

# UNITED NEWS



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## news AT A GLANCE

### 316 Responses to *Beyond Today* During First Two Weeks on *WORD Network*

We are pleased to report that during the initial two weeks of airing *Beyond Today* twice a week on the *WORD Network*, we received 316 responses via telephone and the Internet.

Of these literature requests, 219 came by means of telephone calls from viewers in 33 states and two Canadian provinces. Plus, Internet responses were received from viewers in Bermuda, Canada, India, Italy, Panama, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Trinidad/Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.

As reported earlier, *Beyond Today* can be seen in about 200 countries around the world via satellite on the *WORD Network*. For those using DirectTV, we can be seen on channel 373 around the world. This channel is also compatible with mobile devices.

The initial results are very encouraging, and we hope to develop a growing audience on this network, just like we are doing with *WGN America*.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for the success of this new television opportunity and all the Church's other efforts to spread the message of the Kingdom of God around the world.

Peter Eddington

Please see "News at a Glance," page 10

## Round Two of KOG Bible Seminars Elicits Encouraging Response



Matthew Fenchel gave the first of the two segments at the home office in Cincinnati, Ohio. The final number of attendees to all seminars held worldwide were not available at press time, but it is on track to be similar to the approximately 1,500 who came for the first round in September of 2011.

by Peter Eddington

Very encouraging reports are arriving from Kingdom of God Bible Seminar presenters about the second round of seminars they've held. Despite some wintry weather in North America, more than 1,000 guests attended—and we still have 35 congregations yet to hold their seminars during February. We anticipate upwards of 1,500 total guests when round two of the seminars are completed. This is very similar to round one.

Due to snow and ice in some locations, we were saddened to hear that three seminars had to be canceled. In some cities, more guests arrived than expected. But of course, some congregations

had less than anticipated—and just a few had no guests show up at all.

### As the Father Calls

As we pray for God's blessing and guidance on these seminars, we are reminded that it is the Father who calls and that His timing for each person is perfect. In some instances, for a person whom God is calling to even get out of their comfort zone and show up, is a big first step! As God's elect, may we "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

Even just one or two guests at a seminar or Sabbath service,

who would otherwise not have graced our church doorstep, can be considered a success. Jesus Christ, as the Head of His Church, has a plan for each person. Some congregations considered it a great success with just a handful of guests. A few areas were very pleased to have dozens of new people show up. While numbers are not everything, results do help us measure our efforts. And, while God's Church will be a small flock (Luke 12:32), there was a very encouraging number of guests in some cities.

Here is just a sampling: Bacolod, Philippines (42); New York, New York (35); La Paz, Bolivia (35); Knoxville,

Tennessee (33); Tacloban City, Philippines (29); Houston, Texas (24); Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (24); Jacksonville, Florida (21) and Lusaka, Zambia (20). And, remember, we still have 35 seminars yet to be held—including places in the United States, Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Isle of Man, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Dates have been set for round three of our United Church of God Kingdom of God Bible Seminars. Please set aside the Sabbath of May 12, with May 19 being the main alternate date.

May we all continue to pray, "Thy kingdom come." UN



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### BY THE NUMBERS

# 4,637

Total responses to *Beyond Today* for the month of January



## Jorge de Campos Visits Guyana and Brazil to Find Feast Site

by Giovane Macedo

On January 8-15, Jorge de Campos and I conducted a trip to Northern Brazil and English Guyana in search of a place that God would place His name for the Brazilian Feast of Tabernacles.

Due to the fact that English Guyana is very near the area where the bulk of the Brazilian brethren live and the fact that an investigation into Boa Vista last year did not have an open door, we decided to visit the area of Annai. The Rock View Lodge site located there appeared to be a promising place upon preliminary investigation.

Mr. de Campos flew directly into Annai from the States, and I flew from the South East of Brazil, where I live, into Boa Vista. Boa Vista is in the Brazilian State of Roraima. After arriving there, I drove in a rented car about 150 miles—half of that on a sand road in Guyanese territory with many wooden bridges, some of them half broken—to meet him in Annai.

At our arrival we were welcomed by the owner of the Rock View Lodge, Mr. Colin Edwards, a gentleman of British descent. Very graciously he showed us our accommodation options and recreational activities. They basically cater for wild bird watching and hiking, as they are in a micro climate near the rain forest. Rock View is a very pleasant and colonial-style oasis that is in the middle of nowhere.

As the lodge did not have an auditorium, we investigated the local adult education training center, and we were introduced to the local Tuchau (elected Amerindian leader of the region), who has control over an



Jorge de Campos also gave a Bible study for the youth in Maloca de Moscow, Brazil.

auditorium that was completely destroyed by fire last year and is scheduled for reconstruction. Due to some possible doubts of it being completed on time, we were also introduced to the local leader of a Baptist church, who would be willing to rent to us their hall.

After viewing all possibilities and in the process of determining final costs, the owner admitted that he could not cater for us when he realized that we would not shift the dates. It was clearly evident that God had closed the doors for the Feast in that site. Early the next morning we departed for Brazil via the difficult-to-navigate road to search around Boa Vista.

The first place we searched there had a water park and resort called Ecopark that is about 20 miles outside of Boa Vista. This place has a very suitable infrastructure with fully equipped auditorium, wi-fi, sports grounds, restaurant, etc. We also visited a farm house in the center for rental and explored the option of using local hotels in Boa Vista, with excellent to good accommodation and facilities that are available and open for us.

Mr. de Campos took note of all the possibilities, and he is now negotiating final prices and options. A key factor to consider is to minimize the cost of accommodating the local Amerindian brethren, who are the

bulk of the Brazilian brethren. They do not have the financial resources to stay in most places. As their brethren, we will need and want to subsidize their Feast expenses. After this extensive and rewarding search for a site, Mr. de Campos stated that God willing, we will have a Feast site in Boa Vista, Brazil, in the state of Roraima. Final details will be announced soon.

We then proceeded to visit the brethren in Maloca de Moscow for the Sabbath. We were received with great joy, as a ministerial visit is always an opportunity to feast and learn a little more about God's Word. We had Sabbath services in the morning, a youth Bible study in the afternoon and an adult Bible study after that.

Two members from two other Church of God fellowships also visited with Mr. de Campos for spiritual counseling, Bible questions and requesting material in Portuguese. They were graciously served as needed.

On Sunday, late afternoon, we returned to Boa Vista and then back home, thanking God for opening the doors for a Feast site in Brazil. Although the Feast has been previously observed in Brazil, this will be the first which will be publicized and fully opened to overseas visitors.

Mr. de Campos returned to Guyana and visited brethren in Georgetown. He had an interesting taxi conversation in Lethem, where the driver asked him, out of the blue, "Seeing that Jesus Christ is the Lord and all powerful, why does He need a tree of life at the time of the end?" The driver had a copy of *The Good News* with him. It is amazing how God works with people! **UN**

Photo: Jorge de Campos

## UCG Treasurer Visits Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

by Aaron Dean

In order to support our international areas, UCGIA treasurer Aaron Dean was asked to attend the UCG Philippines' annual board meeting held January 8, 2012. So as to make the trip to that part of the world more profitable, he chose to visit Singapore and Thailand as well.

He left on Thursday, Dec. 29, which allowed him to attend services in Singapore with UCG brethren. He had lunch with the members, gave a sermon and answered questions.

It had been a few years since Mr. Dean visited and spoke with the brethren in Asia. He last visited in 1999 and again in 2001, when he visited there on a business trip for his private employer at the time. At that time he was not employed by UCG, although he was a member of the Council of Elders, so he was able to make the trip for minimal cost to the church. "It was good to visit them again. They are such wonderful people," stated Mr. Dean in an update given to the home office staff after his trip.

On Sunday, January 1, he flew to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he visited the Legacy Institute run by Leon Sexton, a 1974 graduate of Ambassador College.



Senior pastor Earl Roemer addressing the UCG Philippines board in January. UCGIA treasurer Aaron Dean (seated at the far end of the table) met up with Mr. Roemer on his trip, which included stops in Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.

Mr. Dean has connections with the royal family of Thailand and Leon Sexton that go back to the numerous 1970s projects with the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College. The Legacy Insti-

tute was once a Youth Corp program years ago under the presidential direction of Roy Holladay, and UCG's current president, Dennis Luker wished to renew the relationship.

Legacy Institute teaches classes in English, computers and biblical studies for people from Thailand and Burma. Most of the students come from the Hill tribes in Northern Thailand and some from refugee camps. Many of those who Mr. Sexton first worked with were finally able to get sponsorship and legal status and were sent to other parts of the world. The first group came to America, while others went to Scandinavia. They began attending with United when placed in their new countries. Anyone interested in working in Thailand as a Youth Corp volunteer can write the home office for more information.

In addition to the meetings with Legacy, Mr. Dean discussed the possibility of having a UCG Feast site in Thailand. Current plans are already made for a site in Malaysia in 2012, but since the Empress Hotel manager was a friend of Herbert Armstrong during his visits to the royal family, UCG would be able to obtain rooms for members that would include meals at less than a third of what costs were for the Feast in Bangkok in previous years. This could make it more affordable

Photo: Meryl Macaraeg

Please see "UCGIA Treasurer," page 10

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# Profile: Jonathan Magee

Jonathan Magee lives a life with great passion for comedy and serving God's people. He was hired in December 2011 to the home office staff as an assistant media producer. He loves to inspire others and share how positive God's way of life is. He was born into the Church of God in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

His father would perform skits for church talent shows, and his wonderful sense of humor left a positive and lasting impression on Jonathan. This as well as his father's nature of being supportive of and sacrificing for his family has made him his hero.

While in junior high, he decided to save up to buy his first video camera and start shooting funny videos with his funny friends at school. He worked hard at Burger King for a year to buy a camcorder. He completed his first hour-long feature in 10th grade—a comedy remake of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and followed the next year with *Macbeth*. The video starred the school's funniest kids from all the different social circles. It screened in English class. He produced quite a few copies with cover art he designed and tried to sell them, but nobody bought one. "I've always loved comedy and video...but have always been bad at sales," says Jonathan.

After graduating high school, he attended college at the Southeastern Louisiana University. During his college years he worked as an orientation leader and was a founding member of its first improv group on campus, which he loved because he could work with a team of people who were focused on inspiring others and have a chance to develop public speaking skills for his performing passion.

After completing college, he knew he wanted to attend Ambassador Bible Center, but he had a semester to wait. In the meantime he took an internship at Walt Disney

World in Orlando, Florida.

In 2003 he attended ABC and was baptized during his year of study there. Afterward he began grad school, but he didn't feel this further education would lead his life in a direction where he could develop his passion for comedy, so he decided that he wanted to move to New York City. To save money to move there, he took a job in Skagway, Alaska, at a camp where he performed in theater along the Klondike Trail as tourists panned for gold and ate salmon at their shows. After some time, he finally reached his goal and moved to New York where he got a job as a waiter at the Soho House and sold comedy tickets in Times Square, among other jobs. Outside of work, he started doing comedy shows. He performed a number of stand-up, improv and video comedy sketches with his friends.

He prayed to God about whom he could work with to continue in his passion but in such a way that would serve Him. After a little while, he and his cousin Jamie Schreiber started talking about working together doing videos. (Jamie has a degree and experience in video production and has worked in that role at the home office since May 2010, working on *Beyond Today* and doing short films for the Internet.) They decided to live and work together, so Jonathan began saving to move in order to use his talents to serve God alongside Jamie.



Jonathan moved to Cincinnati in August 2010. When he and Jamie began working together, he humbly asked God to bless their efforts in service to Him. He says he has seen God answer that prayer many times and has made "two plus two equal eight" in their work. It is joyfully fulfilling for them to be able to use their talents to serve.

Since October 2010, Jonathan has worked various odd jobs part-time for the home office as needed. He was hired full time in December as an assistant media producer. He works doing *Beyond Today* closed captioning, recording the booklets in audio and creates short films with Jamie. Outside of work, he and Jamie make comedy videos. Jonathan feels as if his spiritual life and his passion have finally connected.

One of Jonathan's favorite scriptures is 1 Peter 4:10: "Each one of should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (NIV). **UN**

## FORWARD! My Conscience is My Guide



**VICTOR KUBIK**  
 Ministerial and Member Services Director

"I must follow my conscience. It is my guide." It's an oft-repeated phrase that can sometimes be a cliché. People say it when they are determined to do what's good, but it can also be used incorrectly and end up causing harm, insult, division and antagonism.

What is this thing called "conscience"? A sense of conscience is one of the most significant separators between the man and the animal world. The word comes from two Latin words *scire* (to know) and *con* (with or together). The Greek word for conscience *suneidesis* is found more than 30 times in the New Testament and literally means "the self that knows with [or observes] itself." So a conscience is an awareness of what you are.

Conscience is formed as a result of the interaction of factors such as cultural and family values, traditions, education background, religion, upbringing, the influence of friends and peers, personal experience, etc. Consciences vary from culture to culture and age to age.

Paul writes about the gentiles: "When Gentiles who do not have the Law, do

instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them." (Romans 2:14-15 NASB).

The content of one's conscience boils down to what authority one consciously or unconsciously recognizes, whether it be friends, home, personal opinion or society. Conscience is not infallible and by itself it is not the source of right and wrong.

What one as a Christian needs to ask is whether the voice of conscience that speaks to us is of God and His truth. Will it hold us to the highest ethical standards? Will it result in good outcomes? Often people who act on conscience have hitched themselves with a flawed authority that results in less than desirable outcomes.

A proper conscience will help you make the changes necessary to be a true practicing Christian. One cannot truly repent and come to conversion without a conscience that will restrain one from sinful behavior. Hebrews says, "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the

transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:14-15, emphasis added).

With a clean conscience formed by Christ we can reach what God intends that we become. Our lives (conscientiousness) should be governed by Christ—"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

With this support we can truly move forward in all aspects of our lives. A conscience formed in this way is truly a guide by which to live. **UN**



Photo: photos.com



## Growing in Your Relationship with God

■ God expresses Himself sincerely to us about the kind of relationship He desires to have with us.

by Bill Bradford

If we took God literally for what He says in His Word, we might be surprised at what we would learn.

In this article I am asking that you evaluate your personal relationship with the God who created you and called you for His great purpose. If your relationship with God is as sound as the Bible indicates it can and should be, your life will change dramatically.

A closer walk with God is something we all want, but is elusive and maybe non-existent for reasons that I will discuss. When God enters your life, you will change. Nothing will remain the same. But you have to take God up on His offer of a relationship that is not only vital for you now, but a relationship God intends to be eternal.

Let's delve into a familiar verse and take God up on what he says. "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of my rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the Lord. But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:1-2).

This is a clear statement from God about whom He desires to have a meaningful relationship with. That is, to look favorably upon, take note of, have regard for. You can say that this is the one He will be with and dwell with. The Syriac version adds "in whom shall I dwell?" in answer to the question of verse one, "Where is the house that you will build me?" He says "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." But on this one will I look. You can also say this is a formula, that if followed, will have results far beyond our greatest expectation.

The people of Israel came to worship God at Jerusalem. They came three seasons in the year and brought the prescribed offerings. Those who lived in Jerusalem would come for their service in the morning and the evening. This is where God was represented to be for the people of Israel. Their worship was formal, institutionalized and prescribed. They would go to the temple or tabernacle to "come before the Lord," to be taught by the priests, bring their offering and have their sins atoned for. It was the place where God chose to "place His name."

Isaiah says this at a time when not only was Judah lax in their institutional worship, but even their revivals did not produce a permanent change in the individual—therefore the nation did not change. This is borne out no clearer than in the time of Jesus when there were those who were strict in their form, but certainly did

not produce the righteousness of God.

Now Isaiah says something that shakes everyone up. God will look upon the one (the individual) who is poor and of a contrite spirit and who trembles at His word. God created the universe, and there He dwells, but where He wants to be more than anywhere else is with the person and in the person who really longs to hear God and have God's involvement is his life. Earlier Isaiah proclaims, "For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy. 'I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones'" (Isaiah 57:15).

The writer of Hebrews says of Christ that He is "a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man" (Hebrews 8:2). This is the home of God and of Jesus Christ, in the one whom He chooses. "For you are the temple of the Living God. As God has said, 'I will dwell with in them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Growth and change in the individual will not occur except that God dwells with the individual and in the individual. This implies a deep and personal relationship where there is literally another mind, the mind of Christ in the mind of the individual. (Please review Don Ward's challenge to seek spiritual growth in the last issue of the *United News*. It's available online at [www.ucg.org/christian-living/council-choose-grow](http://www.ucg.org/christian-living/council-choose-grow)).

It is to the Laodiceans that Christ says He is knocking on the door, expecting to be invited in. It is the Laodicean mindset that says they are sufficient within themselves (rich and increased); that they don't see the need for the close and intimate relationship that Christ is seeking with them. He implores them: "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20). It is especially a close relationship when Jesus the Christ brings the food He shares with us. His bread, His Body, the deepest longings of our guest, are set on the Lord's table of spiritual abundance, from which we dine and are satisfied with the best our God has to offer. There can be no more sweet counsel than between the penitent and his Savior (Psalm 55:14).

When He dwells with us, we get to know Him. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). This is not merely to know *about* Him, but to know Him in a very close and personal way. We need to be comfortable with what He teaches us, be ready to hear Him, willing to repent and change and be led by Him. The resistance of the Laodiceans to Jesus' kind offer reveals a pride that prohibits this essential relationship.

We live in a time where we are "rich and increased with goods." We live in a world where the medical profession convinces us



*The real question we need to ask ourselves is, does Jesus Christ dwell with us and in us in a way that He revives us, He teaches us, He corrects us, He saves us?*

of their strides to find cures of whatever ails us, seeming to ignore the new diseases coming along for which they have no answer. Our supermarkets are full, our supply systems are adequate for all our needs (for now). In spite of global financial downturn, we in the Western world have everything we need. We have a military that can protect us and a police force that is backed up with the rule of law in stable countries. Does Christ's admonition to rely on him—give us this day our daily bread—hold a priority in our lives? Of course, the Laodicean mindset is referring to spiritual poverty. It's not good enough to hold a membership in the Church of God, or derive our spiritual benefit from the numerous websites with the unlimited Biblical information they contain. The real question we need to ask ourselves is, does Jesus Christ dwell with us and in us in a way that He revives us, He teaches us, He corrects us, He saves us.

Paul, given understanding through God's Spirit, describes the dominant and dangerous attitudes of the end of this age. "For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters [this is what the Laodiceans were doing], proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...from such people turn away" (2

Timothy 3:1-5). These prevailing attitudes would conspire to give us a false sense of self satisfaction that we don't need God in our lives. Consider, there was a time when people in general had no choice but to rely on God because they had not constructed for themselves as yet a secure and prosperous society. The truth is we need to have Christ and His mind dwelling in us more than ever!

"For what great nation is there that has God [the Creator of the Universe] so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him" (Deuteronomy 4:7). Is God so near that you are confident you can call upon him for whatever reason? "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble, therefore, we will not fear..." (Psalm 46:1-2). How far superior is our relationship with God than what the world presents us with?

How much do we need God to be a part of our lives? You need to answer that question honestly. Jesus will say to some people, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23).

For many, Facebook provides a very convenient way to update their friends about their lives. This shows a need for people to communicate and enjoy relationships. It's too bad God doesn't have a Facebook

page. If He did, we could easily include Him. Don't get me wrong—I think it's a nice way to keep up with your friends, wherever they may be.

But what would you think of updating God on your day, your feelings, your failures, your sins, your doubts, fears, temptations and struggles? Is there confession, openness and disclosure with God? Do you pray for your children, your family, members of the Body of Christ who need lifting up? We lavish kudos on our friends on Facebook, but do we praise and thank God as much one on one? When it comes to satisfying our deepest needs, can God compete with Facebook? We accept only our friends on Facebook, but is God shut out of our lives? I write because I am as genuinely concerned about your relationship with God as I am about my relationship with God. Our eternal life will depend on whether we know God and whether God knows us.

*How much do we need God to be a part of our lives? You need to answer that question honestly. Jesus will say to some people, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23).*

Let's define the terms of Isaiah 66:2:

1. "Poor and of a contrite spirit": The person doesn't think of himself as important. He doesn't think of himself that way either in his own estimation nor does he seek importance in the eyes of others. He

is broken and crushed by sin. He is unworthy of God's love but deeply grateful for it. He takes nothing for granted.

2. "Trembles at my word": It's possible God could ask, "If you are not listening to Me, why should I hear you?" Does God

have our attention through His Word? Do we really go to His Word in respect and worship Him? Trembling at His Word is more than casual reading or being exposed to it at Sabbath services. It means we accept God's Word as applicable to us personally. We examine ourselves against the clear expressions of His truth. Isaiah again urges: "Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6). The person who God recognizes genuinely searches for God's will and seeks truth at His mouth.

David was a person who simply believed God. He experienced the benefits of a relationship of trust and obedience. (See Psalm 103:1-5.)

Don't allow this age to distract you from the most important relationship you can have. Seek truth from God. Seek a relationship where He is present. Seek the deepest satisfaction from the relationship He offers His children. **UN**



## From THE WORD

# If I Could Walk on Water

■ A lesson in dealing effectively with problems can be found in the story of Peter walking on water.

by Amanda Boyer

The story of Peter walking on water towards Jesus Christ is one of the most famous stories in the Bible about faith. It all happened on a night when the sun had just gone down and the disciples had been sent to cross the Sea of Galilee by Jesus. He was to meet them on the other side, and when they reached about the middle of the sea, a strong wind and storm suddenly began. Jesus Christ had just come down from the mountain at the shoreline after praying to God, when He began walking towards the disciples on top of the water. Since the disciples were in the middle of the sea, he would have walked about four miles when he came near them. In fear of what was lying before their eyes, the disciples cried out at what they thought was a ghost. But Jesus Christ quickly responded to them in assurance that it was Him and that they had nothing to be afraid of.

Still unsure that what he was seeing and what he was hearing was true, Peter said to Christ, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And Jesus said to him, "Come."

So Peter stepped out of the boat being tossed by the waves and walked on the water towards Jesus. The threat of the waves all around him had soon become his main focus, and at the moment he began to fear, he started to sink. Peter cried out for help, and Christ immediately saved him and said, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:21-34).

In reflecting upon the question that Jesus Christ asked, our instructor of the harmony of the Gospels class at Ambassador Bible Center taught us a lesson to be drawn from this story that I will never forget. He said,

"We tend to spend a lot of time focusing on our problems and surroundings—and not the solutions" to those problems. He continued his lecture with an illustration of a two-step principle that we can apply in our lives to help us grow and develop in our faith today when we are faced with problems and difficult times. Sometimes there are solutions within our own reach, but there are also times that looking to Jesus Christ in faith is the only thing we can do. The principle he outlined helps determine how best to move forward.

### Identify the Problem

Using a one-hour time block as an example to illustrate the principle, the first thing to do is to spend five to 10 minutes to stop and deeply think about and identify what the difficulty we are facing is. This is a necessary step to take to examine ourselves and see where we let avoidance, excuses and fear stand in the way of improving the situation and ourselves. It is also necessary for clearly identifying and determining the entirety of the issue and its complexities.

I find that the best way for me to do this is to sit down and write—especially when I am not really sure why I feel distressed. I start by asking myself a series of questions. Then I answer them as truthfully as possible. Questions such as: What has happened? How does it make me feel and what is my attitude? What am I thinking? What did I say? How did I react and treat others, and how did they react to me?

After doing this exercise, I set my paper aside and pray to God. In my prayer I share with God where I am and humbly ask Him to show me where I can find answers.

### Focus on the Solution

For the next 50-55 minutes, spend time exploring possible solutions and weighing them against the problem. This carries the mind from negative thinking to positive thinking on how to improve the situation and move forward, instead of dwelling on what is past.



Photo: photos.com

I find what Isaiah wrote to be a sobering yet comforting reminder about God. It says, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways...as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways" (Isaiah 55:8-9). As I meditate on this, I am filled with awe of how much greater God is than I am. He has the right perspective, and He is so much greater than anything I am going through.

So I open my Bible.

I turn my paper over and start to ask the questions I asked myself before, but this time I let God show me how He sees what happened through His eyes. For example, I ask questions such as: What does God think and have to say about the situation I'm in at this moment? How does it make Him feel? How does He want me to act or respond? I also ask Him to give me discernment to understand what I can do and what I cannot do, as well as the courage to accept it if the only thing I can do on my part is have faith in Him as He works with the situation. If

I'm honest and have patience, He answers. And He always gives me the real solutions.

Often, when we read the story of Peter walking on water, the problem that Peter had in his lack of faith is our focus. But that was not the resolution to His troubles—or the end of the story. After Jesus Christ's lesson about faith, He and Peter returned to the boat where the other disciples had been watching this miraculous and incredible series of events unfold. When they stepped into the boat, the winds stopped and "those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God'" (Matthew 14:33)! Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Rock on whom we place our faith, was the solution to Peter's problem all along.

In unsettling times of troubles and difficulties—when the storms of life surround you—keep your eyes on Jesus Christ. Let Him show you the solutions and continue to walk on the water towards Him in faith.

*Amanda Boyer is a current ABC student and intern at the home office.*

# Announcements



**Joseph Russell Hughes**

## Births

Cort and Vanesa Hughes of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, congregation, are happy to announce the birth of their second child, **Joseph Russell Hughes**. He was born on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, at about 6:30 p.m., measuring 20 inches and weighing in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Mom, Dad, and big brother David are thrilled to have this new addition to the family.

## Weddings

On Sept. 25, 2011, a celebration of love and marriage took place on the McKinney angus farm, a four-generation family farm nestled along the Ohio River Valley in Vanceburg, Kentucky. **Cindy McKinney**, daughter of Thomas and Wanda McKinney, and **Joseph Gatlin**, son of Nathan and Denise Gatlin of Tucson, Arizona, promised to accept the sacred marriage covenant and began their new life together.

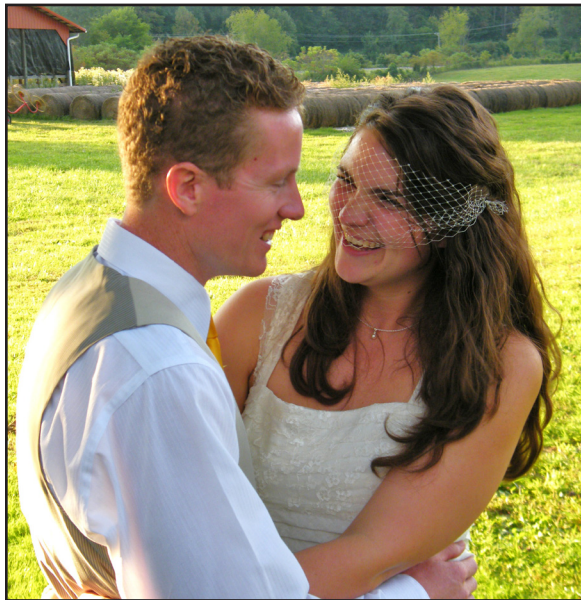
Warm sunshine, clear blue sky, lush green fields and around 180 guests perched on hay bales were the scene of this particular wedding ceremony. The wedding celebration was topped off with a “down home” country style dinner reception; including grilled chicken with potluck style sides, glass bottle soda, apple pie and—of course—country music.

The newlyweds met at Camp Hye Sierra in 2009, and in January 2011, on top of Mount Lemmon in Tucson, Arizona, Joseph asked Cindy to marry him. Happily ending their long distance relationship on their wedding day, the couple now resides in Tucson. They look forward to building their new life and home together—internally by their love of each other, under the covering of Almighty God, and surrounded by their family and friends.

## Obituaries

**Billy (Bill) Lee Bryan**, 81, of rural Elizabethtown, Illinois, died Aug. 26, 2011, in Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

Bill was born in Rosiclare, Illinois, on Oct. 2, 1929, to David and Sylvia (Davis) Bryan.



**Joseph and Cindy Gatlin**

Bill is survived by his wife, Alice (Spear) Bryan; three children, Leah (Roger) Schmidgall of Normal, Illinois; Joel (Mary) Bryan of Colo, Iowa; and Mary Banwart of Albuquerque, New Mexico; 10 grand children, 19 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Bill was preceded in death by his parents, David and Sylvia Bryan; his brother, Bob Bryan of Jackson, Kentucky; one grandson and one great-granddaughter.

Bill worked for Ozark Mahoning Mining Company as a maintenance electrician for over 40 years.

Bill was baptized into God's Church by Bob Steep on Aug. 17, 1963. Over the years, he served as a greeter, song leader and speaker, giving sermonettes. He also kept the tape and video library for the congregation and published a weekly report. In 1996, he was ordained a deacon by Roger West. Bill attended the Paducah, Kentucky, congregation of the United Church of God.

Mr. Bryan was a man of character and integrity. He lived according to his conscience, doing what he knew to be right, whether or not it was convenient or profitable. He was always willing to help others, and he served as was needed, sharing his knowledge and abilities. He lived his life with joy, greeting everyone with a big smile or a hug. He loved music, especially big band and four-part harmony. His children and grandchildren have been left a great legacy to honor and cherish. We all sorely

miss him and look forward to the resurrection and reunion with him in God's family and Kingdom.

**Mrs. Verline Jantzen** died on Dec. 19, 2011, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, after slipping into a peaceful sleep. She lived a long life faithfully serving God, His Church people and her family up until her death. Verline married Alvin Ray Jantzen on May 10, 1946. They were baptized by Herbert Armstrong in the summer of 1952 at Big Sandy, Texas. Ray Jantzen was ordained a minister in 1960, and he and Verline lived in Kansas, California and Colorado, where they served the churches in those areas during their 40+ years together.

Since Ray's death in 1987, Verline ran the family cattle ranch-farm in Springfield, Colorado. She lived in Springfield from 1974 until her stroke just before the Feast this year.

Verline has three children: Kay and her husband Randy Schreiber live in Phoenix, Arizona; Loma Fowler and her husband Jeffrey live in Parker, Colorado; and Larry Jantzen from Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her grandchildren are: Brandy Klobuchar, Jennifer Lorhammer; Ida Amanda Seiferd; Benjamin Jantzen, and Ariel Jantzen. Additionally, Verline has three great-grandchildren: Kyle, Blake and Marlea. Verline had many friends and made a difference in many people's lives. We await the soon coming resurrection and seeing her and Ray alive again. She will be greatly missed!

**Helga Schneider Oxley** of Lafayette, Indiana, died on Nov. 23, 2011, after a brief hospitalization. She was 82.

Known by most as Mrs. Schneider or Helga, she was a member of the United Church of God in Lafayette. She was baptized in 1990 and was a member of the Worldwide Church of God until 1995, when she started attending United. She was a staunch believer in God's truth.

Born in Germany on Oct. 7, 1929, she was a youth in the midst of World War 2. Helga endured many trials, including hunger, air raids and bombings during the war. In an interview at a Family Christian Club, Helga explained that while her mother and siblings hid in the bunkers during Allied

air attacks, Helga braved the dangers and stayed in their home, sensing she was protected from harm. During those traumatic times, it was she who was responsible for going out to find food for the family.

Helga immigrated to the United States and to Lafayette in 1965, where she met and married Gene Oxley. He preceded her in death April 1, 2006. She is survived by two stepdaughters, Patti Criswell (Dan) and Bonnie Randall (Rick), all of Fort Wayne, Indiana. A sister Marga Vormann of Germany also survives.

She labored in prayers for brethren in their trials and was vitally interested in current events and watching prophecy being fulfilled. Every day she telephoned Gwen Holfelder, her dear friend and sister in the faith, to ensure she was OK. If there was any doubt, Helga would call Betsy Jones, her friend's daughter and also a dear friend, to alert her. Such a call may have proved to be a lifesaver to Mrs. Holfelder recently, for which her family is thankful.

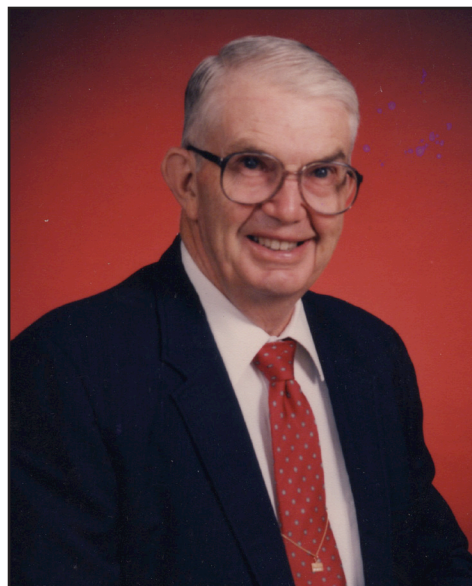
Helga will be missed by her friends in the Lafayette congregation, where she was a strong presence. She attended Sabbath services regularly, driving herself to church most weeks until very recently when her car permanently died.

A memorial tribute to Helga was officiated by her pastor Michael Grovak on Jan. 7 after Sabbath services. The tribute can be heard by going to <http://lafayette.ugc.org>.

**Hilda Mae Ray**, 93, of Mayfield, Kentucky, died Friday, Aug. 12, 2011, at her residence. She is survived by two sons, James C. Ray (Nancy Ann) of Franklin, Indiana, and Myron C. Ray (Nancy C.) of Mayfield, Kentucky; one daughter, Shira Elizabeth Hamilton (Rod) of Evergreen, Colorado; 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Jack Pryor Ray; a daughter, Myrna L. Walden; two brothers; three sisters; one foster sister; a grandson, Ancon Walden; her parents, Jim and Vernie Kimbell; her foster parents, Henry and Jennie Roper.

Mrs. Ray was baptized on June 26, 1961, and attended the Paducah, Kentucky, congregation located in Lone Oak. She served as a deaconess for many years and was a mainstay in the congregation. Her cheerful and positive disposition is sorely missed, and we look forward to the resurrection and reunion with her in God's Kingdom.



**Billy Bryan**



**Helga Schneider**



**Hilda Mae Ray**

**Franklin O. Speck**, faithful member of the East Texas congregation, died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 71 on Dec. 10, 2011. He was born on Nov. 28, 1940, in Des Moines, Iowa, and was one of nine children. He grew up in the Ozarks and had the job of starting the fire to warm the house for the family. He awoke very early to accomplish this chore, and arising early became a habit he kept all his life. Most mornings Frank rose at 2 a.m. to pray, study and write down his thoughts on God's Word.

Frank worked as a prison guard for nine years at the Missouri State Prison and was injured in a riot. He was forced to give up this job, after which he went on to become a master custodian. His first wife, Jaul, died in 1995 after 38 years of marriage. Frank was a widower for seven years before mar-

rying Teresa Ruddell in 2002. In addition to Teresa he is survived by five daughters: Joyce Gelina, Sandy Dodges, June Bates, Frankie Speck and Marla Austin; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Frank was called to God's truth in 1985, and he was a man who humbly served God. He was optimistic, and he was always happy to hear from you. Frank had a shy little smile that perpetually graced his face. Yet there was a serious side to him as well, reflected in his many poems and writings.

He was a gentle, tenderhearted man who had a special love for animals. He and Teresa had five dogs, and he had three roosters and 11 hens that he called by name.

A memorial service and potluck were held at the United Church of God church hall in Big Sandy on Dec. 18, 2011, with

Donald Ward officiating. The inside cover of the program included a song Frank wrote three weeks before his death. It is entitled "Our Invincible God" and includes the following words in the chorus:

"With shouts of joy we'll be singing  
A trump will awake those beneath the sod  
To that eternal city CHRIST will be bringing  
The chosen elect to our great INVINCIBLE God."

**Dan Verble** died on Oct. 20, 2011, on the Eighth Day of the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles, at the age of 95. He was born in Dongola, Illinois, on Nov. 12, 1915, to John and Elizabeth Verble. Mr. Verble is survived by his wife, Helen Verble; one daughter, Dr. Diann (Jay) Bischof of Pacific, Missouri; one grandson, Eric (Cate) Bischof of Ballwin, Missouri; and one great-grandson, Dylan Bischof. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; one brother, Marion, and one sister, Rosella DeWiese.

Mr. and Mrs. Verble were baptized in 1962. At the time, and until approximately one year before his death, they lived with their daughter in Anna, Illinois. They started attending in St. Louis, and later in the Harrisburg, Illinois, and Cape Girardeau, Missouri, churches. In reaction to the sweeping doctrinal changes in 1995, Mr. Verble's response was swift and decisive, insightfully interpreting the scriptures and helping many in that congregation to come through that time. He truly was a faithful Christian with an ever-present smile and a long, rock solid presence in the Church of God.

Mr. Verble worked as an agricultural

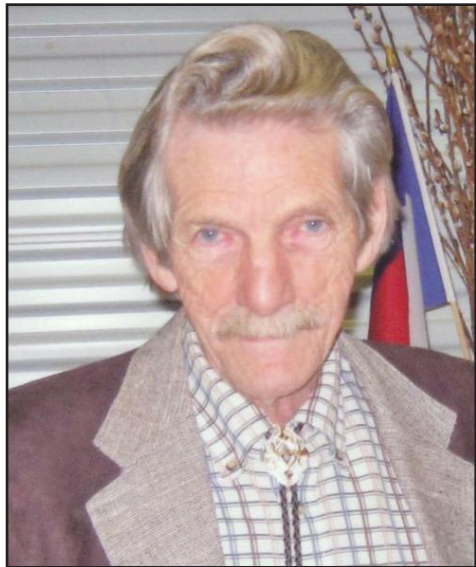
products salesman. He worked for and retired from Virgortone Ag Products, Inc.

In the late 1930s, Dan, his brother Marion and three neighbors formed a five-piece band, the Roving Ranch Hands, that played at local events in Southern Illinois. After he returned from serving in the U.S. Army during World War 2, Mr. Verble taught himself to read and compose music, which resulted in several pieces of published material. In 1945 two sisters, Mary Edith and Helen Fisher joined the Roving Ranch Hands Band. Mr. Verble and Helen Fisher were married June 15, 1946.

Mr. Verble was also an avid gardener, which he was directly involved in the process of with his daughter up until the very last year of his life.

Carl Hoffman, an elder in the Cape Girardeau congregation, conducted the funeral, and Rick Beam, pastor of the Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Paducah and Henderson, Kentucky, churches gave the eulogy on Oct. 24, 2011. Interment, with full military honors, was at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis.

**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*.



**Franklin Speck**



**Dan Verble**



## Local Church UPDATES



**Robin Webber and the members** who have been in Bakersfield since the beginning.

### Bakersfield, California: "Fifty Years in Faith"

On Dec. 10, 2011, the Bakersfield, California, congregation marked 50 years since the first Sabbath service in October 1961. Among the attendees were Dudley and Louise Trone from the Sacramento congregation. Louise was baptized in the Kern River in Bakersfield in 1958, three years before the local congregation held its first meeting. Her husband, Dudley, was baptized in January 1962. Also pres-

ent were son, Dirk, and local member Dan Bates, who both attended the first service as young boys.

Elder Frank Fish mentioned in the sermonette the numerous Bakersfield brethren who have died in the faith over these many years. Hebrews 12:1-2 was read: "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." Encouragement was also found in remembering those who will one



**The Charlotte, North Carolina, improvised one Sabbath** when their normal hall had no electricity by conducting services outside.

(Bates) Hambleton was amplified over the speaker system so all could interact. The Hambletons lived in Bakersfield for many years and are currently in Gold Coast, Australia. After dinner, long-time pastor Camilo Reyes read greetings from those who could not attend.

The evening was concluded with a nostalgic slide show spanning the past half century.

*Debbie J. Bates*

### Special Sabbath in Charlotte, North Carolina

The apostle Paul preached to the Athenians from Mars Hill. Our associate pastor, Scott Hoefker, preached a very inspiring sermon on intercessory prayer from the outdoor walkway of University Meadows School for our Sabbath, Sept. 3, here in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Our custodian had arrived, and our set-up crew was eagerly awaiting the "OK" to enter the building and begin setting up our meeting room for services. She came to the door instead to tell us, "We have no air, no lights, only emergency lights inside," due to a thunderstorm Friday night. We were more than willing to meet in the building without air conditioning (having already

done so many times before) and with only emergency lights, which were adequate. However, after consultations between church and school contacts it was approved for us instead to meet outside the building. More members were arriving, and things can quickly get done when lots of “worker ants” get together, committed to having Sabbath services! Each one went into our meeting hall to bring folding chairs, the podium, tables, flowers, song books, etc., and set up rows, two chairs wide, from one end of the covered walkway to the school entrance for about 50 brethren. After a prayer of thanks for having our own meeting place, song service began with no piano, but with our a capella experienced deacon, Larry Powers, leading our singing. It was on tune and heartily sung!

Mr. Hoefker gave a stirring sermon on standing with our brethren in need through intercessory prayer, beginning from Paul’s being left alone and abandoned at the end of his life (2 Timothy 4:9-16). Also very touching was 1 Samuel 12:23: “God forbid I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you...” A strong motivation to be faithful in intercessory prayer! With no amplification, his strong voice carried to those towards the rear.

It was interesting, outside, to see the cars “running to and fro,” oblivious to the precious Word of God being taught from the walkway of a local school.

Several years ago the Charlotte congregation had to quickly regroup for Sabbath services at the Harrisburg Park in a covered picnic shelter on another hot summer day when no custodian showed up. This time

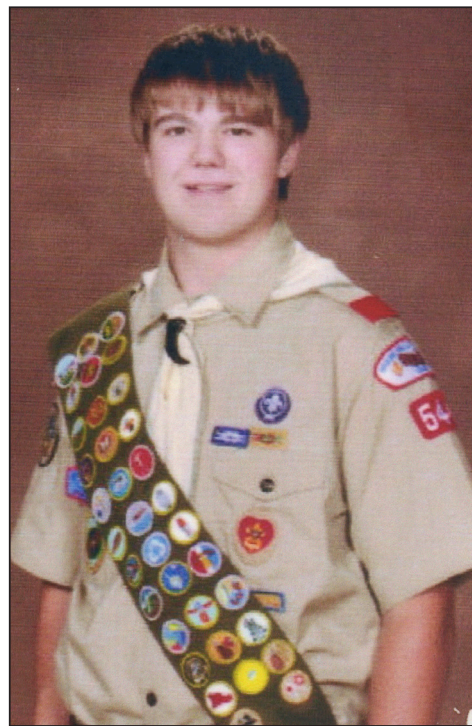
we were so thankful for the cloudy morning. Our final hymn, “Thank You Lord For Your Blessings,” was sung with gusto and thanksgiving for a very special Sabbath service on a cloudy morning following a summer of brutal temperatures. Following our refreshments and fellowship, the sun came out as we were beginning to leave.

Betty D. Bost

## Dayton, Ohio, Member Earns Eagle Scout

Gregory Joseph, who attends the Dayton, Ohio, congregation, has achieved his Eagle Scout rank for Boy Scouts. Gregory is the son of Brian and Angela Joseph of Troy, Ohio, and the grandson of Bill and Patty Bratt of Portsmouth, Ohio, and Larry and Bobbie Joseph of Dansville, Michigan. Gregory joined scouts as a Tiger Cub when he was 5 years old. He crossed over to Boy Scouts at age 11 and moved up the ranks: Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle. He has earned 38 merit badges, held a variety of leadership positions in the troop and has achieved extra honors including: Camper, Woodsman, Firecrafter, Order of the Arrow, Brotherhood and now Eagle. He went to summer camps in Ohio and Indiana, Bearclaw, the 100th Year Jamboree in West Virginia and was a teen leader for NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training).

There are only about two percent of



**Eagle Scout Gregory Joseph** of the Dayton, Ohio, congregation.

scouts who make it to the Eagle rank. Before the Eagle rank can be achieved, a Life Scout must plan, develop and lead others in a service project helpful to the community, a school or religious institution. The scoutmaster, troop committee, and the council must approve the project before the scout can begin.

Gregory chose to do a project for children. He collected small toys and books

for the children at the Dayton Children’s Medical Center. The goal was for each child having to stay at the hospital to have at least one toy and book. The community and a few church congregations joined the endeavor and contributed over 400 toys and books. The Boy Scout troop made cards and personally delivered the gifts and visited the children in their hospital rooms.

Gregory said, “I want each of the children at the Dayton Children’s Medical Center to get well, be able to go home and have a good life. I also feel good knowing that my community, my troop and I helped put a smile on the faces of some very special children in the world.” This was a rewarding experience, which allowed the scouts to get out of their comfort zone while serving others.

Gregory plans to remain active in his troop and has already been asked to serve as an assistant scoutmaster.

Angie Joseph

**Local Church Updates:** Send us news and events from your local congregation! Check with your pastor and have him forward what you write. We’re looking for 100- to 300-word articles and 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*.

# Financial Audit Results for 2010-2011 Released

*From the Treasurer*

Dear Brethren,

We are pleased once again to have an independent audit that gives us an unbiased opinion of our operations. This administration desires transparency, so for the first time the entire audit, including footnotes, is featured.

To say this was a challenging year needing complete reliance on God is most certainly an understatement.

The numbers speak for themselves as to God blessing our efforts to serve him in “Preaching the Gospel and Preparing a People.” The auditors, when interviewing the management team, commented that they had never seen an entity go through what we did with the recent defections from the church and not face severe cutbacks. Instead we continued our mission and seemed to thrive and become more unified as a body.

God always tests our conviction to him. Things that happen are not random acts by God. He knows what he is doing. We believed Matthew 6:25-33 and showed him our trust and did not become anxious, and He has blessed us for that faith.

I have always noticed that when people of God become corporation first and church second we have problems. That has happened many times and leads to humans trying to create human solutions. Finances may be tangible, but they are just as much part of God’s business as is any other part of the work. It doesn’t work by human reason, but by GOD’s direction. There are no human degrees of higher learning that can create what only God can do.

We will continue to put God first and us second no matter what difficulties face us. Our statements show we are using His money to DO HIS WORK in fulfilling the mission statement properly and in order.

In that unity that even our auditors noticed, despite our losses, which were significant, we proceeded. I thank God for all those who have risen to the occasion, filled the gaps and helped further our commission as reflected in these statements. Thank you for your many prayers and sacrifices. You are all, indeed, fellow laborers with us in this work.

In Christ’s Service,  
Aaron Dean, Treasurer UCGIA



### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT

Council of Elders  
United Church of God, an *International Association*:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of United Church of God, an *International Association* (a not-for-profit organization) as of June 30, 2011 and 2010, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Church’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United Church of God, an *International Association* as of June 30, 2011 and 2010, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The Schedules of Functional Expenses on pages 11 and 12 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

*Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.*

Cincinnati, Ohio  
January 12, 2012

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Continued from previous page

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association  
Schedule of Functional Expenses  
Year Ended June 30, 2011

	Program Services				Management and General		Totals
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 4,577,679	615,901	-	1,406,978	1,308,727	-	7,909,285
Contracted services and fees	48,555	5,826	-	136,161	204,885	9,231	404,658
Broadcast media and advertising	-	-	-	844,549	-	-	844,549
Print media and advertising	5,859	30,397	-	16,435	2,390	-	899,630
Postage and shipping	32,413	6,356	-	840,149	31,858	2,733	913,509
Building and equipment lease/rental	4,568	147,439	-	11,973	9,872	806	174,658
Telephone and utilities	55,499	338	-	5,379	104,598	-	165,814
Supplies	75,191	38,907	-	46,757	67,797	3,097	231,749
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	963,063	10,528	4,955	25,045	110,614	50,274	1,164,479
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	199,002	-	199,002
Grants and charitable support:							
International support	-	6,876	1,833,151	939,370	1,501	-	2,780,898
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	919,614	202,397	-	-	1,500	-	1,123,511
Allocations to local congregations	1,426,924	-	-	-	-	-	1,426,924
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	2,467,431	-	2,467,431
Other	47,218	18,002	-	729	30,265	594	96,808
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,156,583</b>	<b>1,082,967</b>	<b>1,838,106</b>	<b>5,101,734</b>	<b>4,554,485</b>	<b>69,125</b>	<b>20,803,000</b>

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UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association  
Schedule of Functional Expenses  
Year Ended June 30, 2010

	Program Services				Management and General		Totals
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Congregations	Festivals	International	Public Proclamation	Council of Elders/ Home Office/Insurance & Benefit Plans	General Conference	
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 5,529,106	633,489	-	1,408,732	1,326,006	-	8,897,333
Contracted services and fees	30,753	2,798	-	254,137	202,729	6,753	497,170
Broadcast media and advertising	-	-	-	615,038	-	-	615,038
Print media and advertising	13,661	21,094	-	1,063,356	20,498	3,526	1,122,135
Postage and shipping	25,719	11,975	-	1,006,217	6,562	2,461	1,052,934
Building and equipment lease/rental	6,981	146,443	-	13,095	12,196	339	179,054
Telephone and utilities	74,282	920	-	6,258	124,465	-	205,925
Supplies	73,333	19,528	-	42,483	63,540	3,543	202,427
Travel, mileage, meals, and lodging	1,246,100	90,932	-	44,114	138,013	31,591	1,550,750
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	214,892	-	214,892
Grants and charitable support:							
International support	5,832	1,202	2,424,914	907,106	439	-	3,399,493
Domestic support:							
Assistance to the needy	1,013,682	183,127	-	-	-	-	1,196,809
Allocations to local congregations	1,785,430	-	-	-	-	-	1,785,430
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	-	2,802,525	-	2,802,525
Other	72,898	6,278	-	7,753	30,146	2,127	119,202
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,877,777</b>	<b>1,117,786</b>	<b>2,424,914</b>	<b>5,368,289</b>	<b>4,942,011</b>	<b>50,340</b>	<b>23,781,117</b>

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Continued from "UCGIA Treasurer"

for members both in Asia and for foreign visitors. While airfares may be high, the rest of the Feast could probably be done for less than \$1,000, including the airfare from Bangkok to Chiang Mai, which is a much more pleasant and pastoral part of Thailand.

Finishing his meetings in Thailand, Mr. Dean flew to Manila on the Island of Luzon and joined senior pastor Earl Roemer and his wife Carole. On Friday they flew to Davao, located on the southern side of Mindanao, and Mr. Dean spoke to about 100 members in Davao on the Sabbath.

The Philippines has about 600 members scattered on various islands served by eight elders and Earl Roemer. UCGIA wants more involvement with our regional

pastors in all areas of the world. Because most of the Filipino people speak English, it was easiest to begin discussing issues in how to best help and support them in preaching the gospel and preparing a people.

The Philippine UCG board meeting was called to order Sunday morning, Jan. 8. Mr. Dean addressed the manner in which many assets were not securely tied to UCGIA and the many ethical breaches by those leaving. The president and the Council of Elders of UCGIA do not wish to take control of the many physical aspects of international areas, but does wish to assist them. However since most areas are heavily subsidized by UCGIA, it is imperative that assets be protected for the use of those wishing to remain in association with us. He asked that they look over a document that was given to them prior to the meeting.

Larry Darden of the UCGIA legal office had written up a sample constitution and bylaws that are hoped to be a template for other countries. This template is designed to more securely prevent anyone who might wish to leave UCG from taking property, bank accounts and other assets paid by UCGIA subsidy for members wishing to attend and associate with UCGIA. Unfortunately, recent events have seen over a million dollars worth of UCGIA's assets taken across the globe, leaving UCG having to go to the courts to prove and obtain legal title to many of these assets.

The Philippine board will look at their current documents and add whatever is legally necessary to the template and refile the new legal documents when they are accepted. Mr. Dean noted to them that the current documents specifically required that the constitution would have

to be rewritten if they decided something as simple as moving the home office location. He advised they give a little more flexibility to themselves in the new documents.

On Monday, Jan. 11, Mr. Dean toured the church office in Davao. The Philippine office takes care of all the mailings to the Philippines and much of the rest of Southeast Asia, along with help from the Australian office. Although small, the local direction of longtime elder Edmond Macaraeg, a small office staff and further support from senior pastor Earl Roemer, does an incredible amount of work for the operation.

Please pray that God continues to bless UCGIA so that it can further help the many brethren, not only in the Philippines, but all over the world as we look to God and Jesus Christ in doing the work they would have us do at this end time. **UN**

# news

## AT A GLANCE

Continued from Page 1

### 13th Annual Southeast Regional Prom Planned for March 31, 2012

The Nashville and Murfreesboro, Tennessee, UCG congregations invite everyone aged 12 to 25 (young married couples, too!) to the 13th Annual Southeast Regional Prom on March 31, 2012. The event will be held at the Park Place Events Centre in Murfreesboro.

Come and enjoy this special event with other young people who share the same beliefs.

The dance is formal/semiformal and lasts from 8 p.m. to midnight. Parents and chaperones are welcome to attend the dance as well at no charge. Light snacks,

sweets and beverages will be available at no additional charge. Registration price is \$20 per participant (max. \$40 per family). Registration deadline is March 10, 2012. After March 10 and at the door on the night of the event, the price is \$25 per participant (max. \$50 per family)

We will be collecting senior bios and pictures to share during the dance. We are also looking for teens to perform special music at Sabbath services.

Sabbath services are at 2:00 p.m. at the Park Place Events Centre.

For more information, please visit [www.SoutheastRegionalProm.com](http://www.SoutheastRegionalProm.com).

*Lisa Ware*

### Philadelphia Church to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, congregation will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on the Sabbath of March 24, 2012. All past members and ministers are welcome to

join us for Sabbath services, followed by a pot luck dinner and evening social. All activities will take place at the Quality Inn & Conference Center, 531 Route 38 West, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. If interested in attending, or for questions, please contact Les Cheesman at [Lcheesman@comcast.net](mailto:Lcheesman@comcast.net) or call 856-383-7710.

*Don McCoy*

### Arizona Women's Weekend Planned for April 27-29, 2012

Ladies, you are invited to "save the date" for an upcoming Arizona Women's Weekend in 2012. The theme for the weekend is "A Woman's High Calling—A Review of Titus 2:3-5."

The cost is \$125 per person (includes two nights lodging, five meals, snacks and the activities). If you'd like to volunteer, we need planning team members, session speakers, specific activity directors, a nurse, office staff and cabin

monitors.

This women's weekend will be designed so that you have opportunities to have fun, eat meals together in the dining hall, stay in cabins with "new" friends, experience activities together (Christian living classes, team building activities, easy hike/walk, Frisbee golf, maybe swimming, etc.), enjoy Saturday night fire pit skits or songs, receive biblical instruction from our local pastor, attend Church services combined with Northern Arizona congregation, build stronger relationships with your sisters in Christ and have opportunities to deepen your relationship with God.

Make plans to attend and start saving now! The location will be at the United Christian Youth Camp, 1400 Paradise Valley Rd., Prescott, AZ 86303.

Payment (\$125) can be sent to: UCG-Phoenix  
P.O. Box 5806  
Peoria, AZ 85385

If you have questions, please contact Kay Schreiber by phone at 480-513-6085 or [azkays@hotmail.com](mailto:azkays@hotmail.com).

*Kay Schreiber*

# Ulyc 2011

## Winter Camp East Troy, Wisconsin

by Randy Stiver

Locating a new camp facility topped the list of blessings for Winter Camp 2011. The camp director team of Randy Stiver and Dan Dowd searched Wisconsin for a facility to replace the one the camp program had used for four years. After extensive Internet searches and camp tours, the excellent facilities of Camp Timber-lee near East Troy, Wisconsin, were contracted in late summer.

After the usual hurry and scurry of camp preparations and applications, 57 campers, 38 staff members and a half dozen junior (pre-teen) campers prepared to experience the new camp on Tuesday, Dec. 27! The number of campers was exactly within the historical Winter Camp ballpark when there is overlap with the Winter Family Weekend. Most campers were from the Midwest region, but a good number were from distant areas including the Northwest, New England and several states in the South.

The open-beamed, rough-sawn, vaulted ceiling and extensive wood paneling of the dining room provided an inspiring setting for all the Christian living classes, camp dance, bunko party and Sabbath services—in addition to providing the setting for the amazingly delicious meals expertly prepared by the Timber-lee cook staff. An added plus was the front wall of windows that overlooked 60-acre Peters Lake down the hill from camp.

Winter Camp's challenge was *winter*—except for one inch on check-out morning, we had none of Wisconsin's usual amount of snow! Thus the blessing of camp required

flexibility. Cross-country skiing turned into high-speed hiking around the 650 acre camp. Tubing became creative outdoor games, and broomball switched to a new event of bank basketball. Winter campers are good sports, and they jumped enthusiastically into the alternate and new activities. Team building, arts and crafts, dance and music went very well. A welcomed and special feature at the end-of-camp dance was the addition of several group dances including the Virginia Reel and Winter Camp Wheel taught during dance class. These dances involve extensive participation and require dancers to work as a team, thus learning to serve each other even while dancing.

The *piece de resistance* of camp however was the spiritual instruction. The 2011 camp theme "A World Away from the World" was addressed from several angles in the morning compass checks, evening Christian living classes and in the Bible seminars and sermon on the Sabbath. The most noted lesson that campers took home was that God is calling *them* now—today (1 Corinthians 7:14). Twin sermonettes at services delivered by Brett Diggins and Josh Lamoureux (ABC student body presidents for the classes of 2011 and 2012) positively impressed all listeners with both spiritual lessons and the value of the Ambassador Bible Center training.

Winter Camp 2011 ended with a little winter, safe journeys home and eager anticipation of enjoying this new camp location in Wisconsin next winter—perhaps with more snow!



Photos: ReNae Wernli Shaw and Thomas Greider

# Ghana Aburi Botanical Garden

by Henry Aikins

There were 29 campers and staff who participated in Ghana's maiden youth camp from Dec. 25, 2011, through Jan. 1, 2012. The camp was at the serene and pristine Aburi Botanical Garden, some 34 miles east of the capital, Accra. Participants came from Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana. Originally planned as a local family weekend

camp out, logistical constraints brought a necessary shifting focus on holding the event for the local youth only. Eventually, God opened doors and blessed us with enough resources to be able to have significant international participation.

Days started and ended with a compass check and Christian living classes where campers and staff took a closer look at God's Word and how to apply it in governing all

aspects of their lives. In addition, sports such as cycling, kickball, volleyball and crafts such as basketry and beads-making were taught to equip campers with income-generating skills.

New friends were made, as well as a bond of unity with different people of like minds that made going back to our various destinations at the close of camp, much harder. It was a very blessed camp.



Photos: Henry Aikins

# What's New In MEDIA?

## ■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Tithing: God's Financial Key to Success</i>	Darris McNeely	February 4-11
<i>The Power of the Word</i>	Steve Myers	February 12-18
<i>The Stuff of Dreams</i>	Gary Petty	February 19-25
<i>America: On the Hinge of History</i>	Darris McNeely	February 26-March 3

## ■ UCG Web Presence Expands

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

- 41,157 total Facebook fans.
- 22,890 total Twitter followers.
- 727 videos posted on YouTube.
- 1,895,165 video views on YouTube.
- 206 Bible FAQs posted.
- 287,010 Bible FAQs views.
- 507 e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, *GN* Newsletter, *WNP* E-news) sent.
- 689,055 clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 142,328 booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.
- 4,749 booklet downloads from Amazon's Kindle Store.

## ■ Virtual Christian Magazine

*Virtual Christian Magazine's* mission statement is "Hope and Encouragement for the Real World. An on-line magazine of practical Christian living and inspiration for the 21st Century." This online-only publication is a place where Christians can read stories of how God dwells with and interacts with people.

Accounts of faith's power, love's bond and hope's anchor fill this magazine. Practical solutions to life's challenges are discussed along with stories about how God has intervened, encouraged or helped us overcome. *VCM's* goal is to include as many first-person true-life stories as possible to inspire and

motivate someone to overcome life's difficulties and offer suggestions about how to live a life centered around Jesus Christ.

The members and ministry of United Church of God are encouraged to submit articles for the magazine and may contact the editor at [vcm@ucg.org](mailto:vcm@ucg.org).

## Featured Link

### ■ Snow—<http://tinyurl.com/ucg-snow>

We all get dirt on our heart and mind with the things we have done. Only through God's amazing work can we become as white as snow!



Snow

# UNITED NEWS

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

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 18-20:** 2nd Annual Great Lakes Teen Weekend, Lansing, Michigan
- February 27-March 1:** Council of Elders Meetings
- March 2-4:** 15th Families for God Weekend, Twin Cities, Minnesota
- March 2-3:** Annual Family Dance Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio
- March 16-18, 2012:** Women's Enrichment Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio
- March 31:** 13th Annual Southeast Regional Prom, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, [www.SoutheastRegionalProm.com](http://www.SoutheastRegionalProm.com)
- April 28:** Annual Midwest Teen Prom, Columbus, Ohio, [www.midwestteenprom.com](http://www.midwestteenprom.com)

## SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PROM

The Nashville and Murfreesboro UCG congregations invite all teens 12 to 25 (young married couples, too!) to the 13th Annual Southeast Regional Prom on March 31, 2012. The event will be held at the Park Place Events Centre in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

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## UNITED STATISTICS

### Beyond Today Responses

Monthly Totals, January 2011-January 2012.

Includes phone, Website, Yahoo ads, Google ads and "snail mail" responses

