

# UNITED NEWS



NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION • P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 (513) 576-9796

Vol. 20, No. 3

HTTP://MEMBERS.UCG.ORG

MARCH-APRIL 2014

## United Youth Corps Sends 19 Volunteers to Guatemalan Orphanage

Volunteers offer assistance to the orphanage and provide love to orphans on life-changing two-week trip.

by Lisa Fenchel, Jonathan Magee and Esther Magee

An international team of United Youth Corps participants, sponsored by LifeNets International and Good Works, served at the Eagle's Nest orphanage in Sololá, Guatemala, teaching English and other activities.

The project took place from Dec. 27, 2013 to Jan. 10, 2014. Volunteers from the United States and Australia joined young adults from Guatemala to work at the orphanage to make this project a unifying international effort.

Walking into the orphanage you don't see sorrow. You see happiness. You see normal kids with smiling faces, children playing running, girls laughing, boys wrestling. The children at Eagle's Nest are safe and happy, and they are healing. Some of them are healing from abuse or threatening living situations. At Eagle's Nest they have love, food, and safety—things that do not come easy in Guatemala.

Guatemala is a country that has faced many challenges in the past few decades. It's still recovering from a 36-year-long civil war that ended in 1996. More than half of Guatemalans live below the poverty line, and in some rural areas this number is as high as 76 percent. Many children are neglected, abused or abandoned. With international adoptions currently being

**Please see page 11**



The volunteers, who hailed from the United States, Australia and Guatemala. Not pictured: Freddy Zelada and Andrea Robledo.

## Who's In Your Boat?



From THE WORD

by Steve Nutzman

A crowd lined the shore of the Sea of Galilee while Jesus Christ taught from a small fishing boat anchored just off shore. It had been another long but fruitful day for the Savior. As evening was approaching He concluded His teaching and instructed His disciples to cross the lake to another location. As their boat pulled away they left the crowd behind while some other boats followed. It was now dark and a good time for Jesus to get some sleep, so He dozed off using a cushion in the back of the boat (Luke 8:22-23, Mark 4:35-36).

The Sea of Galilee is well known for its violent wind storms. Sometime during their evening passage and without warning, a strong wind storm swept over the lake. The winds blew fiercely, whipping the water white into large waves. The small boat and its passengers, comprised of Jesus and His disciples, were now in serious danger of being swamped. Wave

after wave crashed over the sides, and the boat began to fill with water. The seasoned sailors on board—brothers Peter and Andrew and brothers James and John—well understood the imminent danger. Within minutes their small boat could sink, and they could drown.

Yet in the midst of this foreboding scene, Christ was fast asleep in the stern of the boat! The disciples may have wondered: "How could their friend, Jesus, fall asleep at a time like this? After all, didn't He care for their safety?"

Three of the gospels clearly describe how frantic the disciples were about their predicament. Here are the telling accounts describing when the disciples came to Christ:

- Matthew 8:25 records a cry for help: "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"
- Mark 4:38 records the rebuke of one or more of the disciples for Jesus' seeming indifference: "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"



• Luke 8:24 records a statement of doom: "Master, Master, we are perishing!" So Jesus is quickly awakened. No doubt He observes the waves crashing over the

boat and the sloshing water inside. Then calmly and with authority in his voice

**Please see page 4**



### INSIDE UNITED NEWS

News from Around the World: U.S. Ministers Visit Nigeria, Benin	2
From the Word: Esteeming Others Better Than Ourselves	3

Forward: A Word Fitty Spoken	3
From the Council: What I've Learned From Serving on the Council of Elders	3
Unleavened and Gluten-Free Recipes	4

The Seven Elements of the Zone: Inclusiveness	5
Local Church Updates	5
Announcements	7
What's New In Media?	7

BY THE NUMBERS

9,624

United News U.S. circulation for this issue



# U.S. Ministers Visit Brethren in Nigeria & Benin

■ In January trip, Mark Mickelson and assistant pastor Paul Moody visit congregations to see the brethren, offer encouragement.

by Paul Moody

On Jan. 9th, Mark Mickelson and I embarked on a two-and-a-half-week trip to Nigeria and the Republic of Benin, Africa. The purpose of the journey was to personally visit the congregations and scattered brethren, see how they were doing, and offer encouragement along the way.

This trip revealed to me just how important it is to maintain regular contact with our brethren all around the world. A visiting minister from the United States represents a connection to the home office and reminds the brethren of their importance to the rest of the Church, no matter their location or circumstance.

The first leg of our travels took us to Lagos, Nigeria, for the Sabbath. Lagos is where our Nigerian pastor, Oludare Akinbo, and his family live. Current estimates put the population of that city at 21 million people, making Lagos the largest city in Africa. In the midst of all that activity is a small group of faithful individuals striving to serve God.

The Lagos congregation is the largest of United's three congregations in Nigeria. Approximately 55 members gathered together on the Sabbath to worship before God and rejoice together in fellowship.

There was a youthful exuberance in the air, as 60 percent of the congregation is in the age range of early 20s to mid 30s, with a number of teens and children as well. That vitality really shone forth during the song service as everyone sang out in the full voice and increased tempo that seems unique to this area. It was truly wonderful to see God's people rejoicing together, despite an environment that is often very challenging.

Following the Sabbath, Mr. Akinbo, Mr. Mickelson, Yemisi Ibirogba and I traveled by car four hours east of Lagos, to Benin City. There we met with the local members who were available for a Sunday evening Bible study. Mr. Mickelson's message reminded us that even though we don't always understand why we go through certain trials, we must understand that God is good and His will is perfect. That message was particularly encouraging to a number of members who are personally walking through very difficult trials at this time.

Our schedule allowed for us to remain in Benin City for a few days. It was valuable time well spent, as we conducted several personal visits with brethren in their homes or at our motel. Relationships were strengthened as we became even better acquainted with those members and their circumstances in that part of Nigeria.

Four hours to the south east of Benin City lays the Owerri congregation. We spent four days in that region, including one Sabbath. Its setting is the most rural of all the Nigerian congregations. Many of Owerri's 35 members live in remote, out-



lying villages scattered around the region. The deacon in Owerri, Coleman Nworgu, spent two days guiding us through such villages, so we could visit with the brethren and their families.

The living conditions of most of our members are very meager by western standards. They do not have much in terms of elegant physical processions. However, they are a vibrant people, willing to serve and eager to share what they do have. Their spirit of hospitality was evident as they desired to serve us meals everywhere we went.

Many of our conversations focused on the news of the Church and the coming Kingdom of God. Our time together also gave the members opportunity to explain to us more fully the customs and traditions that exist in the society in which they

live. It was quite an education to listen to the challenges that are commonly faced by our brethren in that part of the world. Many expressed their sincere appreciation for *The Good News*. For them, it is a lifeline that connects them to the greater Church Body and offers hope and encouragement of that better age to come. They will often share the magazine with other family members and friends in the village. We met a few non-member individuals who expressed their appreciation for the publication as well.

The final Sabbath of our trip was spent with the congregation in Cotonou, Republic of Benin. The Republic of Benin is a French-speaking region that borders Nigeria on the west.

Please see page 9

## Esteeming Others Better Than Ourselves

by Roy Fouch

We live in a world today that is focused a great deal of gratifying the self. It has become an essential motivating force on the world scene and in American culture. We see this in the media, through advertising, and even in the politics of our times. The focus tends to be doing what's best for me regardless of how it may affect others. Often, this attitude undermines many marital relationships, where selfishness may erode the intimate caring relationship God had intended for a husband and wife to have towards one another. Today's politicians often appear more concerned about getting re-elected or holding to the party philosophy than they are what's best for the country.

There's an over-emphasis on personal

appearance and beautification of self, indulging oneself and entertaining oneself. The ever growing number of people who are becoming addicted to chemicals such as drugs and alcohol or behavioral addictions such as pornography, gambling, food, and sex demonstrates how our society has become focused on pleasing the self. Could this ever growing self-centeredness lead to what Christ was referring to when he said in the latter days: "The love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12)? When we are so focused on ourselves and what pleases us, are we really able to have the outgoing love and concern for others that God our Father and Jesus Christ want us to have?

What does God have to say about *esteem* and where our focus needs to be

in this regard? Philippians 2:3 is very clear in this point where it states: "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than themselves."

There are two conditions or attitudes that are contrary to what God wants us to have in our relationships with one another. The first is strife, so let's examine what is meant here. Adam Clark's Commentary has an excellent interpretation of the type of strife indicated and what would be contrary to this position. "Never be opposed to each other, never act from separate interests; ye are all brethren, and of one body; therefore let every member feel and labor for the welfare of the whole. And, in the exercise of your different functions, and in the use of your various gifts, do

nothing so as to promote your own reputation, separately considered from the comfort, honor, and advantage of all." Our actions should always be done with consideration of how it will affect others.

The words "vain glory" mean empty pride. In other words, we shouldn't do things to promote ourselves which doesn't benefit anyone. The behaviors and actions that we do take should be designed to uplift another and for the common good of the body.

Lowliness of mind further depicts our attitude towards others and refers to humility. This humility comes from the knowledge of our own defects. We do not know the defects of others, so we should

Please see page 11



**VICTOR KUBIK**  
President

We live in an age of proliferating communication. Not only in terms of what is broadcast to us, but in the volume of interpersonal instant communications. Gone are the days of short, expensive, long-distance phone calls or snail mail. Now there's instant e-mail, unlimited long-distance phone calls, Skype, texting, tweeting—just to name a few. This is how we receive and generate information with others.

With all the new communication technologies and oceans of flowing information, are we reaching each other with

better understanding and goodwill? Are we getting along better as a result of this increased communication bandwidth?

I wonder.

The world is *not* a better place because of communication barriers being demolished. Nations, families and friendships do not appear to be more durable as a result of more communication.

That's because it's not only *what* we say that's important, it's *how* we say it. We may know what needs to be said, but do we give enough thought to how these things are said?

What comes to mind is this passage: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

And similarly in Proverbs 16:24: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

These beautiful illustrations point out timeless communications principles that go back to the days before fiber optics and satellites.

What are some tips on beautifying and sweetening your communications? They are simple, yet effective. How you communicate can actually compel the receiver to act on what you write if you think about the person and the effect

your communication has on him or her.

Use any of the following in your messages.

### 1. Express love or fondness

Really? Yes. When you communicate a positive thought or feeling, it makes the receiver feel valued. If they feel that you believe they are valuable and that what they do is meaningful, they will be far more inclined to listen to what you have to say. It works.

### 2. Express thankfulness

Next to love, the most appreciated communication is gratitude. There are many things that you can express appreciation for in a conversation with someone else. I love hearing thankfulness. Most people do.

### 3. Say or write their name

There is no word sweeter in the ears of another than hearing one's own name. It gives a sense of respect that goes a long way toward the other person responding favorably or cooperatively.

Great good can be done when our words are accompanied by a caring and pleasant attitude. We should always be thinking about how to speak the truth in love, and let our speech be always with grace, "seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Ephesians 4:15, Colossians 4:6). **UN**

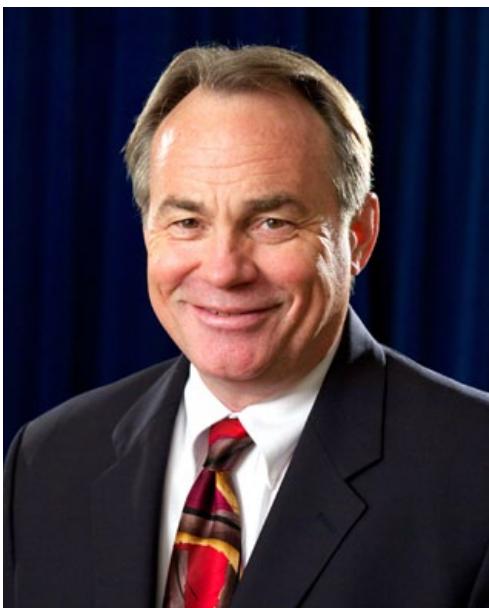


diego\_cervo/iStock/Thinkstock



## From The COUNCIL

# What I've Learned From Serving on the Council of Elders



by Darris McNeely

When I came on the Council of Elders in 2008 I—along with a few others—thought we would make significant changes. I soon learned change of any sort would be challenging and sometimes carry unintended

consequences. Now, after six years of service I am a little bit wiser and realistic in the "ways of the Council." It has been quite a journey. Along the way I have learned a few things. Let me share what I have learned.

### 1. You Don't Change the Council, the Council Changes You

True fact. There are 11 other men who sit with you on the CoE. Each one is an elder of multiple decades experience in preaching, counseling and the spiritual life. Through countless hours of discussion you hear their wisdom and insight. Here is a scenario I have seen often.

You might bring to the table a proposal, your "great idea." You lay it on the table, and it begins to be analyzed. One member offers to change the wording. Another brings in a point you haven't considered. Another agrees with the alternate view. Yet another member supports the proposed changes. Before your eyes you watch "your baby" be changed and often improved. On

occasion your idea is shown to be not so wise and is rejected by the majority. The process can be humbling.

In time, if you listen with your heart and not just your mind, you can be influenced by their point of view. You might even change your mind. If you listen twice as much as you speak you will alter your preconceived opinions. If you are willing to let go of your ego you will change and become a more effective member of Council. There is wisdom in the counsel of 12 men who yield to the lead of God's Spirit, as it often works through other personalities. But you must listen. If you do you will often be changed for the better.

"The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound counsel [so that he may be able to steer his course rightly]" (Proverbs 1:5, Amplified Bible).

**Please see page 10**

*United News* (ISSN 1088-8020) is published 7 times per year (in January, February, March, May, July, September, November) by the United Church of God, an *International Association*, 555 Technecenter Dr., Milford, OH 45150. © 2014 United Church of God, an *International Association*. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

UCG/IA Council of Elders: Carmelo Anastasi, Scott Ashley, Bill Bradford, Roc Corbett, John Elliott, Darris McNeely, Mark Mickelson, Rainer Salomaa, Mario Seiglie, Rex Sexton, Donald Ward, Robin Webber

President: Victor Kubik  
Media and Communications Services Manager: Peter Eddington

Managing Editor: Mitchell Moss  
Copy Editor: Milan Bizic; Intern: Larisa Bosserman

Doctrinal reviewers: Arthur Suckling, Chuck Zimmerman, Gerald Seelig

Web-first article doctrinal team: Gerald Seelig, Arthur Suckling, John LaBissoniere, Chris Rowland, Noel Hornor

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

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

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

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

#### International addresses:

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

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

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

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

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 614-1234, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 614-1749 E-mail: info@ucg.ca

CAMEROON: United Church of God Cameroon, BP 10322 Bessengue, Douala Cameroon.

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

CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

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

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

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

MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Phone: +265 999 823 523. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

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

NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 803-323-3193. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org

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

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 U.S.A. E-mail: norden@ucg.org

SINGAPORE: United Church of God, P.O. Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia.

SOUTH AFRICA (and Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland only): United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 1181 Tzaneen 0850. Phone: (+27) 0797259453. E-Mail: RSA@ucg.org

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

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 518, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

SWITZERLAND: Phone: 49 228 945 4636. Website: http://www.vkg.org

ALL OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONS NOT LISTED: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia

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

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

Internet access on your computer:

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

# Unleavened and Gluten-Free Recipes

by Kathy de Campos

Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread will soon be here. Most of us will begin removing leavening from our homes and getting ready for the Spring Holy Days. One of the many enjoyable parts of the Days of Unleavened Bread is to make delectable unleavened baked goodies.

For some people though, who have allergy sensitivities, it can be challenging during the festival. It's not always easy to find recipes designed for special diets.

Since finding out that I am gluten intolerant, I have searched through many different cookbooks and magazines for recipes that could be used or adapted for the Holy Days.

I have included some of our favorite recipes below. Some of these recipes have been adapted from the original recipes. Try experimenting with different gluten free flours, as some have better textures than others and ultimately will give a better finished product.

I hope you enjoy these recipes. Happy baking!

## Gluten-Free Unleavened Bread Matzoh

Yields: 12 pieces of unleavened bread  
3 cups gluten free flour  
¼ teaspoon xanthan gum  
1 cup warm water (110 F), or more as needed

Place a rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat the oven to 450 F. Have two 15 x 10-inch baking sheets (not nonstick) ready.

In a food processor, process the flour and xanthan gum until blended. With the food processor running, add the water slowly through the food tube and con-

tinue to process until the mixture forms a ball. Add more water, a tablespoon at a time, if the mixture does not immediately form a ball. Divide the dough into 12 egg-size balls and keep balls covered until you roll them.

Place a 12-inch sheet of parchment paper on a flat surface (anchored by a wet paper towel). Place a ball of dough on the parchment paper and lay a piece of parchment paper on top.

With a rolling pin, roll out the dough as thin as possible into a square. Remove the top piece of parchment paper and place the bottom piece of parchment paper, with dough on it, on the baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough to fit about 3 pieces (or more if you want smaller pieces) of unleavened bread onto the baking sheet. Pierce each piece with a fork.

Bake until crisp and lightly browned around the edges, about 7-10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack before eating. Repeat with remaining balls of dough.

(Recipe adapted from Carol Fenster's *1,000 Gluten Free Recipes*, John Wiley & Sons, 2008)

## Monster Cookies

Yields: About 17 cookies  
2 tablespoons flax meal  
¼ cup coconut flour (sifted)  
½ teaspoon sea salt  
½ cup shredded unsweetened coconut  
½ cup dairy-free chocolate chips  
1 cup crunchy sunflower seed butter (or crunchy almond butter)  
½ cup full-fat canned coconut milk  
¼ cup honey  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a cookie sheet.

In a bowl, whisk together flax meal, coconut flour, sea salt, coconut and chocolate chips.

In a separate bowl, use an electric mixer to combine sunflower seed butter, coconut milk, honey, and vanilla.

Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and blend with an electric mixer.

Using a tablespoon, drop cookie dough onto prepared cookie sheet. Wet your hands and use your palms to flatten each cookie to about 2 ¼ inches wide. Cookies can be placed fairly close together as they will spread only slightly.

Place in preheated oven and bake 20 minutes or until cookies begin to brown around the edges. Cool completely on the cookie sheet before removing.

(Recipe adapted from December/January 2014 issue of *Living Without*.)

## Brazilian Cheese Rolls

Yields: About 20 rolls  
1 cup milk (almond, coconut, or other)  
¼ cup butter (½ stick) cut into pieces—dairy free butter may be substituted  
¼ cups plus 2 tablespoons tapioca flour  
2 eggs  
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese or other firm cheese (Manchego cheese is great for these rolls)

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In a large saucepan, combine milk, butter, and oil. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring to melt butter. Once mixture reaches a boil, remove from heat. Stir in tapioca flour. Mixture will be thick and stretchy.

Stir in eggs, one at a time, and cheese. Mixture will be very stiff. Cool mixture in pan until easy to handle.

Dust hands with tapioca flour and roll (with hands) heaping tablespoons of

dough mixture into 1 ½ balls. Place 1 inch apart on baking sheet.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until puffed and golden. Serve warm.

(Recipe adapted from *Gluten Free Bible*, Publications International Ltd., 2010)

## Raspberry Dazzle Bars

Yields: 9-12 bars  
½ cup unsalted butter or non-dairy butter  
2 cups white chocolate chips  
2 large eggs  
½ cup sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 ¼ cup coconut flour  
½ cup seedless raspberry jam  
Preheat the oven to 325 F. Lightly grease a 7 ½ x 11 inch square baking pan.

In a microwave-safe bowl (or small saucepan) melt the butter over low heat; stir. Add half of the chocolate chips and stir gently to soften. Let stand.

In a large mixing bowl, on medium speed, beat eggs until foamy. Add the sugar and beat until lemon-yellow, about 5 minutes. Gently stir in the cake flour blend to the butter and egg mixture. Beat at low speed to combine.

Spread 2/3 of the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 15-17 minutes, until light golden brown around the edges. Cool briefly on a wire rack.

Heat the jam over low heat until spreadable and spread over the warm crust. Stir the remaining chips into the remaining batter. Drop spoonfuls of the batter over the jam.

Bake 30 minutes or until the edges are browned. Cool completely and cut into squares.

(Adapted from Beth Hillson's *Gluten Free Makeovers*, Da Capo Press, 2011)



## From THE WORD

### Who's In Your Boat?

Continued from page 1

Jesus said to the sea: "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm." (Mark 4:39).

#### Who's in Your Boat?

Normally some amount of time is required for the waves to stop after the winds have diminished. Yet the lake water quickly became smooth as glass. With the danger now past, Luke 8:25 adds: "But He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, 'Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him.'"

Jesus gently rebuked the disciples for

their lack of faith, which resulted in their fear and near panic. It was a "teachable moment" for all the disciples. It was a lesson learned, or at least a point made, in this dramatic and nerve-wracking experience.

The disciples' lack of faith in Christ that evening was revealing of their spiritual condition; they were not yet in possession of God's Holy Spirit. As apostles in training, they were "a work in progress."

The disciples suffered a disconnect between Jesus being in the boat with them and having faith in Him to intervene in their lives when events got stormy. "Where is your faith?" He asked them. Their answer was essentially, "We aren't sure how this might end up, so let's panic." That's a normal human response, but it's also not having complete faith in God either.

Do you believe Jesus Christ is in the

same boat with you? Put another way: Are you in His boat? Even more, do you have faith that He is at the helm of His Church? Do you have faith to allow Him to be at the helm of your life?

The disciples "missed the boat" in this lesson of faith, but as converted members of the Body of Jesus Christ, we should not. Whose Church is this? We all know the answer: Jesus Christ is in charge, and this is His Church. Christ gave His life so those who His Father called to salvation (eventually all of humanity) would have a home: His Church (Colossians 1:18-20).

How could the disciples not believe that the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16-17) was fully aware of the conditions in their small boat that evening and had their well-being in mind? Because their faith was weak. Faith is more than theory. Faith is truly believing and then living by our faith in God. Hebrews 11:6 reminds

us: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Fundamental faith includes believing that Jesus Christ is the ruling Head of the Church of God and that He is in charge of His Church.

When faith is weak, fear enters. Where you find fear, faith is usually absent. Faith casts out fear: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Yet it is easy to forget these truths when the storms of life come crashing into us or when something occurs in the Church that hits us hard. As the slogan says, "life happens." But it is at those times that we especially need to ask ourselves "Who's in my boat?" When we do this—when

Please see page 10

## Inclusiveness

**A**t the United Youth Camps we strive to support what the family is doing at home.

The Zone, therefore, encompasses the same characteristics which are found in the God-ordained family structure. We endeavor to live up to these Biblical principles that come from God Himself and strive to have the attitude that God has.

God the Father deals with each one of us without partiality; we are judged according to our works. None of us is perfect, but we are always trying to improve and overcome. This should affect how we live our lives and how we operate United Youth Camps (1 Peter 1:17).

In a godly family everyone is included. All are accepted for who they are and are working together toward a common goal. We take this important principle of inclusiveness and apply it to camp. Often, first-time campers are skeptical because they are used to the worldly system of exclusiveness. Before they get to camp they may think: "How will this work? Will I be accepted?" But very quickly they are amazed to see an environment that helps to build others up and not tear them down. It doesn't matter what your background is because those that are striving to live by God's ways are encouraged and included. Before camp is over you feel the family-



Shawn Correyou, Camp Woodmen Coordinator

like bond of an inclusive environment.

Sometimes the list of activities at camp can be intimidating. Maybe a teen isn't athletic or doesn't know how to do archery or has a fear of heights. All are encouraged to participate, try new activities and have fun. It's always wonderful to see a dorm cheering on a teen as they climb the rock wall or hit the softball. The dorms really come together as a unit and bond in their relationships.

They become very close knit in a short amount of time. They encourage and cheer each other on to success, and by extension they encourage the other dorms and staff as well.

Campers and staff realize how inclusiveness unifies the camp and creates a wonderful environment. This also includes the absence of put-downs or criticisms. Put-downs can quickly tear apart a dorm and a camp experience. We promote the building up of each other and encouragement. In sports there is a healthy and fun level of competition; one team may win the game, but everyone has fun together. Teens each have different levels of experience, but they all are encouraged, and no one is made fun of or belittled.

The biblical story of Ruth is a wonderful story of inclusiveness. Ruth made a commitment to follow the true God, and

to stay by Naomi's side. Boaz saw this dedication in Ruth when he told her: "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge" (Ruth 2:11-12). God saw Ruth striving to live by His laws. It didn't matter what her background was; she was striving to change and be more like the true God. God honored Ruth and Boaz by including them in the lineage of Jesus Christ! We also see how inclusive God is to all of us in Acts 10:34-35: "God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

The result of inclusiveness is most apparent at the end of camp when every-

### Inclusiveness...

- reinforces idea that each one is part of the team or family
- prohibits put-downs, criticisms
- models God's thinking—"no respecter of persons"
- helps everyone know they are loved
- defuses competition for attention
- creates openness

one goes back home. It's always difficult to leave camp because we have bonded like family. We realize how important it is to do "nothing with partiality" (1 Timothy 5:21). This godly principle of inclusiveness is a fundamental, vital part of a successful camp.



## Local Church UPDATES

### Seattle Hosts Marriage Enrichment Workshop

A Marriage Enrichment Retreat, spanning the weekend of Nov. 1-3, 2013, was sponsored by the Seattle/Bellevue, Washington, congregation. The workshop, entitled "Inspire-Connect-Ignite," featured guest speakers Frank and Sonja McCrady. Twenty married couples, of all ages, listened as Mr. and Mrs. McCrady shared colorful, personal stories about their own marriage, explaining that their marriage had a "rocky start." They talked about building their own marriage on the

very principles they were teaching. Presentation topics included "marriage intimacy," "healing emotional hurts," "four ingredients for marital closeness," and "deadly habits" for all relationships.

The classes gave couples guidelines to chart their own Marriage Intimacy Inventory, discuss the value of friendship in marriage, and examine what favorite activities might help generate these things in their mates. Couples were also encouraged to confess their mistakes in their marriage and ask forgiveness, not only to God, but also to each other. Mr. McCrady spoke about how this process goes a long way to help heal hurts in a marriage.

Mrs. McCrady shared valuable information about three deadly habits that cause great damage in a marriage relationship. These habits—complaining, blaming, and criticizing—were identified as a source of enslaving each of us to emotional pain. Mrs. McCrady taught in her encouraging class that when we are hurting it helps to understand there are solutions and that our lives can be better.

The Bellevue congregation's "Home Builders Marriage Class," a group in the congregation that meets monthly, just completed reading the book *10 Great Dates*. The Home Builders Marriage Class coordinated November's workshop and is interested in sponsoring another weekend retreat like it again in the future.

Emily Reisdorff



Frank McCrady speaking at the marriage seminar in Seattle in November.

## San Francisco Bay Hosts Marriage Enrichment Workshop

The San Francisco Bay Area brethren were treated to a Marriage and Family Enrichment Workshop presented by Northwest Phoenix and Northern Arizona pastor Randy Schreiber and his wife Kay. The workshop was held at the Oakland Masonic Center on the Sabbath of Dec. 14, 2013.



Oakland members at the marriage seminar held there in December.

After Mr. Schreiber's sermon on family leadership, 129 attendees ate a wonderful lunch and returned for the highly interactive seminar, which explained many practical ways to enhance marriage and family relationships by capitalizing on opportunities and correcting issues. It was delivered in five parts: commitment, sacrifice, love, nurture and trust. The Schreibers effectively utilized a variety of learning methods, including group exercises, poignant videos, assessment questionnaires, written material and participant discussion.

In addition to the delightful luncheon, the day was broken up by coffee and cookie breaks. Deaconesses Betty Willis, Diane Mercer, and many other women made the day special by providing table decorations and other things.

At the end of the day, participants left with increased knowledge and were thankful for the opportunity to learn more about godly relationships.

*Richard Calenius*

## Macon, Georgia, Brethren Enjoy Potluck, Games for Winter Social

The Macon, Georgia, congregation held its early winter social Dec. 21, 2013. Following a bountiful potluck meal, the



Couples dancing at the Macon, Georgia, social.

joyful fellowship continued with the playing of games, presenting of hobbies and a dance that got everyone up and moving to classic rhythm and blues and country western favorites.

*Jerry Brenner*

## Little Rock Congregation Raises Funds in Annual Social, Auction

The Little Rock congregation held its popular annual fundraiser after sundown Jan. 4. Following Sabbath services the ladies served a potluck, and there was lots of fellowship. Shortly after sundown the competition to bid highest on certain items began.

Auctioneer Jim Simkins entertained with his dis-

course as he auctioned off homemade bakery items and crafts as well as items bought on Black Friday. There were a variety of used items and even fresh eggs. The bidding was lively, and everyone had a good time. The money raised is being used to buy an updated computer for the congregation and other needed equipment. Any excess funds will be sent into UCG as an offering.

*Barry Howdeshell*



The Little Rock fundraiser in January.

## Northern Ohio Teen Completes a King's Task—Writes Out Pentateuch by Hand

Preparing for the Kingdom...one book at a time! The North Canton congregation recognized a significant achievement by one of its youth on Sabbath, Jan. 11. Vincent Del Signore, 13, recently finished writing out the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) by hand. He was presented with a new watch from his parents and the North Canton congregation in acknowledgement of his accomplishment.

Vincent devoted many hours to this project, filling two five-subject notebooks and emptying many pens! When he was 12, he read Deuteronomy 17:18-



Vincent del Signore (middle) holding the watch given him with his father, Vincent, Sr. (left) and pastor John Miller (right), holding the notebook he wrote the first five books of the Bible in.

20, which commanded the kings of Israel to write out the law. His parents encouraged him to consider this challenge in preparation for manhood.

About one month after his 12th birthday, Vincent officially made it his goal to complete it before his 13th birthday. His mother, Becky, is very proud of him and says that his handwriting improved during this endeavor. This is a wonderful challenge for anyone to try to do in a year. Vincent says he learned so much while writing and encourages others to do the same.

*Ariana Del Signore*

## First Ever Caribbean Women's Weekend Held in Trinidad & Tobago

The happy chatter of ladies greeting one another, laughing, sharing, learning, encouraging, and being encouraged filled the quiet hillside retreat of Anapausis Center in St. Augustine, Trinidad, Jan. 17-19, during the first ever women's enrichment weekend in the Caribbean islands.

The theme was "Understanding You, Understanding Me, Building Meaningful Relationships." In attendance were 14 beautiful women from Trinidad and Tobago, two lovely ladies from St. Lucia, Beverly Kubik, LeeAnn Luker, and Mary Smith from the U.S.

The weekend began with a wonderful "Trini" meal on Friday evening (and the delicious local food continued for the remainder of the weekend). After dinner, there was a welcome message and light-hearted activity enabling us to learn more about one another. Sabbath services were held the following morning, with the men joining us for the service before going off to their own group luncheon and meeting. Sabbath afternoon, everyone enjoyed some rest and fellowship. The remainder of the afternoon and evening were dedicated to learning more about ourselves and each other using the Hartman Personality Profile and Character Profile. These sessions were led by LeeAnn Luker and Beverly Kubik respectively, and they did an amazing job. Everyone benefited



Ladies at the Trinidad and Tobago women's enrichment weekend.

greatly from learning about themselves. It was also interesting to learn about each other. We all had a great time as we broke up into our profile groups to plan a hypothetical family day activity. It was entertaining and enlightening to see what each group developed.

On Sunday, we all enjoyed an excellent presentation from our two St. Lucian sisters, Beverley Barthelmy and Cecilia Dorleon. They gave us a bit of background on their island, and shared UCG St. Lucia's gospel proclamation and community outreach efforts. They are very active in both endeavors, and we were all inspired to do more. They also gave a bit of background on agriculture in St. Lucia, and the plight of the farmer and farming industry. Cecilia is a farmer, so this topic is near and dear to her heart. As she said, in the beginning, God created a beautiful garden and gave it to man. We have not been very good stewards of the land.

Our last event was a question and answer session with Mrs. Luker and Mrs. Kubik. Then we had a beautiful special music performance by two local ladies, followed by our goodbye song, "God Be With You."

We want to thank the home office and Women's Services for their support, and for the untiring efforts of our two guest speakers, Beverly Kubik and LeeAnn Luker. It was a most enjoyable and most inspiring to our Caribbean sisters. The only complaint—the weekend was just too short!

*Mary Smith*

## Greensboro Ladies Discuss Growth, Encourage One Another

The Ladies Club of the Greensboro, North Carolina, area met on the beautiful Sabbath afternoon of Feb. 1. The topic of the day was "Spiritual Growth in 2014," and took into consideration both personal growth and growth Church-wide.

It was commented before the meeting that this topic was not one casually thought over, but was a consuming subject. Our new booklet, Tools of Spiritual Growth, along with the fasting called for by Victor Kubik, supported our dis-

cussion and led to some very heartfelt words being spoken by the ladies in attendance. The ladies opened their hearts and shared their thoughts of this race we run.

These thoughts included our struggles to not get so caught up in the everyday that we neglect our relationship with

**Local Church Updates:** Send us news and events from your local congregation! Check with your pastor and have him forward what you write. We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photos with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

God, and how we can have relationships with the people of the world while keeping ourselves unspotted as we strive to be a good example of God's way of life.

It is a wonderful blessing from God, our Father, to be able to have this opportunity to fellowship and support one another. The Greensboro Ladies Club is grateful to have had the chance to get to know each other better!

*Michelle Bortree*

## Little Rock Fun Show

The Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation enjoyed their annual fun show Feb. 1. The ladies provided a scrumptious potluck following services. Then shortly after sundown, the fun began. The audi-

ence was entertained by a variety of performances. Pastor Fred Nance and his wife Lidia made their debut. They sang a duet, and Mrs. Nance sang two solos, one in Spanish. The younger generation provided several performances as well, including solos by Josh Farnsworth and Gracie Runnels. There was an Elvis impersonation done by Austin White. Amanda Elmore added culture to the evening by dancing for everybody. Bill Farnsworth decided to compete with his son Josh, which persuaded the younger to follow up his dad with another solo. There were many other performances that were appreciated. It was a fun packed evening for one and all.

*Barry and Jean Howdeshell*



*Austin White impersonating Elvis at the Little Rock fun show in February.*

# Announcements



**Alliana Elisabeth Morris**



**Azariyah Frederick Reynolds**



**Blair Elizabeth Webber**



**Doug and Bonnie Strub**

50 years

## Births

Zachary and Christina Morris of the Kalamazoo, Michigan, congregation welcomed their third child, **Alliana Elisabeth Morris**, into their family on July 17, 2013. Alliana weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz. and was 20 1/2 in. long. Older siblings, Addelynn and Nolan, love her to pieces and couldn't be more excited to have a little sister.

Joshua and Tamara Reynolds of Sacramento, California, welcome their second son, **Azariyah Frederick Reynolds**, born Friday, Nov. 15, 2013, at 10:36 pm. He was 9 lbs., 5 oz. and was 21 1/2 in. long. Big brother, Yoshiyahu, and big sister, Alona, are so happy with their new little brother. Azariyah's grandparents, Fred and Sue Crow of San Jose, California, and Wilda McGaughey of Eureka, California, are thrilled with the youngest addition to the family!

Pete and Erinn Webber of the Houston, Texas, congregation are excited to announce the birth of their second child, **Blair Elizabeth Webber**. She was born Dec. 17, 2013, weighing 6 lbs., 11 oz. and was 19 in. long. Everyone is thrilled about the new addition to the family, especially big brother Nolan.

## Anniversaries

Jan. 4, 2014, was a special day for **Doug and Bonnie Strub** of Big Sandy, Texas. It marked the 50th wedding anniversary for the couple and also the day they were honored at a reception by the East Texas congregation after church services. Brethren and family members fellowshiped and enjoyed a personally designed carrot cake, snacks and punch.

Doug hails from Ontario, Canada, and Bonnie comes from New Jersey. They were both in the Air Force and met on a double date. They came with their dates and switched to be with each other before the evening was finished. Three months later they married.

Doug was in the Air Force for 10 years, which moved them to various locations.

While stationed in Guam in 1968, Bonnie was first introduced to the Church when she heard the World Tomorrow broadcast. "It was hard to miss," she said. "There was only one radio station. All I had to do was have it on at the right time. I was soon devouring the literature." After their return to the United States she promptly requested a ministerial visit and was later baptized by John Bald. They moved to Huntsville, Texas, in 1984 and recently moved to East Texas about one year ago. They are in the process of build-

ing a retirement home on two acres with a pond, located on the property adjacent to their son George and family.

Doug and Bonnie have four children: Patrick, Lisa, George and Katie. They have two grandsons, six granddaughters, and two great-grandsons. Many of them joined us for the reception after church services.

Some of the best advice they got was from an old sage who was celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary years ago. He informed them that it looked like the pattern was set. "Just keep waking up every morning and you'll get there," he said.

Doug and Bonnie expressed the hope that they someday would be doing the same.

**Earl and Bonnie McWhorter** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 25. The Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation celebrated it with them Feb. 1. Bonnie and Earl were married when they were both at the tender age of 17. Bonnie's father told them that they couldn't get married until they either had a house or \$3,000. So Earl, along with his grandfather, got the materials they needed from four other houses that were being torn down. Earl's grandfather gave them one acre of land, and in the evenings Bonnie straightened out the



**Earl and Bonnie McWhorter**

50 years

nails, while Earl built the house. When this had been accomplished, six of their family members piled into a 1950 Dodge Coronet and drove to Conway, Arkansas, where they were married. Justice of the Peace O.P. Ward married them at 9 a.m. in the courthouse.

Earl and Bonnie have two daughters, Sheri and Tracy. They also have eight grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Earl became aware of the truth while riding to work with a fellow employee who listened to Herbert Armstrong on the radio. Earl and Bonnie were baptized Dec. 23, 1972, by Bill Cowan, Jr. in a stock tank.



**Ellis and Pat Stewart**

60 years

The Little Rock church honored them with cake, punch, and a gift. They were given a picture frame and clock that was inscribed with their names and date of marriage. It was a very joyous time.

**Ellis and Pat Stewart** of Big Sandy, Texas, were honored for their 60th wedding anniversary by their local UCG East Texas congregation after services Oct. 19. A beautifully hand-made cake, snacks and punch were served to brethren and friends who came to congratulate the couple. A surprise video from their daughter Liz Russell featured Church members from Los Angeles, among other places, who have known the Stewarts over the years.

Ellis Stewart and Pat Stanton met July 18, 1953, at the North End Cafe in Liberal, Kansas. Ellis (22) lived in Liberal since moving from Marshfield, Missouri, in August 1949. Pat (17) moved there earlier in 1953 after graduating from Gravette High School in Arkansas. They married one day shy of three months later in a simple private ceremony in Clayton, New Mexico, Oct. 17, 1953.

Ellis listened to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast for a year or so and kept telling Pat that even though she was not interested, she would eventually see the truth. Sure enough, they both became coworkers of the Radio Church of God.

They were baptized at the 1956 spring festival in Big Sandy. In August of that year, they moved from Wichita, Kansas, to Pasadena, California, to be close to Church headquarters.

Both worked for Ambassador College. Pat worked for the mailing department and then as secretary for Jack Elliott, who was facilities manager and dean of students, until their first child, Jonny, was born in 1960. That same year, Ellis began working full-time in the campus printing department.

In February 1965, Garner Ted Armstrong and other Ambassador administrators asked Ellis to move to Big Sandy to set up and run the new Texas campus' printing operation. Ellis, Pat, Jonny (5) and Liz (3) headed for Big Sandy, and the



**Paul and Louise King**

65 years

couple has lived there ever since. Later that same year, Ellis was ordained a deacon, and their youngest son, Jim, was born.

In 1975, Ellis was ordained a local elder in the Worldwide Church of God. He worked for the college until it closed in 1977, then started his own company, Stewart Printing.

Pat worked as a teacher's aide at Big Sandy Elementary for five years, which she began in 1972 after Jonny's untimely death, at age 12, from a rare brain infection. She then helped manage Annie's Tea Room and set up Annie's Gift Shop. She worked in the customer-service department at Strategic Fulfillment Group in Big Sandy until her retirement in 2011.

Ellis attributes the success of their marriage to God's mercy in their lives.

"Life has many ups and downs, but God called us at an early age and showed us the big picture of why we're here on earth," Ellis said. "You have to work out problems as you go along. I feel we took our marriage vows seriously. As with any contract, there is a responsibility on each other's part."

Pat agreed: "We respect each other's talents and interests. We talk a lot. In other words, we communicate, and we've prayed a lot for patience and wisdom."

**Paul and Louise King** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Dec. 31. They met while Paul was in the Air Force, stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Paul's friends set them up on a blind date. Louise was only 15 years old, and Paul was 21, but Louise's mom begrudgingly let her go. Six months later, the two secretly eloped. Louise was too young to marry, but lied about her age in order to do so. Then she returned home and Paul went back to the base. It was nine months before they told anyone, including their parents.

The Kings had a total of five children, but their first daughter Patty died at the age of 10 due to a heart condition. Three others were lost at birth. Their surviving daughter, Phyllis Louise Triola, lives in Lake Forest, Illinois. They also have three grandchildren: Joseph, Alexandra and



**Dellie Luanne Crook**

1921-2013

Phillip, and two great-grandchildren, William and Matthew. The Kings spent about 30 years living on Paul's father's farm in Plainfield, Illinois, but were itching to leave, so in 2006 they headed to Arizona. They told their family they would be back to visit (but never to live) as often as they could.

Paul was attracted to the Church after reading *The Plain Truth* magazine. Louise did not like it at all. Later, the Church offered a subscribers open house, and Paul attended alone, but when there was a second open house Louise decided she would attend. By the time Paul was being talked to about baptism, Louise was all in as well. They were baptized in 1994.

Both are active, adventurous people. Paul worked, but he and Louise also spent 40 years as licensed dance instructors teaching choreographed ballroom dance. Paul co-owned a stock car too, which he loved to work on, but never raced. At one point, on a whim, Paul purchased a small airplane. Louise was furious, but since they were stuck with it they both got their flying licences. Louise even started transporting blood from one town to another.

## Obituaries

**Dellie Luanne Crook**, 92, of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, passed away Tuesday, July 2, 2013, at Cedargate Care Center.

Dellie was born March 6, 1921, in Ponder, Missouri, to Soloman and Melissa Niswonger Elliott. She grew up as a child around Success and Datto, Arkansas, the next to the youngest of six kids. She married Drexel H. Crook in Butler County, Missouri, Sept. 26, 1939.

Dellie was a homemaker who loved quilting, sewing and gardening. She was a devoted wife, mother and friend. She made her house a home to all who came. She was a caring person who loved to laugh and have fun and be around people. She loved young people and encouraged them.

Dellie loved the Church and the brethren. She and Drexel were baptized into God's Church in 1983. They were mem-



**Kevin R. Hadley**

1965-2013



**Edwin "Buddy" Harris**

1932-2013



**Ethel Reeser Cosco**

1925-2013

bers of the United Church of God congregation in Poplar Bluff.

Survivors include her children: Charles Crook (Margaret) of High Ridge, Missouri; Don Crook (Brenda) of Rolla, Missouri; Fred Crook (Karen) of Poplar Bluff; Eddie Crook (Charlene) of Poplar Bluff; 9 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; 3 great-great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Janice Crook of Poplar Bluff; and son-in-law Jerry Hudson of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Dellie was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; two children, Willard Crook and Marie Hudson; two brothers, Marvin Elliott and Willie Elliott; and three sisters, Jane Barton, Dollie Leach, and Pearl Horn.

The funeral service was conducted by Carl Hoffman.

Dellie was deeply loved and is deeply missed. May God hasten the day of the resurrection.

**Kevin R. Hadley**, 48, of Groveport, Ohio, died Sunday, Nov. 3, 2013, at Grant Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, after a lengthy illness. He was born on Aug. 28, 1965, to William and Kay Hadley of Shadyside, Ohio. In addition to his parents, now of Heath, Ohio, he is survived by a brother Paul (Karen) of Columbus, Ohio, all members in the UCG Columbus Church.

Kevin was born shortly after the Wheeling, West Virginia, Church was established. He grew up in the Church and was very active in youth activities. He attended the summer youth camp in Orr, Minnesota.

He was just six weeks old when he attended his first Feast of Tabernacles at Jekyll island. He never missed a Feast until this year, when his health condition prevented him from attending what would have been his 49th Feast. He enjoyed traveling and attended the Feast in Denmark and Belgium.

After graduation from high school in 1983 he attended Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, where he earned an associate of arts degree. He returned home and attended Ohio University at the Zanesville branch, where he earned an associate of applied science in radio-television in 1988. He also received a certificate in recognition of service as the Outstanding Sports Reporter of WOUZ, the campus radio station. He was hired by 6.5. Capital in Columbus, Ohio, and moved to that area where he attended the Columbus Church. His employment history also included positions with Pacer International and the Ramada Plaza Hotel. His supervisor at the hotel spoke very highly of him and praised him for his trustworthiness and honesty. During that time he also continued his education and obtained an associate of arts degree from Ohio University in 2012.

Kevin was gifted with a very keen memory. He was adept in the fields of history and geography. He was a low-key individual, but was firm in his beliefs. He was loved and respected by those who knew him well and will be greatly missed by friends and family.

**Edwin “Buddy” Harris** of the Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation died Dec. 13, 2013. Buddy was born to Mary Bell Robinette and Galvin Harris on Dec. 21, 1932. He was the loving, devoted husband of Elizabeth Mustachia for 54 years. Buddy and Liz eloped on Sept. 10, 1958. He was the father of Michael Harris and Stace “Boots” Harris Burruss as well as the grandfather of three grandchildren.

Buddy was baptized by Kelly Barfield in 1967. Ray Wooten ordained him a deacon in September 1974. Buddy served in the Pine Bluff and Little Rock areas. He was a bus driver, youth coordinator, and helped with all kinds of activities. He had a lively personality and added a sense of humor to whatever he was doing—including sermonettes. Buddy died a faithful member in the Church.

Buddy was a truck driver for most of his life. He loved learning, helping, driving his diesel, talking trucks, shooting pool, gardening, and picking cotton. He was a wonderful, family-orientated man, who always tried to do what was right. He had many trucking friends who held him in high regard.

Buddy loved God and the Church; He will be missed.

**Ethel Reeser Cosco**, 87, of Santa Barbara, California, died peacefully on Feb. 15, 2013, at home in her sleep. She was born Nov. 17, 1925, in Albany, Oregon, the fifth of 12 children born to Emma Schrock and William Reeser. Her family suffered many hardships during the Great Depression, including the deaths of three of Ethel’s young siblings. Halfway through high school she was forced to drop out to help care for her five younger brothers. At the age of 19, she pleaded with her father to let her go back to school to finish. She said it was one of the hardest things she had ever done because she knew how much her parents needed her at home. She not only graduated, but went on to college, working her way through until receiving a bachelor of arts degree from Goshen College, a private liberal arts college in Indiana.

She resisted societal pressure to marry young and went on to get her teaching credential. Through the years she taught every grade from preschool through high

school. Her last decade of teaching was at Castlemont High School in Oakland, California, where many of her students were from underprivileged backgrounds. Nothing made her happier than to see several of them go on to college, in spite of adversities, as she had done.

In her mid-20s she met Dr. Franco Cosco, an Italian Waldensian on a seminary scholarship. They fell in love, “at first sight” according to Franco, and married Aug. 5, 1951, with plans to move to Italy to raise a family there. Post-war Italy made an indelible impression on her. Living there gave her a great appreciation of the country’s people, customs, language and food. The Coscos met Roselinda there, a little girl whom they later adopted. Lisa, their first biological daughter, was born in Franco’s hometown of Campobasso, in the same house in which he had been born.

Ethel grew to love her husband’s family, especially her father-in-law, Domenico Cosco, a Waldensian lay pastor who had served as a medic during World War I. He often asked her what she thought of various difficult or obscure scriptures. When he saw her interest, he encouraged her to continue its study and to do her best—as he put it—to “bring the true gospel to the Italian people.” He said this with such intensity that she felt compelled to promise that she would, although at the time she had no idea how she could help.

Due to a stagnant economy, the Coscos left Italy in 1953 and returned with their family to the United States. Although he had a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Naples, Franco went back to school and earned a masters degree from the University of Oregon while he worked part-time, and Ethel worked full-time to support their young daughters. They had a third daughter, Rhonda, and saved enough to buy a 19th-century Dutch colonial house in Salem. Ethel renovated the house with such care that it was put on the national historic register, and a well-known breakfast cereal company used the kitchen as a setting in a national advertising campaign. After that, Ethel got bit by the renovation bug and never recovered. The Coscos began renovating and flipping houses, riding the wave of the California post-war real estate boom all the way to a comfortable retirement.

Ethel’s first introduction to the Church had been as a young adult overhearing her mother listen to *The World Tomorrow* program on the radio. One day her mother stopped listening, and when asked why, her mother replied, “Armstrong doesn’t preach about ever-burning Hell!” Over time, another member of the Church introduced her to the literature, which she found fascinating. She was baptized in 1961.

Her love for the Church, the way of God, and Italy all dovetailed together in the seventies, when she met a few of the Italian brethren, two of whom were Carmelo and Antonella Anastasi. Upset that the Church had thus far made no concerted effort to do a work in Italy, she was overjoyed to meet a young couple who were converted and eager to help spread the gospel. With Ethel’s encouragement, Carmelo continued to send letters to headquarters that eventually bore fruit, and the work in Italy officially got underway. “Ethel was the kind of sister one can never forget,” Carmelo and Antonella fondly recall. “She and Franco were very hospitable and helped us to endure in the faith during the many years when there was no congregation in Italy. Even now that she is at rest, her strong faith and love for God’s Word remain for us an encouragement to endure till the end, as we want to be with her at the glorious Resurrection.”

Ethel is survived by her husband, Franco; her daughters Linda Colopy, Lisa Courtenay, Rhonda McDowell and Caroline Minard; her sons-in-law; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson. She is also survived by one sister, Mary Belle Rieff, and one brother, Robert Reeser.

#### Announcements:

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

## U.S. Ministers Visit Brethren in Nigeria & Benin

Continued from page 2

A great blessing to that area has been the ability for Mr. Akinbo and Mr. Ibirogba to converse with the Cotonou congregation through their common native tongue called Yoruba. This ability has allowed them to make frequent visits to that region, as well as interpret for us dur-

ing our stay.

Friday evening we met at the home of Michel Ogoudele. His covered front patio doubles as the church hall for Benin. We were warmly greeted by his family, as well as two members who make a three hour trip each Friday to be present for the Sabbath.

Mr. Ogoudele regularly organizes family Bible studies and hymn sings on Friday nights. Although he has been blind for two years, due to advanced glaucoma and cataracts, he is still able to teach God’s

Word, often citing the scriptures from memory. Following an hour of fellowship, he requested Mr. Mickelson present a short Bible study, which then concluded with a hymn and prayer.

There were 27 present for services on the Sabbath. Both split sermons were translated from English to Yoruba. The messages were clearly understood by all, and were well received. Mr. Ogoudele commented on the timely nature of what he heard presented that day.

Following services we rejoiced together

with fellowship and shared in a delicious meal before our departure back to Lagos, Nigeria. The congregation accompanied us out to our vehicle to see us off, asking when we would be able to return again.

I returned home to the United States on Jan. 26, while Mr. Mickelson and Mr. Akinbo continued on to Ghana for another week of travel and visits.

More details of our travels, as well as pictures and videos, can be viewed on my blog at: [http://blog.travelpod.com/travel-blog/paul\\_moody/1/tpod.html](http://blog.travelpod.com/travel-blog/paul_moody/1/tpod.html). **UN**

## Who's In Your Boat?

Continued from page 4

we turn to God in prayer, Bible study and fasting—then the winds of life begin to subside, and the angry water ahead of us calms down. By drawing nearer to God we see through the darkness of the storm to realize that Jesus Christ is in the stern of the boat steering us to safe harbor (Romans 8:28).

### Storms of Life

During the storms of life it is natural to look for human solutions. It's difficult to fully trust God in the thick of a scary storm, because we don't always know where He's leading us or what His plan for us is in that moment. So we develop our own escape plan. But this never brings us to safe harbor. When the disciples focused on the storm their situation looked hopeless. Their solution was to cry out (shout), to show confusion, and some may have actually been upset with Christ. They may have reasoned: "Didn't He care about what was happening to them? Where was He during this trial?"

Looking back over the years in the Church, I really did not know how much my faith would be tried over the years. I know many brethren in the Church would say the same thing. We were little babes in Christ when we were baptized. But over the years, as we faced various storms that tested our faith, we began to submit lives to God's Holy Spirit more and more. As "storm veterans," hopefully we have learned the value of always remembering who's in the boat with us. This is an enormously important lesson

of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ. It can actually determine if we reach safe harbor at all.

Sadly some people have not weathered the storms. Rumors, like the winds in a storm, can blow our boat off course. Proverbs 18:13 cautions: "Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish" (New Living Translation). How many dedicated people of God over the centuries have had the winds of rumors

blow them to and fro? is anticipated by Jesus Christ. It's a joy to Him when present and a displeasure to Him when absent. Failing to trust in our Savior dishonors not only God the Father and Jesus, but it is detrimental to unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Without question, faith is fundamental to those who seek to be followers of God.

We know that faith can only come from God; none of us can "borrow" faith from another person. Thankfully God is a gen-

is thankfully not what God desires of us. Instead we need to remind ourselves that the Captain of our Salvation is at the helm: "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:10-11).

### Safe Harbor

When we look to our Captain, Jesus Christ, the fog lifts, the winds subside and the sea calms. This is faith in action in our lives, specifically faith in who's at the helm. In spite of the disciples' fear and unbelief, the ship did not sink, the storm ceased and all landed safely on shore. Of these men, 11 of them did grow tremendously in faith and trusted in their Captain to lead His Church.

The story of the calming of the storm is about Jesus Christ pointing His people to Him and challenging us to live by faith in His leadership. He did not criticize the sailing skills of these 12 men, but He did criticize them for their lack of faith in Him.

When the winds of a storm hit hard, do not focus on the waves of water crashing over the boat, instead focus in faith by asking yourself, "Who's in my boat?" If we seek the will of God in our lives and submit to Him in godly faith, we are going to see the waters calm, we will reach our destination intact and we will eventually find the ultimate safe harbor: the Kingdom of God. **UN**

*Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ asked a question of His disciples and it is the same one He is asking of His disciples today: "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).*

erous God. He is eager to give His sons and daughters more and more faith as they grow in maturity and seek His will in their lives. The storms of life are often the times we grow in faith the most.

We are warned by the apostle Paul not to allow the winds of doctrinal disputing to blow us off course or to cause confusion among us: "...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (Ephesians 4:13-14).

### Faith Is Fundamental

Faith in His younger brothers and sis-

terous God. He is eager to give His sons and daughters more and more faith as they grow in maturity and seek His will in their lives. The storms of life are often the times we grow in faith the most.

Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ asked a question of His disciples, and it is the same one He is asking of His disciples today: "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

Worry can be the result of a lack of faith. Worry is based upon the *hypothetical* possibility of trouble such as "What if the boat sinks with me in it?" Playing the "what if" game, as the disciples did,

Proverbs 18:13 says, "He who answers a matter before he hears the facts—it is folly and shame to him." Understanding how information and decisions are arrived at on the Council has taught me that in all matters it is best to hold your counsel and opinions unless and until you know all the facts. This is good advice for all parts of our life.

### 3. Make Your Words Few

Everyone has an opinion, and everyone sooner or later likes to express that opinion. I am no exception. When 12 men convene for a CoE meeting everyone has the privilege to express their view on any issue before the Council. The comments and discussion can go quite long, especially when it is a serious issue of consequence to the Church. At times emotions can become very passionate, and words can flow. Everyone sincerely desires to do his best in these deliberations.

I have thought about this and concluded there is a time and a manner to express thoughtful input. I have learned that emotion can cloud logic, and too many words can confuse your audience. Shakespeare said, "Brevity is the soul of

wit." It's better to carefully think through a response and keep it short if you wish to convince others of your cause. It also mercifully shortens a meeting. Proverbs 17:28 says, "Even a fool when he holds his peace is considered wise; when he closes his lips

a proposal or go into a meeting thinking the Council will go one direction on a topic only to see things change and a completely different outcome occur. Over time you realize your prayers are coming to pass before your eyes. You have asked

*There is wisdom in the counsel of 12 men who yield to the lead of God's Spirit, as it often works through other personalities. But you must listen. If you do you will often be changed for the better.*

he is esteemed a man of understanding."

### 4. Man Proposes But God Disposes

I don't know who came up with this quote, but it applies to Council work at critical times. In my years on the CoE I have seen many "plans" take a different direction than anticipated. You can make

God to guide and direct Council deliberations, and He does. He determines the outcome just as we had asked Him to do it. Often it takes time to see that, indeed, God was involved, and His will was being accomplished.

In the last three years the Council has

**Please see next page**



From The COUNCIL

## What I've Learned From Serving on the Council of Elders

Continued from page 3

### 2. You Don't Know What You Don't Know

It's easy to second guess Council decisions. Sitting like a magpie on a fence observing things from the outside I often and easily voiced my opinion about the way the Council handled the business of the Church. "If I were on the Council," I often thought, "I would do this or I would do it a different way." When I was elected to the CoE I quickly learned there is a lot of information that comes to the Council on any given matter. Some information is sensitive and confidential and impacts how you understand an issue. This affects how you cast your ballot. Some information you have cannot, for legal or spiritual reasons, be shared outside of CoE deliberations.

## What I've Learned From Serving on the Council of Elders

Continued from previous page

made a strong effort to include the Word of God in its documents and planning. If you look at the Strategic Plan you will see



### From THE WORD

## Esteeming Others Better Than Ourselves

Continued from page 2

never assume that theirs are worse than ours. This understanding leads us to an attitude that others are more worthy than we are, worthy of honor and worthy of service. By viewing ourselves as we are, sinners, defective, and prone to self-serving actions, we can begin to see the truth of who we are in relation to God and our fellow man. This truth should lead us “to perform lowly and humble offices that we may benefit others” (Barnes Notes).

The other aspect of lowliness of mind is our relationship with and comparison with God Almighty and Jesus Christ. They are so above us in every aspect. How can we ever think of ourselves too highly? One way we can express this understanding is in our relationships with one another. When we esteem others better than ourselves, we are manifesting this understanding. Humility can be viewed

that our vision statement, mission statement, guiding principles and positioning statements have Scripture citations included to support what is said. Even the language is taken directly from Scripture in direct wording or paraphrase. In writing these documents we were careful to base our aspirations on God's instruction. Proverbs tells us, “Trust in the Lord with

as insight into one's insignificance as it relates to God and others.

One way to esteem others better than ourselves is to look for and focus on the gifts and strengths of others, rather than trying to get others to praise our gifts and strengths or promoting them and ourselves. A natural outgrowth of humility is to esteem others better than ourselves.

*When we look at the defects and shortcomings of others, it is an attempt to overlook our own shortcomings and to elevate ourselves in the sight of others and God.*

One of Satan's defects of character is pride and his belief that he is more important than he is. When we look at the defects and shortcomings of others, it is an attempt to overlook our own shortcomings and to elevate ourselves in the sight of others and God. This prevents us from getting the log out of our own eyes (Matthew 7:1-5).

Despite their uneasy lives, they are continually bouncing back.”

All were challenged to step out of their comfort zones. The volunteers learned valuable lessons of how to be better leaders.

“The most important thing is gaining their trust and love, and then you will be more successful in leading in whatever project you have,” said Garrett Fenchel.

The primary goal of the trip was to work together to show God's love to the children at Eagle's Nest. Each day volunteers ran activities similar to a summer camp schedule. They taught English lessons, music, and enjoyed outdoor games and a pool party. Each activity leader had planned their lessons to reflect the daily biblical theme.

In addition, they helped to refurbish over 120 desks and chairs for the New Day School, which is located at Eagle's Nest Orphanage. This school serves not only those children who live at the orphanage, but also children from the community.

The trip was a success, and Youth Corps accomplished its goal of sharing God's love with the children and striving to follow Jesus' command to “visit orphans and widows in their trouble” (James 1:27).

Mrs. Moss reflected on her time serving

all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

If we have not taken counsel of God in our work it will come to nothing. I have learned, and I believe, God does guide us to the right decisions at His timing and not ours. It's sobering to see this. We seek

When we esteem others better than ourselves, we take a sincere interest in them and how we might serve them. It may be in relation to praying for them about a trial they may be going through or helping them in a concrete way if they have a specific need due to a physical limitation. When we take the focus off ourselves through a compassionate and

serving attitude, we actually reduce the stress and worry of our own problems. This produces a double benefit for the served and the one serving. This becomes a blessing to both. The Matthew Henry Commentary puts it this way: “We must be concerned not only for our own credit and ease, and safety, but for those of others also; and rejoice in the prosperity of oth-

the children: “I think I never understood how much God loves us until we met these kids. I never felt so much emotion as I did in those days we spent with them. I think about them like they are my own family.”

To learn more about the project, review our blog and video at <http://goodworks.ucg.org/blog>.

If you want to get involved, these kids could still use help. Youth Corps hopes to return again next year with another team. (Be listening for announcements and check out the Youth Corps website at [www.ucgyouthcorps.org](http://www.ucgyouthcorps.org) where applications will be posted.) You can also support the project with donations. Both Good Works and LifeNets will be helping support the project next year. You can also see pictures of the children and learn more about them at Eagle's Nest website: [www.eaglesnestint.org](http://www.eaglesnestint.org).

Most importantly, please pray for the orphans, and pray that this project continues to be blessed by God and serves the children of Eagle's Nest.

The participants in the project

to please Him and serve as faithful stewards and servants in His gracious hands.

My six years of service on the Council of Elders has been both challenging and rewarding. Taken together it has been the most significant growth experience of all my years in the ministry. I am glad I made the journey. **UN**

ers also as truly as in our own. We must love our neighbor as ourselves and make their case our own.” This is how Christ lived His life on earth. If we are truly to become like Him, we must live our lives in like manner.

Philippians 2:4 further emphasizes the attitude we should have when it states the following: “Look not every man on his own things, but every man on the things of others.” As a body of believers, we should promote the interest of others to edify the whole body. When we do this in the proper manner, Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6: 2-4 how our Heavenly Father will respond to us: “Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, and that your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” **UN**

Roy Fouch is a member who lives with his wife Barb in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a licensed Christian family counselor.

were Amy Bates, Kyle Bornhorst, Alyssa Diggins, Garrett Fenchel, Katrina Hansen, Courtney Horvath, Linda Merrick and Dana Moss from the United States; Timothy Blick from Australia; and Evelylin DeLeon, Helen Gole, Judy Gole, Werner Solorzano, Andrea Robledo and Freddy Perez Zelada from Guatemala. **UN**



Volunteer Dana Moss with one of the orphans.

## United Youth Corps Sends 14 Volunteers to Guatemalan Orphanage

Continued from page 1

closed, the orphanages in Guatemala are full.

Eagle's Nest Orphanage is a privately run orphanage that strives to provide a safe, loving, and happy home for the children.

When the volunteers reflected back to the main lessons they learned at Eagle's Nest, many expressed the desire to use this experience as a stepping stone and continue to look for opportunities to reach out to those in need. They learned that this can be done in both big and small ways and often right in your own back yard.

“Serve, but make serving a part of who you are,” said Kyle Bornhorst, United Youth Corps participant.

“There are always ways to serve—you just have to find your strengths and apply them,” said volunteer Alyssa Diggins.

Others were struck by the resiliency these children showed.

Dana Moss said: “I have better learned resiliency by the example from the kids.



# What's New In MEDIA?

## ■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Has God Lost Control?</i>	Gary Petty	March 9-15
<i>What Easter Doesn't Tell You</i>	Darris McNeely	March 16-22
<i>Overcoming Alcoholism: There Is Hope!</i>	Steve Myers	March 23-29
<i>I Believe, Help My Unbelief!</i>	Gary Petty	March 30-April 5
<i>How Christian Is Easter?</i>	Steve Myers	April 6-12
<i>Three Days and Three Nights</i>	Steve Myers	April 13-19
<i>Is the Rapture Real?</i>	Gary Petty	April 20-26

## ■ Beyond Today to Begin Airing in New Zealand on Prime TV

The United Church of God in New Zealand is excited to announce that a one year contract has now been signed to air Beyond Today on national television throughout the country.

Our programming will start on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at 7 a.m. Coverage will be on Prime Television (Channel 7). The Prime channel is broadcast via free-to-air in New Zealand and simulcast on Sky's satellite

platform.

I believe God has blessed us with a very good time slot on this national station. We would all appreciate your continued prayers for the complete success of this initiative.

*Daniel Porteous*

## Featured Links

### ■ Beyond Today Study Aids

By repackaging existing material on a given topic and printing a limited run, these booklets offer a compelling reason for viewers of the program to make a request for one. They are all available online in HTML and PDF format.

### ■ Why Am I Suffering?

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/why-am-i-suffering>

### ■ Overcoming Pornography Addiction

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/overcoming-pornography-addiction>

### ■ The Final Superpower

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/final-superpower>

### ■ Overcoming Alcoholism: There Is Hope!

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/overcoming-alcoholism-there-hope>

### ■ Easter: The Rest of the Story

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/easter-rest-story/>

### ■ The Power of the Holy Spirit

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/power-holy-spirit>

### ■ Seven Prophetic Signs Before Jesus Returns

<http://www.ucg.org/booklet/seven-prophetic-signs-jesus-returns/>



# UNITED NEWS



NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION • P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 (513) 576-9796

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 6-9:** WEW, Puget Sound, Washington

**March 14-16:** WEW, Cincinnati, Ohio

**April 18-21:** Families for God Weekend, Twin Cities, Minnesota

**April 18:** Southeast Regional Prom, Lebanon, Tennessee

**April 18-21:** Annual Orlando Retreat & Campout, Florida

**April 14:** Passover (evening before)

**April 15-21:** Days of Unleavened Bread

**May 4-5:** General Conference of Elders, Cincinnati

**May 25:** ABC Graduation, Cincinnati

## Encouraging Statistics From Media Report To Council

- *United News* circulation is the highest it's been in almost 3 years.
- After a declining trend the past 3 years, Coworker count is now the highest it's been in 34 months.
- After a declining trend the past year, Donor count is now the highest it's been in 12 months.
- 2013 was a five-year record for the number of personal correspondence (PC) answers sent.
- Magazine insert cards and literature response cards processed for 2013 were the highest in 5 years.
- Response to our subscriber development letter offering Tools for Spiritual Growth is at 20%—among the highest of any subscriber offer.
- We had the highest number of U.S. baptisms in 2013 since 2002.

Perhaps our recent, temporary boost in proclamation budget has helped. We're doing as much as we can with our limited financial resources. At some point, and as God wishes, we hope to see increased income and member growth from these ongoing proclamation efforts.

*Peter Eddington—Media and Communications Services*

## UNITED STATISTICS

### United News U.S. Circulation

January issue

