May 2016

Dear friend and Beyond Today reader,

In California we just completed the final meeting in a series of nationwide United Church of God ministerial conferences. The conference saw 73 ministers and wives gathered for three days of meetings and discussion. The theme of our conference was "Creating an Environment for Growth." The *growth* is focused on the people we are reaching through the *Beyond Today* magazine and television program who are coming to a realization that they need a *true understanding* of the unprecedented and dangerous times in which we live. We want to talk to people who are waking up to what's happening in the world and become aware of who they really are. We want them to take the next steps to change their lives. They want to attain the potential God intends for them, which is to make them part of His family—forever. That is salvation.

At the conference we talked to our ministry about how we can personally engage with the people who connect with us—people such as yourself. We talked about improving our Church environment as we study, worship and fellowship together.

We need to find faith and trust in God as we see threats to our national and personal security from terrorism—with military bullies wielding more and more dangerous weapons. We see moral and spiritual redefinition for human relationships—notably marriage—in the name of diversity and "love." This defies the essence of what man is and what he was created for! The Doomsday Clock continues to tick dangerously close to where political, military, economic and environmental factors are coming to a head. We are at risk of total meltdown.

Soon our nation is about to choose another president. Will security come from him or her? Is that where we really want to place our faith? Are you confident that any of the current candidates will be able to lead with honesty, truth, courage and righteousness? The campaign rhetoric has become so disheartening. Much of what we hear from the candidates is condemnation of one another—instead of holding out real hope as public servants to our nation that is starving and thirsting for real leadership and values.

Where should we place our faith?

The apostle John told us to be discriminating about what we hear: "Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world" (1 John 4:1, New Living Translation).

(please turn over)

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Thank you!

sion of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesu God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care	
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With so many voices competing for our attention, why not go to the one timeless voice that indeed speaks personally and convincingly to us? It is a voice that indeed gives context to our times and shows how things will all turn out. It is a voice that clearly describes who you are and where you came from—and that indeed there is a higher purpose overseen by an Intelligent Creator who personally cares for you. It's a voice that will guide you on what steps to take next in your search for these most relevant questions about life's meaning.

We strive to hold true to the Word of God. The test of what we say is how it squares with what is written in the Bible. But don't just believe us—believe your Bible!

We pray for and care for those who come in contact with our message through *Beyond Today*—which has been *a carrier for God's voice* in our time. In His last prayer to His Father, Jesus Christ said: "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message" (John 17:20, NLT).

How can we help you today? If you would like to speak to one of our ministers we invite you to make contact through our website at www.ucg.org/congregations. From there you can make contact with the nearest pastor by writing or calling him. He will be happy to talk with you confidentially and without obligation, to help you further in your quest for the meaning of our times. You don't have to feel alone or powerless.

We would also like to offer you our free study aid, *This Is the United Church of God: Preaching the Gospel, Preparing a People.* You can tear off the reply card below and mail it to us or download it now at www.ucg.org/bible-study-aids/booklets/this-is-the-united-church-of-god. Browse the table of contents. You will see the breadth and depth of who we are and what we do.

I would also like to ask for your help in getting the word out about the work of God to others. Please consider making a donation to sustain this work. We are working day and night with committed and dedicated ministers, writers, editors and producers to put before the world *the Word that Jesus Christ gave us*. We are those whom Jesus prayed for to carry on His mission to preach the gospel. Just as importantly, we want to care for those who come to understand these truths and need to be with one another. We have so much more that we need to do and we rely on our God to lay it upon those who hear to help us.

May God guide you in your search to discover the true riches of His purpose and road to eternal life. Don't let this world and its evil and hopelessness overwhelm you. Christ came to overcome the world. Be victorious!

Thank you for your interest in *Beyond Today!* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's service,

lita Kulik

Victor Kubik

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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS. If your address has changed, please let us know.

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