

# UNITED NEWS

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## news

### AT A GLANCE

#### Beyond Today On Air in Brisbane, Australia

We are pleased to announce that the *Beyond Today* television program will be airing every Sunday morning at 7.30 a.m. through November, December and January on Brisbane's community television station Brisbane 31 Digital (Channel 44).

Early Sunday morning is not only a good time slot, but the season of year will also work in our favor, as Christmas and Easter are both times when even nominal Christians are thinking more about religious matters in Australia.

This channel reaches approximately 600,000 people in the Brisbane, Queensland, area. Many of our members in Brisbane are very excited about this venture and are hoping and praying that the name of the United Church of God will not only become better known, but that people will be convicted by what they hear and see.

We would like to ask for prayers for this new media initiative. If we get a favorable response, UCG-Australia intends to expand its UCG television presence in Australia.

There is certainly some fine material available, and the *Beyond Today* presenters and the media team do a wonderful job.

Ruth Root

#### Ambassador Bible Center Alumni Serve Ronald McDonald House Residents

On November 6, 12 current and former ABC students made their way to the Ronald McDonald House near

Please see "News at a Glance," page 13

## Beyond Today to Air in Nearly 200 Countries Worldwide



Steve Myers, Darris McNeely and Gary Petty on set during a *Beyond Today* shoot. The program will expand starting in late December to air twice a week on the *WORD* network, which reaches 85 million households in the U.S. and nearly 200 countries worldwide via satellite, including Australia and countries in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

by Peter Eddington

*Beyond Today* will soon begin airing on another cable/satellite television network. As has been previously reported, *Beyond Today* has been airing nationwide on *WGN America* since July 2010 with excellent results, and on local networks on the west coast and in Chicago since July 2011. We are continuing our excellent relationship with *WGN America* and are now adding the *WORD Network* to our television distribution channels.

While *WGN America* is a secular network reaching an audience of 75 million U.S. households, the *WORD Network* broadcasts exclusively to a religious audience of over 85 million households in all 210 U.S. media markets. Most interestingly, it also reaches viewers in nearly 200 other countries around the world via satellite.

Beginning December 27, 2011, our pro-

grams will air twice a week on the *WORD Network* at the following times:

- Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. EST, 1:30 p.m. CST, 12:30 p.m. MST, 11:30 a.m. PST.
- Saturdays at 1:30 a.m. EST, 12:30 a.m. CST, 11:30 p.m. MST (Friday), 10:30 p.m. PST (Friday).

While the Tuesday airtimes have been selected to test weekday viewership and response in the United States, the Saturday airtimes were chosen particularly to reach points eastward during daylight hours in many nations. For example, *Beyond Today* will air on Saturdays in the United Kingdom at 6:30 a.m.; France, Italy and Poland at 7:30 a.m.; South Africa and Israel at 8:30 a.m.; Philippines at 2:30 p.m.; South Korea and Japan at 3:30 p.m.; Sydney, Australia at 5:30 p.m.; and New Zealand at 6:30 p.m.

Besides testing our programs on the *WORD Network* we will also make the

following airtime changes beginning January 1, 2012:

- On Chicago's ION network station WCPX-TV, *Beyond Today* will move from its current Sunday time of 9:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Our Sunday airtime on San Francisco's ION network station KKPX-TV, will move from 10 a.m. to 9 a.m.
- No airtime change will occur on the ION network station KPNX-TV in Los Angeles.
- We will discontinue our telecasts on CBS affiliate station KIRO-TV in Seattle, Washington, due to insufficient response.

As we take the important step of testing *Beyond Today* on the *WORD Network*, we ask for your vital prayers that many people will not only watch *Beyond Today* but respond to the wonderful good news of God's soon-coming Kingdom. **UN**



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#### BY THE NUMBERS

## 233,759

Number of unique visitors to UCG.org in the month of October 2011.





## Malawi Women Learn to Make a Difference at First Ever Women's Retreat

by Timothy Kamiyala

It was a time of spiritual reflection, getting to know each other and sharing health and family tips as women from the Malawi church retreated to Zomba for the first time in the church's history.

For three days—September 16-18, 2011—28 women from all parts of the country came together for a retreat with the theme “Making a Difference.” The retreat was opened by Gracious Mpilangwe, who is the deacon for the Blantyre church. He remarked that it is great for the women to come together, adding that women's place in the church cannot be emphasized enough.

“There is a need for women to develop holy character. This retreat is the opportunity time for that since you learn a lot from God's word. Besides, this brings unity and interaction to increase your purpose of unity,” said Mr. Mpilangwe.

He emphasized that in God's eyes, men and women are equal, God being no respecter of persons: “He will judge us equally. He gives us the Holy Spirit equally without regard to gender.”

During the retreat, examples of virtuous women in the Bible kept coming up. These included women like Esther, Ruth, Sar-

ah, Tabitha and others. The women were reminded that they can make a difference in the world by emulating these women. The core scripture was Proverbs 31, which outlines the traits of a virtuous woman.

Patricia Kachali, in her talk titled “Being an Example,” explained that women have a role to play in letting their light shine.

“We are not supposed to be like the stupid virgins. We don't have to be like Delilah, the woman who coaxed Samson to his death. Let us be a good example and show all those around that our calling is not in vain,” she said.

Jessie Nyalubwe and Nester Phiri gave a talk on the role of women in the church. “The role of women is to reflect God's reality. This they must do in their families and in the church. They must live the biblical principles,” they said, adding that the women must let their light shine.

On making a difference, Loney Mpilangwe said the women should be “walking sermons” like Jesus Christ was. “Christ did not tell people that He was righteous. It was evident in His works. Like a lighted torch that we shouldn't hide, let our light shine for all to see,” she said.

In addition to these spiritual lessons, the women shared health and hygiene tips, which were presented by Stella Ngopola.

Mrs. Ngopola is a nurse by profession and they also had a question and answer session.

The women agreed they had learned a lot of things during the retreat. Most importantly, they said, they had increased interaction. As they were parting ways, they agreed to continue communicating with each other.

“It was great for us to come together. Before the retreat, some of us were shackled and blind. Now our eyes are opened and we must get to living the life of a virtuous woman,” said Mary Mapinda.

“It has been fruitful. We have learned to be good examples, how to teach our

children the way to grow. We have learned about love and how to bear fruits. Our torch must bring light and inspire others, whether in our families, our neighbors or in the Church,” said Chilopola. **UN**



Photo: Gracious Mpilangwe

Ladies at the women's retreat in Malawi.

## Kingdom of God Seminars Well Attended in Germany

by Paul Kieffer

During the first three weeks in November, United Church of God—Germany held three Kingdom of God Bible Seminars, one each in Dormagen (near Cologne), Moerfelden (near Frankfurt) and Hamburg.

The Bible seminars were announced in the September-October 2011 issue of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine. The German office also invited every reader living within a 50 km radius to the seminar venue with a personal letter.

We didn't know what to expect because a few years ago only one reader responded to an invitation to a public lecture. But this time we were quite overwhelmed by the positive response. We had 18 new visitors in Dormagen (the regular average attendance in Dormagen is 35 people). Three gentlemen came all the way from Antwerp, Belgium. They had seen the advertisement on the UCG website. In Moerfelden (which has an average attendance of 25), 15 people came, and seven visitors came to Hamburg (which has average attendance of 15). We had a four percent response to the letters we had sent out.

Two presentations were given by Paul Kieffer titled “What was the message of Jesus Christ?” and “How up-to-date were Jesus' predictions?” They were both

well received. Mr. Kieffer explained how Christianity has lost sight of the message about the coming Kingdom of God, and he outlined the signs that will precede the return of Christ as given by Jesus Himself. The visitors commented frequently and enthusiastically how much they appreciated the messages.

The fellowship was enhanced by an abundant potluck meal, and the atmosphere was warm and friendly. The visitors participated in the fellowship and also stayed long after the seminar ended. Among the audience were readers who have read Church of God literature for 30 years and others who just started reading the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine only a few months ago. One visitor who is pastor of a Sunday-keeping church realized during the seminar that the Sabbath is very important and still valid for the followers of Christ. When he realized what that meant for him and his church he cried out, “Oh Lord, help us!”

Every guest received a seminar folder containing the booklet *The Kingdom of God*, a 12-page reprint of articles on the subject of the gospel message, a handout of the PowerPoint presentations and an order form with all the literature available in German. The visitors could leave the order form with us if they wanted to order literature or leave their contact information to be contacted for the second round

of seminars. Quite a few people want to come back for the second round, and a few people mentioned their interest in visiting church services.

After the seminar in Hamburg one visitor sent the following e-mail: “Thank you

very much for your hospitality and your presentations. I drove home with much joy in my heart!”

Overall, the three seminars exceeded our expectations very much and were very encouraging to the congregations. **UN**



Photo: Paul Kieffer

Two Kingdom of God Seminar attendees in Dormagen, Germany.



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# Profile: Amanda Boyer



Amanda Boyer is currently attending Ambassador Bible Center and working as an intern at the home office of the United Church of God in the media department.

She was born in Arizona, but her family moved when she was two years old to Austin, Minnesota, where she lived the majority of her childhood and teenage years. She grew up in the Church, attending her entire life.

Growing up, they didn't have a lot of money, but Amanda fondly remembers taking nature walks and sitting around with her family in the living room of their house.

When she was 16, she moved with her mother to Byron, Minnesota, where they stayed for nine months, until her mother married again and moved to Michigan.

When her mom decided she was going to move to Michigan, Amanda didn't want to go and leave her familiar surroundings. But it was the chiding of a local Church member who asked, "Do you have enough faith to go?" that made her realize it was her fears holding her back from going someplace new and stepping out on faith. Moving to Michigan was her third move and would be her third high school. But if she had stayed in Minnesota, she doubts she would have had the wherewithal to make attending ABC a reality, something she had wanted to do since she was 16 years old.

She had "flown through" most of the old Worldwide Church of God correspondence course as a teenager and wanted to continue her biblical education. She saw an ad for Ambassador College in the old correspondence course, so she looked it up online. It looked like it was still in existence, so she decided, "I'm going to Pasadena for college." Finally a fellow Church member told her that AC had closed down years ago. Then she discovered ABC, but the guidelines for attending were a minimum age of 18 and a love of God's truth. While she knew she loved the truth, she was only 16 years

old.

In the meantime, at age 17, she decided to be baptized. One large part of her reason to do that was that even though she had moved around a lot during her teenage years, God had always remained the same. She explains that she had grown up keeping the Holy Days, understanding the meaning of each day, but not getting the full picture. "The most exciting part was when I learned that God the Father will dwell with men. That's when I decided that's my home, that's my family, and everything since then has been about going home [to be] with my family," she said.

Now in Cincinnati attending ABC, besides attending classes every day, she is also involved in speech club, is a student co-head of the ABC chorale under Ken Shoemaker's direction, is managing editor of the *ABC Times* and is an intern for the media department.

One of her life's goals has been to write for the Church. In her capacity as intern for the media department, she is doing exactly that, both writing for the *United News* and writing a once-weekly blog on *UCG.org*. She has always been compelled to share God's truth, and the most effective way she's been able to express ideas has been through writing, so it's a natural combination for her.

Her goals after ABC are to attend university, hopefully in Cincinnati, where she says she's interested in majoring in communications. The career path she sees ahead for herself is high school-level teaching in English, speech or any sort of communications. **UN**

## FORWARD! Barn Building



**AARON DEAN**  
 Financial Services  
 Director

This country, as well as many communities worldwide, was built by people helping people. Often it was the literal survival of the people involved at stake. The community unites in building a barn when one person's barn burns down or in building a home for a newly-married couple. These things strengthen a community and its members. It builds relationships and fosters good will.

As societies become affluent, it seems this effort diminishes as walls go up and people don't even know their neighbors. They pay for everything to be done instead of helping each other with tools and labor for free. Soon they start categorizing people, and a caste system develops. One group becomes "superior" and another "inferior." I have seen it for myself in other countries where it is the stated norm, and it is sad. It is also an unstated norm in many free societies.

I think of the "good Samaritan" and what he did for a stranger. Jesus had been asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29). The priest and the Levite passed by the beaten victim, ignoring his need, but the Samaritan went above and beyond to help. If I were building a barn, the good Samaritan would help. If I needed a place to stay, the good Samaritan would let me in.

Would you build a barn for me? I don't

really need a barn. My neighborhood association wouldn't let us build one. But if they did, would you help? In my earliest years of the Church, in the 1950s, so many came to the aid of my mother, a widow with two small boys. At the Feast of Tabernacles one could walk through the campgrounds and have the problem of being offered more than you could eat.

My favorite recollections are Feasts shared in a large home that neither family could afford alone. It wasn't the cost but the relationships built, the lifelong memories and friendships. Sharing was common, and it built a Church community.

It is that community I would like to get back. We are going that direction in the home office. A number of us moved here recently,

and were assisted in unpacking and moving furniture to our new homes. People showed up with boxes, blankets, dollies or just themselves for physical labor. It made an arduous task easier and enjoyable. I am proud to have helped, and to have been helped when I and others moved to Cincinnati.

I would like to start our own national listing of homes. It would enable those who are travelling to find other brethren to stay with, who have volunteered to have their home on the list. The spiritual benefits would be enormous. Sharing builds relationships, which builds trust, and promotes love and concern for one another. Jesus shared all with his disciples and gave Himself for all of humanity. Jesus would be at the barn building. Would you? **UN**



Photo: Photos.com





## My Memoirs of Being a Council Member

by Gary Antion

“What an honor and a responsibility,” I thought when I was unexpectedly selected by the General Conference of Elders to be on the first permanent Council of Elders beginning in January 1996. I came to the conference from Toronto, Canada, and was selected as one of the international ministers to the Council. I had served as a condo president of our condo board, but that was a very limited duty, and there were not many bylaws to go by.

Most of the 12 who were selected to the Council had not served on a board before, so an expert in non-profit boards, Chris Malburg, was retained to instruct us about how we should function as board members. He was given our governing documents, and with those he prepared a PowerPoint presentation to instruct us. He was very helpful in showing us the responsibilities of the Council and the responsibilities of the administration.

The Council of Elders (CoE) is composed of nine elders from the United States—currently they are: Gary Antion, Scott Ashley, John Elliott, Roy Holladay, Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes, Mario Seiglie, Don Ward and Robin Webber—and three international elders (whose primary work is in international areas), who are currently: Robert Berendt, William Bradford and William Eddington. These 12 men are the equivalent of the board of directors. They were selected by the General Conference of Elders.

The CoE selects the officers, who are the president (Dennis Luker), the treasurer (Aaron Dean) and the secretary (Gerald Seelig). The president then selects his operation managers and home office team. Currently the operation managers are Aaron Dean (financial affairs), Victor Kubik (ministerial and member services) and Peter Eddington (media and communications services). The operation managers and some additional home office employees work together in management meetings and share their decisions with the CoE.

According to our documents, the Council (like a board of directors) holds the ultimate responsibility for the organization. They had been selected by their fellow elders to fulfill those responsibilities. I remember Chris telling us that while the council should not “micromanage,” they should “macromanage.” He stressed that

the Council and the administration needed to work hand-in-hand to achieve the success that we all desired. However, it was up to the Council to set the policies for the church and to ensure that the administration fulfilled those policies and were faithful in performing their duties.

The first Council spent much time creating basic policies by which the church would be governed. There were many hours spent making sure in all of our minds that what we wrote as policy was acceptable. Prayer was offered to God at each meeting for His guidance in all that we did and accomplished.

When my wife and I returned to Toronto from our first face-to-face meeting in California with the other Council members, we were so excited that everybody was desirous of working together. Input was sought from all, and that input was seemingly appreciated. What a blessing and great feeling that was!

Through those first seven years, we continued to refine policy, prepare strategic plans, approve budgets and generally help steer the church from a board standpoint. When both Council and administration worked together, there was harmony and peace. The work of preaching the gospel and caring for the brethren moved forward effectively.

There were difficulties from time to time, but they were worked through. A major concern arose over the decision by the elders of the church to move from California to Cincinnati. In 1998 this was accomplished. However some departed from the church because they did not agree with this decision. This disruption caused a decline in the membership and finances. Through prudent management and God’s blessing, we navigated those rough waters. We were eventually able to buy property and build our current home office. Today, it is completely paid off!

During my seven plus years of absence from the Council, there were improvements made in preparing strategic planning, handling Council meetings and assigning work to advisory committees that helped the Council to be more effective in doing its job.

The main issue I have observed in both the Council of Elders and the National Council of Canada is that when the Council and administration work together, much can be accomplished. A mutual



*I remember Chris [Malburg] telling us that while the council should not “micromanage,” they should “macromanage.” He stressed that the Council and the administration needed to work hand-in-hand to achieve the success that we all desired.*

respect and proper submission to authority adds peace and harmony to the tasks at hand. When the administrative officials are willing to yield to the direction of the Council when there is a disagreement between both bodies, relationships are strengthened, issues are resolved and unity is apparent.

I was selected for the present Council after last May’s General Conference, and once again I consider it an honor and a responsibility. I’m pleased to say that I see 11 others working together to achieve the commission of preaching the gospel and caring for the flock. We discuss issues respectfully with give and take. When one is there for the sake of the church and not for personal interests, the results are blessed and evident.

There is one incident that I’d

like to highlight as I bring this article to a close. For our budget this year, Mr. Luker and Mr. Dean put a \$1 million faith line in our budget in to order to balance it. This faith line meant that to continue the programs that God was blessing and to keep the momentum that UCG had achieved would require money above what was projected with recent events. Instead of cutting back programs, which was the norm of past administrations, the CoE and GCE approved trusting God to supply the funds to do the work as Mr. Armstrong had done many times in the early years of the modern era of the Church of God.

About six weeks after this GCE approval, even before the new fiscal budget began on July 1, God answered this show of faith so the

administration would not even have to prepare potential cuts in the budget. The residual of an estate donation, totalling pennies shy of \$777,000, came in. The donor, who died in her late 90s, had a number of other people listed to receive funds, but because of her long life, all of them had died. God indeed knows our need and hears our prayers. What a blessing it is to serve Him.

Make no mistake about the Council. We do not believe that we can do anything of ourselves; it is by the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3) and thankful, heartfelt prayer (Philippians 4:6) that we may fulfill our responsibilities and service to the church.

We ask for your prayers that we may, with God’s guidance, truly fulfill our roles with honor and responsibility. **UN**





# Standing in the Gap

■ More than 20 elders—new, retired, volunteer and part-time—are serving anew this year. In this recurring column, we will profile them.



## Mike Joseph—Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan

Mike Joseph was born in 1947 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was one of 15 children. Mike's mother listened to Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio. She knew about the Sabbath since she was a young woman and shared that with her children. She died never realizing there were local church congregations, and never attended a church service.

Mike met his wife, Barbara, at a town dance in 1965, and a year later they were married. They have three children: one daughter, Amy, and two sons; Tod and his wife Katrina and Jason and his wife Deana. They are also blessed with six grandsons. Amy, her husband Jeff and their three sons attend the Lansing, Michigan, congregation.

Mike began attending the Ann Arbor, Michigan, church in 1969 along with several of his brothers and sisters. He was excited to share this new truth with Barb, who wasn't sure about what kind of church he was attending! After reading some of the church's booklets Mike had around the house, she also began attending. Barb was baptized in 1971. Mike was baptized in 1972.

Both Mike and Barb agree: Being a part of God's

Church has been the most positive thing that has ever happened to them. "We are so thankful for all of the knowledge God has made available to us. We have made so many friends through the years and we feel like we are with family wherever we attend services."

Mike began his 32-year career in the Michigan public schools system working for Ann Arbor public schools and retired in 2008 as an administrator for Holt public schools.

In 1978 the Lansing congregation of God's Church began. Mike and Barb were "founding members." Mike served as a coach for the youth sports teams in the church area. He was ordained a deacon in 1995 and ordained an elder in 2005. In January of 2011, Mike was hired to pastor the Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan, congregations. Both Mike and Barb are excited about this new opportunity to serve God's people.

Mike said, "I thought when I retired from the school system I would find it difficult to adjust because I wouldn't have enough to keep me busy." Then he and Barb were blessed with an opportunity to serve God's people as a pastor. "Retirement doesn't get any better than this."



## Len Martin—Worcester, Massachusetts and Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Len Martin was born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan. His mother was called into the Church with a neighbor in 1971, and Len has been attending ever since. "I still remember studying the Bible as a child with my mother and coming to understand the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. It truly was an epiphany. I will never forget that day!"

Len is married to the former Julie Chipps, who was born and raised in God's Church. They lived in the same town in Michigan, and their mothers had been friends in the Church for years before the two of them took serious interest in each other.

Len and Julie were blessed with six children (four boys and twin girls) but sadly, on March 21 of this year, one of their daughters, Naomi, died unexpectedly in her

sleep. Through the challenges of caring for Naomi and her sudden death, Len and Julie have come to a more personal understanding of God's plan for all of mankind. They yearn for the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the dead, when they will once again be able to hold their precious little girl in their arms.

Len has undergraduate degrees in engineering and information technology and an M.B.A. in finance. He has been employed in all of these fields prior to being hired by the church.

One of his most treasured scriptures is the end of Romans 8:26: "But the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (KJV). Len says, "How beautiful it is to know that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit translates the groanings and emotional sufferings of mortal man into something that God can truly understand!"



## Rick Shabi—Jacksonville, Ocala, Orlando and Tallahassee, Florida

Rick Shabi was appointed pastor of the Orlando, Jacksonville, Ocala and Tallahassee, Florida, congregations in January 2011. He works with writing personal correspondence messages when needed and coordinated the Jekyll Island Feast site this year. Incidentally, Jekyll Island is the first Feast site his family attended when his parents came into the Church back in 1964.

Mr. Shabi (pronounced shay'-bee) grew up in Hammond, Indiana. His grandfather was an immigrant from Eastern Europe who came to this country without speaking English. Mr. Shabi's father, Paul Shabi, came into contact with a Church member. "The change in our lives when we came into the Church was dramatic," Mr. Shabi recalls. "Everything was different than it was before. But even as a young child, I knew that where we started going to church was special. You could feel the difference in the messages being preached and see the difference in the people. We all had instant bonds with everyone we met there."

While attending Ambassador College in 1972, Mr. Shabi "met" his wife, the former Deborah Metz, whose family also attended church in the Chicago area. While the two knew who each other were back in their home area, they

had never spent any time together. They had to go all the way to Pasadena, California, to meet, date, fall in love and eventually marry. Mrs. Shabi attended Ambassador College from 1971 through 1973.

In 1973, Mr. Shabi transferred to Indiana University, where he majored in business, earning a bachelor of science degree. He enjoyed a varied and progressive career in the corporate health care field. The highlight of his business career was the turnaround of a regional health care specialty hospital chain that had operations in five states while he served as its president. "There were many times that I thought that company wasn't going to make it, but every time the end looked near, something unexpectedly positive happened. I could see God's blessing and learned firsthand that He gives us the abilities we need to turn failure into success." Mr. Shabi founded his own regional health care management consulting firm in 1997, an endeavor he continued until this year, when he became a pastor.

Of his new responsibilities as pastor, Mr. Shabi says it is the "most rewarding work I have done. It is a privilege and honor to serve God's people and to know and see firsthand that He provides everything we need to do the work He gives us to do."





## From THE WORD

# In the Eyes of the Beholder

■ Instead of determining value by our own standards, let's look to God's example when dealing with other people.

by Mike and J'Non Whitlark

Picture yourself driving down a country road, not in any hurry, and making good time—you'll get back home even earlier than you planned. You see a sign on the roadside: "Farmer's Market—2 miles ahead." You have the time, so you pull in to the market. There's a series of wooden stalls occupied by vendors selling fresh produce, home-made treats, little knick-knacks—nothing out of the ordinary. You come to the last wooden booth in the row and survey the items for sale here, too: *Canned Peaches—5 cents a jar! Peach Preserves—10 cents a jar! Whole Peach Pies—20 cents each!*

Wow! These are absolutely amazing prices! But then you notice the bucket full of rotting peaches sitting just beyond the pies. You step closer because you can't believe your eyes. The smell is bad enough, but the flies swarming around it make you come very close to losing your lunch! A price tag dangles off the bucket: "\$1,000 per bushel." Your obvious look of confusion mixed with disgust grabs the attention of the elderly gentleman in denim overalls sitting at the cash register nearby. He raises a grizzled eyebrow and asks, "Can I help you?"

"Yeah," you reply, "would you mind telling me how you can sell all these wonderful looking pies and jams for hardly anything, but charge such an obscene amount of money for this bucket of rotten fruit?"

"Well now," says the old farmer, a slight grin threatening the corners of his mouth, "It seems to me you're putting *your* values on *my* merchandise. But it just so happens I price everything based on what it's worth to *me*."

### Value, Worth and Preciousness

We automatically make judgments on something or *someone's* value without even realizing we're doing it. But should we really treat other people solely based on how much they are precious, valuable or important to us personally? As Christians, aren't we called to a higher standard of how we treat others?

We must treat all people according to the value *God* places on them, not the value *we* place on them. But what does this even look like? The story of King David and Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 9 shows us a very good example of it. Here we read that David had been king for many years by this time, had seen many wars and was famous as a great warrior-king among all surrounding nations. He was finally settling down to a more peaceful time in his

life. Then he asks his servants to find out if anyone of the house of Saul is still living.

The only one left was a man named Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan. According to monarchy standards throughout the world, Mephibosheth would have been considered the rightful ruler, as he was the grandson of Saul and the son of Jonathan, Saul's heir. It is not difficult to imagine that this man could have even attempted a *coup* if he did not recognize David's right to be king.

You can imagine, then, what Mephibosheth must have thought when King David's servants came to summon him. What fear and trembling would overtake you, to think that you are the last living person of your entire household, which was led by a grandfather who had tried to kill, on numerous occasions, the very man who has summoned you to his presence as king! Undoubtedly, Mephibosheth was expecting to be executed by King David, and very few would have blamed David for cutting off the last survivor of Saul's family, thereby ensuring that his power on the throne would remain unchallenged.

His greatest fears, however, were instead replaced with joy and relief. David remembered the life and loyalty of his dearest friend Jonathan, whom he considered a brother, and the covenant he had made with him so many years before (see 1 Samuel 20:12-17, 42 and 24:20). He sought out Mephibosheth because he was moved to honor the friend by showing the son deference. David not only restored all of Jonathan's property to him, but also fed him from the king's table, a very high honor. David placed on this man the value that Jonathan would have had for his son.

### The Value God Places on Mankind

We've all read many times that: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

This scripture may seem to be "overdone" in mainstream Christianity, but if we stop to truly consider what it means, it is very powerful. It has personal meaning for me, too, now that I am a parent. When I think of how much my baby son means to me, and how painful it would be to lose him, much less to give him up willingly, I better understand just how much God values all of us. He truly gave His most precious possession when He gave His Son for humankind.

We read that "the Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). God places immeasurable value on all of mankind. In His eyes, we all have the same spiritual potential, no matter where we come from or what sins we committed before we answered His call to repentance.



Photo: Photos.com

*"Would you mind telling me how you can charge such an obscene amount of money for this bucket of rotten fruit?" you ask the farmer. He replies, "It seems to me you're putting your values on my merchandise. But it just so happens I price everything based on what it's worth to me."*

He sees beyond the past and present to the day when we can truly meet our God-given potential.

### God's Standard: Are We Sheep or Goats?

In Matthew 25:31-46, we read the parable of the sheep and the goats, which illustrates that when Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, He will base His judgments of us, at least in part, by how we have been treating others of the faith. The righteous among those being judged (the sheep of the parable) will protest that they have not done all the good things for Him that He said they did. Being modest, they ask, "Lord, when did we [do all these things for You?]"

The Lord responds by saying, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you

did it to Me."

But for those who thought they were doing all they needed to, it came as a shock that Jesus would not receive them, and that they would be considered among the goats. They protest, in fact, that they *would have* done "all these things" for Christ if He had needed their help. But then we see His answer, in verse 45: "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do [it] to one of the least of these, you did not do [it] to Me."

How very sobering to realize that Jesus Christ considers our treatment of other people, and specifically those within the body of Christ, equivalent to our treatment of HIM! We should need no further testimony to our obligation to treat all people according to the value God places on them, not the value we place on them. And for



good reason, too. We, being influenced by the societies that surround us, might be tempted to place more value on those in positions of power or influence within the Church, those with great wealth, or those who we get along with the best. Only God sees the heart.

### A Mathematical Corollary: The Transitive Relation

So, if we love God as much as David loved Jonathan; and if God loves all of mankind as much as Jonathan loved his son, then should we not love all of mankind as David showed love towards Mephibosheth?

How much *more* should we show that love towards the household of faith, the very Body of Christ of which our church organization is but a *part*: the very same Body that Jesus is referring to as “My brethren” in the Matthew 25 parable.

### Back to the Farmer’s Market

After telling you that he prices things according to their worth to him and not you, the old farmer pauses for a moment to let you digest such an absurd business philosophy, and then continues, with a smile:

“You see, those canned peaches, peach preserves, peach pies...they’re good, but once you eat ’em, they’re gone—they’ve got nothing else to give. Now that bucket of rotting peaches there, even though you might think it’s worthless and ugly, is full of *potential*. Each one of those pits at the heart of each peach, whether pretty or not on the outside, can grow into a peach tree one day. If those trees make it to maturity and are pruned up right, they produce bushels and bushels, year after year. Some thirtyfold, some sixty and some a hundred.”

### The Challenge Today

We’re so often focused on the flesh, the

exterior of the peach, which may be either beautiful or bruised, and that’s how we tend to judge and value our fellow man—whether it’s the people we work with, people in other churches of God, or the people sitting next to you at church services. God focuses on our hearts, the core of the peach, and only He knows who is capable of producing good fruit.

Originally, I had started to write the outline for this article several months ago as the basis for a speech in my congregation’s Young Men’s Christian Leadership Club. I thought I had come up with a good premise for my speech and was looking forward to delivering it in club. But then the defection of December 2010 happened, the bulk of my speech club left and I never had the chance to give it. In some ways it’s like God was saying to me: “Mike, you can write it and you can preach it, but can you actually LIVE it? Right now?” That is the ongoing challenge for me and all of us.

We must overcome treating people according to the value *we* place on them. Rather, let us work to treat our fellow man based on the beautiful potential and value that God sees in them. At one time or another, we have all been the fallen peach, rotten and wasting away. What would our lives be like if our merciful Father had not plucked us up and planted us? How grateful we should be that He saw beauty in our potential, and that He loved us while we were (and are still at times) so unlovable!

So the question remains: Can we *live* it? The answer, of course, is “Yes!” With Christ, all things are possible! If you, like most of us, face problems in actually doing this all the time, go to Him honestly with your struggle to love your brethren. Ask sincerely that God open your heart to truly love your brethren as He intends. May you be wonderfully blessed through His answer. **UN**

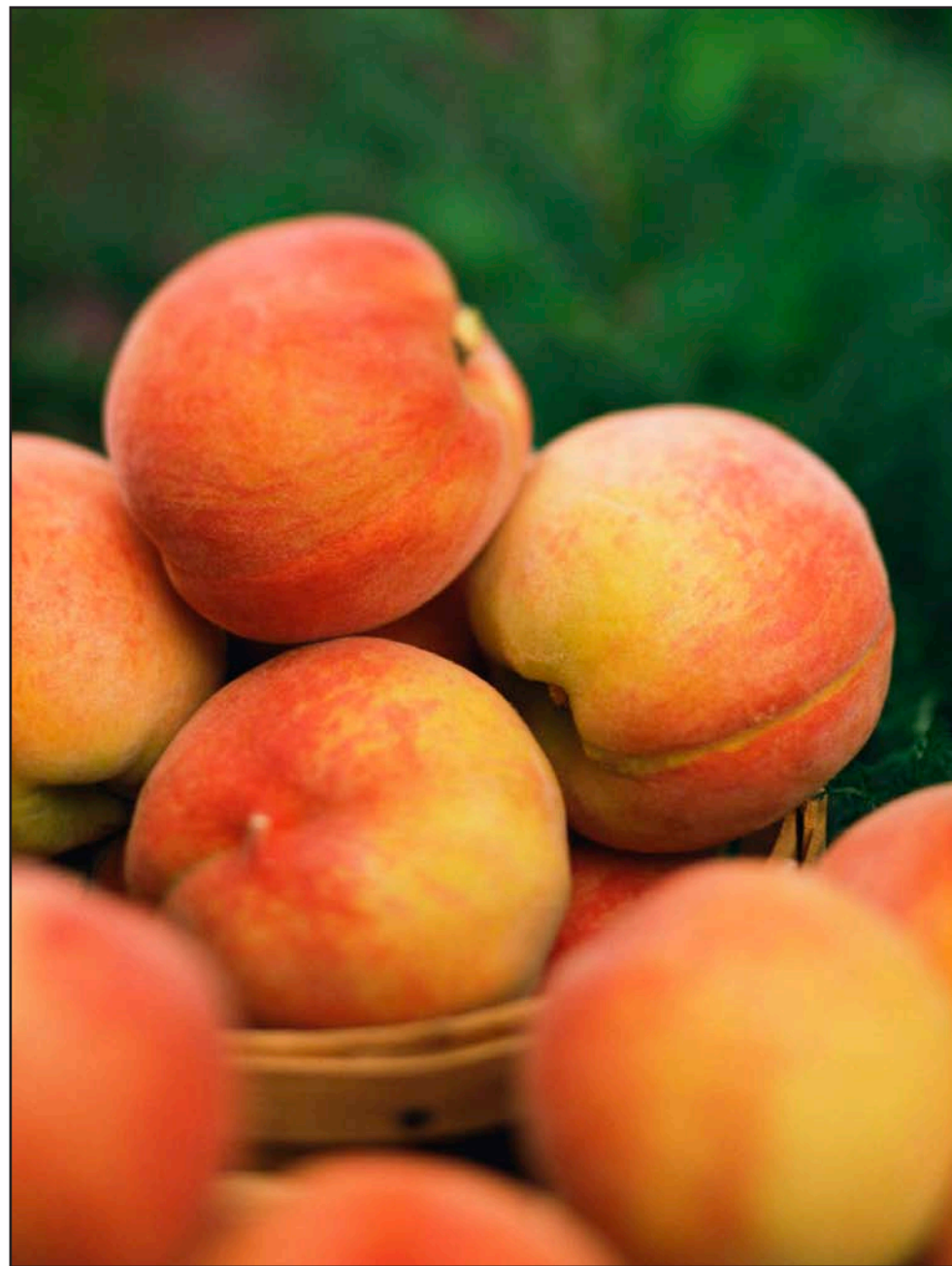


Photo: Photos.com

# Treasure DIGEST

## Your Message

“I would rather see a sermon preached than hear one any day.” “What you are doing speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you are saying.” “Your religion is what you do when the sermon is over.” Are you familiar with sayings such as these? I have seen and heard the point of these sayings in a variety of ways and they have made me consider what I am saying or doing on more than one occasion. The point being made is that no matter the message, the messenger is what we really pay attention to. This is easily seen regarding people in visible positions of authority or responsibility (especially in the Church), but what about the average member sitting in the congregation—does this saying apply to you? You bet it does. To borrow from Roger Ailes, *you* are the message.

Roger Ailes spent his life in broadcasting and journalism and, among other things, was media advisor to presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. He wrote a book he titled *You Are the Message*, in which he makes the primary point that unless our public presentation is based on who we are and the values we hold, we will not truly succeed at whatever we are attempting to



Photo: Photos.com

do. Mr. Ailes goes on to state in his book that it only takes seven seconds for someone to make an impression of another person (that can be a scary statement), but that if we are living our message, seven seconds is all the time we need.

I hope you can see the spiritual application in Mr. Ailes point—*you* are the mes-

sage for God’s way of life. As Christ said, we are to “shine before men that they may see your good [actions] and glorify your Father” (Matthew 5:16). It is true that not everyone will have a responsibility like speaking during Sabbath services, and not everyone may be ordained or have a title in some church responsibility. Whatever our

roles or responsibilities at church may be, the fact is that more people will observe us outside of that venue and make an assessment of God’s way of life based on what we do on a daily basis. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy regarding this point of personal example, in 1 Timothy 4:12, when he wrote, “Be an example of the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

In fact, religions or religious denominations that are growing in number are doing so more out of the community they create than the doctrine they teach. This was true even in our past in the 1970s and 1980s—more individuals became members because of the example of current members than from any television effort, booklets read or any other media outlet. Those things are important, but people will not stay in any organization that says one thing and then does something else. We read in Titus 2:7 that we are to “in all things show [ourselves] a pattern as the model of good works: in Godly instruction, purity of living, fairness and genuineness.” We need to remember our example to the world, but also our example to each other. In fact, in Hebrews 10:24, we are told to incite one another to love and good works.

What kind of sermon do we preach through our actions? What picture of God do others have from not only hearing what we have to say concerning God’s way of life, but even more importantly what they see us doing? What is our message?

*Dan Dowd pastors the Milwaukee, Eau Claire and Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregations.*



# Announcements



**Dan and Sabrina Peabody**

## Weddings

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Clore of Fairfax, Virginia, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peabody of Arcadia, California, are delighted to announce the marriage of their children, Sabrina Renae Clore and Daniel Howard Peabody. The wedding was held on Sept. 4, 2011, at Heritage Hunt Country Club, Gainesville, Virginia.

The couple was blessed with sunshine for their outside ceremony and 185 witnesses. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father. Mr. Ron Peterson, grandfather of the bride, composed a song for the wedding, which was sung by the bride's uncle, Rick Peterson and aunt, Brenda Wendling. During the ring exchange, the bride's siblings sang with guitar accompaniment. David Peabody stood as the best man, and was joined by groomsmen Jon Reimann, Mark Tannert, Brandon Shultz and Fred Rodriguez. Sis-

ters of the bride, Jennifer Kareliusson and Brittany Clore, served as matron and maid of honor, with additional bridesmaids Sophia Kovanis, Natalie Golden and Leeland Clark.

There was much dancing, toasting and celebrating as the new couple shared their special day. The couple looks forward to their lives together walking in God's way, building godly character and growing in love each and every day.

## Obituaries

Henry Van Kol, a long-time member of the Church in the San Francisco Bay area, died June 10, 2011, at the age of 83.

He was born Hendrikus Albertans in Nijmegen, Holland, and was the third oldest of eight children of Petrus and Johanna

Van Kol. He had a large family of three sisters and four brothers.

As a young boy, he greatly enjoyed fishing, playing soccer and riding his bike. At the tender age of 11, he had to help provide for his family by selling and delivering newspapers for five cents a copy.

During World War II, the Nazis forced him to work at a U-Boat base in France. He escaped through the Dutch underground into England. At 22, he joined the Dutch navy and served on a minesweeper in the Dutch East Indies.

He fell in love with the country of Indonesia, settled there, and met his beloved wife Greta. They married in 1955 on the island of Java. He worked for an export company until 1958, when the Dutch were forced to leave Indonesia. He moved his family back to Holland and there he worked as a railroad conductor.

The family moved again in late 1960 when they immigrated to the United States, where they settled in San Francisco. For over 30 years, he worked as a warehouse foreman for a custom screen and wire company.

In 1968, he moved his family to the lovely seacoast community of Pacifica. There he enjoyed walking in the hills and tending his beautiful rose garden.

He was baptized and came into the Church over 40 years ago, and has faithfully attended. Henry enjoyed reading and studying the Bible, going to church, spending time with his family, listening to music, as well as eating a good meal.

His loving wife of 56 years, Greta; his children Sylvia, Rudy and Lydia; five grandchildren, Jessica, Stephanie, Jacob,

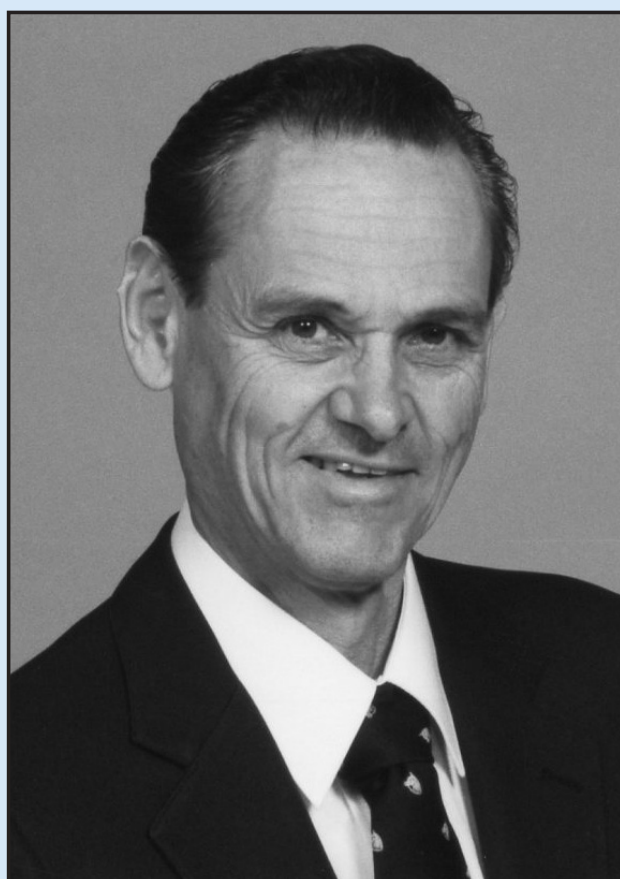


**Henry Van Kol**

Joseph and Melanie survive him.

There was a graveside service for Henry on Friday, June 24, officiated by San Francisco Bay area pastor Jim Tuck.

**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*.



## Tribute Doug Bosshart

Doug Bosshart, a long-time elder in the Oakland, California, congregation, died on Tuesday, October 18, during the Feast of Tabernacles. He passed away quietly in the vicinity of the place he called home most of his life. He lost a brave battle with a rare form of internal arthritis.

Douglas Harry Bosshart was born on September 12, 1927, in San Francisco, and was the only child of Harry and Evelyn Urenn-Bosshart. His children, Jim, Janet and Sue, and grandchildren David, Brad, Shawn and Jenny, survive Doug.

He grew up as a child of the years between depression and war: the generation where honor, respect, integrity and hard work were highly valued and exemplified by both his father and grandfather.

After graduating from Abraham Lincoln High in 1945, he began serving in the First Cavalry Division of the Army during World War II. One dark night he was assigned solitary guard duty in the Army. Very young and so far away from home, he was feeling extremely lost when he heard a radio station playing the song, "You'll Never Walk Alone," from one of the nearby tents. It had a very emotional impact on him and gave him much-needed encouragement. Later in life, the words became an important piece of the foundation of his spiritual life. He was discharged from the military after serving for 18 months due to rheumatic fever.

He went on to earn a degree in electrical engineering from San Francisco City College, and over the next several years he traveled the states of Oregon and Washington as an automotive service tech. It was while on the road he started listening to the radio broadcast of Herbert W. Armstrong.

In 1952, he married Dolores Clayton of Portland, Oregon, and they had three children together. The family eventually moved back to San Francisco, where he opened his own business, Doug's Charger Service. This was also when he began attending the Church. He was baptized on July 31, 1961, just before the start of the Oakland congregation.

As the Oakland and San Francisco congregations grew, so did his passion for serving. It gave him great joy to join with others to help wherever possible, from setting up chairs, being on parking duty, doing security, communications, janitorial, ushering, sound system, offerings, social organizer, spokesman's club, teen activities and yes—even leading songs (comical as he had no musical ability) but all done with much enthusiasm and a smile.

On October 4, 1976, he was ordained an elder in the Church of God. He had a true love of God's Word and God's plan for mankind. He also faithfully studied, grew and put God's way of life into practice every day of his life.





# Local Church UPDATES



Rhonda Saurbaugh and Velma Solberg at the Twin Cities Women's Conference.

high school to college level gathered for their own round-table discussions on dating and other core issues of interest to them. Fresh insight on how to think about roles and balance was offered to the whole group in a session called "A Conversation on Flourishing Where You Are" (at any stage of life)—using a scriptural truth instead of being heckled to the world's notion of attaining balance.

Jolinda Schreiber, wife of pastor Dave Schreiber, who serves in the southern part of Minnesota, came to share about the brethren and work being done to assist Sabbath believers in their travels to Sri Lanka and India.

After Sabbath services, all (including the men and families of the Twin Cities congregation) shared a yummy potluck dinner with our lady guests.

Sunday's activities started with a presentation for the women to better understand the distinction of the types of gifts detailed in the New Testament and an intensive workshop module for each woman to make an assessment of her God-given gifts. The session was led by Katie Fortune, author of *Discover Your God-Given Gifts*, who travelled from Washington State to share her 40 years of study and experience in this vital area of understanding for both individuals and collectively. We are to employ our gifts in harmony with our sisters for the common good of the Church and our

communities.

Her session was followed by lunch and then the final session, "Spirit-Guided Relationships." This session was a way to start the dialogue on evaluating how we deal with one another over hard questions and challenging conflicts. Pam Redline led this discussion and highlighted how understanding our gifts actually provides vital assistance to improving how we treat one another.

We wrapped up our time together with a closing video from LeeAnn Luker, who commended the women for their dedication to join one another in learning, serving and praying as we all move forward together in the Church. She shared the exciting news that there is now a "Women's Services" initiative underway at the home office. We give the Father and Jesus Christ all thanks and glory for the weekend of growing together as sisters united in Christ!

*Manya Kalamaha*

most influential women of 2011 by the *Springfield Business Journal*. Below is a short excerpt from the article published in the *Review*.

"Merna Leisure-Eppick has built her career on education of recovery from substance abuse, and she brought her knowledge to Springfield, Missouri, when she moved here in 2006.

"In the mid-1980s, Leisure-Eppick was in California, where she volunteered with the South Pasadena school district in numerous roles. As her children got older and entered high school, she began her work in addiction recovery as a volunteer van driver at a women's facility. Later roles included peer advocate, counselor, program coordinator and eventually in an executive director role for an organization there."

You can read the rest of the article and see a photo of Mrs. Leisure-Eppick at <http://tinyurl.com/ucg-merna>

*LeeAnn Luker*

## Twin Cities, Minnesota, Women's Conference a Success in 2011

"They were all together in one place," that is, the 78 women registered to participate in the 2011 UCG Twin Cities Women's Conference themed "Many Gifts, One Spirit." What a blessed weekend, even though it passed too quickly! Ladies from seven states convened in Newport, Minnesota, for brunch and morning meetings before regular Sabbath services.

In the morning, young women from

## United Member Featured as One of Springfield, Missouri's Most Influential Women of 2011

Merna Leisure-Eppick, United Church of God member from Springfield, Missouri, was recently named as one of Springfield's

**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*.

Children's Corner

# Scripture Search

## 5 Characteristics of God's Church:



1. Preaches the \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 4:23, Mark 16:15)

2. Keeps God's \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 19:17, Rev. 12:17, 14:12)

Which includes... Observing the correct day of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 31:12-17, Luke 4:16)

3. Has the testimony of Jesus Christ, which includes understanding \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 19:10)

4. Has the name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:28)

5. Keeps all the words of \_\_\_\_\_ over manmade tradition (Matt 4:4, Acts 5:29)

**BONUS:** There are more verses to support each characteristic, can you find more?

What are other characteristics of God's true Church? Make sure you have biblical support!



# Breaking Free Website Offers Hope and Help

■ United's *Breaking Free* website has been a service to our church since 2004. It has been valuable since we inside the Church suffer the same afflictions as those outside. Now with the full support of the church's leadership, we will be offering it as a service to the public as well. Please learn—and keep learning—what you can do to help yourself and to help others—anyone caught up in an addiction or another life-crippling problem.

by Don Hooser

Here is the first verse of a classic hit song of the 70s—"I Can Help" by Billy Swan:

*If you've got a problem, I don't care what it is*

*If you need a hand, I can assure you this I can help, I've got two strong arms, I can help*

*It would sure do me good to do you good, Let me help.*

Indeed, Jesus said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35, Good News Bible). It does us good to do good!

The purpose of this article is not to give a lot of practical advice. It is to create awareness of *Breaking Free*, make its purposes clear, encourage our members to read the articles there so they will be prepared to understand and help others, and, most importantly, to show from the Bible how we are called to follow Jesus Christ's example of love, mercy, compassion and practical help toward everyone.

Those willing to write have an additional opportunity to serve. You can write an article in which you share your knowledge and experience with the readers. Once you are familiar with *Breaking Free*, you will see the types of articles that we are seeking. (Articles are accepted only from members and ministers of United Church of God.)

*Breaking Free* continues to expand in the types of problems it addresses. The many articles are arranged under the following "topics": addictions, alcoholism, abuse (physical, mental, sexual), eating disorders, emotional stresses, gambling, homosexuality and same-sex attraction, mental disorders, sexual addictions, smoking and substance abuse.

The meaning of the word "addiction" is somewhat ambiguous. A distinction is often made between physiological and psychological addiction. *Physiological* addiction is a biological and pathological dependence on a chemical substance—in which unhealthy (and often permanent) chemical changes take place in the brain and body. Generally speaking, *psychological* addiction is a strong (sometimes powerful!) *habit or compulsion*—an emotional dependence and craving for something and its effects. Some psychological addictions can lead to a physiological addiction and



Photo: Photos.com

*Because of the shame and feelings of failure, those with addictions urgently need two things. They need to understand the incredible love that God has for them. And they need to experience godly love flowing to them from at least one human being (many people is much better, of course!).*

vice versa.

Physiological addictions include alcoholism, addictions to drugs (both legal and illegal drugs) and addiction to nicotine (smoking).

People have psychological addictions to countless things: abuse of all kinds, eating disorders, sexual sins (pornography being number one), entertainment (TV, video games, etc.), profanity, gambling, violence, self-mutilation, shopping ("shopaholics"), obsessive-compulsive behavior, stealing (kleptomania), etc., etc.

For the rest of this article, the words "addicts" and "addictions" refer to any and all major personal problems.

## **Addicts often feel helpless, hopeless and worthless**

People who have an addiction or a destructive habit usually feel very guilty, ashamed, stigmatized, humiliated and unworthy. After a while, many even feel worthless and unlovable and "no good."

This can be true even of people who have been upstanding citizens of high moral character. Many different kinds of circumstances and mistakes lead to addictions. For example, there are many more addictions to legal drugs than illegal drugs. A commentary titled "Addictions to Prescription Painkillers Are Epidemic" was recently posted at [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org).

Because of the shame and feelings of failure, those with addictions urgently need two things. They need to understand the incredible love that God has for them. And they need to experience godly love flowing to them from at least one human being (many people is much better, of course!). First, let's focus on God's incredible love.

## **God's love and Satan's hatred for humanity**

God, our Creator, loves everyone and desires to save everyone (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:4). Paul wrote, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we

were still sinners, Christ died for us" [to pay the penalty for our sins] (Romans 5:8). This means every single person on earth is valuable to God.

Part of the reason Christ came to earth was to demonstrate His infinite love. His ministry was a labor of love, showing interest in and kindness to all types of people—men, women and children, all races, those labeled as "sinners" and those considered the "untouchables" like lepers. He was regularly "healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23). He despised and disproved the popular idea that people who are sick or injured are being cursed by God.

Mankind's archenemy is Satan the Devil (Revelation 12:9). Satan uses all his "devices" and "wiles" to tempt and ensnare us (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11). He despises people and wants to destroy them in any way he possibly can—physically, mentally and spiritually.

Jesus said: "The thief [Satan] does not



come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:10-11).

After one fully commits his life to obeying and serving God, God provides a huge amount of protection and help. But even after that, the spiritual warfare doesn't end. Romans 7:14-25 describes how even the apostle Paul continually struggled against the temptations to sin. Satan is determined to lure us into an addiction or destructive habit, and then into discouragement and depression. But God has promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Hebrews 13:5). People often forsake God, but if afterwards they deeply repent, God will welcome them back as illustrated by the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:10-32).

### Seeing God's love is more convincing than merely hearing about God's love

Addicts are often told, "Quit feeling unloved and hopeless. Don't you know that God loves you?" That by itself is like saying, "be warmed and filled" (James 2:15-16). "Faith without works is dead" (verse 20), and love without works also seems dead.

It usually doesn't do much good to tell an addict that God loves him if nobody else is expressing love. The addict thinks, at least subconsciously: "Since no one else loves me, I can't believe God loves me. If Jesus' representatives don't love me, why should I believe that Jesus loves me?"

Addicts often suffer a vicious cycle. Consider the example of someone addicted

to a drug. When others find out about it, they often become judgmental and angry, give simplistic advice, and soon shun the addict. (Even loved ones soon feel overwhelmed when they realize how complex and intractable addictions are.) Because the addict feels rejected, he turns to the drug for relief and escape—he "medicates" his mental pain. And so it goes.

Friends and family are often anxious to "fix" their loved one. Advice is often simplistic (like, "Just stop it! Just do it!"). Even when the addict desires to get clean, he feels it is impossible. Even when "the spirit [mind] is willing...the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38).

There is no quick or easy fix for an addiction. *And all of us should be very cautious about giving advice lest we do more harm than good.* The advice we should give is to encourage the person to get expert advice, counseling, treatment and support.

Being a light to others doesn't mean to blind them! What family and friends should provide is not an avalanche of advice and exhortation, but ongoing love, respect, encouragement and practical assistance. "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." Show that you are a true friend who can be trusted.

We must also remember this: True love is the right combination of soft love and tough love.

The soft side of love is being a good listener, speaking encouraging words and doing kind deeds. We must "put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another" (Colossians 3:12-13). Even though we haven't been in the sufferer's shoes, we must seek God's

*Being a light to others doesn't mean to blind them! What family and friends should provide is not an avalanche of advice and exhortation, but ongoing love, respect, encouragement and practical assistance.*

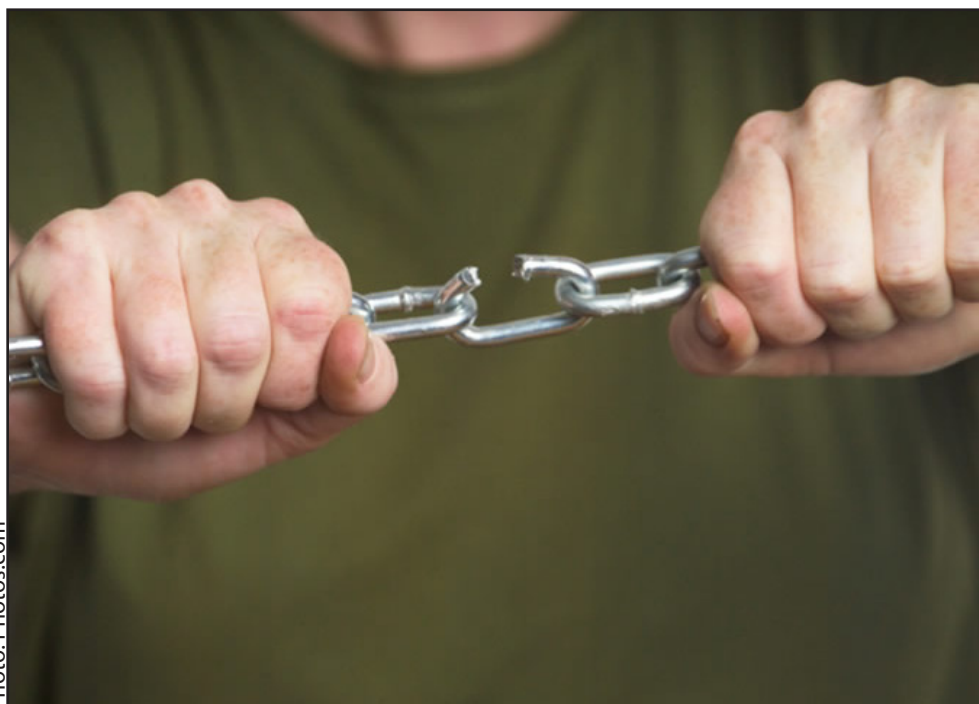


Photo: Photos.com

## How *Breaking Free Journal* Began

The United Church of God has been an exemplary pioneer in its emphasis on education since its beginning in 1995. In the summer of 1996, the Council of Elders formally established our four major education programs: general education (for the entire church membership), youth education, ministerial education and focused education.

Focused education addresses the many serious human problems that have become so prevalent in our modern Western societies. The major categories of these problems is listed under "Topics" on the *Breaking Free* website (<http://breakingfree.ucg.org>). They are addictions, alcoholism, abuse (physical, mental, sexual), eating disorders, emotional stresses, gambling, homosexuality and same-sex attraction, mental disorders, sexual addictions, smoking and substance abuse.

Another website, *Anchor*, was started in 1994 by some Church members who were trying to provide guidance and help for fellow Church members who were struggling with same-sex attraction (SSA, or homosexual temptations). Four ministers were invited to be advisers for the publication. With the split in '95, Melvin Rhodes ended up being the only ministerial adviser. He ended up editing all the articles, as well as writing editorials. In addition, his wife Diane did the layout for the magazine.

I eventually discovered that Melvin had very little assistance, so I offered to help as a reviewer. I enjoyed working with Melvin on *Anchor* and later on *Breaking Free*.

After about ten years of *Anchor* the church was frequently receiving requests from people who wanted us to cover other problems in a similar way. So 2004 was a good time to start a publication that would help people struggling with every form of addiction, mental disorders and other life-crippling problems. So *Breaking Free* was born.

For a title, the church chose "Breaking Free," but that title was already being used. So the official name is *Breaking Free Journal*.

*Breaking Free* is a logical and valuable extension of UCG's Focused Education.

Since long before United began, one of the pioneering voices addressing the problems addressed by focused education has been Denny Luker. Now that Mr. Luker is United's president, he is giving his full support to focused education and to *Breaking Free*. In fact, he has authorized making *Breaking Free* clearly available to the public. Already there is a link on [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org) to *Breaking Free*. (Click on Information and then click on Other Websites.)

In December 2010, Melvin called me and said he had become too over-

whelmed with other responsibilities to continue as managing editor of *Breaking Free*, and asked me if I would take that responsibility. I thought if I said no, I would be swallowed by a whale, so I agreed. Soon after that, Mr. Luker gave his approval. On behalf of United, I want to thank Melvin and Diane for the outstanding job they did with *Anchor* and *Breaking Free*.

During this past year, I've spent part of my time getting *Breaking Free* caught up so we could be ready to publicize it.

I marvel that I ended up in this field of interest. The big reason for my interest and concern has been the fact that there have been so many people among my relatives who have had addictions. The ones that I have known about have included addictions to alcohol, smoking, cocaine and gambling. I think, "There but for the grace of God go I." And in two of my former congregations, there was a (non-practicing) homosexual. So I can't help but have a passion to try to help people in trouble and their families.

*Breaking Free* has six well-qualified reviewers who are a huge help. In alphabetical order, they are: Bob Berendt, John Cafourek, Fred Crow, Larry Walker, Mark Welch and Glen White.

Here is what Melvin recently wrote to me:

"The biggest challenge has always been finding people willing (and able) to write, to share their own struggle or the difficulties of having a member of the family who is a struggler.

"The need is definitely there. As God calls people in the western world today, most are likely to come into the church with "baggage," problems from their past that weigh heavily upon them and often get in the way of their Christian progress. Whereas in the past, people would become discouraged and often give up and leave the church, we feel now that there is a source they can turn to for help—*Breaking Free*."

Articles are accepted only from members and ministers of the United Church of God. We welcome articles from authors who are experts on a related subject, but we also welcome articles from those who are not experts—all the rest of us. We strictly avoid giving medical or other professional advice.

To learn the type of articles that we are seeking and to learn how to contribute to *Breaking Free*, go to <http://breakingfree.ucg.org> and click on About.

As you begin to read articles on *Breaking Free*, I hope you will see the great potential it has for helping many, many people in the future. And please pray for God to greatly bless *Breaking Free* that it will be quite effective in fulfilling that potential. Thank you.

Don Hooser



help to have compassion and empathy. Although we hate the addiction, we make it clear that we love the addict.

The tough side of love is being honest and firm, not condoning or being an enabler of any wrongdoing, not engaging in denial, not becoming codependent or becoming associated with any illegal activity. Tough love establishes rules and consequences for the home and the relationship. Tough love teaches others how to be tough so they can survive life's tribulations and emerge a better person. With tough love, we steer others to the best sources of knowledge, counseling and support.

You probably have heard the saying, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone." We feel like avoiding people who are depressed or who have long-lasting problems. Love is work, and we get tired. But true love is "patient" and true love "never comes to an end" (1 Corinthians 13:4, 8, God's Word). Romans 12:15 plainly says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

One caring person can make all the difference in the world to someone who is hurting. Caring people count.

### More priceless scriptures to keep in mind

1 Corinthians 12:26—"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;

or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

1 Corinthians 9:22—"To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

Galatians 6:1-2—"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Philippians 2:3-4—"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Isaiah 58:6—"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?"

### Jesus Christ, our perfect Role Model

Jesus was the perfect example of a self-sacrificing Savior, Healer, Comforter, Friend and Brother. Jesus spent a huge percentage of His time healing people of all sorts of maladies. The gospel writers mention that He was "moved with compassion" (Matthew 14:14). He touched the untouchables. He loved those who were

considered unlovable. He healed bodies, minds and hearts.

Infirmities are often partly the result of the physical consequences of past mistakes, sometimes even sins. So it's fascinating that when people asked Jesus for healing, we never read that He shamed them or even lectured them about what they should've done. When Jesus knew that sins had been committed, He merely said, "Sin no more" (John 5:14; 8:11).

Luke 4:18, quoting Isaiah 61:1, sums up much of Christ's commission: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."

As Jesus' disciples, our mission should be to help fulfill that commission. Everyone has a cross to bear (Luke 14:27). But each of us can help "bear one another's burdens."

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

As Jesus' disciples, we have that wonderful example to imitate!

The powerful parable of Matthew 25:31-

46 is both sobering and inspiring.

In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison [or a rehab center] and you came to Me."

Later (verse 40), Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." And by "My brethren," I don't think He meant only converted Church brethren.

One whom we might view as "one of the least of these My brethren" can be someone addicted to cocaine or a prescription painkiller. Or alcohol. Or gambling. Or overeating. Or pornography. Or one who is tempted with same-sex attraction.

What an exciting opportunity we have—to serve Christ by serving His children, especially when those children seriously need help! Isn't this awesome?!

Please see the sidebar, "History of *Breaking Free Journal*." And we hope you will read many of the articles on <http://breakingfree.ucg.org>. When you go to the *Home* page, you can learn the purposes of *BF*. To learn more, click on *About*. Click on *Topics* and you will see the articles that are filed under each topic.

And as the song says, let's remember: I can help. Let me help. **UN**

## INTERNATIONAL news

### Good Works Project: Bus for Zambian Brethren

Imagine your typical Sabbath morning. I would hazard to guess that the rituals and routines that we have vary widely. For most of us in the United States, though not all, it

probably involves breakfast and then a drive to church in our heated or air conditioned cars. The commute varies widely from a few minutes to a few hours, but few would claim the trek to be an arduous one. Unfortunately that is not the case everywhere you go.

Cherry and Derrick Pringle would start out in one of their flatbed work trucks several hours before services started. Their route took them all through the area, picking up members as they went. By the time they arrived at services, the flat bed would be full of wind-blown and sometimes rain-soaked brethren. It was wonderful that the Pringles were able to provide this service, but it was taxing on them, and the brethren who had to

brave the elements in the open-air truck if they wanted to attend services. In June of 2011, a Good Works project was started to provide a bus for the Mufulira, Zambia church. Thanks to the generosity of our members the money needed for the bus was raised by August 2011. Now the members can attend services with relative comfort, and dignity.

The bus has proven to be extraordinarily helpful, not only providing transportation for church services, but also for the Youth Camp, the Feast of Tabernacles and for the recent Youth Corps project. The bus has proven to be a blessing in an unexpected way. Mr. Pringle had the used bus cleaned up and painted. This painting included the name United Church of God,

as well as an advertisement for *The Good News Magazine*. Armed with a stack of extra *Good News Magazine*s, the bus has become an open door to preach the gospel everywhere it goes.

Lena VanAusdle

### Good Works Project: Bibles For Developing Areas

In July we started an ongoing project to send Bibles to our developing and disadvantaged areas that have need of them. The response has been overwhelming! We received many used Bibles in excellent condition, several cases of brand new Bibles as well monetary donations for the purchase of Bibles and to help cover shipping costs. It is through these generous donations from our brethren and congregations that we have been able to make several shipments.

The first shipment of 50 bibles was sent out in July, shortly after the project was started. That first shipment went to Zambia; once that first shipment was distributed the leaders there were able to determine what needs remained. Since that first shipment we sent another 70 Bibles to Zambia in September, and another 40 since October. Derrick Pringle, an elder in Mufulira, Zambia, says that the Bibles are very much appreciated and that the members proudly carry their new Bibles with them.

Lena VanAusdle



Photo: Derrick Pringle

The bus purchased for brethren in Zambia to use.



ABC students, the association raised \$420.53. Using those donations plus some previously raised funds, the ABC "chefs" created an Italian feast.

The Ronald McDonald House kitchen is set up so any group providing a meal can prepare it on the premises. With six kitchen stations, including a large commercial gas range, the house has ample room for up to fifteen people to work together to prepare a meal that will feed 125 guests.

Our Italian meal began with sun-dried tomato and basil bruschetta on toasted baguette with fresh mozzarella and a balsamic vinaigrette glaze. The main entrees were beef lasagna and spinach ravioli with an olive oil, parmesan and herb sauce. Garden salad, Caesar salad and buttery garlic bread rounded out the dinner. The grand finale

was a cookie spread that included chocolate chip bars, white chocolate pecan blondies, pumpkin chocolate chip cookies and Ghirardelli triple chocolate brownies. Milk was available in abundance to help wash down the goodies.

The meal was very well received, and the ABC serving crew heard many words of appreciation from residents and house volunteers alike. One gentleman, who volunteers there several times a month, proclaimed the dinner was one of the best tasting meals he had eaten at the house! The ABC Alumni Association plans to continue holding yearly car washes to sponsor future meals and sundae socials at the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House.

*Laurel Krenz*



ABC alumni Lena VanAusdler and Laurel Krenz at the Ronald McDonald House.

Continued from Page 1

downtown Cincinnati to serve a meal to the residents. The Ronald McDonald House offers families who have children receiving care at an area hospital a place to stay, and is significantly less expensive than a hotel. While they request a small daily donation from their house guests to help defray the costs of operating the large facility, they never turn a family away due to inability to pay. Many of the daily meals are provided through the charity of church groups, social organizations and even the wives of Cincinnati Bengals NFL players.

During the summer the Ambassador Bible Center Alumni Association held a car wash in the parking lot of a local CVS store to fund the meal. With the assistance of several current



ABC alumni Jonathan Magee and Jonathan Reimann with current ABC student Hanna Reisdorff at the Ronald McDonald House.



ABC alumni Brittany Ballo and Esther McKinney.

## Marriage Program in Development for Roll-Out at Next GCE

The Education Department has been working on a marriage program for the United Church of God. The overall program has been approved and is ready to be developed.

The proposed program will have three facets:

1—A suggested video program that can be used by pastors (or their designees) in the local church area—something similar to a marriage version of "Growing Kids God's Way." It will include four to eight sessions and be conducted

once a week or once every other week. These video presentations can then be used continually through the years for our members. The pastor can also use this material to supplement his marital counseling.

2—A UCG website for marriage-related material. This Web page will include subjects relating to marriage written by ministers and members of the United Church of God. Additionally, articles from biblically-based outside sources that can be useful to help our members strengthen their marriages will be researched. With permission from the authors, these resources will be placed on the website. Ministers and members alike will then have information they can use at their discretion.

3—Two-day marriage workshops will be available for congregations or circuits. This part of the marriage program is already available upon request. If you would like to be scheduled for one of these workshops, please send your request to Frank McCrady at [frank\\_mccrady@ucg.org](mailto:frank_mccrady@ucg.org).

At this time we are looking for qualified volunteers who would like to be a part of the "marriage program team." This includes ministers and lay members. We especially are looking for people who have a marriage-counseling license or a counseling degree, but we will not limit the field to those individuals. If you don't have a certification but have experience or expertise in the study of marriage relations and want to be a part of the team, please send us your information as well. If you are interested in helping, e-mail Frank McCrady with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Please include all information that pertains to your background on this subject as well as any certification, license or degree.

We are planning sessions to explain

## Portland, Oregon, Women's Retreat Planned for February

Do you need a break from your daily routine? Want to refresh your spirit and deepen your friendships in an atmosphere that feels like a mini Feast of Tabernacles? Please join the women attending the Portland Women's Retreat on February 24-26 at the Canby Grove Conference Center in Canby, Oregon.

This year's theme is "Anchors in the Storm," and presentations will include "Staying Mentally Anchored to the Word of God During the Stormy Trials of Life" by Dyanne Dick, split-sermons by Bob Dick and John Cafourek on the Sabbath, "Calm My Anxious Heart" by Karen Walker, "Dealing With Aging Parents" by Patty Sexton and "Love Languages" by Becky Hornor. In addition, there will be a panel presentation titled "Weathering the Storms Through the Years."

The always-popular silent auction will be held once again, with proceeds going to the Good Works program. And we will complete a service project to create blankets for disadvantaged children through Project Linus.

Costs are \$200 for a single room, \$170 for a double and \$160 for a triple (bring your friends!), and meals are included. You can get a discount by registering by December 15. Day-only attendance and fees are available, and a bonus day option is offered for those who want to arrive on Thursday. All registrations must be received by January 31.

Please contact Ruby Scruggs at [scruggsjr@canby.com](mailto:scruggsjr@canby.com) for more information and a brochure. We hope to see you there as we enjoy our annual rejuvenating retreat!

*Ruby Scruggs*



the entire marriage program at the General Conference of Elders meeting in May 2012. It is our intent to roll out the entire program at that time. It is our greatest desire to be of assistance in helping our marriages to be the absolute best they can be. Please pray for the development and effectiveness of this marriage program.

*Frank McCrady*

## Insightful Local Area Ministerial Conference Held in Cincinnati

The first of seven local ministerial conferences was conducted on Monday and Tuesday, November 14-15, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Topics of general utility for ministers and their wives were covered by limited lecture time and lots of discussion time.

The theme for the conference was taken from 2 Corinthians 1:24—to be “helpers of your joy...” The following themes were discussed:

- **How to manage your time**—How do you find time to prepare a sermon every week, visit scattered brethren over several church areas and do everything else you are asked to do? How do you avoid guilt and burn out? How do you balance your personal life, prayer and Bible study?
- **Church Services and Bible Studies**—How to plan a balanced spiritual diet throughout the year. How to come up with sermon and Bible Study ideas. Many ideas were shared on how to accomplish this.
- **Marriage and Divorce**—We discussed the high view of marriage and how we need to preach and teach strongly about marriage. We reviewed the new marriage program—the preventive maintenance needed to build strong marriages. All aspects of the subject of divorce were discussed.



Scott and Peggy Moss from Fort Wayne, Indiana, with Frank McCrady of Dayton, Ohio, at the regional elders conference in Cincinnati.

Vernon Hargrove, the chair of the divorce and remarriage committee, was present and able to add much information to the discussion.

- **Helping the grieving**—The ministry is generally the first contact with those who are grieving over a loss. How to comfort a family that has lost a child or baby, how to comfort at a funeral or in the hospital and many other circumstances were covered. Numerous suggestions were brought up and discussed.
- **Maintaining doctrinal integrity**—How to check and verify the accuracy of what you are teaching. Many of the false ideas that are making the rounds were addressed. We face the same battle as the apostles in the first century. We stressed the importance of teaching as you have been taught.
- **Counseling**—Gary Antion covered general tips on counseling and counseling concerns for pastors and elders. He made recommendations of resources that would help the ministry to understand and deal with certain situations such as abuse, self-injury, suicide, marital and pre-marital counseling, etc. He

mentioned that the ministry is not second-rate when it comes to counseling. Professional counselors are trained in how to recognize problems, but the ministry has a sound mind, right values and standards to help people balance their lives and understand how to live.

- **Administrative issues**—Chris Rowland covered all of the administrative duties that he performs in the Ministerial and Member Services area. He was able to address and answer questions dealing with various reports and administrative issues.
- **Mediating Disputes and Finding Mentors**—The conference ended with discussions on mediating disputes and finding mentors. How do we deal with conflict between members, ministers or ministers and members? As a minister who do you counsel with and how do we mentor the next generation in the Church?

The ministry and their wives gathered on Sunday evening for a dessert reception. This provided an excellent way to kick off the meetings by fellowshiping and getting acquainted with everyone there.

This conference used a different format than most that you may have attended in the past. This was based upon the fact that we have many

new men who have been appointed as pastors. Many of them have had distinguished careers in the business world, but have suddenly been asked to shift gears and pastor churches. As a result many questions have arisen concerning how to handle various responsibilities and duties as a full-time or partial pastor.

The general approach in past conferences was to have a number of lectures with limited discussion. This conference focused on subjects that many ministers had asked about and wanted clarification and direction. Consequently, the emphasis was more upon open discussion with the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification and give input. Victor Kubik and Roy Holladay worked as a team to address or moderate these discussions.

The conference was truly successful and inspiring to all who attended. Listening to the concerns and difficulties faced by other ministers and their wives helped to bond the group together and to establish a love and appreciation for each other.

*Roy Holladay*

## Ambassador Bible Center Accepting Applications

Applications have begun to arrive at the Admissions Office for Ambassador Bible Center next year. The applicants are excited to attend. Applications will be sent to the admissions team and decisions should be made shortly. If you are interested in attending ABC, please download an application at <http://abc.ucg.org>, fill it out and send it to us at PO Box 54992, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0992.

You will experience a journey through the scriptures and have an atmosphere that is conducive to your spiritual growth. All the while you will have the opportunity to be at home office of the United Church of God and observe the preaching of the gospel, Council of Elders meetings and the General Conference of Elders.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Gary Antion*



Cincinnati elder John and Peggy McClain with Peggy Moss and Kathe Myers, wife of Steve Myers, who is pastor in Cincinnati East.



Gary Antion sharing his insights at the Cincinnati ministerial conference.





## Featured in ABC Times

■ The ABC Times is student-published every year as a means of communication and edification for the student body. In this regular column, we will feature content from that publication.

### The Lesson of Company

by Jaime Salek

A few days ago, I was chatting with a friend in Colombia. It was almost noon, and she was about to leave for lunch. As she told me how hungry she was, I asked her what she was waiting for. She explained to me that she would be going out to eat with some coworkers later and would rather enjoy their company than eat alone.

This made me think of the opportunity we had at the anti-Halloween night we shared in the headquarters of the church. Most of the ABC students and most of the brethren who work at the home office joined together on the night of October 31 to avoid the trick-or-treaters skulking around their neighborhoods.

Every one of us could have dinner on our own and still avoid Halloween, as what matters is the attitude of “getting out of this world.” But we took advantage of this opportunity and enjoyed an amazing evening.

After a delicious dinner and a small “white elephant” gift exchange for the majority of the attendees, we had fun games of pool, ping pong, spades and entertaining and edifying conversations. All of these things helped contribute to the strengthening of bonds of the brothers and sisters in Christ who were at the home office.

King David in Psalm 133:1 reminds us, “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” This night was greatly appreciated because of its most important aspect—uplifting time spent in the pleasant company of God’s people. **ABC**



Photos: Amanda Boyer

Josh Coleman, Prisca Myers, Josh Lamoreaux, Amanda Boyer, Hanna Reisdorff and Michael Slocum getting together after hours.

### ABC Takes Field Trip to Creation Museum

by Musa Mazibuko

On November 2, the ABC class of 2012 packed into two 14-passenger vans and headed on a field trip to the Creation Museum.

Located 40 miles from the home office in Petersburg, Kentucky, this museum’s purpose is to teach the doctrine of God’s creation as opposed to the fallacy of macroevolution. They teach the “young earth” theory, which is the belief that the universe was created 6,000 years ago and that man’s existence was concurrent with the dinosaur age.

There were many educational activities available, and one in particular sparked interest: the planetarium. Armed with a digital projection system and a knowledgeable team headed by Dr. Jason Lisle, the students were shown an enthralling presentation featuring the known universe. The biggest difference between this feature and most other planetariums at other museums is the perspective that God’s Word is true and that good science starts from the Bible.

The museum had more to offer as well. From the “Walk Through Biblical History Exhibit” and the “Dinosaur Den” to the “Noah’s Ark Construction Site” and the well-loved petting zoo, everything was done with a high level of quality and attention to detail. I was most excited because they had a real live camel—enough said!

The next day, ABC instructor Steve Myers revisited the topics they had seen at the Creation Museum and compared it to what the Bible says. For nearly four hours, he “set the record straight” on assertions the Creation Museum had made, such as the concurrence of dinosaurs with



The students and staff on their Creation Museum field trip.

man and the belief that those dinosaurs had been saved through the Flood, the existence of literal fire-breathing dragons, the adamant belief that the earth is only 6,000 years old and the popular representation of angels looking like men with wings. He also critiqued the Museum for spending so much energy and effort to prove the six days of creation while completely ignoring the seventh day, the

creation of the Sabbath.

Overall, there were a great many things to be marveled at, especially when considering God’s power put into His creation. The trip was successful and I would like to give thanks to the warm staff at the Creation Museum and everyone at the home office who put in the effort to make this event happen. **ABC**





# What's New In MEDIA?

## ■ UCG Web Presence Expands

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

- 40,060 total Facebook fans.
- 20,624 total Twitter followers.
- 673 videos posted on YouTube.
- 1,838,544 video views on YouTube.
- 206 Bible FAQs posted.
- 225,711 Bible FAQs views.
- 478 e-mail campaigns (This Is the Way, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.
- 654,734 clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 119,912 booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.

## ■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

- December 4-10** "Finding Stability Zones" with presenter Gary Petty.
- December 11-17** "Moving Beyond Tragedy" with presenter Darris McNeely.
- December 18-24** "What is the Real Meaning of Christ's Birth" with presenter Darris McNeely
- December 25-31** "The Day After Christmas" with presenter Gary Petty.

## ■ Breaking Free Website: Helping Members and Non-Members Alike

*Breaking Free Journal* is an website featuring articles intended to help those who struggle with

addictions and other problems. It is available for both members and non-members to use. Topics include abuse, alcoholism, eating disorders, same-sex attraction, gambling, sexual addictions, smoking, substance abuse and others. Please see page 10 for an in-depth article about the site and its history. Everybody can help others who struggle with these problems. Please visit <http://breakingfree.ucg.org> to see the website for yourself.

## Featured Link

### ■ BT Daily

<http://tinyurl.com/bt-daily>

Join *Beyond Today* hosts Darris McNeely, Steve Myers and Gary Petty in a daily online video blog called BT Daily. Get a look behind the scenes of *Beyond Today*, a look at some of the headlines of the day, connect with the presenters and start to build a lasting relationship with God.



BT Daily

# UNITED NEWS



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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 23-26:** Northwest Family Weekend, Vancouver, Washington
- December 23-27:** Winter Family Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio
- December 27-January 1, 2012:** Winter Camp, East Troy, Wisconsin
- December 27, 2011-January 6, 2012:** Young Adults Travel Education Program
- February 10-12, 2012:** Women's Enrichment Weekend, "Instruments of Peace," Garden Grove, California, area, <http://garden-grove.ucg.org> (look under local information/announcements)
- March 16-18, 2012:** Women's Enrichment Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio

## Portland, Oregon, Women's Retreat

Please join the women attending the Portland Women's Retreat on February 24-26 at the Canby Grove Conference Center in Canby, Oregon.

This year's theme is "Anchors in the Storm," and presentations will include "Staying Mentally Anchored to the Word of God During the Stormy Trials of Life" by Dyanne Dick, split-sermons by Bob Dick and John Cafourek on the Sabbath, "Calm My Anxious Heart" by Karen Walker, "Dealing With Aging Parents" by Patty Sexton and "Love Languages" by Becky Hornor. In addition, there will be a panel presentation titled "Weathering the Storms Through the Years."

The always-popular silent auction will be held once again, with proceeds going to the Good Works program. And we will complete a service project to create blankets for disadvantaged children through Project Linus.

Costs are \$200 for a single room, \$170 for a double and \$160 for a triple (bring your friends!), and meals are included. You can get a discount by registering by December 15. Day-only attendance and fees are available, and a bonus day option is offered for those who want to arrive on Thursday. All registrations must be received by January 31.

Please contact Ruby Scruggs at [scruggsjr@canby.com](mailto:scruggsjr@canby.com) for more information and a brochure. We hope to see you there as we enjoy our annual rejuvenating retreat!

## UNITED STATISTICS

### UCG.org Unique Visitors, Oct. '10 - Oct. '11

