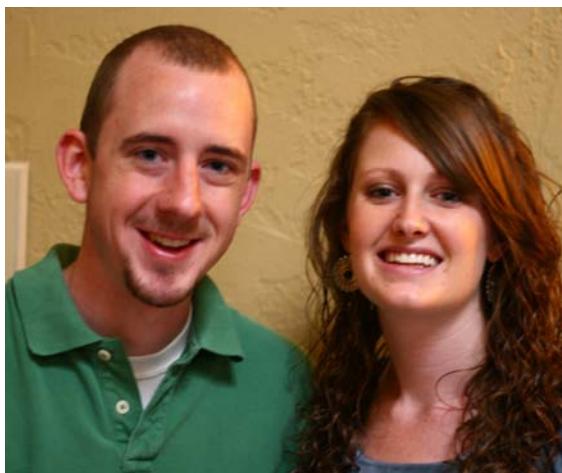
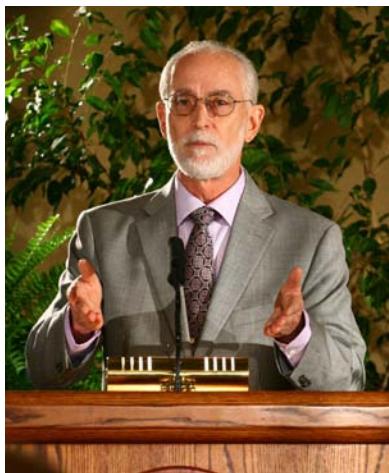




“Transforming Lives”



Clockwise from top left: Mark Mickelson giving the keynote speech; Jan Segall and Amanda Stiver; Tim Pebworth giving an update on French-speaking areas of the world; home office employees Aaron and Whitney Creech, who served at the information table.

by Mitchell Moss

Cincinnati, Ohio—The annual General Conference of Elders, which had as its theme, “Transforming Lives through the Spirit and Word of God,” was held May 5-7, 2012, at the Holiday Inn at Eastgate. There were more than 400 elders and wives in attendance at the meeting, which included balloting to select four Council of Elders members, approval of the 2012-2013 Strategic Plan, Operation Plan and annual budget as well as five amendments to the governing documents and a change to the Council of Elders nomination and election process.

The General Conference of Elders (GCE) approved all of these issues. The five amendments to the governing documents made the following changes: the GCE may now submit ballots by e-mail;

a process is to be developed by the Council, for GCE approval, for the GCE to submit agenda items for consideration; the newly elected Council will now convene within two days of the Annual Meeting of the GCE; the office of deputy chairman was formed; and, in the Rules of Association, the definitions of “Church” and “Church Member” were amended.

After the balloting was complete, the keynote address, which was given by Mark Mickelson, who serves as pastor for four congregations in the Pacific Northwest, as well as senior pastor over French-speaking West Africa, examined how the conference theme can be most effectively accomplished. Mr. Mickelson began by explaining that becoming a disciple is a spiritual process. After feeding

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The Good News iPad App Now Available



by Aaron Booth

You can now read *The Good News* magazine on your iPad! A digital version of *The Good News* can now be downloaded from the iPad App Store. This new app is available in the Newsstand category of the store.

The Newsstand store features magazines that you can subscribe to and read on the iPad. The *Good News* magazine app is one of only a few Christian magazines listed in search results within the Newsstand category, which greatly helps raise our profile.

The digital issues of *The Good News* contain the same articles that are available in the bi-monthly print edition (and on the *Good News* website). As you flip through a digital issue, you will notice areas within the magazine where you can tap to access Bible study aids (booklets or articles at UCG.org) or watch *Beyond Today* videos. Additional digital pages have been added that feature content that can be accessed from the iPad, such as United Church of God booklets that are

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news AT A GLANCE

UCG Marriage Enrichment Program Rolled Out at GCE

The United Church of God’s Marriage Enrichment Program was officially “rolled out” at the GCE meetings in Cincinnati on May 7, 2012.

The program will have three facets:

First, a video recorded 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.” We are asking the pastors to purchase with their local church accounts “10 Great Dates” from Marriage Alive (see it online at www.marriagealive.com). The “10 Great Dates” curriculum includes a DVD of the program, a leadership guide and one workbook. At \$40, the price is very reasonable. We have asked the ministry to make this program available to the mem-

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BY THE NUMBERS

3,134,758

Unique visitors since the May 2011 launch of the revamped UCG.org Website



news from

AROUND THE WORLD

Kingdom of God Seminars and Other Updates From Brazil

by Jorge de Campos

On Tuesday, April 10, at about lunch time, I left Dallas, Texas, with the goal to visit the brethren in Brazil, to conduct three Kingdom of God Bible Seminars and to fulfill a number of visit requests. God blessed the trip with spiritual growth of members, safety and health. Thanks are to be given to God for His blessing on this trip.

After flying from Dallas via Atlanta and Brasilia, I finally arrived in Boa Vista at about 2 a.m. on Thursday morning the 12th. Giovane Macedo, a member in Brazil, joined me in Boa Vista to visit the indigenous brethren in the Wapixana village of Maloca de Moscow. Giovane and I finally got to the village at about 4 p.m., and we admired the lovely building, which they built with Good Works funds for their services. This building was inaugurated on Passover night, April 5, 2012.

We also admired the lovely new vegetable garden, which they planted at my request for their benefit, with "seed" funds donated by brethren. We delivered some toys, second hand clothing and bags of rice for their sustenance. In addition I carried from the United States a 32-inch



Verônica Gomez, UCG's primary contact in Brazil, with the bridal couple who were married while Mr. de Campos was on a trip there.



The children in Maloca de Moscow opening gifts sent by brethren.

Photos: Jorge de Campos

flat screen television and a DVD player for them to play our video sermons in Portuguese. All this arrived there in perfect condition and was donated by various brethren. The video sermons will be placed on DVDs for them, as well as placed on the Web for other Portuguese

members in Portugal and/or Brazil who have access to the Internet.

On Friday, the last day of Unleavened Bread, we had two services, and the attendance was 34 people for both services. On the following Sabbath, April 14, we had services in the morning with 32 brethren

present and 8 visitors. In the afternoon we conducted the first series of the Kingdom of God Seminars, with a total attendance of 42, of which 16 were visitors.

On Sunday afternoon we conducted
Please see page 11

The International Sister Congregation Program by Good Works

by Ed Dowd and Kelly Irvin

Over the last year, the Good Works team has worked to expand the value of the Good Works program to better benefit and include more of our membership. The primary purpose of Good Works is to provide an organized way for brethren to help others in the Church who face unusual needs or unanticipated emergency situations. We make these situations known to the Church, and coordinate the distribution of funds that are donated or come from fund raising efforts.

With that primary purpose maintained, we are excited to announce a new facet of Good Works—the International Sister Congregations program. This new program provides hands-on opportunities for members to reach out to international members in non-monetary ways. This program will match participating congregations, where they can begin to establish a growing network within the whole body of the United Church of God, providing brethren a greater sense of international community.

We find this need of community and brotherhood described by Jesus Christ

By extending the effort to fill the needs of others, we end up serving Jesus Christ Himself.

Himself. "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'... Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me'" (Matthew 25:34-40).

Understanding Christ's admonition, we begin to realize that each member has a personal responsibility to help others. Sometimes that need reaches beyond

what a member can individually contribute financially. But in many cases, the need is not monetary and is one that can be accomplished in ways that Christ described in the verses above. Often those needs can be met by brethren helping brethren in organized, practical ways, both nationally and internationally. The International Sister Congregations program has been created to help facilitate such needs.

Some were hungry, others were thirsty, some were strangers, while others were naked. There are other difficult situations in which people may find themselves. And there are ways we can help as well. Some have other physical needs that need to be met. But others need to be comforted or strengthened during difficult times



with illness, the loss of a family member or during social upheavals. An individual who lives a lonely life far away from any other brethren of like mind, would certainly appreciate a comforting letter or e-mail once in awhile. Then finally Christ spoke of being imprisoned, which of course can mean people who are incarcerated, but could also include people such as shut-ins and those in other types of isolation from others.

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FORWARD!

Transforming Lives Through the Love of God



DENNIS LUKER
President

At our General Conference of Elders in May, the theme for our presentations was, “Transforming Lives through the Spirit and Word of God,” taken from John 6:63. My presentation focused on the importance of God’s divine love in transforming lives.

God’s love (*agape* in New Testament Greek) is the first fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). It is a faithful and unselfish love for others, even our enemies. Jesus said: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Matthew 5:43-46). And Jesus also said: “For 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).

The apostle John wrote: “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another...If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother,

he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:8-11, 20).

Jesus made clear that loving God and loving others with this godly love is the greatest commandment of all: “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you

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The International Sister Congregation Program by Good Works

Continued from page 2

All of us have some measure of need—no matter our situation—and yet all of us have something to give with the spiritual gifts God has blessed us with. And yet regardless of what continent we live on, it’s always easier to take care of our own. But that wasn’t Christ’s admonishment that Matthew recorded for us. Christ wants us focused on the needs of others while supporting and pointing each other to the Kingdom of God.

This program is designed to avoid individual brethren requesting financial assistance from others, since other avenues in Good Works and the church provide a means for aid in these types of situations, but a congregation may still desire to serve their sister congregation in ways that benefit that entire congregation. Examples of this might be to fund a special Night to Be Much Observed or Feast of Tabernacles dinner, to fund a visit by a local member to that international congregation, to sponsor a child or children for summer camp, or to make a friendship quilt or some other expression of friendship unique to your culture. These activities will be organized well, with senior pastors involved in the process.

The International Sister Congregations program provides additional opportu-

Connecting even on a semi-regular basis provides a special encouragement reveals that someone—outside our local congregation, our tribe, our home town, our country—really truly cares about us.

nities for those of like mind to develop relationships that they may not otherwise experience. The church has the ability to connect members from across the world through social networking, e-mail, postal letters, study partnerships, photo albums, sharing of children’s artwork, reporting on congregational activities, praying for one another and any number of other possibilities. Most importantly the International Sister Congregations program facilitates the opportunity to build one another up in the faith (1 Thessalonians 5:11), while providing for each other’s personal, social and spiritual needs beyond our local congregations.

The majority of our members will never meet their brothers and sisters in Christ from other countries face-to-face. It is hoped that, with God’s guidance and favor over our enthusiastic participation,

the International Sister Congregations program will facilitate bridging the gap created by expansive continental, oceanic, social, political or economic barriers to promote brotherly love and oneness of mind. So as we grow in God’s grace and His knowledge in our thoughts and through existing relationships, let us not forget we have brethren around the globe with whom we may share our lives. We can work from our common shared bond through God’s Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ our Lord, both giving attention and encouragement according to spiritual need.

In the coming weeks, your pastor and elders will be receiving details on how to get a program started in your area. Good Works hopes you will find the International Sister Congregations program ready to assist you locally in developing strong bonds with members around the world. **UN**

Sound Doctrine is of Critical Importance to the Work of the Church

by Mitchell Moss

Cincinnati, Ohio—Donald Ward clearly spelled out how sound doctrine is central to the work of the Church, specifically with regard to this year’s theme at the General Conference of Elders, “Transforming Lives Through the Spirit and Word of God.” The address, given Monday, May 7, at the Holiday Inn conference center where the GCE was held, centered around four key scriptures found in Paul’s writings to Titus and Timothy. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers,” wrote Paul to Timothy in his second epistle (2 Timothy 4:3). The Greek word for “sound” is a medical term meaning “healthy and pure,” and the Greek word translated “doctrine” means “teaching.” Simply said, sound doctrine is the teaching that will keep us spiritually well.

The time will come when people will turn their ears away from the truth, so we as the Church, the Body of Christ, must preach the Word of God with every fiber of our being. And our teaching must be the Word of God. Deliver meat in due season, but always preach the truth, no matter the season.

There are three aspects of preaching sound doctrine given in 2 Timothy 4:2. First is that of “reproving,” which is more perfectly translated from Greek to mean “convict.” In order to convict someone, you must first be convicted yourself. Listeners will discern readily whether or not you are convicted about what you are teaching. This conviction comes through study, prayer and meditation. Teachers of



“The time will come when people will turn their ears away from the truth, so we as the Church, the Body of Christ, must preach the Word of God with every fiber of our being.”

the Word of God should pray that God will give them each the conviction and passion necessary to stir up the brethren and set their congregations on fire.

Second is “rebuking,” which is more

perfectly translated from Greek “to judge, admonish, sharply charge.” Isaiah the prophet echoed this same concept when he recorded, “Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet” (Isaiah

58:1). We must declare the whole counsel of God. Jesus preached with authority, astonishing those of his day by that authority. Paul’s teaching to the Corinthians was not excellent in form, but he led them to have faith in the power of God, not in excellence of speech (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

Third is “exhorting,” which means to encourage, strengthen and comfort.

Paul emphasized sound doctrine in his writing to Titus. He wrote that a bishop must “be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:9, KJV). It is by the Word of God that one can convict a gainsayer.

Encouraging and teaching every member of the Body to be renewed inwardly day by day in the newness of Christ is of utmost importance; it is a critical factor if anyone hopes to survive in this present evil age. The model prayer given by Jesus included, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Not only did He mean the physical bread of sustenance, but the spiritual Bread of inward spiritual renewal.

So many fell away in years past because they were not grounded in sound doctrine and did not have a personal relationship with God and Jesus Christ. The ministry must teach sound doctrine continually and emphasize the need for brethren to grow in grace and knowledge.

Dr. Ward concluded by urging everyone in attendance that we must boldly proclaim the answers to the great questions of life, especially concerning the nature of God and what our great potential is. The truth sets us free from fear, ignorance, superstition and the doctrines of men. Stir up the Spirit of God and set our congregations on fire with the words of Spirit and life. **UN**



The 2012 General Conference of Elders. Clockwise from top right: Ellis and Pat Stewart; LeeAnn Luker and Agnes Reyes; Herb Vierra and Jorge de Campos; Ed Macaraeg giving an update on the Philippines; Jenny Bradford and Nancy Corbett; Ralph Innis and Glen White.



Just Pray and Pay? The Seven “P’s” of God’s Church

■ Have you thought about what the cynical phrase “pray and pay” means? What are the true responsibilities of God’s people in the Church?

by Mario Seigle

Some decades ago, I heard for the first time a derisive comment about being in the Church to “just pray and pay.” Have you ever heard this saying?

It was meant to sting. Are we in the Church to “just pray and pay”? Have you ever thought what this demeaning statement was meant to provoke? It implies we are playing a largely passive role in God’s Church, and that’s what’s expected.

As we reflect on this saying, we should ask ourselves, is this truly what the Church thinks we should do? More importantly, is this what God expects of us?

Of course, this statement is not biblically true, and at its root, it is another of the adversary’s tactics—to foment a negative attitude toward God’s Church and work. We should never think belonging to the Church is “just praying and paying.”

This is why knowing the “Seven P’s” are helpful to understand all that is involved in being a part of God’s Church. As we will see, “praying and paying” are actually a good beginning, but there are

so many other essential things to do.

1. The first P—Praying

When I came into the Church as a teenager, I learned that just repeating the Lord’s prayer, as I had been taught in my former church, was not correct. God the Father and Jesus Christ actually wanted a real relationship with me. Praying was not some high sounding phrases repeated endlessly, but an intimate conversation with God. I was to open my heart and share with both God the Father and Jesus Christ my goals, dreams, strengths and weaknesses. He is truly a loving, caring Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, at His right hand, is my loving older Brother, Mediator and coming servant King. I am to have true fellowship with both.

As John puts it beautifully, “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us, and *truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ*” (1 John 1:3, emphasis added throughout). The word “fellowship” here means sharing what you have in common, and that is the intimate relationship God wants with us.

What is meant by “just” praying? It shouldn’t be viewed as a chore, but as a dynamic, active conversation with God. Our spiritual life largely depends on it! And part of doing God’s work is fervently praying that He will open the doors so we



can get the gospel of the Kingdom to the world. We are to pray for those who are sick, for God’s Kingdom to come and to rescue us from this mostly evil and degenerate world. We are to pray for the Church leadership, so God will guide them to carry out His will on earth. We should pray for the strength to forgive those who offend us, as God forgives us. We need to pray daily for the physical and spiritual bread to sustain us. And finally, praying

way. God tells us paying our tithe is a valuable, practical and active worship of Him—honoring Him in a concrete way for all He does for us.

As Proverbs 3:9-10 says: “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Yes, we show God how earnest we are when we faithfully tithe, by putting our

We should never think belonging to the Church is “just praying and paying.”

to God for the help to avoid falling into temptations and for Him to restrain the Evil One from all the damage he wants to do.

“Just pray”? It seems Satan wants us to think this is some boring, passive part of our Christian duties, when actually it is a very positive and privileged opportunity that pays great dividends!

2. The second P—Paying

Somehow, there is the notion that paying our tithe is also a passive, demeaning duty. It should never be viewed in this

money where our mouth is. As Christ said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

What’s more, Satan wants us to think this is a passive, unreasonable request and a reluctant responsibility. God has never taught that, for He wants us to learn to be a “cheerful giver,” (2 Corinthians 9:7), which is a trait stemming from His own divine nature. We have God’s promises that He will bless those that faithfully tithe to Him—and it’s not a suggestion,

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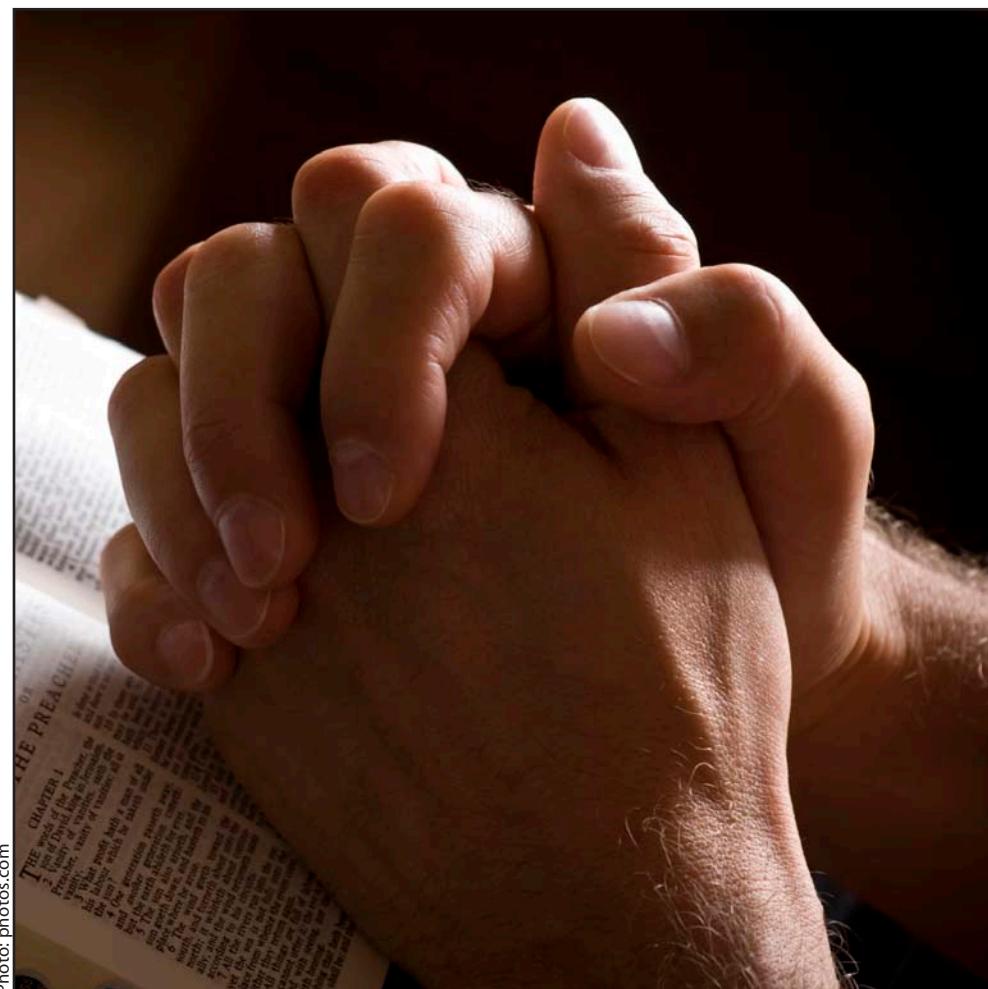


Photo: photos.com

Showing Love for the Brethren

■ As chemicals proliferate and allergies increase, let's show consideration to each other as we have sensitivities to commercial scented products.

by Linda Wasilkoff

The Sabbath truly is a delight. We eagerly anticipate it each week looking forward to the messages we will hear and the opportunity to fellowship with people of like mind

and belief. The day reinforces our resolve to continue in this way of life.

Our fellow brethren are very important and special to us all. We pray for one another and try to help each other in times of trouble. To add to the quality of our Sabbath services, many help with set up, clean up, decorations, contribute to potlucks, etc. However, there is one area of service to brethren that is easy to overlook.

Many congregations are aware of fellow members with food allergies. Some of these are even life threatening. Those congregations must be espe-

cially careful what they bring to potlucks lest they endanger someone's life. What is not as easily discerned is another type of allergy.

The March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Environmental Health* indicated that up to 30 percent of Americans now find perfumes and other cosmetic scents physically irritating. Some studies have shown that up to 72 percent of asthma sufferers find scents can trigger an attack. That means that even in a small group of 10 people, three could have some level of sensitivity, and that number will be increased if there are people

in the group who have asthma! Because scents are airborne, in a crowded room (such as at Sabbath services) what anyone wears is spread through the whole room or building through the heating or air conditioning system.

Allergies to scents have increased dramatically since the 1970s. This may be due to the increased number of scented products being used and the complex chemicals in them. Think of all the things we are surrounded by that contain scents to make our world smell better—lotions, soap, laundry detergents, makeup, cleaning products, candles, air fresheners, perfume, after shave, deodorant, scented oils—and the list goes on. Even some so-called “unscented” products may have fragrance to mask odors!

When my family first began attending services, each week several of us (especially my mother) would get a splitting headache in the car on the way to church. We drove two hours on winding roads to get there and assumed that was the cause of the headaches. It was quite some time before we discovered that it was Mom's perfume that was the culprit. She stopped wearing perfume, and the headaches disappeared.

People with sensitivity to scents may have any of the following reactions: sneezing, runny nose, headache, sore throat, inability to concentrate,

eye or nose irritation, hives and eczema. Yet, for a person who has an allergy to a scent, the reaction may be more serious and include dizziness, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, muscle and joint aches. In severe cases, it can cause a person to lose consciousness or trigger anaphylactic shock. For some, the symptoms last for days after the exposure. One member has said that because of her condition, she has lost her sense of smell. Now, even though she knows she is highly allergic to scents, she can no longer tell when she is being exposed to something harmful to her. As a result, she sometimes is sick all week after going to church and being exposed to chemicals.

Some church areas may have the option of providing a “scent free room” for those with allergies. However, this means that those prone to the allergies are isolated and miss an important aspect of services—fellowship. They end up in isolation on the day we are enjoying being with each other.

Considering the seriousness of this condition for some of our brethren, it behooves us to be especially conscious of reducing the impact of Sabbath services on them by limiting the scents we are adding to the air at services. While we all want to smell and look good, we have to be aware of how our grooming may affect someone else's health. **UN**



Photo: photos.com

Up to 30 percent of Americans now find perfumes and other cosmetic scents physically irritating. Some studies have shown that up to 72 percent of asthma sufferers find scents can trigger an attack. That means that even in a small group of 10 people, three could have some level of sensitivity, and that number will be increased if there are people in the group who have asthma!

Announcements



Joshua Simon Fahey



Claire Isabella Hughes



Mckinley Rebecca Williams

Births

Joshua Simon Fahey was born Sept. 6, 2011. He weighed 8 lb., 6 oz. and measured 21 in. long. He's delivering smiles and keeping us busy. **Jennifer, Bob, Jacob**, of the Chicago, Illinois, congregation, and the grandparents are enjoying their growing family!

Tim and Christine Hughes of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, congregation would like to proudly announce the birth of their fifth child, **Claire Isabella Hughes**. Claire joined the family on Dec. 29, 2011. She weighed 8 lb., and was 19 1/2 in. long. Claire was welcomed home by Tiffany (17), Timmy (16), Ashley (8) and Amber (5).

Scott and Tracey Williams of the Elkhart, Indiana, church area would

like to announce the birth of their daughter, **Mckinley Rebecca**. She was born on March 29, 2012, at 10:37 a.m., weighing 7 lb., 12 oz. and 21 1/4 in. long. Brothers Lincoln and Grant are excited to have a sister to play with.

Anniversaries

Carl (C.B.) and Liza Walton are pictured at their 50th anniversary celebration that was held on Nov. 19, 2010, at the Vassels Banquet Hall in Southfield, Michigan. The festive occasion was arranged by their children, Charlene Valeria, Cos, Reg (Iron) and Monica. This evening commemorated their marriage on Nov. 18, 1960.

Carl is a retiree of the Ford Motor Engine plant, and his wife Liza is retired as an educator from the Children's Learning Center of Detroit. They plan to travel across the nation and around the world.

Obituaries

Eleanor Doreen Suckling-Baird "came to her conclusion" at the grand old age of 92 years and 43 days on Monday, May 7, 2012, following a brief and rapid decline. She was surrounded by family and loved ones who sat vigil with her in her final days and hours.

Eleanor was born in a small mining village in the Rhondda Valley of South Wales, United Kingdom. Her formative years were a challenge as she grew up with the ominous backdrop of the Great Depression,

World War II and poverty. Nonetheless, she determined to better herself and her children's lives.

In her early 20s, religion became a major part of her life. Eventually, in 1962, her eldest son, Paul, introduced her to *The Plain Truth* published by Herbert Armstrong. She had discovered her path to spiritual maturity.

Eleanor was baptized in 1963 and soon was invited to be the telephone receptionist at Ambassador College in Bricklet Wood, England. She remained with the college until its closure in 1974 and then continued as the receptionist in the church offices until her retirement after almost 25 years of dedicated service.

Eleanor met Joseph Baird at church in Corpus Christi, Texas. The "Towering Texan" eventually charmed her into marriage, and then she moved to the United States. Joe and Eleanor were involved in

an automobile accident that killed Joe and seriously injured Eleanor. She recovered and remained forever grateful for those 19 happy months.

Later she moved to Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, to live with her eldest son Paul and then back to Texas where her youngest son, Arthur, looked after her. She resided in the Trisun Assisted Living Community in Portland, Texas, where she remained for four years. Shortly before her final decline she told the chaplain at Trisun, "I believe I have come to my final conclusion."

Eleanor lived her life as a loving, determined and tenacious mother, grandmother and great-grandmother with an unwavering belief in the resurrection.

Her children chose a fitting eulogy that portrayed her strength of character to mark her grave. Taken from one of Sir Winston Churchill's World War II speeches, it reads: "As Sir Winston Churchill said, we shall never surrender, she never did. Tenacious to the end."

She set a good example, remained faithful and left a good legacy for her family to follow. Her family will miss her greatly.

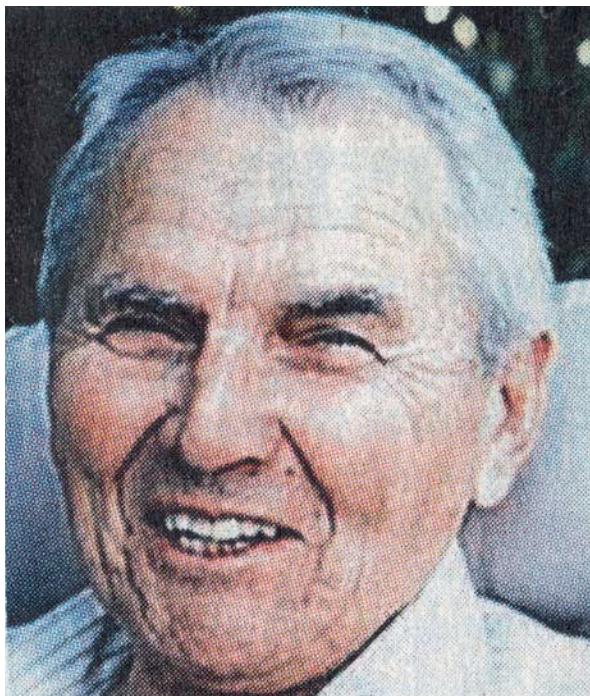
Harvey John Bordelon, 86, a native of Bordelonville, Louisiana, and resident of Houma, died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Bernice Halvorson Bordelon; sons, Don Bordelon and wife Bobbie, and David Bordelon; daughters, Sharon Adkins and husband Garey, Connie Horne and husband Jerry, Debbie Bordelon, and Susie Bordelon and companion Jeff Oullis; and



Carl and Liza Walton



Eleanor Doreen Suckling-Baird



Harvey John Bordelon

Huntsville, Alabama, died June 2, 2011. He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Catherine, six children and six grandchildren.

Tom received a mechanical engineering degree from Auburn University in 1956. He became a jet fighter pilot in the USAF, receiving the rank of captain. Later, he worked for NASA and then the U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command. In 1993 he was recognized for 28 years of federal service as a civilian engineer and manager on joint projects with international associates.

Tom was a man of many talents and diverse interests including woodworking, bee-keeping, photography, gemology and organic farming. He also enjoyed writing, playing the mandolin, and outdoor activities.

Tom was very involved with his children in both church and school activities. He taught them to love and fear God and to always put God first in their lives. He also taught them the importance of education. His three youngest children, Sarah, Stephanie and Tommy, received degrees from their dad's Alma Mater.

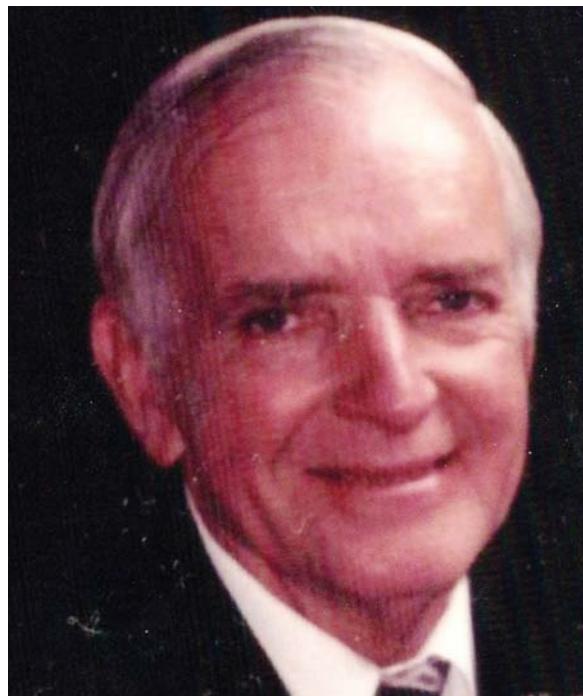
Tom began reading *The Plain Truth* in the 1960s and was baptized in 1972. His love for God's people was evident, and he would often sacrifice of himself to help others. Tom was extensively involved with church and Y.O.U. activities—host-

eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Bordelon and Rose Pastor Bordelon; grandchild Scott Donavon Bordelon; brothers Lee and Numan Bordelon; and sister Nellie Gaudet.

He was a deacon for many years with the United Church of God, and a World War II Navy veteran.

Thomas O. Cole from Taft, Tennessee, a longtime member of God's Church in



Thomas O. Cole

ing many events on his farm. He and his wife taught Y.E.S. Bible classes, and he was a Y.E.S. softball coach. He leaves a wonderful legacy of service and love for others. As a beloved husband, father, grandfather, mentor, coach and friend, he will be greatly missed.

Larry Jay Jantzen died on Mar. 27, 2012, after a short battle with lymphoma cancer. Larry Neff officiated the graveside service at the Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs on March 30, where he was later buried next to his wife, Susan

Jantzen, who had died in 2004.

Larry was born on June 6, 1955, in Satana, Kansas, 12 minutes after his twin sister Loma Jane, to his parents, Ray and Verline Jantzen. Larry is survived by his three children, Jennifer and Kurt Lorhammer from San Diego, California; Benjamin Jantzen from Colorado Springs; and Ariel Jantzen from Boulder, Colorado. He is survived also by his two sisters, Kay Schreiber, from Phoenix, Arizona, and Loma Fowler of Parker, Colorado.

Larry had a keen wit and humorous view on life that he shared with all, and he developed many friendships throughout his lifetime. Larry loved God's way of life and stayed faithful to that calling until the end. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

We look forward to seeing him again in the Kingdom of God.

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*.



Local Church UPDATES

Little Rock, Arkansas, Congregation Enjoys Picnic

On Sunday, May 20, 2012, 37 adults and children enjoyed fellowship, food and fun at the Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation picnic. It took place at the popular Maumelle Park near Little Rock. The picnickers enjoyed barbecued chicken, hamburgers and beef hot dogs grilled to perfection by Earl McWhorter, Jim Simkins and Larry Smith. The ladies supplied a variety of tasty side dishes and desserts. We all enjoyed homemade ice cream, hand-cranked by one of our muscular teens, Josh Farnsworth. Several of the younger folks enjoyed cooling off with water gun fights. Everyone enjoyed the picnic and just spending time with friends. We are all looking forward to a repeat next year.

Barry and Jean Howdeshell



The Little Rock, Arkansas, congregation at their picnic in May.

Cincinnati East Young Men's Christian Leadership Club End of the Year Banquet 2012

On Saturday, April 21, the Cincinnati East congregation's Young Men's Christian Leadership Club hosted the Young Women's Christian Leadership Club, as well as other invited guests, at an end-of-the-year banquet to toast another successful year of club. The evening began with a catered meal held at the home office in Milford, including wine and dessert.

The Leadership Clubs were held simultaneously during the year in separate rooms, where the ladies would discuss the same topic as the men's club during the first half of the regular meetings. Then instead of making speeches during the second half as the men did, the ladies participated in a prepared leadership or Christian living activity. The ladies did decide to make ice-breaker speeches as a way to introduce themselves to each other.



The Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Leadership Club end of the year banquet in Cincinnati East.

After the meal at the banquet, president of the men's club, Michael Phelps, introduced the topic discussion hosts of the evening, Tom and Heather Disher. The couple led a discussion on the topic of "The proper role of emotion in the

worship of God." The 45-minute discussion included many interesting comments, with a wide range of perspectives and backgrounds being represented in the diverse range of ages, nationalities and cultural backgrounds of those pres-

ent. The discussion concluded that emotion does indeed play an important role in worship, and that there is a difference between godly emotion and emotionalism.

After the discussion, pastor Steve Myers made a few remarks on the topic before introducing the toastmaster, Mitchell Moss, who introduced the three speakers that evening: Clint Porter, Aaron Creech and Jonathan Magee.

The evening capped off another profitable year of Young Men's Club and a first successful season for Young Women's Club. Both clubs are planned to begin again in the fall.

Mitchell Moss

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*.



news from

AROUND THE WORLD

Good Works Builds Bonds Across Borders

by Milan Bizic

When our plane landed in Guatemala City, we were just Americans on a journey. The Good Works project would soon be underway, and we would work and live with people we had never met. Many of them didn't even speak the same language as us. We were strangers, foreigners, immigrants.

The land we saw out of the cabin windows was beautiful, but it wasn't home. By that evening, that had all changed. We were home. We were with family, laughing and sharing our memories of the past and hopes for the future.

What was it that changed? Did we fly back to the U.S.? No, we just experienced one of God's greatest blessings: the love

His people have for each other.

Ever since we started re-emphasizing the Good Works program in mid-2011, helping members from around the world develop deep, godly relationships with each other has been our primary goal. Our vision is brethren helping brethren. A lot of what we do involves physical projects. For instance, in Guatemala, we built infra-

structure for a hydroponics gardening training center. We're hoping it will be a big physical help for many brethren in the country. But even more important than the actual work involved are the relationships volunteers build with those they help. Jesus was very clear when He said that His disciples' love for one another would be their identifying mark (John 13:35). Everyone would know who they were by that sign. What isn't always clear to people is what He meant. Jesus was talking about a strong, vibrant, active love—one that *does* good, not just *feels* good. (For more information on what godly love really is, read Arthur Suckling's article in the May edition of the *United News* on page 5.)

That's what Good Works is all about, building relationships on the foundation of godly love. We need to not only feel love for God's children, but *live it*. Our trip to Guatemala was a good proof of concept. The urban hydroponics project is wonderful, and with God's blessing I have no doubt that many will benefit from it. Even better and more importantly, our family is much larger than it was before.

We consider Good Works to be a "whole church" effort. If you would like to be a part of what Good Works is doing around the world, a good place to start is reading Ed Dowd and Kelly Irvin's article on page 2. It introduces the International Sister Congregation program, which we hope will be your chance to make connections and build eternal relationships with your family from around the world. **UN**



In May 2012, Jonathan Magee and Milan and Sarah Bizic traveled to Guatemala to aid Francisco Solorzano in setting up an urban hydroponics project for brethren to grow food for both subsistence and selling at market. From left: Milan Bizic, Hilda Solorzano, Sarah Bizic, Jonathan Magee, Francisco Solorzano and Werner Solorzano.

"Transforming Lives"

Continued from page 1

a great multitude, Jesus said to his followers: "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him" (John 6:26-27). What the brethren wanted was physical, but Jesus corrected them, explaining what they really need to want is spiritual; He is the bread of life.

There have been times in our history in the Church where we have pointed brethren to physical things. We taught them to follow a man. In Herbert Armstrong's final sermon, he said to follow the next pastor general. If you had asked him, "If this man sins, should we follow him?" he'd have surely said "no." But

the fact remains, we taught people to follow a man.

There are so many examples of people who are the recipients of miraculous healings or physical assistance who leave because they had their mind on the physical.

Jesus taught that the Pharisees liked to be called "rabbi," which means "great one." "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren" (Matthew 23:8). Jesus was saying that if you lift yourself up above being a brother, you are lifting yourself above Christ. The consequences are very serious (see verse 15).

John the Baptist had disciples, and who did he point them to? Jesus Christ. Jesus had disciples, and who did He point them to? God the Father. The scribes and pharisees had disciples, and who did they point them to? Them-

selves. We must direct people to God, so that a spiritual transformation can indeed take place.

God gives spiritual gifts, and the job of the ministry is to open the door to what God is doing with someone through their gifts. Rather than setting up a system where the minister gives authority and that person looks to the ministers, let the gifts be used with the person looking to God, who gave the gift.

There is a difference between mentoring and training. Training is task-oriented, and is important, with certain training being in fact necessary—learning from the Bible, for example, is training. But in regards to leadership, it is a talent that cannot be trained, but must be mentored and nurtured.

In conclusion, Mr. Mickelson emphasized that the work of God is that we would all be transformed spiritually and the work of making disciples is that we would enable them to do the same thing. **UN**



Above: Bill and Jenny Bradford (right) with son Bill, Jr. and his wife Joanna and son Billy at Sabbath services in Cincinnati the weekend of the GCE.

Below: Peggy McClain, wife of elder John McClain, and Connie Seelig, home office employee and wife of elder Gerald Seelig.

The Good News iPad App Now Available

Continued from page 1

available within iBooks or *Beyond Today* podcasts that can be downloaded from iTunes.

Once you download the free *Good News* magazine app, you can download each issue to your library (starting with the January/February 2012 issue) and subscribe to get new issues when they become available. The *Good News* app functionality allows you to view the table of contents for each issue (and navigate directly to an article), add bookmarks to favorite pages, e-mail a page from the digital issue to a friend and search for particular keywords inside the issue. New functionality might be added over time as we try to improve the experience of reading a digital magazine.

The *Good News* app became available in the App Store on May 15, 2012. Since the release date, the app has been downloaded over 220 times from various countries around the world without any advertising on our part. Here are some of the App Store locations from where iPad owners have downloaded the app: United States, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, China, South Africa, India, United Kingdom, Germany, Colombia, Singapore, Netherlands, Hong Kong, Brazil, Belgium, Japan, Philippines, Denmark, Republic of Korea, United Arab Emirates, France, Costa Rica, Portugal, Argentina, Thailand, South Africa, Lithuania, Israel, Russia, Norway, Barbados and Saudi Arabia.

This brand new app is available around the globe and being downloaded in numerous places. Those locations (and downloads) will only increase over time

as the iPad is becoming one of the most popular mobile devices used to access Web content, including for visiting the UCG.org website.

At this time we only offer the English digital edition of the *Good News* within the iPad app. But, we are planning to expand the app to feature our other *Good News* magazine language editions beginning with the first issue published in 2013. By way of reminder, this app is only available for the Apple iPad and is not available for the Apple iPhone or iPod Touch nor is a *Good News* app available for any Android supported devices at this time.

Here is how to download *The Good News* magazine app (you may need to download the Newsstand app first):

1. Go to the App Store on the iPad.
2. Search for "Good News Magazine."
3. In the iPad Apps search result, locate *The Good News Magazine* app and tap on "INSTALL."
4. Enter in your necessary Apple ID Password.
5. Once the app is installed you can the download any issue and/or request a free digital subscription.
6. Enjoy your digital version of *The Good News*.

We would like to thank the app development company TapEdition (and their helpful staff) that has graciously built this app and provided us the means of saving thousands of dollars. We are excited that we can now provide *The Good News* magazine iPad app for those around the world who are seeking to understand God's way of life. Thank you! **UN**

The screenshot shows the App Store page for "The Good News Magazine" by the United Church of God. The page includes a search bar, the app's title, developer information, a "What's New In This Issue" section, a description, and a preview of the magazine's content. The preview shows the cover of the "The Biblical Feast of Firstfruits" issue, which discusses the Feast of Firstfruits and its significance in the Bible.

The *Good News* iPad app's download page in the Newsstand section of the App Store.



Kingdom of God Seminars and Other Updates From Brazil

Continued from page 2

a wedding in the new church hall they built. However, before the wedding, in the morning, I conducted a Bible study about the marriage vow. I addressed God's laws regarding marriage and the need to comply with the laws of the country. Subsequent to the Bible study, while the ladies prepared for the wedding, we did a leadership training session, reviewing previous instructions about preparing sermonettes and additional instructions about how to preach the Word of God effectively. We also had lessons on song leading and general procedures regarding services, how to handle announcements in church and the festival assistance program for them.

After the wedding, we discussed ways that we could proceed to further assist the local brethren, but no conclusion was reached on additional help after long discussions. I then suggested that they meet at another time and give me input on how we could help them.

Visit to São Paulo

Giovane and I left Sunday evening to Boa Vista to catch a 2:30 a.m. flight early Monday morning to Brasília and then to São Paulo. Giovane left to go home to Montes Claros at this juncture, and I proceeded to São Paulo. The municipality of São Paulo has well over 11 million people, and the greater São Paulo region

has some 19 million people. After renting a car, I finally arrived that afternoon at the residence of prospective members, the Pellegrino family.

That same Monday evening I conducted a Kingdom of God Bible Seminar with 9 people attending. One of the new people that attended the seminar was a gentleman 83 years of age who used to attend Worldwide until 1995, and has remained faithful for all these years. This seminar in São Paulo ended up being a seminar with many questions, and we left the venue at about midnight. Due to long distances in São Paulo, by the time Robson Pellegrino and I got home it was nearly 2:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

On Tuesday I spent the day addressing many questions with the Pellegrino family, and on Wednesday I drove five hours to Ribeirão Preto with Robson to visit a prospective member. This young man showed a lot of interest in the church, and we are in contact over the Internet. On Thursday, Robson and I visited a lady in an outlying suburb of São Paulo who has many biblical questions and who is very desirous to worship God with us. In the same evening, we visited a man in downtown São Paulo, who also demonstrated interest to join United.

As we have had no presence in São Paulo before, not even in Worldwide days, we are breaking new ground thanks



Rosilda and Robson Pellegrino. Robson traveled with Mr. de Campos in São Paulo.

to God opening the minds of new people who are very interested in the truth. We need to pray that God protects these new ones from Satan's deception and brings them along to the truth. We now have an urgent need to set up a more visible ministry via video sermons and the Internet to help these people along. We may even have to have a new Feast site to teach these new prospective members about God's way. Let's pray for God to bless this effort in the industrial hub of Brazil.

Change to the Feast in Brazil

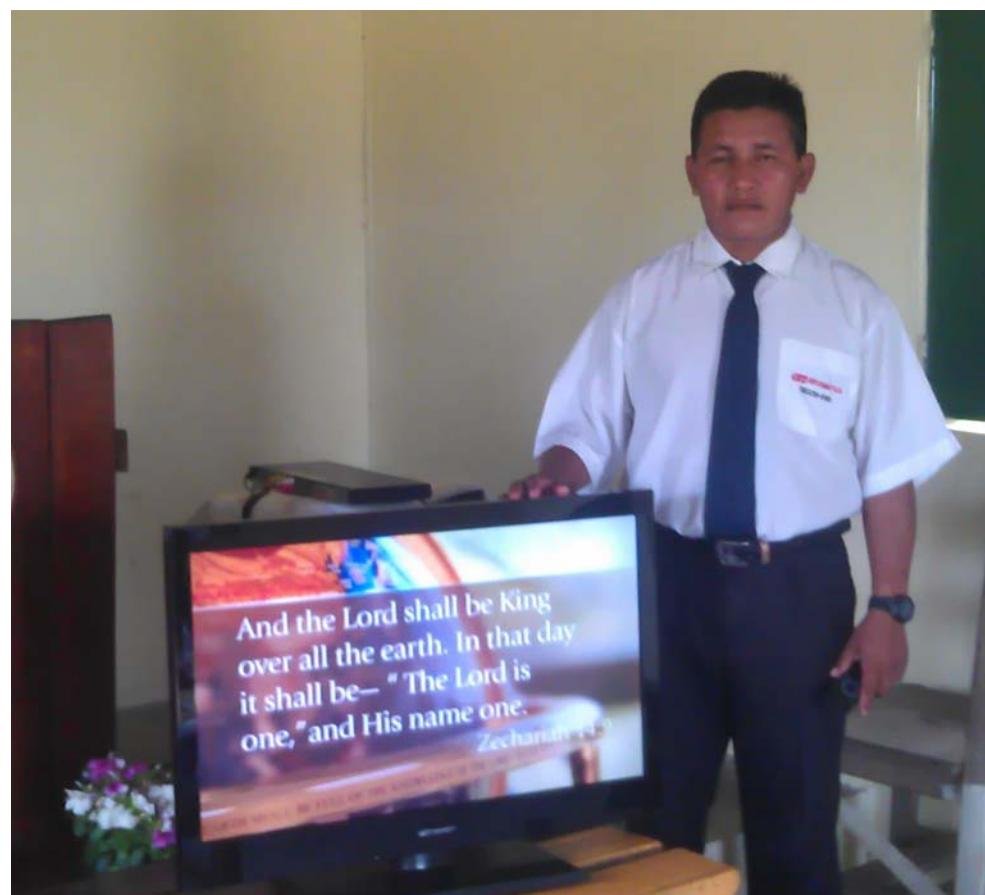
On Friday I went to Montes Claros for the Sabbath to visit with the Macedo family, conduct a third seminar, to which only the Macedo family came, and wrapped up the Brazilian trip. During this leg of the

trip, I learned the brethren in Maloca de Moscow preferred not to leave the village to attend the Feast in Boa Vista.

We decided to move the Feast site in the North of Brazil, from the town of Boa Vista, back to the village of Maloca, and to conduct it in their new hall. This in fact will be a lot more economical and practical to the local brethren, and they have all equipment necessary to view video sermons in the village.

Regrettably we have to mention to those that intended to travel to Boa Vista from overseas to the Feast, that this is no longer possible, as Maloca de Moscow does not have the facilities for overseas guests. It could accommodate one or another person that would want to camp and rough it, but we could not have a number of visitors. In the meantime, we will also investigate other options near São Paulo, as God is calling new people in that region and they need instruction about God's way. The Feast is one of the ideal opportunities for teaching, which God created for that purpose.

After the visit to Montes Claros, I started my trip back early Sunday morning, April 22. I thank God once again for the doors that He is opening and for the health that he personally granted to me during this trip. Please continue praying that God may continue blessing God's work in the Portuguese language, and for these scattered brethren. For your information, during this trip, we completed the printing of a new booklet in Portuguese, now making 18 booklets that we have available in Portuguese. For literature and sermons in Portuguese, please visit our members website at <http://membros.revistaboanova.org>. **UN**



Carlos da Silva with the new television screen donated by brethren.

Forward: Transforming Lives Through the Love of God

Continued from page 2

shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these'" (Mark 12:28-31).

If we love God we will obey Him and keep His commandments. "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). If we love others we will serve them and not sin against them. "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10).

The apostle Paul wrote that if we are not motivated by God's love, all that we do will come to nothing: "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove

mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2-3). But receiving God's love transforms our lives and gives us a godly motivation to unselfishly serve others: "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit [which] was given to us" (Romans 5:5).

God's love is a powerful force that helps us overcome fear in our lives: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). The apostle of love wrote: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

Yes, God's love transforms lives. Let us pray for each other, for all of God's people, and ask for more of His great love! **UN**

The 7 P's of God's Church

Continued from page 5

but a command (Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:22).

Another biblical principle shows us how important it is to honor God with our possessions. Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least, is unjust in much" (Luke 16:10).

If we don't develop the habit of tithing—giving to God what is rightfully His so as not to rob Him (Malachi 3:8)—then with what moral authority can we teach others in our family and later in God's Kingdom to do the same?

It is a privilege to tithe and not some burdensome chore. As John mentioned: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). This includes giving of our tithes and offerings.

Finally, how can God's work be done without those tithes and offerings? They are the mainstay of everything done in the Church to get the gospel out to the world and to feed God's flock. Certainly, Satan would love to dissuade us from doing our part in God's work by making us think tithing is "just paying."

3. The third P—Participating

There have always been many opportunities to participate in God's Church. In fact, God's Church is designed to be *an opportunity center for Christ-like service*. As long as you don't mind who gets the credit and are willing to do unglamorous chores, there are plenty of opportunities in the Church to serve Christ as we serve others.

Yet it's fairly common for people to seek the duties that help them stand out. Perhaps part of the idea of "just pray and pay" came from people who were frustrated because they wanted to be seen and be recognized but weren't able to do so. The Pharisees fell into this trap as Jesus noted: "...for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be *seen* by men" (Matthew 6:5).

Paul addressed the problem of wanting to be admired and coveting the "superior" positions when he said: "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. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:3-5).

For the person who wants to serve, it is not "just praying and paying" but also actively participating. Paul also explained the right motivation to participate: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:17).

The new vision statement of the Church reflects this attitude of active participation by the membership: "A Church led



God wants us to be active members who are producing abundant fruit according to the Holy Spirit working in us.

by God's Holy Spirit, joined and knit together by what every member supplies, with all doing their share and growing in love to fulfill God's great purpose for humanity to bring many children to glory" (Ephesians 4:16; Hebrews 2:10).

4. The fourth P—Providing

Another great opportunity in the Church is helping to provide for others. There are many needs, and the Church can't cover them all. It is necessary to count on our generosity, especially those blessed with more, to help those that are less fortunate than ourselves. It does not have to be with money, but with giving of our time, effort and encouragement.

God calls and places in the Church people who have considerable physical and emotional needs. He wants to see what we are willing to do about it. Do we just say that is a "church" problem to be taken care of by the ministry?

One of the spiritual gifts God gives some of the membership is their generous spirit to provide for others in the Church. Paul mentioned, "God has also given each of us different gifts to use... If we can give, we should be generous" (Romans 12:6-8, CEV).

5. The fifth P—Promoting

Another attribute to be developed is promoting the Church through our active example. Some people would rather be a trumpet than a light, but as Christ said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify

your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Through the past 60 years, the average percentage of reasons given for why people come into the Church has remained fairly steady. Approximately 40 percent of those coming in to the Church do so through the example of a Church member. We should not underestimate the power of setting a good example for others. Perhaps it doesn't sound very glamorous, but it is a key element before God.

We are part of the greatest work on earth! We should exude that enthusiasm. As Paul said in Colossians 4:5-6: "When you are with unbelievers, always make good use of the time. Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions" (CEV).

6. The sixth P—Preparing

Yet another responsibility is preparing ourselves for God's Kingdom. We can't expect others to do our Bible study, meditation or fasting for us.

This is one of the most important duties before God—to spiritually prepare our lives to become better instruments for His glory and honor.

As 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Be *diligent* to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

How well versed are we on doctrinal teachings and practical biblical wisdom? Do we really care and make an effort?

Just as in a career, if you poorly understand in theory, you will also poorly perform in practice.

7. The seventh P—Persevering

Lastly, we have a responsibility to learn to persevere to the end. Developing perseverance is another duty God expects of us.

As Proverbs 24:10 tells us, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small." Anyone can begin strong in a race, but few finish that way. Athletes have to work long and hard to build up the endurance to come out a winner. We have to do the same as spiritual athletes.

As Paul said: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Perseverance, then, is another key Christian attribute to develop.

Conclusion

As we have seen, there is much more to being in the Church than "just pray and pay." It is part of our God-given duties, but by no means the only ones. God wants us to be active members who are producing abundant fruit according to the Holy Spirit working in us.

So don't let anyone pawn off being in the Church as "just praying and paying."

God will recompense us for all we do for Him. It is a great privilege to be called and to be allowed to pray, pay, participate, provide, promote, prepare and persevere in His Church.

As He said in Malachi: "'Your words have been harsh against Me,' says the Lord. Yet you say, 'What have we spoken against You?' You have said, 'It is useless to serve God; what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the Lord of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up; they even tempt God and go free.' Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. 'They shall be Mine,' says the Lord of hosts, 'On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.' Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who *serves God* and one who *does not serve Him*" (Malachi 3:13-18).

One day, we will know praying, paying, participating, providing, promoting, preparing and perseverance will have truly paid off, not only in this present life, but more importantly, in God's Kingdom! **UN**

Continued from Page 1

bers of our United congregations by having a sign-up to see how many are interested. The couples can choose to meet once a week, every other week or once a month for 10 sessions. Marriage Alive has found that meeting every other week produces the best results. The program is simple to use. All the couples meet together and listen to a 25-minute presentation from David and Claudia Arp. After that, each couple heads out on a date to discuss the lesson from that session. Each couple only needs to purchase one workbook for \$11.

This program can be used by the pastor for the congregation every other year or every third year or as desired.

For the ministry, this can be a wonderful supplement for their marriage counseling. With the counseling, a pastor can assign "10 Great Dates" as a homework assignment. The couple being counseled can then take the DVD and work through the 10 lessons. They would need to order their own workbook. The couple can then follow up with the pastor to report their progress and/or ask questions.

Secondly, a UCG.org page is now operational for marriage-related material. This site includes subjects pertaining to marriage written by ministers and members of the United Church of God. Additionally, Bible-based articles from outside sources are included that can help the members strengthen their marriages. Ministers and members alike will then have information they can use at their discretion. Please check out this section on our website. Visit UCG.org, click on Topics and in the lower left box you will see "Husbands and Wives" link under "Marriage and Family." Obviously, this part of our program is self-directed; you can go there at your choosing. There will be new material added to the website on a regular basis.

Thirdly, two-day marriage workshops are now available for congregations or circuits. This part of the marriage program is available upon request. If there is an interest, the pastor can send a request to Frank McCrady at frank_mccrady@ucg.org.

The preferred format is a "marriage retreat weekend." We meet in a hotel. There would be marriage sessions Sabbath afternoon (the material is very biblical), with dinner that evening and homework assignments for each couple that night. We would have breakfast, and then the marriage workshop would start at 9:00 a.m. Sunday. We plan to be finished by 1:30 p.m. so that everyone can get

home at a reasonable time.

We want this to be a "retreat" format so that there is a focus on the marriage. Participants don't go home to the house or children, etc. It is also to be a "fun" time together. Most of the weekends will be scheduled months in advance so, if need be, money can be saved to prepare for the weekend. We will work with the pastor if there are any extenuating circumstances or questions.

What are the costs? The home office will pay the cost for the presenter—transportation, hotel and food. The couple pays for their own hotel and food. The church area picks up the cost of any printing that is necessary and audio-visual equipment.

The following locations have been scheduled for marriage workshops in 2012: Denver, June 9; St. Louis, July 14-15; Akron/Cleveland, Oct. 28-29; Spokane, Nov. 3-4; San Antonio, Nov. 10-11; and Nashville is presently being scheduled.

It is our greatest desire to be of assistance in helping our marriages to be the absolute best they can be; after all, our marriages represent Christ and the Church. Your prayers for the effectiveness of this marriage program would be greatly appreciated!

Frank McCrady

Feast Musicians—Register Online Today!

One of the highlights of the Feast of Tabernacles is being inspired and uplifted by the special music presented during services. If you're a musician, we need you to volunteer to help serve during the Feast. Special music praises and honors God and is a great spiritual and emotional boost for everyone.

What a wonderful opportunity to participate in directly honoring God. We are admonished to use our talents and gifts to honor Him. Psalm 27:6 states: "Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord."

As many musicians as possible are needed to make this a successful musical Feast. If you can serve musically in any way, vocally or instrumentally, please plan to volunteer to help serve.

The easiest way to volunteer is online at <http://feast.ucg.org/music/>. On the website you can tell us about yourself and how you would like to contribute to festival music and what site you will be attending. If you can't go online and would like to volunteer to serve musically, contact the appropriate special music coordinator listed below.

Once you have volunteered, either

online or by contacting your special music coordinator, we'll take it from there. Later in the summer, you'll receive the music and information you'll need from the music coordinator for the site you plan to attend.

We encourage you not to wait until just before the Feast to volunteer, but go online to <http://feast.ucg.org/music/> or contact your special music coordinator as soon as possible as it greatly helps in the preparation and planning process.

Parents of children age 5-12 will be happy to know that there will be a children's choir at each Feast site again this year. There is no need to sign up for the children's choir. Music and practice parts will be made available online and distributed through your local church by August.

Please take time now to volunteer to contribute to the overall success of the Feast of Tabernacles through music!

Special Music Coordinators

Bend, Oregon—Mary Jo Rydholm; mjrydmus@yahoo.com; 360-556-0819

Branson, Missouri—Neil LaCasse; neiledmer@yahoo.com; 517-663-1764

Escondido, California—Dan Salcedo; dan_salcedo@ucg.org; 714-637-4335

Gatlinburg, Tennessee—Arvid Simmons; avsimmons@aol.com; 615-646-9640

Jekyll Island, Georgia—Randy Schmidt; rschmidt46@wi.rr.com; 414-327-0382

Lahaina, Hawaii—Fred Crow; fred_crow@ucg.org; 408-238-5324

Lake George, New York—Ken Japhet; kjaphet@hotmail.com; 503-507-777

New Braunfels, Texas—Mark Graham; themarkgraham@gmail.com; 216-533-6578

Panama City Beach, Florida—Steve Myers; steve_myers@ucg.org; 513-576-9796

Steamboat Springs, Colorado—Don McClenagan; music@mcclenagan.net; 250-846-5077

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin—Russ DeVilbiss; russ_devilbiss@ucg.org; 262-694-5044

Canmore, Alberta, Canada—David Meidinger; dsmeidinger@juno.com; 928-472-1190

Steve Myers

Send Feast Memories for 40th Anniversary of Wisconsin Dells Feast Site

The longest-existing Feast location in the modern Church of God is Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. This year marks the 40th anniversary of continuous Feasts of Tabernacles in "the Dells."

A video commemorating the 40 years of the Dells is planned for the Feast there this year. Any pictures, videos and even written memorabilia will be much appreciated as potential content for this benchmark anniversary video.

We already have pictures of the construction of the original site, and the first Feast of nearly 11,000 in October 1972. If you have something you wish to contribute to the memories, please rest assured the videos, pictures and any documents will be handled with great care for you.

Remember the "bridge construc-



Festival Hall in 1972 where the Feast of Tabernacles in the Wisconsin Dells was held. More than 14,000 Church members attended that year.

Photo: Wisconsin Dells Events newspaper

tion" on the first year, or "smiling chipmunks," or "not being a grump?" Look through those storage places, and bring out the history of God's continuing Dells Feast you might have tucked in there.

Please send all videos and pictures to Galen Morrison, 3425 North Trainer Road, Rockford, IL 61114. The phone number is 815-654-7886, and Mr. Morrison's e-mail is galen_morrison@ucg.org.

Dan Dowd

10th Annual Wheeling Bluegrass Weekend

You are warmly invited to attend the 10th annual Wheeling area Bluegrass Family Campout in Cadiz, Ohio. In the past we have had attendees from Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Virginia. The weekend officially kicks off Friday night, June 29, but many campers will be arriving Thursday evening through all day Friday.

On Sabbath there will be services at the campground, along with a Bible study and potluck meal. After sunset Saturday evening the music begins after a cookout, with an informal jam session. Sunday there will be a concert with any musicians welcome to perform their favorite bluegrass and folk songs.

If you're interested in attending, you can get more information from Keith Wilson by e-mail at keith_wilson@ucg.org. We hope to see you there!

Milan Bizic

ABC Charity Auction Raises \$6,000 for LifeNets Scholarship Fund

Sunday evening, April 29, 2012, the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2012 presented the annual charity auction, the proceeds of which were



Council of Elders chairman Melvin Rhodes presents a plaque and flowers to outgoing council member Bill Eddington, alongside his wife, Rae.



The ABC Class of 2012 on stage at the end of the annual charity auction in April, with Gary Antion addressing the audience.

donated to the LifeNets Developing Nations Scholarship Fund. This fund helps young people in Latin America receive an education in their country, to improve their lives and and their chance for better employment.

The event was held at the home office, and about 150 brethren attended the event. The production was themed, "A Night at the Movies," and was a great success under God's divine blessing.

Items put up for auction in both the live and silent auctions raised about \$6,000 towards the fund. Attendees were very generous in their donations!

The silent auction began an hour before the show, and a variety of items were sold—paintings, gift cards, jewelry, gift baskets, books, wine and more! Businesses in the surrounding area also donated several coupons for their products, as well as tickets to visit the Creation Museum and the Cincinnati Zoo.

During the show, there were several different acts performed. Students were singing, dancing, playing instruments, and Randy Stiver even recited one of his favorite poems. If the students weren't on stage, they were behind the scenes as stage crew, sound crew, cake walkers or in the kitchen preparing and serving delicious hors d'oeuvres!

In between acts, ABC student Chad Johnson conducted live sessions for bidding on desserts and other baked goods made and donated by students and members in the local area. The highest-selling dessert was a peanut butter ice cream pie, made by Mitchell and Dana Moss, which sold for \$250. Many other delicious desserts sold for very generous donations!

Janet Hines, head of the ABC service committee, worked diligently with

Victor Kubik to make this charitable event profitable and unforgettable! Katherine Rowland did a magnificent job as the show director. The students worked and prepared for the event for endless hours, but everyone agreed that it was God who blessed the class's efforts and provided an evening so blessed!

Amanda Boyer

Council of Elders Bids Farewell to Two Members

During their quarterly meeting after the General Conference of Elders in May, the Council of Elders bid their official farewells to outgoing, long-time Council members Bill Eddington and Roy Holladay by presenting each with plaques and gifts in appreciation for their service on the Council. Mr. Eddington had served for six years as a Council member, making the long trip from Australia for each Council meeting, and has been a great help with his expertise on the Roles and Rules Committee. Mr. Holladay had served on the Council for a combined total of 12 years, serving as chairman on various committees and stepping down from the Council in 2002 to serve as UCG president. He expressed his appreciation and pointed out with a smile that this was his third farewell plaque from the Council.

Both men will continue to serve the church in many other capacities.

Mitchell Moss

Chattanooga Plans 2012 Ocoee Rafting Trip

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting the annual Ocoee white water rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 5, at 10:00 a.m.

As in prior years the church will be utilizing the services of Ocoee Inn Rafting as outfitters for the trip. Participants must be at least 12 years old (Tennessee law) and in good health. Those with bad backs or other similar injuries should not participate due to the strenuous and jarring nature of the activity. Due to the inherent risky activity, all participants must sign a liability waiver. Those under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian's signature before they can participate.

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

Allen Dance
9201 Cobblestone Hill Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363

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

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

Roy Holladay

2012 Feast of Pentecost U.S. Holy Day Offering Report

This is the preliminary report from the amounts reported to home office. It does not include those amounts mailed into the home office by individuals.

2012 Feast of Pentecost (Reported)

Attendance: 7,936

Offering: \$566,769.10*

This represents a 3.8% increase in attendance from 2011, and a 0.4% increase in the reported offering from 2011.

* Once the offerings mailed to the home office by individuals are processed, the actual figure should be around \$580,000.

Gerald Seelig

The News in Photos: ABC Class of 2012 Graduation

On Sunday, May 20, 25 Ambassador Bible Center students graduated with a diploma in Biblical Studies. The ceremony included a student discourse by class president Josh Lamoureux, a chorale performance, a baccalaureate address by president Dennis Luker and a reception with cake and champagne. Congratulations to the ABC Class of 2012!



Above, clockwise, from top right: ABC graduate Jennifer Styer with her parents, Dennis Luker giving baccalaureate address, ABC grads Adriane Mez and Michael Slocum, the class of 2012 in a group on the home office lawn, class president Josh Lamoureux giving his address, the class posing for their silly group photo.



The winners of the ABC Excellence Awards, as selected by their peers. There was a tie for the female recipient of the award. From left: Carl Ferrante-Gennaro, Katherine Rowland, Dennis Luker, Amanda Boyer, Gary Antion.



The winners of the Council of Elders Service Awards, which are given to the male and female student who best exemplify a spirit of Christian service. Again, a tie for the ladies. From left: David Browning, Janet Hines, Darris McNeely, Hanna Reisdorff, Gary Antion.



What's New In MEDIA?

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Will I Go to Heaven?</i>	Steve Myers	June 3-9
<i>Would Jesus Attend Your Church?</i>	Gary Petty	June 10-16
<i>What is the Kingdom of God?</i>	Darris McNeely	June 17-23
<i>Who are the Two Witnesses?</i>	Steve Myers	June 24-30

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On May 31, Internet manager Aaron Booth reported the following stats for UCG Web activity:

- 43,373** total Facebook fans.
- 27,276** total Twitter followers.
- 877** videos posted on YouTube.
- 2,050,536** video views on YouTube.
- 208** Bible FAQs posted.
- 466,399** Bible FAQs views.
- 572** e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, *GN* Newsletter, *WNP* E-news) sent.
- 761,319** clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 177,398** booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.
- 34,594** booklet downloads from Amazon's Kindle Store.
- 294** *Good News* iPad app downloads.

Featured Links

■ UCG Marriage and Family Topics Page

<http://www.ucg.org/marriage-and-family/>
This site includes subjects pertaining to marriage written by ministers and members of the United Church of God. Additionally, Bible-based articles from outside sources are included that can help the members strengthen their marriages.

■ The Good News iPad App

<http://tinyurl.com/ucg-gnapp>
With the Good News iPad app, you can subscribe to the digital edition of the magazine for free and keep archived issues in the app for future reading. From within each issue, the app lets you you bookmark stories, share pages with friends, read at night and more.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 4-8:** ABC Continuing Education, Cincinnati
- June 17-24:** Camp Cotubic, Ohio
- June 17-20:** Southwest Preteen Camp, California
- June 24-27:** Preteen Camp Colorado
- June 29-July 6:** Camp Pinecrest, Missouri
- July 1-8:** Camp Hye Sierra, California
- July 1-8:** Camp Woodmen, Alabama
- July 8-11:** Preteen Camp Kiwanis, Pennsylvania
- July 15-18:** Preteen Camp Tomahawk, Tennessee
- July 22-25:** Preteen Camp Ironwood, Minnesota
- July 22-29:** Northwest Camp, Oregon
- Aug. 5-8:** Preteen Camp Northwest, Oregon
- Aug. 5-8:** Preteen Camp Buckeye, Ohio
- Aug. 6-9:** Council of Elders quarterly meeting, Cincinnati

ATTENTION GRADUATING UNIVERSITY SENIORS, SEND US YOUR BIOS!

Congratulations! We would like to feature the 2012 university graduates in the August *United News*. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and send a photograph by **July 9, 2012**.

1. Graduate's Name
2. Parents' Names
3. Congregation and Pastor's Name
4. University Accomplishments
5. Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests (tell a little bit about yourself)
6. Plans After Graduation
7. Additional Comments (favorite quote, favorite scripture, motto, advice, etc. Please identify which it is, so we don't think your advice is your motto, etc.)

Also include your phone number or e-mail address to use to confirm spellings, etc. (They will not be printed.) Please send with a recent photo (conforming with biblical standards of dress and hair length) of the graduate by **July 9**.

By e-mail to: Mitch_Moss@ucg.org.

By mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length; 250-word maximum length.

Thanks!

UNITED STATISTICS

UCG.org Unique Visitors

monthly totals, non-cumulative

