath of Feb. 20, Marcos Rosales, a deacon in the Netherlands, was ordained an elder.

Mr. Rosales has been a member of UCG-Netherlands since 1995. Originally from the island of Curaçao, he moved to Holland in the 1970s.

In addition to serving in Holland, he has assisted Paul Kieffer, regional director of the German-speaking areas, on visits to the congregation in Suriname.

### First UCG Booklet Translated into Arabic

Currently the booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* is published by the United Church of God in two

languages, English and German. Peter Eddington, production manager for the Media and Communications department, in

conjunction with a dedicated translator, has worked tirelessly to make the booklet available in a third language: Arabic.

A little over a year and a half ago, Mr. Eddington reported that he had received a letter from an Iraqi living in Bonn, Germany, who was offering to translate our booklet into Arabic. We determined that the offer was genuine and our friend (who wishes to remain anonymous in connection with the booklet) completed the translation in several months.

That was only half the work, though. The completed Arabic translation had to be typeset. After acquiring the necessary software with Arabic fonts, Mr. Eddington began the process of importing the text from the Word files to the booklet layout.

We had asked our translator to supply us a chapter at a time, with any sidebar articles highlighted, so Mr. Eddington would know where the text was supposed to go. He soon acquired the necessary skill to typeset the booklet in a language he could not even read.

He got the job done, and our translator has now proofread the final draft of the typeset version of the booklet.

When the final edits are entered, the United Church of God will have its first publication in one of the world's major languages: Arabic.

Paul Kieffer





# United Youth Corps: Our Outward Sign

by Kelley Schreiber

As I was on the plane headed back to Amman after being in the United States during the YMWA Bunayat School vacation, I started staring at my new ring on my finger. Having been engaged for less than 24 hours, I started to think about outward signs as I looked at it.

For instance, when a couple gets engaged and then married, they often wear rings on the ring finger of their left hand. If someone wants to know if a person is married, he or she looks at that person's left hand. It's amazing how something so small can outwardly and nonverbally show that a person is engaged or married.

I then started to think how it's similar to the way of life for the Muslims whom we have come to know in Jordan.

Muslims are supposed to pray five times a day. Many of them go to the mosques to pray while others will kneel down in whichever office, classroom or street they happen to be at the time. Many women wear a headscarf called a *hijab* with a long dress, and others cover most of their faces. This tradition is changing as more and more women are dressing in Western styles while still considering themselves Muslim, but the strictest ones still will wear it.

Also, both men and women carry around worry beads, which are

similar to rosaries or prayer beads. They will often fiddle with their beads or swing them around throughout the day. These are all outward symbols that identify them as Muslim.

If a woman—even in America—is wearing a *hijab*, I assume she is Muslim without even speaking to her. If I see a man in his office on a mat facing Mecca going through the prayer routine, again, I assume he is Muslim. So my next thought was, Wow! Without even speaking, a person can often know what religion someone is and possibly even know how strict or serious one takes his or her faith by just looking at the person's dress or behavior.

## How Do You Identify a True Christian in a Crowd?

I then wondered, what is our obvious outward sign as true Christians? Not too long ago, some teachers at my school thought maybe we were Jewish. I thought, wouldn't it be easier if they could tell just by looking at us that we are Christian?



Jamie Franks, Audry Bauer, Kelley Schreiber and Stephanie and Eduardo Elizondo at the Western Wall in Jerusalem

Then it struck me. Perhaps God doesn't want to make it that easy on us. How will they know the five of us living here in Jordan are Christians? In the scriptures, Jesus said one would be able to identify His people by the way they act.

He tells us in Matthew 7:16-20 that we know a person by the fruits he or she produces. He also tells us that all will know we are His disciples if we "have love for one another" (John 13:35).

There are also attitudes and actions we are actually supposed to put off and others we are to put on. The apostle Paul writes, "But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy

language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds...

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:8-9, 12-14).

The last scripture I turned to as I was thinking about outward



Staying warm on the Sabbath during a visit with David Baker

signs was about putting on the full armor of God, which we read about in Ephesians 6:10-17. It isn't as easy as going to the store to buy a Christian uniform. We Youth Corps volunteers must strive to let this nation know we are Christians by demonstrating God's way of life every day. **UN**

Follow the 2009-2010 United Youth Corps-Jordan team on their blog at [www.uycjordan09.blogspot.com](http://www.uycjordan09.blogspot.com).

# Good Works Highlighted Project: Fund a Future



by Leon Walker

In many nations throughout the world, the opportunity for an education is far more difficult than it is for most students in the United States. The Good Works program is providing assistance for qualified students through its "Fund a Future" program.

Thanks to the generous donations of members of the United Church of God, we can provide financial assistance to members and/or young adult children of members to fund their education in their home environments. The



Otoniel Flores, center, takes a break from rotations with his fellow med students

purpose of this program is to help launch young adults in the areas in which they live so that they can become leaders and pillars in their local churches and their communities.

Otoniel Flores is an example of such a student. Otoniel is a medi-

cal school student, in his fifth year of an eight-year program at his university in El Salvador. His grades are good, and he is progressing well in his goal to become a doctor. Otoniel understands very well that a good education is the only means of breaking out

of the poverty that afflicts so many in Latin America.

However, because of his family's limited financial resources, Otoniel is unable to pay for the tuition, books and other costs involved in obtaining this education. This is not only the case with Otoniel but also for 100 other United Church of God students currently studying at universities in several countries in Latin America.

Local funding for university students in Latin America is extremely limited. Scholarships, grants, loans and other such resources commonly available in the United States simply are not available locally. Yet the cost of a university education in Latin America is very reasonable. UCG students are able to obtain an accredited university

education in many fields of study for an average of less than \$700 per student per year, including tuition, books and all fees.

Many UCG youth in Latin America have been able to graduate from universities, thanks to help from the Church. They have jobs; and while wages are considerably lower than in the United States, they are able to support themselves. They also are an asset to the Church. It is our hope that these young people will be able to continue their education thanks to the generous support they receive from the Good Works Program. We believe this very low-cost and long-term investment benefits not only the students but the Church as well.

If you can provide assistance for Otoniel or other students throughout Latin America, please contact Larry Greider at [larry\\_greider@ucg.org](mailto:larry_greider@ucg.org), noting your request to assist with education for our Latin American brethren. **UN**

Find out more about the "Fund a Future" program and other Good Works programs at [www.ucg.org/goodworks](http://www.ucg.org/goodworks).



# Media Center Takes First Steps for Renovation

## ■ *Beyond Today*

presenters recorded their first program in the newly renovated studio Feb. 3 and 4.

by **Peter Eddington**

In anticipation of an April 2010 launch on several U.S. broadcast television stations, our *Beyond Today* television set received a very complimentary upgrade during January that covered several areas:

- A new backdrop scene to replace the Cincinnati skyline montage.
- Four new gold drape panels to cover the aluminum truss look.
- A new black panel along the front of the presenter desk.
- Repositioned key lighting.

The “old” set has seen more than four years of programming take place. The first four *Beyond Today* programs were recorded on Nov. 16 and 17, 2005. Since then, more than 40,000 responses have been received from the 129 programs recorded.

The initial Media Center set for *Beyond Today* was designed

Market	Station	Channel/ Affiliation	Day	Airtime
Boise	KTRV	12/FOX	Sun	9:30 a.m.
Cincinnati	WSTR	64/My Net	Sun	10:00 a.m.
Indianapolis	WNDY	23/MYTV	Sun	10:30 a.m.
Peoria	WHOI	19/ABC	Sun	10:00 a.m.
Springfield, MO	KSFX	27/FOX	Sun	10:00 a.m.

before the name, “Beyond Today,” was finalized. Therefore, a more generic approach was taken at that time. However, now the upgrade includes more of an emotional attachment to the idea of “Beyond Today, Understanding Your Future” especially with the sea, sky and cloud backdrop.

*Beyond Today* presenters Daris McNeely, Steve Myers and Gary Petty expressed their support for the set’s facelift during their Feb. 3 and 4 recordings, and response from staff and visitor alike has been very encouraging.

### Future Plans

The Council approved plans for renovations to the home office building (see article, page 1). They will provide a larger space

for *Beyond Today* recording and postproduction. At that time, the set will most likely receive a much more substantial redesign.

Please note, the studio used for recording *Beyond Today* material is called our “Media Center.” This is because the space is used for other video projects as well—including *Good News* commentaries, *Beyond Today* commentaries, *About Our Father’s Business* by Clyde Kilough, Feast sermons and other miscellaneous productions. The Media Center has proved to be a very valuable asset to our Media and Communications Services department.

As television stations are chosen for an initial launch of *Beyond Today* into the broadcast TV market, we would certainly appreciate your prayers for the success of this newer phase of our proclamation



Follow *Beyond Today* on Twitter, and join our Facebook fan page!

[www.twitter.com/BeyondTodayTV](http://www.twitter.com/BeyondTodayTV)

[www.facebook.com/BeyondTodayTV](http://www.facebook.com/BeyondTodayTV)

effort. Our mission is to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Television can be more costly than some other forms of preaching the gospel, but also one of the most engaging and persuasive. We want to ensure that God’s tithes and offerings are being used as wisely as possible. The United Church of God makes use of a

broad spectrum of advertising and popular media—from the Internet, to the printed word, to print advertising, to TV.

Your prayers for all of our efforts are very much appreciated. **UN**

*Peter Eddington is the production manager for Media and Communications Services.*

# God’s Word Online: Feast Web Site Up and Running

## ■ Feast of Tabernacles registration is just around the corner.

The new Web site, <http://feast.ucg.org>, will be your one-stop resource, in addition to the *Festival Planning Brochure*, for information on housing, activities, opportunities to serve and more.

by **Jeremy Lallier**

It’s that time of the year again! ...No, not taxes. Well, I mean, yes, technically it is tax time for those of us living in the United States. But if I was writing about that, I would have to make up a whole bunch of official-sounding stuff on tax procedure, and I don’t think the IRS takes too kindly to that.

So instead, we’re going to talk about something I do know about—the new Feast of Tabernacles Web site. With registration time right around the corner (starting April 10), the new site at [feast.ucg.org](http://feast.ucg.org) will act as a one-stop resource supplement

in addition to your *Festival Planning Brochure*. At Feast time it will also be the place to go for live streaming webcasts of Feast services.

Each U.S. Feast site has its own profile on the new Web site, featuring important information on everything from places to stay to things to do. Each profile, accessible through a drop-down menu on the main page, will feature tabs containing an overview of the Feast location, Feast site updates, contact information for those wanting to volunteer, local attractions, UCG-sponsored activities and recommended housing.

Clicking on the “More Information” link below any housing entry will provide a more in-depth description of that establishment. It also gives the distance between the establishment and the location of church services.

A sidebar in each Festival profile includes the location of services, the time and date of the first service, the tax rate of the area and the option to e-mail the Festival coordinator. International Feast Web sites are independently run by their respective coordinators, but

**Feast of Tabernacles**

Home 2010 Festival Sites Sermons Resources Contact

**Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin**

Overview Updates Volunteer Info Local Attractions Activities Housing

With the trees ablaze in autumn colors and unique sandstone formations, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, is a beautiful and unique location for the Feast of Tabernacles. Feastgoers will also enjoy the Dells’ family atmosphere and variety of activities, including enormous indoor water parks, go-kart racing, hiking, riding the famous amphibious “Ducks” and state parks.

Services will once again be held at the beautiful Crystal Grand Music Theater. This modern facility seats more than 1,900 people and is ideal for lingering conversations and fellowship. Parking is conveniently located next to the facility. Most accommodations are within a few minutes’ drive of the Crystal Grand Music Theater as well as the dozens of attractions and quaint shops.

The Dells offers a large variety of housing including ultramodern theme resorts with elaborate indoor water parks and multifamily condominiums. Homes and cottages are available for rent on the nearby lakes, rivers or in the woods. A large variety of condominiums are available in various price ranges. Traditional-style motels offer an exceptional value, with several facilities offering some outdoor water parks and whitewater rafting. So ask about them when making reservations. All

Go to any of the U.S. or Canadian Feast site profiles to learn more information about what is available at that location

email festival coordinator

**Festival Coordinator**  
Dan David

**Location of Services**  
Crystal Grand Music Theater  
Room 29  
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53593

**First Service**  
Wednesday, September 22 at 7:30 pm

**Taxes**  
Hotel and sales tax total: 15 percent

**Feast of Tabernacles**

Home 2010 Festival Sites Sermons

**Dates to Remember**

Feast of Tabernacles  
Last Great Day  
September 22-25, 2010

Get Feast of Tabernacles Updates in Your Email

Booklet: God's Holy Day Feast: The Promises for all Mankind

View the Festival Planning Brochure

you can access a landing page to all non-U.S. sites at the bottom of the same drop-down menu.

Another great feature of the new Feast Web site is a collection of all available Feast sermons, which are sortable by date, speaker, location or title. Additionally, under the Resources option on the top menu, users can access articles from the *Festival Planning Brochure* as well as archives of past brochures, Feast videos and Feast FAQs.

Want to know the latest Feast of Tabernacles updates as they happen? Choose the option on the front page of the site to have Feast updates sent straight to your e-mail inbox.

With this new resource at your disposal, we anticipate that preparing for the Feast will be easier and more streamlined than ever before. Happy planning! **UN**

Visit the new Feast of Tabernacles Web site at <http://feast.ucg.org>.



# The Feast of **Tabernacles**

## Registering for the Feast

All U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below, whether you are going to your assigned site or applying for a transfer.

### Applying to a Feast Site Within the United States or Canada

- U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below.
- Indicate your requested transfer site on the registration form.
- This form is to be given to the Festival adviser in your local congregation on **April 10, 17 or 24**.

### Applying to a Feast Site Outside the United States or Canada

- U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should fill out the Festival Registration form found below.
- Those requesting a transfer to a Caribbean site must also directly apply to that site per the instructions given for that site.
- This form is to be given to the Festival adviser in your local congregation on **April 10, 17 or 24**.

### Applying to a U.S. or Canadian Feast Site From Other Areas

- Please apply by contacting the home office via e-mail at [USFestival@ucg.org](mailto:USFestival@ucg.org) or by having your pastor do so. Please provide the requester's name, number of adults aged 20 and over, number of teens, number of attendees 12 and under and the Feast site requested.
- Please apply by **April 24**.
- You may apply to a U.S. or Canadian Feast site after April 24, but approval will depend upon space available at the site.

## 2010 Festival Fund

To meet Festival expenses throughout the world, U.S. members are asked to send in a 10-percent donation from their expected second tithe total (a tithe of the tithe). Canadian members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the spaces below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Good News* label.
- Make your check payable to United Church of God and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you recently from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN: U    _    _    _    _    _    _    _    _    _		Donation Amount Enclosed:    \$	
Name			
Address		City	State/Province    Zip/Postal Code

## 2010 Festival Registration Form for U.S., Canadian & Caribbean Members

U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should clip out or copy this form and take it to services on April 10, 17 or 24, 2010. It should be filled out and given to the Festival adviser in the local congregation.

Any U.S., Canadian or Caribbean member wishing to transfer to a site outside the United States or Canada should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly, but still complete this form. Some additional information may be in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

Name		Home Telephone (    )    (    )	Work Telephone (    )    (    )
Address		City	State/Province    Zip/Postal Code
How many in your household will attend?	Number of Adults (aged 20 and over)	Number of Teens (aged 13 to 19)	Number of Children (aged 12 and under)
Where are you planning to attend?		Name of Site (including those transferring internationally)  (Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Panama City Beach, Snowshoe and Steamboat Springs. Pastors will receive transfer notification by May 12.)	
Number of:	Single Adults	Young Adults (high school grad to 30-something)	Seniors (aged 60 and over; include spouse even if under 60)
Special Needs:	Handicapped Parking [    ] (driver only)	Wheelchair [    ]	Deaf [    ]    Hard of Hearing [    ]    Need Translation (specify) [    ]

\*\*\*Do Not Mail to Home Office—Contact Local Festival Adviser or Pastor for Registration\*\*\*

## Notification of Approval

### Attending Your Assigned Site

If you will be attending your assigned site, approval is automatic.

### Requested Transfer to any U.S. and Canadian Site

- For U.S. and Canadian members, approvals will be announced at church services on May 12.
- You can go to [feast.ucg.org/](http://feast.ucg.org/) to see the list of sites where denials might have occurred. If your requested site had denials, see your pastor for further instructions.
- Brethren wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site from another country will automatically be accepted if you apply by April 24.

### Requested Transfer to any International Site

Approval comes directly from the site's Festival coordinator.

## Key Dates to Remember

**April 10, 17, 24** U.S., Canadian and Caribbean head-of-household members should clip out their completed 2010 Festival Registration form (see left) and give it to their local Festival adviser at Sabbath services.

**Late April** *Festival Planning Brochure* mailed to member households.

**May 12** Notification at services if any U.S. and Canadian sites cannot accept all transfer requests (automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Panama City Beach, Florida; Snowshoe, West Virginia; and Steamboat Springs, Colorado).

**June 6** Members attending a U.S. or Canadian Feast site may begin making reservations from the list of accommodations supplied in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.



In this special supplement are descriptions of Feast sites in alphabetical order by country. More sites may be added, but sufficient information was not available to print in this issue.

The *Festival Planning Brochure* will contain additional site information; a list of housing establishments for U.S., Canadian and some other sites; helpful tips for planning your Feast; and articles on the meaning of the Feast.

On the following pages, the + sign at the beginning of international phone numbers signifies the country code. Dollar amounts are in U.S. currency unless noted otherwise. The Web site [www.oanda.com/convert/classic](http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic), among others, provides up-to-date currency conversion information.

## Argentina

### Mendoza

We plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles for Argentina and central Chile in the city of Mendoza, Argentina.

Mendoza is in the foothills of the Andes, in the western part of Argentina. It is actually closer to Santiago, Chile, than to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is about 240 miles from Santiago and can be reached by plane either from Buenos Aires or from Santiago.

We advise visitors from other parts of the world to fly directly to Mendoza, unless you want to sightsee through the Andes, in which case you could fly into Santiago, then travel by bus to Mendoza. However, if you enter Chile for the first time even just to travel to Mendoza by land, you will be charged \$130.

Most of the brethren in Chile and Argentina will be housed in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, which will also be the location for services. Unfortunately, this hotel is not large enough to accommodate our visitors.

However, we have located a three-star hotel nearby, the Bonarda Hotel. This hotel has double rooms and suites available. The double rooms are available for about \$60 per day and include breakfast. The suites are available for about \$70 and also include breakfast. Prices could vary a little at the time of the Feast because of the exchange rate. Suites are designed for two adults and a child. The rest of the meals can be bought in the same hotel at reasonable prices. Go to [www.bonardahotel.com.ar](http://www.bonardahotel.com.ar) for more information.

This year we have also reserved the Hotel Huentala for our visitors—[www.huentala.com](http://www.huentala.com). This is a very nice hotel located in downtown Mendoza, where all of the shopping and places to visit are located. Many of the visiting brethren stayed in this hotel last year and enjoyed it very much. The approximate price for the rooms will be \$95 for a double room and \$115 for a suite. These prices also include breakfast.

You can also choose to have your meals with the local brethren in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes at very reasonable prices. Lunch or dinner will be around the equivalent of \$10.

You can also choose to stay in other hotels of the same or higher category in the vicinity. However, we recommend the Bonarda and Huentala hotels because of their nice quality and the good rates we have negotiated with them. All of the brethren who have stayed in these hotels have been very pleased. Transportation by taxi is very reasonable, so you do not need to rent a car.

Temperatures in Mendoza at Feast time are in the 70s, and normally there is no rain at that time. Nice summer clothing will be appropriate.

We look forward to receiving our visitors. We know this will be a great opportunity for all of us to be together and strengthen one another during God's Festival. There will be translation into English for all of the services.

**Location of Services:** Auditorium of the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, Mendoza, Argentina.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

**Reservations:** You do not need to send any money for your reservations; however, when you express your desire to attend this Feast site, we will send you a simple application in order to proceed with your reservations. You can e-mail Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## Australia

### Merimbula, New South Wales

The Feast for New South Wales and Victoria will once again be held at Merimbula at the RSL Club. Merimbula is a coastal town situated on the South Coast of New South Wales.

We would like to invite overseas visitors to enjoy an absolutely wonderful part of Australia. The Feast site is noted for its hospitality. Members often have open houses where people mix in together.

An overseas visitor could stop off in Sydney and see the greatest harbor city in the world or visit Melbourne, voted the world's most livable city. Merimbula is approximately a six-hour drive from Sydney and a seven-hour drive from Melbourne. There are also air flights to Merimbula from both Sydney and Melbourne.

Merimbula is a small township situated on a picturesque inlet and offers a relaxed time with delightful boardwalk cafes, restaurants and clubs. There are many unspoiled beaches, tours, fishing trips, secondhand shops, whale-watching trips, amusement centers for the young and first-class golf courses.

The weather is usually mild and sunny with temperatures in the 20s Celsius (70s and even low 80s Fahrenheit)—great for walks and sightseeing!

Activities will cater for the entire family as well as youth activities, a seniors' activity, children's lessons, youth studies and a luncheon on the Last Great Day. After the first Holy Day service, there will be a get-acquainted activity with cheese platters and refreshments.

Members really appreciate the low-cost meals that are available in the RSL Club. This gives many opportunities for fellowshiping straight after services.

Costs for accommodations are very reasonable, with plenty to choose from. Check the following Web site for more information on the area: [www.sapphirecoast.com.au](http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au).

**Please Note:** The Feast will coincide with school holidays so it would be wise to book accommodation early.

**Location of Services:** Merimbula RSL, 52-54 Main Street, Merimbula.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Accommodations can be organized through the many Web sites for accommodations in Merimbula. Accommodations are available within walking distance from the hall. You can also search for locations that cater to holiday accommodations. Here are a few specific resources:

The Sapphire Coast Tourist Information Centre, phone +61 2 6495 1129.

Fisk & Nagle Real Estate, phone +61 2 6495 2000; Web: [www.fisknagle.com.au](http://www.fisknagle.com.au).

Merimbula Lake Accommodation Centre, phone +61 2 6495 1522; Web: [www.merimbulalake.com.au](http://www.merimbulalake.com.au).

For further information, contact Bruce Dean by e-mail at [bfjadean@bigpond.com](mailto:bfjadean@bigpond.com) or by phone at +61 2 95258139 or by fax at +61 2 95250497.

*Bruce Dean*

### Rockingham, Western Australia

Rockingham is a popular tourist destination with its beautiful expanse of safe beaches, water sports and environmental parks. The city sits beside the sheltered waters of Cockburn Sound, with Garden Island (and its host of bird life), Penguin Island (where you can see fairy penguins and sea lions) and Seal Island very close by. Dolphin tours are available—it's even possible to go swimming with dolphins!

Rockingham is known as "Your Aquatic Playground!" In this relaxed holiday atmosphere, a whole host of water-related activities are available, providing fun and excitement for everyone.

This is an ideal location to rejoice at the Feast of Tabernacles! Rockingham is an easy 40-minute drive south of beautiful Perth and Fremantle, and it's only a 45-minute drive from Perth's domestic and international airport.

The climate is most inviting, with average temperatures in October of 20 to 25 degrees Celsius (around 70 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit), which will provide an excellent opportunity to participate in the many activities, tours, walks and fellowship that the Rockingham Festival site will offer.

Accommodations are in abundant supply, and all are within easy reach of the Gary Holland Community Centre. From houses and units, to hotels and caravan parks, there is something for everyone's budget and preference.

**Location of Services:** Gary Holland Community Centre, 19 Kent St., Rockingham, Western Australia.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

**Information:** Visit the following Web sites to find helpful information on Rockingham and surrounding areas: [www.rockinghamvisitorcentre.com.au](http://www.rockinghamvisitorcentre.com.au);

[www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/wa/perth/rockingham](http://www.stayz.com.au/accommodation/wa/perth/rockingham).

For more information, contact Stephen Clark by phone at +61 3 9717 3873 or by e-mail at [sclark5@aapt.net.au](mailto:sclark5@aapt.net.au).

*Stephen Clark*

### Sunshine Coast, Queensland

The Sunshine Coast, a tropical ocean resort area with spectacular beach and hinterland views, is again our location for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2010. The Sunshine Coast is a 90-minute drive north of Brisbane and an easy motorway drive from the Brisbane International Airport. Car rental and shuttle services are available.

A new air-conditioned facility, the Lake Kawana Community Centre, is our meeting venue, located between the towns of Caloundra and Mooloolaba and a short 10-minute drive from any accommodation in these areas.

Accommodations include one- to three-bedroom units, self-contained (with kitchen, living area, etc.), ranging from luxury units to economy. Most are beach resorts that are located on or within walking distance from the beach or ocean. Many are in high-rises that give spectacular ocean views that include migrating whales.

Restaurants are plentiful and varied in cuisine and very good! Beach and ocean dictate the recreational activities for the area—surfing, kayaking, beach and boat trips to view whales. There are plenty of other favorite spots for visitors such as Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo, complete with croc feeding, rain forests and hinterland mountain tours. Some visit the Great Barrier Reef either before or after the Feast.

Weather will be warm and generally sunny and perfect for outdoor activities.

The normal range of activities includes a family day, senior citizens' tour, young adults' activity, teen outing and an evening social for all the Feast attendees. Please check our Web site, [ucg.org.au](http://ucg.org.au), after the Days of Unleavened Bread for information and updates about these activities and other information about the Feast.

**Location of Services:** Lake Kawana Community Centre, Sportsman Parade, Bokarina, Queensland.

**First Service:** Wednesday evening, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Learn about what the area offers and find a wide range of accommodations on these Web sites: [www.caloundratourism.com.au](http://www.caloundratourism.com.au), [www.mooloolababeach.com](http://www.mooloolababeach.com) or [www.sunshinecoast-australia.com](http://www.sunshinecoast-australia.com). If I can help you, please contact me at [billbradford@bigpond.com.au](mailto:billbradford@bigpond.com.au).

*Bill Bradford*

### Ulverstone, Tasmania

We have a new venue for the Feast in Tasmania in 2010! It will be held in Ulverstone, situated on the banks of the Leven River, which flows into Bass Strait.

There is an unhurried feel about Ulverstone. It is bordered by rich farm-

ing land and beautiful beaches. The picturesque coastal parks include walkways along the river and seashore. There are antique shops to browse through, and many fine places to enjoy good food and coffee. Restaurants, bistros, cafes and bakeries in Ulverstone offer everything from a-la-carte dining to fish and chips on the waterfront.

Just 20 minutes to the west is the city of Burnie, which produces some of the fine Tasmanian cheeses. Devonport (the home of the ferry *Spirit of Tasmania*, which travels each night from Melbourne) is 12 minutes to the east. Devonport Airport is about a 20-minute drive from Ulverstone.

A wide range of accommodations is available in Ulverstone, including the Beachway Function Centre where we will be meeting for services. For more information, visit [www.beachwayulverstone.com.au](http://www.beachwayulverstone.com.au). Church members are offered a 10 percent discount. Let the staff know you are with United Church of God. Rooms cost \$100 to \$120 per night.

Other accommodations can also be found in Ulverstone or Devonport.

Between the activities planned for the Feast this year, you will have the opportunity to explore this region of Tasmania. Many of the rich farmlands have spectacular mountain backdrops. Cradle Mountain lies within a World Heritage area and is less than an hour away. Gunns Plains Caves, which is 15 minutes inland, feature some of the largest limestone shawl formations in the southern hemisphere. If your children enjoy wildlife, then Wings Wildlife Park at Gunns Plains is worth a visit.

Many beautiful scenic drives are in close proximity, and mountain walks abound.

Expect the climate at Feast time to be around 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Location for Services:** Beachway Function Centre, 1 Heathcote St., Ulverstone.

**First Service:** Wednesday evening, Sept. 22, at 7:30 pm.

For further information contact Barry Williams by e-mail at [bjsmwilliams@aapt.net.au](mailto:bjsmwilliams@aapt.net.au) or by telephone at +61 3 9743 4341.

Climb a mountain. Seek out a waterfall. It's all here. Come and join us! We look forward to sharing the Feast with you.

*Barry Williams*

## Bahamas

### Nassau

The Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort, situated on a 1,000-foot stretch of Nassau's spectacular Cable Beach, will host the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles in the Bahamas. Plans are not yet completed, but details will be made available on the Caribbean Web site, [www.ucgcaribbean.org](http://www.ucgcaribbean.org), and in the *2010 Festival Planning Brochure*.

*Kingsley Mather*

## Barbados

### St. Lawrence Gap

This year the Feast will be held at DIVI Southwinds Resort, located in St.



Lawrence Gap, Christ Church, on the south coast. Services will be held in the conference room of the hotel. The seating capacity of the conference room is limited. Since we must accommodate those in the Caribbean region first, space will be available for about 50 of our international brethren who may be interested in transferring.

The guest room rate is \$125 per night for 1 to 2 people plus 17.5 percent tax and service charge. There is no cost for two children under the age of 12 staying with parents. Any additional child or any additional guest above the age of 12 will run an additional charge of \$25 per night.

The rooms are one-bedroom suites that feature one king-sized bed in the bedroom, with a queen sleeper sofa in the separate living area. Suite amenities include a fully equipped kitchen, television, air-conditioning, clock radio and in-room safe. One-bedroom suites are a short walk from the beach just behind the St. Lawrence Gap and offer spacious private balconies or patios with pool or garden views.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Festival coordinator, Arnold Hampton, by e-mail at [arnold\\_hampton@ucg.org](mailto:arnold_hampton@ucg.org).

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

**Taxes:** Hotel tax is 17.5 percent plus a service charge.

*Arnold Hampton*

## Bolivia

### Cochabamba

This year we plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles in the city of Cochabamba at the Casa Campestre Convention Center, located 7 miles from downtown Cochabamba.

The city of Cochabamba is known as the grain center for Bolivia and is located in the very center of the country at 2,560 meters above sea level, which gives the city an excellent climate. Almost the whole year round Cochabamba has a spring climate. In this environment we plan to have the congregations of La Paz and Santa Cruz together with visitors to celebrate the Feast to God.

The hotel offers us food and housing at a very reasonable price. The cost for eight days per adult, including housing and food in this four-star hotel, will be \$210. The cost could vary a little due to the exchange rate. The transportation cost to and from the hotel is not included. However, there will be no need to travel very much since services and all activities will take place at the same hotel.

Visitors could choose either to fly to La Paz or Santa Cruz and from there to Cochabamba, since the city is almost exactly halfway between the cities.

The hotel is located in a very tranquil part of the city, which will allow us to have a lot of fellowship. It is a special place to meditate, rest and worship God, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Since the hotel has lots of visitors from other countries, it has developed a variety of food from all parts of the world that are offered in a very comfortable and elegant restaurant. For the Feast attendees, the hotel will be offer-

ing three meals in buffet style. Besides that, the hotel is also offering coffee and tea in the middle of the morning and midafternoon.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

We would be very happy to have visitors from other parts of the world. Unfortunately, we plan to have services only in Spanish.

**Reservations:** If you are interested in attending in Bolivia, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile. You can also contact Raul Machicao at [raulmachicao@hotmail.com](mailto:raulmachicao@hotmail.com).

*Saul Langarica*

## Brazil

### Maloca de Moscou

Once again our brethren from the Wapixana community in the north of Brazil will come together to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2010 using their own facilities within their community. This community is located 50 miles north of Boa Vista, the capital city of the state of Roraima, Brazil. In this part of the world we have about 50 brethren who get together every Sabbath and on the Holy Days to worship God.

Brethren visiting this site should fly to Boa Vista. They could also fly to the city of Manaus and then travel by bus to Boa Vista. The trip by bus is breathtaking since it passes through the exuberant vegetation of the Amazon.

Because of the lack of hotels in Maloca de Moscou and the lack of transportation between Boa Vista and Maloca de Moscou, we recommend visitors either rent a car and travel from Boa Vista to the community each day, or stay in the community in the homes of brethren. The brethren have graciously built a house to be used by visitors.

Most of the brethren speak Portuguese and English, besides the local dialect. That means any visitor should speak one of those languages. Translation between those three languages would be available if necessary.

Even though traveling to the Feast site could be tiring, brethren there would greatly appreciate any visitors from other parts of the world, since most of the year they do not have visitors due to distance and cost of transportation.

We do have services every day, a talent show with the participation of most of the brethren, sports activities and Bible studies. During services, it is very inspiring to hear the hymns in Portuguese, English and Wapixana—the local dialect.

Our brethren in this part of the world live a simple life based mainly on agriculture. They are people blessed by God in many ways. They do not lack food or water. They all have houses, and they are happy and willing to share their blessings with any visitor for the Holy Days.

**Reservations:** If you are interested in attending this site, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to him at Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## British Isles

### Stirling, Scotland

Stirling, Scotland's heritage capital, will be the Feast site in the British Isles in 2010. It is here that the Scottish Wars of Independence were fought and won and where, for three centuries, monarchs ruled in regal splendor. During that time, merchants and craftsmen plied their trade below the castle rock. As you meander through Stirling's Old Town or enter the spectacular cliff-top castle, you can feel a sense of history.

The compact heritage mile that links the Old Town with Stirling's bustling city center boasts the finest concentration of historic buildings in Scotland. Walk on the scenic pathway around the castle and Old Town, known as the "back walk," and observe the beautifully preserved medieval and Renaissance churches and mansions clustered around the Old Town, flanked by cobblestone streets, period furniture and Victorian-style ironwork.

The Old Town jail has been transformed from a grim Victorian reform prison into a vibrant visitor attraction. Stirling castle commands views of seven battlefields, including Bannockburn, in a panorama across Scotland that encompasses Ben Lomond, the Trossachs and the Ochil Hills. William Wallace, of *Braveheart* fame, is commemorated in the 220-foot high tower of the National Wallace Monument. A climb up the 246 steps of the monument is rewarded with glorious views across Scotland from the Forth Bridges to Loch Lomond.

For more information about other local places of interest, go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com). Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, is an hour away from Stirling by train.

**Location of Services:** Albert Halls, Albert Place, Dumbarton Road, Stirling, FK8 2QL

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

**Reservations:** We have been able to arrange some good discounted prices through an accredited booking agent that works in the local area with hotels, bed and breakfasts and numerous self-catering apartments in and around the Stirling area. For more information, visit [www.ucg.org.uk/stirling2010/](http://www.ucg.org.uk/stirling2010/Accomm.htm) [Accomm.htm](http://www.ucg.org.uk/stirling2010/Accomm.htm).

**Information and Registration:** To find out more about the Stirling Feast site, visit [www.ucg.org.uk/stirling2010](http://www.ucg.org.uk/stirling2010). To register, send an e-mail to [info@ucg.org.uk](mailto:info@ucg.org.uk) listing everyone in your family group.

*David Fenney*

## Burundi

### Buseruko

The village of Buseruko in northern Cibitoke province will be the site of the Feast of Tabernacles 2010 in Burundi. Attendance at this French- and Kirundi-speaking site is expected to be 60. Lodging, meals and services will be at the local church hall and on its grounds. Meals will be prepared by those attending this site.

Visitors would need to stay in Bujumbura and commute to the site

each day via a 90-minute taxi ride each way. At the time of writing the situation in most of Burundi, including the area around Buseruko, is calm. However, upcoming elections may cause civil instability or unrest so potential visitors should monitor the situation closely.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel warning dated July 22, 2009, warning of risks in Bujumbura and the rest of the country, especially after dark. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Burundi.

Festival activities will include a family activity day, a talent show and Bible studies.

Visitors can stay on or near the delta where the Rusizi River enters beautiful Lake Tanganyika, the longest lake in the world.

More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## Cameroon

### Douala

Douala, the principle port city of Cameroon in central Africa, will host the Feast of Tabernacles in 2010. Lodging is available at a number of hotels in the city including the Le Meridien, the Akwa Palace and the Ibis.

Approximately 50 people are expected to attend this site. This site is French-speaking only; anyone wishing to transfer needs to be fluent in the language. Services will be held at the church hall on the outskirts of Douala, about 30 minutes by taxi from the city center. Activities will include a family games day and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Cameroon.

More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing to or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## Canada

### Collingwood, Ontario

It's time to head back to a favorite Feast location at Collingwood, Ontario. Collingwood is a premier tourist destination located on the scenic southern shoreline of the deep blue waters of Georgian Bay and at the foot of Ontario's highest ski terrain. The spectacular view of the colorful Blue Mountain provides a gorgeous backdrop for this year's Feast of Tabernacles.

Only a 90-minute drive from Toronto, Collingwood, will enable you to feast on delicious foods at restaurants from fine dining, casual eateries, bistros and cafes. This beautiful area offers miles of scenic walking and driving trails, charter fishing, golfing, bowling, waterfalls to explore, go-karting for the young and young at heart.

The Elmvale Zoo, with over 300 animals from around the world, is only a 30-minute drive from Collingwood.

There is plenty of shopping in the charming downtown area or in the quaint hamlets along Georgian Bay.

For more information, visit [www.southerngeorgianbay.ca](http://www.southerngeorgianbay.ca).

The Feast will be held at the newly renovated Cranberry Resort. The Cranberry Resort is a world-renowned, year-round, all-inclusive family vacation destination resort. It offers a wide range of amenities including indoor pool, whirlpool, games room, exercise room, spa, hiking, mountain biking, golfing, tennis, kids' camp and much more.

There is fine dining at Memories restaurant and light supper at Lounge 26. Breakfast and lunch are available as well. Please check it out at [www.thecranberryresort.com](http://www.thecranberryresort.com).

Rooms are available from \$80 (Canadian) per night for a standard room including continental breakfast. Condos are also available starting at \$165 (Canadian) for a one-bedroom and \$235 (Canadian) for a two-bedroom.

Family housing arrangements can also be made through Tri-W Realty. They offer a variety of lodging to suit your needs. For more information go to [www.tri-wrealestate.com](http://www.tri-wrealestate.com).

Scheduled activities at the Feast in Collingwood include a scenic boat cruise, scenic cave tour, seniors' brunch, variety show, young adult and teen outing, family outing, hymn sing and Bible study.

**Location of Services:** Cranberry Resort, 19 Keith Ave., R.R. #4, Collingwood, Ontario.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** There is a harmonized sales tax of 13 percent.

*Dennis Horlick*

### Kelowna, British Columbia

Kelowna is an urban oasis of 111,000 people, with a backdrop of rural splendor.

The area has an established fruit-growing industry and has become well-known for its wineries (14 in or near the city). The community is the largest in the interior of British Columbia. It has moderate temperatures, with an average daily high of about 23 Celsius (73 degrees Fahrenheit) in September. The area has lots of sunshine (2,000 hours per year). The sparkling 110-kilometer-long (68 miles) Lake Okanagan nurtures the valley's agriculture.

The area has plenty of fine restaurants, a good variety of accommodations, indoor and outdoor attractions and boasts 15 golf courses. There are unending miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, trail riding and family walks. The downtown core, where services are held, houses galleries, museums, theaters, studios, restaurants, a waterfront park and walkways.

The Kelowna International Airport serves the area with direct flights from some major cities. It is easily accessible by vehicles from all directions, being about 400 kilometers (248.5 miles) from Vancouver and 600 kilometers (372.8 miles) from Calgary, featuring a lovely drive through the Canadian Rockies, including Banff and Lake Louise.

#### Local Web Sites:

- [www.kelownabc.com](http://www.kelownabc.com)
- [www.castanet.net](http://www.castanet.net)
- [www.tourismkelowna.com](http://www.tourismkelowna.com)
- [www.kelowna.ca/cm/site3.aspx](http://www.kelowna.ca/cm/site3.aspx)



**Location of Services:** Kelowna Community Theatre, 1375 Water St., Kelowna, British Columbia.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m. The following day's service will be at 1 p.m.

**Taxes:** Starting in July the province of British Columbia will be charging a 12 percent harmonized sales tax, plus a hotel tax of 8 percent.

*Rainer Salomaa*

## Moncton, New Brunswick

Moncton, New Brunswick, will be the site of the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles for the Maritime and Newfoundland members. We welcome any visitors as well, and we expect a maximum of around 100 attendees.

Services will be held at Hotel Moncton, located at Magnetic Hill, Moncton, New Brunswick. The older-style hotel is spacious with a lounge area on the second floor and an alcove on the first floor. It has 81 rooms and six executive suites, the majority of which are nonsmoking.

The hotel does not have an elevator, but rooms are available on the ground floor. Executive rooms are located on the second floor. It has an outdoor heated swimming pool and an on-site restaurant open every day that will gladly cater to our dietary preferences.

McDonald's, Tim Horton's and Subway are all located within a minute's walk. Within a five- to 10-minute drive, there are many well-known restaurants. With services and accommodations at the hotel, many activities, such as the Bible studies, the social evening and the Last Great Day luncheon, will be held on-site.

Located in southeastern New Brunswick, Moncton is the geographic centre of the Maritime Provinces and a railway and transportation hub. The Greater Moncton International Airport (YQM) is serviced by Air Canada, WestJet and Continental Express. It has four rental car agencies: Avis, Budget, Hertz and National. VIA Rail provides a daily passenger service to Halifax and Montreal.

Though less than 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the Bay of Fundy and 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) from the Northumberland Strait, the climate can feel more continental than maritime. Autumn temperatures remain mild at 13 degrees Celsius (56 degrees Fahrenheit), and the first snowfall does not usually occur until late November. Moncton's linguistic majority is English with an active French-speaking Acadian population.

The Moncton area offers numerous attractions, such as the Magnetic Hill Zoo, the Tidal Bore on the Petitcodiac River and the Crystal Palace indoor amusement park, which is adjacent to the Champlain Place shopping center. Forty kilometers (25 miles) to the northeast at Bouctouche is the Irving conservation area on a 12-kilometer sand dune and a 2-kilometer boardwalk. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is 166 kilometers (104 miles) away. Also, within a one- to two-minute drive are other motels within the Magnetic Hill area.

**Location of Services:** Hotel Moncton, 2779 Mountain Road, Magnetic Hill, Moncton, New Brunswick.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** 13 percent.

For questions about the Feast, you can contact the Festival coordinator, Graemme Marshall, by e-mail at [graemme\\_marshall@ucg.org](mailto:graemme_marshall@ucg.org).

*Graemme Marshall*

## Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

With the Feast falling a little earlier this year, Feastgoers in Saskatoon can expect to see harvest time in the area and thousands of Canadian geese heading south in preparation for the winter.

We have once again booked the Sandman Inn for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2010. It is located near the airport and driving is easy. The Sandman Inn is a nice facility with a conference room and easy access for wheelchairs. The Sandman Inn has an elevator, indoor pool, Jacuzzi, workout room and free Internet. A 24-hour Denny's restaurant is located in the building. Parking is free.

We have rooms set aside for UCG group rates. The cost for a room with 2 queen beds, a junior suite or a corporate suite is \$109 (Canadian). (This price does not include the 12-percent hotel tax.) There are several rooms with a fridge and microwave, as well as separate sitting room.

For more information about the Sandman Inn, call (306) 477-4844, send an e-mail to [sandskrs@shaw.ca](mailto:sandskrs@shaw.ca) or visit its Web site [www.sandmanhotels.com](http://www.sandmanhotels.com).

Also available is the Country Inn and Suites, which is next door to the Sandman Inn. Deluxe continental breakfast is included, as well as well as an exercise room, Internet and kitchens in the larger suites. A room with two queen-sized beds or a single king-sized bed costs \$116 (Canadian). A one-bedroom suite with king-sized bed and a pull-out sofa costs \$126 (Canadian). (This price does not include 12 percent hotel tax.)

For more information about the Country Inn and Suites, visit its Web site at [www.countryinns.com](http://www.countryinns.com) or call (306) 934-3900.

**Location of Services:** Sandman Inn (Royal Room), 310 Circle Dr. West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7L 2Y5

**Taxes:** PST 5 percent, GST 5 percent, DMF Levy 2 percent.

For questions about the Feast, contact the Festival coordinator, David Palmer, by e-mail at [david\\_palmer@ucg.org](mailto:david_palmer@ucg.org).

*David Palmer*

## Chile

### Lican Ray

We plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles for the brethren in southern Chile in beautiful Lican Ray this year.

We will hold the Feast at the Complejo Turistico El Conquistador, located near the middle of the town, only a few blocks from breathtaking Lake Calafquen and at the base of the Villarrica Volcano, which is snowcapped all year.

Lican Ray is located only 70 miles from the main city of Temuco and around 500 miles from Santiago. Temuco has an international airport, but ground transportation from Santiago to the Feast site is also available.

The Feast site has five acres of land

and 42 beautiful cabins. A supermarket is just around the corner, so families can cook their own meals in order to lower the cost of the Feast. The complex also has its own restaurant.

Services take place in the same complex. During the Feast there will be activities organized by the Church, but also there will be opportunities to visit the many beautiful natural places this area offers and, of course, swim and fish in beautiful Lake Calafquen.

Unfortunately, we are not offering translation of services into English. However, we will be very happy to have Spanish-speaking visitors.

You do not have to send any money for your reservation; however, when you express your interest in attending this site, we will ask you to fill out a simple application. The cost per person for a six-person shared cabin will be approximately \$10 per day, which only includes the housing.

Since this cost does not include meals, most of the brethren cook their own food. We have not contracted food for the group at the restaurant. Each person would need to make his own arrangements. If you want to eat at the restaurant in the complex, the cost of meals is very affordable. Of course, you could also eat in restaurants outside the complex, which are also very affordable.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** If you want to have more information about the facilities at the site, please visit [www.turismoelconquistador.cl](http://www.turismoelconquistador.cl).

If you would like more information about the Feast site or want to apply to attend these Holy Days of God with us in southern Chile, please contact Saul Langarica at [slangarica@unidachile.org](mailto:slangarica@unidachile.org) or write to Casilla 10384, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

*Saul Langarica*

## Congo

### Kinshasa

The capital city of Kinshasa will host the Feast of Tabernacles in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Services will be held in a local-style conference center near the N'Djili international airport. Expected attendance is 50 people.

Services will be in French and Linguala. No English is spoken. There will not be an elder present during the Feast.

Activities will include a family games day, soccer matches and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Congo.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a dangerous country to visit. The largest UN peacekeeping presence in the world is in Congo, with significant concentrations of troops even in Kinshasa. The U.S. State Department issued an updated travel warning on Sept. 1, 2009, advising, among other concerns, of continued crime in Kinshasa, targeting U.S. citizens. Only people well acquainted with travel in such places and situations should consider transferring to this site.

Information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## Estonia

### Saaremaa

This year the Feast of Tabernacles in Estonia will be held on the Baltic island of Saaremaa.

Estonia is nestled between Russia, the Baltic Republics and Scandinavia. The venue for the Feast will be the luxurious Georg Ots Spa Hotel, which overlooks the Baltic Sea. Scandinavians love their spas, and so will those attending the Feast here this year. This location was very popular with Feastgoers last year.

A double room at the spa costs a very reasonable \$75 per night. This price includes a buffet breakfast; unlimited access to saunas, pools and a fitness center; use of a personal bathrobe and sandals; Internet connection in the hotel rooms and all taxes. Visit the hotel's Web site at [www.gospa.ee](http://www.gospa.ee).

You will not need to rent a car, as many restaurants and sites are within walking distance. Taxis are plentiful, and you can get almost anywhere for about \$5.

**Location of Services:** All meetings will be held at the hotel in Saaremaa.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Information and Registration:** Median coach airfare from the United States to the capital city, Tallinn, is about \$1,200 per person. There are flights daily from Tallinn to the island of Saaremaa for about \$40 one way.

Additional information about other charges for bus, excursions and a few group meals will be made available on our Estonia Feast Web site at [www.kubik.org/estonia](http://www.kubik.org/estonia).

You may request an application by e-mailing the Festival coordinator, Johnnie Lambert, at [fotestonia@gmail.com](mailto:fotestonia@gmail.com) or by writing to him at 562 Sing Sing Road, Horseheads, NY 14845. You can also call him at (607) 796-2660.

Please come join us for a memorable and enjoyable Feast of Tabernacles!

*Victor Kubik*

## France

### Portbail

The historic crossroads of Normandy will host the Feast of Tabernacles in France in 2010. Normandy is an area rich in natural beauty and abundance. It is famous for its creamy butter and has given the world Camembert cheese and calvados—a strong apple brandy—among other famous foods. It is also rich in historically crucial sites.

Julius Caesar conquered it in the first century, when it became part of the Roman Empire. It was from here in 1066 that William the Conqueror, the duke of Normandy, started the expedition that made him the king of England. England and France fought battles of the Hundred Years War in Normandy during the 1300s and 1400s. It was here that Joan of Arc was tried and burnt at the stake in 1431.

More recently it was on beaches and fields of Normandy that the liberation of France from Nazi

Germany began in June 1944. This ancient battleground region will be a beautiful and memorable area in which to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and the ultimate world peace it portends.

The Feast site is a VVF vacation colony on the west coast of the Cherbourg peninsula in the small resort town of Portbail, about 350 kilometers (200 miles) from Paris. Prices are inexpensive; lodgings are simple but clean and include kitchenettes. This is an all-inclusive site, where the per-person price includes lodging and three meals per day (including wine with lunch and dinner).

Services and most Festival activities will be on-site. It is not necessary to rent a car. There are playgrounds and other leisure activities on the site. Attendance is expected to be 200.

Festival excursions will visit several sites associated with the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944 (including Omaha and Utah beaches, and the Colleville-St. Laurent military cemetery), the city of Bayeux (famous for its tapestry recounting the Norman Conquest of England) and the Mont Saint-Michel (a walled city that becomes an island at high tide). The cost of excursions varies according to the destination.

International access for those from most countries (not necessarily U.K. or other European visitors) will be through Paris airports. We will organize coach transportation from Charles de Gaulle Airport to the Festival site for visitors arriving on Wednesday, Sept. 22. It is also possible to arrive by train at the Valogne train station about 15 miles from the site.

Temperatures in Normandy can be crisp in the autumn, and there is also the chance of some rain. Visitors should bring a jacket or sweater.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 9 p.m.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## Germany

### Schluchsee

Join us this year to celebrate our 12th Feast of Tabernacles in Schluchsee! The picturesque town of Schluchsee is set on Lake Schluchsee in southern Germany, in a beautiful area just 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Black Forest's highest mountain, the Feldberg (1,493 meters, 4,860 feet).

Lake Titisee, with its scenic town of Titisee, is a 20-minute drive from Schluchsee; and the famous Rhine river waterfall in Schaffhausen/Neuhausen, Switzerland, is about 60 minutes away by car.

Temperatures in late September can be mild, but the evenings can be chilly because of Schluchsee's altitude (900



meters, approximately 3,000 feet).

Accommodations for transfer guests are available in selected hotels and vacation apartments. Vacation apartments offer kitchenettes. Half-board arrangements are available in most hotels. Lodging costs range from \$75 to \$125 for a vacation apartment and from \$50 upwards per person for hotel accommodations, which includes breakfast. (Please note: Prices depend on the dollar/euro exchange rate.)

Transfer guests can make their own reservations if they wish; lodging information is available via the Schluchsee Web site, [www.schluchsee.de](http://www.schluchsee.de).

The hall where services will be held is within walking distance of most lodging units within the main village area.

Direct "German Rail" (Deutsche Bahn AG) service is available via Freiburg to Schluchsee. However, car rental is recommended for ease of transportation and sightseeing. Schluchsee is about 180 miles (300 kilometers) south of the Frankfurt International Airport or 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of the Zurich International Airport.

Expected attendance is approximately 200. Most services will be held in German, with a simultaneous translation into English. International guests who do not speak German will need to bring their own FM radio and headphones to services to be able to receive the simultaneous translation.

**Location of Services:** Grosser Kursaal, Kurhaus Schluchsee (next to the Rathaus, behind the tourism office).

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Visitors wishing to attend should register on the UCG-Germany Web site at [www.vkg.org/fot.php](http://www.vkg.org/fot.php). Registration is required and an e-mail address is needed for registration.

*Paul Kieffer*

## Ghana

### Mpraeso

For the 2010 Feast in Ghana, we are privileged to once again have one site that will accommodate all the Ghanaian members as well as all transfers from other countries. Attendance is expected to be around 500 this year.

The location is the town of Mpraeso, located near Nkawkaw about 2½ hours from the airport in Accra. Services will be held in the Mpraeso Senior High School, and most of the Ghanaian members will be housed there as well. For international transfers, the Ohene Nana Hotel is within easy walking distance, with room rates ranging between \$15 and \$25 per night.

If there is sufficient interest from international visitors, tours can be arranged to see sights of cultural and special interest including the Ashanti Palace museum in Kumasi, the former slave castles in Cape Coast and Elmina, the suspended bridge walk through the canopy of the rain forest in Kakum, as well as stops to see and purchase local art, carvings and paintings.

All international flights should be arranged through the Kotoka International Airport in Accra, Ghana. If you

have questions or need more information on obtaining an entrance visa, please contact the Festival coordinator, Tom Clark, at [thomas\\_clark@ucg.org](mailto:thomas_clark@ucg.org).

*Tom Clark*

## Guatemala

### Antigua

The peaceful city of Antigua, Guatemala, has again been chosen as the locale for the 2010 Feast of Tabernacles. The city is famous for its year-round springlike climate in a historic Spanish colonial setting. The city is framed by majestic volcanoes, the awe-inspiring presence of which lends even more beauty to a stroll down its cobblestone streets.

Antigua is a very tranquil, pedestrian-friendly city where time stands still and offers us a pleasurable alternative to the maddening stress of daily rush-hour traffic in the world's great urban centers.

In Antigua you can choose from an amazing variety of hotels spanning the entire gamut of cost, quality and service. Almost every hotel has its own Web site, which enables you to compare prices, amenities and geographical location.

In this city visitors will find everything necessary to ensure a comfortable stay. For example, there are banks, laundromats, drugstores, supermarkets and Internet cafes throughout the city. There are fruit and vegetable markets, shops dealing in artwork and handicrafts and abundant taxi service.

Antigua is the assigned site for all the Guatemalan congregations, as well as for members from Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador and the rest of Central America. It will be a pleasure to have you with us if you decide to come.

Contact us by e-mailing the local pastor, Luis Mundo Tello, at [drmundotello@hotmail.com](mailto:drmundotello@hotmail.com). It would be much appreciated if we could hear from interested brethren before June 30, 2010.

Your family in Guatemala hopes to see you soon!

*Luis Mundo Tello*

## India

### Hyderabad

India is the seventh-largest country by geographical area, the second most populous country and the largest democracy in the world. It has a long history of important trade routes and vast kingdoms. The climate is pleasant; the people are wonderful and hospitable; and the food is delicious.

The location of the Feast site is still under negotiation, but we plan to hold the Feast in the vicinity of the city of Hyderabad.

The weather in September will be warm and tropical. Services will be in English, and the expected attendance is approximately 25 people. India has many wonderful sites for tourism and excursions, which you can visit before or after the Feast of Tabernacles. Tours can be arranged without much difficulty.

Hyderabad has an international airport, and guests can hire a taxi to the Feast site.

More details and updates will be announced in *UnitedNews*.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** For additional information and reservations, please contact the Festival coordinator, David Baker, by e-mail at [david\\_baker@ucg.org](mailto:david_baker@ucg.org) or call (585) 624-5166.

*David Baker*

## Italy

### Sabaudia (South Rome)

Once again we'll celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles at Sabaudia, the beautiful and peaceful seaside town near Rome, as our four-star hotel prices (full board inclusive) are kept amazingly low. We can offer bus transportation from and to the Rome international airport on any day, before and after the Feast.

Church services will be held alternately in English and Italian, with simultaneous translation. Headphones will be provided on-site.

To give the overseas brethren the opportunity to rest on their arrival, there will be no services on the evening of Sept. 22. However, there will be two Holy Day services on Sept. 23.

English is spoken and understood by a good number of Italian brethren who are looking forward to meeting and fellowshiping with you.

Our two Feast hotels have their own private beach facing one of the most limpid and uncontaminated stretches of water in the Tyrrhenian Sea. This means that in your spare time, and especially during the Feast's Family Day, you can enjoy activities such as swimming, beach volleyball and table tennis at no extra cost. Also, a beauty center with gym and sauna will be available to all Feast participants at a very affordable price.

The hotels' facilities provide opportunities for relaxation and fun for all the brethren and their families. The site is surrounded by sunny dunes, lakes and the National Park of Circeo. The entire area appears to the visitor as an incomparable witness of the perfect fusion of natural elements, which draws us closer to our Creator God, the greatest Artist of all. The climate is very mild in September: night and day temperatures range from 65 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Feast site is located very close to Rome, Vatican City and Pompeii (which was destroyed by volcanic eruption in 79 B.C.). Cultural tours to those places will be offered at affordable prices. Famous historical sites in Rome, like the Coliseum, Imperial Forum, Christian catacombs, the Vatican museums and several other places, are a witness of the conquest of paganism over true Christianity. Also, a three-day, pre-Feast cultural tour in Tuscany will be offered to those who can celebrate the Day of Atonement at our Feast site.

Rooms are equipped with telephone, TV set, hair dryers, air conditioner and shower. Prices include full board (three meals a day) and tax: US\$85-95 per adult in double bedroom. Discounts are offered to children who will be sharing a room with their relatives: 50 percent

discount for children 3 to 6 years old; 30 percent discount for children 7 to 12; no cost for children under 2.

The Italian cuisine is one of the most delicious in the world. The hotel staff can speak English, and we can enjoy our meals all together in its restaurant. The chefs know the distinction of clean and unclean foods, and the restaurant staff is looking forward to welcoming and serving us diligently.

Furthermore, we will have an evening dance, a relaxing Family Day on the beach and a talent show, by involving as many talented volunteers as possible. If you can either sing or play the piano or any other musical instrument, or if you have any other artistic talent that may entertain the brethren at the talent show, your talent will be most welcome. Choir singers and piano players are most welcome as well.

Your involvement in making the Feast a greater success to God's glory will be appreciated with gratitude. We hope that you and your family can make it to Italy this year. We are looking forward to welcoming you and fellowshiping with you in Jesus Christ.

**Reservations:** Your Feast application/registration should be submitted as soon as possible, through the Italian Web site ([www.labuonotizia.org](http://www.labuonotizia.org)) where more information can be found. From outside Italy you may also contact us by phone/fax (+39 035 452 35 73) or e-mail ([feast\\_italy@labuonotizia.org](mailto:feast_italy@labuonotizia.org)).

*Carmelo Anastasi*

## Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)

### La Mé and Man

Members in the West African nation of Côte d'Ivoire will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in two rural villages: La Mé, about a one-hour drive out of the commercial capital of Abidjan, and a village yet to be decided near the town of Man in the Province of Man in the Dix-Huit Montagnes Region. All services will be in French or Dan.

La Mé has a rustic inn with no air-conditioning that may be capable of receiving a few visitors. There are several Western-standard hotels in Abidjan. There are acceptable hotels in Man, but transportation would have to be arranged in order to arrive in the village. Attendance will be about 25 people in La Mé; 50 people in Man.

Côte d'Ivoire is still unstable following a civil war that lasted several years and split the country into separate zones. At the time of writing there is a cease-fire and the situation is relatively calm, but there have been periodic outbreaks of civil unrest and occasional combat. There is a significant UN peacekeeping presence in the country. The U.S. State Department issued an updated travel warning about Cote d'Ivoire on Sept. 22, 2009, concerning both Abidjan and areas outside Abidjan. Any potential visitors should take this situation into account before planning to attend the Feast in Côte d'Ivoire.

No visa is currently required from most Western countries for entry into Côte d'Ivoire. A yellow fever vaccination is required for entry.

More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or calling the French Department at the home office.

## Jamaica

### Ocho Rios

Jamaica is the largest English-speaking country in the Caribbean. The island is filled with intoxicating natural beauty—from lush rain forest and mountainous terrain to spectacular waterfalls, sun-drenched beaches and turquoise waters.

This year's Feast will be held at the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa in Ocho Rios, famed for its dazzling shoreline. Jamaica is so much more than just sun and sand. With a fabulous climate and postcard scenery, the island is also home to exotic gardens and waterfalls, great golf, amazing outdoor adventure and vibrant music and cuisine.

Jamaica has something for everyone! Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort and Spa is all-inclusive and is situated on the longest of Ocho Rios' white sand beaches. The new lighthouse waterslides along with five swimming pools await to cool you off, complete with pools, waterfalls and a meandering river. Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa has four restaurants, two beach grills and eight bars from which to choose.

The genuine warmth and friendliness of the Jamaican brethren coupled with professional service will make your Feast experience one that will be long remembered! The resort is about 90 minutes from Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay. Round-trip transfers can be arranged through Jamaica Tours at US\$40 per person, half price for children 3 to 12 years old.

**Location of Services:** Portland Ballroom of the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

**Reservations and Information:** Information about reservations and registration will be available in the *Festival Housing Brochure*.

For more information on the Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa, please visit their Web site at [www.sunsetresortsjamaica.com](http://www.sunsetresortsjamaica.com).

*Kingsley O. Mather*

## Jordan

The United Church of God is pleased to again offer its brethren around the world a 2010 Feast site in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The theme this year is "Adventure in the Land of the Bible." Adventure opportunities include scuba diving and snorkeling in the world-renowned Red Sea, a four-wheel drive tour and Bedouin lunch in the Wadi Rum desert romanticized by Lawrence of Arabia, as well as planned hikes in the ancient Nabataean city of Petra. We will also conduct a hillside church service in the ancient Christian refuge city of Pella and a mountaintop service on Mount Nebo.



The 2010 Feast will move between three locations: Amman (four nights), the Dead Sea (two nights) and Aqaba (three nights). The addition of two nights at the Dead Sea offers a warm and relaxing location in the midst of biblical sites, while at the same time the site offers an additional night in Aqaba at the brand-new, beautiful Moevenpick Hotel.

The Jordan site also carries forward the spiritual theme of previous Feasts—“Ambassadors for Peace.” This theme serves as a backdrop to the overriding theme for the United Church of God’s gospel efforts in the Middle East. In this vein, the Jordan site will include a service project as well as visits and speeches by Jordanian royalty and dignitaries so that our brethren can learn more about important issues in the region and how the Church can better cooperate, promote peace and preach the gospel in the Middle East.

The 2010 site is a continuation of our ongoing, consistent involvement in the region that also includes other opportunities, such as United Youth Corps and other projects. Since our last Feast of Tabernacles here in 2007, the United Church of God has sponsored an annual volunteer project for five volunteers under the auspices of the Jordanian royal family.

Jordan remains an oasis of stability and security in a region that continually experiences turmoil. With the blessing of the royal family, the group will be well-cared for while in a country renowned for its unique Bedouin hospitality.

Other tours for the Jordan Feast include:

- Jerash, a beautiful Roman city of the Decapolis.
- Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Holy Land.
- Bethany on the Jordan River, where Jesus was believed to be baptized.

In addition to the Feast site, an exciting post-feast extension tour is again being offered to Israel.

For itineraries, application forms and costs, please visit the Web site: [www.jordanfot.org](http://www.jordanfot.org) or call Pilgrim Tours at (800) 438-8281. You may also contact Colene or Cory Erickson at (952) 818-6261 or [ericksoncc@comcast.net](mailto:ericksoncc@comcast.net) with questions.

*Cory Erickson*

## Kenya

### Nakuru

East Africans will attend the Feast at two separate sites this year, both of which are in Kenya. “Rhino Camp” is located near Nakuru town, which is situated in the heart of the Great Rift Valley. This peaceful 40-acre walled camping resort is surrounded by lush grounds and agriculture and is close to a very popular site for international tourism. International guests will enjoy a spectacular safari game drive at Lake Nakuru National Park, which boasts one of Africa’s best wildlife wilderness preserves.

The second site is located across the country near the Tanzanian border. Migori town hosts UCG’s largest church

property, which was designed to one day be a Feast site. Surrounded by peaceful homes and farms of maize and sugarcane, this site is located centrally for a majority of members in the region.

The combination of these two locations will provide members in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda a more convenient and more affordable Festival experience. Members there can arrange their own transportation, lodging and meals and are welcome to attend services in either location.

Additionally, the Church can provide tents and meals for those who register and pay for them in advance. Those baptized members and their dependent children who are unable to attend the Feast without assistance are encouraged to discuss their Festival needs with their local pastor.

International members are encouraged to join us for the Feast in Nakuru this year. Complete information and registration forms are in the “FOT Info Packet,” which can be obtained by sending an e-mail to [John\\_Elliott@ucg.org](mailto:John_Elliott@ucg.org).

*John Elliott*

## Malawi

### Cape Maclear

The 2010 Feast of Tabernacles in Malawi will be held at a new Feast site—Cape Maclear in Mangochi on Lake Malawi.

Malawi, well-known as the “warm heart of Africa,” is blessed with beautiful scenery and a wide variety of animals. It is a landlocked country in Africa bordered by Tanzania to the north and Zambia to the west and is a peaceful country with very friendly people. Malawi may be the place to keep the Feast if you are interested in a wonderful African experience.

Cape Maclear is about 210 kilometers (130 miles) from Lilongwe and about 266 kilometers (165 miles) from Blantyre. Lake Malawi is the third largest lake in Africa at 362 miles long and 10 to 50 miles wide.

The climate is mild with high temperatures around 27 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit) at that time of year. Keep in mind that Malawi is in a malaria area, and precautions should be taken. Therefore, you will need to use repellants and mosquito nets, which are available in all lodges. The Feast occurs during the dry season, which reduces the risk.

The accommodation rates per night range from \$8 to \$120. There are many lodges to choose from, including the Fat Monkey Lodge.

Group activities include football (soccer), volleyball, swimming, tug-of-war, bottle racing and more.

**Information:** For more information, contact the Festival coordinator Elifazi Salawila by phone at +265 0888 522 717 or by e-mail at [elifazi\\_salawila@ucg.org](mailto:elifazi_salawila@ucg.org).

*Elifazi Salawila*

## Malaysia

### Tawau City, Sabah

The 2010 Feast of Tabernacles in Malaysia will take place in the palm

oil-rich western state of Sabah. The Festival site this year will be at the Shan Shui Golf and Country Resort, which is a 10-minute taxi ride to the heart of Tawau City and a 10-minute ride from the airport.

Accommodations are available on-site at the Shan Shui Resort in a village of wooden chalets, or you can lodge in a nearby hotel in Tawau. The hall where services will be held is a short walk from the chalet village. An elder from the Philippines will be joining us this year. Temperatures in Tawau are tropical.

For additional information, contact Florante Siopan by telephone at +63 34 446 2707, by cell phone at +63 0920 938 8786 or by e-mail at [florante\\_siopan@yahoo.com](mailto:florante_siopan@yahoo.com). You may also contact Raul Villacote by cell phone at +63 53 920 664 4065 or by e-mail at [raul\\_villacote@yahoo.com](mailto:raul_villacote@yahoo.com).

*Florante Siopan*

## Mauritius

### Flic-en-Flac

Mauritius is a beautiful tropical island in the Indian Ocean located some 600 miles east of Madagascar. It is a well-known tourist destination with an excellent infrastructure and safe, stable conditions.

The beachfront resort town of Flic-en-Flac will host the Feast of Tabernacles in Mauritius this year. Lodgings will be in Western-standard, air-conditioned vacation apartments near the beach.

Services will be within a few minutes’ walk of the apartments, which feature full kitchens. Meals can either be self-catered or taken in one of the many local restaurants, ranging from simple and inexpensive to very high quality. Expected attendance is 25. There will be a Church elder present during the Feast. Services will be in English with French translation available. Most Mauritian brethren speak both French and English.

Activities will include a beach outing and visits to the island’s beautiful botanical gardens and to the colorful waterfront of the capital city of Port Louis with its charming market. No visa or vaccinations are required for nationals of most Western countries.

Access is through the SSR International Airport in the south of the island. Daily flights arrive from London, Paris, Johannesburg, Mumbai and Abu Dhabi. Taxis can be taken from the airport to Flic-en-Flac.

Temperatures will be tropical-ly warm at Feast time, with the chance of occasional showers.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

**Registration:** More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or calling the French Department at the home office.

## Mexico

### San Miguel de Allende

This year the Feast in Mexico will be celebrated for the fourth time in San Miguel de Allende. An authentic Mexican town with international flair, San Miguel de Allende is centuries old and provides a relaxing, peaceful setting to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles 2010.

San Miguel de Allende is located in the center of Mexico, three hours down the freeway from Mexico City and about one hour by car from the International Airport of Guanajuato. This airport has five direct routes from the United States.

San Miguel has been considered a national monument since 1926. It is a very beautiful and picturesque city full of folklore and arched colonial mansions, flower-filled patios, many fine hotels, restaurants and winding, terraced cobblestone streets. It is a safe and small city with the best Mexico has to offer in arts and crafts—an ideal place to visit.

The Hotel Real de Minas will be the host hotel for the Feast. It is a 10-minute walk from downtown. Services in Spanish (with simultaneous translation into English) will be held in the hotel. Staying in this hotel offers the conveniences of fellowship and convenient proximity to social events and activities.

This year’s Feast activities will include an etiquette dinner for the young people, a couples’ activity, a masquerade, a family picnic, a children’s party, a talent show and a seniors’ activity. We also plan to have an authentic Mexican tradition, an *estudiantina*, where we will stroll through the streets of San Miguel led by a music group with typical dress, instruments and songs.

We have made the following arrangements for a meal package: Buffet breakfast costs 80 pesos per adult, 60 pesos per senior and 35 pesos per child. A lunch package costs 90 pesos per adult, 70 pesos per senior and 45 pesos per child. All of these will be charged at the exchange rate at the time of payment.

The hotel rate per day is 665 pesos for quadruple occupancy rooms, at the exchange rate at the time of payment. (The rate of exchange is about 13 pesos to \$1 at the time of writing.)

We are expecting about 350 people this year. Come down and celebrate the Feast with us in this beautiful, typical, quiet and safe small town.

**Reservations:** Call the hotel desk at: +52 415 152-2626 to make your reservation, and mention that you are going to attend the convention with Iglesia de Dios Unida (United Church of God). Go to the hotel’s Web site at [www.realdeminas.com](http://www.realdeminas.com) for more information. You can also contact the Festival coordinator at [larry\\_roybal@ucg.org](mailto:larry_roybal@ucg.org).

*Lauro Roybal*

## New Zealand

### Napier

The Art Deco city of Napier, situated on the East Coast of the North Island in the province of Hawke’s Bay, is New Zealand’s location for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Renowned for its mild climate, beautiful vineyards, eclectic arts and an international reputation for

gourmet food and wine, the viticulture region of Hawke’s Bay is spread across an area of 1,000 square kilometers (621 miles).

Places of interest and activities include Art Deco walks, Marineland, the National Aquarium, winery tours, deep sea fishing, gannet colony excursions, horseback riding and a variety of art galleries. There are some 40 vineyards and wineries in the Hawke’s Bay region, a number with onsite restaurants.

Services will be held in the birthplace of New Zealand wine, the Mission Estate, a tranquil oasis nestled in the Taradale Hills above Napier. It is a ten-minute drive from the center of the city and a twenty minute drive from the city of Hastings, Napier’s twin city. The Mission ([www.missionestate.co.nz](http://www.missionestate.co.nz)) is an elegantly restored historical seminary building with sweeping views of the city of Napier and the Pacific Ocean. The location of the auditorium, a uniquely refurbished chapel boasting near perfect acoustics, is ideally suited for our services.

Several reasonably priced motels are located near the Feast site. Within a radius of 2 kilometers (1¼) from the center of Napier are many motor lodges, hotels, boutique hotels, lodges, bed and breakfast inns as well as a complex of budget motels. A useful hotel website is [www.aatravel.co.nz/Napier](http://www.aatravel.co.nz/Napier). A wide variety of tourist information is found on [www.hawkesbaynz.com](http://www.hawkesbaynz.com).

**Location of Services:** Mission Estate, 198 Church Road, Napier.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Visitors wishing to attend Napier should contact Feast coordinator Jeff Caudle at P.O. Box 22, Shortland St, Auckland 1140, New Zealand, by e-mail [jeff-caudle@ucg.org](mailto:jeff-caudle@ucg.org) or by phone at +64-9-8175496.

*Art Verschoor*

## Portugal

### Costa da Caparica

We will again host the Feast in the fishing village of Costa da Caparica, just a half-hour south of Lisbon, Portugal.

Services will be held at Hotel Costa da Caparica, a four-star hotel on the seafront serviced by many restaurants and eating facilities on the continental esplanades just outside the hotel. The hotel and beach area facilities in front of the hotel have been recently renovated. Normally a car will not be needed at the Feast. Go to [www.hotelcostacaparica.pt](http://www.hotelcostacaparica.pt) for more information about the hotel.

This site’s principal language is English. Services will be held mainly in English with translation into Portuguese.

Accommodations are available at the Hotel Costa da Caparica where the Feast will be held. The rates are:

- Single bedroom: 57.50 euros per night (or 68 euros per night if sea view requested), including breakfast;
- Double/twin bedroom: 64 euros per night (that is, 32 euros per person if you share), including two breakfasts;
- Double/twin bedroom with sea view: 79 euros per night (that is, 39.50



euros per person if you share), including two breakfasts.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.

**Reservations:** To register, please download the 2010 Feast Registration—Portugal form at <http://feast.ucg.org> and submit your registration by e-mailing the completed registration form to the Festival coordinator at [jorge\\_decamp@ucg.org](mailto:jorge_decamp@ucg.org). You may also fax the registration form to the home office at (513) 576-9795 for Jorge de Campos' attention.

If you have any further questions, you are welcome to contact Jorge de Campos at the home office (513) 576-9796.

*Jorge de Campos*

## Philippines

### Baguio City

Baguio is a city in the northern mountains of Luzon some 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of Manila. Being a temperate place in this predominantly warm and humid tropical country, it has been known as the summer capital of the Philippines.

As in the past nine consecutive years, services for this year's Feast of Tabernacles will again be held at the conference hall of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Ang Ating Tahanan grounds. The hall where services will be held can easily accommodate as many as 150 Feastgoers.

The GSP grounds have cottages and dormitory-type accommodations where Feastgoers can lodge within walking distance from the hall where services are held. But for those who are more adventurous and prefer to stay outside the Festival grounds, nearby hotels and inns are also available. Costs of accommodations range from \$6 per person per day for dormitory-type accommodations to \$75 per night for hotel room accommodations.

This year we are expecting some 130 to 150 Feastgoers. These are mostly brethren coming from the Luzon Island region of the country. But we always welcome and are looking forward to meeting as many brethren as possible who are coming from international areas who would like to enjoy and celebrate the Feast with us.

**Location of Services:** Conference hall of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Ang Ating Tahanan grounds along South Drive, Baguio City, Philippines.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Those interested may get in touch with Rey Evasco by e-mail at [reyevasco@yahoo.com](mailto:reyevasco@yahoo.com) or by mobile phone at +63 (917) 814 7826 or by mail at MCPO Box 4774, Makati City 1287, Philippines.

*Rey Evasco*

### Davao City

What are you looking for in a Festival site? If it is a strong spiritual component rather than luxury and pleasure, plus plenty of fellowship, then perhaps, you may want to attend the Davao Festival site!

Davao City is considered the "fruit basket of the country," sitting on Min-

danao Island. As a bonus, the Feast of Tabernacles falls near the peak of fruiting season, giving you the chance to sample tropical fruits galore.

Beyond these nice physical features and the traditional feasting on roasted calf on each of the Holy Days, the Festival site ambience lends itself to enhanced fellowshiping and focuses on our being called out of this world and into a better world. Services and Bible studies are all conducted in English (with translation into Cebuano as needed).

Most visitors have been inspired by the Q&A sessions, where questions are answered straight from the Bible and where the duration is not by the clock, but by the audience's interest. Separately focused Bible-based sessions are also held for teens, young adults and married couples. Scheduled activities and a variety show include all age groups from children to seniors, producing a balanced Feast.

The Festival venue this year will again be at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) Regional Training Camp in Daliao, Toril, Davao City, which is about a kilometer from the seacoast, and is familiar to most taxi drivers. It is about 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) from the Davao International Airport.

This Festival site may not have classy accommodations at the camp, but the brethren's hearts and hospitality more than accommodate visitors. Nonetheless, all rooms at the camp have screens and some are air-conditioned. Meals at the camp will be served in the air-conditioned dining hall. Designed to make it most affordable, it is hard to beat the offer of three buffet meals per day with an air-conditioned room for only about \$10 per person per day. Private rooms are somewhat limited.

For those who desire standard hotel accommodations and meals, downtown hotels located between 1.5 and 15 kilometers from the Festival site offer more choices and range of prices. Downtown five-star buffets cost about \$18 per person per meal. Rates already include taxes. Tips are appreciated but not obligatory. (Presently the exchange rate is US\$1=Php46.)

**First service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

**Information and Reservations:** For more information about Davao City, visit [www.davaotraveler.com](http://www.davaotraveler.com).

For more information about the Feast site, please contact the Festival coordinator, Edmond Macaraeg, through any of the following: e-mail: [ed\\_macaraeg@ucg.org](mailto:ed_macaraeg@ucg.org); mail: P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO 8000 Davao City, Philippines; phone/fax: +63 82 241-0150; or mobile phone: +63 918 919 4346. We suggest Festival applicants register online at our Web site [www.ucg.org.ph/feast](http://www.ucg.org.ph/feast).

*Edmond Macaraeg*

### Iloilo City

The brethren from the Visayas island in the Philippines welcome Feastgoers to observe the Feast of Tabernacles with them at the Punta Villa Resort in Iloilo City, located in the central part of the Philippines. About 283 miles south of Manila, it is the gateway to the flourishing Western Visayas region.

Iloilo's climate is tropical. The temperature ranges from 27 to 32 degrees

Celsius (82 to 90 Fahrenheit) throughout the year. It has two main seasons—rainy (June to September) and dry (October to May).

You can travel to Iloilo from other parts of the Philippines in style. By air, there are jets daily from Manila, which take about an hour for a one-way fare ranging from \$50 to \$55. By sea, sailing time is about 20 hours from Manila for a one-way fare ranging from \$20 to \$32. Passenger jeepneys, metered taxis, buses and private cars regularly ply the city's roads.

A visit to Iloilo is a trip back to the past, without losing touch with the present. One can still find scores of neoclassical structures dotting the streets. Most of these are mansions built during the Spanish era, reminiscent of a glorious past.

Iloilo has stretches of seaside communities and beach resorts. Scuba diving and snorkeling can be done off Guimaras Island, a 15-minute ride away by motorized boat (banca). The underwater seascapes are some of the most undisturbed in the country.

Above all, you'll experience the love, warmth and hospitality of the wonderful brethren.

Room rates are as follows: Executives rooms with hot/cold bath, TV and refrigerator—\$33; double queen-sized bedrooms with hot/cold bath, TV and refrigerator—\$22; standard double bedrooms with hot/cold bath and TV—\$18.

Morning services are a daily feature, balanced by a variety of afternoon social activities and sports except on the Holy Days.

If anyone would like to take a side trip to one of the best beaches in the world, Boracay Island Resort is highly recommended.

**Location of Services:** Coral Ballroom, Punta Villa Resort (fully air-conditioned).

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** For more details, bookings or reservations, contact Florante G. Siopan, P.O. Box 713, 6100 Bacolod City; by telephone at +63 34 446-2707 and +63 34 435-3231 and (cell phone) +63 9209388786; or by e-mail at [florante\\_siopan@ucg.org](mailto:florante_siopan@ucg.org).

*Florante Siopan*

## Rwanda

### Muhazi

Beautiful Lake Muhazi in north central Rwanda will be the site of the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Attendance at this French- and Kinyarwanda-speaking site is expected to be 70. Lodging, meals and services will be in a house and on its grounds on the lake-shore. Meals will be prepared by those attending this site.

Visitors would need to stay in Kigali and commute to the site each day via a one-hour taxi ride each way. At the time of writing the situation in most of Rwanda, including the area around Muhazi is calm.

Festival activities will include a family activity day, a talent show and Bible studies. Visitors can arrange a trip to visit mountain gorillas in the Virunga Nation-

al Park on a day trip from Kigali. Gorilla visiting permits cost \$500 per person for one hour and must be arranged in advance, as quantities are limited. Chimpanzee tracking is also available, though this requires a two-day expedition to the Bukavu region.

At the time of writing no visa was required for U.S. and most European citizens. Nationals of other countries should check with the Rwandan Embassy in their country. A yellow fever vaccination may be required for entry depending on point of origin.

More information and registration forms may be received by contacting [info-fr@ucg.org](mailto:info-fr@ucg.org) or by writing or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## South Africa

### George

George is the sixth oldest town in South Africa, situated in the beautiful Western Cape Province on a 10-kilometer (6-mile) plateau between the majestic Outeniqua Mountains and the warm Indian Ocean.

George has a variety of accommodation options, banks, shopping centers and restaurants; yet it manages to retain its tranquil, small-town atmosphere. Locals welcome tourists with renowned South African warmth and hospitality.

There are a variety of activities available for those interested, from peaceful walks to opportunities to interact with wildlife. Highlights include hand-feeding elephants, petting cheetahs, riding ostriches, forest treetop canopy tours, hiking and whale watching. The weather is normally mild and pleasant.

George is one of the smaller Feast sites, which enables members to spend a lot of time together fellowshiping. During the Feast, brethren meet in a hall with abundant parking under shady trees within the secure grounds of the Moreson Children's Home.

We welcome and appreciate visitors and look forward to fellowshiping with you over a *braai* with *boerewors* rolls, *pap* and *melktert*!

**Location of Services:** Moreson Children's Home.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** There is a 14 percent VAT on most goods and services,

**Information:** For more information, please visit our Web site, [www.fotrsa.co.za](http://www.fotrsa.co.za), or contact the Festival coordinator, Stan Botha, at [stan\\_botha@ucg.org](mailto:stan_botha@ucg.org).

*Stan Botha*

### Uvongo

The town of Uvongo is situated on the Hibiscus Coast of the province of Kwazulu Natal, approximately 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Durban International Airport. The warm waters of the Indian Ocean, the mild subtropical climate and ample accommodations make it an ideal Feast site for both local and overseas visitors.

Accommodations are very reasonably for the country. The average price of a three-bedroom, self-catering apartment is 600 rand (US\$80) per night.

Most of the brethren choose to stay at the popular Laguna La Crete complex, which has over 100 two- and three-bedroom apartments. Many of these apartments have spectacular views of the Uvongo Lagoon and coastline. Often schools of dolphins or an occasional whale can be seen close to shore. For the more adventurous, offshore dolphin/whale watching can be arranged.

A few kilometers inland from the coast, the scenery changes quite dramatically, and there are many scenic drives and sites, such as the spectacular Oribi Gorge. It is here that the brave-hearted can bungee jump a distance of over 100 meters (328 feet) down into the gorge.

There are many fine restaurants in the area, as well as two large shopping malls.

Accommodation costs range from \$50 to \$100 per night, depending on the type of accommodation that is required.

**Location of Services:** Uvongo Municipal Hall.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** There is a 14 percent VAT on most purchased items, which is refundable to international visitors at point of departure. Receipts will be required.

**Information and reservations:** Visitors requiring further information should visit the Web site [www.fotrsa.co.za](http://www.fotrsa.co.za), where there are links to Hibiscus Coast Tourism, or contact Neville Smith via e-mail at [neville\\_smith@ucg.org](mailto:neville_smith@ucg.org).

For accommodation bookings at Laguna La Crete, please contact Rhona Worthmann of Pam Golding Properties via e-mail at [rworthmann@pam-golding.co.za](mailto:rworthmann@pam-golding.co.za). Mention that you are from United Church of God in order to qualify for the special group rate.

*Neville Smith*

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a small island of diversity off the southern coast of India. The climate is tropical, the people are wonderful and hospitable, and the food is delicious.

The location of the Feast site is still under negotiation. Visitors will enjoy some beautiful sunsets over the Indian Ocean. The weather will be warm and tropical with sunny skies tempered with the cooling effect of some tropical rains.

Services will be in English, and the expected attendance is approximately 30 people. One of the highlights of the Feast will be the talent show. Short excursions can also be arranged during the Feast, and longer excursions to the hill country (tea-producing area) can be arranged before or after the Feast.

International guests will arrive at the Colombo International Airport and can hire a taxi to the site.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.

More details and updates will be announced in *United News*, or you may check our Web site at [ucg-srilanka.org/feast](http://ucg-srilanka.org/feast).

For additional information and reservations, please contact David Baker



by e-mail at david\_baker@ucg.org or call (585) 624-5166.

*David Baker*

## Togo

### Kpalimé

Members from Togo and Benin will celebrate the Feast at a private school complex in the town of Kpalimé about 75 miles north of the capital city of Lomé. About 70 people are expected to attend. As this site is French-speaking only, anyone who wishes to transfer needs to be fluent in the language. Lodging, meals and services will be at the site, and those attending the Feast will prepare the meals. One rather rustic hotel is available to visitors in Kpalimé.

Activities will include hikes, a family games day, soccer matches and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Togo.

At this writing, the situation is calm in Togo, and travel there is relatively safe, though there has been political unrest and some rioting in recent years, especially targeting French nationals, following a controversial election. Potential visitors should monitor the situation.

More information and registration forms may be received by contacting info-fr@ucg.org or by writing or phoning the French Department at the home office.

## United States

### Anchorage, Alaska

Anchorage is again being sponsored as a Festival site. We do not expect to turn down anyone wanting to transfer to Anchorage for the Feast, but there are special instructions for applying to this Feast site.

The 500 to 600 expected attendees will be hosted by the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel and Spa. The Sheraton has been renovated with a fresh look and \$20 million worth of improvements since the last Feast here in 2007. This 16-story hotel features comfortable guest rooms with Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Beds, 42-inch flat screen televisions with family-friendly channels, refrigerators in every room and Starbucks coffee.

Congregate in their new lobby where you will find complimentary wired and wireless Internet access while you sit fireside and enjoy a coffee from the new coffee bar! The Atrium lobby features a jade staircase and a Native Alaskan-design motif with museum quality sculpture and artwork.

Anchorage offers the convenience, excitement and ambience of a small but cosmopolitan city nestled into the upper reaches of historic Cook Inlet. Recreational and cultural activities coexist within walking distance of each other year-round. Wildlife viewing and fishing spots as well as hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails are minutes from downtown. Anchorage is a jumping-off place for a myriad of wilderness and outdoor adventures, including some of the world's most famous fishing and wildlife areas:

Kenai National Moose Range, Kenai River, Prince William Sound, Denali National Park, Katmai National Park,

Alaska Botanical Garden, Ben Boeke and Dempsey Anderson Ice Arenas, Lake Hood Air Harbor, Hilltop, Alyeska and Alpenglow Ski Areas, Alaska Zoo, and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

At this time, Church-sponsored activities have not been finalized, but group activities will be arranged.

Costs: \$115 standard rooms and \$135 club level rooms. Children under 18 stay for free. Additional adults (four total) can stay for \$10 each. All attendees and registered guests parking a vehicle will be charged a discounted rate of \$7.

Club level provides free local phone calls, updated bathroom amenities, complimentary continental breakfast and afternoon hors d'oeuvres in the club lounge Monday through Friday, large work desk with ergonomic chair, laptop power supply, complimentary newspaper, terry cloth robe and private access to the Club Level Lounge

Refrigerators are available a first-come, first-served basis only on the 11th and 12th floors.

**Taxes:** Local occupancy tax is 12 percent. Anchorage has no sales tax.

**Location of Services:** Sheraton Hotel Anchorage, 401 E. 6th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Registration/Application:** Due to the Church being directly responsible and liable to the Sheraton Anchorage for the hotel rooms reserved and for providing the complimentary meeting space, all attendees must stay at the Sheraton. Exceptions to this will be members living in Alaska or those given prior approval.

Deposit: a two-night nonrefundable deposit per room is required for this specialty Feast site and will be assessed by the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel when you make a reservation.

Registration for this specialty site is like any other U.S. and Canadian site. Turn in your Festival Registration form found in this *United News* to your local Feast adviser per the instructions.

**Hotel Reservations:** For this site to operate successfully and the ability to sponsor a site in Alaska, members must stay at the Sheraton.

You may begin immediately reserving housing at the Sheraton and making travel arrangements.

Hotel reservations can be made by two methods. Call (800) 325-3535 or book online at <http://tinyurl.com/UCGAnchorage>.

For further information, write to USFestival@ucg.org or call (970) 484-5878.

*Charles Melear*

### Bend-Redmond, Oregon

The Bend-Redmond area is pleased to host the Feast again in 2010. Nestled in the pines of Central Oregon, Bend is the hub of the Cascade Mountains resort area—a truly millennial setting. Warm, sunny days and crisp, cool nights are typical autumn weather during the Fall Festival season.

Central Oregon offers a wide range of family-oriented activities. The nationally acclaimed High Desert Museum features impressive indoor natural history exhibits and live outdoor animal programs. Newberry

National Volcanic Monument offers views of interesting features of the area's volcanic past, including a large lava cave to explore on foot. Crater Lake is within driving distance of the Bend-Redmond area.

Outdoor activities include sightseeing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, hay rides, rock climbing, cave exploring, agate and fossil hunting, fishing, canoeing, boating and whitewater rafting. Golfers enjoy some of the nation's best courses with reasonable green fees.

Bend has three expanding shopping malls, including a factory outlet mall and the award-winning Old Mill District on the banks of the Deschutes River. The small tourist town of Sisters is a must for window-shopping and souvenirs. The resort village of Sunriver offers shopping, dining and housing and a nature center.

Central Oregon offers a wide variety of restaurants, including a unique dining facility that offers a 32-ounce steak (or a whole chicken) with all the trimmings in the rustic atmosphere of a former cowboy shack.

**Location of Services:** Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Middle Sister Conference Room, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond (easy to find and conveniently located less than a mile from the Bend-Redmond airport).

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

*Larry J. Walker*

### Branson, Missouri

Branson is a world-class, family-oriented resort town located in the hardwood-forested hills of the Ozarks. Fall colors provide a stunning, millennial setting during the Feast.

Situated beside two beautiful lakes with miles of hiking trails meandering along clear, flowing streams, Branson has something for everyone. An afternoon drive through the spectacular scenery brings you into close contact with God's beautiful creation.

In addition to its natural beauty, Branson offers an almost endless variety of recreation and entertainment options for everyone. The area is home to several museums including the Titanic museum. The entire family will enjoy Silver Dollar City, which hosts the National Festival of Crafts during the Feast. Kids will love the go-cart tracks and the miniature golf courses. Music enthusiasts are treated to more than 90 live music shows.

Branson Landing is the newest addition to the shopping and dining scene. Enjoy waterfront shopping and dining in many upscale shops and fine restaurants, and in the evening watch a magnificent water show, synchronized to light, music and fire!

The site will again provide added educational opportunities with afternoon or evening seminars in addition to regular services and Bible studies. These have proven very popular and beneficial to brethren who want "a little more" instruction spiritually and educationally speaking.

Branson has a wide variety of housing options ranging from first-class hotels to kitchenettes and cabins. For those who want or need more space, you can enjoy the spacious beauty of one of many rea-

sonably priced condos overlooking the hills or lakes.

Weather during the Feast is usually mild, with lows in the 50s and highs in the 60s and 70s.

Services are held in a modern theater with plush seating. A room for those with severe allergies is available.

**Location of Services:** Baldknobbers Theater, 76 Country Blvd., Branson, MO 65616.

**First Service:** Thursday, Sept. 23, at 10 a.m.

**Taxes:** Vary from 6 to 12 percent.

*Michael Blackwell*

### Daytona Beach, Florida

Daytona Beach, Florida, will be a one-time replacement Feast site for Jekyll Island, Georgia, where a new convention center is under construction. Services in Daytona Beach will be held in the recently refurbished 2,500-seat Peabody Auditorium. Featuring a 9-foot Steinway grand piano (available for our use), this concert performance hall has been the home away from home for the London Symphony Orchestra for the past 33 years.

Daytona has a wide range of places for shopping and dining as well as numerous world-renowned attractions. In addition, Feastgoers can visit a number of local attractions in Daytona as well as ones within approximately a one-hour's drive. These include the Daytona Lagoon (a large water park with go-carts and putt-putt golf), the Daytona International Speedway, the Daytona 500 Experience, Kennedy Space Center, historic St. Augustine, museums and the PGA Hall of Fame.

Also nearby is the Holy Land Experience Theme Park, which offers a scale model of first century Jerusalem, a replica of the wilderness tabernacle, and the Scriptorium, consisting of several thousand manuscripts, scrolls and other religious artifacts.

The city is also the headquarters for NASCAR and the LPGA organizations. Additionally, some may wish to visit Walt Disney World, Sea World and/or Universal Studios in nearby Orlando before or after the Feast.

Numerous condominiums and hotel suites with mini-kitchens—almost all offering views of the ocean—will be available to rent. We expect between 2,000 and 2,500 people to observe the Feast in Daytona Beach.

The normal high temperature for September is 88 degrees and the average low for the month is 72 degrees. Travelers can fly into Daytona Beach International Airport or into the airports in Orlando or Jacksonville, both of which are approximately 1½-hour's drive from Daytona Beach.

**Location of Services:** Peabody Auditorium, 600 Auditorium Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Florida sales tax is 6.5 percent.

*David Treybig*

### Escondido (San Diego North County), California

The San Diego area will host the 2010 Feast for the 13th consecutive year in the beautiful concert auditorium at the Cali-

fornia Center for the Arts in Escondido, California. Escondido is a northern suburb of San Diego, about 30 minutes north of downtown and San Diego's Lindbergh International Airport. The airports in Ontario and Orange County are about 1½ hours away. Los Angeles International Airport is approximately 2½ hours away.

The "North County" of San Diego offers a variety of housing options from homes and condos on the beach (25 to 30 minutes away) to economy properties near the meeting facility. Available optional activities in the San Diego area include the world-famous San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park, the maritime exhibitions on San Diego's harbor, Old Town San Diego, Sea World, the Wild Animal Park outside Escondido, LEGOLAND in nearby Carlsbad, and the beautiful wine country of nearby Temecula.

We will host a number of special activities for all age groups, including a Family Day, teen activities, young adult activities, seniors' lunch and possibly a dinner and concert. We are expecting about 950 in attendance. Average temperatures range from highs in the upper 80s to lows in the 60s.

**Location of Services:** California Center for the Arts—Escondido, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025.

**First Services:** Thursday, Sept. 23, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (no opening night service).

**Taxes:** 10 percent room tax and 8.5 percent sales tax.

*Larry Greider*

### Kerrville, Texas

Kerrville offers a wonderful taste of the Texas hill country. Accommodations are first-rate, the people are friendly and the scenery is definitely Southwestern. Sparkling, spring-fed creeks meander through the rugged terrain and rolling hills of the Guadalupe River Valley.

We have reserved the Inn of the Hills Conference and Resort ([www.innofthehills.com](http://www.innofthehills.com)). Having exclusive use of the conference resort gives us unlimited opportunities for intimate fellowship and activities. Most of the additional housing is available within three miles of the site. With so many of our members staying on property or within a short drive, we plan to offer special venues for teens, singles, young adults and senior citizens. Services will be held in the beautiful 1,100-seat ballroom.

San Antonio is only one hour away via direct interstate highway. A trip to San Antonio will give our brethren the opportunity to visit the famous River Walk, River Walk Mall, the Alamo and other popular sites.

The Kerrville area offers 14 wineries within an hour's drive of the resort. Historic Fredericksburg, with its German heritage and over 150 shops and boutiques, is only a few miles away.

Kerrville's riverfront location lends itself to a variety of water-oriented recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, tubing, fishing, swimming or waterside family picnicking. Numerous antique shops, contemporary art galleries and boutiques as well as two chal-



lenging golf courses add to Kerrville's appeal.

The Inn of the Hills Conference Resort has a beautiful courtyard with pool and spa. Its on-site restaurant, the Alpine Lodge, has seating for 160 with the Inn Pub open nightly offering live entertainment.

Complimentary membership to the Family Sports Center, located just across the street, is available to those staying on property and offers an indoor pool, lap pool, basketball, racquetball and volleyball courts, weight-lifting center, sauna, 16-lane bowling alley and other amenities.

With all of its out-of-the-way charm, Kerrville is only one hour from beautiful San Antonio, only 1½ hours from Austin, four hours from Houston and five hours from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The elevation is 1,645 feet, with a mild climate and temperatures averaging a high of 80 and low of 52 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Location of Services:** Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Hwy., Kerrville, TX 78028.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Room tax is 13 percent.

*Britton M. Taylor*

## Northeast Region

The Feast site for the Northeast region was not finalized in time for the *United News* printing deadline. Updated information will be announced in local congregations. You can also check the Feast of Tabernacles Web site at <http://feast.ugc.org> for updates.

*Charles Melear*

## Panama City Beach, Florida

The Edgewater Beach Resort along the coastline of Panama City Beach will again host the Feast in Florida for 2010.

Edgewater's 110-acre gated community incorporates an array of activities and amenities sure to make a successful Feast, with 11 swimming pools, 12 tennis courts, 11 shuffleboard courts, four hot tubs, a tanning salon, gift shop, game arcade and a full-service restaurant. A complimentary tram service is available for transportation across the resort and to the meeting facility if needed.

Part of the resort rests along the Gulf of Mexico. Step back a few yards from the ocean, and you'll find yourself on the deck surrounding Edgewater's famous Lagoon Pool. Landscaped islands and several flowing waterfalls find their way into this 11,000-square-foot Polynesian-style, free-form pool, while several whirlpools and reflecting ponds make this tropical area complete.

The other part of the resort, across the street connected by a 10-foot wide pedestrian walkway, houses the meeting facility and a cluster of golf villas; a 9-hole, par 3 executive golf course with nine lakes and several island greens; a complete clubhouse and pro shop; 11 Plexicushion tennis courts with six lighted for night play; and also shuffleboard courts.

Edgewater's health club is a 1,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that features everything from cardiovascular exercise equipment to an aero-

bics salon to a massage therapy room.

**Housing:** Approximately 70 percent of the units are oceanfront, which includes studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums. The remaining condos surround the meeting facility and golf course. Edgewater Resort offers studios at \$79 per night, one-bedroom units at \$95 to \$122; two-bedroom units at \$105 to \$145 and three-bedroom units at \$125 to \$191.

Long Beach Resort, a mile away and managed by Edgewater Beach Resort, provides studios at \$72 per night, one-bedroom units at \$101, two-bedroom units at \$128 and three-bedroom units at \$155.

A luxurious property, also managed by Edgewater, is the Majestic Beach Towers, which will offer rates comparable to those at Edgewater Beach Resort. This is an oceanfront property just a half mile from the Edgewater Conference Center. Additional housing accommodations will also be available nearby, some oceanfront. Some of these properties offer efficiencies, and some have full kitchens.

The long-term success of this site depends on members only using the housing listed in the *Festival Planning Brochure*. The low price for the meeting facility saves the Church thousands of dollars each year and Edgewater Resort trusts the cooperation of our members to use the housing listed in our brochure. Some condos in the area may be less expensive, but the rates at Edgewater are comparable.

For more information, check out the resort's Web page at [www.edgewaterbeachresort.com](http://www.edgewaterbeachresort.com). A fragrance-controlled room will be available.

One detail to note, the Thunder Beach motorcycle rally will take place during the second half of the Feast and will present a parking challenge as it has in the past. Edgewater, however, has promised to provide additional complimentary shuttle bus service from a parking lot a few blocks away from the conference center.

**Location of Services:** Edgewater Beach Resort, 11212 Front Beach Rd., Panama City Beach, FL 32407.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** 10.09 percent at Edgewater.

*Harold Rhodes*

## Snowshoe, West Virginia

High atop Cheat Mountain is a destination worth considering for your 2009 Feast site. We're happy to offer Snowshoe, West Virginia, as a Feast site for one final year. If your vision of a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles includes staying in a beautiful condominium in a small mountain village, then Snowshoe is the place for you.

Snowshoe has 11,000 spectacular acres of mountain wilderness and sits nearly one mile above sea level. Expect comfortable daytime temperatures (50s to 70s) accompanied by cool, crisp evenings. Take in the beautiful fall colors during the day. Share one another's company around a gas fire pit in the evening.

Some of the many attractions include a lake with canoes and paddleboats,

bungee jumping, ski lift rides, mountain biking, golf, an indoor water park, hiking and more. We are likely to provide opportunity for one or more scenic railroad tours. Nearby is the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and Green Bank Science Center where tours are available. This is the perfect family Feast site.

Of course, we will have the traditional Feast activities, such as a family dance and/or variety show, seniors' luncheon, teen activity, Family Day activities and ample time to fellowship with one another throughout the village.

There is an assortment of restaurants in the village as well as shops. The type of housing ranges from motel to four-bedroom condos. The Church has negotiated significant discounts for everyone. You can find information about the village at Snowshoe at [www.snowshoemtn.com](http://www.snowshoemtn.com).

Services will be held within walking distance of virtually all housing. A free shuttle will be available to pick up those in need at their front door and take them to the front door of the Expo Center for services.

Take advantage of the opportunity to see an absolutely gorgeous part of the country, while enjoying the highlight of the year with members of your spiritual family. Because of the elevation, it is not a recommended site for those with breathing difficulties.

**Location of Services:** Expo Center, 10 Snowshoe Drive, Snowshoe, WV 26209.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Hotel tax rate is 12 percent.

*Mark Winner*

## Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Great scenery, excellent but reasonably priced accommodations and convenience to the meeting room make Steamboat Springs, Colorado, a great Feast site.

The Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel has extended its excellent rates until 2015. Its rates will remain the same until 2014 and then the cost will rise only 5 percent. The hotel has a variety of room types, including one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums—even penthouses. Parking is free both underground and across the street. The \$10 underground parking fee last year has been eliminated. Early housing for the three-bedroom condos at the Steamboat Grand will be available only for those with special needs such as a handicap and should be arranged with the Festival coordinator through your pastor.

For those needing four-bedroom condos, we are listing other facilities, which are nearby. Lower cost housing is about a mile and a half away.

In the past we have been able to accept all applicants. In 2009 we had to utilize two overflow rooms to accommodate everyone, and we are not sure what 2010 will bring.

A definite plus at this site is the comparatively low elevation of 6,700 feet. A few may experience some side effects from this elevation, but not nearly so much as at some of the considerably higher sites used previously.

Dining opportunities are varied and include a few higher-end restaurants. There is little in the way of well-known chain restaurants. Most shops are downtown, with a few on the hill above the hotel. There will be a certain amount of construction on the hill over the next few years, but its impact on the Feast should be minimal.

Available activities include golfing, mountain biking, hiking, fishing (including guided fly-fishing), hot-air ballooning, kayaking, rock climbing, bowling, ice-skating, miniature golf, ATV riding and horseback riding. The alpine slide, chair lifts and boat rentals are closed after Labor Day.

Some of the other attractions are Old Town Hot Springs, Fish Creek Falls (a short hike), museums, art galleries, three state parks (Stagecoach, Steamboat and Pearl, all with lakes) and 150 mineral springs in the vicinity of the town.

Steamboat Springs offers a free shuttle to and from most places in town. Yampa Valley Airport (25 minutes away) is serviced by commercial jets. Rental cars are available. For transportation from Denver International Airport call Alpine Taxi at (800) 343-7433 or go online at [www.alpinetaxi.com](http://www.alpinetaxi.com).

**Location of Services:** Priest Creek Ballroom, Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel, 2300 Mt. Werner Circle. Coming into town from the south on Hwy. 40, turn right onto Mt. Werner Rd., then left on Mt. Werner Circle.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes and Resort Fees:** Taxes and fees are 16.97 percent at the Steamboat Grand and 11.4 percent at other locations.

*Larry Neff*

## Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

With the trees ablaze in autumn colors and unique sandstone formations, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, is a beautiful and unique location for the Feast of Tabernacles. Feastgoers will also enjoy the Dells' family atmosphere and variety of activities, including enormous indoor water parks, go-kart racing, hiking, riding the famous amphibious "Ducks" and state parks.

Services will once again be held at the beautiful Crystal Grand Music Theater. This modern facility seats more than 1,900 people and is ideal for lingering conversations and fellowship. Parking is conveniently located next to the facility. Most accommodations are within a few minutes' drive of the Crystal Grand Music Theater as well as the dozens of attractions and quaint shops.

The Dells offers a large variety of housing including ultramodern theme resorts with elaborate indoor water parks and multifamily condominiums. Homes and cottages are available for rent on the nearby lakes, rivers or in the woods. A large variety of condominiums are available in various price ranges. Traditional-style motels offer an exceptional value, with several facilities offering large indoor water parks and whirlpool suites, so ask about them when making reservations. All establishments require a housing deposit, and cancellation policies vary, so ask

about that as well when making reservations.

The Madison, Wisconsin, airport is an hour away from the Dells; the Milwaukee airport is two hours away; and Chicago O'Hare is three hours away. The weather at Wisconsin Dells can vary from beautiful autumn weather to crisper temperatures.

**Location of Services:** Crystal Grand Music Theater, 430 W. Munroe Ave., Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Taxes:** Hotel and sales tax total 11 percent.

*Dan Dowd*

## Zimbabwe

### Victoria Falls

The Feast in Zimbabwe this year will be held at the tourist resort town of Victoria Falls.

The town is about 1 kilometer (.6 miles) from the magnificent Victoria Falls—the world's largest waterfall. This is a World Heritage site and one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

The town is 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the airport. Transport from the airport and back will be arranged. Simply e-mail the Festival coordinator, Mike Mukarati, at [mikemuk@zol.co.zw](mailto:mikemuk@zol.co.zw) indicating your arrival date and time. Airport charges are included in your airfare. Please confirm with your airline or travel agent.

Available free-time activities include touring the falls, whitewater rafting, bungee jumping 111 meters (364 feet) from a bridge down the Zambezi River gorge in sight of the falls, sundowner cruises along the Zambezi River, a visit to a crocodile ranch and game drives.

**Location of Services:** Services will be held in the conference hall at the Rainbow Hotel, at the corner of Parkway and Selous Avenue.

**First Service:** Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m.

**Reservations:** Most members will be staying at the Victoria Falls Rest Camp featuring self-catering lodges and luxury dome tents. To be included in our block booking arrangements and to enjoy our discounted rate of only \$19 per day per bed, please contact Mike Mukarati at [mikemuk@zol.co.zw](mailto:mikemuk@zol.co.zw). For more details about the facilities at the rest camp, visit its Web site [www.vicfallsrestcamp.com](http://www.vicfallsrestcamp.com).

Also recommended is the Rainbow Hotel where services will be held. Rooms are air-conditioned and include TV. To make reservations, first e-mail the Festival coordinator at [mikemuk@zol.co.zw](mailto:mikemuk@zol.co.zw) to enjoy our group rates of \$120 per day for a double bed and \$90 per day for a single bed. Both prices include breakfast.

There are many other world-class hotels such as the Victoria Falls Hotel, the Kingdom Hotel, the Elephant Hills Hotel and the A' Zambezi. You can read more about these hotels online or contact Mike Mukarati for more details on any of them.

*Mike Mukarati*



# Treasure Digest

## Arrangements Pending

As I prepared to leave the house for a day of errands, the newspaper open to the obituary page on the kitchen table caught my eye. It's a regular occurrence for the guys of the house to read the sports page while eating breakfast, but the obits? Never. A story's headline intrigued me, so I grabbed the page to read while eating fast food later.

At lunchtime, I read the article as I munched on the last of my sandwich, surprised to note it was yesterday's edition, one I had seen the day before. Out of the corner of my eye, a tiny ad at the edge of the page caught my attention. It read simply on the top line "Arrangements Pending." On the second line was the man's name. The funeral home was also listed.

Could this be our Mr. Duff who attended services with us? I had not seen him for weeks. With Mr. Duff, it was neither a surprise to see him, nor a surprise not to see him. He had some challenges in his life and did not attend church regularly.

Scanning the page for an obituary or death notice was fruitless. I knew of a fee for obituaries, but wasn't a death notice to mark someone's passing newsworthy? Trying to ascertain if this could be the man who worshipped with us, I called the funeral home. Describing him as a thin, older man with graying hair who wore large horn-rimmed glasses, I determined this most likely was our Mr. Duff.

The funeral director explained Mr. Duff had suffered a stroke and that he had no family, no means to pay. His legal guardian had arranged the burial. There would be no visitation, no funeral. A female minister—a stranger—would pray at the gravesite. The burial

was the next day—in less than 24 hours! What could we do?

"I don't think Mr. Duff would have liked having a female minister do his service," I said. The funeral director quickly agreed that my husband, who is a minister, could officiate. At the forefront of my mind was that no one, especially someone in our congregation, should have such an ignominious passing, buried in an unmarked grave observed only by a legal guardian, a paid preacher and a funeral home attendant.

Immediately, my conscience was pricked, realizing how little I knew about this man, simply because I hadn't befriended him while he was alive. Now it was too late. The first half of James 2 came to mind. Starting in verse 2, it reads: "For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?"

I had not completely ignored the man, but I had failed in befriending him. There was no door we could enter to go back in time to change the past; but with less than a day to make it happen, a simple, dignified farewell was arranged. The next morning at the burial plot, we joined a few hurriedly notified brethren, one couple from another congregation and the guardian. We were surprised when a fire truck pulled up, and several firefighters in full gear joined us. Forming a circle around the grave, each shared how we knew the deceased. The firefighters had befriended Mr. Duff after dousing a fire at his apartment.

A bitter winter wind blew across the cemetery, buffeting the bright orange gerbera daisies as they sat atop the inexpensive casket. Not typical funeral flowers; but this wasn't a typical service, and I had requested something cheerful. Knowing the funeral home had

donated the plot, it was no shock when a freight train roared close by, drowning out my husband Michael's words as he began to speak. A strong wind whipped the pages of his Bible; and tears sprang to our eyes, both from the cold and the loss we felt.

But the words of Job rode on the wind that winter day, reminding us we will meet again in a better world where disabilities of mind and body will be healed. Speaking above the wind, Michael said, "That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call and I will answer You: You shall desire the work of Your hands" (Job 14:13-14).

More than one winter has passed since that day, allowing time for reflecting on what lessons could be taken from this unusual 24-hour period. One of several things brought home to me with Mr. Duff's death is how very much God loves all His little ones, rich or poor, able or disabled. If He cares and notes the passing of a humble sparrow as in Matthew 10:29-32, how much more does He care about the death of the humblest of us? Because God loves all His little ones, I firmly believe He led me to read that that day-old obituary page containing Mr. Duff's name, which seemed to jump out from a one-column-inch notice. Of course, presently Mr. Duff is unaware of the details of his interment. But in the resurrection, I think the man will appreciate the farewell provided him. It was the right thing to do.



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When I hear the term "arrangements pending," I imagine Mr. Duff will forever come to mind. But reflecting on it, doesn't the term "arrangements pending" pertain to all humanity, set by God's timetable and plan for the resurrections? I am so grateful that our pending arrangements are in His capable hands and that we will not be forgotten or misplaced.

We cannot be sure when we arrive at Sabbath services if we will return next week or if someone we expect to see again will be gone from our midst. So, any befriending, any sharing, any honoring we intend to do, we need to do now.

The next time I meet a person who is shy or seems to be on the fringe of church society, I intend to befriend him or her. I will do it in memory of Mr. Duff. I think he would like that. And I know it will please our Heavenly Father.

Michelle Grovak  
Lafayette, Indiana, congregation

## Turning the Hearts . . . Just Say, "Stop!"

Being emotional can be wonderful—especially when you keep those emotions in check. The Bible is full of Scriptures speaking of our emotions. "Be angry and do not sin" (Ephesians 4:26). "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). "And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?'" (Luke 24:17).

The above scriptures show us that emotions are normal for us to have and display. We see that anger is typical when something is an irritant. Joy is expected at the occasion of something good. Sadness occurs when there are reversals in our lives.

While emotions are natural to us, it's important to note how easy it is to fall prey to the negative ones when we are not on guard.

The last fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians 5:23 is self-control. This fruit is essential for us to have in order to manage our emotions. God's Spirit gives us soundness of mind (2 Timothy 1:6-7) so that we are not unbalanced in our emotions. Yet at times we do become unbalanced—too angry, too sad, too frivolous. That is when we need to exercise one simple point. Just say, "Stop!" Take a time out and ask yourself what is going on. Take the circumstances out of the emotional range and get some perspective.

Taking a time-out will give you more time to think about the entire situation. Calling a halt to excessive emotions will prevent an emotional situation from further escalating out of control. During this cooling-off period, one can take the time to rebalance emotions and prevent further difficulties.

In your marriage or family life, when your emotions start to get out of control, just say, "Stop!" and ask yourself "What is really going on?" Exercise self-control and ask God to assist you with calming the provoked situation.

Be emotional—but properly so!

Gary Antion



## Caption Contest

### Winner!

**Man with football:** "Hey, do ya wanna pass the pigskin?"

**Man with pig:** "I thought we were Christians."

**Pig:** "Boy, I sure hope so."  
(Calum Powers, 13 years old,  
Charlotte, North Carolina)



Brian Crane

### Runner-up!

"I said, 'Do you wanna toss some pig skin?'" (Hunter Crawford, 9 years old, East Texas congregation)





## From the Word

# Awake Out of Sleep

■ During a three-week pastoral trip to England and Scotland, UCG-British Isles senior pastor Paul Suckling experienced a jarring event that kept him awake asking, “How am I doing as a Christian?”

by Paul Suckling

*IT'S 4:15 a.m.: WHY AM I UP WRITING NOW?*

I left the United States out of Boston on Wednesday, Feb. 3, bound for London. The plane took off right on time, and we landed at Heathrow at 7:20 a.m., slightly earlier than scheduled. The flight was flawless, and all went well.

By prior arrangement my colleague John Ross Schroeder met me, and we headed for my hotel. During that first day I ran some errands around town, and later that evening I joined my daughter for dinner. I had told my wife, Jane, that I had arrived safely, and apart from jetlag, all was well with me and the world. Or so I thought...

I finally went to bed at around 11 p.m., having thanked God for my safe arrival.

### A Completely Unexpected Development

Then at 3:20 a.m. a shrill alarm woke everyone in the hotel—and probably many in the surrounding houses. Yes, the fire alarm had been triggered. Quickly grabbing some essentials to survive, I put on my dressing gown and headed for the hotel lobby. Within minutes crowds of people had gathered and were hurried out to a very cold parking lot.

Some youngsters had run down in just their pajamas, and their feet were bare. It was cold, and they went back inside the hotel to get paper towels from the bathroom to stand on. Several started to smoke, while others took out their keys and climbed into their cars for warmth.

Finally, about an hour later, the screeching alarm stopped and the “go back to bed” signal was authorized by the firemen. We returned to our hotel rooms very grateful that the trauma was suddenly over. But now I was awake, and suddenly

I found myself pondering the meaning of my life.

### What If...

As I lay there in my bed, I began thinking about what would have been next for me had it all been over that night.

The resurrection to eternal life was my first thought. Yes, that's God's promise to every true Christian—His firstfruits (James 1:18; Romans 8:11, 23; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54)—a truly wonderful gift provided we have met the requirements that God has laid down in Scripture. Eternal life is a gift that one cannot earn in any way by works that any human can do. We are saved by grace and not works (Ephesians 2:8-10). However, God does require real repentance of our personal sins, which He is willing to forgive through the sacrifice of Jesus our Savior.

We Christians accept the sacrifice of Christ, and then we make a covenant with God not to walk

*I had left my hotel room with almost nothing; and if I had expired that night, I would have taken nothing with me to the grave. All that would have been left between me and God was what I had done with the knowledge I had been given all those years ago.*

along the pathway of sin any longer. We reject Satan and all his works since he was a murderer and a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). So all the wrongs from the past have to stop. That's not so easy as we still have our human nature to battle.

Individually, we know the temptations and challenges that come our way on a regular basis. But with the help of God's Holy Spirit—given to us after repentance, water baptism and the laying on of hands of the ministry—we can truly begin to walk in the way God asks of us.

It has been nearly 50 years since I came to understand this truth about the Christian life now in addition to the awesome promise of everlasting life in God's Kingdom to follow. As these thoughts started to run through my mind, I asked myself, “How am I doing?”

I had left my hotel room with almost nothing; and if I had expired that night, I would have taken nothing with me to the grave. “For we brought nothing

into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out” (1 Timothy 6:7). All that would have been left between me and God was what I had done with the knowledge I had been given all those years ago.

As I lay there thinking about King David's words, “What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?” (Psalm 8:4, New International Version), it crossed my mind that all that matters in the end is our personal relationship with our Creator!

### Worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth

In John 4:23-24 Christ makes it abundantly clear what we should do. Read these verses carefully. God clearly says He is looking for people to worship Him “in spirit and truth.” This passage means that our relationship with Him is a spiritual one based upon all that has been recorded in Scripture. It has been written down for us to read, understand and obey.

People arrived in the lobby fully dressed and carrying backpacks. I'm sure that they brought with them all that mattered at that moment in time when the alarm rang. I realized that all I brought was what we would call my “character.”

My character amounts to nearly 50 years of reading, studying and learning about God's way of life and then seeking to put it all into practice.

Only God knows how well I have cooperated with Him, struggling against my human nature and the pulls of the devil. But I can say that I have tried, and with the help of His Holy Spirit, I have made some progress. It's at times like these that we are forced to think about the real meaning of life.

The annual season of the Passover is drawing ever closer, and we are encouraged by the Scriptures to “examine ourselves” (2 Corinthians 13:5-7).

### Yielding to God's Truth

Paul makes a very interesting statement: “For we can do noth-

ing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Corinthians 13:8). Do we live our lives for the truth? Those whom God has chosen to call in these last days before the return of Christ have a very serious responsibility.

We are a part of the body of Christ throughout this world and must live in a way that demonstrates the fruit of our calling—relying on the Father who enabled us to come to Jesus Christ (John 6:44, 65) and continuing to serve our great God—worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

Frail and human as we all are, shortly ahead of us will come the opportunity to renew the covenant we made at baptism—and to determine yet again for another year to strive for the fulfillment of our calling ahead (see Philippians 3:13-4:1).

It's now 5:30 a.m. or a half hour past midnight back home in the Boston area. The hotel guests are stirring, and traffic is beginning to move on the streets outside. I feel like going to sleep, but a new day to serve God is about to begin. Wherever we are and whatever we are doing as we begin our next new day, let's serve God with a willing mind and a renewed heart—realizing that the night is far spent and salvation is closer than when we first believed (Romans 13:11). **UN**

Paul Suckling is the senior pastor for the congregations in the British Isles.



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# The High Places of Your Heart

■ Only two kings in Israel and Judah's history followed God's command to tear down the pagan high places of sacrifice. What was it that motivated them to carry out God's order when so many of their predecessors and successors did not? What can we learn from their example in order to tear down our own spiritual high places in our hearts?

by **Jeremy Lallier**

If you're at all familiar with the history of Israel and Judah, then you probably know this about their rulers: Most of them were pretty awful. They were awful to the point that the small handful of good rulers stood out just on principle of not being arrogant, conceited, foolish, blaspheming idol-worshippers.

Many of the good kings spent a large portion of their reign trying to reverse the evil their predecessors had introduced to their kingdom. They introduced sweeping reforms. They smashed idols and slew false priests. They renovated God's temple and reintroduced true worship to the people.

Of the 39 rulers in Israel and Judah after the time of Solomon, only eight

of them (all exclusively from Judah) attempted this. Only eight saw the depravity around them and decided to do anything about it. And in the books of 1 and 2 Kings, only eight kings are described as "doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD."

## Take Down the High Places

But those kings had failures as well. The overwhelming majority of Judah's eight righteous kings have their histories tarnished by one common shortcoming: They failed to take down the high places (1 Kings 15:11,14; 22:43; 2 Kings 12:2-3; 14:3-4; 15:3-4, 34-35).

Before entering Canaan, the Israelites were commanded to "utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things" (Deuteronomy 12:2-4). Instead of obeying this command, the Israelites adopted these pagan high places as additional centers for worship.

Some of them were even honest attempts to serve God—on man's terms. God mentioned only one location where He wanted His people to make sacrifices—His tabernacle (Leviticus 1:2-3). The high places were the Israelites' way of responding, "Okay, but...what about here too?" God had made a rule, and His people broke it. Worshipping at the high places, whatever the intent, was sin.

We aren't told why six of the eight righteous kings of Judah left the high places standing. Perhaps they didn't see them as a serious problem. Maybe they were exhausted from the effort of eradicating the other forms of sin rampant in their country and decided not to bother with the high places.

Whatever their reasons, we can look at the recorded history and learn that stopping short of destroying the high places was not enough in God's eyes. Their stories are all tarnished with what equates to, "They did what was right before God, except..."

## What Are Our High Places?

So what does this mean for us? We're not kings. We don't have the ability to tear down our world's modern high places. Did God make a point of recording this fault of the kings for no reason at all?

God tells His baptized people today, "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, [which] is in you, [which] you have from God, and you are not your own" (1 Corinthians 6:19). And as God's temple, it is our duty to stay wholly dedicated to Him and not allow ourselves to build any spiritual high places in our hearts.

The Israelites fell prey to the false idea that they could serve God however they wanted—that they could serve Him along with other gods or in locations of their choosing. So they went to the high places, with "every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes" (Deuteronomy 12:8). Without continued vigilance on our parts, we, too, can fall prey to that idea.

What high places do you have in your heart? Take a close look. What altars have you set up there, and what gods are you serving at those altars? Maybe you pay homage to money and possessions. Or maybe you bring sacrifices to popularity.

And what ways do you worship God that detract from how He wants to be worshipped? Maybe you've fallen into vain repetition in your prayer life or present your works to Him as if they are earning you your salvation.

## Hezekiah and Josiah

The only two kings in history to follow God's command to tear down the high places left us an example to follow for dealing with our own spiritual high places. Hezekiah, the first of the two, made such an impact that the Bible records, "After him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him" (2 Kings 18:5).

Hezekiah "removed the high places and broke down the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent" (2 Kings 18:4). Why? What prompted him to do this, when the kings who had come before had fallen short?

To Hezekiah, nothing mattered more than God and His commandments: "He trusted in the LORD God of Israel... [He] held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him but kept His commandments" (2 Kings 18:5-6). So when he saw the high places standing in defiance of that same God, the only logical action was to tear them to pieces. What matters most to you?

Years later, Hezekiah's great-grandson, Josiah, would take the

throne only to find that those before him had rebuilt the high places and reintroduced Israel to idolatry. His response? Josiah "made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul" (2 Kings 23:3).

Josiah's priorities were clear. God came first, and Josiah devoted himself to following Him. His whirlwind campaign to rid the land of all things pagan (see 2 Kings 23:4-25) was a natural consequence of devoting himself to God. What are you devoted to?

Seek out every obstacle that stands between you and God—and when you find them, follow the example of Hezekiah and Josiah. Smash them to pieces. Chop them down. Grind them to dust. Obliterate every trace of all opposition to God, every speck of resistance.

Spiritual high places are much harder to destroy than their physical counterparts. We can't put a dent in them on our own, however determined we are. Only when we turn to God in prayer, fasting, Bible study and meditation can we expect to tear down what separates us from Him. For "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Only two kings in all of history took the high places seriously enough to deal with them. Will you? **UN**

*Jeremy Lallier is a staff writer at the home office.*

# Ready to Answer

## How would you respond to an interviewer questioning why you can't work on Saturday?

In March 2008, I was called to a job interview. I spent hours rehearsing the answers to questions I thought might be asked. In the interview room sat four managers with notepads, pens and my fate in their hands. Their questions generally matched the answers I had rehearsed, so I was able to relax and respond naturally and confidently.

Then one of them said "Occasionally we have to work on Saturdays to meet a customer's deadline. Are you willing to work extra hours if asked?"

Four months prior, I had lost my previous job because I wouldn't violate the Sabbath. I was in dire straits financially. In my mind, I heard the words, "Say yes now and worry about it later if you get the job." But then I remembered this passage: "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

Was I ashamed of my faith? No. So I told them that working Friday evenings or Saturdays would violate the Sabbath. Then I showed them the little Holy Day calendar card provided by the Church and said, "Except for

the weekly Sabbaths and the Holy Days marked on this calendar, I'll be here whenever you need me." When one of the managers asked if she could keep it, I was happy to leave the calendar with her.

I got the job.

*Patte Rehak  
Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation*

In my early 20s I worked as a waitress and was up for the hostess job. Taking this job would have required this very same thing [working on the Sabbath]. I explained it, and they asked me how serious I was about it. I told them that I really wanted the job but that I would not be there on the Sabbath. They said that they would have to give the job to someone who would be there, even though I was perfect in every other way.

So I remained a waitress. But I have to say that after that my tips went up. I continually finished out each night with the highest tips for the night.

God blessed me anyway. I was making more with the extra tips than I would have made with the promotion.

*Sherrie Giddens  
St. Louis, Missouri, congregation*

I have never experienced trouble being hired because of my beliefs nor have I lost a job because of them. Even so, after explaining my beliefs and being hired, there have been times when the Sabbath issue was tested. I have always been blessed for keeping it. Here is how I would respond to the question.

"I am more than happy to change most of my Sunday schedules for work, even Easter Sunday.

"I can also work on many other holidays when most qualified persons, like myself, would prefer not to work, such as during Christmas and New Year's.

"I believe I have become the kind of employee you are looking for, in large measure due to my personal faith, and my personal faith is to observe Friday evenings and Saturdays. Doing so has helped make me who I am.

"I am more than willing to work any time required other than on the Holy Days found in Leviticus 23 of the Bible. Please accept this calendar list of the dates I observe."

*Sheri Benjegerdes  
Las Vegas, Nevada, congregation*

I respond, "I am sorry sir, but I have very strong religious convictions and cannot work after sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday. It is the Sabbath day and is not negotiable for me. It is not something I will compromise on, and I am very sorry if that will cost me this job; but I hope you will understand and look at all my other qualifications."

I did once have a job that knew up front about the Sabbath, but later said it was required of me to work weekends. When I said I could not, the manager threatened my position. I told him I would have to quit. He said fine, and I did.

*Lorelei Nettles  
Phoenix, Arizona, East, congregation*





## Local Church Updates

### Couple Celebrates 65th Anniversary in Cincinnati



Angie Smith feeds her husband, Ed, some anniversary cake

Ed and Angie Smith celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Oct. 8, 2009. The Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation honored and congratulated them for this wonderful achievement with a beauti-

fully decorated cake on the Sabbath of Oct. 24, 2009. Their sterling example of love and dedication to each other has been a wonderful example to everyone who knows them.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were high school sweethearts in southern Oklahoma where they grew up. They met when they were freshmen and started dating their senior year. They graduated in May of 1944 and were married Oct. 8, 1944, on Angie's 18th birthday. Nine months later, Mr. Smith was drafted into the army. Mrs. Smith traveled with her husband as much as possible. But when he was sent to be a military guard at the Nuremberg trials in Germany for a year and a half, Mrs. Smith returned to her parents' home. Since the happy time they were reunited, they've rarely been separated since!

The Smiths first started listening to Herbert Armstrong's broadcast in 1948 and attended the first spring Holy Day season when Mr. Armstrong came to Big Sandy, Texas. Mr. Smith was baptized in the spring of 1953 and Mrs. Smith in the fall, and they have served God and His people faithfully for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith lived in Oklahoma where Mr. Smith worked for Halliburton until he was hired to work for the Church full-time. The Smiths have served congregations in California, Texas, Ohio and Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Smith moved back to Cincinnati in 1980 and have made it their home since then.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two daughters, Linda Smith and Debbie Kieviet; one son-in-law, Bruce Kieviet; one granddaughter, Angela Whitaker, and her husband, Robert. They also have a great-granddaughter, Ragan, 5 years old, and a 10-month-old great-grandson, Ryan.

Mike and Becky Bennett

### Tallahassee Member Recognized for Pro Bono Services

On Jan. 28, the Florida Bar Association recognized Monica Taibl, a member of the Tallahassee, Florida, congregation, in a ceremony at the Florida Supreme Court for her pro bono services for 2010. Monica is the assistant public defender for Madison County and is a sole practitioner in Madison, Florida.

Janet Hendershot

### Salt Lake City Hosts 14th Annual Ski Weekend

The Salt Lake City congregation would like to say "thank you!" to everyone who helped make the recent ski weekend a resounding success. Members from 10 states attended the family-focused event that was held over the three-day Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

The weekend was enhanced by informative workshops. This year we appreciated having Ralph Levy, the dean of Academic Affairs for the Ambassador Bible Center. The first workshop Sabbath morning was presented by Jon Pinelli, pastor of the congregations in Salt Lake City and Grand Junction, Colorado. He moderated a fun and informative personality workshop based on the Hartmann Color Code. He contrasted the various strengths and weaknesses of each type and closed by reminding us that Jesus Christ has all of the personality types.

Dr. Levy taught the second workshop, "Unsung Heroes of the Bible." He made a point both in the workshop and also during the sermon of thanking all of the mothers and grandmothers for fulfilling their biblical roles of teaching God's way to their children.

That afternoon's Sabbath service included three selections of special music. Dr. Levy's sermon titled "A Cup of Water" showed how little things speak volumes. The meeting hall was full, and the volume from spirited singing and fellowship sounded like a Holy Day! A potluck was provided and a family dance closed the day.



Two-year-old Jessica Frank proves you're never too young to start skiing (photo by Bruce Frank)

A total of 42 skiers hit the slopes Sunday, including a two-year-old on skis for the first time. No injuries or bruised egos were reported that evening at the chili social—just lots of laughter, exhaustion and fellowship. It was another tiring but inspiring weekend.

John Fox

### Indianapolis Men Treat the Ladies to Potluck

The Lafayette, Indiana, congregation enjoyed its third annual men's potluck after church services Jan. 9.

The males of the congregation served up a wide variety of tasty dishes, including slow-roasted lamb by Victor Kubik, pastor of the Indianapolis congregation, coconut chicken by Sam Howie and chocolate cake by Colin Keeney, age 8.

The meal was followed by Family Christian Club, which featured the theme "Lessons Learned From Trials." Game night, with basketball and board games, rounded out the evening.

Michelle Grovak

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

## Announcements

### Births

Robert and Amber Teitgen are grateful to announce the birth of their second incredible little blessing, Stephen Isaac Teitgen. Wonder-



James and Stephen Teitgen

ful big brother James is excited to have a beloved little playmate with whom to share everything, including his love and excitement. Stephen was born at home with only Mom and Dad in attendance on the afternoon of Sept. 8, 2009. He weighed 9 pounds 8 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Nana and big brother showed

up moments later from playing outdoors. Mary and Julie Salva arrived a few minutes later to offer assistance. The midwives were the last to show up! We are thankful for God's protection and guidance in allowing a safe, smooth, quick and healthy delivery.

Randy and Charlotte McQuien of the Tampa, Florida congregation are happy to announce the birth of their sixth grandchild, Rachael Aeryn Fleming. Rachael was born



Rachael and Ryan Fleming

on Jan. 12. She weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 20½ inches in

length. Rachael is the second child for David and Sarah (McQuien) Fleming. They have an 18-month-old son, David "Ryan," who couldn't be more in love with his little sister.

### Engagements

David and Jolinda Schreiber are very happy to announce the engage-



Kelley Schreiber and Justin McGinnis

ment of their daughter, Kelley Schreiber, to Justin McGinnis. It's already been seven years since they first attended the prom together!

Kelley is currently volunteering with United Youth Corps in Amman, Jordan, while Justin is a Web developer/computer programmer in the Minneapolis area.

Justin and Kelley attend the Austin, Minnesota, congregation as well as the Minneapolis and St. Paul areas. They are planning a September 2010 wedding.

Derrick and Sheila Smith, of the Louisville, Kentucky, congregation,



Aaron Creech and Whitney Kathryn Smith

and Glenn and Ronda Creech, of the Cincinnati, Ohio, East congre-

gation, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Aaron Alan Creech and Whitney Kathryn Smith. The couple plans to be married on Aug. 1, 2010. Aaron is pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemistry, a secondary education chemistry teaching degree and a minor in mathematics at Northern Kentucky University. Whitney will finish ABC and then complete an associate's degree in marketing management. They will reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, after the marriage.

### Weddings

Rachel Cherie Clark and Alberto Clark Vasquez were married on Sept. 20, 2009, in Wichita, Kansas. Friends and family came from far and wide to enjoy the ceremony, reception and dance that followed. Kristy Paul, Amber Vasquez, Angel Dimauro and Ami Vasquez attended the bride; and Chris Vasquez, Chris Bates, Don Bates and Adam Clark attended the groom. The flower girl



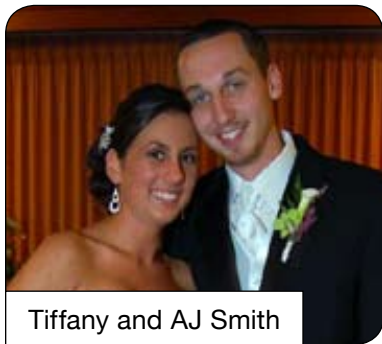
was Alana Leiter and ring bearers were AJ Vasquez and Isaac Clark.



Rachel and Alberto Vasquez

The father of the bride performed the ceremony. The couple resides in and attends services in Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. David Tobin of Erie, Pennsylvania, along with Mr. and Mrs. Art Smith of Cleveland, Ohio, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Tiffany



Tiffany and AJ Smith

Marie Tobin and Anthony Joseph Smith. The wedding took place in the bride's hometown of Erie on Dec. 20, 2009. The celebration was performed by Jim Servidio of Houston, Texas. Mr. Servidio is the bride's uncle, and he also performed the ceremony for Tiffany's parents 28 years earlier!

Courtney Tobin, the sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Ashley Troyer, the bride's close friend, was the matron of honor. Zach Smith and Chris Smith, brothers of the groom, were the best men. Tiffany and AJ celebrated the day with more than 100 family and friends with a lot of love, laughter and dancing! It was truly a wonderful, beautiful wedding. The couple resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Anniversaries

Lloyd and Peggy Smith celebrated their 60th anniversary Jan. 14, 2010. The Texarkana, Texas, congregation



Peggy and Lloyd Smith

gave them a reception the evening of Jan. 14.

## Tribute: Gail Miller

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Gail Miller, wife of Perry Miller, a local elder serving in the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, congregation. Gail was diagnosed with stomach cancer just before July 4, 2009. The cancer was in remission for a very short time but returned around her right lung and in her spinal column. She died on Jan. 27, 2010, at the age of 58. Gail was a fighter and never backed down from a challenge.

She was born on Sept. 30, 1951, in Ft. Ord, California, to Ted and Jean Gangnath. Gail's father was in the army, moving the family several times until he retired. Gail graduated from Moses Lake High

School in Moses Lake, Washington.

Gail started attending Church with her family in the spring of 1964. She was baptized in the spring of 1972 and later served as a deaconess in the Spokane congregation.

She met her husband, Perry, at church and asked him to escort her to her junior prom. They were married Aug. 13, 1972. They lived out a true love story with a fantastic marriage, business and family.

For many years Gail coached the Y.O.U. girls' basketball and volleyball teams. She also helped organize many functions at the Feast in Spokane, Y.O.U. trips, Y.O.U. weekends and the Spokane Women's Weekend.

Gail loved decorating. She designed flower arrangements for weddings through the years for people she knew. She started a custom jewelry business in 2007 and began designing and creating jewelry with her daughter-in-law Amy. She was also a member of the Wandermere Ladies' Golf league.

Gail will be remembered for her kindness, passion for her family (especially her grandchildren), competitive spirit, unshakable faith and zeal for life. You could always count on Gail for a big smile and radiating warmth of heart. Gail loved golf, designing jewelry, fast cars, decorating and a good glass of wine.

She is survived by her husband, Perry; daughter, Tracy;



Gail Miller

son, Jeff (Amy); two grandchildren, Alexa and Hallie; brother, Kelly (Sue) Gangnath; sister, Barbara (Brett) Wills; nephews, Chad and Todd Gangnath; niece, Adrienne Hayes; and great-niece Mara Hayes, who all who miss her very much.

## Obituaries

Alice Beabout, a member of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, died at her home at the age of 89 on Jan. 12. Alice was the seventh of 12 children born to her parents in Wilkesville, Ohio, where the family lived in a log cabin on a two-acre farm. Her father was a coal miner; and as was the custom at that time, Alice married at a young age to make room in



Alice Beabout

the cabin for the younger children. At age 13 she married William H. Beabout (deceased Nov. 7, 1996). She and William had three sons, Dan, Charles and Harold, and a daughter, Loretta Louis.

Alice and her husband moved to Florida in 1957. Shortly before William retired from the construction industry in 1981, he learned about the Church from his daughter, Loretta, and a fellow employee. They started listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio and before long William and Alice became baptized members of the Church. When introducing herself to other members, Alice would say regarding her last name—Beabout—that we must be about our Father's business.

Alice had a reputation as a friendly, outgoing person. She was esteemed by her neighbors and her Church family. She always had a smile on her face and enjoyed welcoming new people both at church and in her neighborhood. In her later years she took up painting and gave many of her paintings to friends.

Friends and family members gathered at St. Pete Beach for a memorial service officiated by David Treybig. After the service, the family treated everyone to a buffet meal at a local

restaurant, as that was something Alice was looking forward to on her 90th birthday. Although Alice missed the occasion by approximately six months, the family felt this was a fitting way to honor her.

Margarette Bell Rillman, age 96, of Canton, Ohio, died in the faith Sabbath morning, Jan. 23, in her hospital room. Margarette's health had been declining in recent years, and this past September she acquired a leg infection that continued to advance. Thankfully, she felt no pain in her legs these recent months, and the hospital staff reported that she died peacefully.

Margarette was pretty certain that she'd actually passed the 100-year mark two years ago, but she knew that it would be hard to prove since her birth record was destroyed in an orphanage fire in her early childhood. So, the Canton congregation honored her 100th birthday in May of 2008, and she liked the distinction of being the oldest senior citi-



Margarette Rillman

zen in the congregation. That was her story—and she was sticking to it! Just two days before her passing, her mind still being very sharp, Margarette said the date really didn't matter because God knew the real details.

In recent years she would attend church when she felt strong enough. She studied her books a great deal, and she loved to read God's Word daily. She put her trust in what God's will was going to be. Now God's will is done, and she awaits the hope of glory, the promise of a future spirit body.

Margarette is survived by one son, four granddaughters, two grandsons,

as well as many great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Sheryl Ann (Clark) Shebel, 61, of Grain Valley, Missouri, died peacefully in her home on Jan. 6 after a long struggle with cancer. Sheryl was baptized into God's Church in June of 1978.

Sherrie was born in Ogden, Utah, on May 25, 1947. She was the daughter of Johnnie and Doris (Erickson) Clark. She was an accountant. Her hobbies were photography, horses and sewing. Sherry loved life in general, loved to travel and was always very generous.

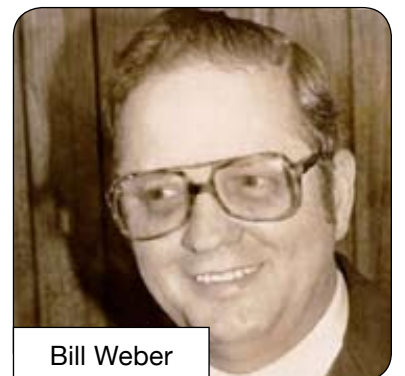
Sherry was preceded in death by her father. She will be dearly missed by her three daughters, Brenda (Larry) Parrish of Jacksonville, Florida, Jessica Naquin of Grain Valley, Missouri, Stephanie (Danny) Rex of Houston, Texas; her mother, Doris Nugent; two sisters, Barb (Ken) Hasner and Kaye Curry; and five grandchildren, Robert and Richard Parrish, Audry McGrew, Joseph Castle and Heaven Rex.

Memorial services were conducted by Greg Sargent on Jan. 22 in Grain Valley, Missouri. To end the service, Audry McGrew sang one of her grandmother's favorite songs, "Down in the Valley."

Throughout her sickness, Sherry mentioned several times how much she appreciated receiving cards from brethren. The touch and encouragement from God's people taught her to not only send cards but also to write edifying, encouraging words to others who were experiencing trials. In her weakness, she became strong.

William K. "Bill" Weber Jr. died Jan. 17 at Oak Hill Hospital in Brooksville, Florida, after a long struggle with several health problems. He was 76 years old and a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was born in Wellsville, New York, and married Susie Kish in Ulysses, New York, on Sept. 17, 1955. Besides his job, Bill was active in civic affairs and umpired Little League baseball games. In 1977 Bill and his family moved to Brooksville, where he became editor of a weekly newspaper, *The Sun-Journal*. Bill was



Bill Weber

of his probing questions, he directed Bill to the Church of God. Bill and Susie soon began attending the Tampa congregation and were baptized on Feb. 4, 1984.

In addition to his wife, Bill is survived by their three daughters, Cindy (Raymond) Croft, Barb (Mike) Adams and Debbie Grubbs; 10 grandchildren, Missy, Jesse, Blaise, Troy, Travis, Clint, Casey, Gabe, Josh and Jon; five great-grandchildren, Bryce, Bailey, Brendan, Jessie, and Ava; two brothers, Donald and Robert; and a sister, Marilyn Perkins.

A well-attended "Gathering in Memory," followed by a "Celebration of Life," was conducted by David Treybig, pastor of the Tampa congregation on Jan. 20. Interment followed at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell with full military honors. Mr. Treybig also led a memorial service for Bill at the Tampa hall prior to services on Sabbath, Jan. 23.

**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

reminding everyone that the Feast of Tabernacles is the biggest annual undertaking for members of the United Church of God.

Mr. Franks also noted that in the 2008 member survey 75 percent of brethren said that the Feast of Tabernacles was one of the most positive things done by the United Church of God.

Turning to Internet matters, it was decided that the sites in Snowshoe, West Virginia; Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin; and Bend, Oregon, will webcast their services this year. A new Web site has also been created (see "God's Word Online: Feast Web Site Up and Running," page 5).

Concerning housing, Charles Melear, UCG Festival meeting planner, reported that due to the weak economy, many of the higher-priced hotels are offering heavily discounted rates in order to secure business. Consideration is being given to asking members to fill out housing surveys online.

David Register gave a report on educational efforts at the Feast. Citing the 2008 member survey, he pointed out that in addition to

the messages given during services, members appreciated Bible studies and seminars during the Feast. In 2009 we had 17 seminars, five more than the previous year.

Suggested seminar topics for next year include prophecy, marriage and family issues, the Millennium, resisting Satan and his world, child rearing, finances and staying positive in a negative world. Members also asked for more in-depth material, more interaction, fresh and new information and a more transformational approach to motivate them to change their behavior.

Other discussions focused on updates to the coordinator's manual, use of online registration for Festival activities, planning the speaking schedule, article assignments for the *Festival Planning Brochure*, music, budgeting and ideas for the Feast video.

David Treybig

### Feast Site Designated for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Brethren

The official 2010 Feast site for our deaf and hard-of-hearing brethren will be Panama City Beach, Florida.

Naturally, not all of our deaf brethren will be attending the Feast

in Panama City Beach, so we will be in need of sign language interpreters in the Northeast Feast site and possibly other Feast sites, as well as transcribers who can type during services for our deaf brethren who do not use sign language. If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact Mark and Barb Welch at mark\_welch@ucg.org or call them at (918) 247-4325.

We greatly appreciate any service you may be able to provide for our deaf and hard-of-hearing brethren.

Mark Welch



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## Kansas City to Host Fourth of July Singles' Weekend

The Kansas City, Missouri, congregation is hosting an exciting singles' event over the Fourth of July holiday weekend! Join us in the beautiful "City of Fountains" for an event bursting with fireworks, food, fellowship, interactive seminars and many fun-filled festivities!

Singles will be treated as VIPs as they celebrate the holiday in first-class style, riding around in the world's biggest SUV limousine! Touring the city in the 44-passenger luxury limo will be one of the most unforgettable highlights of the weekend!

Other activities for the event will include a Friday night pizza dinner, interactive seminars, a rose ceremony, Saturday night dinner at a Brazilian Grill, awesome fireworks displays, a Sunday barbecue picnic with volleyball and other picnic games and a field trip to Historic Fort Osage.

The event will conclude Monday with a tour of Chip's Chocolate Factory in Crown Center where all guests will receive a goody bag full of fudge and other chocolate treats!



This event will be limited to 40 singles (20 men and 20 women). The registration fee will be \$125 and includes all meals except the Saturday lunch and dessert. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due by June 1. The remaining \$25 balance will be due on arrival. Hotel accommodations will be at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel near the Kansas City airport. Room rates will be \$69 per night and include a full hot gourmet breakfast.

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 2, to Monday, July 5, and plan to join us for this amazing event!

Go to the event's Web site: <http://kc2010.org/to/register>. For any questions, e-mail the event coordinator, Ruben Gusman, at [rubenkc@aol.com](mailto:rubenkc@aol.com) or call (816) 838-1034.

Space will be filling up fast, so register today!



## What's New on the Web?

### ■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On March 1, Internet managing editor Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

**14,441** total Facebook fans.

**2,526** total Twitter followers.

**119** Bible FAQs posted.

**344,742** Bible FAQs views.

**505** videos posted on YouTube.

**1,060,662** video views on YouTube.

**140** e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.

**275,147** clicks to our Web sites generated by e-mail campaigns.

### Featured Link

■ **Free Bible Study Guides**  
[www.freebiblestudyguides.org](http://www.freebiblestudyguides.org)

Free Bible Study Guides provide practical, interactive lessons to help you study the Bible and find relevant, helpful answers to real-life spiritual questions.

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



### ABC to Host Charity Auction April 18

The ABC class of 2010 will be hosting the ninth annual Ambassador Bible Center Charity Auction in conjunction with Good Works April 18 at the home office.

This year we have chosen to sponsor the East Africa Children's Education Project to help fund the primary and secondary education of 25 children of baptized members from our Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda congregations. Many of these children are unable to obtain an education due to the abject poverty that exists in this region. Several of them have only one parent or are orphans.

We will be accepting donated items for our silent auction and raffle as well as delectable baked goods for our live auction. We will also be accepting donations of used but functioning laptops to help support a computer lab that has become a necessary component of educational development in these impoverished areas.

If you are interested in helping, you can send an item for the auction to us here at the home office or plan to attend the charity auction at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 18, ready to bid and be entertained during an evening that you're sure to enjoy. The ABC class and our African brethren are very appreciative of any help you can offer in this worthwhile effort.

David Register

### Tampa to Hold Family Weekend, June 12-13

Has your swimsuit been banished since the Feast? Have your sweaters and fleece taken its cherished spot in the dresser? Find your swimsuit, if you can, and make plans for the Tampa Bay Family Weekend June 12 and 13, 2010.

The festivities will begin with Sabbath services at 3 p.m. in Largo, Florida. Following services, the St.

Petersburg and Tampa congregations will provide guests with a potluck meal. Prepare to kick up your flip-flops after sunset at a tropical-theme dance, complete with a tropical shirt contest.

Fellowship will continue Sunday at Fort DeSoto Park's sugary white beach. Arrive early to compete in the annual sand sculpture contest or stroll in around noon for a barbecued chicken lunch.

For more information, please visit <http://st-petersburg.ucg.org/> and visit the "local information" page.

Kristin Yarbrough

### Correction: Preteen Camp Condor Dates

Camp Condor in Bakersfield, California, will take place July 26 to 29. Staff should arrive on July 25. For more information, visit the United Youth Camps Web site, <http://uyc.ucg.org>.

Paul Carter

### Calendar of Events

**March 1-11:** Pastoral Training Program, Cincinnati, Ohio.

**March 12-14:** Families for God Regional Weekend, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**March 13:** Southeastern Regional Prom, Atlanta, Georgia.

**March 20-21:** Regional Teen Formal/Basketball Weekend, Dallas, Texas, [www.ucg-dallas.org/teens](http://www.ucg-dallas.org/teens).

**March 29:** Passover (service previous evening).

**March 30-April 5:** Days of Unleavened Bread.

**April 2-5:** Singles' Weekend, Asheville, North Carolina.

**April 23-25:** Spokane Women's Educational Weekend, "Beacons of Hope," [www.womenofvalor.org](http://www.womenofvalor.org).

**April 24:** WNP Seminar, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

**May 2-3:** General Conference of Elders annual meeting.

**May 4-6:** Council of Elders meetings.