

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. 6

HTTP://MEMBERS.UCG.ORG

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

The Deuteronomy 6 Youth Education Initiative

Soon members of the Church of God will be observing God's Feast days, which point us toward the return of Christ and the eventual establishment of the Father's Kingdom on Earth. The Church is in a similar situation as to that of the children of Israel about to enter into the Promised Land. God's chosen people at that time were told that if they were to prosper and grow in the land God would give them, they would need to follow His laws and His ways. An environment for growth would ideally be created if they would internalize God's laws and teach those concepts and principles to their children.

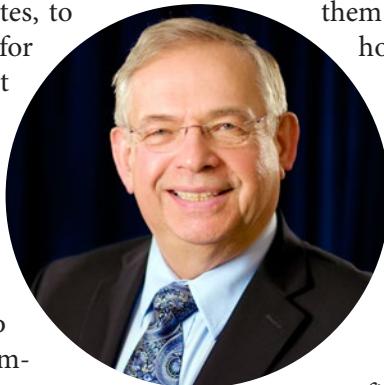
God's directions and promises were specific:

"...And that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you..." (Deuteronomy 6:2).

"And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us" (Deuteronomy 6:24-25).

A major factor in their success would be how well and how effectively they taught God's ways to their children.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as front-



lets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

God gave instructions to parents that they must first understand and internalize His laws and ways and then teach them to their own children.

As members of the Church we find ourselves waiting and preparing to enter into the promise of the Kingdom of God. The same principles that applied to Israel's success in Canaan apply to us today. One question that we must ask ourselves is whether we are fully applying the principles found in Deuteronomy 6.

In relation to teaching our children, does the Church's traditional model for youth instruction follow God's directive that parents are primary teachers of biblical principles? Generally our youth

D6 Articles Inside

- 2014 Festival Resources: *What Will They Be?* **Page 4**
- Deuteronomy 6: *A Whole Church Effort*
- Importance of the Family
- Inspiring Our Children to Walk With God
- 2014 Festival Resources **Page 8**
- Comments From Members About D6
- What's Happening With United's D6 Program? 2014-2015 Timeline **Page 18**

instruction follows a Sabbath school or teen Bible study model, where Sabbath

Please see page 4

20 Years of United Youth Camps

Summer camps wrapped up a successful 20th summer.

by Mitchell Moss

The United Youth Camps program has wrapped up its 20th successful summer in the United States. More camps are still on the schedule in the coming months both here and internationally.

This year's U.S. teen camps all shared the theme "Leaders: People of Character." Each day's Christian living topic for discussion and learning was coordinated across camps, each reflecting a certain aspect of the theme. The daily topics were, in order: commitment, integrity, determination, courage and vision.

In addition to the teen camps, preteen camps were a blessing for the campers, families, teens and adults who attended. And internationally, youth camps were blessed by God from Colombia to Nigeria.

Read the reports and see the photos on pages 2 (international camps), 9-12 (teen and preteen camps) and 19 (preteen camps).

As always, it's clear that God's blessing, the hard work of the UYC staff and volunteers, and the positive attitude of the campers all contributed to this being a season of camp to remember. **UN**



INSIDE UNITED NEWS

Camp Reports: International Camps	2	News at a Glance	6	Preteen Camp Reports	12-19
Forward: The Feast of Tabernacles: All Year Long!	3	Up & Coming	6	Local Church Updates	15
Into All the World	5	Announcements	7	Elements of the Zone: Fun	17
Congratulations High School Graduates	5	U.S. Summer Teen Camp Reports	9-11	What's New In Media? Why Were You Born Report	20

BY THE NUMBERS

42,813

Estimated number of households on the island of St. Lucia (see page 6)

Colombia

For our second year in a row, the Colombia summer youth camp was held just outside of Santa Marta, Colombia, with 32 in attendance. We got off to an energetic and fantastic start June 26, when 18 campers from Colombia, four campers from Guatemala and three campers from Chile joined four staff members from the United States and three from Colombia. This was truly an



international camp!

Starting each day with a compass check and ending each day with a Christian living class, we used the camp theme of “Leaders: People of Character” to keep us focused on what we desired to learn while at camp. The bonds of friendship and spiritual family were also a huge part of camp. Plenty of time for fellowship and relaxing was also an integral part of camp.

Courtney Horvath, a recent ABC graduate, gave a very interactive class titled, “English Is Exciting” at the beginning of camp to teach basic English greetings. It was our hope that the campers would learn and feel comfortable using these greetings so they could welcome non-Spanish speaking Americans who come to Colombia, Chile, and Guatemala for the Feast of Tabernacles this year.

Greg Rorem gave a class on careers and employment. His interactive class helped



the campers discover their interests and also to practice interviewing skills.

Our thanks again to a generous donation from ABC’s charity auction fundraiser that made it possible for Courtney and Greg to attend to help with camp. This was a huge boost helping to accept more campers as well.

The camp themes of commitment and integrity were put to use on the Sabbath, when we did our best to focus on God, while the rest of Colombia was focusing

Please see page 4

Ghana



The 2014 edition of the Ghana camp, which was held at St. Thomas Aquinas Senior High School in Accra, hosted

Please see page 4

Mexico

In the beautiful city of Veracruz, Mexico, 23 the pool, a talent night, song leading class, youth speeches, soccer and learning to play billiards. At the beach, the kids learned body surfing, volleyball and water balloon volleyball tossing. Another highlight of the camp was visiting the Veracruz Aquarium, which included a marvelous dolphin show.

The last few days I heard more than one camper say, “Can we stay another week?” and another added sadly, “I do not want the camp to be over.” Kids are so enthusiastic about the Church—some said they will now be taking personal initiative to go to Sabbath services.

Thanks again to all the boys and girls for their joy and enthusiasm, as well as Ismael Jimenez, our coordinator in Tabasco, Alicia Ortiz, Veronica Jimenez, Susana Juarez, my wife Andrea and Caty Seiglie who had the challenging task of nourishing the 32 people at the site.

Please see page 4



Nigeria



A total of 22 Campers and 10 staff from across Nigeria came together Aug. 17-24 for a truly blessed and wonderful time of fellowship, learning from one another and from God’s Word. They all had lots of fun and enjoyed engaging activities, building an amazing bond in “the Zone.”

Camp was held at Agaja, Ojo, Lagos, a beautiful peninsula along the Atlantic Ocean stretching across the West African coastal cities. The excitement of camp commenced with a 35-minute boat ride on the Lagos lagoon to the campsite. A beautiful wooden single story beach “house” provided us a space for indoor and evening activities, eating our meals as a family, a well with fresh water from where we pumped water to a storage tank (we bought drinkable water in packaged bags for the entire camp duration), staff and ladies washroom and bathroom and a standard sized swimming pool we filled using a pump from another well nearby (adding chlorine as well).

Staff and campers stayed in 4-10 person tents. All the gear we used (chairs, table, wiring, bulbs and electricity generator) were hauled in to the camp site. The setup (and breakdown) of camp was always a

unique opportunity to start bonding and learning the concept of working together as everyone participated in hauling all the supplies the short distance to camp.

The camp theme was “Walking Together in Unity,” with the key scripture being Psalm 133:1: “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” All the activities, ranging from our morning 15-minute compass checks, to the hour-long activities of archery, leather works, music class, rope bridge, team challenge, craft class, swimming, volleyball, Christian living and ASL class were focused on unity. They learned what fosters it, how to achieve it, and above all how important unity is among us as God’s children.

We had the Sabbath on the beach and 27 brethren from the Lagos congregation joined us, adding to the unity of the spirit we had been enjoying all week! The weather was cold (by tropical standards) and very windy, with the Atlantic Ocean a few yards away. God allowed some light rain on a few days during the week, which paled in comparison to the torrential rains that flooded major parts of the city during this time.

Camp ended with a formal banquet and a Bible quiz. Everyone was sad when it was time to finally pack up and head home.

Our deep thanks to God for His mercy and love, as well as the prayers and assistance of brethren around the world who contributed in many ways to make camp a reality for us.

Oludare Akinbo

The Feast of Tabernacles: All Year Long



RICK SHABI
Financial Services
Operation Manager

When asked, most people in the Church would say the Feast of Tabernacles is the most anticipated and enjoyable festival of the year.

That would be exactly as God would want it. The Feast pictures the time when Jesus Christ has returned to earth, claimed the kingdoms of this world as His own, and establishes a government that will bring peace, joy, and abundance to all who choose to live His law and His way. It is the highlight of mankind's existence on earth, and a time that God, all the hosts of heaven, and all of us look forward to.

It's no surprise, then, that God built into the proper observance of this festival principles that draw our attention to it all year long.

Let's look at just a couple of those principles.

In Deuteronomy 14:22, God instructs: "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide...that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always" (emphasis added).

Did you catch that? We tithe on our income so that we can keep God's Feast, that we may learn to fear Him always.

There's a financial principle implicit in our observance of the Feast. God intended us to save a "second tithe" faithfully throughout the year, then use it to enjoy "whatever our heart desires" at the Feast.

It takes character and, many times, faith

in God to save the second (festival) tithe. Financial challenges can arise during the year, and it may be tempting to dip into the festival tithe and use those dollars at a time that God did not designate.

When we faithfully keep the festival tithe, exactly as God commands, we build holy, righteous character, and we learn to fear Him always. Keeping the tithe is a key financial principle that God gives us. When we abide by His principles faithfully, He blesses us.

When we faithfully set aside the tithe from our paychecks all year long, we are reminded of what we are preparing for—to be in God's presence at the place He chooses for the Feast.

If we want to be with Him in His Kingdom when He returns, we will faithfully keep the tithe and observe His Holy Days as He instructs.

There's another principle we learn from this tithe, too.

God makes it clear in Deuteronomy 14:26 that we save the festival tithe for our own use in observing His festivals. Observe it where He places His name. Enjoy good food, good fellowship, and the activities at the Feast, and be reminded of the peace, joy, unity, and abundance that this Feast pictures.

But notice in Deuteronomy 16, that while we are to enjoy the use of this tithe, the well-being and welfare of others cannot be forgotten. "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant, and your female servant, and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates" (Deuteronomy 16:13-14).

With the tithe we have saved, we have a responsibility to see that our family enjoys the Feast, and to the extent God has blessed us with plenty, we have a responsibility to see that others at the Feast are enjoying it, too.

God is a God of "give." He watches out for us, and He expects that we are watching out for the needs of others, as well. It's the agape love His Spirit develops in us, and He expects us to be cognizant of the needs of others all year long.

The Feast is no exception. In fact, it's a wonderful time for us to share our blessings to make sure everyone has an opportunity to share in the joy of the Feast.

For those who have extra, plan to share with others who have limited tithe so they can fully participate in all that the Feast offers. The spiritual food provided at daily services is free to everyone, but the Church-sponsored activities at the Feast sites are important opportunities to fellowship and rejoice at the Feast, too.

Those activities are not free, and some may not be able to enjoy if we fail to watch out for their needs. If you know someone with limited tithe, take them to dinner or lunch, offer to pay their way to family day or the senior activity. Many festival sites have a Family Helping Family fund that you can contribute to. Money donated anonymously into this fund at the Feast are used to offset the costs of activities so that everyone—all of our Feast family—can enjoy the abundance God provides at the Feast.

This year, as we go to the Feast, appreciate and adhere to the year-round spiritual and financial principles that God has built into our proper observance of it. When you do, you will be enjoying the benefits of the Feast all year long. **UN**

September-October 2014 Vol. 20, No. 6
U.S. Circulation: 10,084
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 Techcenter 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.
UCGIA Council of Elders: Carmelo Anastasi, Scott Ashley, Bill Bradford, Roc Corbett, Aaron Dean, John Elliott, 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
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. Address changes: POSTMASTER—Send address changes to United News, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027.

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.

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: (0026)0966925840. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org
ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 928, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011716273. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org
Internet access on your computer:
The United Church of God, an International Association, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address 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 accesses the Church's Canadian website, www.ucg.org.au the Australian website, www.labuonanotizia.org the Italian website, www.goodnews.org.uk the British Isles website, www.ucg.org.ph the Philippines website, www.ucgeastafrica.org the Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda site and http://south-africa.ucg.org the Southern Africa website.

2014 Festival Fund

If you know you will have excess second tithe and can send it in for the purpose of helping others attend the Feast, please do so using this coupon, or donate online at <http://donate.ucg.org>, clicking on the festival fund button.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the space 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 from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

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

The Deuteronomy 6 Youth Education Initiative

Continued from page 1

school instructors teach materials provided by the Church. Parents may or not be involved in these lessons. Oftentimes parents assume the role of supporting the instructors.

This injunction for parents to be responsible for their children's moral and spiritual learning was the topic of the 2014 GCE plenary session, "UCG Youth

Instruction Program—A Deuteronomy 6 Model," which was presented by Randy and Kay Schreiber. The Deuteronomy 6 model is a "parents first" concept with the Church supporting and supplementing parents' teaching, not supplanting their responsibility.

The Life Application Bible Notes correctly state:

"God emphasized the importance of parents' teaching the Bible to their children. The church or Christian schools cannot be used to escape from this responsibility...Eternal truths are most effectively learned in the loving environment of a God fearing home [...]

"The Hebrews were extremely successful at making religion an integral part of life. The reason for their success was that religious education was life-oriented, not information-oriented. They used the context of daily life to teach about God. The key to teaching your children to love God is stated clearly in these verses. If you want your children to follow God, you must make God part of your everyday experiences. You must teach your children to see God in all aspects of life, not just those that are church related."

The United Church of God has begun implementing a change in its approach

for youth instruction. We will continue various youth programs and activities, but we are moving to a "parents first" emphasis with UCG youth programs. UCG is here to support and supplement parent's teachings.

This issue of *United News* gives more information on how we are working to make this Deuteronomy 6 model a part of our Church culture in order to create an environment for growth now and in the world to come. We thank you for your involvement in the growth of future children of God.

Victor Kubik
President, UCGIA

Family Study Guides

What Will They Be?

Beginning in November 2014, the United Church of God will be launching a new and exciting format for youth instruction based on the Deuteronomy 6 "parents first" model.

The UCG Vision Statement explains that we must be a Church that is guided by the Holy Spirit and joined and knit together by what each member supplies. Deuteronomy 6 clearly places the primary responsibility of "supplying" godly knowledge and understanding to the youth upon the parents. The Deuteronomy 6 project is intended to support and assist parents with the moral and spiritual development of their children and involve the entire Church in the process.

God gives fundamental guidelines for teaching our children in Deuteronomy: "And these words which I am command-

ing you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then] You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Amplified Bible).

We have identified these three key pieces.

- Youth instruction responsibility belongs to the parents and begins in the home.
- Youth instruction includes all children from birth until leaving home.
- Youth instruction is supported and reinforced in our Church programs and culture.

Teaching children about God and His principles should not happen only at church at Sabbath school, because:

- Parents can teach in the moment. Biblical principles are most effectively taught in everyday circumstances as life happens.
- Parents know their own children and how they can learn best.
- Parents can teach to their own children's grade or knowledge level.
- Family studies can tie in biblical and moral concepts on many levels.

So how can the members in the congregation be involved?

The United Church of God's current initiative is to provide a positive environment for growth. Involving all members of a congregation can help to do this (see page 8 for the article titled "Deuteronomy 6—A Whole Church Effort"). It is our duty in the Church, individually and collectively, to support parents in teaching youth to develop their full godly poten-

tial. That potential is their calling into the Body of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church, while learning that God's spiritual laws are practical ways of living (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:19-20; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

The new Deuteronomy 6 youth instruction program can include the whole congregation by each member having an awareness of youth instruction and the family study topics. Members could get to know all the children by name and attend youth instruction meetings and discussions. Work to connect local programs, studies and topics as much as possible to the monthly youth instruction topic. This can include clubs, Bible studies, youth instruction and studies and/or sermonette/sermon topics.

The United Church of God educational team sees the Deuteronomy 6 "parents first" model as a real way to fulfill our vision to become a Church "led by God's Holy Spirit, joined and knit together by what every member supplies."

Colombia

Continued from page 2

on the World Cup. Short sermonettes were given by Alex Motta and Carlos Mérida, both from Guatemala, and hymns were led by David Sierra from Colombia. Greg Rorem delivered a split sermon that followed. The cheering for Colombia echoed loudly throughout the camp from others in the area, easily overheard during our worship services; but that too gave us a lesson to remember.

After the Sabbath, everyone came together for one of Colombia's favorite activities—a dance. Other activities during the week were two afternoon trips to nearby beaches, volleyball, fútbol (soccer), swimming and the water slide. Evening activities included two very spirited evenings of Bible Pictionary and Bible trivia, and a campfire where charades, 20 questions, and broken telephone played in three different languages had everyone laughing.

All too soon, the end of camp came on July 1. Each camper gave two to three minute speeches about what they learned at camp. Camp director Scott Hoefker gave the final Christian living class on the topic of vision. Everyone was encouraged to remember the spiritual lessons learned at camp and to use them to focus on the vision that we have before us, God's Kingdom.

Gayle and Scott Hoefker

Mexico

Continued from page 2

In the name of the United Church of God in Mexico, we send a special thanks to the 2014 ABC students who had a great fundraiser for the Colombian and Mexican camps, as well as the Garden Grove congregation and others who made it possible with their generous contributions to make this camp such a success!

Gabriel Garcia

Ghana

Continued from page 2

19 campers and 11 staff. The campers (including 10 from Togo) and staff enjoyed edifying interaction. The theme for this year's camp was "Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth." Campers and staff were all admonished to seek our Creator on a daily basis.

With heavy rains a week before camp and just days after camp, it was the time of year when it could have rained during camp, but it did not. The weather, a blessing throughout the camp period, was the best we could hope for: cold (by tropical standards) in the early morning and at night; and often bright and sunny during the day.

Morning quiet times sought to encourage Bible study habits among the campers and having a more intimate personal relationship with God. In addition, we had Christian living classes in the evenings that were all tailored towards seeking God on a daily basis.

An injury-free, refreshing camp of Christian fellowship through the activities of archery, leather craft, basketry, cycling, team challenge, volley and basketball was a manifestation of God's abundant blessing on us.

Alex Kwame Kuvedzi



You Can Participate in *Good News* Magazine Distribution

by Betty Bost, Charlotte, North Carolina

After the United Church of God formed and offered individuals and congregations the opportunity to distribute *Good News* magazines, our Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation volunteered to participate. We currently have six brethren who either place magazines in waiting areas or who stock displays located in popular area restaurants.

In 2012 more than 15,000 copies were distributed. This was followed in 2013 by over 13,000 magazines circulated. Con-

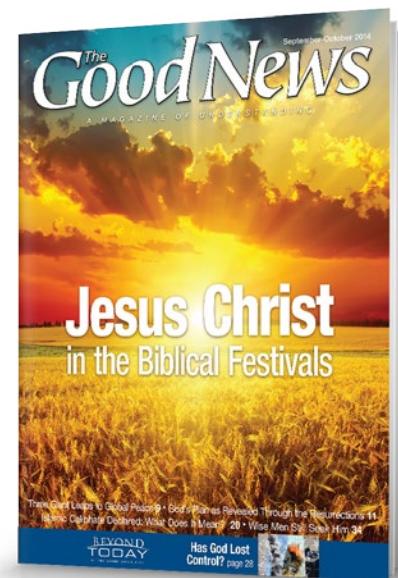
sidering the excellent response we have seen in the number of magazines placed or picked up so far, this year should be very fruitful one.

We join in celebrating the success of our Minnesota, St. Lucia and other brethren in their distribution efforts as referenced in the July/August 2014 issue of *United News*.

Today, brethren in the United States can be involved in *Good News* magazine back-issue distribution. For example, several copies can be placed on the informa-

tion table at Sabbath services. This way members who have an upcoming doctor, dentist or other appointment can take a magazine with them and leave it on a table in the waiting room for people to read.

It is so exciting to be a part of spreading the good news of God's world to come. You can be a part of the effort. If you live in the United States and would like to help, you are welcome to contact *The Good News* print advertising manager, John LaBissoniere, at john_labissoniere@ucg.org or call him at (423) 562-9400. **UN**



Congratulations, Class of 2014

High School



Sierra Gomperts

Sierra Gomperts

Parents: John and Mariora Gomperts
Congregation: San Diego, California
High School Accomplishments: Sierra has been very involved in many activities, always letting her light shine. She played violin for five years, and performed in several recitals. Sierra participated in dance, gymnastics, softball and basketball. Sierra graduated with honors and a 4.0 GPA from Carlsbad High School, where she played on the girl's water-polo team, and competed on the swim team. She also served as the lead photographic editor for the school newspaper, *The Lancer Express*. She volunteered to be a mentor for disabled kids at her school by joining the best buddies program. Sierra



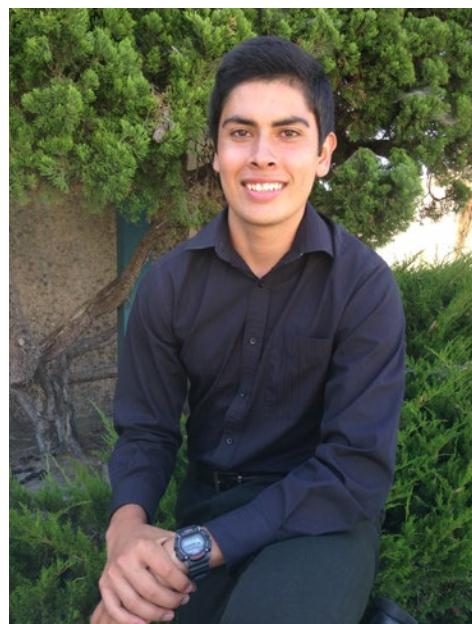
Julia Scott

achieved her certification as a lifeguard and now works as a lifeguard for the city of Carlsbad.

Church Activities: Sierra volunteers to teach youth Sabbath school at services and attends teen Bible study. Sierra has attended camp Hye Sierra since age 12, and attended Northwest Camp in Oregon this year.

Plans After Graduation: Sierra was awarded an academic scholarship and will attend Palomar College this fall, with plans to transfer to a California university to major in business.

Favorite Scripture: "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does



Alejandro Valdez

not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:7-8).

Favorite Quote: "Make each day your masterpiece."—John Wooden

Julia Anne Scott

Parents: Laura and Craig Scott

Congregation: Raleigh, North Carolina

High School Accomplishments: NC Scholar, four year honor roll, career readiness gold certification, member of the varsity swim team for three years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests: Camp Cotubic and staffing at Buckeye, church picnics. Swimming, drawing, painting, reading, baking, studying anatomy. Her interests are science,

mostly biology and physiology; She said, "Medical field related stuff is super awesome!"

Plans After Graduation: Julia plans to go to Wake Tech Community College for two years and enter the transfer program, then transfer to UNC Chapel Hill and get a bachelors in anatomy or physiology, then potentially go to med school.

Alejandro Valdez

Parent: Alex Valdez

Congregation: San Diego, California

High School Accomplishments: Alejandro received the Principles Accolade Scholarship award while attending Mt. Miguel High School, and played quarterback for the JV football team. Alejandro also played varsity tennis and was featured in an article in the *San Diego Union Tribune* newspaper on boy's tennis in San Diego.

Church Activities: Attended Camp Hye Sierra

Plans After Graduation: Alejandro plans on attending Cuyamaca College in the fall and pursuing a major in history. His ultimate goal is to become a history teacher and coach tennis on the high school level.

Favorite Quote: "The man who says he can and the man who says he cannot...are both correct."—Confucius

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

New Kitchen Manager Stella Helterbrand Begins Work at Home Office

Stella Helterbrand began her role as the kitchen manager on Aug. 4. She takes over the position from Connie Sipes, who had performed the job since January 2011.

Stella is an ABC graduate of the class of 2005, having grown up in the Church attending the Portsmouth, Ohio, con-



gregation, about a two hour's drive east of the home office. She spent two years volunteering with the Jordan project, serving in the administration department at the Amman Baccalaureate School, then the Creativity, Action, Service program for grades 11-12, before moving back in July 2012.

Stella grew up cooking, loving to cook, and has cooked for many large groups at home as well as helping in the kitchen for Church events nearly her whole life, and working at different restaurants over the years. Asked about her hiring, she said, "Being able to work here and for ABC is exciting and I look forward to the adventure that awaits!"

Current ABC student Michala Lockwood was hired on Sept. 2 part-time to assist in the kitchen while she attends ABC.

Mitchell Moss

Ambassador Bible Center Renames to Ambassador Bible College

At the August Council of Elders meeting, a discussion was held about various aspects of the Ambassador Bible Center



Attend Winter Camp and Winter Leadership Program



Winter Camp carries on a beautiful tradition of brisk outdoor and warm indoor activities, plus enjoyable social-mixer events in the evenings. This year Winter Camp will operate for seven days (one more day than in recent years), from camper check-in on Dec. 24 until check-out on Dec. 31. Planned activities for 2014 include arts and crafts, animal encounter, cross country skiing, dance, field sports, service project, team building and more! The spiritual component of Winter Camp will include daily compass checks, Christian living classes and seminars, Bible class, Bible Q&A sessions and

Sabbath services along with plenty of fellowship time!

Apply today for the teen winter camp at <http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/winter-camp>. The cost is \$300.

Winter Leadership Camp

Held concurrently with Winter Camp will be the Winter Leadership Camp. If you are a high school graduate aged 18-25, then here is your opportunity to learn how to lead in the UYC program and your local area! Join us for a wonderful week of Christian fellowship with like-minded young adults for leadership development, service opportunities and small group Bible studies on topics relevant to you, as well as opportunities to enjoy some of the regular winter camp activities.

The program includes eight days and seven nights from Dec. 23-31. You will train with winter teen camp staff and serve on staff part-time, mentoring under

a seasoned staff member. This will give you experience staffing activities and/or working as a counselor. There will be separate Winter Leadership dorms and a daily activity schedule. This is a fabulous opportunity for you if you are committed to growing in God's way. You can participate in the Winter Leadership Camp for the low rate of \$200.

Transportation to and from Milwaukee and Chicago airports for both teen camp and leadership camp is provided for free and transportation is available from and to the Cincinnati home office location for \$30 per person round trip. Space is limited, so apply today! The application deadline is Dec. 5.

To apply for leadership camp, apply as staff for the teen winter camp at <http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/winter-camp> and send an e-mail to Dan_Dowd@ucg.org to let him know of your interest. Don't let this opportunity to learn, grow, serve and play pass you by! Donations to help defray the cost of the Winter Leadership Camp or to provide partial scholarships are gladly accepted. **UN**

Dan Dowd

2015 Spring Education Tour—Turkey

In life it does not take long to discover that travel is one of the best forms of education; it expands our horizons and makes the pages of history come alive. Since United Church of God's first educational tour to Egypt seven years ago, this has been the conviction behind creating each program.

For the 2015 Unleavened Bread season we are excited to announce the destination of Turkey, focusing on the ancient seven churches and key sites of the journeys of the apostle Paul. Departure will be on Sunday, March 29, allowing the tour to begin prior to the Passover, with a return date of Wednesday, April 8. Since the Last

Day of Unleavened Bread is Friday, April 10, this will allow for any travel delays in returning home.

An additional four-night extension is available to Cappadocia. The area is best known for its unique moon-like landscape, underground cities, cave churches and houses carved in the rocks. It is a great opportunity for those who wish to extend their learning experience while in Turkey.

Working jointly with professional local guides in Turkey alongside our own United Church of God elders creates a rich educational experience with the Bible as the open textbook. This year, Frank

Fish of Travel Gallery commented that he is pleased to have Cincinnati pastor, Steve Myers as the lead minister on the program. With his teaching and ministerial responsibilities as well as a role as presenter on the *Beyond Today* television program he brings a broad range of experience to the tour.

Links to the narrative itinerary, as well as the payment details and terms and conditions are available at www.travelgallery.com. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Frank Fish or John Siston at (800) 858-6999 (or e-mail: john@travelgallery.com). **UN**

Frank Fish

program, including a potential name change from "center" to "college." The benefits of such a change were agreed to be worth pursuing, including increased possibility of offering international student visas.

The change will be implemented going forward incrementally, but all references to ABC in this publication and elsewhere in official Church communications will reflect the new name.

Mitchell Moss

Ambassador Bible College Begins 16th Year

The 16th year of ABC began with students arriving prior to the welcoming picnic on Aug. 17 at the home office. The lecture hall and dining area were decorated in gold, black and red, colors of the flag of Germany. The theme this year for the picnic was "Deutsches Sommerfest" with food and games to fit. To welcome the students we had two alumni dressed

in German garb as greeters. We had the final ball with the appropriate colors of World Cup Soccer final in which Germany came out victorious. One of the games was for each team (Bavarians, Saxons, Prussians, Berliners and Rhinelanders) to score as many goals as possible by kicking the ball into a small net from the same distance.

The 30 students enjoyed interacting with each other and alumni and faculty throughout the four hours they were together.



13th Annual Leadership Weekend Held in Cincinnati

The 13th annual Labor Day Leadership Workshop was conducted in Cincinnati Aug. 29-Sept. 1. The 46 attendees from 13 states and the United Kingdom participated in the meetings, which covered topics ranging from Christ-like service to effective speaking and working with teens in the Church.

A welcome reception and orientation took place Friday evening, then on Sabbath morning, the first seminar was conducted by Victor Kubik on "The Importance of Christ-Like Service—What Does It Mean?" He explained that true leadership must be based upon humility and service. Roy Holladay followed with a presentation on "The Winds of Doctrine," in which he explained that the opportunity to teach God's people is a great responsibility, a weighty matter not to be taken lightly. The final Sabbath morning presentation was by Gary Antion on "Integrity for Life," in which he covered the need for honesty, truthfulness and consistency in our actions and values.

After Sabbath services, the various attendees were hosted to dinner at the homes of the local ministry.

Sunday's presentations began with "Is Messianic Judaism the Answer?" given by Randy Stiver. He explained that two different religions arose during the first cen-

tury: Christianity and Judaism, and that Judaism is not the religion of the Old Testament.

Greg Thomas then covered a very informative topic called "Beyond Merely Leading—Toward Godly Leadership and Following His Lead." Greg covered basic leadership: influence with the ability to motivate others to work together for a common cause.

In the afternoon, Gary Antion spoke on effective speaking, with a hands-on portion for the men in the class to prepare a sermonette introduction on a topic. During the speaking session, the wives assembled together and were led in a discussion on "Women in Leadership and Service" by Beverly Kubik and Lisa Fenchel. They discussed how women can serve and help others.

The last seminar of the day was presented by Roy Holladay on "Your Responsibility to Those Over You." He explained how the Church has the opportunity to develop ministers who are humble and true servants and oversee out of love and mercy.

On Monday morning, Victor Kubik



spoke on "Working with Your Pastor." The emphasis was on how to serve in the local congregation. The final seminar was one of the most inspiring, given by Rudy Rangel on "Working With Teens in Your Congregation." He explained how we truly need to focus on the teens and take an interest in them. He then covered how we need to reach out to our young people.

We deeply appreciate the men and women who took the time to attend the Labor Day weekend workshop. They all paid their own expenses to attend this weekend. The opportunity meant a lot to them and certainly did to all of us at the home office. We greatly appreciate their dedication and service to the Church. God has truly called many wonderful servants to help serve and care for His people.

Roy Holladay

On Monday morning at 9 a.m., orientation began with a welcome and prayer. Various administrators, staff and faculty shared information about their various responsibilities in different segments.

Thanks go out to Laurel Krenz (ABC graduate in 2005) and all the alumni who assisted her in decorating the facilities so beautifully (Chelsea Shaw, Jason Nitzberg, Melanie Morris). Also, our gratitude to Stella Helterbrand and Linda Merrick for running the games. Prisca Myers took care of the sound system, and David Peabody oversaw the clean-up of the event. Thanks also are in order to all the faculty and staff for their contributions to orientation 2015.

Classes began Tuesday morning and the class of 2015 is now underway.

Gary Antion

Announcements



Joshua Floyd Cason



Olivia Faith Porter



Melissa and Matthew Wallick



Gerhard and Diana Marx

50 years

Births

Paul and Tina Cason of the Nashville, Tennessee, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their second child, **Joshua Floyd Cason**. He was born on Saturday, Aug. 9, at 1:20 p.m. Joshua weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and was 20 in. long. Big brother Daniel is thrilled to have a little brother, and the whole family is thankful to God for the newest addition to the family.

Clint and Joy Porter of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, **Olivia Faith**. Olivia was born Aug. 2,

2014, at 5:24 a.m. She weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz. and was 21 in. long. She is welcomed by big sister Melody, 7, and big brothers David, 5, and Grant, 3. Proud grandparents include John and Linda LaBissoniere of Knoxville, Tennessee, and David Porter and Luella Mazingo of Indianapolis.

Weddings

Melissa McQuien Adams and **Matthew Weldon Wallick** were married on June 18, 2014, on Treasure Island Beach, Florida.

Anniversaries

The Bricket Wood congregation hosted a special tea after services on July 19, 2014, for **Gerhard and Diana Marx** who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They met at Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England, and were later married by Herbert Armstrong in the music hall of Ambassador College. Some of the members who attended the tea were asked to bring their own wedding photos, and everyone had great fun reminiscing over old photos.

Gerhard and Diana Marx serve the Bricket Wood congregation, where Sabbath services are held every week on the

grounds of the former Imperial School near the college campus.

After Sabbath services on June 14, 2014, the Tulsa, Oklahoma, congregation celebrated the 60th (diamond) wedding anniversary of **Glen and Jackie Lewis**. During the reception to honor them, they were presented with a beautiful anniversary card signed by all, a gift card, two decorated cakes, punch, beautiful flowers and many pictures to remember the event. A potluck meal followed the reception.

Glen and Jackie Lewis were married June 16, 1954, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They have been longtime members of God's

Please see page 13

Deuteronomy 6

A Whole Church Effort

How Can Members Be Involved? What Is Your Responsibility?

The United Church of God is moving into a new educational initiative for youth instruction called “UCG Youth Instruction Program—A Deuteronomy 6 Model.” While God clearly lays the primary responsibility for teaching children on the parents, He also indicates that the Church community at large must be involved in passing on His ways.

“He gave laws to the people of Israel and commandments to the descendants of Jacob. He instructed our ancestors to teach his laws to their children, so that the next generation might learn them and in turn should tell their children. In this way they also will put their trust in God and not forget what he has done, but always obey his commandments” (Psalm 78:5-7, Today’s English Version).

As a church, we are assessing how to be more effective with youth instruction by emphasizing a Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “parents first” model, where the Church supports and supplements parents’ teaching, but does not supplant their responsibility.

So how can you as a Church member be involved and help pass on God’s way of life to the children in your congregation?

Here are some tips:

- Get to know every child’s name and

have conversations with him or her.

- Make a point to acknowledge, smile, talk to each child every Sabbath or at other times when you see them. It is important for them to know you care about them as an individual.
- Get to know one thing about him/her that they enjoy doing.
- Ask how school is and what do they want to do when they grow up.
- Find out who their favorite Bible hero is.
- Find out what their favorite Bible scriptures or stories are. Why do they relate or like those the best?
- Where are they going for the Feast and what are they looking forward to learning and doing?

The monthly topic for youth instruction and family study is available for you to see on the family education website at <http://members.ucg.org/content/family-education>. Familiarize yourself with the topic each month.

During the monthly youth instruction times, find out what they learned and what they have discussed as a family. Listen to them.

Tell some interesting stories or things you have learned that relate to the topic of study. This will help reinforce and help them internalize what they are learning. **D6**

2014 Festival Resources

The United Church of God Educational Task Force has developed several resources for families to use in their family discussions about the Holy Days and how they help to develop a relationship with God and with others. These are the resources families will have for the 2014 festivals:

My 2014 Festival Booklets for Grades K-8

A new 2014 *Teen Festival Booklet* was designed this year! We tied the 2014 United Youth Camp theme of “Leaders: People of Character” into daily family discussion points. We wanted the teen festival booklets, Feast teen studies, and United Youth Camp themes to reinforce and support connections between them.

My 2014 Parent Guide is available for all families. It gives suggested discussion questions and scriptures for family discussion times for each day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Two instructional class lessons for grades kindergarten through teen levels

will be offered at many Feast of Tabernacles sites. The topic this year will be: *The Millennium: An Amazing Environment for Growth*.

A variety of activity worksheets can be printed off by families as needed.

The 2014 Festival Booklets (Grades K-2; 3-5; 6-8; teen; and parents), Feast Instruction Lessons, and additional activities will be posted after August on the United Church of God Family Education sites at:

- <http://members.ucg.org/content/family-education>
- <http://feast.ucg.org/youth-instruction>

These Feast booklets will be delivered to the local church areas so most parents will receive hard copies before the Feast. If you do not receive a booklet, you can download them in PDF form from the website listed above.

We hope that you and your family have a wonderful 2014 festival season and your knowledge of God and His relationship with your family is expanded. **D6**

United Education Team

Importance of the Family

by Roy Holladay

There has been a great deal of emphasis lately on leadership training for all age groups within the Church. Our youth constitute one of those groups. We have many teens who have come through our camp programs and have continued on in the Church to become outstanding leaders.

Notice the mission of the United Youth Camps: “The mission of the United Youth Camps program is to support parents and the Church in teaching youth to develop their full godly potential—which is their calling into the Body of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church—while learning that God’s spiritual laws are practical ways of living (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, 11:19-20; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).” Within our mission are contained camper goals, staff objectives, biblical standards and a positive message to our teens that God’s ways work!

Who has the most influence in the life of our youth today—their peers or their family?

The apostle Paul clearly states in 1 Corinthians 15:33 that “evil company corrupts good habits.” Notice the Good News Bible on this verse: “Do not be fooled. Bad companions ruin good character.” Our youth need to be taught to be careful in picking their friends, particularly as texting and online access through Skype and other technologies continues to expand.

The basis for proper relationship devel-

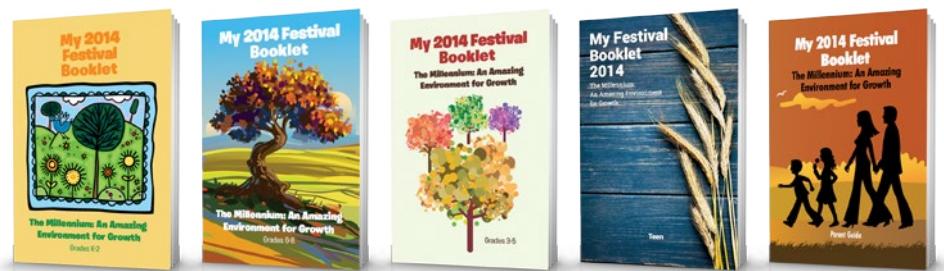
opment begins with the family. This is the reason that Satan is attacking the family today and trying to destroy the very fabric of society. The strength of a nation depends upon the stability of the family.

Deuteronomy 6:4-10 has been called the “Magna Carta of the home.” The most important models children have are their parents. The biggest enemy is the lack of time spent together as a family. Today family members go off into their individual cubicles. Thus their residence is a house but not a home. Society is always making inroads into the family unit and even into our families in God’s Church. God will make the family strong if we draw close to Him. If we show indifference to our children, we can be assured that Satan will not.

Each father and mother needs to create a God-centered family culture in their home. Every decision we make as parents should revolve around the question “Will this increase or decrease the likelihood that my child will grow up in God’s image?”

Programs alone will not solve the problem here. Parents can. But the Church—you and I—can assist the parents. We can build relationships with everyone in our local congregations. Historian Edward Gibbon wrote that what destroyed Rome was not the power of the enemy at the gate, but the disintegration of family life

Please see page 17



The festival youth instruction booklets, which have been updated to reflect the Deuteronomy 6 model, will be distributed locally in your congregation before the Feast. They’re also available in PDF form at <http://feast.ucg.org/youth-instruction>.

Inspiring Our Children to Walk With God

by Keith Tomes, Ed.D.

For years now, the United Church of God has used the admonitions found in Deuteronomy 6 as its fundamental base for how youth education is to be delivered. In Deuteronomy 6:5 the foundation is laid for how God had intended His law to be passed from generation to generation as the children of Israel prepared to

enter into the Promised Land. Understanding the importance of ensuring that future generations would continue to know and understand the promises He had made, God outlined the strategies it would take to promote the successful passage of His law and statutes from generation to generation. That passage states

Please see page 17

In mid-June this year, 113 campers and 58 staff gathered at Camp Cotubic in Ohio. A number of staff remarked at how quickly the camp seemed to get into the Zone. Smiles and good attitudes prevailed, even when rain forced cancellation of some activities. When the camper-staff softball game was called off, the entire camp enjoyed novelty olympics in the gym. The program featured most of the regular activities, ranging from volleyball and basketball to high ropes and swimming and boating at the lake. The Amazing Race was given a year off in favor of a class on outdoor survival skills, and this year for arts and crafts we built kites to take advantage of the wind that is rather common in the area.

Many campers responded favorably to the Christian living theme “Leaders: People of Character,” and they engaged in Bible discussions not only in classes, but in dorm meetings, question and answer sessions, and just about everywhere around the camp.

As director of the session, I saw more examples of selfless serving than I could possibly recount, but two come readily to mind. Serving as a dorm counselor may be the most rewarding job at camp, but it is also the most demanding and tiring. It is not a role one takes on carelessly. That said, two of our young adult staff willingly stepped into that role on short notice to

fill in when there was a cancellation and an injury on the part of more experienced staff members—and both performed very well. Both willingly gave up easier jobs teaching activities to take on the 24-hour per day duties of counseling.

The structure of the camp program provides a type of leadership training program for the counselors, with focused guidance by lead counselors from the ministry. The results have been very good. Many young adults who are leading teens through the camp program this year may well be leading efforts within the Church to preach the gospel and prepare a people in years to come. That said, we also look forward to the blessing of having many of our teens soon move into service as staff within the camp program as counselors and activity leaders themselves.

Frank Dunkle



Camp Pinecrest began on the afternoon of June 19 in Fredericktown, Missouri. As staff and campers arrived, the enthusiasm of camp was already underway.

Orientation for campers began Friday, where the rules and goals of the week ahead were laid out for the campers. Additionally, to give the kids a foretaste

of the week to come each activity department put on a short skit to emphasize the highlights of their activity. After a delicious first dinner, orientation continued with special presentations regarding gun safety on the riflery range and the goals for the camp newspaper, *The Pinecrest Journal*.

Camp Pinecrest begins with the Sabbath. While this is different from other UCG camps, it provides an ideal beginning. Staff and campers have traveled long distances to be part of camp and a Sabbath rest helps everyone recharge for the week ahead. Sabbath began with breakfast followed by a Bible study given by Brian Shaw. After the study, an ABC presentation was given by Aaron Creech and staff members who had attended the program in Cincinnati. The morning Sabbath activities concluded with the singing of hymns.

Regular Sabbath services featured a sermonette by Aaron Creech that focused on David's leadership as he faced Goliath. After five special music presentations, the sermon was given by Gary Smith focusing on the perfect model of leadership found in Jesus Christ.

After dinner everyone returned to casual camp wear for the Sabbath Bible challenge. The six dorms were challenged by Bible Outburst; Bible Pictionary; reaction puzzle making; name that hymn; people, place or thing; and identifying Bible events and putting them in time order.

On Sunday, the activity week began. Each dorm would enjoy the opportunity for archery, volleyball, riflery, low ropes, journalism, softball, speedway, swim-

ming (including launching off the blob), Bible class, and a canoe trip down the Black River. This year rock climbing was re-introduced under the guidance of Tom Greider.

Each morning began with an emphasis on this year's theme, “Leaders: People of Character.” Each presenter covered the day's theme for campers and staff. Commitment, integrity, determination, courage, and vision were focused upon to set the tone for each day.

Camp Pinecrest came to a close on Thursday evening with the recognition of campers earning proficiencies in archery, riflery, rock climbing, softball, swimming, and volleyball. Katie Hauck and Jacob Greider were also recognized for the service and quality of character displayed in their dorm and around camp. After the awards ceremony, the camp came to a close with a dance.

To summarize Camp Pinecrest this year, it was a success. Why? Because the staff new and old came together to put into practice the qualities emphasized in this year's theme. The camp was successful because we had 55 leaders putting their character to work in the service of the 67 teens who joined us this year.

Gary Smith

Hye Sierra is set on a beautiful and serene 160-acre camp located amidst the magnificent pines and regal redwoods of California's Sequoia National Park. As a private camp, Hye Sierra offers us a fantastic isolated location to come together as a family of like mind and values to play, learn and inspire individual growth. Our focus at Camp Hye Sierra is to show that God's way truly works in this modern age. Hye Sierra's remote location allows us to craft a unique Zone environment in order to help foster a focus on growing as a Christian and building lasting relationships with others.

For one full week, each of our 208 staff members and campers left their everyday environments to come together in fun activities, godly relationships and spiritual discussions. We had an amazing week learning about God, seeing His creation, having fun and making friends!

The Christian living classes provided incredible discussions about being leaders, examples of leadership, and how each of us can positively influence each other. Campers and staff had lively conversations about commitment, integrity, determination, courage and vision. It was inspiring to see light-bulb moments and growth in our campers and staff!

We also had a wide range of successful activities that included dorm bonding, athletic, challenging, engaging, creative, and goal-oriented ones. God's hand was very evident at camp, not only in the safety at our activities, but also the weather. Our daytime temperatures were well below forecast and very pleasant, while the nights were cool and comfortable. Despite the California drought, everyone stayed hydrated and we were able to run our full range of water activities.

We are very thankful for your prayers for a successful Camp Hye Sierra 2014. Your prayers were answered on a daily basis, and we were most appreciative! God is absolutely calling our youth and it is a great pleasure for all of us as staff to be serving God's campers!

Ed Dowd



Camp Woodmen 2014 was a resounding success! The numbers were incredibly well balanced this year: 42 girls and 42 boys, which worked out to three dorms each. A staff of 44 rounded out the number of people who attended. Northern Alabama provided a picturesque setting where God's hand was obviously at work the entire week.

Each morning started with Christian living classes that emphasized the camp theme "Leaders: People of Character."

Campers were given memory verses, which were reiterated in each class. The daily themes looked at biblical leaders who stood up for God's way of life. We learned from God's Word and looked at examples of how we can also strengthen our relationship with God.

Dance class was one of the first classes for each dorm, as the first day of camp ended with a dance. Team sports such as volleyball, basketball, speedway, ultimate Frisbee and softball were staples of the

schedule. Swimming and the waterslide gave everybody a thrill, and adventure abounded in high ropes, including a newly renovated climbing wall, high swing, and giant zip line. Strategists enjoyed the low ropes course, where dorms worked together to overcome various obstacles. Riflery and archery challenged everyone's concentration and offered a great way to compete with themselves and others. Individual dorm Christian living classes offered a small group session to dig into God's way. Each dorm also took their turn in campus improvement and helped clean after meals.

Plenty of social time was worked into the schedule. The campers didn't seem to mind the heat, as they played ping pong outside on the patio while enjoying a snack. Evening activities continued the fellowship opportunities with activities such as novelty olympics, fishing, fun show, sports, Bible study, and a dance on

two evenings. Several campers who had never done any fishing caught their first fish!

Every evening before camper curfew, campers and staff gathered together to sing the hymn "How I Love Thy Law, O Lord." It was a great way to focus our attention on God's Word right before heading back to the dorms. Each elder was assigned a specific dorm to visit every evening before bedtime, so the campers had the opportunity to discuss relevant topics and focus on practical application of God's way of life once again.

Altogether Camp Woodmen 2014 ended up being one of the best years ever. Thank you to everyone for their prayers and support. We had a wonderful group of campers and service-oriented staff focused on God's way of life. We thank God for His protection and direction.

Shawn Cortelyou

From July 20-27, Northwest Camp hosted 118 campers and 65 staff on the beautiful Oregon coast. This was the largest Northwest teen camp in many years. The overall Christian living theme was “Leaders: People of Character.” Campers and staff were encouraged to follow the principles that make leaders and to serve in God’s Church at every opportunity. This year we had a large number of campers and staff from the Midwest. For many, it was their first opportunity to visit the Northwest or see the Pacific Ocean.

The daily Christian living themes were taught in the daily Bible classes and demonstrated throughout the day in the activities, campfire stories and dorm parent discussions.

For most of the week the sun was shining and the ocean winds calm, providing enjoyable evening campfires on the beach watching the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.

We were excited to have Victor and Bev Kubik serving on staff with us. It was their first opportunity to help at a summer camp in many years. Mr. Kubik worked as the camp videographer and photographer, while Mrs. Kubik assisted LeeAnn Luker in teaching the “Excellence in Living” classes.

Activities enjoyed by the campers included water skiing, speedaway, swimming, skim and boogie boarding on the beach, beach volleyball, archery and a kayak trip down the scenic Nehalem River. A new activity added this year was pickle ball, a game similar to tennis, but played on smaller court with plastic balls and large paddles.

God’s blessing has been evident to everyone. As one example, this summer the Camp Magruder management offered to build us our own storage building on location if we provided the building materials. The materials were purchased with funds raised by the Olympia and Tacoma congregations. This new storage shed will save us rental expense on a storage garage for years to come, plus save hours of time and travel every year to the storage facility.

Plans are well underway for Northwest Camp 2015.

Rex Sexton



The Challenger West leadership program for young adults completed its fourth successful season in the Wind River Wilderness near Dubois, Wyoming, Aug. 3-12. The program had 15 participants from across the United States and one person joining us from Australia. The four staff this year were Matthew (director) and Lisa Fenchel and Andrew and Tiffany Beattie. Wil and Sue Berg once again hosted the staff during the scouting week, and provided critical base-camp support to the program in the months leading up to departure, and for first-day orientation (Mr. Berg is the pastor of the Dubois and Idaho Falls congregations.)

The program consisted of backpacking, camping, rock-climbing, orienteering, rappelling and fishing at 10,000 feet in elevation. The purpose of the program is to mentor spiritually committed young adults in biblical leadership and service. The program was upgraded this year with a more academic and structured approach towards leadership and character education. Participants were required to read two books—*True North* and *Strengths Finder 2.0*—before coming on the program. Each participant had a chance to lead a group for a day, and each day consisted of leadership mentoring, group dynamics and debriefing. Each participant also gave a small talk on some

spiritual or leadership lesson during the week.

Every day started with a Bible study that focused on key leaders in the Bible, and how they did (or did not) demonstrate the character of leadership in certain events of their lives.

The program was blessed with a terrific group of young adults. They threw themselves into every aspect of the program, accepted the challenges (of which there were a variety) and enjoyed the successes of perseverance. They were an excellent example of teamwork, and looking for opportunities for leadership development. In addition to a great rock-climbing site, the Beatties located a new rappelling site that offered a spectacular view. Fishing on Upper Ross Lake was excellent, and the group was blessed with a generous fish-fry on the last night in the wilderness. Camping on Ross Lake was nearly millennial with waterfalls coming



off the glaciers and towering mountainsides.

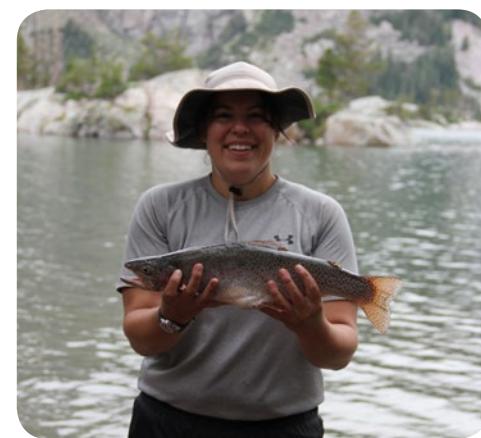
Weather was a little more of a challenge this year. We had intermittent rain during the first three days in the backcountry, but the fire danger was low, and we were able to have campfires this year. Cooler weather was most welcome during the three days where we had extensive hiking. During the program, we were blessed to see elk, big-horn sheep and a moose. Those who traveled by car through Yellowstone National park were also treated to regular sightings of bison.

The program finished with a 10 mile hike from south Ross Lake back to the trailhead, and then a delicious dinner of venison, elk and antelope goulash prepared

by Mrs. Berg.

The initial feedback from all participants was very positive, and we look forward to offering an even better adventure in 2016!

Matthew Fenchel



Camp Colorado

We had an extraordinary camp experience in the majestic Rocky Mountains June 15-18! Camp Colorado was bursting with increased energy and enthusiasm as we nearly doubled in size from 2013. 50 excited young campers, along with 15 teen staff and 35 adult staff grew to love and care for each other as we became one big family for four days and three nights. Everyone worked together as we focused upon our theme for this summer's camp, "Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth."

God was certainly gracious as He blessed us with absolutely gorgeous weather and no serious injuries. The campers were especially attentive during our campfire Bible challenges and they energetically responded with their answers. It was gratifying to see that our young people are very interested in learning about the Bible and the ways of God our Father and Jesus Christ. Everyone also greatly enjoyed our nightly sing-a-longs around a roaring camp fire.

Throughout camp we stressed the importance of establishing a close relationship with the Father and Son in our daily compass checks and Christian living classes given by a variety of knowledgeable and dedicated men. Most of our teen staff had been campers at Camp Colorado in the past and they were a big help to our very conscientious and hardworking counselors. The camp ran very smoothly with all our staff members pitching in together to fulfill every need.



The children loved their canoeing, archery, and arts and crafts classes. The field games were especially fun as we played water balloon tag with hundreds of water balloons on a very warm and beautiful morning. We also went on two nature hikes to experience the beauty of God's creation in one of the most beautiful spots on earth. And again we had an afternoon filled with a puppet workshop where our campers and many staff made their own puppets and the children put on some very creative Bible-based plays for everyone's enjoyment.

Consider joining us next year at Camp Colorado June 7-10, 2015.

Mark & Barbara Welch

Camp Kiwanis

Camp Kiwanis started off with a bang (of a thunderstorm), but the rain couldn't dampen our spirits. More than 50 campers ages 1-12 and more than 50 staff members and parents camped together for four days and three nights in the lovely woods of Pennsylvania. Our minds were filled with stories of God's and Joseph's faithfulness, our bellies were filled with s'mores and popcorn around the campfire, our bodies were filled with activity, and our hearts were filled with the love of new and old friends.

Activities included making tie-dye shirts, dodgeball, fishing, creek swimming, woodworking, dancing, basketball, water sports, team building, puddle jumping, wiffle ball, Christian living, kayaking, songs around the campfire, and the traditional last night game of capture the flag. Camp ended with a delicious lunch, a stellar



choral performance about Joseph, and many hugs. Next year's tentative dates are July 12-15. We can't wait to see you there!

Lindsey Massie

Camp Piney Woods

We had 26 campers who enjoyed a very successful preteen camp in the Piney Woods of East Texas. We also appreciate the help of 11 adult and five teen staff, along with many of the local East Texas brethren. They all went above and beyond and helped us enjoy the many different types of activities at camp, ranging from arts and crafts, baking and field day to sports like basketball, wiffle ball and gagaball (a variant of dodge ball). Fun water activities included two days of fishing, swimming in the swimming pool, a dunking booth and a slip 'n slide. The fish were biting left and right as several campers caught more than 20.

Our theme for the camp was taken from Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." Our compass checks and our activities were based on this verse. Parents were on hand to see the end-of-camp awards ceremony where each camper was presented a Certificate of Award. The campers also sang two



music pieces, "God's Top 10" and "The Word of God Works." Thanks to everyone for your prayers, and thanks to our great and wonderful God for his divine oversight.

Jim & Laura Moody

Camp Buckeye

Pre-teen Camp Buckeye in North Central Ohio continues to grow every year. This year we had 66 campers and 82 staff members coming from 12 different states and one Canadian province. This year we reached our sleeping capacity for the facility.

Each day began with engaging Christian living classes, followed by many other exciting activities such as archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, court games, dance/skit, field games, indoor games, fishing and swimming.

Court games was a new activity this year and broom-ball became a hit with all the children, especially with those who decided to "make memories to last a lifetime" by playing broomball in the rain! Dance was also new this year and it was an opportunity to teach the children some of the fun line dances they often see at family dances or when they go on to teen camp (and, of course, they did learn the hamster dance!).

We had our traditional evening campfires with kettle corn and Bible skits one evening and Mark Graham leading a fun-filled sing-a-long on another evening.

Here is just one comment from the parent's survey on what they think about Camp Buckeye and why they want their children to attend:

"Everything about Camp Buckeye is a reinforcement to what we are trying to teach [our child] how God's way works. It is good for [our child] to see other kids living His way, and what it looks like when a group of people are living God's way."



And one comment from the staff survey, on why they volunteer to serve:

"I serve at Camp Buckeye because it is a camp that had affected my views on the church and changed me growing up and a program I want to give back to and be a part of. It is such an amazing experience watching these campers grow up and become staff members and accepting the Church as not their parents', but their own."

Some exciting changes are being planned for next year, so put the Camp Buckeye 2015 dates on your calendar. Sunday, Aug. 2 to Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015.

Len & Julie Martin



Glen and Jackie Lewis

60 years

Continued from page 7

Church. Part of the Lewis family that were also present were their son Mike and his wife Karen; a grandchild Krissy and her husband Aaron with great grandson Adam; and a grandchild Stefanie, with great granddaughter Abby. The Lewis' daughter Kathy Lewis was unable to attend. Their son Frank Lewis died in an auto accident in 1984.

Later the granddaughters, Krissy and Stefanie, presented the Lewises with a beautiful engraved cutting board and set of utility knives. After the reception and potluck everyone offered their hearty congratulations to Glen and Jackie for their 60 years of marriage.

Sixty years ago on June 27, 1954, **Randy and Dorothy Turnblad**, longtime members of the Church of God, were married at Camp Carson, Colorado. Dorothy's father, Mr. Kutz, an army chaplain, performed the ceremony. Dorothy grew up in a family without any brothers, and she wasn't even interested in boys at the time she met and had a date with the "very kind, mature and rather interesting" Randy Turnblad. After dating for two years and reaching the age of 17, Dorothy married Randy. God has blessed them and guided them in raising their six children, Bill, Brian, Bob, Jim, Lucinda, and Leah. They now also have 13 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and are waiting for their third to arrive any day now.

The Southern Minnesota congregation honored their 60th anniversary on Saturday, June 21, with a tasty carrot cake, bubbly punch, and snacks brought by the congregation. The couple brought several memorable photos of their wedding day, which were displayed on a lovely table decorated for the occasion by Joyce Possin. Clear, sparkling plastic diamonds were scattered on the nicely decorated tables to enhance their 60th diamond anniversary. The Turnblads have been faithful members of God's Church for nearly 50 years.

Karl and Donna Hampton of the Kalispell, Montana, congregation celebrated their 60th anniversary July 28,



Randy and Dorothy Turnblad

60 years

2014. Their large extended family joined them for an entire weekend in Cle Elum, Washington. Everyone stayed together at the Big House Lodge. There were activities for all ages from 6 months to 85 years. Meals were prepared by family members who all love to cook. A video slideshow took the family along the journey of their life together since Karl and Donna met and married in Seattle, Washington, in 1954. Their five children have given them 11 grandchildren, who have given them 11 great-grandchildren. This weekend was a tribute to their love for God, for each other and for their family. Karl and Donna now share a quiet country life in Bigfork, Montana. They enjoy their goats, chickens, garden, vineyard and orchard. They are very grateful for the amazing life with which God has blessed them.

Obituaries

Jane Baer and Eleanor Wasko: It's hard to think of one without immediately thinking of the other. Both Jane and Eleanor were born in New Jersey, began attending the Philadelphia congregation of the Worldwide Church of God (which met in New Jersey) in 1965, and were baptized on the same day in November 1966.

Although they kept many, many Feasts together, they were definitely not carbon copies of each other. Eleanor had 10 children (9 still living) and raised most of them on her own after being widowed while still in her 40s. Eventually, she worked at Ambassador College in Pasadena for 10 years. She was in charge of the apartments and houses used for the ministerial refresher program, as well as being overall dorm mother for all the women's dorms. During her years at the college, she met Otto Von Hapsburg and the Queen of Thailand.

Jane had three children and was divorced from their father. In 1962 she had surgery that left her with a lifelong balance problem so that she was not able to earn enough money to support herself. While the Church helped provide her living expenses, she more than made up for it with the service she gave to the Church



Karl and Donna Hampton

60 years

members. She was a deaconess.

In 1991 Jane and Eleanor moved to Florida and to the same senior apartment complex. Eleanor served as the assistant manager for the 20 years prior to her death. Her boss, and friend, said that over the years when residents couldn't pay all of their rent Eleanor paid it for them. She did many other things to help others that no one knew about until he "gave away her secrets" after her death.

On an occasion honoring the senior members of the St. Petersburg, Florida, congregation, they offered these words of wisdom:

Eleanor: "I think one of the greatest things we need to learn is patience. No matter how great the trial we face, God is always there to help and guide us."

Jane: "Get rid of the word 'but' from your vocabulary."

After several serious falls, Jane moved to an assisted living facility where she spent the last year and a half of her life. Eleanor died just the way she hoped to: working up until just months before her death and able to stay in her apartment until the end.

Both Jane and Eleanor focused their lives on the Church and on studying and living by God's Word. These dedicated Christian ladies are greatly missed.

Gordon C. Robison, 88, of Kokomo, Indiana, died May 31 at Northwood Village in Kokomo, where he had been a resident a short time. Before that, he had lived in his own home in Kokomo.

Born June 21, 1925, in Concord, Tennessee, he was a son of Elmer and Julie Findley Robison. He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Navy in the Philippines. He retired from Delco Electronics in 1987.

Gordon married Edith Lee in 1946. She preceded him in death in 1982. Both were baptized in the early 1960s and were members of the Worldwide Church of God. He later became a member of the United Church of God in Lafayette.

Gordon is survived by his children, James (Suzi) Robison, Judy (Ed) Hauser, and Sue Robison, all of Kokomo; Wanda Robison, of Rochester, Indiana, and



Jane Baer, Eleanor Wasko

died 2014

Ruth (Max) Floyd, of Tipton, Indiana; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren and six step-great-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are several cousins. Ed and Judy Hauser and Sue Robison are all members of the United Church of God in Lafayette.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents, two sons, Gordon Eugene and Alan Lee Robison; two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Gordon's daughter Judy Hauser said her father had been becoming weaker, and she believed he held on long enough to take the second Passover, which he had so desired to observe. Michael Grovak, who took the second Passover with Gordon, said it was necessary for him to speak loudly into Gordon's ear for the entire service because of his poor hearing. At the conclusion, with tears in his eyes, Gordon said, "Mike, you came across loud and clear. I heard every word." Mr. Grovak said it was an honor to take the second Passover with Gordon, especially since he died not many days later.

Mr. Grovak officiated at the funeral service in Kokomo. Burial took place at a later date in Tennessee.

Ronald O. Woodbridge, 77, an elder in the Wichita, Kansas, congregation died Monday, June 9, 2014, following a lengthy illness. The eldest child of Philip and Muriel Woodbridge, Ron spent most of his early years on a farm in rural Kansas and in a car traveling to churches where his father, a Church of Christ minister, preached. Ron graduated from Wellington High School in 1955, where he was senior class president and captain of the basketball team. He went on to attend Wichita University, where he was awarded the prestigious Gore Scholarship. He received a degree in speech therapy from the university's Institute of Logopedics in 1958.

Ron married his high school sweetheart, Loretta Haines, Dec. 19, 1955, and together they had six children. They moved to eastern Kansas in 1959, managing the Double L Ranch. In 1967 the family moved back to Wellington, and



Gordon C. Robison

1925-2014

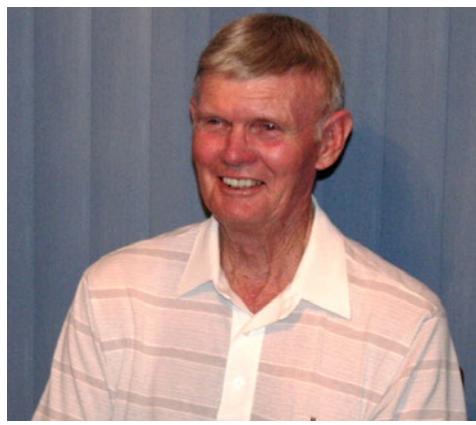
Ron became property manager for Stewart Farms in addition to having his own farming operation and a small herd of cattle. During this time, Ron was active in the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, serving as secretary of the organization for a term. He retired in 2004.

In the 1960s, Ron's religious beliefs were challenged when his brother-in-law became a member of the Worldwide Church of God. In trying to disprove the seventh-day Sabbath, Ron instead ended up proving its validity! Christmas Day of 1970 fell on a Sabbath, and the Woodbridges attended their first Sabbath service that day in Lufkin, Texas, while visiting their Church family who lived in Big Sandy. Ron and Loretta were both baptized in 1971. Ron was later ordained a deacon and was ordained an elder on Sept. 16, 1993.

In his early years in the Church, Ron worked with the youth group and coached both the boys' and girls' basketball teams at various times. He was instrumental in the church purchasing a school bus, which he helped fix up to take the Y.O.U. members to their basketball tournaments in other states. Many a teen called him "Dad" and Loretta "Mom". Ron served the brethren in many other ways as well, helping the elderly or widowed members with their needs, directing the local choir, leading hymns, performing special music, and giving many powerful messages. Ron also carefully noted requests for prayers and prayed diligently and continually for those situations until they were resolved. This was due in part to his gratitude for the prayers and cards he received when he had open heart surgery in 1999.

Ron and Loretta were able to attend the Feast in Steamboat Springs in 2013, and were there for every service, including the Bible study. Those were the last services he was able to attend, as he became virtually homebound following the Feast. In April and May, Ron experienced several falls, most likely due to light strokes, and in early June he became so weak that hospice was called in. Ron died quickly and peacefully less than a week later, surrounded by family. He has finished his race and now peacefully awaits our Savior's coming!

Ron was preceded in death by his par-



Ronald O. Woodbridge

1937-2014

ents, a brother and a sister; daughter, Kathy Schellenger; and son-in-law, Curt Schellenger. He is survived by his beloved wife Loretta, and children, Kristy (Kent) Foraker, of Rose Hill, Kansas; Don (Nancy) Woodbridge, of Austin, Texas; Karen (Dave) Fergen, of Wellington; Tom (Susan) Woodbridge, of Wellington; and Ronda (David) Garden, of Goddard, Kansas. He is also survived by 15 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, sister Elaine (Mark) Seglem, and many family members and friends whom he held very dear.

A celebration of life was held July 13, 2014, in Ron's hometown of Wellington, Kansas, where many family, Church brethren past and present, former classmates, coworkers and friends gathered to honor his memory.

Cecile L. "Cecil" Hill of Kokomo, Indiana, died June 14. She was 78.

She was born on July 12, 1935, to Robert McCoy and Elizabeth McMasters. On Dec. 24, 1951, she married Harold K. Hill, whom she loved dearly. He preceded her in death Nov. 22, 2003.

She is survived by two sons Allen (Linda) and Ronald (Nancy) Hill; a daughter Angela (John) Anderson; two brothers Gary (Jackie) Wright and Rick McMasters; two sisters Gloria Leisure and Connie Wetzels; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Michael and Steven Hill; one granddaughter, one great-grandson and one sister.

"Cecil" was baptized Sept. 25, 1982, and was a member of the Worldwide Church of God and later the United Church of God in Lafayette. A most loving and generous pillar of God's Church, she was known for her donations of "ice cream money" to the little children in the congregation. She was also known for her motherly nature, for her concern for others and for her prayers for the Church and her friends.

Michael Grovak, who officiated at her funeral and graveside services in Kokomo, spoke of her being especially loving and forgiving, typifying 1 Corinthians



Cecile Hill

1935-2014



Roger L. Mabry

1945-2014

13:5, in that she was not self-seeking, not easily angered, and kept no record of wrongs.

She had longed to see the ocean and was looking forward to attending Panama City Beach for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Long-time friend Betty Houglund had offered to take her there to fulfill Cecile's dream. "I felt so badly that she didn't get to see the ocean," Houglund said. "But then I realized there is something much better in store for her."

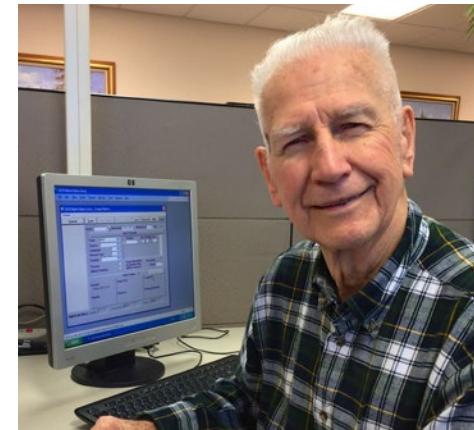
Daisy Kent King of the Coleman, Texas, congregation died peacefully on June 19, 2014, at the age of 96. She had lived a long, healthy life up until just weeks prior to her death. She was born in Cross Plains, Texas, where she resided and attended schools in that area prior to her marriage to Ray King. The majority of their married life they resided in Bagdad, Arizona, where Mr. King was engaged in the mining industry. After their retirement they both returned to Cross Plains and took up residence in "the old family place." Daisy was baptized into the Church of God on April 4, 1987. She was a devoted member of the United Church of God and was officially assigned duties as the coffee maker. Daisy did not have any children but she had many nieces and a nephew who were close to her and she was a light to their world.

Roger L. Mabry, Sr., 68, of Norwood, North Carolina, died peacefully on July 9, 2014, in Charlotte. Roger was baptized in 2005 following diligent study of his Bible and completion of the Bible Study Correspondence Course.



Daisy Kent King

1918-2014



Alfred John Mischnick

1921-2014

Roger actively served the brethren overseeing weekly Sabbath hall set up, and being a greeter to all who entered services. He was known for providing transportation for years to the Jekyll Island Feast site for several widows and a single lady who lodged with him and his family.

Roger eagerly anticipated each year's Feast of Tabernacles in Jekyll Island, and mentioned it several times during his brief illness where he was hospitalized. He is survived by his wife, Hilda; sons Roger Mabry, Jr. (Mendy), Ashley "Sparky," and Aaron Mabry (Season Barfield); brothers Travis Mabry and Gerald Mabry (Doloris); grandchildren Raegan, Kadie, Rae, Claire and Alyssa Mabry.

Roger was well respected in his local community; as the founder and owner of Maybury Fencing, he had frequent contact with many locals on a daily basis. His example of service and fairness was well known throughout the community.

An uplifting and encouraging funeral message was given by friend and pastor Scott Hoefker. Roger loved his Church and physical family. His always-encouraging smile, warm handshake and uplifting conversation will be truly missed by the Charlotte congregation.

Alfred John Mischnick died peacefully of heart failure the afternoon of July 15, 2014. Al was born on Jan. 30, 1921, on a farm near Sterling, Nebraska. He was 93 years old.

He had an eighth-grade education, but after his service in the Army Air Corps (servicing B-24 bombers during World War II), he took the GED and was able to attend the University of Nebraska, where

he graduated with a degree in electrical engineering.

While a student at the university, he met Florence Gess, who was working as a bookkeeper at the university. They married on Aug. 28, 1949. Upon graduation, he took a job with the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in Chicago, Illinois, servicing locomotives and any kind of rail car the railroad had.

In 1953, Al and his family were transferred to San Bernardino, California. When the railroad planned to transfer him to Kansas City, Missouri, he took a position with Southern California Electric Power Company.

Alfred was introduced to the Radio Church of God through an elderly neighbor who gave him *The Plain Truth* to read. He and his wife then started listening to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. They were baptized just before the Feast of Tabernacles in 1956, but had never heard of the Feast before, so the family did not attend the Feast of Tabernacles that year. They began attending Sabbath services in Pasadena, California, until 1958 when a congregation was started in Redlands.

Al and Florence were ordained deacon and deaconess. Alfred was then ordained as an elder on the Feast of Pentecost in 1963. In November of 1963, the company he was working for was taken over by Southern California Edison, and he was offered a managing supervisor position over the up-and-coming computer department, with a very large increase in salary. At the same time, he was asked to work full-time for the Radio Church of God serving the San Bernardino area (from Las Vegas, Nevada, to San Diego, California). Al and Florence decided to stay in the area to serve the brethren.

In 1969, Al and Florence were transferred out of Southern California. He served in Oklahoma City, Enid and Ada, Oklahoma; Big Sandy, Texas; Beaumont, Texas; and Lake Charles, Louisiana; Bakersfield and Mojave, California; Middletown/Bricktown and Jersey City, New Jersey. Their last transfer was to Little Rock and Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Al retired in 1993, but in 1995 just before the United Church of God formed, he was asked by several brethren from all over Arkansas to minister to them. He

came out of retirement and served the all the congregations in the state of Arkansas and the Memphis, Tennessee, congregation. On April 25, 2003, he was retired again, but he continued to preach in the circuit until just before the Feast of Tabernacles in 2013.

Al and Florence attended the first United Church of God conference in April/May of 1995. They also attended the first General Conference of Elders meeting in December of 1995. Just over a month later, Florence died of a heart attack. They were married for 47 years.

In December 1997, Alfred married Mary Ruth Davis. They were married for almost 16 years when she died of heart failure two days before the 2013 Feast of Tabernacles. He then moved Big Sandy, Texas, to live with his older son and daughter-in-law.

Alfred was interred next to his first wife, Florence, in Gladewater, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, 14 brothers and sisters, his first wife, Florence, his second wife, Ruth, a daughter, Dianna Lynn, and a stepson, Lyndell Davis.

Surviving him are his children, Connie (Gerald) Seelig, Jean (Joe) Rollins, Donald (Michele) Mischnick, Danny (Holly) Mischnick, and Sandra (Randy) Heidrich. He is also survived by Ruth's children, Evelyn (Steve) Shafer, Joe (Susan) Davis, Bob (Janet) Davis, and Larry Davis. Al also leaves 16 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Al Mischnick loved people, loved to talk about the Bible, and he truly loved God. He was a true servant, willing to do just about anything for anyone. But when it came to answering questions about life, he would always say, "Let's turn to the Bible and see what it says."

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.



Local Church UPDATES

Oklahoma City Speech Club Ladies Night

The UCG Oklahoma City Speech and Leadership Club held its third annual ladies' night banquet at Legend's Restaurant in Norman, Oklahoma, March 8. This year's theme for the banquet was "Women of Valor." The guest speaker for the evening was Donald Ward, Council of Elders member and pastor of the East Texas Congregation. Dr. Ward was also the guest speaker at Sabbath services in Oklahoma City earlier that day. While the ladies' night banquet is a special evening for all attendees, it is also a regular club meeting, which gives the ladies an opportunity to experience "speech club" at its best.

Club president David Nunn opened the meeting with the toastmaster's welcome, and assistant club director Jerald Kliewer gave the opening prayer. After club members and guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner and dessert, the traditional table topics portion of the meeting was given by member Ron Griffith. During this portion of the meeting, all present were invited to give responses and comments to the questions. The speech presentation portion of the meeting began with club member Danny Jennings' speech entitled "Perpetuating the Faith at Home—The Maternal Models of Lois and Eunice," which was then followed by "Ruth—A Story of Redemption" given by club member Joel

Muralla. Dr. Ward also gave a speech on "Principles of Family Leadership." After the speeches concluded, Oklahoma City pastor and club director Mark Welch gave an overall summary of the meeting and closing remarks.

The premise behind Speech and Leadership Club is that godly leaders are not born, they are developed. A Christian leader exemplifies godly principles in his life by making choices that honor God. The leader's effectiveness is multiplied when he is trained to speak and communicate well. Speech and Leadership Club is a classroom where this is taught and practiced. "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2).

Kimberly Nunn

Arizona Campout and Women's Retreat

What a wonderful way to spend a Memorial Day Weekend! People from the Phoenix, northern Arizona and Albuquerque congregations came together to enjoy God's creation; and to fellowship by strengthening our brotherly bonds and learning together. The weather was great. We had a touch of rain, but other than that the temperature was nearly perfect. Cool evenings included friendly conversations and communal singing accompanied by soft guitars played



The men who participated in speech club in Oklahoma City.

by talented children and adults. Warm daytime temperatures invited us into the cool waters of nearby Clear Creek.

Sabbath services were phenomenal. The sermonette talked about roots of trees. They are connected similarly to how the Children of God are connected to our root Jesus Christ. The sermon focused on the grain sheaves of Pentecost, how they were gathered and how it relates to the greater Church of God. The Sabbath noon meal was a wonderful combination of each family's contributions, healthy and enjoyable. The afternoon Bible Study showed us how God works in each of our lives. He allows us a glimpse of His awesome Holy Spirit and how He can use us to effect other people.

On Sunday, 30 ladies, young and old, gathered in Camp Verde for an Arizona Women's Retreat. The topic of study, "Building Godly Fruit," was based upon Colossians 1:10 (NASB): "So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. We recognize these as the fruit of the spirit as defined in Galatians 5:22, but what must be done to produce and use these godly characteristics in our daily lives? How do we make this goal a reality? Through a variety of methods and activities we explored godly spiritual fruit, how to grow them and how to use them to strengthen relationships with God and one another. The ladies learned that attitudes and behaviors can affect others—for good or bad. Spiritual fruit was not all we had, as Bonie Loiselle fed us with wonderful breakfast and lunch—consisting of a lot of delicious fruit. The planning team did a great job of organizing the day's activities so everyone could participate and bond with other women of like mind.

Tammy Taylor and Kay Schreiber

"Intimate Life" Marriage Enrichment Workshop in New England

The New England congregations of the United Church of God hosted a Marriage Enrichment Workshop, May 31 and June 1. We were blessed to have Mario Seiglie deliver the sermon message, since he happened to be in town for the graduation of his daughter from Harvard Medical School. His sermon was titled "Four Principles to a Happy Marriage."

Following a short lunch break, 31 people (14 couples and four singles) transitioned to an adjoining room for the

Please see page 16

Continued from page 15

workshops. Each participant received nearly 40 pages of handouts. The presenters for the Marriage Enrichment Workshop were Frank McCrady III and his wife Sonja McCrady. Mr. and Mrs. McCrady are certified instructors of the nationally recognized "Intimate Encounters" program that has provided scripturally sound, effective and insightful workshops all across the United States.

The first four sessions of the workshop lasted until after 7 p.m. The workshops were "Marriage Intimacy: How Are We doing?" "What Do We Really Need From Each Other?" "What Is Filling Your Emotional Cup?" and "Healing Emotional Hurts Through Confession and Forgiveness."

We then broke for the evening to have dinner, complete our homework, get some rest and be ready for the workshops beginning Sunday morning at 9 a.m.!

Sunday morning kicked off with Mrs. McCrady presenting "Deadly Habits of Relationships." The final two workshops, "Blending Four Ingredients for Marital Closeness" and "Being Free for Emo-



Attendees at the marriage workshop in New England.

tional Closeness" were presented by Mr. McCrady. We concluded the day at about 2 p.m.

Although many of us are aware of the biblical principles that lead to a happy marriage, we often struggle at the "how-to" or with effective implementation. This program provided meaningful ways to go beyond theory and gave the participants specific and practical ways to experience biblical truth in their marriage.

Many of the participants commented that this material needs to be shared with the entire Church, since it provides practical, biblical instruction on how to deal with conflicts in relationships. Others felt it needs to be shared with our youth, so they can properly prepare themselves to become the proper spouse for someone in the future.

It was an intense couple of days, but worth every minute!

Len Martin



Carson Whynaucht being given a going-away gift by pastor David Schreiber.

Southern Minnesota Graduate Carson Whynaucht Honored

On June 21, the Southern Minnesota Congregation honored Carson Whynaucht's high school graduation. Carson graduated from Prior Lake High School in Savage, Minnesota, on May 30, 2014.

Carson and her family attended with the Southern Minnesota congregation for many years until she recently relocated with her family to the Twin Cities area. She came back "home" for a visit on June 21, which gave her Church family a chance to honor her accomplishments with a chocolate cake, refreshing punch and a gift, as well as a table full of snacks for everyone to enjoy.

Carson is attending ABC this fall, and after that, she will pursue further studies. She desires to become a social worker for terminally ill children. Carson loves children and she has a strong desire to do something in her life to use the gifts God has given her to help children and their families.

On April 19, 2014, Carson was baptized. Her older sister Katlyn, a 2014 ABC grad, was baptized that day as well. Having these talented young ladies become part of the Church is a blessing for all those who have a chance to get to know them. Carson's Southern Minnesota church family shares in Carson's joy and wishes her well in all her future endeavors.

Dagmar Howe

Garden Grove Hosts Enriching Marriage & Relationships Workshop

On the weekend of June 21-22, the Garden Grove, California, congregation was privileged to host a Marriage Enrichment Workshop presented by Randy and Kay Schreiber, pastor and wife of the Phoenix Northwest, northern Arizona and Albuquerque congregations. After

Mr. Schreiber's sermon on "Becoming One" and a snack break, the first two sessions began at our church facility.

The attendees were treated to valuable information on how to enhance with godly principles marriage relationships as well as other vital relationships in life. The pace was lively and varied, interspersed by some break-out groups, PowerPoint slides and video clips. The sessions were presented with humor and anecdotes to illustrate the valuable points presented.

Sunday morning, three sessions concluded the seminar at a private clubhouse that one of our members reserved. Those who attended all five sessions better understood relationships, including personality, gender and communications styles and differences. Attendees were given assessments to better understand themselves and improve relationships. This marriage and relationships enrichment weekend was informative and applicable to various interactions in our lives. The comments of those who attended were overwhelmingly positive.

Jean Updegraff



Raleigh members in the garage they helped clean out.

Raleigh Congregation Helps Brethren in Service Project

Nate and Bertha Williams of the Raleigh congregation would like to thank the Raleigh UCG Outreach members for their time and love in helping them clean out their garage, which had accumulated quite a lot of stuff over the years. On July 20, 2014, at least 16 brethren joined in the effort to make this project a huge success. The project started around 8 a.m. and was finished around 2:30. The group of volunteers ranged in age from 13 to 57. The Williams' garage is now a clean and very user-friendly space that they can enjoy more fully. This was Raleigh's first outreach service project and we are looking forward to many more in the future.

David Mills

Portland/Vancouver Congregation Raises Funds For UYC

In an outstanding effort to raise funds to send local teens to UYC summer camps this year, the Portland/Vancouver congregation hosted a garage sale May 15-18 (Thursday, Friday and Sunday). More than 30 individuals and families



Portland/Vancouver teens at the fundraiser for UYC.

in the Church donated items to sell, and almost every teen came to the sale to help. Despite rain on the closing day, the garage sale was overwhelmingly blessed and raised over \$2,500 for the local camp fund! The teens showed an exemplary attitude of service and hard work, even singing hymns in the rain to customers who braved the weather! Special thanks to all the brethren who donated time, items and especially prayer towards the success of this important fundraiser.

Tanya Winger

Calling All Ham Radio Operators

CQ, CQ—calling all United Church of God ham radio operators. Do you have an FCC General Class (or higher) amateur radio license? Do you have an HF ham station with 20 and/or 40 meter capability? Are you interested in participating in weekly UCG HF fellowship net or keeping a schedule with other UCG ham operators in the United States, Canada and Mexico? If so, please e-mail David Nunn (Ke5sn) at dunn@davidl-nunnpc.com.

David Nunn

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*.

The Seven Elements of the Zone

Fun

When we think of the elements that make up what we call the “Zone” at camp, we readily include things like structure and support, inclusiveness, and positive relationships, challenge and success—but what about fun? Really? Sure, camp normally is fun, but is that just a side effect of the serious business of learning about God’s way? Well no; not at all! That line of thinking could come from picturing God as a stern Father who looks disapprovingly at fun and games. The Bible shows a different side of God and His view of fun.

That God would have fun may not seem obvious at first, because in English translations of the Bible, that word doesn’t appear. That isn’t because fun didn’t exist back then, it’s just that Scripture uses different words to convey the same idea. It uses synonyms like “joy” and “making merry,” and God definitely approves of rejoicing and making merry—in the right way and on the proper occasions. Near the end of the parable of the prodigal son, the father in the story says, “It was *right* that we should make merry and be glad” when his son repented and returned

home. A prophecy in Zechariah tells us that during the millennial reign of Christ there will be boys and girls playing in the streets. We all know that kids play because it is fun, and we are commanded to be as little children. When we rejoice and make merry—have fun in a right way—we honor God by reflecting one of His characteristics. It should be obvious that we are able to laugh and have fun because God made us that way. To quote the famous Dr. Seuss: “These things are fun, and fun is good!”

What does any of this have to do with camp? For one thing, fun helps provide a guideline for what to include in the program. I remember years ago being tasked with creating a wilderness skills activity for camp, and all of the elements of the zone helped greatly. It would be important to teach skills in a structured way, but also to challenge the campers—while providing enough support so they could achieve success. But I had to decide what skills I should teach. Knowing how to properly load a backpack is useful information, and can be a challenge—but it just plain isn’t much fun! On the other hand, building campfires can be lots of fun (at least

the boys tend to think so), and learning to do it without matches is even more so!

Fun is a natural result of a proper balance among the other elements of the zone. Consider the game of basketball. Challenge and success are vital to it being fun. Tossing a ball through a ring the size of a hula hoop would soon get boring, and if the goal were too small to ever allow a successful shot, that would also be no fun. Inclusiveness and structure make it even more fun: Practicing foul shots by yourself soon grows dull, but having friends join in a game is fun—but only when everyone plays by the same rules.

Sports activities provide just a basic example. The camp program is more complex, but the same principles apply.

When everyone works within the organizational structure; when we support each other in successfully meeting challenges; when we build positive relationships (especially with God); and when everyone is included, how could we not have fun?!

Of course, the fact that camp is full of fun activities and fun relationships makes it a lot easier to learn lessons about God’s way of life. In a sense, we try to accomplish in the camp program much of what

Fun...

- teaches God’s value of rejoicing
- makes life enjoyable by easing stress
- is a key to building friendships
- creates positive frame of mind more open to learning—it is the “carrot on the stick”



the Feast of Tabernacles represents: God’s rule on earth; everyone living His way of love. So it’s no coincidence that just like the Feast, camp is lots of fun. How much more fun will life in God’s Kingdom be? I don’t know for sure yet, but I’m eager to find out!

Importance of the Family

Continued from page 8

within the Roman home.

God established the family to be the primary influence in the life of young people. Children learn a lot about developing a relationship with God through developing a healthy relationship with their parents and siblings. A young person’s relationship with his parents influences his relationships with God and future spouse. The family was established to help young people to have a concept of what the Family of God is like. It was established to give stability and a loving environment for growth.

Numerous studies have shown that most youth have made a commitment to God’s way by their early teen years. It is

vitaly important for parents to focus on living God’s way (example) and effectively teaching God’s way. The camp program is there to support parents with these responsibilities. Sometimes the value of the pre-teen camps is overlooked, but it is during this period of life that commitments to God and the Church are formed. As our sons and daughters proceed through the camp program, they become increasingly energized and desire to be involved. Many of the graduates of the camp program come back as counselors and staff. They want to share what they have learned.

Working with our youth is one of the biggest investments that we can make in the future of the Church. **D6**

Inspiring Our Children to Walk With God

Continued from page 8

that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength. There’s a very good reason that this is listed as the foundation of the education God wanted delivered from generation to generation. Loving the Lord with all your heart, soul and strength requires passion. It generates passion, and passion is a prominent ingredient in good teaching.

Robert Fried wrote in his book *The Passionate Teacher: A Practical Guide* that “passionate teaching” is the element that could assist education in overcoming many of the issues it currently faces. He describes the passionate teacher as someone who is “in love” with a field of knowledge, someone who is “deeply stirred” by

issues and ideas that challenge our world. That person [the passionate teacher] is drawn to the dilemmas and potentials of young people who come to class each day (Fried, 2001). In the United Church of God, we believe that passionate teaching and passionate teachers are exactly what God spoke of when He outlined his educational plan for the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 6.

The type of love spoken of in Verse 5 takes passion. It’s the type of passion you will want to talk about, you will want to share that love to nearly anyone who will hear you. You most definitely would want to share it with your household. To the highest degree possible, you would want to share your love—your passion for your relationship with God—in the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening or whenever you have an opportunity. You

Please see page 18

Comments From Members About D6

From a couple in Northwest Phoenix who used the Deuteronomy 6 model last year:

The current youth instruction program in Phoenix is providing our family the tools we need to learn about God together. Study guides are provided for parents to use along with UCG resources in print, audio and video format. Our family uses the guides to solidify our understanding as parents and then discuss the given topic together and search the scriptures. We like relating the topics to experiences in our lives and to the individual needs of our children. The messages at services often revolve around the topic and help us to have even more in-depth discussions. The compass checks are a nice check-in to make sure we're headed in the right direction. We appreciate that the study topics provided are based on the fundamental beliefs. Parents, grandparents, instructors, speakers and members of the congregation are all involved in different ways, including the summary lessons at services. Parent support meetings and newsletters are an additional support. Overall we feel like we are spending more time teaching our kids about God in a focused manner with this form of instruction.

Brent and Tina Fogelson (March 2014)

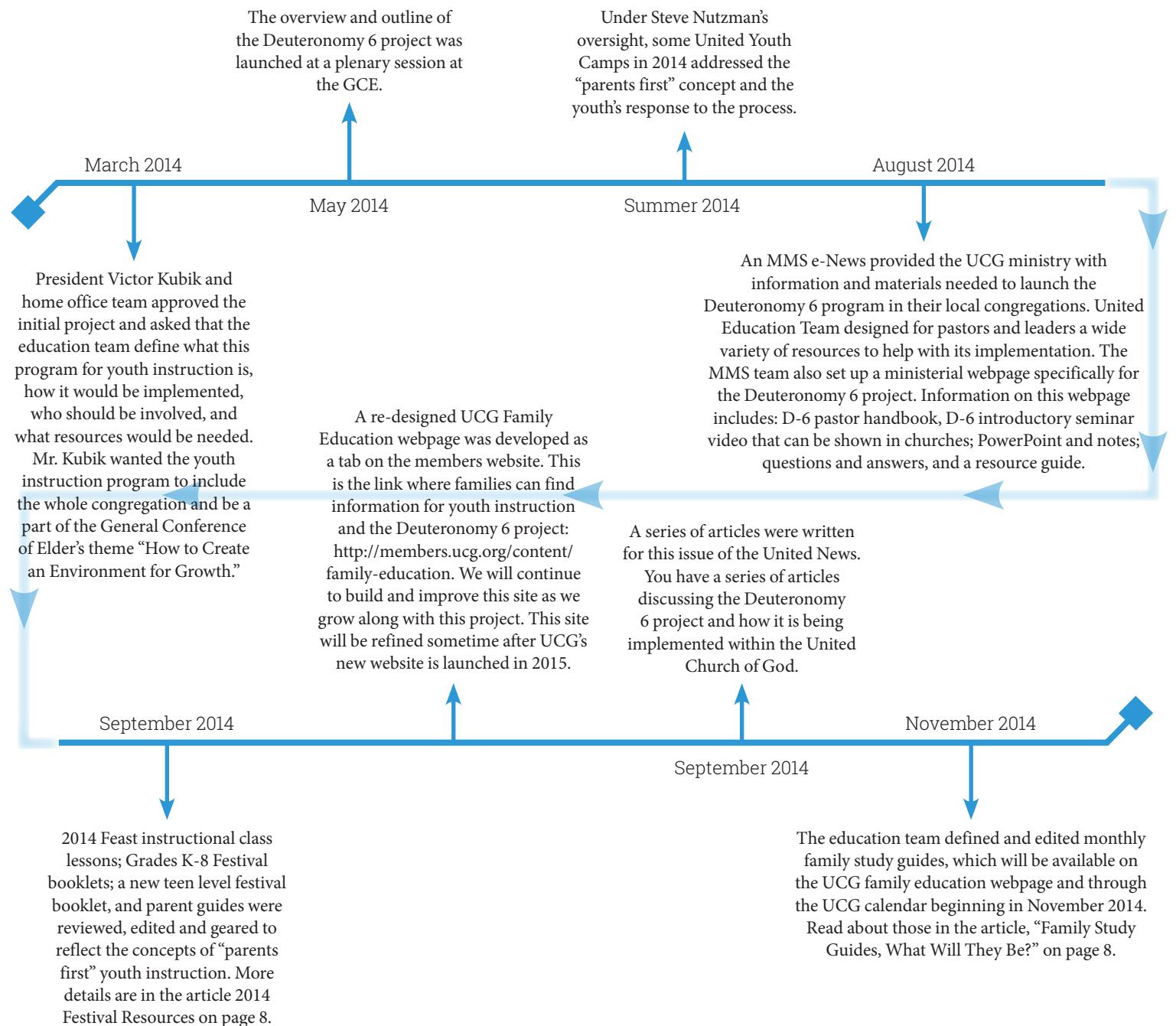
Comments on the Deuteronomy 6 presentation from the GCE, 2014:

From BP: "I wanted to express a heart-felt thanks from a parent and instructor for the new Deuteronomy 6 youth education initiative. After watching the video from the GCE conference and looking at the resources I am very excited about the program...I am excited about working with our minister to access the needs of our congregation and start implementing this new approach."

From KF: "I just watched a video of the plenary session of the GCE and wanted to tell you how inspiring and encouraging it is to see prayers answered so powerfully... We have four children under the age of 9 and are eager to 'redirect' our Deuteronomy 6 family journey... Thank you, thank you, thank you for presenting such a wonderfully different and biblical approach to youth instruction. We are much encouraged!"

What's Happening With United's D6 Program?

2014-2015 Timeline



Inspiring Our Children to Walk With God

Continued from page 17

might want your family to know what some of the things you prayed about that morning. You may want to share who you prayed for and why. You may want to share what you asked God to help you with that day. You would want to share your "walk" with God with your family. Let your children see how God has worked in your life. It's exciting to share evidence that God has had a direct impact on our daily lives. Let your children know that God is real and that He does hear our prayers and that His law works. That type of passion is contagious!

Even if our "walk" isn't perfect, it is real and it is authentic. Our children respond well to real and authentic conversations. They respond negatively to anything that is perceived to be disingenuous or fake.

Dr. Richard Leblanc wrote that good teaching is as much about passion as it is about anything else. Good teaching is not only about motivating young people to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and it is about teaching them to learn in a manner that is relevant, meaningful and memorable (Leblanc, 1998). If our children see our walk with God as drudgery, burdensome and boring, they most likely will not be excited to want to follow that walk. But if they see the walk as exciting, invigorating, challenging, rewarding or even frustrating at times, they will learn how to trust and rely on God just as you have learned how to trust and rely on God. They will see the path and they will see how it works. It will work much better if we have passion and love the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength.

Remember back to your own schooling and list your top three teachers of all time. List the attributes those teachers possessed that made them a part of your top three. I would venture to guess

that passion played a role in your assessment. They possessed a passion for their subject and for their students. They were able to convey that passion to those they encountered. Other attributes you may recall probably include caring, tough but fair, funny or fun, and nurturing. These all are noted attributes that are supported by educational research that promote dynamic teaching.

Sometimes as parents, we become intimidated or feel inadequate as it relates to teaching our own children. We may say that we are not professional educators and we don't know how to connect with kids. I can assure you there were also no "professional" educators back in the time Deuteronomy was written. God simply knew the best teaching strategies and He knew what would work in promoting His law from generation to generation. Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength and then talk about your relationship with God with your children. It works! **D6**

Camp Ironwood



There were 52 young campers (ages 5–12 and mini dorm campers ages 2–4) who enjoyed four days and three nights of fun, adventure, and challenges at pre-teen camp at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, Minnesota. Also attending were 21 enthusiastic teen staff members, who volunteered to serve as staff, and 43 amazing and exceptionally talented and caring adults. This year's staff, both teens and adults, were outstanding and the teamwork and enthusiasm was at an all time high.

Children enjoyed a variety of camp experiences including horseback riding, swimming, field games, climbing wall, zip line, team challenge activities, archery, arts and crafts, nature and exploring, as well as "campus improvement" (a way for campers to give back to Camp Ironwood for the tremendous blessing of allowing us to use the camp for 13 years). Evening activities included: game night, campfire with a sing-along, novelty Olympics, a carnival, treasure hunt and wagon rides.

Each day started with Christian living classes for the campers, teens and the adult staff. The theme for this year's camp was "The Two Great Commandments: Loving God and Loving Neighbor." Each counselor and activity

coordinator was encouraged to work these two commandments into their daily camp schedule and lesson plans to reinforce the theme throughout the camp. The dorm parents (and our three official camp grandparents: Delores Hudson, Karen Allwine and Lyman Busch) helped round out the camp family atmosphere and share words of encouragement each day with the campers and teen staff.

After a full day of activities and service to the campers, the teen staff gathered for some fun and recreational time with each other. The teens not only helped make this year's camp a memorable experience for the campers, but they were excellent role models and great examples of God's way of life.

The friendships, camaraderie, nur-



turing family environment and living, working and playing together according to God's laws, is an experience that those who attended Camp Ironwood this summer will not soon forget.

The dates for next year's preteen Camp Ironwood will be July 12-15, 2015.

David & Jolinda Schreiber

Northwest Camp

This year's Northwest preteen camp was outstanding! We had 73 preteen campers and 61 staff (adults and teens) who members enjoyed a wonderful summer camp experience Sunday, Aug. 3–Wednesday, Aug. 6. Campers and staff came from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Colorado and British Columbia. The camp is ensconced in a beautiful millennial-like setting located near Mt. Hood, southeast of Portland. Camp provided many opportunities to build closer relationships and have fun together. Our theme was F.R.O.G., which is an acronym for "Faithfully Relying on God." The boys dorm names reflected our theme with names such as the Tad Poles, the Dart Frogs, the Barnabas Bull Frogs, the Trustworthy Toads, and the TOADally Awesome Frogs. The girls dorms were the Loving Leapers, the Lily Pads, the Joyful Jumpers, the Ambitious Amphibians, and the Trusting Tree Frogs.

This year's camp activities included Christian living classes, archery, arts and crafts, campfire, dance class, a river float on the pristine Salmon River, swimming in a heated pool and sports. The 24 teen staff members added excellent support and contagious enthusiasm to this year's camp. The teens served in many ways including as lifeguards, as assistant counselors, and as assistant leaders at campfire, sports, archery, river float, mini-camper care, and at dance class. We



are already anticipating next year's Northwest preteen camp, tentatively scheduled for Aug. 2-5, 2015!

John & Sandy Cafourek

Southwest Camp

Dec. 21-24

This year's Southwest preteen camp is coming up fast! Join us this winter in Arizona's beautiful Estrella Mountain Regional Park Dec. 21–25 for a fun-filled week of games, crafts and activities, including Christian living, compass checks, horseback riding, arts and crafts, field games, campfire activities, and more.

The Southwest preteen camp is modeled after a family campout, so preteens and their parents/guardians can experience camp together. Children ages 4–12 are welcome to apply as campers (younger children can also come with their families). We encourage older children (over age 13) and adults to apply for staff.

Applications are available online at <http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/southwest-preteen-camp>. Please email your application to ekama.nathan@gmail.com by Nov. 23, 2014.

Jacqueline & Nathan Ekama





What's New In MEDIA?

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Do You Want to Live Forever?</i>	Gary Petty	Sept. 14-20
<i>The Power of the Holy Spirit</i>	Darris McNeely	Sept. 21-27
<i>What Is Armageddon?</i>	Darris McNeely	Sept. 28-Oct. 4
<i>The Next World Superpower</i>	Steve Myers	Oct. 5-11
<i>Utopia: Is It Humanly Possible?</i>	Darris McNeely	Oct. 12-18
<i>Is Hell Real?</i>	Steve Myers	Oct. 19-25
<i>Are Demons Real?</i>	Steve Myers	Oct. 26-Nov. 1

■ Why Were You Born Event Draws 74 in Cincinnati

Ticket-bearing attendees began showing up at the Holiday Inn Eastgate nearly an hour before the 7:30 p.m. seminar Wednesday, Sept. 10, to hear pastor, *Beyond Today* host and author, Gary Petty, answer the question, "Why were you born?"

The event drew 74 visitors, most having reserved tickets ahead of time, with a few showing up at the



door for the event. Everybody who attended received a free seminar-themed notebook with pen, and a copy of the United Church of God booklet *Why Were You Born?* (which was previously titled *What Is Your Destiny?*).

The one-hour seminar had been advertised locally in the greater Cincinnati area for a month. Eight striking, red billboards scattered around the city posed the "Why were you born?" question to commuters with a URL at the bottom and the date of the event; Pandora Internet radio ads also asked the question, creating 1 million impressions over 4 weeks; television ads running on Time Warner cable aired 746 times over 2 weeks (on Fox News, History, USA, Hallmark, National Geographic and TV Land); Google ads created 85,000 impressions, with 1,010 click-throughs resulting in dozens of ticket "purchases"; social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook created interest using the hashtag #whywereyouborn; 5,400 letters from the president were sent to Cincinnati households on *The Good News* mailing list; and 28,530 e-mails were sent to Cincinnati residents, and a further 430 went to *Good News* subscriber e-mail addresses announcing the event.

door for the event. Everybody who attended received a free seminar-themed notebook with pen, and a copy of the United Church of God



Steve Myers acted as host, introducing Mr. Petty at the beginning, and inviting everybody at the end to a follow-up seminar one week later to be held at the home office.

Asked about his thoughts, one seminar guest said, "Very inspiring, surprisingly well done, gave me a lot to think about." Said another, "This is a lot to think about. Amazing what's in the Bible." Another guest said she didn't get what she needed out of her current church and was very excited to learn more about developing her own personal relationship with God.

The entire presentation is archived online at <http://www.ucg.org/webcast-bible-study/christian-living/why-were-you-born>

Mitchell Moss

UNITED NEWS



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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 10:** Why Were You Born? Seminar, Cincinnati
- Sept. 25:** Feast of Trumpets
- Oct. 4:** Day of Atonement
- Oct. 9-16:** Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day

COUNCIL OF ELDERS MEETING REPORT ONLINE

The Council of Elders met for its annual August meetings Aug. 11-14 to hear updates on and discuss many matters including the ongoing Constitution and Bylaws review process, education, employee compensation and benefits, media and communications progress, General Conference of Elders planning, and more.

Videos of select meetings are available on the Council website, <http://coe.ucg.org>, where you can also find reports of all open session meetings.

Happy Feast



UNITED STATISTICS

New Donors

August year-over-year comparisons

