

UNITED NEWS



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JULY 2012

Beyond Today Now Airing in Asia, Middle East



Dana Moss

by Peter Eddington

We are very pleased to announce that the United Church of God will expand its reach to additional television viewers in the United States and many nations around the world through a Christian/Family network operated by LeSEA Broadcasting (www.lesea.com), World Harvest Television.

Beginning July 8, 2012, *Beyond Today* will air every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (Eastern) on the World Harvest Television network, which reaches 25 million households in the United States. This network is carried by DirecTV on satellite channel 367 to 19.9 million households and on AT&T U-Verse

to an additional 5.1 million homes—plus on 130 cable TV systems. It can also be seen on Digital 2 broadcast via LeSEA's independent stations in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Honolulu, Hawaii; Indianapolis, Indiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; South Bend, Indiana; and Tulsa, Oklahoma. (A full broadcast log will be published soon on the *Beyond Today* website and in *The Good News*).

Additionally, beginning on July 8, 2012, *Beyond Today* will air at 1:00 p.m. GMT+2 each Sunday on LeSEA Broadcasting's Middle East Television (www.metv.org). Based in Cyprus, this 28-year old station is

available in every television home in Israel via cable and over-the-air. It also reaches a potential audience of 200 million viewers in 22 Muslim countries—from Iran to Egypt and from Turkey to Saudi Arabia.

Our telecasts will be subtitled in Arabic at no additional cost to the church. Middle East Television is popular with U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Since it is one of the only American-owned broadcast facilities in the region, it also carries the NFL, NASCAR, NCAA college sports, the PGA tour and other prominent sporting events.

Far East Television

Finally, also starting July 8, *Beyond Today* will air on LeSEA Broadcasting's "Family Entertainment Television" channel, Far East Television (www.fetv.tv). This will be every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. GMT+2 via satellite on Intelsat 10. Our programs will reach viewers in nations throughout Asia and Europe, including Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and many more. Our programs will also be seen in many countries throughout the African continent.

See all country listings at www.fetv.tv/Satellite-Coverage.cfm. It totals 135 countries at present. Far East Television has a potential audience of 4.3 billion people, equaling about 60 percent of the world's population. *Beyond Today* will follow a very popular Asian televangelist, Joseph

Prince, which places our programs in a position to spread the gospel to his large audience.

We hope you are as pleased as we are by these excellent, new opportunities to reach many additional viewers throughout the world with the good news of God's soon coming Kingdom. Thank you for your ongoing, diligent prayers for His blessings on all of the Church's expanding media efforts. **UN**



ABC Alumni Association Makes Plans

On May 23, 2012, a group of Ambassador Bible Center (ABC) alumni gathered to discuss an official launch of the ABC Alumni Association. Also in attendance was Randy Stiver, who was appointed to coordinate alumni affairs when he was brought in as an instructor last year at Ambassador Bible Center.

Some of the topics discussed included: funding, a new website, and what the organization has done in the past. One of the points of discussion was how to get in contact with all past ABC alumni and how to get them involved no matter where they live. The association wants to find alumni who have been lost through the years.

One proposed step to include everyone was to have regional and class heads. Also discussed was how it's important to help past alumni serve in their respective areas. Questions posed included: How can they serve in their areas? How can pastors use new and past alumni? How can alumni put their ABC education to work?

Sabrina Peabody, a 2010 alumna in attendance, said, "We all need to use

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Where Did You Get That Name?

■ What does the word "church" mean, and where did we get it?

by Arthur Suckling

My wife and I were driving along Highway 50 in the State of Colorado, and we noted a white van parked on a high piece of land along side the road for all to see. An obvious message was emblazoned on the side, which read, "The Old King James Bible Baptist Church." Clearly, some zealous and sincere people decided to advertise this very unusual name for a

church for passers-by to see.

I pondered, how did they come up with that name? Did they know about the questionable history of King James? Were they aware of the king's dalliances? Did they know of other translations of the Bible before the new "Authorized Version" was ordered by James I in 1603? Was there an understanding of the political climate that created the need to spend eight years on a new translation when a very good one already existed, "The Geneva Bible"? What was the motivation for this change?

Had they known the answers to those questions, they may have chosen a com-

pletely different name for their church!

A name is a very important thing. It makes a statement about who and what you are and what you know and believe. This group apparently "believed" and emphasized their uniqueness as a group by connecting themselves with the King James Version (KJV) Bible printed in 1611. However, is this really a question of "belief"? I don't think so, since a belief is a religious conviction about something that is not seen and is a matter of faith (Hebrews 11:1). That is not the case with a physical Bible. This is especially so

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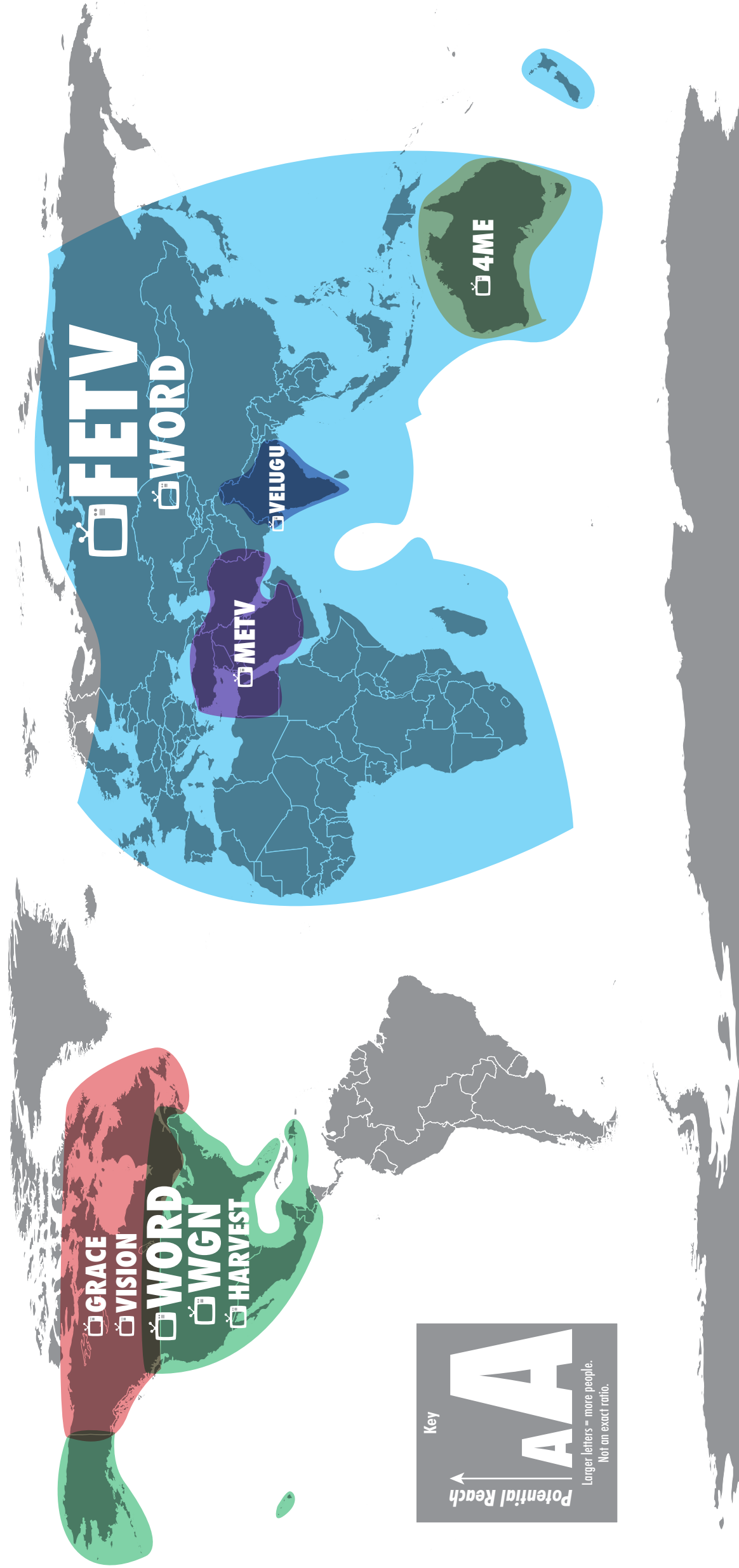
4.3 billion

Potential audience of *Beyond Today* on FETV. See page 2 for a full explanation.

Where In the World Can Someone Watch Beyond Today On Air?

With the addition of the Harvest Network, METV and FETV to our broadcasting line-up, the potential reach of *Beyond Today* has extended to much of the globe. *What is "potential reach?"* It's the geographic area within which somebody could catch *Beyond Today* on TV if they have access to a satellite or cable connection that carries one of these networks. The coverage areas shown are an approximation.

To see all station listings, air times and broadcast logs, visit www.ucg.org/beyond-today/channels



Number of U.S. & Canadian subscribers to satellite or cable networks that now carry <i>Beyond Today</i> (in millions)	
WORD	85
WGN	75
Harvest	25

Number of countries in which these networks are available	
WORD	200
FETV	135
METV	22

*This graph excludes the total reach of *Beyond Today* on the Internet. Imagine the Internet's potential reach as the page this chart is printed on.



VICTOR KUBIK
Ministerial and
Member Services
Director

The words “edify” and “edification” appear as action words for Christians in a number of New Testament passages. By definition, to edify is to “instruct or improve (someone) morally or intellectually” (Oxford English Dictionary). The word “edifice” comes from the same root as “edify” and is a synonym for a building. In a Christian sense, it means to promote growth in wisdom, affection, grace, virtue and holiness.

Paul said, “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” (Romans 14:19). Not only that, we are admonished to “let no corrupt word proceed out of [our] mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

We have a Christian responsibility to build our church and maintain a peaceful environment. Paul writes that what we say to others in church imparts God’s grace on the hearers and helps them grow. You have an important part in building and promoting the health of your church, be it in your local congregation or through your rela-

tionships with people around the world.

In order for you to build up the Church, there are a few things you need to think about. For example, Paul mentions thought for others and self-restraint: “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification” (Romans 15:1-2). And similarly: “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being” (1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

Everyone—even Christians—has a deep-down desire to seek their own way without thinking about other people’s feelings and needs. It was true in the earliest Christian churches, and it’s true now. But a person seeking for peace will always be asking what’s best for the entire Church and be willing to submit to others in a godly way.

Even using personal abilities and gifts needs to be for the building up of the Church and not for selfish reasons. Writing to the talented Corinthians, Paul reminded them to think of the purpose of their skills: “Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel” (1 Corinthians 14:12).

It is important to think about your words, behavior and example, because you have a

significant role in the growth of the congregation you are in. You have the power to bring about a peaceful, loving spirit among your brothers. You can listen carefully to and care deeply about others. You can draw them out and give thoughtful, caring responses. It’s often this kind of sacrifice that brings about behavior in kind.

Paul mentored Timothy and advised him to watch for useless talk that brought conflict and not edification in the Church: “Charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith” (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

How many times have we become distracted with useless wrangling and disputes, pettiness, uncontrolled ill will and unresolved conflict? How many unpleasant and unnecessary divisions have taken place over the decades because someone tore down the Church by violating the simple yet clear instructions about what it takes to build? People became self-willed, careless with words, filled with self-importance and nonsensical conversation.

We have a wonderful opportunity to become Church-builders—those who edify and promote peace by following what Paul wrote to his congregations.

What are you doing to promote the building of your congregation? Your words and actions have far more impact than you think. **UN**

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Local Church UPDATES

Denver and Colorado Springs Serve at Ronald McDonald House

The congregations from Denver and Colorado Springs served dinner and provided musical entertainment at a Ronald McDonald House in Denver on May 23, 2012. The Ronald McDonald House charities provide low-cost housing to out-of-town families that need to be near their hospitalized children.

Guests and staff voiced appreciation for the gourmet dinner organized by Anita Diltz, Connie Ashley and Mary Curry. The tantalizing aromas of barbecued chicken, homemade potato salad, cole slaw, barbecued beans and fresh strawberry shortcake filled the building. About 40 guests were also treated to musical entertainment by Sheila Wagoner (keyboard), Mary Curry (violin) and Sam Hines (guitar). Several guests joined in a spirited sing-along. They said that they really appreciated the fun time!

Scott Ashley



About 40 guests staying at the Ronald McDonald House enjoyed the dinner and entertainment provided by members of the Denver and Colorado Springs congregations.

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

our talents to serve the Church.” The alumni association wants just that: to reach out to as many alumni as possible and get them involved by serving in their areas and staying connected with other alumni.

On another topic of discussion, Mr. Stiver said, “Bridges of communication need to be in good repair between different organizations.”

The ABC Alumni Association has set out to meet a few goals over the next several months. The Association wants to have as many of the above questions answered and to have a service project up and running quickly. Plans to have a new website up within the next three months are in the works. There are also plans to create a presentation to share at many Feast of Tabernacles sites.

The ABC Alumni Association is also seeking to update the contact information for all alumni. Alumni interested in providing updated information or anyone with questions or comments are encouraged to contact Mark Tannert (mark@tannert.net).

Linda Merrick



Alone or Lonely?

■ There is a real difference.

by Robin Webber

In the Church of God, there are brethren who are isolated, whether one individual or just one family in a particular country or area within a nation. For all practical purposes and humanly speaking, such isolated brethren are alone and separated from other spiritual family members. The words of Matthew 18:20—“Where two or three are gathered together in My name”—would be a welcome event to these folks. They might call it a crowd! It reminds me of what American philosopher Henry David Thoreau once quipped: “One chair for solitude, two chairs for company and three for society.”

As one member of the Council, I can assure those reading this publication that the collective Council body takes the time and necessary means to address the needs of one remote individual as much as our large congregations and larger international associations. In doing so, we have the privilege of practicing being like God (Ephesians 5:1). God has always cared for the individual who is humanly alone and cut off from others for the moment.

In considering our intentions as to how we make decisions in the Council, it made me ponder how those on the other end of our concern make their decisions to develop and sustain a proper spiritual perspective. Beyond those who are physically isolated, all of us can feel spiritually and emotionally isolated at times even in the largest of congregations due to personal conditions on the ground.

Two Separate Spheres of Existence

I came to the conclusion that being alone and being lonely are two separate spheres of existence. Being alone is physical isolation from anyone. Loneliness or being lonely is an emotional and spiritual sense that no one is there to fill your personal needs. Loneliness at its extreme manifestations might scream inside you, “Nobody cares and nobody even knows I exist!” It’s apparent that being lonely is the natural human reflex of physical or emotional isolation. But God has created a different kind of reflex within His new spiritual creation—the Body of Christ—with expectations that we use it and truly believe in it.

Pondering the challenge of our isolated members made me reflect on a statement by C.S. Lewis, a British author, theologian and lecturer. He said, “We read to know we are not alone.” That’s why God inspired the story of His covenant relationship with people of faith down through the ages. We call that story the



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*Consider the ultimate singular act of being alone—
Jesus alone on a stake left to die. It is here on
Golgotha that one of his final comments gives us
a sense of the defining difference between physical
solitude and spiritual isolation.*

Bible. It is a divinely crafted, dual-edged instrument that is both a mirror to our souls and a window to look out beyond ourselves and see what God is performing in us as His chosen work (Ephesians 2:10). More than naught, it reminds us as spiritual pilgrims existing in this present evil age, so foreign to His ways, that the walk set before us (Ephesians 4:1, 5:2) is often a solo journey, whether in temporary sprints or life-long marathons of solitude.

Think about Noah, the only person who found favor in God’s sight in an entire world gone astray. Consider the lonesome journey of Abram leaving the city-state of Ur nearly 4,000 years ago with no compass in hand other than the promise of God. In a figurative sense, his exit from his people can be compared to one car leaving town as the only car on its side of the road, while a traffic jam was going on the other way, urgently enter-

ing the city. Think for a moment about how alone David felt in the valley as he faced a giant while everyone else was up on the rim of the valley. Just imagine how Daniel felt alone in the lions’ den with no company but hungry predators. Suppose what it was like for Peter to be walking on water while everyone else stared from the safety of the boat.

Now let’s consider the ultimate experience of being alone—Jesus left alone on a stake to die. It was there on Golgotha that one of His final comments gives us a sense of the defining difference between physical solitude and spiritual isolation. He said, “Into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46). His firm understanding and the knowledge of God’s personal presence in His life—even in the midst of human isolation and emotional abandonment—is the key to understanding the difference between being alone and loneliness in our lives today.

Let’s Open the Window Further

Let’s open that window on God’s Word a little wider for a moment and look out and up to what God has done for those that have gone before us. Again, remember: We read to know we are not alone. But you have got to read and look up and out. Let’s remember how Elisha responded to the fearful words of “What shall we do?” uttered by his servant. He firmly reminded him, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And then Elisha prayed, “Lord, I pray open his eyes that he may see.” God miraculously responded and revealed a mountain flooded with fiery chariots and horses prepared to protect His purpose towards His servants (2 Kings 6:14-17). Alone? Yes. Lonely? No!

Consider how Stephen, when seemingly all alone with a violent crowd around him, was granted a vision to gaze into heaven and saw “the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” (Acts 7:45). Alone? Yes. Lonely? No! Once again let’s consider how God opens windows to display His companionship to those in physical solitude. Consider John the apostle, last of the original witnesses of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Near the end of his life, he was in prison on the island of Patmos. He needed encouragement, and the Church needed encouragement that their life’s choice to be a follower of Jesus Christ was not in vain. The windows of heaven were once again opened in the Revelation of God through Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1). John and the Church were shown that there is companionship above that is actively involved in our lives here below. Revelation 1 and 4 open up the picture of the throne room of the living Christ (1:7-18) surrounded by living creatures and 24 elders who are aware and involved in carrying out God’s will toward His new creation, the Body of Christ. Was John isolated and alone? Yes. Did he have company above? Absolutely.

But, What About the Common Man?

You might be saying: “So far, so good, but these are pretty big names in the Bible! What else would I expect?” Let’s focus on the common person, the one without a famous name, like you and me. The book of Hebrews answers your question. It was written around A.D. 65 to Christians who were alone and set apart from their ethnic and former religious community due to their decision to follow Jesus Christ. Not only that, but the entire populace was feeling isolated by the Roman legions who were targeting

Jerusalem for its impending destruction. Alone? We can only imagine! It is here that God inspires the words to the common man, no matter where they are and no matter what situation they're in. It is in Hebrews that God reminds the Body of Christ: "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first born who are in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant" (Hebrews 12:22-24). What a crowd! What companionship! Alone? Yes. Lonely? Let the window of God's Word be our answer.

Two Incredible Statements Just for You

Jesus left us two incredible statements

at the end of His earthly ministry. One was a promise, and the other was a declaration. He did so to help us overcome any despair by reminding us that we are never alone. His promise to believers is recorded in John 14:16-18: "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that he may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know Him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans." Secondly, He declared, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Alone? Never!

To those who are in a lone spot today, isolated from others, the choice remains yours as to whether you choose the natural reflex of loneliness or the spiritual reflex of embracing the reality that you are surrounded by God's presence, attention and

comfort. For those of us in congregations who have the blessing of fellowship with others of like faith, we have a responsibility toward our scattered and isolated brethren around the world. Let us never underestimate the challenge set before them as to whether to be simply alone or lonely. They would love to be in your world. Simply put, it's not easy. We have the choice to pray for them and to mention them to God. Frankly, it is our spiritual responsibility! Remember how Elisha prayed that his servant's eyes would be open? Remember how Jesus committed His Spirit to God? Think about how Paul, after leaving the church in Ephesus and knowing he would never see them again, offered a blessing: "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

Commending people to God is not a cop-out. It's most incredible and beautiful gift we can offer others separated by time, distance and circumstances. The word in Greek literally means to "entrust, to place with someone, commit"—to place our beloved, scattered brethren in the company of the One who is all-knowing, all-loving, all-powerful and ever-present. What an incredible privilege! What an incredible opportunity! It's a true exercise of *agape* (godly love) that is outflowing and outgoing away from ourselves to those in need.

To those scattered abroad, home alone and humanly isolated, I know I speak for the entire Council of Elders, administration and brethren in saying: We salute you and know your challenge. We do care. Thank you for your faithfulness to Him who has been faithful to all of us. It is to Him that we commend you. **UN**

Camp Report: Camp Cotubic

Bellefontaine, Ohio



Clockwise from top left: Dalton Parish and B2 counselor Kyle Bornhorst at the Pinewood Derby Racers activity; Shaylee Thomas on the Saturn water-toy at the waterfront; Julia Scott and Joel Martin at dance class; B3 counselors Mike Sherry and Nathan Green with softball instructor Mark Miller; G3 assistant counselor Monica Call at the climbing wall with Stephanie Tomes and Lauren Lewis; the girls of G3 relaxing with speedway instructor Sarena Fenger.

by Frank Dunkle

For the second year running, Camp Cotubic (near Bellefontaine, Ohio) was the first and largest of UCG's teen summer camps. Running June 17-24, the program hosted 127 teens aged 12-19. Among our 55 staff members were several employees of the church's media department, allowing us to offer a media class, in which campers created videos based on some of Jesus' parables.

Along with the unique media class, teens enjoyed many of the usual standard

camp activities, such as softball, volleyball, archery and swimming. They were also able to use the high ropes course, climbing wall, zip-line and giant swing that are part of the Cotubic facility. Yet what makes the UYC program unique and valuable is that the activities are a means for practicing principles of Christian living.

Years ago, then-camp director Darris McNeely said that we could set up and run our camp program in a parking lot and still be effective. Doing that might be less fun,

but it would still allow the most important parts of the program to proceed. Those are the biblical instruction and close interaction with converted adult staff. We strive for the camp program to create a safe, loving environment, in which everyone practices God's way of life. We call this "the Zone" for short. At Cotubic this year, each dorm began its activity day with a Christian living class that explored an aspect of the camp theme: Calling, Honor and Faith. The schedule included an additional Bible class on successful life planning, taught

by Frank McCrady. The evening campfire program concluded each day with a story by a member of the staff that illustrated the day's Christian living theme.

Of course all of this serious instruction and practice of God's way of life was not intended to reduce the plain, old-fashioned fun of camp. Rather, it makes camp all the more fun—because God's way brings joy. Many campers and staff commented that this was their best camp yet. Still our goal for next year is to make it even better! **UN**

Where Did You Get That Name?

Continued from page 1

considering the innumerable translations now available.

In America, there are probably thousands of names for church organizations in this land of smorgasbord religion. This reality exists thanks to the freedom we have in our day and age that allows us to enjoy a metaphorical “soup du jour.” Religious freedom has provided tolerance for the creation of every possible version and variation of “Christianity,” whether it be church identity or form of worship. Benjamin Franklin viewed this situation as each denomination being children of the same family, having different Christian names.

Churches are named after individuals: Martin Luther or John Calvin for example. Churches are also named after movements like Catholicism or Anglicanism. “Ism” on the end of the word denotes a system, principle or ideological movement. We also use names based on events, such as the Seventh Day Adventist or Latter Day Saints. Then we use a chronological element such as “End Time” or the Second Coming followed by some other description.

From there we move on to describing the kind of church like “True Gospel,” “Full Gospel,” “Universal,” “Reformed,” “First Reformed,” “Restored,” “Renewed” and “Refreshed.” The list could go on and on.

What is the Origin of the Word “Church”?

“ORIGIN Old English *cir(i)ce*, *cyr(i)ce*, related to Dutch *kerk* and German *Kirche*, based on medieval Greek *kurikon*, from Greek *kuriakon* (*dōma*) ‘Lord’s (house),’ from *kurios* ‘master or lord.’” (Oxford Dictionary).

Notice the origin is from the Greek language and means “Lord’s House” or the “Master’s House.” Of course, in the passage of time the meaning of words change along with the migrations of people and language. Why do we have so many names for the Lord’s house? That term was used for the Tabernacle tent and later the Temple in ancient Israel. Refrains of this may be seen in Jerusalem and its “Temple Mount.”

So, where did we get to the place where “church” indicated a building, name or an organization?

History gives us the answer. Briefly, after Jesus established the early New Testament Church (or “Primitive Church” as theologians refer to it), it disappeared quite quickly around the turn of the first century. As historians Edward Gibbon and Jessie Hurlbut describe in historic terms, a cloud of darkness descended through which we can see little. Out of that “lost century” emerges something quite different from that which Jesus and His disciples evidenced.

From that point on, the Catholic Church emerges. Constantine creates a state religion, which dominated until the Fall of Rome in A.D. 476. The Dark Ages emerged with the domination of the Catholic Church and declined with the

emergence of the Protestant Reformation. This violently erupted in the 16th century. That’s when all of the various names began to emerge. England’s Henry VIII broke from Rome and established the Church of England. Thanks to the reformers Luther, Zwingli, Calvin and Knox, the floodgates opened. The freedom that seeped through and eroded dogma—allowing the environment of diversity, organization and beliefs—climaxed in what we have today. No longer are doctrines forced on people with threatening demands by those in positions of power and control.

Today, we have a multitude of churches with great variety of doctrines, names and organizations—and a great deal of confusion! We use the word church in many different ways whether or not we realize it. Which one did Jesus mean?

When we read Matthew 16:18 and 18:17 in context, we must conclude that those disciples who Jesus worked with were an assembly of His people that comprised what He called “My church.” It did not originally mean a building or corporation.

What is a Church?

Let’s step back for a moment and ask a question. What does the Bible actually say about a church? As any casual reader of the New Testament would be able to see, none of the names mentioned earlier can be found in the Bible. The only biblical name I can find for a “church” is “the Church of God” (mentioned some 13 times and with some slight variation a total of 114 times) in the New Testament (see Acts 12:15, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 10:32, 12:28, 15:9; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:13; Ephesians 1:22; 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:5).

Let’s go to the scripture where Jesus establishes His Church and see what it says.

Jesus first uses the word “church” in Matthew 16:18 when speaking with His disciples. The New Testament was preserved in the Greek language, but probably written in Aramaic, which is a derivation of Hebrew. This presents some interesting translation problems we need to consider. What did Jesus mean when He said “church”?

He could not have meant a building, as the Temple in Jerusalem was still present. He did not mean a corporation that has tax exempt status and all of our legal requirements today. He could only have meant a gathering or assembling of individuals.

Jesus called it “My church.” The English word “church” is translated from the Greek word *ekklesia*.

The Gospel Scriptures were probably originally communicated in Aramaic. Jesus was a Jew (Hebrews 7:14) and brought up in the “Jewish religion” (Luke 2:39-51). There is little doubt that His primary language would have been Hebrew/Aramaic. So what is the Hebrew word for church? Since there are no instances in the Old Testament where the word “church” appears in any translations, we must look at the New Testament for references back to the Old Testament. Acts 7:38 says about Moses: “This is he who was in the *congregation* in the wilderness...” (emphasis added). The center margin in my New King James translation gives this explanation for the word “congregation”: “Greek ‘*ekklesia*, *assembly or church*’”—the same word as Jesus used. Based on this connection, it’s clear that the New Testament writer of Acts considered the word *ekklesia* appropriate to describe the assembly of Israel in Sinai. The nation gathered (or assembled) together as it records in Exodus 12:3.

There are two Hebrew words that describe a gathering of peoples: the noun *eda* and another noun, *qahal*. The first word, *eda*, means “a gathering of people for worship or legal matters.” The second word, *qahal*, basically means the same thing: “A gathering of a great body of people for civil or religious or other occasions” (Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, “Assembly,” p.43).

Many times in Exodus, the LORD called for an assembly of God’s people for various reasons. So when God’s people gather together in what the Bible calls an “assembly” or “congregation,” the two Hebrew nouns noted above are used. In the New Testament, with its Greek influence, the term *ekklesia* is used. In the centuries since the Bible was first translated into English, the word has been changed from “assembly” into “church.”

When we read Matthew 16:18 and 18:17 in context, we must conclude that those disciples who Jesus worked with were an assembly of His people that comprised what He called “My church.” It did not originally mean a building or corporation. This follows the clear use of the “church or assembly of God’s people” used throughout the New Testament.

In modern times, the word “church” has evolved to mean many different things, including a building, a local congrega-

tion, a corporation, a denomination, etc. UCG has developed rules to differentiate between the different uses (see sidebar), which when combined with context, can differentiate between the meaning intended in each case.

Who comprises God’s Church?

In short, we do not know. Understanding that God is the one that calls and opens minds (John 6:44, 65), it is wise not to make exclusive evaluations one way or another. Clearly, there are many organizations that focus on grace and worship and do not follow the examples of Jesus and His disciples. “What *Would* Jesus Do?” and “What *Did* Jesus Do?” are two totally different things.

However, I know of people not associated with the church corporation with which I am affiliated, but believe the same teachings as I do. Should I tell them they are not in the right church, building or organization? That seems a bit arbitrary considering that such an approach is quite judgmental. Do we really need to make that judgment?

Next time you read something using the word “church” in it, stop and consider. What exactly is the word referring to? Put it in its context, be it building, corporation or assembly, and be aware that only the last one means God’s called-out ones. The last one is an inclusive term indicating all people that God the Father has called across the time-frame of history, wherever they were or are. These called-out ones have or had His Holy Spirit and live(d) obeying His commandments. They are not necessarily dependent on an organization or meeting in a building. They are individuals who understand a way of life inspired by God’s Spirit and His Word that leads to salvation.

We do not know who everyone is that is in God’s assembly or congregation. A reading of Hebrew 11 tells us that God knows who they are. So keep an open mind. Fellowship with like minds (Hebrews 10:24-25) realizing that only God the Father and His Son ultimately know the answer to who has been “called out.” **UN**

UCG’s Style Guidelines for the Word “Church”

When reading United Church of God publications, look for context and capitalization to deduce which meaning of the word “church” is being used. Below are the capitalization guidelines used by UCG editors.

“The word Church (with a capital C) refers to the faithful Church that Jesus Christ founded. The word church (with a small c) refers to local groups of believers, other physical organizations and buildings. References to the United Church of God are capitalized. Proper names of organizations are capitalized (e.g. Catholic Church). Since church is not capitalized in the Bible translations quoted, all scriptural quotations—whether referring to the Body of Christ or a local congregation—use church with a small c.”

Announcements



Lila Russamee Brown



Alex Johnston & Victoria Zimmerman



Larry and Rita Wilson



Sara Roberta Green



Joy Ann Reese

Births

Bobby and Ratana Brown of the Richmond, Virginia, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, **Lila Elise Russamee Brown**.

Lila was born at 3:33 a.m. on Friday, Apr. 20, 2012. She weighed 5 lbs., 11 oz. at birth and was 18.5 inches long.

Her parents feel incredibly blessed by her arrival and look forward to teaching her God's way of life.

Engagements

Alex Hyle Johnston and **Victoria Payge Zimmerman** were married on June 24, 2012, at the Winery of Camba in Jackson, Ohio. They met in 2007 at the Feast of Tabernacles in Panama City Beach, Florida, and they have endured a long-distance relationship ever since. Victoria Payge Zimmerman is the daughter of Ron and Laura Zimmerman and Julie Kendall of Anderson, Indiana. Alex Hyle Johnston is the son of Mark and Linda Johnson of McArthur, Ohio.

Anniversaries

Larry and Rita Wilson of the Athens, Ohio, congregation celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on May 26, 2012.

They met while they were both working for the American Cyanamid chemical plant in Willow Island, West Virginia. Larry was an instrument mechanic, and Rita worked in the company's credit union.

Larry had been listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio and had been receiving *The Plain Truth* since his late teens. When he and Rita began dating, he shared the magazine with her

and she also began to believe in God's way of life.

They were married in May of 1972. Almost a year later, in March of 1973, they were both baptized by Nelson Haas. They began attending services with the Worldwide Church of God in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Larry and Rita are both retired from Cytec Industries (formerly American Cyanamid.)

They have one adult daughter, Angie, who is also a member of the Athens, Ohio, congregation.

Obituaries

Sara Roberta Green, 89, of Kevil, Kentucky, died Friday evening, Feb. 3, 2012. She was born in Wingo, Kentucky, on Mar. 6, 1922, to Hugh and Halleen Smith. She had one younger brother, Victor. Her family moved to Mayfield, Kentucky, when she was 11. She graduated from Mayfield High School in 1950. The next summer she married the love of her life, David Green.

They had four children: Anna Lee, Billy, Trudy and Lela. And then came the grandchildren: Tracy, Carrie, Steve, Cathi, Renea, Jennifer and Patricia. David and Roberta had 54 years together, and he lived long enough to see their first great-grandchild, Savannah. Savannah was followed by Elizabeth, Isabelle, Josh, J.D. and Christina.

She was a seamstress, homemaker and personal care assistant throughout her adult life, but her favorite job was Grandma to her "grands" and "great-grands." She was greatly blessed with a family that she dearly loved and that deeply loved and treasured her.

On Feb. 6, 1974, Roberta and David were baptized into the Church of God. It was inside a

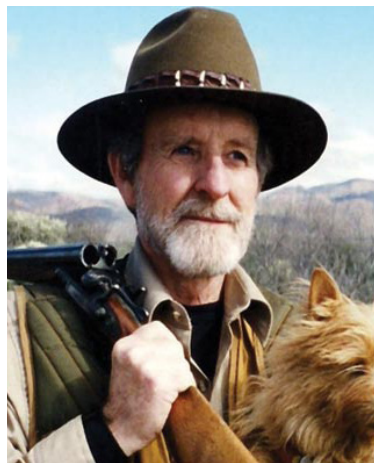
portable tank—the wintertime event was very invigorating in more ways than one!

Roberta faithfully attended the Paducah, Kentucky, congregation until age and poor health made it impossible to do so. The presence of her warmth and quick smile has been greatly missed. We all look forward to reunion at the resurrection.

Joy Ann Reese, a long-time Church member in Pasadena, died suddenly on Apr. 23, 2012, of massive cranial bleeding. Joy was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on Dec. 19, 1943. Her father died when she was five, leaving her mother a pregnant widow with four children with no means of support. The family often went hungry during this time.

Joy remembered hearing her mother pray fervently, "God, you promised to help the widows." It was soon after, in 1955, that Joy's uncle, Jesse Bair, came to live with them. Unknown to the family, Uncle Jesse had been listening to *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast by Herbert Armstrong while living in St. Louis, and had been baptized on a baptizing tour. Through Uncle Jesse the family learned the truth of the Bible.

There was no local church



Roy Lee Sampson

congregation in Baltimore, so in July of 1960, the family moved to Gladewater, Texas. Joy was able to attend Imperial School for her senior year.

After finishing high school, Joy moved to Pasadena to attend Ambassador College. She was baptized in April of 1962. While at Ambassador College, she met Earle Reese, to whom she was married on Jan. 30, 1966. She graduated from Ambassador College in May of 1966.

Joy was a stay-at-home mother who worked hard to raise four children. She did a few part-time jobs during her 46 years of marriage, including ushering at Ambassador Auditorium and managing the snack room during ministerial refresher sessions. She was ordained a deaconess in the early 1980s.

Joy is survived by her husband, Earle; her daughters, Joyce Muller of Ojai, California, Cynthia McClain of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Karissa Reese of Pasadena, California; her son Benjamin Reese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; her sister, Jean Johnson of Baltimore, Maryland; her brother, George Bryan of Coral Springs, Florida; two grandsons, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Roy Lee Sampson, born June 2, 1931, in Denver, Colorado, passed away Apr. 30, 2012, in Phoenix, Arizona, with his loving family at his bedside.

As a young man he was a hunting guide in Alaska. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. After marrying in 1952, he moved to Flagstaff, Arizona, where he bought run-down hotels, renovated them, and sold them for a profit. He was a quintessential entrepreneur. He later moved to Scottsdale and bought a mobile home park in Mesa, which later evolved into one of the largest recreational vehicle

dealerships in the nation, "Little Dealer, Little Prices." It's now owned and operated by his children.

After retiring in the '90s, he moved back to Alaska, where he fulfilled his dream of hiking and hunting in the wilderness. His life was filled with exciting adventures, not the least of which was surviving an attack by an African male lion. He is one of only a handful of people who have lived to tell the story. This and many of his adventures are chronicled in the recently published book, *Twilight Zone of the Huntress*, written by his wife, Kay Evon Sampson, who accompanied him on many of his adventures from Alaska to Russia to Africa to Australia.

Roy was baptized in 1956 and remained a faithful member until his death. He attended the Northern Arizona congregation of United Church of God for the last several years. He was very involved with his church, close to his family and was a generous man of integrity and honor. He will be missed by many, many people. Roy is survived by his wife, seven children, 15 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his lifelong friend and ex-wife, Vivian Joy Sampson.

Memorial services were held Sunday, May 6, 2012, with Scott McKeon officiating.

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*.

Congratulations, Class of 2012!



Austin Breidenthal

Austin Phillip-Logan Breidenthal

Parents: Charles and Sandra Breidenthal

Congregation: Oakland, California

High school accomplishments: Graduated with high honors from Buckingham Charter Magnet High School.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Austin values family and friendships. He enjoys anything that brings people together such as music, sports and food. He loves the Church and is learning to live God's way of life.

Plans after graduation: Austin plans to work and save as much as he can and enroll at the local community college.

Chad Browning

Parents: Cynthia Lynn Slocum and Mark Browning

Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High school accomplishments: Hi-cap advanced, honors and advanced placement classes; concert; symphonic; wind ensemble; jazz bands playing trombone, percussion and euphonium; American sign language for two years; senior project with Chip Chuprinko as mentor—writing/arranging an 11 ½ minute medley titled “Star Trek Medley: A Journey Through Space and Time” for his band to perform and record; citizenship awards; academic excellence and honors awards; advanced placement scholar awards; three band letters, one track letter; four-year Washington State College-bound scholarship.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Spokesman's club; local church choir; local and Feast instrumental ensemble; Feast parking; teen cherry sales for LifeNets and teen fund; church youth volleyball and basketball; Northwest and Hye Sierra teen camps; music: composing, dancing, guitar, piano; reading and creative writing; family and friends; everything Star Trek/Star Wars; puzzles; board games; crocheting; abstract drawing; camping; backpacking.

Plans after graduation: Chad plans to get a two-year associate of science and music degree from Clark College, attend Ambassador Bible Center, study music and science at university, compose music and be a member of a large band or orchestra, and work in a science field,



Chad Browning

possibly astrophysics or engineering.

Favorite quote: “Do or do not, there is no try.” —Yoda

Favorite scripture: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Ethan Brummett

Parents: Scott and Renita Brummett

Congregation: Lewistown, Pennsylvania

High school accomplishments: Varsity basketball, attended SUN-Tech for advertising art and design for his senior year and the Award for Package Design and Logo Design.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He enjoys church camps, lock-ins, dances, the Winter Family Weekend and any chance to get together with friends. He loves sports and the outdoors, basketball, hunting, fishing, camping and muscle cars.

Plans after graduation: He plans to work in creative/Web development in the family business.

Favorite quote: “Life is a garden, dig it” —Joe Dirt.

Nathan Creech

Parents: Glenn and Ronda Creech

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

High school accomplishments: He graduated from Western Brown HS and was selected for the National Honor Society, scholar athlete, Top CP Biology Student, Top Honors Algebra II Student, Buckeye Boys State, First Team All S.B.A.A.C. He also participated in soc-



Marc Eddington



Ethan Brummett

cer, tennis and academic team.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He enjoyed attending Camp Pinecrest, Heritage, Cotubic, Woodmen and Winter Camp. He likes dances, senior citizen appreciation activities, and has served at the Ronald McDonald House. He helps out with ushering and security at church. He also enjoys snowboarding, drawing, soccer, tennis, video games and volleyball.

Plans after graduation: Nathan will be attending the University of Cincinnati for a career in civil engineering.

Favorite quote: “A man has two emotions, happy and hungry. If he is not happy, make him a sandwich.”

Favorite scripture: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Marc Eddington

Parents: Peter and Terri Eddington

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

High school accomplishments: He was a member of an a cappella choir called By Request from 2009-2012, part of the Thespian Society (2011-2012), the National Dance Honor Society (2011-2012), the webmaster for Glen Este Dance Company (2010-2012) and was Most Improved Dancer (2010-2011). He was Concert Choir Captain in 2010-2011, received the National School Choral Award in 2011-2012 and the Senior Service Award in 2011-2012.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Life, music, happiness, education, philosophy, travel, literature, tea, long-winded



Matthew Erickson



Nathan Creech

conversations and the cold side of the pillow.

Plans after graduation: Accepted into the University of Cincinnati, majoring in international affairs.

Favorite quote: “If you want to view paradise, simply look around and view it” —Willy Wonka.

Matthew E. Erickson

Parents: Michael and Angie Erickson

High school accomplishments: Matthew graduated from Prince George Senior Secondary School this year. Matthew serves actively in his local congregation as a song leader, and helps with set up and take down after services. Matthew has maintained a high academic standing throughout his high school years and plans to attend a four year science program at the University of Northern British Columbia, thereafter pursuing a career in medicine. Matthew received the UNBC Raven scholarship based on high academic achievement.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: His hobbies include staying physically fit at the local YMCA, basketball and outdoor recreation, such as fishing, hunting and kayaking. Matt has a wonderful sense of humor and contributes an exemplary positive attitude towards life, his future goals, friends and family.

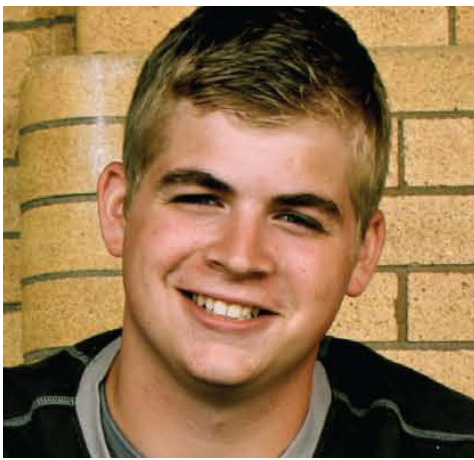
Garrett Fenchel

Parents: Matthew and Lisa Fenchel

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

High school accomplishments: He was a National Honor student, International Thespian Society member, By Request (a capella Choir) member, assistant director for high school choirs (2010-2012), Arion Award for Musical Accomplishment, four-year scholar athlete, and had a 3.95 GPA.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Garrett loves music and the arts. He has played piano for 12 years and has played and sung for special music many times. He plays for hymns on a regular basis and has accompanied and sung in several church choirs. He also loves to travel and has had the opportunity to visit Europe several times, as well as Chile. He enjoys performing in several high school chorale groups, musical productions and acting in plays as well.



Garrett Fenchel

Plans after graduation: Majoring in biomedical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

Favorite quote: “Keep Calm and Carry On”—British World War II motto.

Favorite scripture: “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (Matthew 6:34).

Katie Marie Gatlin

Parents: Nathan and Denise Gatlin

Congregation: Tucson, Arizona

High school accomplishments: Katie was home schooled since the ninth grade and graduated from American School with a GPA of 3.19.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Katie is part of the kitchen crew with her mother in Tucson and also helps out occasionally with the tape library. She enjoys taking pictures and scrapbooking them. She also enjoys cooking for her family and spending time with her nieces and nephew. She would like to pursue a career in the culinary arts.

Favorite scripture: “Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17).

Caleb W. Greene

Parents: Debra and Wiley Greene

Congregation: Kingsport, Tennessee

High school accomplishments: Caleb graduated from Sullivan Central High School with a 4.0 GPA and was a valedictorian of his class. He was a TN/VA Scholar, MVP and number-one player/captain on the tennis team both his junior and senior year (he played all four years), as well as a member of: National Honor Society, Beta Club, Science National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, HOSA, FBLA, and the cross-country team for his junior and senior years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He ushered at the Feast in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and plays basketball at Winter Family Weekend. He has attended camps Woodman and Cotubic. His hobbies include running, tennis, basketball, football and disc golf.

Plans after graduation: Caleb will be attending King College for four years, majoring in biology. He then plans on attending National University of Health Sciences in Chicago. At some point he wishes to attend ABC.

Favorite scripture: “But seek first the



Katie Gatlin

kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

Eric Hewitt

Parents: William and Barbara Hewitt

Congregation: Chicago, Illinois

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He has participated in the church’s Teen Speech Club, worked as a greeter and a food table crew member, and has experience babysitting for other members. His hobbies include drawing, prehistoric and modern-day animals, and films in the giant monster genre.

High school accomplishment and plans after graduation: He graduated from home school and plans to attend Waubesa Community College to get an associate degree in graphic design.

Cassidy Shae Horvath

Parents: David and Regina Horvath

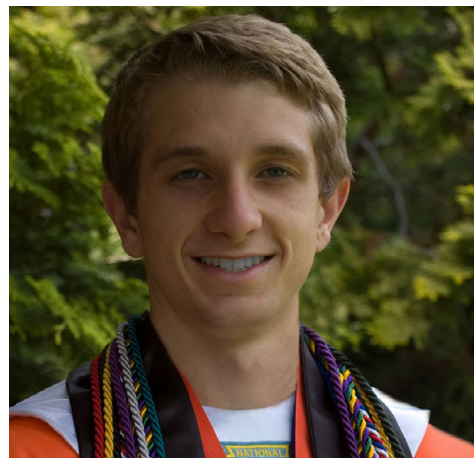
Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High school accomplishments: Cassidy graduated third of 304, with Highest Honors, a 4.54 GPA, and recently passed her CNA exam. She was a Girl’s State Delegate, VP of National Honors Society and Mu Alpha Theta, and president of the Spanish Honors Society and HOSA. She received the Outstanding Academic Achiever Award, Honors Outstanding Performance Award, Student-Athlete Award of Merit, and she is an AP Scholar with distinction, earning 18 college credit hours. She was captain and MVP of her track team for two years and earned two state track medals in high jump and pentathlon. She was voted on the district all-tournament volleyball team and an All-District player 2010-2012.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Cassidy thoroughly enjoys teaching pre-teen Bible classes and singing in the adult



Cassidy Horvath



Caleb Greene

choir in the Nashville congregation. She has attended UCG Camps for seven years and will serve as an assistant counselor at camp Tomahawk in July. She looks forward to attending the Winter Family Weekend annually, where her team took the volleyball title in 2011. Cassidy cherishes the many hours spent volunteering at local nursing homes, and her hobbies include traveling, sports and spending time with family and friends.

Plans after graduation: Cassidy will attend Belmont University on a “full-ride” Presidential Scholarship to pursue her Masters in nursing/nurse practitioner with a minor in Spanish.

Favorite scripture: “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3)

Favorite quote: “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened”—Dr. Seuss.

Dustin Howie

Parents: Sam and Daniele Howie

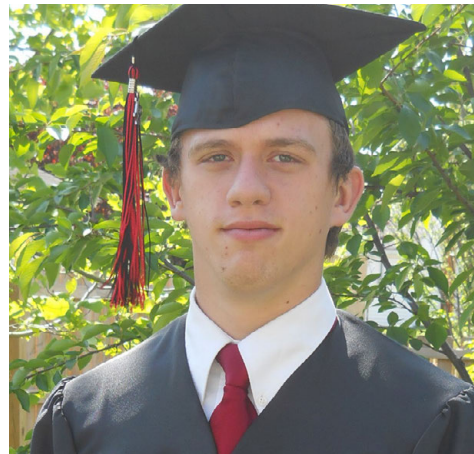
Congregation: Lafayette, Indiana

High school accomplishments: He graduated from Frontier High School in Chalmers, Indiana, on May 25, 2012. Dustin played clarinet in the school band for four years. He played first clarinet, and was also on the wrestling team his senior year.

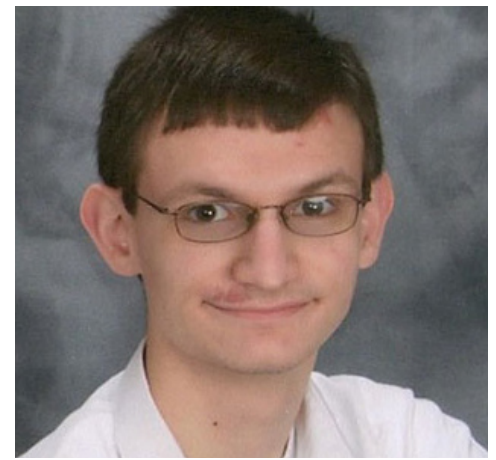
Church activities/hobbies/interests: Dustin enjoys volunteering, fishing, hunting, exercise and playing his instruments.

Plans after graduation: This fall Dustin plans to attend IVY Tech in Lafayette. Later, he plans to transfer to Purdue University to study zoology. He hopes to become a field biologist. The day after he graduated Dustin was baptized, and in the future hopes to attend ABC.

Favorite scripture: “In the same way,



Dustin Howie



Eric Hewitt

let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Gregory Brian Joseph

Parents: Brian and Angela Joseph

Congregation: Dayton, Ohio

High school accomplishments: Gregory earned his Eagle Scout in 2011. He was chosen to go on two overseas school trips, first to Australia and New Zealand, then to England and France. He was on the Troy High School Varsity and JV tennis teams and the Troy High School Bowling Team. He also attended the Upper Valley Career Center where he earned his electronics certification and made a computer from scratch for his senior project. Gregory was the treasurer of his class and a member of Skills USA. He was the recipient of the Troy Dollars for Scholars Scholarship as well as the Hartman Family Memorial Scholarship.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Gregory has attended Pinecrest, Cotubic and Winter Camp. He performed special music at church, both singing and playing piano, and was a member of the Dayton Men’s Leadership Club. He has been very active in volunteering and performing community service for Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, St. Pat’s Soup Kitchen and Kids Read Now. He was also a teen leader for Clubhouse and Serve It Up (an after school program for elementary students teaching the fundamentals of tennis). He helps out at his family’s jewelry store, and is going to be a teen leader for gifted students this summer. Gregory enjoys music, making computers and spending time with his friends and family.

Plans after graduation: Gregory will be attending Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, where he will be going into the criminal justice program with emphasis on investigation.

Favorite scripture: “With God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

David John Kovalchick

Parents: John and Wendy Kovalchick

Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High school accomplishments: He was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS), National Bet Club (junior and senior year), and Health Occupation Student Association (HOSA), where he was a competitor in HOSA Stat Competition (junior and senior year), was the HOSA Vice President (senior



Gregory Joseph

year), and completed the clinical internship with primary care physician (senior year). He was also the History Club Vice President (senior year) and member of the high school tennis team for four years and undefeated in single and in doubles (27-0, senior year).

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He has attended Sabbath services and Holy Days with his family all of his life, and he especially looks forward to the Feast each year. He is an avid participant at the Winter Family Weekend and in United Youth Camps. He went to Camp Woodmen (four years), Camp Tomahawk (as a pre-teen and assistant counselor during high school year). He enjoys spending time with friends and family and being sociable, studying his Bible (especially the gospel of Luke because he was a physician), studying medicine and biology, and all types of sports (especially tennis).

Plans after graduation: He plans to attend the Ambassador Bible Center this coming year, then he plans to begin pre-med studies at Austin Peay State University (Tennessee), majoring in biology, and hopefully followed by admittance to medical school. His experience in shadowing a physician this past year has further inspired him to pursue studies in the area of medicine, with the hope of becoming a physician.

Favorite scripture: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Keith Lippincott

Parents: George and Carrie Lippincott
Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High school accomplishments: Keith was on the honor roll with a 4.0 GPA from 2007-2012, National Honor Society in 2011-2012, Spanish Honor Society in 2011-2012, received three Scholastic Art Contest regional gold keys for photography and painting in 2012, the Scholastic Art Contest National Silver Medal for photography portfolio in 2012, and a track and field varsity letter in 2011-2012. He took first place in the Clackamas Skills Team Math Competition in 2012, second place in school for AMC (American Math Contest) in 2012 and was in the L.O. Review as student of the month twice (2008 and 2011).

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He enjoys pretty much all of the church activities and playing on his congrega-



David Kovalchick

tion's basketball and volleyball teams. He has attended the Northwest camp and Northwest Weekends every year since was old enough, and also at Hye Sierra two times. He is also part of his church area's Spokesman's Club and enjoys improving his speaking ability. His biggest hobby is photography. This last year, in his AP art class, he developed a photography portfolio that won a silver medal in the National Scholastic Art Contest. He also ran in cross country and track at school. His main events in track were the 200m, 400m, 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay.

Plans after graduation: He will be attending the Oregon State Honors College and receiving a degree in either engineering or computer science. He plans to figure out the details when he is there. He also plans to take a break in his junior year of college to attend ABC.

Favorite scripture: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

Anthony Lopez

Parents: Matt and Rhonda Lopez
Congregation: Tulsa, Oklahoma

High school accomplishments: National Merit Scholar, National Hispanic Scholar, All-State Orchestra for two years, eagle scout, violin player in Jenks High School Orchestra for four years and Tulsa Youth Symphony for six years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He attended Camp Pinecrest and Camp Woodman, attended and volunteered at Camp Osage pre-teen camp and played basketball. He also enjoys playing guitar and violin, reading, playing with nephew Mateo, learning, and math.

Plans after graduation: Attend Uni-



Rachel Mez



Keith Lippincott

versity of Tulsa to major in violin performance and math.

Favorite scripture: "Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun of all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage" (Ecclesiastes 5:18).

Rachel Mez

Parents: Henry and Rhonda Mez
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

High school accomplishments: She graduated from Woodland High School with high honors. She was the secretary of the National Honor Society and a member of HOSEA and FCCLA. While in high school, she participated on the swim team, varsity cross country team and track and field team. She was chosen to be on both the All County Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: She loves attending United Youth Camps. Also she loves running, playing sports, photography, playing the piano, being around friends, and serving.

Plans after graduation: She plans to attend Kennesaw State University and major in nursing.

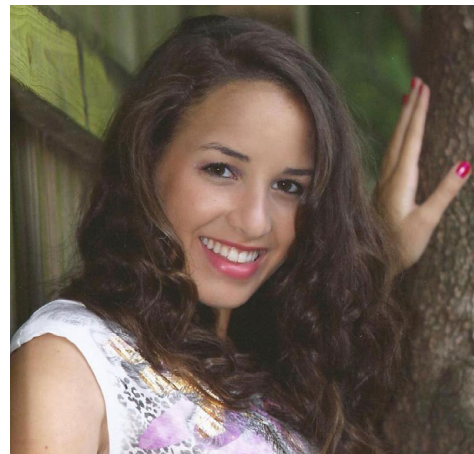
Favorite scripture: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Favorite quote: "To give any anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift"—Steve Prefontaine.

Rebekah Mez

Parents: Henry and Rhonda Mez
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia

High school accomplishments:



Rebekah Mez



Anthony Lopez

Rebekah graduated from Woodland High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and International Thespian Society. She received the Performing Arts Seal along with many other awards for theater, including Best Overall Senior Award. She was a four year member of an elite musical theater company at her school, CATS.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: She has attended Camp Woodmen for six years and participates in the many teen activities. She finds interest in singing, acting and reading.

Plans after graduation: She plans on relaxing and attending church camps over the summer. She will be attending Kennesaw State University in the fall of 2012. She plans to major in her love of musical theater, with a minor in communications.

Favorite scripture: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself" (Philippians 2:3).

Allison Paige Montero

Parents: Bert and Tricia Merring; Brian Montero

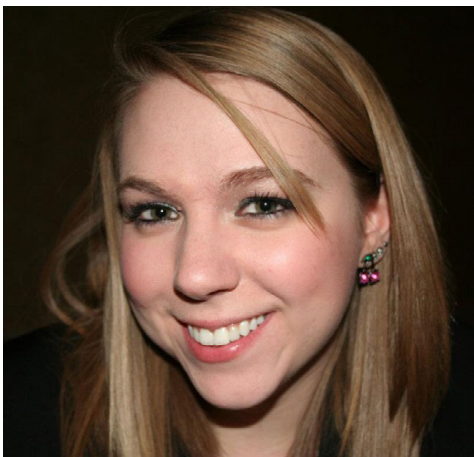
Congregation: Orlando, Florida

High school accomplishments: She graduated from East Ridge High School and received the Presidential Award for straight "A" grades as a senior. She received her Girl Scout Gold Award (highest award in Girl Scouts) and a letter in choir all four years. She went to State in a vocal competition with her choir and won the Choir Leadership Award.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: She has attended a total of 8 UYC programs since the age of 13, is teaching herself to play piano, sings in the church adult choir and serves as a greeter in her local congregation.



Allison Montero



Kayla Nelson

Plans after graduation: Allie will attend University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida. She is planning to major in music and music education.

Kayla Marie Nelson

Parents: Tadd and Janice Nelson

Congregation: Austin, Minnesota

High school accomplishments: She participated in the yearbook committee and in photography club.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: She enjoys taking photos for church or other activities.

Plans after graduation: Kayla plans to get a degree in photography.

Favorite scripture: Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good (Romans 12:9, NIV).

Ray Prater

Parents: Ray and Carolyn Prater

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

High school accomplishments: Ray started home school a year early and has completed the state requirements for graduation from high school. Most of his studies were done through Christian Liberty Academy Satellite Schools. Ray has excelled in computer studies, science and economics.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He enjoys swimming and has sung and performed in skits in church variety shows. Ray has already begun programming and creating games for his own online gaming business.

Courtney Shaw

Parents: Brian and ReNae Shaw

Congregations: Twin Cities, Little Falls, and Duluth, Minnesota

High school accomplishments: Courtney graduated her home education with honors, as well as 41 college credits from Elgin Community College in Illinois. She was also part of the Harry D. Jacobs Chamber and Symphonic Orchestras and held first chair as a cellist. In addition, she was also part of the Elgin Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and the Schaumburg Youth Sinfonia Strings.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Courtney attended and has served as an assistant counselor at Ironwood Springs Preteen Camp in Minnesota for nine years. She has also attended Camp Pinecrest and Winter Camp for a number of years. She is still attending, but is now staff, and is adding Camp Cotubic into the mix as well. Courtney loves music



Ray Prater

and plays both piano and cello, and loves playing in the festival orchestra at the Dells.

Plans after graduation: Courtney plans on attending Anoka Ramsey Community College in Cambridge, and Coon Rapids, Minnesota. She also plans on attending ABC next year, as part of the class of 2014. In the long run, she plans to earn a business major with a minor in music.

Favorite quote: "There are two great days in a person's life: the day they are born, and the day they discover why"—William Barclay.

David Styer

Parents: Tony and Loni Styer

Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High school accomplishments: David has been home schooled all his life. He's been active in the Dickson Homeschool Co-op group since he was five years old. He's an active member of the InTEEN-sity teen social group, on the home school prom committee, dance committee and Medieval Sword Fighting Team for the past four years.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: He's taken piano and guitar lessons, and his interests include reading, skating, music, spending time with friends, playing computer video games, attending rock concerts, movies and enjoying his pet cats. He has travelled to all 50 states and 19 different countries. He works half days at Tensco Corporation in Dickson.

Plans after graduation: David has dual enrolled with Nashville State Community College and has earned six college credits. He plans to get his degree in computer technology.

Sam Welch

Parents: Jeff and Amy Welch

Congregation: Lansing, Michigan



Sam Welch



Courtney Shaw

High school accomplishments: Student Council, PALs (Peer Assistant Leader), lacrosse, musical theatre, Choir Council, chorale, men's chorale, District and State Solo and Ensemble (soloist and with ensemble), Michigan Youth Arts participant.

Church activities: special music, Teen Speech Club, Young Men's Speech Club

Plans after graduation: Sam will attend Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in broadcasting and cinematic arts, with a minor in event management. He will also perform with the CMU Concert Choir.

Favorite quote: "Always show your talents and always uphold tradition"—Dr. Ron Davis.

Emily Elise Williams

Parents: Blaine and Julie Williams

Congregation: Cincinnati East P.M., Ohio

High school accomplishments: AP Scholar, Award of Merit, German Honor Society. She graduated from Oak Hills High School.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Writing, sports, shopping, cooking, Corvettes, sunsets, camp, Cincinnati Reds games, Winter Family Weekend, prom, senior appreciation dinner, serving meals at the Ronald McDonald House, working at Outback Steakhouse as a hostess and at For-Most Specialties.

Plans after graduation: She will be attending College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati studying electronic media

Favorite quote: "Anything negative—pressure, challenges—is all an opportunity for me to rise"—Kobe Bryant.

Favorite scripture: "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves has fulfilled the law" (Romans



David Styer

13:8).

Victoria Payge Zimmerman

Parents: Ron and Laura Zimmerman and Julie Kendall

Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana

High school accomplishments: 4-H Top Herdsman Award, Grand Champion for Showmanship of Silky Bantams, FFA Green Hand Award, secretary (2008-2010), committee chair (2011-2012), ambulance EMT rookie crew (2011-2012).

Church activities/hobbies/interests: She has participated at Camp Pinecrest and as a Camp UCanDo counselor. She enjoys gym workouts, family times, crafts and jewelry making. She welcomes new challenges and loves helping and serving others. She loves God, her family, her fiancé, truck, pets, country music, fishing and gardening. Victoria is extremely loyal, a peacemaker and sincerely dedicated in everything she does.

Plans after graduation: Ohio State University for general studies and the University of Rio Grande, where she seeks to achieve a degree as an ultrasound technician. Victoria is engaged to be married June 24, 2012, to an amazing young man, Alex Johnston, of McArthur, Ohio (see page 7). They met in 2007 at the Feast of Tabernacles in Panama City Beach. Her parents send their best wishes and encouragement to keep following her dreams.

Favorite motto: "Life is unsure, always eat your dessert first."

Favorite advice: "Be yourself, everyone else is already taken."

Favorite quote: "Sins, like chickens, always come home to roost."

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



Emily Williams



Victoria Zimmerman



What's New In MEDIA?

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Are You in Sync with God?</i>	Gary Petty	July 8-14
<i>Ground Zero Jerusalem</i>	Gary Petty	July 15-21
<i>Tithing: God's Financial Key to Success</i>	Darris McNeely	July 22-28
<i>The Power of the Word</i>	Steve Myers	July 29-Aug. 4

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On June 26, Internet manager Aaron Booth reported the following stats for UCG Web activity:

- 43,849** total Facebook fans.
- 28,100** total Twitter followers.
- 895** videos posted on YouTube.
- 2,079,521** video views on YouTube.
- 208** Bible FAQs posted.
- 504,437** Bible FAQs views.
- 581** e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly Update, *GN* Newsletter, *WNP* E-news) sent.
- 773,688** clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 184,278** booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.
- 40,474** booklet downloads from Amazon's Kindle Store.
- 635** *Good News* iPad app downloads.

Featured Links

■ UCG Kindle eBooks <http://tinyurl.com/ucg-kindlebooks>

Many of the booklets produced by the Church are available on the Kindle store at Amazon.com. Once "purchased," those eBooks are available to read on Kindle devices or the Kindle apps available on iOS and Android devices.

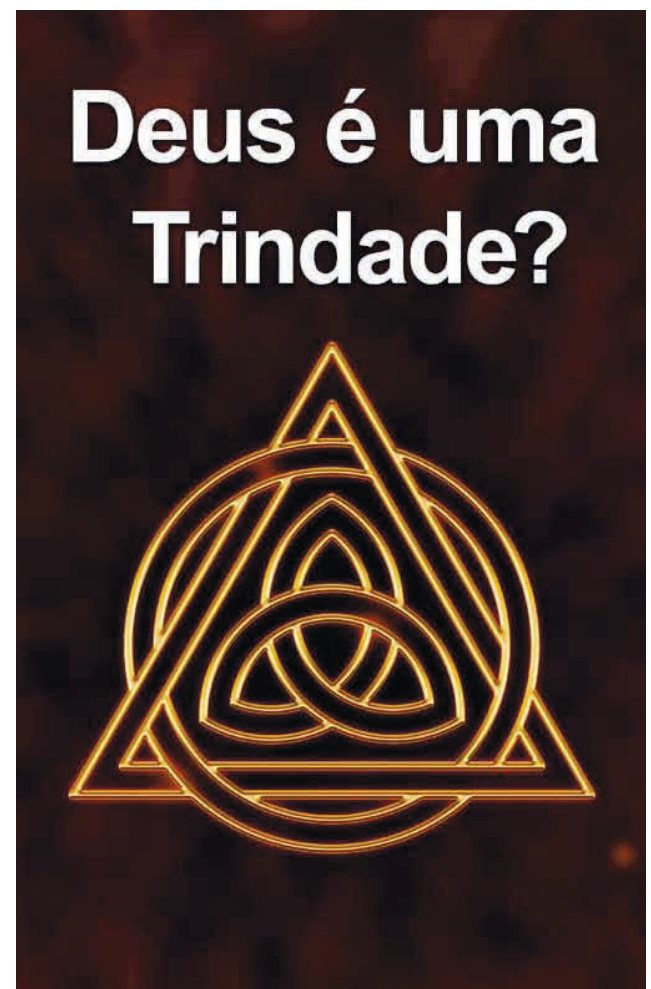
■ "Is God a Trinity?" Now in Portuguese <http://tinyurl.com/ucg-deustrinidade>

We are pleased to announce that we have completed and printed the booklet "Is God a Trinity?" in Portuguese. This is the 20th United Church of God booklet in Portuguese. It is also mentioning that it is the first non-English version of this booklet. We are grateful to God who provides the means and resources for us to do His work in the Portuguese language.

■ Bible Study Course Lesson 7 Now in French <http://tinyurl.com/ucg-coursdebible>

We are pleased to announce that Bible Study Course lesson 7 on the relevant topic of "God's Calling," is now available in the French language.

We hope this will be a useful tool to help people understand the relationship God wants to have with all human beings. Please pray that God may bring new people to Him, as well as edify and build His Church in the French-speaking world.



UNITED NEWS



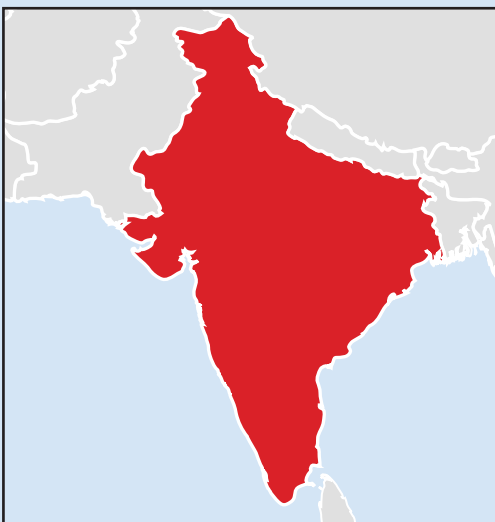
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 8-11:** Preteen Camp Kiwanis, Pennsylvania
- July 15-18:** Preteen Camp Tomahawk, Tennessee
- July 15-23:** Challenger West Program, Wyoming
- 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. 5:** Ocoee Rafting Weekend, Tennessee
- Aug. 6-9:** Council of Elders quarterly meeting
- Aug. 19:** ABC Welcome Picnic, Cincinnati
- Sept. 17:** Feast of Trumpets
- Sept. 26:** Day of Atonement
- Oct. 1-8:** Feast of Tabernacles

INDIA TRANSLATORS NEEDED



We have need of members who can translate our Church booklets from English into Hindi (the national language of the country of India). There are more than 26 other languages spoken throughout the country of India. The local dialects vary from state to state. If you know any of the Indian languages and would like to volunteer in translating booklets in order to more effectively preach the gospel to this part of the world, please e-mail David Schreiber (david_schreiber@ucg.org) or Ken Murray (aaaken@bigpond.com). Thank you!

David Schreiber

UNITED STATISTICS

Beyond Today Audience Response

monthly totals, including phone, Internet and mail responses

