

UNITED NEWS



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news AT A GLANCE

Winter Family Weekend Promises to be a BIG SPLASH!

The United Church of God's 2011 Winter Family Weekend will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area from December 23-27. This beautiful, newly constructed rustic resort and conference center will be the main venue for all meetings and accommodation.

This facility boasts a 78,000 square-foot indoor water park with 11 water slides, a giant wave pool, six swimming pools, a lazy river and a 30-person hot tub—it is bound to be well-used by our members at this hotel. We have contracted the rooms for \$99 plus taxes per room for up to four people (\$25 for each extra person over four), and reservations will be made online on our church website. The use of the water park for each person in the room is included in this price!

The modern conference center is well-equipped to serve our needs with a 1,200 seat main auditorium with overflow rooms catering for an additional 300-400. There will be several breakout rooms available for the seminars on the Sabbath. A family evening is planned for Sunday, December 25, at the water park with free pizza and drinks to give energy while having fun together. There is plenty of seating for those who just want to watch and visit.

The sporting events will all be under one roof at Courts 4 Sports, which is only five miles away. This very modern sports facility will host both the volleyball and basketball venues. We're excited to have made this arrangement, as it allows more fellowship among those who engage in the different sporting events throughout the day, keeping the family together when playing sports.

Another lodging facility for those

See "News at a Glance," page 14

3.3 Million More Households Can Now Watch *Beyond Today*

10 Million More Can Now Watch it at More Convenient Times



Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle to Air *Beyond Today* on New Stations

by Peter Eddington

We are very excited and pleased to report to you that four powerful commercial television stations will soon begin airing *Beyond Today* programs for the United Church of God.

As you may recall, when *Beyond Today* began airing on *WGN America* about a year ago in all 210 U.S. media markets except Chicago, we mentioned our next step would be to add this third largest market to our telecast schedule as soon as funds permitted. That time has now come!

Chicago: Beginning July 10, 2011, *Beyond Today* will air on Chicago's ION network station, WCPX-TV. This station covers 100 percent of the Chicago metropolitan area as well as portions of northwest Indiana and southwest Wisconsin, reaching 3,335,000 households. Our

programs will air every Sunday morning on broadcast and satellite channel 38 and cable channel 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Also, since *WGN America* airs very early on Sunday mornings in the Pacific time zone, it was our desire to reach the area with the *Beyond Today* telecast at a better airtime. Here are the details:

Los Angeles: *Beyond Today* will air in Los Angeles, the second largest media market in the U.S., on the ION network station KPXN-TV, every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Our programs will reach 4,200,000 households (equaling 72 percent of the market) on broadcast channel 30 and cable channel 8.

San Francisco: Additionally, San Francisco, the sixth largest U.S. media market, will receive *Beyond Today* on ION network station KKPX-TV on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on broadcast and satellite channel 65 and cable channel 16. This station's signal reaches 2,685,596 households throughout San Francisco and a portion of Monterey, equaling 106 percent of the entire media market.

Seattle: Finally, CBS affiliate station KIRO-TV in Seattle, Washington, the thirteenth largest U.S. media market, will air our programs every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on broadcast and satellite channel 7.2 and cable channel 117. Interestingly, this station reaches 166 percent of market (3,105,750 households) because its media footprint includes a portion of the Canadian province of British Columbia.

As a result of these additions to the *Beyond Today* schedule, a total of 13,326,346 additional households will be reached weekly at these new times. We certainly give our Eternal Father and Jesus Christ all the credit and the glory for this important step forward in preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Our grateful thanks also go to you for your effective prayers for the success of our research and negotiations. You can be assured that everyone at the home office deeply appreciates your outstanding help and encouragement. Please continue your diligent prayers that many people will tune-in and respond to God's Word. **UN**



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BY THE NUMBERS

29,327

Number of views of UCG's Bible FAQs since last month



Philippine UYC 2011: “The Best Camp Ever!”

by Daniel Macaraeg

DAVAO CITY, Philippines—32 campers, 39 staff and 13 “mini-campers” gathered at Eden Mountain Resort from May 3 to 11 for what most said was “the best camp ever.”

This 13th United Youth Camp in the Philippines (the 10th to be held at Eden Mountain Resort) was directed again by Edmond Macaraeg, UCG pastor for Visayas and Mindanao.

The 32 campers were organized into four dorms with a counselor and an assistant counselor. Each dorm was provided with necessary food, ingredients and supplies to cook their own meals. This practice began in 2004 and has continued for the eighth year, because campers enjoy this challenge more than being served already-prepared food.

The theme for this year drew its inspiration from the life of Jesus Christ: “Be the Best You Can Be” (Luke 2:52). A diamond was chosen to be the camp logo, being the best among precious stones. Radiating from it are rays of color, representing six areas of life: physical (red), emotional (violet), mental (yellow), social (orange), occupational (green) and spiritual (blue).

Each day, camp began and ended with God. The camp has a quiet time from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., where campers and staff pray and do their Bible study. Before lights out at 10 p.m., each dorm again prays to close the day.

The first activity after breakfast each day is a two-hour interactive Christian living class. The six areas of focus were discussed in turn—how they can be the best that they can be physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, occupationally and spiritually. Mr. Macaraeg conducted the profitable and lively discussions.

Perhaps equal to the Christian living classes, the confidence course coupled with the wilderness skills activity was the most popular. Each camper and counselor was fitted with a safety harness and given one raw egg to carry unbroken through a hike up and down slippery slopes, with four challenges along the way. The first is the wall climb, a 35-foot vertical wall with climbing holds. From the top platform, one has to rappel down. The second is the 160-foot pulley slide over a deep ravine. The third is an 80-foot monkey bridge suspended about 20 feet over a rocky stream.

Before the last challenge, each dorm has to cook their supper without any conventional utensils. Since it usually rains on afternoons and evenings, cooking outdoors at night (using only headlamps) was an extra challenge. Of course, they were already trained for that.

After dinner comes the last “obstacle,” the perennial favorite—the mud tunnel. As its name implies, it’s a dark, muddy, slippery and extremely narrow tunnel snaking uphill and ending in a very tight squeeze through a 24-inch wide, 30-foot-long concrete culvert. The campers usually arrive at camp close to midnight exhausted, dirty, but jubilant—having survived 8-10 hours of facing and conquering their fears, and almost all still having their raw eggs intact!

The other camp activities were basketball, dance, first aid, inline skating, riflery, soccer and softball. We also conducted various workshops on a Fri-



Photo: Rex Hart Valdez

Reeva Morales rappelling down after climbing the 35-foot wall during the confidence course activity.

day afternoon to pass on marketable or useful skills. Each camper could attend any two workshops on art illustration, basic guitar, carpentry, cooking and baking, calligraphy, house painting, journalism and public speaking.

On the evenings we had orientation night, novelty games, a lively fellowship night and a special Mexican dinner with talent show. On the Sabbath, we had a Bible Bowl before services. Some campers and staff also performed a fitting special number, “Be Not Afraid.”

On the final morning of camp, each one sat down and wrote encouraging notes on each other’s “notebook.” After that, the closing ceremony was held where certificates and awards were given to all. As a reminder to always “be the best they can be,” a piece of diamond-shaped crystal was presented to each camper and some staff. With God’s blessings, camp was truly life-changing. **UN**



Photo: Richard John Macaraeg

Dorms 1B and 1G after having prepared their own meal in the dark, in the rain, with no conventional utensils during the wilderness skills activity.

United Church of God-Malawi is on Solid Ground

by Osborne Liyawo

The United Church of God-Malawi congregation is growing with considerable vigor. Members are working in unison to make use of their calling. The spiritual war that the church experienced a couple of months ago has left members in a stronger state spiritually.

Although some few members opted to leave in light of the division that hit the church, those who remained behind have no regrets all. In fact, the United Church of God is now standing on solid ground.

Last April, the church was cemented spiritually following the visit by the United States-based senior pastor Victor Kubik and his wife, Beverly. They observed the Passover together with members of the Blantyre Congregation.

What a wonderful, memorable occasion it was! The United Church of God is growing



See “Malawi,” page 4

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In December of 2010, Randy Stiver was transferred to Cincinnati from Central Ohio, where he had pastored the Columbus and Cambridge congregations for many years. His home office assignment is to serve as church President Dennis Luker's executive assistant and as an instructor at Ambassador Bible Center.

As Mr. Luker's executive assistant he helps with research, communications, detail coordination, overseeing projects and interfacing with staff members and others on behalf of Mr. Luker as needed. As ABC instructor, the students quickly find that he loves to teach God's Word, has an affinity for Winston Churchill quotes and enjoys a perfectly brewed cup of coffee.

Born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, he grew up in South Dakota and Oregon. His family farmed and ranched near the Black Hills. "We could see Mt. Rushmore from our front yard on the farm if we had a telescope. It was only 70 miles away by crow." As a boy, Mr. Stiver helped his father on the farm, working cattle, riding horses, driving tractor and flood irrigating corn and alfalfa. In spare moments he enjoyed the shooting sports, especially archery. In season he fished and hunted deer, doves, pheasants and ducks.

An avid outdoorsman still, Mr. Stiver's favorite pastime is archery and carving longbows. In fact, he carved a longbow for the 2011 ABC Charity Auction.

A piece of fine workmanship, the bow had many bidders.

He learned God's truth in the 1950s from his grandmother, Alice Bissell, in Oregon. He was baptized during his first year at Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, England.

During college in the summer of 1973, Mr. Stiver met his wife Linda (Dundon) at the "Big Dig" Temple Mount excavations in Jerusalem. Her family attended the Church in Eugene, Oregon, and she was an Ambassador student at the Pasadena campus. Their interest in each other blossomed that summer in Israel. Consequently, Linda requested a transfer to the English campus of Ambassador College halfway through their senior year. They graduated together and married on the third day of the Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley, California, in the fall of 1974.

Together they served the brethren during Mr. Stiver's years as a ministerial trainee, church elder, associate pastor and pastor first in western Montana, then in Oregon, northern Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oregon again and in Ohio since 2005.

Their daughter Amanda, a University of Oregon gradu-

ate, is a freelance writer, editor, historian and staff member for *Vertical Thought*. She plans to attend Ambassador Bible Center this coming year.

In addition to assisting Mr. Luker, with whom he has worked for many years, and instructing at ABC, Mr. Stiver is the managing editor of *Vertical Thought*, the Council of Elders reporter, head of the ABC Continuing Education Seminars, coordinator of the ABC Alumni Association and director of both Winter Camp and the Challenger East program.

His main vision for serving at the home office is to help Mr. Luker and all of God's people stay spiritually energized for the work that Christ is doing through us. He believes that the upcoming Kingdom of God Bible Seminars will capitalize on the great strides of the *Beyond Today* program, the new UCG.org website, *The Good News* and *Vertical Thought*.

Excited about his new job assignment, Mr. Stiver points out, "Mr. Luker often stresses we serve as a team in United. We aren't a one-man or a few-men show. We're all in this together and Jesus Christ is pulling for us—that's the lesson." UN

FORWARD! Following Christ's Example of Love, Humility and Service



DENNIS LUKER
President

In order to be successful in our calling as God's people, we must continue to grow in following the example of Jesus Christ. God the Father sent Him to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14) and to set the example of how we are to live our lives.

Jesus said to His disciples, "For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you," and He added, "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them" (John 13:15, 17). Peter wrote, "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21). And John added, "Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did" (1 John 2:6). Paul understood this and said, "Follow me as I also follow Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Let's look at the example that Jesus Christ set for us to follow. And remember that we cannot do this on our own strength. Christ will live His life in us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we submit ourselves to Him.

First is Christ's amazing example of godly love. "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command" (John 15:12-14). He not only loved His friends, but also His

enemies: "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:44-45). His love is so great that He died for friend and foe alike. May we follow that example!

Next, consider His attitude of humility. Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does...By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me" (John 5:19, 30). Christ was totally yielded to the will of His Father. He completely humbled Himself and remained faithful in doing His Father's will all the way to His death: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:5-8, NIV). May we also follow that example!

Also, consider Christ's example of service to others. Jesus said of Himself, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). And that's exactly what He did—serve others and give His life for them—setting an

example for us to follow. That is why, at the May General Conference of Elders, we chose the theme, "Serve as Christ Serves." We in the ministry want to become better servants by following Christ's example. Please pray for us!

Finally, I want to mention that we will be emphasizing and striving to practice Christ-like service at every level within the United Church of God. This is for every member, as well as the ministers.

God will help us to finish the Work He has given us to do if we will follow Christ's example of love, humility and service! UN



The Jordan Volunteers: An Awe Inspiring, Life Changing Experience

by Darren and Amber Henke

When we were accepted to be a part of the Jordan Youth Corps Project, we both had our expectations and apprehensions about the nature of the work we would be doing over the next 10 months—working with mentally and physically handicapped children and young adults for the YMWA Center for Special Education. Amber, having worked with children and adults with similar disabilities, was very excited and energetic about the opportunity. The only thing she worried about was the language barrier that we would have to face. Darren, having never before worked with these types of disabilities, had some mixed feelings. Some of the questions he asked himself were, “How well will I handle this?” and “Will I be able to relate?”

On the first day of work, the teachers were surprised that the volunteers were a married couple and were very excited to have both of us at the center. During orientation week, there was a need for an art teacher, and Amber, being ready and willing to help where needed, volunteered for the position. Working in the art class would at least make communication easier: if not with words, then with visual aids. Darren was assigned to the wood

shop because he had previous experience.

Our first day with the students was quite amazing! We walked through the door to them using the few English words they knew, most wanting handshakes and some giving us hugs. Some kept asking us where the past volunteers were. The center works with about 170 students who vary in age from 6 to 40, all with different degrees of disabilities. Some of the deformities that come with their disability were at first surprising to see, especially for Darren. As one can go most of their life without seeing more than a few people who are severely disabled, the number of students was also a bit overwhelming. Working with disabilities and considering their causes can be uncomfortable, so the traditional culture seeks to hide these special people from the public, associating disabilities with fear and shame. We find the same attitude in the Jews of Jesus’ time: “And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man or his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him’” (John 9:2-3). That is why this center is such a rare and special place here in Jordan and why public awareness and acceptance are



Photos: Darren Henke
Youth Corps Jordan volunteer Amber Henke with the students she taught at the YMWA Center for Special Education



Youth Corps Jordan volunteer Darren Henke with the students he taught at the YMWA Center for Special Education

such important goals.

What about Christians—what should our response be? For us, it should come down to this: Every man is special, every woman unique, every child the child of God. Through Scripture, we know that all men are made in the very image of their Father, and that everyone who has ever lived will have the chance to be adopted into His spiritual family through His Son Jesus Christ. How much of a spiritual disability does our human nature impose upon all of us? How far are we below our amazing potential at this time? Yet God’s love and attention for us never wavers. Because of this, we must show love, have respect and give dignity to all of the children of God.

As time progressed we fell into a routine and a level of comfort with the teachers and students. We have developed relationships and friendships with staff and student alike, such as that even the barrier of language hasn’t been a hindrance. Of course we have our favorites, but most of the students are great. When you enter the center, there is

something so innocent and childlike that you can’t help but to smile. Each student’s personality adds so much to create this special atmosphere.

We can’t help but wonder what their world must be like and what it could have been if not for their disabilities. As tragic as this is, it has made us think a lot about the day when they will be whole. It’s a facet of the second resurrection and the Kingdom of God that we never really thought about before—not only will the blind/deaf/lame be made whole, but so will the mentally handicapped. It’s a very hopeful and emotional prospect, made all the more powerful because many of them have multiple disabilities. At that time, their lives will be renewed, their minds made whole, their bodies healed and (most importantly) their hearts opened to the Spirit of God. Until then, all mankind is incomplete—without God’s Spirit, none of us can reach our full potential.

As we finish our time here, we know that we will miss everyone, but we can’t wait to see them and serve them again in God’s Kingdom! **UN**

Continued from “Malawi,” page 2

spiritually in leaps and bounds. There are a number of developments in regard to the growth of the church under Malawian deacon Gracious Mpilangwe.

In order to bring brethren together, maximize talents and increase participation, the church in Malawi has formed several committees. In fact, this is the brainchild of Mr. Mpilangwe, who is working tirelessly to ensure that everyone is involved in church activities.

The days are gone when some people felt like they were being sidelined. The church has set up various committees to ensure participation of members in various activities and roles. These committees

include those on women’s affairs, media, youth, Feast organization and *Good News* distribution.

Mr. Mpilangwe has every reason to get inspired as the church forges ahead. “We want everyone to be involved in the work. It helps bring unity and a sense of belonging. Previously, everything was centralized and only a few people were involved, but now more and more people have to maximize their talents, which were hidden,” said Mr. Mpilangwe.

According to him, everyone in the church must be about their Father’s business, and that cannot happen if they do not contribute in their small way.

He observed, “Even in the world, a father imparts his business skills on his son. God imparts on us skills and talents, and we must use these to make his work better and greater.”

Mr. Mpilangwe said that the involvement of the members has improved attendance. He observed that people who were not committed before are now regular Sabbath attendees. There is ample evidence that the change has brought enthusiasm to the church.

A long-serving member of the Church in Malawi, Gilton Chakhaza, heralds the development in the congregation. Mr. Chakhaza said the setting up of various

committees was bearing fruit: “There is greater unity and enthusiasm among the brethren [who are] ready to play their role in the growth of the church. Some of the brethren who have always felt left out have contributed to the work in various ways.”

The United Church of God’s Blantyre congregation has every reason to praise God for these developments. For example, Mr. Kubik bought a laptop for the media committee to use for the purpose of communicating—to write articles for the *United News*, to receive updates from the home office, to write letters to strengthen the brethren and for other related activities. **UN**



Impressions from a New Council Member

■ As the one serving the shortest Council term in UCG history, here are my impressions of the Council of Elders.

by Roc Corbett

Sometimes prayers are answered in ways we could not envision. Such was the case for me on May 22 at the General Conference of Elders. Like many elders, I had agreed that if nominated and elected, I would be willing to serve on the Council of Elders. But I also had concerns that doing so would take time away from pastoring the two congregations to which I had recently been sent to serve.

In His eminently wonderful and humorous way, God provided me both the opportunity to serve on the Council and the blessing of not having to miss even a single Sabbath service in the congregations back home. My name was selected as the “second runner up,” but the passage of an amendment to the Bylaws required two operations managers to step off the Council. This meant that I would serve the remaining six weeks of the position held by Aaron Dean. Some of my close friends found great humor in the fact that I was to serve for the shortest term on the Council in the history of UCG.

I had the opportunity to attend two days of Council meetings followed by two days of a retreat for the Council and Administration. The Council asked me to write to you about my perceptions. What impressions did I come away with after attending what is likely to be the only four days of face to face meetings of my unique term?

There are two statements in the Constitution of UCG that I’ve chosen as the basis for my analysis. First, there is the 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.**” The purpose of the Council is summarized a little later: “The Council is established to **provide oversight and guidance within the UCGIA for the service and care of local congregations, the preaching of the gospel and the administration of God’s tithes and offerings.**”

From these directives, I distilled my impressions down to four points: preaching the gospel; serving and caring for the local congregations; wise stewardship; and, most importantly, love for one another.

Preaching the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20)

It was encouraging to hear and see the commitment and passion of the Council and Administra-

tion working together to press forward with this mission, given to us by Jesus Christ and passed on to every generation of Christians since. There was no doubt about the willingness to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our efforts, to refine and expand our use of media, and to focus the message to make a greater impact on the lives of those who will hear.

Serving and caring for the congregations (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28)

Among the Council members and the Administration I saw in many ways that there is obviously a genuine desire and willingness to do as Christ admonished Peter, to “feed My sheep.” I saw in these men a sincere commitment to do all we can to provide elders and pastors to nurture and strengthen every congregation and every member around the world, to allocate the resources to do so as much and as often as possible, and to protect the “flock” of Jesus Christ.

Wise stewardship (Luke 12:42)

One of the major responsibilities of the Council is “**the administration of God’s tithes and offerings.**” I paid special attention during the meetings to the approach toward this responsibility. Several times acknowledgment was given to the fact that the income of UCG is from the tithes

and offerings of faithful people of God. When resources are diminished it is even more important to wisely use and conserve all that Christ supplies. It was gratifying to see how well the entire Council and Administration worked together to improve the fiscal health of UCG. There were many ideas and discussions leading to the formation of policy that will change for the better the administration of the financial and physical assets of UCG.

Love for one another (John 13:35)

There is no greater way to show that we are the disciples of Jesus Christ than to love each other in the way Jesus loves us. After a difficult trial, as we have recently been through, I was wondering what kind of example would be set in the privacy of these Council meetings. Would there be more evidence now than before that we are His disciples, that Christ is living in us and allowing us to carry His message to the world?

Brethren, I can truly tell you that I witnessed the love of God for one another in the examples of our brothers on the Council and in the Administration. There were genuine and repeated expressions of respect and love for each other and for all of the membership of the body of Christ. Men were able to passionately express their points of view on many subjects, even disagreeing on points



Roc Corbett

that were quite important, but always keeping uppermost in their conduct the love for each other. I was so encouraged by this that I’ve prayed several times in thanks to God for allowing me to observe His Spirit working in this way. Those at the meetings shared something that is all too rare—something that we all must recognize, grow, nurture, protect and make more visible in all we do.

I came home from the Council meetings more encouraged than I’ve been in many years. The experiences of those few days will remain among the most memorable experiences of my life. With God’s help, and with continued dedication to His way, I believe the United Church of God will be greatly blessed in accomplishing the great commission that Jesus Christ has given us to do. **UN**

Retreat to Move Forward

■ Why did the Council go on a retreat in May?

by William Eddington

The body with the prime responsibility for overseeing the work of the United Church of God is the General Conference of Elders. In practical terms it is not possible for more than 300 elders to do this, so the responsibility is delegated to the 12-man Council of Elders. The Constitution and Bylaws describe in some detail the extent of the Council’s responsibilities.

However, one of the tasks not formally delegated, but one which the Council imposed upon itself in the early years of United’s existence is regular self-evaluations of its own performance.

It is strongly recommended by external authorities for govern-

ing boards to regularly evaluate their performance against criteria appropriate to their particular enterprise, and especially so in the case of not-for-profit organizations that receive and expend financial contributions made by their members or by the general public. Earlier Councils accepted the wisdom of this advice and have held “retreats” from time to time. While these could be regarded as evaluations of sorts, they have usually been used to deal with particular circumstances or issues and have therefore not really been opportunities to consider the overall performance of the Council and its individual members.

The Roles and Rules Committee of the Council had been considering this matter of self-evaluation for quite a long time, and in March 2011 presented the Council with a proposal that an annual evaluation and retreat be

conducted immediately following the May Council of Elders meeting each year. This timing would enable all current Council members plus any new Council members elected at the immediately preceding GCE to participate. The proposal also recommended that the president, secretary, legal counsel, operation managers and selected senior personnel be invited to contribute to the evaluation.

The Council accepted the proposal and so the Thursday and Friday immediately following the GCE were set aside for a self-evaluation retreat, which was conducted at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Cincinnati.

This was not an official Council meeting but instead an opportunity for a free-ranging, informal exchange of experiences, thoughts, ideas and concepts. It was not a forum for the discussion of what might be consid-

ered regular Council business. No business was conducted at this recent retreat. No record was kept other than a list of actions that might be considered to improve the Council’s effectiveness. To provide some structure to the meeting and to make the best use of the limited time available, the discussions were focused on the following specific areas of the Council’s responsibilities:

- Overall effectiveness
- Strategic planning
- Fiduciary accountability
- Risk management, compliance and audit
- Relationships and ethics
- Communications

Each part of the program was moderated by an individual Council member to keep it on track and maintain the required focus. Members of the Administration joined the retreat on Friday morning when the discussions centered on:

- How the Council can contribute to the effectiveness of the Administration
- How the Administration can contribute to the effectiveness of the Council
- From the perspective of the Administration, how the Council can improve its overall effectiveness

The outcome of the retreat was a list of more than 50 potential action items for the Council to consider. Time will be set aside at the August Council meeting, or before, if appropriate, to think about the application of each item and to analyze the planning, conduct and effectiveness of the retreat. An important question to be answered will be the advisability of holding a similar event each year.

In his first letter to the congregation at Corinth (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40), Paul wrote, “For God is not the author of confusion

but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints...Let all things be done decently and in order." The retreat was an effort to put this advice into practice.

The Council is very aware that it is not alone in its task, knowing that "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man [and woman] avails much." The Council needs the prayerful support of elders and members alike if it is to fulfill its responsibilities with wisdom and effectiveness. The Council seeks to walk wisely in all that it does and to acknowledge the principles espoused in Proverbs 16:20, 21 and 28:26—"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good, and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. The wise in heart shall be called prudent...He that trusteth in his

own heart is a fool, but whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered" (KJV).

Effective governance requires the Council of Elders and its individual members to demonstrate sound leadership, integrity and good judgment. Effective governance will ensure better decision-making, greater transparency and accountability. Effective governance requires the Council to wisely oversee the work undertaken to preach the gospel and to care for those God calls. Effective governance requires the Council to ensure the resources provided are optimized.

All of this is what the Council as a group, and as individual members, will strive to achieve in the year ahead. The retreat was a helpful step in that process. **UN**



Last issue's puzzle correction:

Last issue asked, "What does Pentecost mean?" The appropriate answer is "fiftieth" not "count fifty." We are sorry for the misinformation and should have caught this in the editing process. Even though we are commanded in the Old Testament to number or count 50 days the Greek word for Pentecost refers to the "fiftieth" (Day being implied).

HUNGRY? God can multiply your food!

Look up the examples of this in the Bible then use what you learn to solve the math problem below:

(Number of loaves at the feeding of 4000) multiplied by (Number of loaves at the feeding of 5000) =

Use the hint below to help:
(Matt 15:34) x (Matt 14:17) =

By Sabrina Clore

Treasure DIGEST

Forward That E-mail?

There are over 2.8 million e-mails sent per second around the globe, as estimated by the Radicati Group in April 2010. As Christians, how should we be conducting ourselves in this fast moving e-mail and information age?

Some e-mails that land in our inbox can be funny, entertaining or informative. It is easy to just pass these along without stopping to question if they are accurate and true. Even information coming from a trusted source or friend can contain information that is not correct.

Do we inadvertently participate in the spread of misinformation by casually passing along information that hits our inbox?

We understand that God's law commands us to be truthful in our conversation and conduct (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20). But just after God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, He also gave judgments He wanted His people to follow.

They include a warning against passing along misinformation.

"You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice" (Exodus 23:1-2).

E-mails can often look authentic and true but may actually be a scam or contain a mixture of truth and error. If we pass these along we are circulating false information, which may be exactly what the author was hoping we would do. And in the process we may damage both our reputation as a trusted source and that of some other person or business.

Remember King Solomon's admonitions: "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold" (Proverbs 22:1). And, "A good name is better than precious ointment" (Ecclesiastes 7:1).

So the next time you receive that funny or interesting e-mail—before just casually forwarding to others stop and ask yourself, "Is this something Jesus would approve of and pass on?" If in doubt, don't send it out! **UN**

Larry Hardison

Seattle, Washington, congregation



Prove It!

Fire assaying is an ancient and time-honored science used to separate metals from impurities to determine the metal content of an original sample. There are spiritual parallels we can learn from this scientific tradition.

A passage about it from an A.D. 1556 text called "De Re Metallica" by Agricola states:

"It is necessary that the assayer who is testing ore or metals should be prepared and instructed in all things necessary in assaying, and that he should close the doors of his room in which the assay furnace stands, lest anyone coming in at an inopportune moment might disturb his thoughts when they are intent on work."

In this day and age we're constantly bombarded with more and more contradicting "facts." Often we don't even have time to digest one "fact" before we're hit with more that either contradict, or agree with the first one.

So, when we hear a multitude of supposed "facts," how do we go about determining the truth?

Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, "Test all things; hold fast what is good." Interestingly, the word translated as "test" here is *dokimazo* and means "to approve, analyze, examine, test, scrutinize, as metals," according to *Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance*.

We're told to not just believe everything, but to go about examining it carefully, to see whether what we hear is true or not.

There are some interesting similarities between the assayer and us as Christians testing all things:

1. The assayer is to be prepared and instructed in all things necessary in assaying. In the same way, we as Christians have to have a command of the Scriptures and know how to study the Bible to be able to accurately examine what we hear to find out if it's the truth or not.

2. "He should close the doors of his room in which the assay furnace stands, lest anyone coming in at an inopportune moment might disturb his thoughts when they are intent on work." When we're going about proving whether something is true or not, we need to be diligent about it, not going about it in a haphazard way, but being intent on accurately determining whether what we hear is true or not.

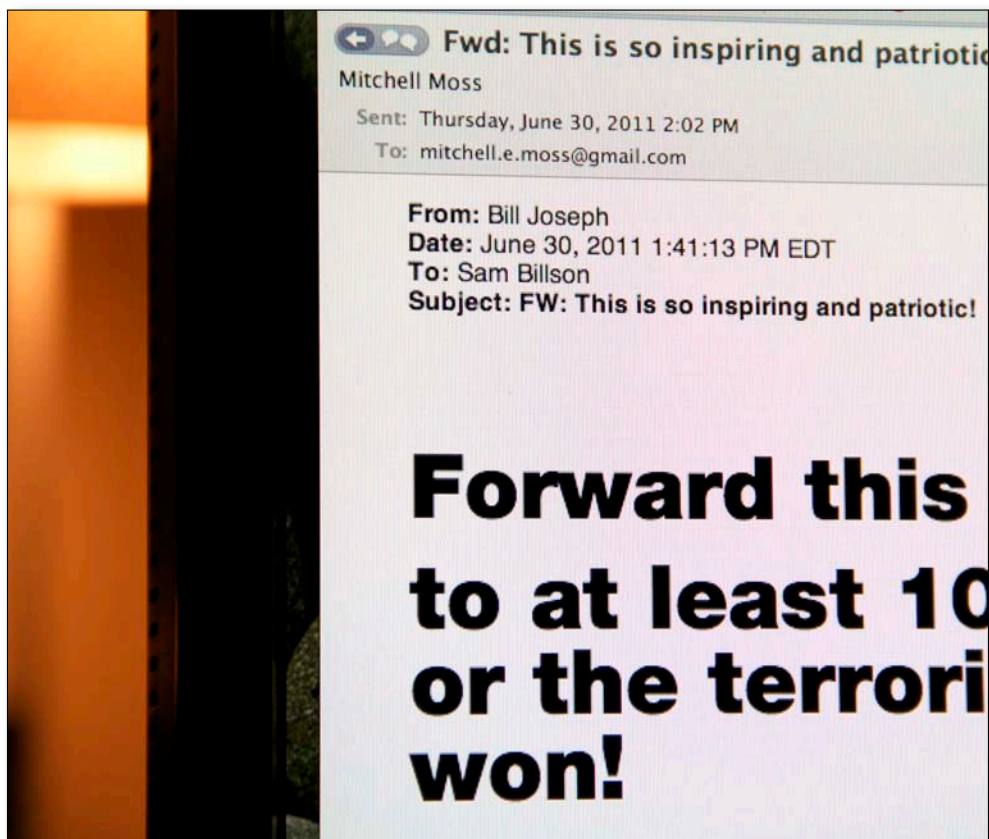
By using the same diligence in proving all things as an assayer in separating metals from impurities, we can be better equipped to separate truth from error.

David PerMar

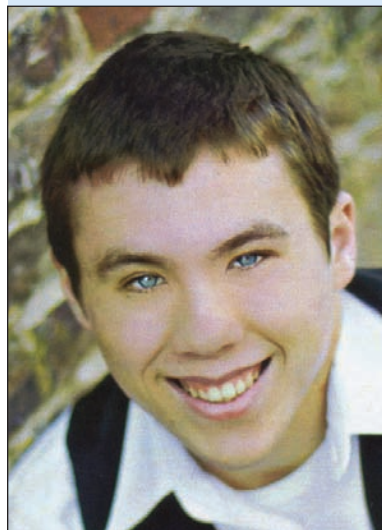
Orlando, Florida, congregation

Share Your Treasures!

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



CONGRATULATIONS, HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2011



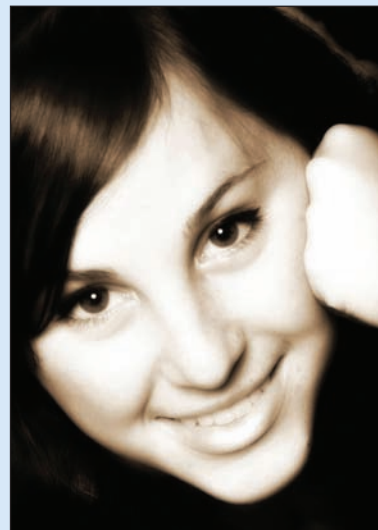
Nathan Berg



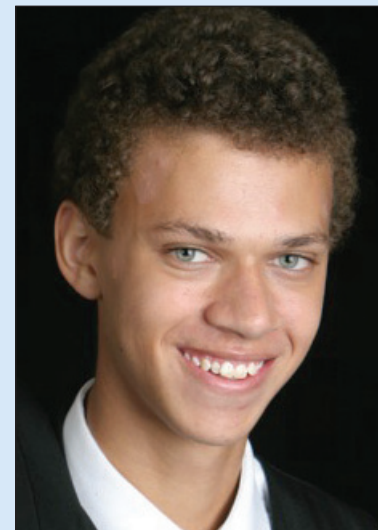
Audra Bledsoe



Brad Bornhorst



Amanda Boyer



Benjamin Braddock

Nathan Brandon Berg

Parents: Nate and Cherine Berg
Congregation: Fort Worth, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Attended two high schools: Crescenta Valley High School (9th grade) in La Crescenta, California, and Central High School (10th-12th grade) in Kener, Texas. Nathan was a swim team member for four years, on the water polo team, an orchestra member—specifically the string orchestra (playing the violin for nine years), a band member in both wind group and jazz band (playing alto sax three years), with a 3.8 GPA.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He was in the church teen speech club, participated in teen service projects for the needy and elderly, teen Bible studies and teen service day at church services. He attended Camp Hye Sierra five different summers. Nate enjoyed many visits to Louisville for Winter Family Weekend, church teen events including basketball and volleyball tournaments, teen formals, picnics, hiking and other outings. He enjoys the fall Feast, especially when he went to Alaska one Feast of Tabernacles with friends. He enjoys music, taking violin, saxophone and piano lessons as well as playing sax while his granddad plays piano. He enjoys social media (Facebook), video games, good movies, hanging out with friends and many summer visits with his granddad in Wyoming (one of his favorite states). On these visits he does horseback riding, fly fishing, target shooting, backpacking in the Wind River Range, hiking around Teton National Park, float trips on the Snake River, visits to

Jackson Hole, tours of Yellowstone National Park and lastly eating Granddad's homemade elk stew.

Plans after Graduation: He plans to attend a local junior college and then attend a four-year school to complete a four-year degree. He really enjoys math and is thinking about majoring in business. He wants to continue playing his instruments and taking music lessons, hoping to participate in a local jazz group. He will continue to live at home while attending college to work and earn money.

Advice: Stay close to God.

Audra Bledsoe

Parents: Denby and Theresa Bledsoe

Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Diploma from the American School of Correspondence.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Attended camp at Pinecrest and Heritage. Enjoys singing and often participates in various choirs at church and at camp. Loves people and visiting with Church members. 11 year participant in 4-H. Enjoys drawing landscapes and loves spending time outdoors.

Plans After Graduation: Will be attending Ohio University-Chillicothe in the fall, majoring in middle childhood education.

Favorite Scripture: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Bradley Joseph Bornhorst

Parents: Bart and Joan Bornhorst

Congregation: Dayton, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Brad attended Greeneview High School in Jamestown, Ohio. He was class Vice-President his junior and senior years and on the Principal's Advisory Board. He played varsity baseball his sophomore, junior and senior years. Brad was an Honor Roll student. He received the following awards: Greeneview Scholar Athlete Award, Ohio Heritage Conference Scholar Athlete Award, Ohio Award of Merit, and Earth Science Medal. Brad was awarded the Campbell Memorial Scholarship, Greeneview Education Association Scholarship and Kenneth Hauprich Memorial Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brad enjoys attending and working at United Youth Camps, playing sports, and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Brad will be attending Wright State University in the fall.

Favorite Scripture: "Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17).

Motto: I was taught by a camp counselor to "live the dream"; being in a state of mind in which we are living our life to the fullest, following God and staying positive along the way.

Amanda Jane Boyer

Parents: Tom and Brenda Stutzman

Congregation: Saginaw, Michigan

High School Accomplishments: Amanda graduated with honors from Midland High, Michigan. She was baptized November 2010.

She passed Pre-Juvenile Freestyle and Juvenile Moves in the Field in figure skating, as well as 11 years of participating in RFSC shows. She participated in Honor Band with the flute and Festival with high school chorus. She has traveled to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, France, Scotland, the Bahamas and almost every state in United States.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She loves singing in the church choir and helping with Bible studies for children. She plays guitar, flute and some piano, has been figure skating for over 12 years and also enjoys drawing, writing and running.

Plans After Graduation: Amanda will be attending Ambassador Bible Center, class of 2012.

Favorite Scriptures: "The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us" (1 John 3:24, NASB).

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance" (James 1:2-3, NASB).

Favorite Quote: "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, it's not going to get better, it's not." - Lorax by Dr. Seuss

Benjamin Vernon Vincent Braddock

Parents: Vincent L. and Wendy A. Braddock

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Benjamin graduated from Loveland High School in Loveland, Ohio, May 28, 2011. He was a member of the Loveland

High School Marching Band (four years), playing saxophone and clarinet, serving as field commander/drum major senior year. He played in wind symphony (four years) and symphonic band (one year) and was awarded the John Philip Sousa Band Award for Outstanding Achievement. He participated in track (two years) and was on the High Honor Roll. He received the Ohio University King-Chavez-Parks Scholarship and was a UAW Local 863 Hoffman-Combs Scholarship Essay winner.

Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, majoring in psychology/philosophy.

Favorite Scripture: "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9, NLT).

Caleb Breidenthal

Parents: Charles and Sandra Breidenthal

Congregation: Oakland, California

High School Accomplishments: He has been the captain of the basketball team for two years, had honors for all four years, graduated with a GPA of 4.6, and was also valedictorian of the Class of 2011.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He loves being a member of God's Church and serving as much as he can. He enjoys playing competitive basketball, singing in the choir and also playing the piano and electric guitar. He loves reading and learning about new things, meeting new people and developing



Caleb Breidenthal



Bret Compton



Carly Ferguson



Megan Fooshe



Dylan Francis

godly relationships.

Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend Napa Valley College for his first two years and then transfer to a university.

Favorite Scripture: “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4, KJV).

Bret Compton

Parents: Harold and Tonya Compton

Congregation: Flint, Michigan

High School Accomplishments: Bret completed a two year automotive technology program at GASC Technology Center. In 2010 he participated in a Skills USA Braking System competition and placed 3rd.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Bret loves cars! He has worked on cars alongside his dad since he was big enough

to hold a wrench. He also enjoys snow skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, fishing, going mudding with his truck, camping with the church and with family. Bret participated in teen speech club at church and attended Camp Buckeye. Bret is always ready to lend a hand. He sees when someone is in need and is right there ready to help.

Plans After Graduation: Bret plans on attending an automotive technical college. His goal is to own his own automotive business.

Carly Suzanne Ferguson

Parents: Susan and Steven Ferguson

Congregation: Houston, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Carly has been active in the school choir since the sixth grade. She also has worked in the school office as an assistant. She has been an active participant in the Special Olympics since junior

high school, winning many ribbons and medals for various events.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Carly has attended the Church of God since she was two months old and participated in learning about God in every way possible. She has enjoyed spending time with God’s people and has made many special friendships. She especially enjoys taking care of animals, as she lives on a ranch. She has a lot of talent in hand sewing and in making jewelry, which she has shared by making gifts to share with friends.

Plans After Graduation: After high school she would like to find some type of part time work perhaps as a dog groomer or a job where she can use her talent in organizational skills.

Favorite Scripture: “So that he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten,

and because they are hidden from My eyes” (Isaiah 65:16; NASV).

Megan Fooshe

Parents: Michael and Shari Fooshe

Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High School Accomplishments: Megan graduated six months early on Dec. 15, 2010, with a 4.0 GPA. While in high school, Megan attended Nashville State Community College and earned hours toward her college credit.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Megan’s interests include reading, skating, dancing, listening to good music, going to the beach and spending time with her friends, family and her cats.

Plans After Graduation: She is currently enrolled in the Tennessee Technology Center, majoring in cosmetology with completion date scheduled for spring of next year. Megan will then either pur-

sue the idea of operating and owning her own business in this field or going back to school to pursue an additional major as a nurse practitioner.

Favorite Scripture: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Dylan Kyle Francis

Parents: Dana and Eva Francis

Congregation: Tulsa, Oklahoma

High School Accomplishments: Graduated from Okmulgee High School, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; National Honor Society; academic letter award for three years; co-valedictorian.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Camp Pinecrest 2009, 2011

Plans after graduation: Attend Oklahoma State University



Arthur Hockwald

Arthur Hockwald

Parents: Dwyer and Lori Hockwald

Congregation: Salt Lake City, Utah

High School Accomplishments: Arthur completed his home education program through North Atlantic Regional High School, Paradigm Charter High, Snow College, and Salt Lake Community College.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Championship level

Appalachian clogging through Starz Unlimited Dance Studio; intramural basketball, volleyball and football; varsity baseball as pitcher and shortstop; playing and assisting teaching tennis through South Jordan Parks and Recreation.

Plans After Graduation: Arthur plans further study in communications and engineering.

Favorite Scripture: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).



Jesse Lane

Jesse Frank Lane

Parents: Becky and Greg Pilow and Lee Lane

Congregation: Lubbock, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Jesse graduated from Lubbock High where he belonged to the caballeros—a social/spirit organization for seniors. He was voted class clown his senior year. His history video project on the Supreme Court case *Baker v. Carr* was so popular, other teachers presented it to their classes.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jesse attended and went on to serve at Camp Osage pre-teen camp in Oklahoma for a number of years. He is a very talented musician and plays the guitar, mandolin, ukelele and drums. Jesse is also very involved in videography and belongs to a production group that makes short, comedic videos. He lives for seeing people smile and laugh.

Plans After Graduation: Jesse plans to attend South Plains Col-

lege in Levelland, Texas, focusing on physical therapy.

Favorite Quote: “Leave the refrigerator door open and the food will go bad.”

Shawna Lewis

Parents: Terry and Dixie Lewis

Congregation: Coleman, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Shawna graduated valedictorian of her high school class. She has participated in many extracurricular activities including Gifted



Shawna Lewis

and Talented (six years), Top AR Reader (four years), Key Club (four years), Spanish club (three years), Student Council (two years), Future Farmers of America (two years), class Vice-President, (one year), class President (one year) and robotics (one year). Shawna was also very involved in sports. She ran track and field for four years, and this past year she went to the district track meet and placed seventh in pole vault. She also played softball (three years), basketball (two years) and tennis (one year).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Shawna has actively participated in church set-up for the past 10 years. She has also gone to various church camps for the past seven years, and she thoroughly enjoyed playing church basketball for five years. Shawna's hobbies include rebuilding her 1967 Mustang, riding horses, hunting, fishing, hanging out with

friends and family, working, traveling, reading and running 5Ks.

Plans after Graduation: In the fall, Shawna will be attending Texas Woman's University on a full ride scholarship. She plans to enter the fast track doctorate for physical therapy and hopefully graduate in the next five years.

Favorite Quote: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5).

Stephanie Martens

Parents: Steve and Linda Martens

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Stephanie graduated from Dublin Jerome High School in Dublin, Ohio. Stephanie was a named valedictorian and earned the following awards: Summa Cum Laude, President's Education



Stephanie Martens

Award, diploma with Honors, Award of Merit. She played on the varsity softball team, was Key Club Secretary, and volunteered with the Celtic Connection organization.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Stephanie was co-chair of the Columbus Teen Speech Club for one year and was secretary for the prior two years. For many years, she has attended Camp Hye Sierra and Camp Heritage, the Columbus teen campouts and the Louisville Winter Family Weekend. She enjoys travel, reading, writing, softball, volleyball, music and just hanging with friends.

Plans after Graduation: Stephanie plans to attend Wright State University this fall on an academic merit scholarship to study industrial engineering.

Favorite Quote: "Never let success get to your head, and never let failure get to your heart." -Unknown



Meghan McNair

Meghan McNair

Parents: Pete and Miquelyn McNair

Congregation: Twin Cities, Minnesota

High School Accomplishments: Meghan graduated from East Ridge High School with high honors. While in high school she participated on the school's swim team and pole vaulted for the track and field team, earning letters in both sports. She played clarinet in the wind ensemble, tenor sax in the jazz band and was selected to participate in the All-Conference Band and Orchestra her junior and senior years. Meghan also participated in Link Crew (a student mentoring program) and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Meghan has attended United Youth Camps at Pinecrest and Winter Camp and volunteered at the regional pre-

teen camp. She plays clarinet in the festival orchestra and local church ensemble and occasionally accompanies hymns and plays special music on the piano. Her hobbies include music, reading, sports, friends and cooking.

Plans After Graduation: Meghan is attending Century College where she plans to pursue a career in nursing.

Favorite Scripture: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9, NIV).

Favorite Quote: "I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." - Robert Frost

Mark Miller

Parents: Dan and Martha Miller

Congregation: Cambridge, Ohio



Mark Miller

High School Accomplishments: Mark graduated from Garaway High School with honors. He was a member of the National Honor Society, participated in Ohio's Post Secondary Early Enrollment Program in his junior and senior years and was on Dean's List.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He is a member of the church setup crew, attends summer teen camps, volunteers at Camp Buckeye Preteen Camp,

enjoys playing almost any sport and hanging out with friends.

Plans after Graduation: He plans on working over the summer and attending summer camps. Mark then attends college in the fall at the Tuscarawas Campus of Kent State University.

Favorite Scripture: "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable



Joseph Muralla

and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Joseph Muralla

Parents: Sumakwel and Rose Muralla

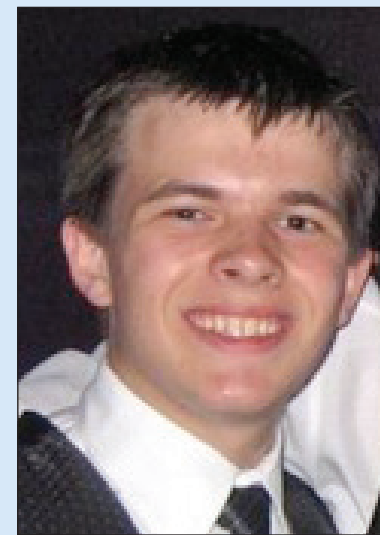
Congregation: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

High School Accomplishments: Joseph was a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Pioneer Chorale and the Mu Alpha Theta Club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He loves to attend United Youth Camps. He has attended Pinecrest and Carter and has served as an assistant counselor at Camp Osage Preteen Camp.

Plans After Graduation: Joseph plans to attend Oklahoma State University and major in either mechanical or civil engineering.

Favorite Scripture: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans



Zachary Prytula

and widows in their trouble, and keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

Zachary Prytula

Parents: George and Carol Prytula

Congregation: Orlando, Florida

High School Accomplishments: Zachary graduated Summa Cum Laude from Seminole High School, from the International



Kaylee Randle



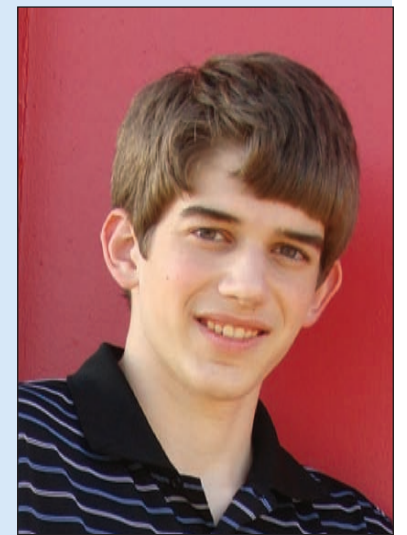
Britton Redline



Jacob Ryan



Ryan Shallenberger



Brad Swanson

Baccalaureate program in which he received over 30 hours of college credit from IB and AP classes. He was in the National Honor Society, placed third in State Odyssey of the Mind Competition two years in a row and was also in Mu Alpha Theta (math competition club).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: In church, he likes to help out any way he can, which is usually greeting or helping serve food. He has attended several UYC camps, including Heritage, Woodmen and Pinecrest. When he's not doing school work, he likes to spend time with friends, play video games, volunteer at the hospital and work at its gift shop. He likes biking for exercise. He enjoys math and science and hopes to apply his knowledge of physics to build great structures.

Plans After Graduation: He plans on attending the University of Florida in the Honors College for a degree in civil engineering.

Favorite Quote: "Many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view" (Obi-Wan, *Star Wars Episode VI*).

Favorite Scripture: "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend" (Proverbs 27:17; American NKJV).

Advice: Planning helps in the future, but only when you stick to the plan.

Kaylee Elizabeth Randle

Parents: Tom and Debbie Randle

Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota

High School Accomplishments: Kaylee received four years of academics awards and graduated in the top five percent of her class of 650 with high honors. She was in District Honors Orchestra two years in a row and was accepted into the PSEO (post-secondary enrollment option) program her junior and senior year of high school, where she received college credits at the University of Minnesota, Anoka-Ramsey Community College and Anoka Technical College. She worked

two part-time jobs during high school at Subway and Perkins Restaurant and Bakery. She was a peer tutor during her sophomore year, completed 100 hours of voluntary service at Mercy Hospital, volunteered at Feed My Starving Children and is now currently volunteering at Camilia Rose Retirement Home and Care Center.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kaylee attended Camp Hye Sierra (three years), Pinecrest (one year), Winter Camp (one year) and Ironwood Springs Preteen Camp (five years as a camper, two years as staff), where she also plans on staffing this summer as an assistant counselor and at Pinecrest as an assistant counselor. She loves music and has been playing piano for 12 years and cello for seven years. She plays in her high school concert orchestra, in the church ensemble, Feast orchestras, and for special music, as well as sings in the church and Feast choirs. She loves scrapbooking and most other things art-related, being outside, spending time with family, having fun with friends, meeting new people, going to camp, traveling and much more!

Plans after Graduation: After graduation she is going to finish a two-year program at Anoka Technical College this fall to get an associates of science degree in occupational therapy assistance and receive her health technologies certificate. Once that is completed, she plans to transfer to get a bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota and continue to get her master's degree to become an occupational therapist.

Favorite Quote: "For every 60 seconds you spend upset, is one minute of happiness you'll never get back." – Anonymous

Favorite Scripture: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two

can withstand him. And a three-fold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Britton Redline

Parents: Ralph and Pam Redline

Congregation: Bismarck, North Dakota

High School Accomplishments: Britton attended Mandan High School in Mandan, North Dakota. He was in swing choir, concert choir, band and jazz band, tennis team and Spanish club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He loves UCG camps and has attended Winter Camp and Pinecrest as well as Camp Tomahawk and the Northwest camp. They always give him an opportunity to grow spiritually while enjoying the lifelong friendships that he takes with him wherever he goes. His interests include building things, architecture and ecology. He also loves to travel and is grateful the Feast gives him an opportunity to do this annually.

Plans After Graduation: He is enrolled at Bismarck State College in order to begin his pursuit in a degree in architecture.

Favorite Scripture: "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, KJV).

Advice: Taken from "If" by Rudyard Kipling:

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken

Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to broken

And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;...

If you can fill the unforgiving minute

With sixty second's worth of distance run—

Yours is the earth and

everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man my son!"

Jacob Avery Ryan

Parents: Tony and Bonnie Ryan

Congregation: Gadsden, Alabama

High School Accomplishments: Jacob attended Sand Rock High School and received the Governors Award for community service (three years), was on the Scholars Bowl Team and is a registered lifeguard.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He has attended Camp Woodmen for three years and enjoys serving in his local congregation. He enjoys all sports (basketball the most), hanging out with friends and playing video games.

Plans After Graduation: He will be attending Gadsden State in the fall.

Ryan Matthew Shallenberger

Parents: Jerry and Charla Shallenberger

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ryan attended Reynoldsburg High School and participated in orchestra (four years), intramural basketball (three years) and tutoring (three years). He was on the Honor Roll (four years) and played the cello in the high school symphony orchestra (four years).

He taught himself to play guitar, played piano for 10 years, enjoys drawing, played baseball for seven years (city of Reynoldsburg) and volleyball (two years).

He helped with games at the senior citizens center, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, presented special music at a senior center, umpired youth baseball for three years, served as special music and sound crew at church and worked at Kroger for one and a half years. He attended Camp Buckeye as a counselor for one year, Camp Heritage for six years and Camp Buckeye for one year. His favorite Feast sites are Thailand, Argentina and Daytona Beach, Florida.

He attended teen speech club

for four years, played on a church basketball team and church volleyball team, and the annual camp-out at the Seiferts' for seven years.

Plans After Graduation: He will attend Ohio State University.

Favorite Scripture: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Favorite Song: "Stop This Train" by John Mayer

Bradley Joseph Swanson

Parents: Rich and Kris Swanson

Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana

High School Accomplishments: Brad was home schooled through his freshman year. He enrolled at Tabernacle Christian School (a private school) the beginning of his sophomore year. That first year he received the Diligence Award for having the second highest GPA in his class. He also participated in the school's summer basketball league for three years.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brad has always expressed himself artistically from a very early age. Even today his talent and imagination is expressed in the animated characters he creates, with finding a passion for writing stories that pertains to those characters. During his high school years he also found he enjoys public speaking, writing and giving speeches. Brad is a huge sports fan, basketball being his favorite sport to play. He participated on the teen boys' basketball team for five years. Brad has attended Camp Pinecrest several years, as well as participating as a camper and counselor at Camp UCanDo pre-teen camp.

Plans After Graduation: Brad will be attending Ivy Tech Community College starting in June, pursuing his associate's degree in graphic design and animation.

Favorite Scripture: "The steps of a good man are established by the LORD, and He delights in his way" (Psalm 37:23).



What Is the Church?—*Foundational Principles*

■ What is the Church and how can it be united?

by Bill Bradford

Jesus said, “I will build my church and the power of the grave shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). The Church (the *ekklesia*, or “called-out ones”) is here—Jesus said it would be. It would never cease to exist this side of His return, no matter what the devil would throw at it. “I will be with you to the end of the age,” Jesus again reassures His disciples (Matthew 28:20). In giving these final instructions to the Church to preach the gospel to all nations, make disciples of them and teach those disciples to obey all that Jesus commanded, He is confident that through His power His disciples will be sustained to carry out His commands. They will complete the work He gave them to do!

The Church that Jesus established has been attacked down through the ages, understandably because it exists in a world that is hostile to anything God wants to do to further His purpose. It has been persecuted by its enemies down through the ages. It has also suffered divisions from within when factions were formed and disciples were drawn away by those factions. There have been times when false teaching was brought into the Church in an

What is the Church?

The Church is clearly the spiritual “Body of Christ.” “And He [the Father] put all things under His [Christ’s] feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23). Christ will fill His Body with Himself.

Who then is in the Church and how do they get there?

Paul wrote, “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jew or Greek, whether slaves of free—and have all been made to drink of that one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). We are made members of the Church when Jesus Christ baptizes us with His Spirit. John baptized with water, but he declared that there would come One who would baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:5). Ministers cannot baptize anyone into the Church. They baptize in water for the remission of sins when a person has repented (Acts 2:38), and when Jesus Christ comes to dwell within us through the Holy Spirit, it is a spiritual body we are put into. The Church is His spiritual Body. A person therefore cannot join the Church by his or her own

the Spirit.” The Spirit that Christ gives us to make us a member of His Body is the key to unity. The Spirit produces in us a lowliness of mind, a gentleness, patience and forbearance with one another to resolve our differences.

And differences we will have. “Whether Jew or Greek, slave or free we have been made to drink of one Spirit.” Do you realize the huge chasm between Jews and Greeks, and also slaves and masters? The differences in the early Church were far greater than any differences we may have today. To be “in Christ” transcended worldly status, prejudices of former religions and even gender. We are “in Christ”—“For I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you” (John 14:20). Unity clearly comes through the Father and Christ dwelling in the individuals in His Church. How effective that unity in the body will be is directly proportional to how we submit to our Head, Jesus Christ, who dwells in the fullest sense in His own Body (Ephesians 1:23).

Unity Through Forgiveness of Sins and Obedience to Our Head

Those who have the Spirit of God are the sons of God. They will find a way to be together in one mind and one purpose. This is what people of the Spirit do. They will want to be aligned in that spiritual body of Christ with Christ Himself as the Head, who is one with the Father. And by being aligned with Jesus, they experience a oneness and trust with each other.

Notice the basis of our fellowship: “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?” (1 Corinthians 10:16a). The word “communion” in the Greek is *koinonia*, which simply means fellowship or sharing. We commune with each other in a close spiritual relationship that has its basis in the way our sins are forgiven. The sins of all of us are forgiven in the same way and on the same basis—through the blood of Christ. No one is deemed better or more important than another in

God’s sight. There was division in the early Church over this issue. Acts 15 tells us how the Church came to understand that the sins of all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are forgiven through Jesus Christ—not through the law. I am

is devised to allow a large number of people to participate within the body. The design is to give opportunity to the least without diminishing effective leadership. It has as its hallmarks fairness, justice and equity. Its members have a voice

Will any system prevent division or discord? No system ever devised will prevent self-serving tendencies.

in the body of Christ on the same basis as you are—my sins have been forgiven through Jesus Christ, just like yours have been. There is no respect of persons.

“The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 10:16b). All are to be subject to Christ the Head according to the same standard. Again, we commune based on our commitment to live by the “bread of life,” Jesus Christ, to obey Him in all things, even if it means suffering. When we have people of the Spirit who are accepted in the same way and committed to obedience to the same Head, we will have unity. We all “drink from the cup of the Lord” and “partake of the table of the Lord” (verse 21).

Unity Through a System of Governance

Those who commune through the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them will find a way to so organize and structure themselves to serve the needs of the Body and the work of the Body.

To this end the United Church of God has devised a system of governance and a method of organizing and structuring ourselves to facilitate the spiritual Body of Christ to do what it should. Our structure of governance is not the Church. It is in place to assist the Church.

Our system is devised so as to give opportunity for all to contribute to the edification of the body. It

and they participate. Yet there is authority. And there is submission not just to authority, but *to each other* with love and respect.

In 1 Corinthians 14 we see Paul outlining for the Corinthian congregation how some may participate. “Whenever you come together... Let all things be done for edification” (verse 26). “God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (verse 33) and “let all things be done decently and in order” (verse 40). Ours is not a perfect system. But it has a design where many can participate (verse 31).

We will continue to do our duty to amend our system so as to facilitate a more effective functionality of the body with these principles in mind.

Will any system prevent division or discord? No system ever devised will prevent self-serving tendencies.

The system is only as good as the people who are in it. The system will work when people work! Remember: unity is of the Spirit. Government of and by itself does not ensure unity and peace, no matter how perfect that government is.

God saw a third of his beloved angelic sons turn against him when God was ruling His universe with perfect government. God’s government didn’t prevent rebellion! Only the sons of God who are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14) will live in unity and peace because the Spirit of God produces the fruit of peace within them.

We each must learn to dwell and work together in unity and peace now as a member of His Body. God’s purpose will stand. Christ will accomplish what He wants in His Church because His object is for those of His Body to serve with Him for all eternity. **UN**

Bill Bradford is the pastor of the Brisbane, Clermont, Glasshouse Mountains, Gold Coast and Wide Bay, Queensland, Australia congregations.

The differences in the early Church were far greater than any differences we may have today.

attempt to deceive the disciples.

The time in which we live is no different. We will experience the same attempts by the enemy to destroy the Church or disrupt its work. The devil does not want the Church to be successful in accomplishing the purpose Christ intended.

The “things which cannot be shaken may remain” (Hebrews 12:27). Jesus Christ, the Head of His Church, will accomplish His purpose with His Church.

At this time we need to have confidence that Christ as the head of His Church will exercise His authority over the devil and will lead the Church to fulfill God’s purpose in every respect. What is the Church? What does God intend His Church to be in this world? Do we have confidence in how Christ leads His Church?

choice. He/she must be called by God for that purpose.

The Church therefore is that body of people in whom dwells the Holy Spirit as begotten sons of God.

Unity of the Spirit

Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:1-2 we are to “walk worthy of the calling with which we have been called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.” Notice it is a calling—we then are told how we are to walk in that calling.

Verse 3 continues, “...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Endeavoring means to “make the effort, to be prompt or earnest, to be diligent.” We must understand that we have a calling that includes the highest priority to keep the unity of the Spirit. Please note that unity is “of

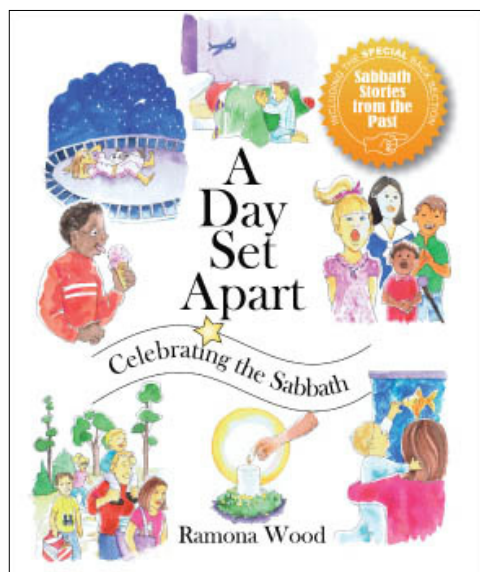




Local Church UPDATES

Ruston, LA, Member Writes Children's Book About The Sabbath

God commanded us, "Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). How can we get involved as ambassadors for Christ in preaching the gospel and sharing our beliefs? There are lots of ways to serve, but one member decided to become actively involved in spreading the gospel by writing a children's book about the Sabbath day.



Ramona Wood of the Ruston, Louisiana, congregation, designed her book, *A Day Set Apart: Celebrating the Sabbath* to emphasize the seventh day as being the day that God ordained and instructed mankind to observe in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8). The same day that Jesus, Paul and the early Christians observed and reinforced.

Not only did she write and illustrate the book, but it received publicity in the local news. The local *El Dorado News Times* newspaper featured an article on Saturday, April 16, 2011, called "Celebrating the Sabbath – Local woman writes children's book on keeping day of rest" written by Joan Hershberger covering the book. The following are excerpts from the article:

Building on that command, the example of Moses, Jesus and Paul in their practice of the Sabbath Day and wanting to pass her beliefs along to her children and grandchildren laid the groundwork for Wood's book.

"I am a Christian who keeps the seventh-day Sabbath. We go to church and rest, and use the day as a family time, a time to spend with each other and God," she said. "We do not work, but try to make the day stand out in the week as a day of physical and spiritual rest and refreshment..."

"The Sabbath begins on Friday at sunset," Wood said. To support the time frame, Wood referred to Genesis where it speaks of God's day as "evening and morning were the first day."

"A Day Set Apart" is a hardcover, 32-page book with each page illustrated in watercolor by the author. It

includes a special section with both Old and New Testament examples of Sabbath-keeping and sells for \$16. The book is available at www.RamonaWoodBooks.com or Amazon.com.

Mrs. Wood has let her light shine through in writing this book.

Sabrina Clore

Heartfelt Thanks from Zambian Members

Zambian UCG members Derrick and Cherry Pringle have been going through major health trials. The couple traveled to South Africa, where there is better medical treatment. Derrick had his gall bladder removed and had a hernia repaired, all while overcoming malaria. While he recovered from these operations in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, with his wife, Cherry, she decided to have a routine medical check-up. They were packed to leave for Zambia the next day when she received the results from the medical tests, which showed she had cancer in one breast. On top of the other recent health and other trials, that was understandably a huge shock and extra-difficult to deal with. Because they were already in South Africa, she had a mastectomy.

The Pringles expressed their heartfelt gratitude for everybody's prayers and concern:

"To all you wonderful people out there: Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your outstanding kindness and thoughtfulness. We received so many cards and get-well wishes that it is impossible to reply to all of you. Please know that we really appreciate your thoughts, your prayers and your concern in our time of distress. How great it is to be part of such a loving church.

Derrick is now quite well. Cherry hopes to have reconstruction in September.

May God bless you all.

Warmest Regards,

Derrick and Cherry Pringle

Victor Kubik

Youth Cavern Exploration Brings Lessons About the Creation

For the youth of the Oakland, California, congregation, this Memorial Day weekend was certainly one to remember! As a part of a series of Bible studies regarding God's works, this weekend in Angels Camp, California, served as active, refreshing, hands-on experience for us to better appreciate and understand God's marvelous creation and His overall purpose.

Sunday began our weekend as a day for fellowship and learning. That night, all 30 of us gathered in the hotel's conference room for an interactive Bible study



The Oakland youth group on their cave exploration trip.

led by Jayson McDaniel. We discussed all things created, their purposes and how we are to interact with them, keeping in mind the key scriptures Romans 8:21-22. Meanwhile, the local pizzeria was enjoying the great business that naturally comes with "starving" youth. We slept that night more than satisfied, much anticipating the morning's adventures.

Exploring the Mercer Caverns was indeed a fantastic adventure! In two groups, we were led 165 feet underground through twists, turns and even a section requiring a youthful limbo stance. We saw beautiful formations of minerals called stalagmites, stalactites, calcites and aragonites, which often formed elegant and sometimes even humorous shapes! The steep climbing took a bit of effort for some, but seeing the marvels of the underground world made it all worthwhile. The day concluded with lunch and fellowship; we took our time to depart, sad it was over, yet glad and thankful for the fun and meaningful experience.

What made this weekend truly memorable for us all was not just exploring the caverns or pigging out on the pizza, but the memories we made, and more importantly, the lessons we brought home with us. For this we are very grateful. We are definitely looking forward to and hoping for more adventures to come!

Austin Breidenthal

"So, the Church Came To Them..."

Bob and Carmela Hana are a couple of lovable characters in the Reno, Nevada, congregation who can no longer attend church on a regular basis. In the last few years, they have been in and out of the area hospitals with a variety of ailments. They have only been to services maybe four times in that time period.

The last two years they have had to take the Passover at home—alone. They do, however, still muster the energy to get to the Feast of Tabernacles each year. This year they plan to be back in Branson, Missouri. Carmela said they like to go there because,

"They treat us like a king and queen once we arrive."

Both Bob and Carmela have made friends around the globe each year, and this year she sent out just under 100 Passover cards to people "in need" or friends.

During a recent discussion at church, one of the younger members suggested we "take the Church to the Hanas!" After further discussion, planning and growing excitement, on the weekend of June 4-5, nearly the entire congregation trekked to



The Reno, Nevada, members at the Hana residence for the weekend in-home Sabbath services and work party.

rural Yerington, Nevada (a minimum of a one and three quarter-hour one-way trip), for Sabbath services. The Hanas couldn't come to church so *the Church went to them!*

After a Sabbath service and Bible study, all 22 members of the group went out to dinner at a local establishment and had a wonderful meal and fun fellowship. The head server asked what the occasion was. We shared with her that we were just getting together with a couple of our friends who can't make it to church anymore—so we came to them—and that the next day we planned a work party at their home. The server responded (almost in tears), "How sweet, that is so wonderful and such a loving thing to do for someone!"

A few of us spent the night and arrived early the next morning at the Hanas to begin a transformation of the home and property. They had not been able to do much over the last several years and several items needed attention. With the help of our "project manager," Ken Blanchard, his wife Kari and her parents Dirk and Kathy Trone (from the Sacramento congregation), along with many of the Reno brethren, a miraculous transformation took place.

Bob and Carmela kept saying how hap-

py they were to have all of the brethren there. They were amazed at all of the work accomplished.

A few sore bodies, a lot of laughs and the joy of bringing smiles to the faces of our dear friends, the Hanas, made this weekend one we will not forget. It sort of reminds us of Psalms 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" May God speed the day when this is the norm!

Joe Horchak

Fort Wayne, IN, Congregation Honors Their Senior Citizens

On the Sabbath of June 4 the Fort Wayne congregation held their fourth annual senior citizen appreciation brunch. Twenty-one seniors were honored, plus three seniors who were absent.

The special morning began at 10:30 a.m., with a beautiful brunch served by the teens and pre-teens. Various people took pictures of smiling little faces and seniors together. The menu included breakfast casseroles, several kinds of meats, pastries, fruit cups and beverages. The "iron chefs" responsible for cooking (and giving the ladies a break!) were Joel Borton, Karl Hermann, Tait Regnier, Dennis Ulrey and Mike Wolfe.

The children's choir sang "I Am A Promise," led by Dennis Ulrey. The audience was delighted as little two-year-old Tiffany Borton stole the show with her rendition of the song and dance during the choir performance.

Deacon and deaconess Bob and Barb Hancock conducted the recognition seg-



The children's choir sings for the seniors in Fort Wayne.

ment of the morning. Bob would call out each senior's name and read a mini-biography along with unusual facts. Barb would then hand out a gift that related to each senior's story.

The Fort Wayne senior citizens were appreciative of the celebration and wish to thank all who served.

Phyllis Minton

Cincinnati, OH, Member Experiences Miraculous Healing

I am writing this with two purposes in mind. One is to praise our God for His unending mercy, and the other is to give hope and encouragement to my brethren who prayed many prayers on my behalf.

Three months ago, I noticed a small

lump in my neck and sought advice from my internist, who I had been trusting for 24 years. He suggested that I not worry, because it was not a problem, but to go to a dermatologist if I felt that I needed to pursue it further. I took his advice, but within a week it had grown to an alarming size. The rest of that month was filled with a visit to the dermatologist and specialists performing an ENT, a C/T scan, a needle extraction and last but not least an open neck biopsy. It was a very scary time. At the point of the open neck biopsy, I began to seek fervent and unending prayers from God's people on my behalf. The doctor, as he was wheeling me down to surgery, told me that he thought it was very serious, and after surgery told my husband that with 29 years of practicing medicine, he was 99% sure it was lymphoma—but on the following Monday morning we would know for sure. Thankfully, it was Pentecost weekend—the flowing of God's love through His Holy Spirit was overwhelming! There was little chance to be afraid, because the brethren's prayers were filled with comfort, strength and healing. When Monday morning came, despite having resigned myself to losing my long, blonde hair, being sick all summer vacation and being unable to serve with the strength I desired, I was at relative peace.

My doctor called with the news that afternoon. He told me that he was in shock—he had never seen anything like it and was speechless. The ugly piece of lymphoma that he had removed was not cancer and needed no further treatment. He told me I was the "luckiest girl in the world." I told him the source of the healing and that I had received unceasing prayers for healing. He wanted their names! He cried with joy, as did I. I was humbled and thankful to God and His people beyond words!

I know that God used me that day as a witness to His people that he *does* hear the fervent prayers of the righteous always! He does not always answer "yes," but it is so much easier to hear a "yes" than a "no." What God did for me through His people should inspire us to greater spiritual heights! Not even the sky is the limit with our great God. All we need to do is ask and stand back and watch the glory of the Lord!

Barbara Fouch

Atlanta, GA, Congregation Honors Long-Time Member

June Wilkinson, a member of the Atlanta church, was honored at a reception on May 29, 2011. She turned 90 on May 28, 2011.

The reception was held at the Marietta home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bryant, members of the Atlanta, Georgia, congregation. Co-hosts were Dr. and Mrs. John Norgard who attend in Colorado. All of the Bryants' six children and grandchildren were present. Some came from as far away as Michigan to be present.

Mrs. Wilkinson was given a plaque detailing the respect and admiration of her Atlanta church friends. Ken Martin, pastor of the Macon and Columbus, Geor-



June Wilkinson with pastor Ken Martin.

gia, congregations was asked by the Bryants to present the plaque to Mrs. Wilkinson.

Since Mrs. Wilkinson has so many friends in the Atlanta area, only friends of 30-40 years were invited. Over 40 people

took time away from their Memorial Day weekend to attend the reception.

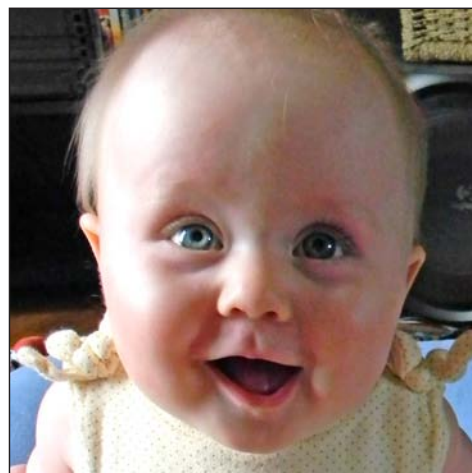
Mrs. Wilkinson said her first day of being 90 was a wonderful, successful day being honored by her long-term Church friends.

Marie Bryant

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

Announcements

Births



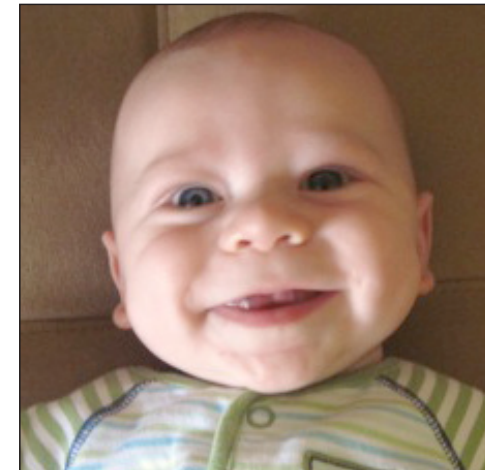
Addison Grace Moulton

William and Rosanna Moulton are ecstatic to announce the birth of their first child, a beautiful baby girl, Addison Grace. She was delivered via cesarean on Nov. 5, 2010, at 6:49 p.m., weighing 6 pounds 14 ounces. The proud first-time grandparents are Richard and Michelle Moulton (Ottawa, Ontario, congregation) and Tom and Mary Salva (Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation). Along with her parents and grandparents, Addison has many admirers (i.e. aunts and uncles) who are delighted with her silly faces, little snuggles and goofy antics.



Olivia Rayne Siebert

Tristan and Shauna (Summey) Siebert are so very happy and excited to announce the birth of their precious tiny miracle, Olivia Rayne Siebert! Olivia was born on Sunday, June 5, 2011, at 9:22 a.m. She weighed in at 6 pounds 12 ounces, measuring 18³/₄ inches. This is the first grandchild for Michael and Karen Summey (from the Salem, Oregon, congregation) and the third grandchild for John and Fran Siebert. The family is feeling so very blessed and happy to have sweet baby Livvy join their family. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and to God for answering in such a perfect way.



Cullen Patrick Zahora

Nathan and Casey Zahora are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Cullen Patrick Zahora. He was born on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 10:32 a.m. He weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 19 inches in length. Nathan, Casey and Cullen reside in Peachtree City, Georgia, and attend the Atlanta congregation.

Weddings

Milan Nicholas Pettet Bizic and Sarah Denise Bates were married on June 5, 2011, in Cadiz, Ohio. Milan is the son of Chuck and Judy Bizic from Cadiz, Ohio, and Sarah is the daughter of Dan and Debbie Bates from California Hot Springs, California.



Milan and Sarah Bizic

The couple resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they both work at the home office.



Olga Malone

May 21, where family and friends attended.

Olga was born and grew up in Tucson, Arizona, where she met and married her first husband, Arnold R.

In 1948, Arnold R. II was born. Later Olga remarried, and in 1950 had another son whom she named James Canales. Both boys were very close to their mother, who ultimately raised them on her own. Olga discovered the Church by listening to Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio when her boys were teenagers. She eventually started attending and was baptized in the Tucson congregation.

Both her boys eventually settled in the Phoenix suburbs of Arizona. Olga had a twin sister "Olie" and three brothers. Olie and brother Vicente lived near Phoenix as well, so in 2002 Olga moved to a Chandler senior living home to be closer to all of them.

Olga's health never allowed her to attend services in the Phoenix area, but she always hoped to attend one day. Several of the Phoenix East brethren got to know her over the years and occasionally took her

Obituaries



Jean Demont

Jean Demont of Port Shepstone, South Africa, died as result of a series of sudden strokes April 18, 2011. Jean was 69 years old.

Born May 15, 1941, Jean, with her three brothers, grew up in the Umhlali area north of Durban. In 1962 Jean met Roy Demont, and they were married in 1964. They shared 47 wonderful married years together in which they had five children: Kim, Terrence, Beth, Michael and Wendy and were blessed with 13 grandchildren.

Jean was a member of God's Church for 39 years. During her yearlong battle with lung cancer, Jean left an amazing example with her positive attitude and kindness to everyone she came into contact with.

Jean was very community-spirited and did valuable work wherever it was necessary, whether it was for the Country Woman's Institute, the local farmer's club, Hospice or for the Church.

A memorial service to celebrate Jean's life was held April 21, 2011, officiated by Len Martin.

Olga (Alfaro) Malone, 83, of Chandler, Arizona, died May 16, 2011, due to ongoing health issues. Mr. John Elliott officiated over a memorial service on Saturday,



Gloria Priscilla Schneider

out for meals or to run errands.

She leaves behind her brother, Vicente Alfaro Jr.; her sister, Odalmira (Olie) Elias; her two sons; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her husband, William Malone, and her brothers, Armando Alfaro and Gilbert Alfaro, preceded Olga in death.

Gloria Priscilla Schneider, 87, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away July 13, 2010. Born Feb. 21, 1923, to Orchard Alma Morris of South Point, Ohio. She was the oldest girl of five.

In the early 1960s, she began listening to Herbert W. Armstrong on her clock radio every evening. She was baptized in 1970, in the Worldwide Church of God, and later began attending the United Church of God.

She lived to see four generations attend God's Church. She was one of the Red Hat Society women who wore hats to services each Sabbath. With each suit was a matching hat, and members looked forward to see which hat she would wear.

An avid Scrabble player, she also loved working crossword puzzles.

Bedridden with osteoarthritis, she was unable to attend services for several years, but she kept Passover services at home with some help.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Stanton Schneider. She is survived by children, Bruce (Erma) Snyder of Silver Springs, Maryland; Eileen (Jerry) Baxtron; Sandra Thompson; Charles Kelsor Jr.; Alma Yvonne Morris; and Marcella Schneider, her caregiver, all of Columbus, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She often said that she was not afraid of death because she would awaken to serve God and Jesus Christ while wearing her crown.



Robert Lewis Waggoner

Kimberly (David) Harvey; grandchildren, Kierstin E. Fureigh, Jessica A. Fureigh, Hunter L. Fureigh, and Anthony J. Hanvey; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was an inspiration to others by the way he faced his many trials. He was loved by all who knew him.



Arlene Eads Thompson

Arlene Eads Thompson, daughter of Lowrey and Flora Eads, was born Dec. 14, 1956, and died Sunday, (Pentecost) June 12, 2011, at age 54 from an infected peritonitis perforation of the gastrointestinal tract—Peritonitis disease. She was the second to youngest of six children to her parents. She is survived by her mother, Flora Eads Hayes; sister, Yvonne Eads Rowe; brothers, Lonnie Eads and Earl Eads; as well as her two children, Daniel and Aubrey Thompson; and one grandson, Tristan. Arlene attended Ambassador College with her sister Yvonne Eads Rowe in the late 1970s.

Robert Lewis Waggoner, from the Lansing, Michigan, congregation, went to await the resurrection on May 5. He and his wife Karlene "Kaye" attended together until his health prevented him from traveling. He died very peacefully. He is survived by his wife, Kaye; his brother, Bruce (Kathy) Newell; children, Nathan D. Waggoner, Tod E. Waggoner, Jeanette L. Waggoner-Fureigh, Steve R. Eckert II,

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

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

who do not wish to have access to the water park and want more economical housing will be the King's Island Resort. This hotel was used in years past when the Winter Family Weekend first began in Cincinnati. It features comfortable rooms at a rate of only \$59 plus tax. The benefit of this hotel is that it is directly across the street from the Great Wolf Lodge. All who stay at the King's Island Resort Hotel will be able to participate in all of the events of the Winter Weekend except for the water park.

Please see <http://wfw.ucg.org> for more information and links to the Great Wolf Lodge for more information and photos. Save December 23-27 on your calendars now for a wonderful family experience!

We are very excited to host this grand event here in the Cincinnati area.

Gary Antion and Roy Holladay

ABC Continuing Education Classes—Resounding Success!

The 12th Cincinnati Continuing Education Classes ended on June 9, 2011. Since ABC began, we offered the one-week classes as a sample (we used to call them "samplers") of ABC. Actual portions of ABC presentations were brought by ABC instructors and administration. This year saw a greater variety than ever before in the presenters. And although we did only four days

Correction: In the June 2011 issue, we mistakenly published the incorrect name for Leon Roeth's wife, whose correct name is Paula. The name we published, Winifred, is his mother's name.

Editor



The ABC Continuing Education Class of 2011.

instead of five because of the proximity to Pentecost, the responses were gracious and appreciative.

Thirty-seven "students" signed up mainly from the Midwestern part of the United States. Presenters included President Dennis Luker for two hours, Ministerial and Member Services Operation Manager Victor Kubik, Treasurer Aaron Dean and full-time ABC instructors Frank McCrady, Randy Stiver and Gary Antion. The variety of speakers helped keep the attention after wonderful lunches provided by Kathy de Campos.

The presentation of certificates was met with comments like, "It was too short and went by so quickly." Hugs of appreciation were also given to the presenters. A continuing education certificate for 24 hours was given to most, although a few were not able to do the entire program and received certificates for 18 hours. ABC logo mugs were also given to those who had not received them in the past.

Many have returned for years, and at least five have come to every one! Mr. Stiver will be looking after Continuing Education for ABC, and he stated that we already have dates for next year's week-long session from June 4-8, 2012. Next summer we plan on doing at least two Continuing Education seminars in the local churches as well. These usually last for two days and allow for 10 hours of classes. As an instructor, it was delightful to teach where it was obvious that the students were hungering and thirsting for the Word of God.

Gary Antion

Chattanooga Plans 2011 Ocoee Rafting Trip

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting the annual Ocoee white water rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 7, at 10:00 a.m. As in prior years the church will be utilizing the services of Ocoee Inn Rafting as outfitters for the trip. Participants must be at least 12 years old (Tennessee law) and in good health. Those with bad backs or other similar injuries should not participate due to the

strenuous and jarring nature of the activity. Due to the inherent risky activity, all participants must sign a liability waiver. Those under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian's signature before they can participate.

We have reserved a block of rafting spots. In order to guarantee that you have a seat please send a signed liability waiver and a check payable to the United Church of God, Cleveland, for \$28 per person by July 15 to the address below:

Allen Dance
9201 Cobblestone Hill Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363

Please clearly identify each participant, church area and a phone number where you can be contacted. We must have your deposit to reserve your spot so send it in as soon as possible. This activity takes place regardless of the weather. If you have any questions, please contact Allen Dance by phone at (423) 855-0868 or by e-mail at allendance@hotmail.com.

Camping and cabin facilities are available in the area. The church does not sponsor a group campsite, but individual families are welcome to take advantage of the opportunities to camp at their own risk if they so desire. The Chilhowee Recreation Area of the Cherokee National Forest is a 20-minute drive from the outfitters. Campsites are on a first come, first served basis and generally fill up on the weekends so early arrival is advised. There will be a camp Bible study on the Sabbath in the Chilhowee Recreation Area as in past years.

Roy Holladay

Three French Publications Going to Press

On June 20, The July-August 2011 issue of *Bonnes Nouvelles*, the French edition of *The Good News* magazine, was completed and is now going to press. This particular issue includes the following articles: "Do you Understand the Signs of the Times?," "Debt Troubles Mount for Britain and America," "Europe Braces for Terrorism" and "Jesus' Warning to 'Watch'—Just

What Did He Mean?" Download your own PDF copy of this month's issue today at <http://tinyurl.com/ucg-bonnesnouvelles>.

We are also very excited to report that the French Bible Study Course lesson #6, titled "What is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?," was also sent to print in early June. You can view the first six lessons of Cours de Bible online now. The remaining six lessons will be worked on over the coming months.

In addition, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Annette Bernal in Bordeaux, France, we have also resumed the production of the French member newsletter titled "Le Renouveau." It is being sent to the French-speaking members in France, Cameroon, Congo, Togo, Benin and Canada. We believe it will help the French-speaking members who are somewhat scattered around the globe to feel more connected to each other and to God's work as a whole.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for the success of God's work in the French-speaking areas of the world.

Maryse Pebworth

Mountain Region Women's Weekend

The Colorado Front Range churches are hosting a women's weekend beginning Friday evening, July 29, and lasting until mid-afternoon, Sunday, July 31. The location will be in a lodge retreat near beautiful Allenspark, just 15 miles south of Estes Park. The view of Mt. Meeker behind the lodge is spectacular. This location is a little over 60 miles from Denver and takes about an hour and 20 minutes to drive. The airport is slightly farther. The Front Range ladies will do their best to provide transportation from the airport for those needing it.

Ladies will be housed at Highland Retreat in spacious rooms holding four twin beds. Handicapped-friendly facilities are available as well. Meals will be provided in the lodge cafeteria. A private meeting room will be ours throughout the stay.

Cost for lodging, meeting space, two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners will be \$130 per person. The first dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Friday. A plate can be saved for those who need to arrive later. Registration and payment must be received by June 21. Our contract requires an early rooming list.

The theme for the weekend is "Becoming God's Precious Jewels." There will be guest speakers from outside the region and several local speakers during the course of the weekend. There will be a bonfire with a generational discussion including ladies from all the past decades on interesting topics. Sabbath services will be held at the lodge.

For more information and to find a registration form, visit denver.ucg.org. You can also call Beth Bradford at (303) 805-0089 or send her an e-mail at beth.bradford@comcast.net. We welcome all ladies who are able to come, and we look forward to having you!

Connie Ashley

Cincinnati Plans Regional Women's Weekend in 2012

The United Church of God Cincinnati East congregation cordially invites ladies to join them for a women's enrichment weekend on March 16, 17 and 18, 2012. The invitation is open to any lady who would like to attend who can make the trip to Cincinnati. The theme is "Understanding You, Understanding Me, Building Meaningful Relationships." The focus will be on helping us to more fully understand the tremendous variety of personalities and temperaments God has given us. With this understanding, we can develop more meaningful relationships, serve more effectively and build strong bonds with one another in our Church family.

The weekend will be held at a beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel in Blue Ash, Ohio. The registration prices vary according to the number of ladies sharing a room and a payment plan has been established for those who would like to use it.

Information about the weekend is posted at www.womenofvalor.org or you may write to Eileen Sharkey, P.O. Box 503, Lebanon, OH 45036-0503, or by telephone at (513) 932-6117 to receive a registration form with full details.

LeeAnn Luker

ABC Deadline For 2011-12 Applications Is July 23

ABC means a special opportunity to grow in biblical understanding and to develop godly character. At ABC, we are still accepting applications for 2011-12. The deadline for applications is July 23.

If you need an application, you may write for yours at: PO Box 54992; Cincinnati, Ohio 45254-0992. Or simply go to <http://abc.ucg.org> and download an application. You may e-mail us at: gary_antion@ucg.org. Or if you prefer, please call Gary Antion, the Director of Admissions, about any ABC-related information. Please hurry because there are just two months before the deadline for 2011-12. We look forward to hearing from you concerning your desire to attend this dynamic program of biblical studies.

Gary Antion



What's New In MEDIA?

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On June 30, Internet manager Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

- 36,547 total Facebook fans.
- 14,021 total Twitter followers.
- 628 videos posted on YouTube.
- 1,709,034 video views on YouTube.
- 201 Bible FAQs posted.
- 64,690 Bible FAQs views.
- 412 e-mail campaigns (This Is the Way, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.
- 585,162 clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 79,426 booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

- July 3-9** "Finding Stability Zones" with presenter Gary Petty.
- July 10-16** "Fate, Fortune and Your Future" with presenter Steve Myers.
- July 17-23** "You Have a Destiny" with presenter Gary Petty.
- July 24-30** "Get to Know Your Bible" with presenter Darris McNeely.
- July 31-August 6** "Solving the Israel-Arab Conflict" with presenter Gary Petty.

■ Writers: Send Us Your Bios!

Media and Communications Services has launched the new UCG.org site. On the new site we feature a bio page for each writer who has had an article printed in any of United's publications

(excluding announcements or "Local Church Updates").

Here's what we need from all writers:

1. **A short bio** (two to three paragraphs, written in third person).
2. **How you want your name displayed** (e.g., Tom versus Thomas).
3. **A high-quality photo** that shows your face clearly. Please do not send a group shot. Photos must be sent in JPEG format.
4. **(Optional) your e-mail address.** This will allow our system to automatically contact you when someone comments on your article.

Send your information to bios@ucg.org. Thank you for helping make the new website a success!

Featured Links

■ ABC: Faith and Friends



<http://tinyurl.com/ucg-abc>
Ambassador Bible Center from students' points of view.

■ Rich



<http://tinyurl.com/ucg-rich>
What will you do with what God has given you?



ABC: Faith and Friends



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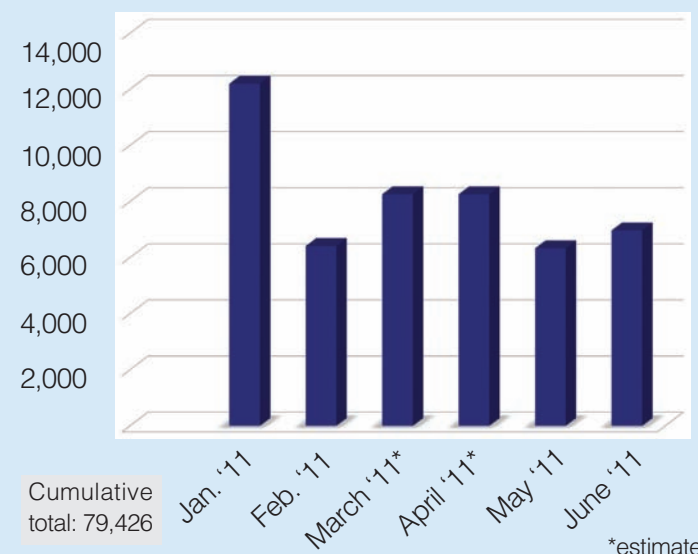
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 15-17:** O.C. Bash, Southern California
- July 23:** ABC application deadline
- July 24-31:** Northwest Camp, Oregon
- July 29-31:** Mountain Region Women's Weekend, Allenspark, Colorado
- July 31-August 7:** Camp Pinecrest, Missouri
- August 7:** Ocoee Rafting Trip, Tennessee
- August 14:** ABC class of 2012 welcome picnic
- August 15:** ABC class of 2012 orientation
- September 2-5:** Leadership Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio

UNITED STATISTICS

Per-Month Downloads of UCG Publications from Apple's iBook Store



Cincinnati Regional Women's Retreat Spring 2012

The United Church of God Cincinnati East congregation cordially invites ladies to join them for a women's enrichment weekend on **March 16, 17 and 18, 2012**. The invitation is open to any lady who would like to attend who can make the trip to Cincinnati. The theme is "**Understanding You, Understanding Me, Building Meaningful Relationships.**" The focus will be on helping us to more fully understand the tremendous variety of personalities and temperaments God has given us. With this understanding, we can develop more meaningful relationships, serve more effectively and build strong bonds with one another in our Church family.

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