

UNITED NEWS



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Ambassador Bible Center Class of 2013

by Victor Kubik

On Sunday, May 26, the home office hosted graduation exercises for the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2013. It's sad to see the students go, as they really added to the upbeat spirit here at the home office. Summers get a little quiet here, but it was a joyous occasion seeing 36 students graduate with a certificate in biblical studies.

At the ABC graduation ceremony, student body president Aaron Creech made the following remarks in his student graduation discourse to the class. His words touched many of us, and I invite you to read this excerpt for yourself:

"We all came here looking for something—trying to find answers and meaning in life. We all arrived at different stages in our lives and at different levels, spiritually. Many of us were very young—looking to build our faith. We have learned so much about God and His way of life, and it's been awesome! I have also learned about people and relationships. Life is all about relationships—our



relationship with God, our relationship with our families, and our relationships with our friends. They are what is important in life, and that is what we have built while here at ABC.

"You have imparted the precious words of God to us. You have made the Bible

come to life for us, and you have shown us how to live by your teaching and example. We may have arrived here as children, but we are not leaving as children.

"When we go home, some of our friends and family might not recognize us. Not because we look so different—but

because we are different, because we act different. It is because we are different on the inside. This experience has begun to change us. We have kicked a lot of our bad habits. We have grown closer to God and His truth." **UN**

The Eighth Day: The Ultimate Focus of God's Plan

by Mark Mickelson

How many countless billions have gone to their grave not knowing what lies beyond? How many mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, mourned their loved ones who have died, not knowing whether they would ever see them again? The Eighth Day, which is one of the most meaningful yet least understood Holy Days by mankind, points to the ultimate culmination of God's plan: the resurrection and judgment of the vast majority of all the human beings who have ever lived. The destruction of death. The casting away of sadness and mourning. It is a hope the world desperately needs and it will be fulfilled at the culmination of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

The Bible is filled with symbolism, giving hints of God's mind. The symbolism of the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25), the cherubim at God's throne (Ezekiel 1),

the creation itself (Romans 1:18). Some things about God are able to be understood easily, some things can only be spiritually discerned, and some things are not knowable at this time (Isaiah 55:8). Still, God does show us many wonderful and inspiring things about His plan of salvation for all of mankind.

The Eighth Day, which is specified as being kept at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles in Leviticus 23:33, is the culmination of all the Holy Days. Following the description of the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, it says: "Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest." The Eighth Day is separate and distinct from the Feast of Tabernacles. God has placed symbolic meaning

in counting up to the number eight. Why don't we just go back to one after counting the seven days? Because that is not what God is portraying. He is not portraying a weekly cycle with the Feast of Tabernacles. Instead, He is showing what it means to finally arrive at the Eighth Day. What does that number mean? Looking through the rest of the Bible, we find various illustrations that help open up the meaning of that great day.

From Circumcision to Nazirites

One of the most enduring covenants God made was the covenant of circumcision with Abraham (Genesis 17:10-11). He said, "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised." Being circumcised on the eighth day was symbolic of being in complete submission to God.

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news

AT A GLANCE

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. To volunteer, visit <http://feast.ucg.org/music> and register to serve, even if you indicated on your general festival registration form that you would serve in music.

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

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BY THE NUMBERS

3,582

Two-year monthly average of *Beyond Today* audience response



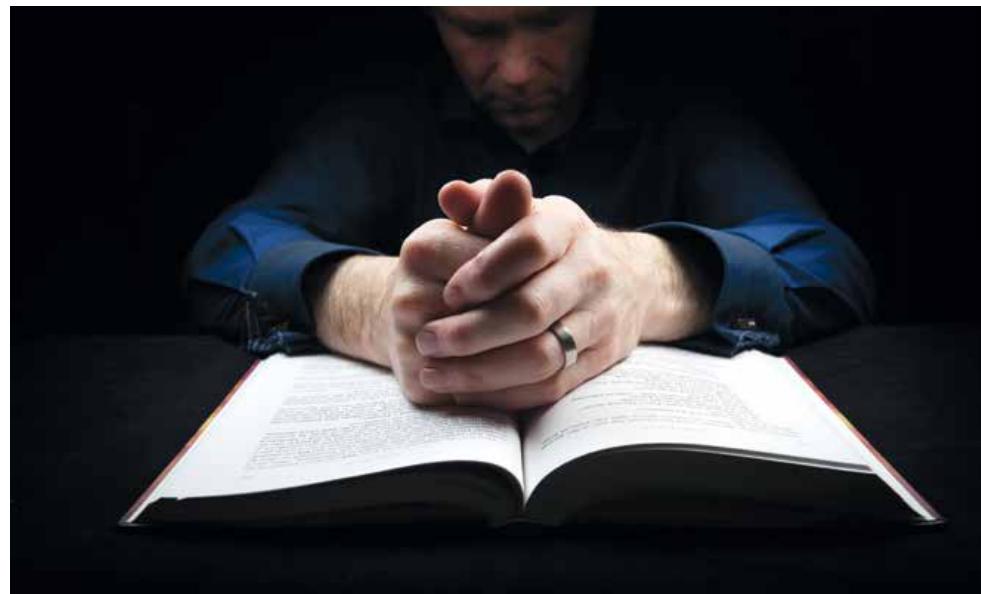
“All I Want Is to Be Counted Worthy”



with a dear friend who was quite ill, and in a hospital. For a long while she had not been feeling well, and then the problem became much worse. A bad infection had developed internally, and for several days the pain was constant and excruciating. When we visited her the outcome was uncertain, not just about how much damage might be done by this infection, but whether she would survive.

As we talked with our friend she made a profound statement that sparked the thought for this letter to you. The subject turned to one of her most deeply held convictions, and she said, “All I want is to be counted worthy.” Her thoughts were about the future, about the “exceedingly great and precious promises” that God has given us through Jesus Christ. She wanted more than anything else to be among those who will rise in the first resurrection and receive eternal life, to enter “into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:4, 10-11).

It’s interesting that some of our most focused and poignant thoughts and prayers come at those times of greatest



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Dear brethren,

Having been given the privilege and opportunity to write to all of you, I want to write a letter instead of an article. I want to connect personally, heart to heart, about one of the greatest reasons we believe in God our Father and in Christ our Lord, and to suggest something that I hope we can all share more often and openly with one another. Telling a story is the best way I know to do this.

Recently my wife and I were visiting

stress in our lives. When our friend faced this fiery trial, she focused on the promises of the future, with a personal expression of a deeply held desire to be counted worthy of all that God has promised. She was taking very seriously and personally the things we understand to be the meaning of the Feast of Trumpets (the return of

Christ and the resurrection of the saints), and the Feast of Tabernacles (Jesus Christ ruling for a thousand years over the Kingdom of God on this earth, and the saints reigning with Him).

With these things in mind, I’d like to suggest two things that I hope you’ll find

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FORWARD!

Married to Christ



PETER EDDINGTON
Media and Communications Services Operation Manager

return those who are betrothed to Him will then go through a wedding celebration. Glorified as spirit beings they will be made perfect and will never sin again—having God’s laws ingrained perfectly into their character—continuing in unbroken oneness with Jesus Christ thereafter.

He will then extend His engagement proposal to all mankind alive at that time. And as all of mankind is offered this relationship, and as a great majority of humans accept it, peace will extend to encompass the earth—all under the rule of Christ and His perfected saints.

We are fast approaching the Feast of

vows, they make a lifelong commitment. Likewise, our commitment to God should not be taken lightly or maintained only when we feel like it. God does not advocate only occasional bursts of loyalty and obedience to Him whenever it is convenient for us.

Remember Your Name

We are betrothed to Jesus Christ, and He will remember us each by name. In the book *Actions Speak Louder Than Verbs* Herb Miller recounts an illustration from World War II:

“While visiting in Leningrad, a woman heard the story of 900,000 people who perished in the long siege of Leningrad during World War II. At one point they were trying to save the children from both the Nazis and starvation—so they placed them on trucks to cross a frozen lake to safer locations. Many of the mothers, sure that they would never see their children again, yelled to them as they got on the trucks, “Remember your name. Remember your name” (Herb Miller. *Actions Speak Louder Than Verbs*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989, p. 103).

When baptized, we commit ourselves to faithfully remember who we are. We are now betrothed to Christ. We are now

Please see next page

It’s summer here in the Northern Hemisphere—and love is in the air with numerous wedding celebrations going on!

Having attended several weddings already this year, I was reminded of what marriage between a man and a woman pictures—it’s a vision of Christ and the Church.

It’s amazing to consider: Our human marriages are a type of Christ and the Church. A marriage between a man and a woman is something that is designed and ordained by God. No man or civil government can change that marriage vow into some other kind of relationship—than that between a male and a female!

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:31-32).

As revealed in Revelation 19, at Christ’s

When two people exchange wedding vows, they make a lifelong commitment. Likewise, our commitment to God should not be taken lightly or maintained only when we feel like it.

Our Awesome Destiny

This is our destiny, this is our inheritance! This is the culmination and fullness of the New Covenant marriage—and God intends to offer this marriage relationship to all human beings—to all who will ultimately agree to surrender themselves to Him and be spiritually transformed.

When Jesus returns and joins into the fullness of marriage with His Church,

Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, to be followed by the Feast of Tabernacles. More than any other time of year we thus focus on Jesus’ return to wed His bride. At the sound of the seventh trumpet we will be raised to spirit life, and as Jesus’ millennial rule unfolds across our planet, millions and millions of human beings will be offered salvation, and they too will join the family of God.

When two people exchange wedding

God's children. We show our commitment of who we are by living our lives in such a way that we bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

If we continue to show the fruits of God's way, being led by the Holy Spirit, God will never forget who we are. He entered into a special covenant with us at baptism. And

thus, we work diligently to follow Him in all that we do. "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? [Not very likely!] Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" says God (Isaiah 49:15 NIV).

God will never leave us or forsake us. He will remember our name. And, as long

as we are genuinely repentant, striving to put sin out of our life, we can be assured of our marriage with the Lamb of God upon His return.

As we approach the next season of Holy Days, let's be reminded to keep up our end of the marriage covenant—and prepare to be a spirit being in God's family. **UN**



From THE WORD

What Will Teaching God's Way Be Like in the Second Resurrection?

■ The story of missionaries in a cannibal and headhunter society is instructive in what it might be like to teach the billions to be resurrected in the second resurrection.

by Bob Dick

Is there any time in mankind's history or future more fascinating than the second resurrection?

What will it be like to meet a 900 year old man? Imagine people from every time and place rising simultaneously? How will it feel when people from all the layers of history rise and look at each other—people from ancient times, Roman times, Dark Ages, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Industrial Revolution, and Space Age?

For us the real question is what will it be like to teach them? This is their chance, how will you assist them in coming to conversion? These questions don't have to go unanswered; we can actually take a lesson from experiences as recent as the aftermath of World War II.

In the midst of the Second World War Australian spotter planes searching out Japanese positions on the island of New Guinea began seeing tribe after tribe of peoples never before contacted by white men. Photographs were taken noting body markings, dress and geographical location. Eventually scores of different tribes were identified but not until war's end were conditions right for missionaries to enter this forbidding territory.

For the zealous young missionaries arriving in New Guinea in the 1950s, the answer to the question, "How do I step into the world of Stone Age people and bring them to conversion?" wasn't that different from our question, "How will we assist the vast array of people rising in the second resurrection?"

Romans 10:13-14 describe the timeless, universal steps—how can you call upon a God you don't know until you believe? How can you believe until you hear? How can you hear without a teacher? Our task will be to teach, with all that entails.

A fascinating book entitled *Peace Child* chronicled the efforts of Don and Carol

Richardson, a young missionary couple, as they began work in the coastal jungles of New Guinea. As they took up residence on the banks of the Kronkel River, the mechanical steps in their assignment were no different from those of scores of missionaries who had gone before them. They were assigned to a tribe that had never seen a white man. They had to locate the tribe, move near them, learn their language, create a written form of it, teach the tribal members to read, and finally write a Bible in that language. Now they were fully prepared to teach them about salvation.

As sons of God our mechanical task will obviously be easier but there is no reason to believe God will wave a magic wand, so to speak, and take away the natural challenges. The majority of humanity in history have been illiterate. They must still learn to read a written language that captures their way of thinking before teaching will be effective. But the mechanical challenges, whatever they may be, are the easier part of the task.

The greater challenge in teaching any people is to come to understand where they are mentally, emotionally, culturally, addressing them where they are. We all think in our own language and to reach us you must come to where we are. Paul understood this well. He said of his ministry that he became all things to all men so he might win some to Christ (1 Corinthians 9:22). He went where they were.

We have a small window into Paul's skill in Acts 17 as Paul addressed an audience on Mars Hill.

Paul reached out to a Greek audience on their terms, quoting their poets and pointing to their monuments. Paul like other great teachers understood the greatest challenge in bringing the world to conversion is reaching them on their own turf mentally and emotionally. This will be our challenge also.

As the Richardsons set up home in the steamy jungles of coastal New Guinea they entered a world of thought completely foreign to every value we hold. Generations of men and women had been taught to think in ways we can't imagine. Children from infancy were encouraged to be defiant, belligerent, aggressive, self-willed—the first step in becoming cunning and deceitful—



Ancient skeletal remains, reminiscent of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37).

the highest achievement in tribal life.

The natives inland from the coast of New Guinea were headhunters, cannibals. Deceit was to them the highest virtue. The greatest achievement in tribal life was to convince someone from a neighboring tribe to come to dinner as a guest and end up the main course. But, when everyone has the same objective how does one deceive the other? Extraordinary cunning! They referred to their tactic as "fattening with kindness." The greater the cunning and deceit the greater the respect and the person who excelled was given the esteemed title of "Legendmaker." Around the nighttime fires in the manhouses where tribal members gathered the stories of the Legendmakers' prowess were repeatedly told to admiring audiences.

How does one bridge such a cultural abyss as this? Don Richardson, to his dismay, found that while teaching a group of men about Judas' betrayal of Jesus he

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AUSTRALIA: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia. Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122
BENELUX countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg): P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.
BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020 8386 8467 Fax: 020 8386 1999
CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 614-1234, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 614-1749 E-mail: info@ucg.ca
CAMEROON: United Church of God Cameroon, BP 10322 Bessengue, Douala Cameroon.
OTHER FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie—France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.
CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org
EAST AFRICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): United Church of God—East Africa, P.O. Box 75261, Nairobi 00200 Kenya. E-mail: kenya@ucg.org
GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@gutenachrichten.org
ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24121 Bergamo Centro, Italy. Phone/Fax: (+39) 035 4523573. E-mail: info@labuonanotizia.org
MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Phone: +265 01 660 851. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org
NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763
NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 803-323-3193. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org
PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63) 82 224-4444 Cell/Text: (+63) 918-904-4444
SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 U.S.A. E-mail: norden@ucg.org
SINGAPORE: United Church of God, P.O. Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia.
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“The Poor Shall Be With You Always”

■ The subject of money and finances can be uncomfortable to discuss. What is our responsibility to each other in the Church in this regard and what did Jesus mean when He said, “The poor shall be with you always”?

by J’Non Whitlark

Is financial need within the Church an uncomfortable subject? Perhaps discomfort levels depend on which side of the balance sheet we stand.

If we are frequently in financial straits, do we feel we need to hide it from others? Is there some external factor causing our financial distress or is it a result of our own choices? Do we feel helpless? Are we tempted to just give up trying because our debts are so much bigger than we can possibly repay?

Likewise, when presented with knowledge of financial needs among our brethren, how do we respond? If poor financial choices are a known factor, how does our response change? Are we irritated by these weaknesses in others? Do we cast a suspicious eye on those who ask for help? Do we feel indignant that someone might take advantage of us? Or if we do try to help, will we do so openly, or in secret? Why?

I’ve experienced many sides of the issue: feeling shame for not being able to afford things that my peers could (in this context, this emotion does not come from God—there is no shame in living within our means); using credit cards irresponsibly (i.e. not paying the full balance off every month and accruing debt); finally taking some painful but necessary personal austerity measures to get out of credit card debt; feeling incredibly thankful to God and relieved; occasionally having the audacity to feel a little smug about it or even judging others for their financial choices; and getting a swiftkick reminder that I’m an ungrateful wretch and am missing an opportunity to learn something deeper: mercy.

So I invite you to join me. Let us embark on a journey of self-examination, where the destination is the Kingdom of God. Each day of the journey is an opportunity to point the keel in the direction of that goal.

“Black, Red, or Marooned”

For some, understanding how to manage money seems to come so naturally! I’ve even heard of some who actually *enjoy* budgeting! Happily, they do exist! After all, they write the books that may eventually help the rest of us. What they have is not so mysterious, though. They have knowledge and they have good habits. Both of these are attainable, even if we missed the finance boat early in our education.

Perhaps we never even knew there was



As we stand before God daily and give account, are we faulted for being too generous? Or for being too uncharitable?

a boat to miss, and our efforts at trial and error have not served us, or anyone, well. Being financially strapped now may be a result of making poor investments of time and money from even years or decades ago. If we don’t learn to manage what money we have, *however large or small*, the short and long-term consequence is that we will likely experience one financial crisis after another. If we use credit cards in the short term, it will eventually cost us much more than if we didn’t use them to begin with. Why would we do this to ourselves? It doesn’t make sense!

And sometimes, even when we work hard to make sure our family is covered by insurance, we can still struggle at times to provide our families with the basics of healthy food, shelter, and clothing. A family’s finances can be crippled with one lengthy hospital stay, from expensive car repairs, from the water heater flooding the house, by anything involving a lawyer, or hefty insurance deductibles. Our financial stability, even in the Church of God, can hover on the brink.

Wanted: Master Financial Planner

Those of us with weakness in this area must strive against our carnal nature, learning to overcome the financial irresponsibility, which could be sin to us! Self-indulgence via spending can even become an idol, putting our desire for other things before God’s instructions for us. It can be habitual, destructive, but by no means impossible to overcome! It may take a very long time to master—maybe even a lifetime (see Proverbs 4:25-27). We learn to overcome by making better choices in hundreds of tiny increments, until better habits replace the bad. It’s a long-term lesson in short-term self-control, learning to be content no matter our

physical circumstances.

If we’re overwhelmed by the magnitude of our failures in this area, and are tempted to just give up because there’s no way we can possibly get out of debt, remember where that kind of thinking comes from. Not from God. God wants us to keep working toward our fullest potential, well-equipped for the work of His Kingdom. God can help us overcome, and use our experiences for good.

The past is gone. Today is a new day, and each day after it. If we keep working at it, not giving in even when we stumble, He will guide us to become good stewards of the blessings that we are given from here on out. Sometimes hitting our financial rock bottom actually teaches us to look to God, who just so happens to be a Master Financial Planner with excellent references.

Accounting 101

We hear the phrase “poor people have poor ways” used to explain why some people struggle financially because of their own decisions. That may be true, but does God really see that as a reason for not trying to give tangible aid anyway? Are we allowed to pick who we help individually based on how much we think they might “deserve” it? It makes sense in a very practical way, when we consider that resources are limited and we are not going to be *able* to help everyone. But thankfully for all of us, God’s resources are not limited, nor His ability to help (Romans 5:8). “*While we were still sinners,*” before repentance was even a possibility, Christ died for our sins. God turns our human reasoning upside down. His way is to offer us a lifeline when we don’t (and in fact *cannot*) deserve it.

In 2 Thessalonians 3:10, which says

“[...] If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat,” the context is that of persons in the Church who would not work to benefit their own household, but instead spent their time meddling in other people’s business. This is sad, indeed, and no doubt happens today in the Church as well, but that doesn’t mean we should withhold our hands from doing good anyway, especially when children are affected.

Some encouragement comes in verse 13: “But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.” Sometimes it is wearying to feel we aren’t making a difference, or to feel that whatever good we can offer is just a drop in the gaping chasm of need in the world. It’s true, we can’t “fix” it all. But God has given us something to learn through our doing, and doesn’t require that we judge the hearts of others before we serve them. God will judge us both, but we are only responsible for what we do.

As we stand before God *daily* and give account, are we faulted for being too generous? Or for being too uncharitable? I’ve learned through bitter experience that there’s more than one way to be poor. Though we may have our family’s fiscal policy well in-hand, we may still be deeply in debt spiritually. Which of those spiritual debts don’t we want advertised at church? If we are rich in self-righteousness rather than mercy, we may find ourselves in the spiritual poorhouse (Luke 18:9-14, James 2:13). If we haven’t asked God lately to help us to see ourselves clearly, let us do so!

As in Christ’s teaching of the good Samaritan in Luke 10, we must examine ourselves accordingly. Have we stepped aside from the messy business of helping others when we are able to help? Christ does not specify whether or not the man who fell among thieves was righteous or was at fault in some way. That wasn’t the point. His emphasis was our responsibility to love our neighbors as ourselves. We don’t get to choose our neighbors. If we’ve failed in this area, remember that if we aren’t willing to help, God will find someone who is, and will bless them accordingly (Luke 10:25-37). But if we accept this work, then we must further ask God to show us *how* to help.

Gifts of Personal Investment

As Christ said: “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13). This doesn’t just mean one-time heroism to shield someone from death. It’s a lifetime of personal sacrifice to serve others, not self. As Christ gave glory to the Father as a living sacrifice for us, we must do also. How? By investing ourselves and our increase in people, especially among the household of faith (Galatians 6:10; Luke 8:21).

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Spending the Feast at Home

■ Circumstances cause some not to be able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Here are some tips if you are one of those people this year.

by Tom Nichol

It happens every year, it seems. There are always a certain number of people in God's Church who, for one reason or another, simply can't make it to the Feast of Tabernacles, much as they would like to. Perhaps some have made financial mistakes, and simply don't have enough second tithe saved up. Or they might have lost their job, or perhaps have been unemployed for an extended period, and don't have enough second tithe for that reason. It might be that their health, or the health

of a close relative, might make going to the Feast unwise or even impossible. An example of this would be expectant mothers whose expected delivery date falls very close to the Feast, during the Feast, or just after the Feast. Another possibility would be a family member in the last stages of a terminal illness, especially where a Church member may be that person's primary or only caregiver. Or there may be other unexpected circumstances beyond one's control.

Over the years, I've been in many of those situations. As a result, I know only too well how lonely, how frustrating, how discouraging it can be to miss going to the Feast. There are ways, however, to "turn lemons into lemonade," as the old saying goes—in other words, to derive at least some of the spiritual benefit from the Feast of Tabernacles that God intends. Based

on my own experience, here are a few tips on how to spend the Feast at home, if, for whatever reason, you can't go in person:

1. Spend extra time in prayer and Bible study. The primary reason God gives us His Feast, after all, is to help us to draw closer to Him. Extra time in prayer and Bible study, especially on the first day of the Feast, and the Eighth Day, are especially important. You should also take extra time to meditate on the purpose for God's annual Holy Days.

2. Watch services on the Internet or listen to recorded sermons. Modern technology has made it far easier to obtain the kind of spiritual instruction God wants to give us on His annual Holy Days. In many cases, you can watch live Feast services on the Internet. While of course this is not quite the same as being at the Feast in person, webcasts can still impart at least some

of the joy God wants us to experience during the Feast. If this is not possible or feasible, then listening to recordings of past sermons, or watching past Feast videos, can still be an important source of instruction and encouragement.

3. Spend time with other home-bound Church members if you can. This can be accomplished in many ways—a phone call, a personal visit, or, if your circumstances permit, perhaps you can get together with other Church members to watch Feast services on the Internet or at least listen to recorded Feast messages. If nothing else, sending a card or a short note to other Church members who are unable to attend the Feast can provide much-needed encouragement, both for them and for you.

Please see page 12

Teach Your Children

■ An open letter to parents.

by Gary Antion

As part of the team of educators we are doing our best to bring various educational issues to the attention of the Church membership. We have once again produced Feast booklets, which your congregation coordinator will gather requests for and send the requests to us. They will then be distributed to you by the coordinator in your area. We hope to have them in your hands before the Feast of Trumpets.

One comment I heard about last year's booklets for the children was that they were not used by some because of a lack of interest. We endeavor to provide the material, but it is up to parents to teach their children. Please set aside time at the Feast to teach your children about godly principles and about the coming Kingdom of God. Your children are precious to you, the Church, and most of all to God. Their potential is being a child in God's Kingdom. One of the great blessings as a parent is to finally hand over his children to God in baptism. What

a blessing and it is for us to know our children may live in eternity in God's Kingdom.

Please take this responsibility seriously. Regularly spend time teaching your children godly principles and pointing them to their awesome future. Teach them to be successful in life so that they may be successful in all that they do whether in school or in the workforce. Whether at home or traveling or at the Feasts remind and teach your children of God's way and His principles (Deuteronomy 4:9 and 6:7). Remember our

examples are of major importance in showing our children God's way of life.

So, please, please, please teach your children to walk in God's way and utilize the resources of the Word of God and any additional literature or information that may be relevant from us. (To view resources for parents to use for teaching their children please go to <http://members.ucg.org> and click on the youth tab at the top).

May our children always be blessings in our home, to others and to God (Psalms 127:3; 128:3)! **UN**

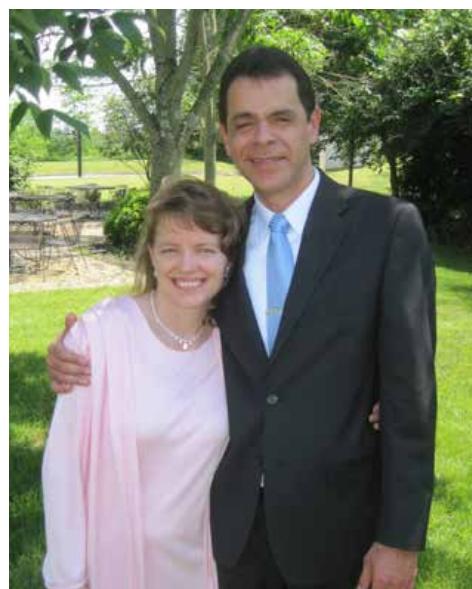
Announcements



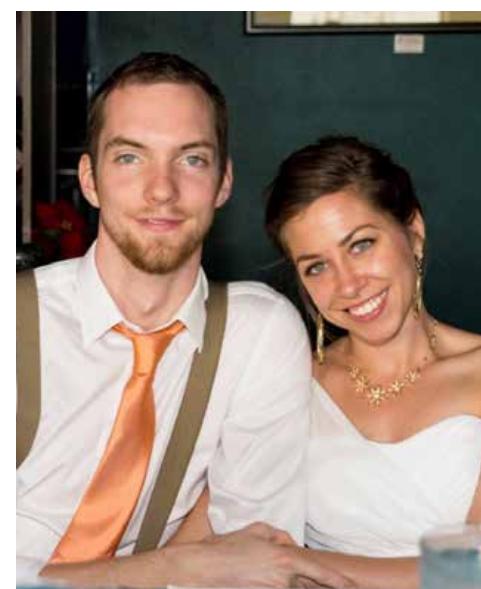
Elijah Nathaniel Cobb



Quinn Edward Zahora



Janet Hines and Jaime Salek Castro



Trevor and Kathleen Robinson

Births

David and Mandie (Smith) Cobb of the Indianapolis, Indiana, congregation would like to announce the birth of their third child, **Elijah Nathaniel**. Elijah was born safely at home on May 5, 2013. Four-year-old sister HannahBeth was excited to be woken up to witness his birth, and

2-year-old brother Joshua was excited to see his brother the next morning. Elijah was 9 lb., 2 oz. and 21 ½ in. long. The whole family is doing very well.

Nathan and Casey Zahora are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, **Quinn Edward Zahora**. He arrived on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 8:25 p.m.

Quinn was a healthy 8 lbs., 5.5 oz. and 21 in. long. Big brother Cullen (age 2) loves having a little baby brother. The family currently resides in California, but will be moving cross-country back to their home in Peachtree City, Georgia. They look forward to seeing their Atlanta church family and friends after the Feast! Thanks be to God for His wonderful blessings!

Engagements

Lorna Hines and Abraham Salek G. are pleased to announce the engagement of their children **Janet Leigh Hines** of Post, Texas, and **Jaime Salek Castro** of Bogotá, Colombia. The couple plan to wed on Oct. 19, 2013, in Lubbock, Texas, after which they will reside in Bogotá.



Lacy and Frances Mayes

Weddings

Trevor Robinson and Kathleen Thomas are pleased to announce that they were married on Dec. 23, 2012. The location of the wedding was South Padre Island, Texas, where they had an intimate beach ceremony. The joyful event was shared with parents Tim and Brenda Robinson of Oregon and Greg and BJ Thomas of Ohio, as well as sisters and extended family. The couple resides in the Dallas, Texas, area where Kathleen is a wellness director at Cooper Aerobics and Trevor is an orchestra director/music teacher for a local school system.

Anniversaries

Lacy and Frances Mayes of the Hickory, North Carolina, congregation celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 13, 2013.

They were presented a large gift basket with congratulations and well wishes during the announcements that Sabbath.

They were also given a "surprise party" later that evening by their children at the rustic but beautiful clubhouse at the Depot at Cody Creek in Dobson, North Carolina.

It was attended by invitation for 45 people, including family, friends, and several members of the Hickory congregation.

The Mayes have three children and eight grandchildren. Lacy's mother listened to "preachers" on the radio and told Lacy that "Mr. Armstrong was the only one preaching the truth." Lacy started receiving *The Plain Truth* and studying church literature he requested.

He and his wife Frances grew up in the same area, but were adults when they finally discovered their fondness for each other.

They were baptized together in 1969. They have served faithfully over the years. Lacy was ordained as a deacon in 2006. They both have been fine examples not only in their marriage but in service and love to the congregation.

Obituaries

Frances L. Danley, age 83, of Flat Rock, Michigan, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2013, at Rivergate Health Care Center in Riverview, Michigan. Born on Oct. 7, 1929, in Michie, Tennessee, she was the daughter of Amos and Maude (Farris) Wardlow. She was preceded in death by her parents and husband. Surviving are her two sons, James (Katondria) Danley of Brownstown and Phillip Danley of Warren; three daughters, Joyce (Dennis) Hanson of Arizona, Barbara Schoolcraft of Washington, and Paula (Jeff) Ott of Rockwood, Michigan; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Her parents, James Amos and Maudie Mae Wardlow, were farmers and sharecroppers. She is the youngest of nine children, having four boys and five girls in her family. She has two brothers living, one in Texas and one in California.

Fran met Cleo William Danley in Arkansas as he had just gotten out of the Navy. He had moved with his parents to Arkansas to farm. His parents worked with or for the Wardlows and lived close to them. At 16, Fran married Cleo on March 23, 1944, and they lived in Arkansas. Their first child, James Howard Danley was born in Arkansas on Feb. 22, 1950, and then the Danleys moved to Detroit, Michigan, in September of 1950 for employment. They moved to Flat Rock, Michigan, in 1955.

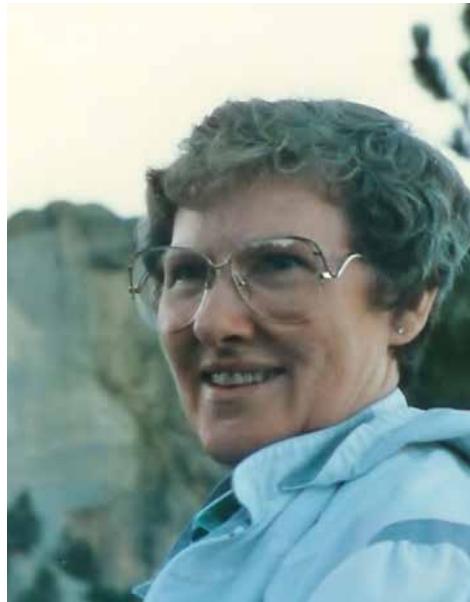
Cleo and Fran had four more children who were all born while they lived in Flat Rock: Joyce Sue born Nov. 2, 1955; Philip David born Nov. 19, 1961; Barbara Kay born Jan. 11, 1964; and Paula Louise born Nov. 16, 1965.

In the early 1960s Fran was searching for a church. She took her children to several churches looking for the "right one." In 1962 she met Mrs. Manning, a lady who told her she needed to listen to a man of God on the radio. She began listening to Herbert Armstrong, ordered the Bible correspondence course and *The Plain Truth* and began studying fervently. It wasn't until 1968 that she discovered there was a Worldwide Church Of God congregation meeting in Saline, Michigan, and she began attending. She was baptized shortly thereafter.

Fran was severely asthmatic until she began attending God's Church. She was then anointed for the condition and healed, never to be bothered by it again.

Her house was always open for Church friends to stop in and visit. She very much enjoyed attending all of the Church activities and being with the brethren and especially the opportunity to attend the Feast of Tabernacles each year in various places. She was very inspired to learn about God and His plan of salvation for mankind. She loved God and remained faithful throughout her years.

Maria E. Kludzinski, age 55, from Chicago, Illinois, died on March 3, 2013, after a two-year battle with cancer. She was the daughter of members Julio and Consuelo



Frances L. Danley

Escalante and sister of Martha Escalante who attend in Munster, Indiana. Maria was born on Jan. 16, 1958, in Honduras. Maria is survived by her two children, Jessica and Matthew Kludzinski, and her husband Justin Kludzinski from Chicago, Illinois. She was preceded in death by a brother, Alfred Escalante. She will be greatly missed by her family and her friends, but they are comforted knowing they will see her again in God's Kingdom.

Gerald Francis Styer, a longtime member of God's Church who attended UCG in Nashville, Tennessee, died peacefully on Saturday, May 4, at age 85. Known as "Jerry" to family and friends, he was born on Sept. 26, 1927, to Joseph and Vida Styer in Menomonie, Wisconsin. After growing up on a dairy farm, Jerry entered the Navy in 1945. His time in the service gave him the opportunity to personally meet Helen Keller, when she visited his base in San Diego. After leaving the military service, he married Mary Barnhart on June 14, 1952. The couple was six weeks short of celebrating their 61st anniversary together.

After graduating from Milwaukee Vocational School in 1949, Jerry became a professional baker by trade. For 10 years, he and Mary owned and operated their own bakery in Cornell, Wisconsin. During this time, he had the opportunity to meet and make a cake for John F. Kennedy, who was campaigning for president at the time. Later, Jerry served as a bakery manager and eventually a bakery specialist for food corporations including Super Value and Dawn Foods. Over the years, he had the opportunity to design and decorate the wedding cakes for each of his four children, and he enjoyed teaching his grandchildren how to make their own homemade yeast bread "from scratch."

In 1971 Jerry and Mary were introduced to *The Plain Truth* magazine and began listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio. Shortly afterward they were both baptized and began attending services in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

A job transfer in 1973 led Jerry and Mary and their four children to move to



Gerald Francis Styer

Burns, Tennessee.

Jerry had a love of music and enjoyed playing the violin, especially the traditional songs he had been taught to play as a boy by his great uncle Albert.

Since retiring in the mid-90s, Jerry has enjoyed helping his children and grandchildren with various home and outdoor projects. He and Mary enjoyed traveling together with family, including visits to Europe, Japan, Thailand, Israel, and Jordan, where he met Queen Noor, then queen of Jordan. At home, he also enjoyed gardening, finding lots of outdoor projects to keep him busy on their small hobby farm.

Jerry will be remembered for his outgoing personality, his sense of humor, and for his ability to immediately befriend a total stranger. He was quick to notice and praise the efforts of others. He will be deeply missed by friends and family.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Mary Styer of Burns, Tennessee; two sons, Mike (Cathy) Styer of Burns, and Tony (Loni) Styer of Dickson, Tennessee; two daughters, Wendy (John) Kovalchick of Dickson, Tennessee, and Shari (Mike) Fooshe of Dickson, Tennessee; 10 grandchildren: Kaitlin Styer and Ben Benayce; Jennifer, David and Brian Styer; David and Daniel Kovalchick; and Megan (Mark) Phillips, Mariah, and Marissa Fooshe; as well as three step-great-grandchildren: Brianna, Andrew and Alex Benayce.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 8, at Spann Funeral Home in Dickson. Interment was in the Middle Tennessee Veteran's Cemetery, near Pegram, Tennessee.

Announcements:

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

Congratulations, Class of 2013



Michael J. Api

Michael J. Api

Parents: Jesse Api and Linda Api
Congregation: Los Angeles, California
High School Accomplishments: Graduated from Los Altos High School on May 21, 2013; competed on the JV and Varsity levels of the tennis team (9th and 10th, JV; 11th and 12th, Varsity); earned a yellow belt in a mixed martial arts class during senior year.

Church activities/hobbies/interests: Attended UYC summer camps six times in eight years; co-hosted, with sister Jennifer, a senior's dinner during the Feast of Tabernacles in the Philippines

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests: Michael enjoys reading the Bible as well as fantasy, adventure and mystery novels. Working with his hands is something that he loves, whether it's cleaning, building, or organizing. He is interested in the laws of physics and chemistry, mathematics and all it applies to, the anatomy of and how the human body functions. Most of all he is interested in what it's going to feel like to be part of God's eternal family.

Plans after graduation: Michael plans on going to Rio Hondo College or Pasadena City College in the fall, to continue his education so that he can become a general contractor like his father. Right now he is earning money for classes by working with his dad, already doing the work that he does.

Hannah Bergmann

Parents: Matthew and Melinda Bergmann

Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: Hannah was featured in *Seventeen* magazine for her style and staying above the influence. She won awards for two of her pieces of art in a Cheekwood art contest, won first place in a Belmont math competition, participated in National Honors Society, graduated with honors, and had her art featured in *National Geographic Kids*.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Hannah has been playing the violin since the age of 3. She absolutely loves fashion and art. She is a lifeguard at a neighborhood pool.



Hannah Bergmann

Plans After Graduation: She will be attending Lipscomb University in Nashville this fall and will be majoring in music and pre-med in order to become a plastic surgeon.

Marissa Bradley

Parents: Hank and Celia Bradley
Congregation: Seattle, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Marissa has been in Running Start and attending Cascadia Community College since her junior year of high school. While attending Cascadia she has been a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Marissa loves swimming and renewed her life guard certification so she can serve at Camp High Sierra and Northwest Camp. She has also served at preteen camp. Marissa has been a part of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program at her local food bank.

Plans After Graduation: Marissa will transfer to the University of Washington to earn a degree in business administration.

Favorite poem: A favorite poem by Robert Frost, "The Road Not Taken," is too long to include here. It ends with these lines:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—



Marissa Bradley

*I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference.*

Victoria Chance

Parents: Jim and Suzette Chance
Congregation: Milwaukee/Oshkosh, Wisconsin
Name of High School: Hartford Union High School

High School Accomplishments: Member of trap shooting club, gymnastics, choir, band, swim team, Future Business Leaders of America, DECCA, French club, math club; Received award for state solo and ensemble for vocal and bassoon.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Archery, gymnastics, bassoon, singing, piano, trap shooting, harassing my brother, eating spaghetti, racing my turtle, shopping, video games, babysitting, document specialist at Immucor, management for gymnastics team, Church camp staff. Attended preteen camp, Heritage, Carter, Woodman, Cotubic, Winter Camp, Hye Sierra and Pinecrest and Northwest Camp this year. Her favorite Feast sites are Italy, Scotland and Wisconsin Dells. Her favorite Church memories are from the Winter Family Weekend and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Plans After High School: Victoria will attend Carthage College (in Kenosha, Wisconsin) to double major in French and marketing communications, with



Victoria Chance

a minor in music with a scholarship for bassoon performance. After college, she plans to attend winemaking school in France. Future plans include owning and operating her own winery.

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).

Romelo Coneal

Graduated from Cordova High School 2013 in Cordova, Tennessee

Parents: Andrea Coneal
Grandparents: Willie Coneal, Jr. and Marcella Coneal.

Congregation: Memphis, Tennessee
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Romelo loves electronics and online strategy games. He likes to build things and figure out how to build it better. He loves drawing and meeting new friends and attending the United Youth Camps. Romelo is on the canoe staff this year at Camp Pinecrest.

Plans After Graduation: Attending University of Memphis, studying to be a mechanical engineer.

Favorite scripture: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).



Romelo Coneal

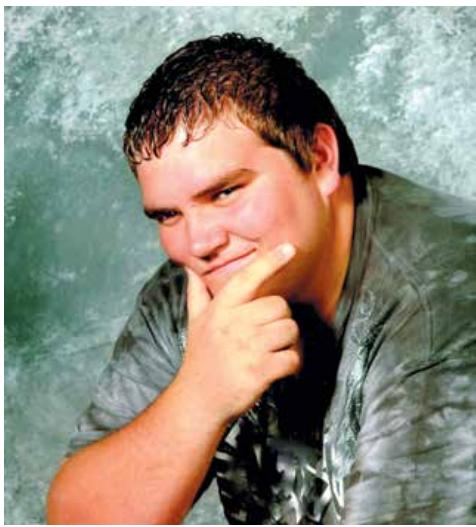


Samantha Nicole Cook

Samantha Nicole Cook

Parents: Mike and Jan Cook
Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Sectional volleyball champions, top 10 in the CHL league for kills, second team all conference, voted hardest working player and most likely to fall down by her teammates, played club volleyball and went to nationals and finished in the top 20 teams, and was on the honor roll and finished with a 3.5 GPA, asked to speak at Baccalaureate.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Samantha likes to serve the Church, especially the youth. She has volunteered at children's events and children's games at the Winter Family Weekend. She is learning to play the piano and plans to serve



Garrett Demers



Jody Elizabeth Evans



Lissa Fahey



Cassie Feiock

the Church by playing hymns. At school she was a member of the basketball, volleyball and diving teams as well as spirit club and campus life improvement. She also coached volleyball and basketball for middle-schoolers. She nannies over the summer for a local family. She also loves to travel—anything from a road trip to an international vacation. Above all, she likes spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Samantha will be attending Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, in the fall and plans to double major in English and economics with a double minor in psychology and global commerce. She hopes to attend graduate school at NYU or Columbia to get an MBA. She wants to go into business, ideally public relations or sales. She plans to take a semester to study in Italy, France or Spain.

Favorite quote: “If you are not willing to look stupid, nothing great is ever going to happen to you” Dr. Gregory House.

Favorite scripture: “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace’” (Exodus 14:13-14).

Motto: “Go big or go home!”

Advice: Never tell yourself you cannot do something. Set high goals and work hard to find a way to achieve them. Choose good friends and listen to their opinions. Be selfless, be generous, be loving, and everything else will fall into place.

Garrett Demers

Parents: Kelli and Dale (deceased) Demers

Congregation: Northern Arizona

High School Accomplishments: He is an active participant in tae kwon do and recently received two second place trophies at a tournament, in open forms and gladiator sparring.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Garrett is currently a blue belt, and is working towards his goal of black belt. He loves to play his guitars, as well as writing songs. He is active in serving at church and volunteers on the sound crew.

Plans After Graduation: Garrett has plans to go onto college after graduation but isn't sure in which field.

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

Jody Elizabeth Evans

Parents: Daniel and Dawn Evans

Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Besides graduating with her normal high school diploma, she was enrolled at Southern State Community College for post-secondary education, where she completed 76 credit hours of college towards an associates' degree. She has been accepted to ABC for this coming fall. She has also been accepted to the Art Institute of Cincinnati.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jody enjoys serving seniors at church, helping with the youth and babysitting during Passover. Her hobbies are playing piano, drums and guitar. She enjoys snowboarding, drawing, wakeboarding, video games, fishing, reading scripture, and spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: After graduation, she is considering pursuing an art or computer degree.

Favorite Scripture: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Favorite Quote: “To the world you might be only one person, but to one per-



Nadine Garcia

son you might be the world.”

Lissa Fahey

Parents: Jonathan and Shari Fahey

Congregation: Dallas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Lissa graduated from Spinnaker High School with a 4.0 GPA. She earned seven English credits (including one for writing a 12-chapter novel). For six years she volunteered at a public library where her favorite job was assisting in Story Time.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests: For the past two years she has taught the pre-K through 1st-grade Sabbath school class, and has accompanied the children's choir on the piano. To keep her hands busy she knits and crochets blankets, toys, and anything else her imagination can conceive. This summer she hopes to take up spinning yarn as well.

Plans After Graduation: Lissa will attend Collin College for an associates degree in education before completing her bachelors degree at a four-year university. Her goal is to be an elementary schoolteacher. Long-term hopes include marriage and homeschooling her own children, but for now she just wants to pass college algebra.

Cassie Feiock

Parents: Brent and Kristine Feiock

Congregation: Cambridge, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: 3.94 GPA, ranked fourth in class, Member of the National Honor Society, received academic letters and pins all four years



Dustin Gilmer

of high school, honor roll since second grade and principal's list all four years of high school, awarded an Alumni Scholarship in memory of the oldest alumni member who recently passed away.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Cassie attended Camp Buckeye and Camp Cotubic. She serves in her local congregation with kitchen duties and babysitting. She enjoys reading, crocheting, being outdoors, and playing word games.

Plans After Graduation: Cassie will be attending Belmont College, majoring in early childhood education and hopes to attend ABC as soon as possible.

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 91 (God's promise of protection)

Motto: “God throws your sins into a sea of forgiveness and puts up a ‘NO FISHING’ sign.”

Nadine Garcia

Parents: Jesse and Janet Garcia

Congregation: Twin Cities, Minnesota

High School Accomplishments: Nadine graduated with highest honors and was a part of National Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She plays the violin in the ensemble in the Twin Cities congregation. She has also enjoyed several Church camps. Throughout school she was involved in orchestra, cross-country running, track and the Center for Engineering, Math, and Science program at school.

Plans After Graduation: Nadine plans to attend the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Dustin Gilmer

Parents: Jessica Gilmer Christian and Chad Christian

Congregation: Kingsport, Tennessee

High School Accomplishments: Beta Club member, National Honor Society member, Math National Honor Society treasurer, student government representative, Science National Honor Society, varsity basketball, and he received a merit scholarship to cover tuition for college.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Dustin loves to play basketball and spend time with his little brother. He is thankful for his health and his wonderful, support-



Felicia J. Gutierrez

ive family and extended Church family.
Plans After Graduation: Dustin is planning to attend East Tennessee State University for pre-medicine.

Felicia J. Gutierrez

Parents: Felix and Victoria Gutierrez
Congregation: Oakland, California
High School Accomplishments: Softball coaches' award 2010; state scholastic art and writing awards gold key 2012; Bentley School english award 2013; co-editor of Bentley School art and literature magazine *Aquila* 2012-13.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Church choir, reading, writing, art
Plans After Graduation: Attending California College of the Arts, currently undeclared.
Favorite Scripture: "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Katrina Hansen

Parents: Bruce and Linda Hansen
Congregation: Salem, Oregon
High School Accomplishments: Katrina was a co-vedictorian of her class and won awards for most outstanding in math and most outstanding in health. She swam on the high school swim team and pole vaulted for the track and field team, earning letters in both sports. She was also treasurer of the National Honor Society.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Katrina enjoys Church camps and is an active participant in choir and ensemble in her local congregation, occasionally accompanying hymns on the piano as well. She swims on the YMCA swim team and also works as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Plans After Graduation: Katrina will attend Chemeketa Community College for two years with a full tuition scholarship, after which she plans to pursue a degree in finance at Oregon State Uni-



Katrina Hansen

versity.
Favorite Scripture: "Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6).
Favorite Quote: "Everything's better with butter."

Joshua M. Hauck

Parents: Mike and Sarah Hauck
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Distinguished honor roll student, Illinois state scholar, presidential award for academic excellence, four-time state of Illinois "mathlete," Eagle Scout.
Church activities/hobbies/interests: Joshua serves on the church sound crew and is a member of the teen speech club. Has been in scouting since age 6 and earned his Eagle Scout award in 2012. He's an avid sports fan and enjoys playing football, basketball, tennis and ultimate Frisbee. Summer activities include attending Camp Pinecrest as staff for the first time and being staff at Camp Ironwood.
Plans after Graduation: Will be attending Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, to study biomedical engineering.

Sean Michael Iiams

Parents: Mike and Joyce Iiams
Congregation: Spokane, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Sean dual-enrolled in his junior and senior years at North Idaho College and received his associate of science degree two weeks



James Forrest Jackson



Joshua M. Hauck

before he graduated from high school. He played in both jazz band and wind ensemble as a first chair percussionist and received the Louis Armstrong jazz award in 10th grade.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Sean is active in the audio/visual side of church set-up and helps to set up and run the sound system at weekly services and at the Feast in Bend/Redmond. He has had a long running interest in heavy equipment operation that he plans to make into a career in combination with civil engineering. He also enjoys skiing in the winter and various outdoor activities in the summer.

Plans After Graduation: Sean will be studying civil engineering at the University of Idaho.

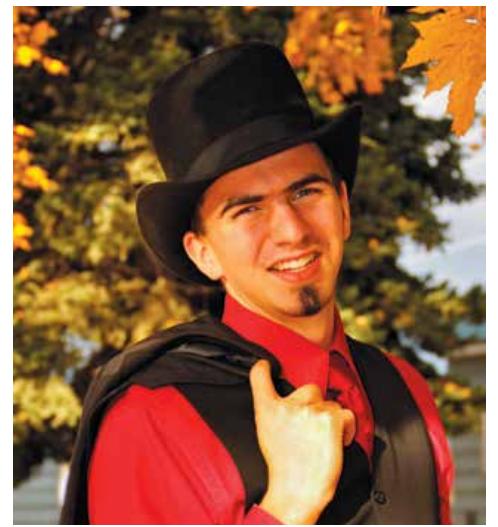
Favorite Scripture: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

James Forrest Jackson

Parents: Steven and Sarah Jackson
Congregation: Boise, Idaho
High School Accomplishments: James graduated in December 2012 from Jackson Christian School. James is an accomplished certified locksmith with two degrees in professional and advanced locksmithing. He is a certified 4-H teen leader, president of his 4-H club, multiple recipient of Grand Champion 4-H Sci-



Lisa Johnson



Sean Michael Iiams

ence and Technology Award, Champion Boer Goat Showman, twice winner of the Idaho State Bee Essay Contest, and recipient of the Idaho Key Award. James is a shepherd of champion boer goats and a successful apiarist. James has completed the Bible Study Course.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: James has served his church area for many years in set-up, take-down and operating the sound system. He is an enthusiastic greeter. He enjoys working with his hands, gardening, hiking, entomology, exercising, tending to his goats and spending time with his family. He has mechanical skills and enjoys learning new things and helping people of all ages.

Plans After Graduation: Since graduation, James has been completing his 10th and final year in 4-H, continued to raise and sell his goats, increasing his apiary, and working in the locksmithing field.

Favorite Quote: "Do, or do not, there is no try"—Yoda

Favorite Scripture: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2, King James Version).

Lisa Johnson

Parents' Names: John and Tammy Johnson
Congregation: Orlando, Florida
High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, Tomorrow's Leaders Representative, Accelerated Diploma, Magna Cum Laude graduate, dual-enrollment at college (will begin fall as a sophomore), Varsity track, Varsity soccer, Bright Futures Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Created several videos for post-Feast picture show, youth accomplishments, senior banquet, greeter, youth choir director; serves at potlucks, hall clean-up, created church directory, Feast choir, bike riding, running, art. She also enjoys working on the computer, traveling, and watching movies

Plans After Graduation: Lisa is currently taking college classes and plan to graduate in the spring of 2014 with an associate of arts degree at Daytona State before transferring to the University of Central



Rachel Keirouz

Florida for a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She will be working at Publix while attending school.

Favorite Scripture: “For the Lord will be your confidence and keep your foot from being caught” (Proverbs 3:26).

Rachel Keirouz

Parents: Joe and Sharon Keirouz

Congregation: San Jose, California

High School Accomplishments: Graduated fifth in her class

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Plays violin for hymns and special music

Plans after graduation: Rachel plans to attend University of California—San Diego in the fall.

Kathleen Kelly

Parents: Stuart and Tammy Kelly

Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High School Accomplishments: Is an accomplished but retired competitive gymnast. Has accumulated over 60 credits at Portland Community College by participating in an early college program. Works full time with her dad at Kelly’s Heroes Window Cleaning.

Church Activities: Attends summer camps every year and volunteers at our local pre-teen camp. Participates in the young adult choir at services. Is on the flower crew. Active in the local congregation’s fundraising efforts and service projects.

Hobbies/Interests: Kathleen is interested in travel and looks forward to doing more of it. She is a natural people person and is very empathetic towards them. Her hobbies include reading and horseback riding.

Plans After Graduation: Kathleen will attend ABC this fall, after which she will likely return home to complete her associates’ degree. She also has ambition to go on an international project in the next few years.

Roger Jerome Nettles

Parents: Robert and Lorelei Nettles

Congregation: Phoenix East, Arizona

High School Accomplishments: Attending Mesa Community College concurrently with high school. Graduating in December.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/



Kathleen Kelly

etc.: At 6’ 5” tall, Roger is one of the taller men at church, so he is often put to the back of the pack for group pictures. His height comes in very handy though, when it comes to being able to reach the things average height folks cannot. Roger loves to serve at church as well. He is currently the coordinator of the congregation’s booklet ordering and display service. He also serves as a team member on security, stage set-up, and running the local web-cast. Another thing he enjoys is singing in the congregational choir and sitting in with the ensemble playing either guitar or ukulele for hymns. Outside of church Roger likes working on computers and has done some computer builds for local businesses and friends. He also built his own state-of-the-art gaming computer. For fun he enjoys league bowling, playing a variety of musical instruments such as: the guitar, ocarina, cajon, various ukuleles, and even the didgeridoo! He especially loves driving and restoring his (new to him) 1996 Chevy Camaro Z-28.

Plans After Graduation: Attending Mesa Community College with intention of receiving a computer science degree. Also plans to attend ABC in Ohio for the 2014/2015 session.

Advice: Don’t ask a tall person if he plays basketball, because he may ask you if you play miniature golf.

Favorite Scripture: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them” John



Raven Camille Shelton



Roger Jerome Nettles

14:21 (NIV).

Chelsea Marie Shaw

Parents: Brian and ReNae Shaw

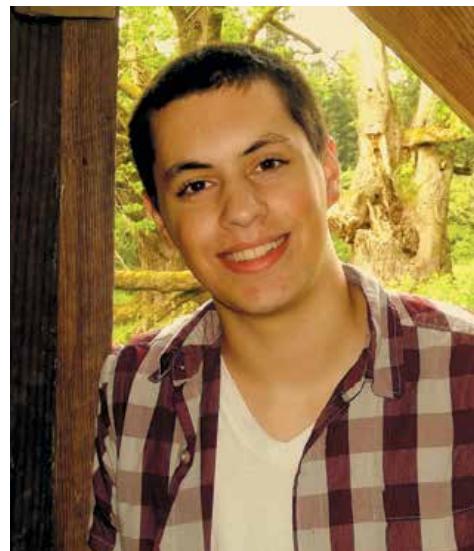
Congregation: Twin Cities, Minnesota

High School Accomplishments: Chelsea volunteered for several years in the Book Buddies program at the library to improve literacy amongst younger children.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Chelsea has had 22 UYC camp experiences including Winter Camp, Pinecrest, Cotubic, and Ironwood Springs Preteen Camp as both a camper and as staff. She has an enthusiasm for music and loves playing piano, oboe, singing and composing. She’s very active in using these skills at church, participating in special music, accompanying hymns, singing in choirs and playing in orchestras. She also has a passion for styling hair, which has inspired her to attend cosmetology school, and pursue a career in the beauty industry. She dreams of being able to enhance the way a person sees him or herself, and inspire them to live a better life out of respect for being made in God’s image. She firmly believes that a heightened appreciation for one’s appearance, being fashioned in God’s image, can encourage them to higher standards of living. Her favorite activity, though, is anything that has to do with being around the people that she loves.

Plans After Graduation: Attend Ambassador Bible Center and cosmetology school.

Favorite Quote: “Try and fail, but don’t fail to try”—Stephen Kaggwa



Brandon Slocum



Chelsea Marie Shaw

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

Raven Camille Shelton

Parents: Russell and Ruth Shelton

Congregation: Nashville, Tennessee

High School Accomplishments: Raven has been homeschooled since the second grade and has demonstrated a passion for learning. Raven’s favorite subjects include science, English and health. Throughout her high school years, she has made the honor roll on several occasions, maintaining a very high GPA. In her spare time, Raven enjoys playing the piano. She has had the opportunity to perform special music and hymns for Sabbath services. She has also played piano for children’s choirs. Raven gains great pleasure from helping others and working with children.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/ etc.: Raven enjoys writing poetry and short stories. She also has a talent for baking and photography. Upon graduation, Raven plans on attending college at Austin Peay State University, but has not decided on a major. Her parents are very pleased with her accomplishments.

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

Brandon Slocum

Parents: Rob and Tina Slocum

Congregation: Portland, Oregon

High School Accomplishments: “Running Start Program.” Completed high school equivalency; half way to an associate of arts degree at Clark Community College.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/ etc.: Basketball, volleyball, five years Pop Warner Football, fruit sales fundraising, Northwest Weekend, choir, service projects, seven years of UYC (at Northwest Camp and Hye Sierra), volunteer staff at pre-teen camp, teen Bible studies, campouts, hikes and dances.

Plans After Graduation: After getting a four-year degree, Brandon plans to follow in his older two brothers’ footsteps and attend ABC. Then following ABC he plans to go wherever life takes him.

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Local Church UPDATES



Saturday night at the Spokane ladies' retreat was a pajama party.

Spokane, Washington, Ladies' Retreat: "Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone"

The ladies of the Spokane United Church of God congregation hosted their 16th annual Ladies' Retreat April 26-28 at beautiful Deer Lake. Seventy ladies from all over the United States and Canada enjoyed the inspiring messages amid the forest setting overlooking the lake. The theme of "Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone—Branching, Budding and Blooming" focused on moving beyond our comfort zones. Through the various presentations the ladies realized that to God's people this topic takes on even deeper meaning of growing spiritually.

Presentations included personal examples of having to come out of our comfort zones, the importance of growing, and how God will provide opportunities to grow if we are willing to step out. The whole process can be "an adventure" if we have faith in God to "step out of our comfort zone." Several interactive activities encouraged getting to know yourself and others, Bible Cranium, building trust, and learning new coping strategies.

This year's service projects included col-



All the ladies gathered at the Spokane ladies' retreat.

lecting needed items for Ronald McDonald House in Spokane and placing bed boards in various cabins at the camp that were too soft. We thank our pastor, Mark Mickelson, for being carpenter for this project. One of our ladies, Lisa Repp, also made a beautiful art piece portraying the scripture John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches."

Our goal was to providing a relaxing environment where we could rejuvenate and build relations while enjoying the quiet peaceful surroundings.

We have already reserved May 16-18, 2014.

Michelle Mickelson

Congratulations to Joshua Hauck on Eagle Scout Accomplishment

Joshua Hauck, of the Chicago, Illinois,



Brenda Sweeney (left) and Ginny Brown said goodbye to the Southern Minnesota congregation. Both ladies have been in the area for many years and are moving cross-country.

congregation, received his Eagle Scout award on Feb. 23, 2013, at his Eagle Court of Honor. Josh has been a scout since the age of 6, and scouting has played an important role throughout his youth. A highlight of his scouting career was attending a high adventure camp at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico in 2009. His family is extremely proud of his accomplishment!

Sarah Hauk

Southern Minnesota Congregation Bids Farewell to Two Beloved Ladies

On April 13 the Southern Minnesota congregation said goodbye to two special ladies—Brenda Sweeney and Ginny Brown. Both were moving to other church areas. Ginny moved to East Texas to be with family. Brenda, who had been in the church area for over 30 years, moved to Michigan. The congregation honored Brenda and Ginny with a cake and punch reception after services.

David Schreiber

Fort Wayne's "Change for Camp" Project Raises \$800 for Camp

The Ft. Wayne, Indiana, church raised close to \$800 (\$794) in its "Change for Camp" fundraiser. Canning jars with decorative labels attached (created by Montana and Kendall Hermann) were



Eagle Scout Joshua Hauck with his project.



Kendall and Montana Hermann with the jars of change collected in Fort Wayne to raise money for the United Youth Camps program.

available for anyone in the congregation to take home and fill.

Peggy 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*.

The Eighth Day: The Ultimate Focus of God's Plan

Continued from page 1

Today, we know physical circumcision is not required for salvation for all people (Acts 15), but it is also true that circumcision is a symbol of our spiritual commitment and focus. Paul wrote, "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God" (Romans 2:28-29). Paul is talking about righteousness, and being in complete submission to God.

Another example of the number eight is with Noah. In his second book, Peter writes to the Church, warning them about false preachers. He makes the point that each individual will be responsible for their own salvation, and he uses Noah as an example: "And [God] spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (2 Peter 2:5, King James Version). Noah was saved because he was in complete submission to God. Seven other people were saved on the ark but not because of their own righteousness—only the eighth was saved because of righteousness. Peter's point is that in the eternal judgment, each of us will be saved in response to our own righteousness, not anyone else's, like the other seven in the Ark.

Another example of the number eight is in Exodus when God told Israel: "You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me" (Exodus 22:29). But when did He say to give these? The next verse reveals: "Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me." The first seven days were for preparation, counting toward and looking forward to the eighth day, when the offering of the firstborn was to be given to God. But it was not only on the eighth day that the firstborn offering could be made, it was from there on after (Leviticus 22:26). From eight days onward, the sacrifice could be made. Likewise, the fulfillment of the Eighth Day shows that God's Kingdom will be eternal. It will begin, but never end.

As we know, God will build another temple complex in Jerusalem during the Millennium (Ezekiel 40 begins the description of that vision). In that vision, God explains what it will take to purify the altar before sacrifices can be made: seven days worth of offerings for sin offerings for the priests and for the altar (Ezekiel 43:18-27). Only then—on the eighth day—will the altar be consecrated and God will accept the burnt offerings and peace offerings made there. There is a similar seven-day period of consecration for the priests described in Leviticus 8, where Moses first prepared Aaron and his sons for their service as priests to God at the tabernacle. After being washed, clothed in the priestly garments, and sprin-

kled with blood, they stayed in the tabernacle for seven days. "And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you" (Leviticus 8:33). After this, they came out on the eighth day and made a sin offering for the people. The seven days were the time of preparation so that on the eighth day they could begin to fulfill what they had been prepared to do.

There are many examples of the meaning of the number eight in God's Word. The Nazirite vow included instructions on what to do if someone who had taken that vow became defiled by accident or

Babylon is the eighth of those kings. Coincidence?

The pollution of Christianity that came from gnosticism (among other things) honored the number eight. One of the first false epistles, called the Epistle of Barnabas, argued on behalf of the eighth day and its importance. This false reverence of the number eight is what led to Sunday worship in Christianity by the Catholic Church. Samuel Bacchiocchi's book *Sabbath to Sunday* describes the Epistle of Barnabas, noting that the first and primary argument for the change from Sabbath to Sunday was the number eight. Secondarily was the argument that Christ rose on Sun-

God the Father putting His throne on this earth on the Eighth Day is what everything ultimately moves toward.

because of circumstances beyond their control. It included seven days of purification, with an offering made on the eighth day. The steps for the cleansing of lepers or other unclean people was also seven days of sanctification, and an offering was to be given on the eighth day. On the eighth day the process would be complete.

The Ultimate Focus of God's Plan

We tend to focus on day number seven because we look to the return of Jesus Christ. We want to be done with the trials, the stresses and the troubles of this life and to see our redemption into glory. We want to rise to meet Christ in the air. These are things we should indeed look forward to and long for. But the plan of God does not focus ultimately on the return of Jesus Christ. That is incredibly important, but God the Father putting His throne on this earth on the Eighth Day is what everything ultimately moves toward. Christ's return is part of the process. It's pretty clear—seven days to cleanse, to consecrate, to prepare. But the eighth day is the broader, fuller restoration to God. It was on that day that males were circumcised. That is when the priests were allowed to begin to make sacrifices. That is when the firstborn offerings were to begin to be offered. That is when the Nazirites and those who were cleansed were restored to God. The symbolism of the Eighth Day, laid out like fingerprints throughout God's Word, is incredibly significant.

Counterfeit Veneration of Eight

Of importance to keep in mind with this topic is the counterfeit use of the number eight by Satan. In the end of this age, the false religion of Babylon described in Revelation 17 portrays Satan ruling over the earth before Christ's return. That passage also describes seven kings: "They are also seven kings... The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction" (Revelation 17:10-11, New International Version). That false religious system of

day (which is modernly held to as the reason for the change). Later, Jerome argued that the number seven represented Judaism and the law, and the eighth day represented the gospel, so therefore, he argued, Christians must do away with the law.

Satan has counterfeited God's ways in many, many ways to lead people astray. False Christs, false ministers, false brethren, false doctrines, false churches—they are all counterfeits of what God has put in place. But God's meaning in the number eight is still special, no matter what Satan might try to foist on the world. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. The throne of God will be with His family, and He will rule with Jesus Christ for eternity. Of the increase of His government, there will be no end (Isaiah 9:7).

The billions who have died not knowing what to expect will come up in the resurrection of the Great White Throne Judgment and know God. Those who lost loved ones will meet them again. There will be no more sadness, pain or mourning (Revelation 21:4). That Kingdom will last forever: "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:1-5).

God's plan looks forward to the fulfillment of what the Eighth Day pictures, which is the eternal reign of God and Jesus Christ, the new heaven and the new earth, with all mankind having the opportunity to have been purified and set apart to live forever. God speed that day. **UN**

Spending the Feast at Home

Continued from page 5

4. Be a light to others around you.

This of course is something we should be doing throughout the year as Christians, but even more so during the Feast days. There are many ways of doing this, even if you have to stay at home during the Feast. A small "Feast gift" to your employers or coworkers—even something as simple as a loaf of home-made bread—may be more of a light than you realize. If you're in a public place, such as a grocery store or a restaurant, make an extra effort to be kind, patient, friendly, and understanding. If you're able to go out to eat at a restaurant where tipping is expected, a slightly larger tip than usual, along with a few kind words to those who serve you, can often be a powerful witness. Be sure, however, to ask God's guidance and direction in any such instance. Even a quick silent prayer while waiting in line can make a big difference!

5. Strive to maintain a positive attitude.

Even though you may have to stay home during the Feast, the right mental attitude can make all the difference. By all means, ask God for help in this regard. Also, the previous steps I've outlined, if properly practiced, will of themselves help you to keep your spirits up as they should be during the Feast. Helping and serving others during the Feast can be especially beneficial. Listening to uplifting music can also be helpful. Even dressing up a little bit when you go out can help.

6. Determine now, and begin planning now, to attend the Feast next year if you can possibly do so!

To be sure, there may be extenuating circumstances that may limit you in this regard—age or health, for instance—but, aside from those, you should begin now to look ahead, and plan ahead, seeking counsel if necessary, toward attending next year's Feast of Tabernacles. The Church festival office staff begins planning for the coming year's Feast within days of the conclusion of the current year's Feast, and, I submit, so should we! In many cases, proper advance planning for next year's Feast will make actually getting to next year's Feast that much easier. While it will be several months before next year's festival sites will be announced, you can and should begin striving now to make sure that you can be at next year's Feast. Seeking advice from your local Feast advisor early on is especially important, and doubly so if you already know of possible problems or limiting factors that you will need to contend with. By far the most important thing you can do, however, is to seek God's help and guidance so that, if He sees fit, you can be at next year's Feast of Tabernacles!

Having to stay home during the Feast of Tabernacles isn't what God wants for us, and it certainly shouldn't be what we want, but as the old saying goes, "It isn't the end of the world." You can still enjoy God's Feast at home if you ask God for help and make the effort to do so! **UN**

“All I Want Is To Be Counted Worthy”

Continued from page 2

edifying and encouraging. As a pastor, I see the need for helping one another in a way that will fill a great need. The conversation at our friend's bedside in the hospital reminded me of this need, which I have seen at other such moments of personal trial.

First, since this is the time of year when we observe the Feast of Trumpets and Feast of Tabernacles, let's consider looking at the meaning of these two Feasts from the perspective this close friend was able to do. She saw these promises as being something to embrace, to hold close and tight, to never let go of, even if she had to give up everything else, including her physical life. Her understanding of the promises of the first resurrection and being in the Kingdom of God was very personal, very real, and for her, seemed quite imminent. If we can recognize from the experience of this sincere sister in the faith how personal and how directly tied to God's plan of “bringing

many [children] to glory” the meanings of the upcoming Feasts really are, perhaps we will be able to gain more this year than ever before from our observance of them. Adding this personal perspective, knowing that one day we may see things from a similar personal point of view, may help us gain the same passion to be there when Christ comes on the clouds of heaven and calls us to meet Him in the air. Someday

thing else, we can have that kind of passion, and be sustained by it even when we face the great trials of this physical life.

Secondly, brethren, as a pastor who hears the words of faithful people at times of intense trial in their life, I believe there is a great need for us all to speak often to one another of the promises God has given to us, of our belief in the sureness of a wonderful and eternal future, of the

difference in a person's life. We can, over time, help others to choose to believe and live this way, and it may just be that our encouraging and positive way of looking to the fulfillment of the promises of God will help someone else to hold fast to the end. Perhaps a gift we can all give to others is to share some of that hope in our fellowship at the feasts and throughout the year.

Christ wants to count us worthy, and wants us to be confident in the salvation He is bringing. We serve a gracious God, and have a powerful Savior. I'm happy to let you know that our friend survived her ordeal, and was able to return home soon afterwards. It was a blessing to hear her laughter and optimism return after she received the healing that had been prayed for that day. I know we will speak again and often about those “exceedingly great and precious promises.” And one day to come, you and I will also be able to share many stories of how God brought us “into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:10-11).

Sincerely,

Roc Corbett, pastor, Salt Lake City and Las Vegas

I believe there is a great need for us all to speak often to one another of the promises God has given to us, of our belief in the sureness of a wonderful and eternal future, of the hope that is within us.

the Feast of Tabernacles will be held in Jerusalem, and all the saints and people from every nation will go there to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts. Like our friend who wanted this more than any-

hope that is within us. God notices and appreciates such communication, as we see in Malachi 3:16-17.

Encouragement is essential to our Christian growth, and can make all the

What Will Teaching God's Way Be Like In the Second Resurrection?

Continued from page 3

had inadvertently given the tribe a new hero—Judas, the deceitful betrayer who delivered his master to be killed. Judas had become their super hero!

Overcoming cultural differences and twisted thinking such as this has been and will be the greater challenge in bringing people to conversion. Paul rose to that challenge on Mars Hill, and his approach to the Athenian audience has been adopted by the modern Christian world and given a title—the Redemptive Analogy—the process of finding analogies to build bridges between the listener's way of thinking and the way of God. Even among the skeptical thinkers on Mars Hill Paul's approach still connected with some in Athens (Acts 17:32-34).

As the Richardsons' work among the Sawi progressed they were unaware that circumstances would eventually provide them with the ultimate redemptive analogy.

Initially their life was immersed in learning—first the language, next its grammar and eventually how and why the people thought the way they did. Ini-

tially 10 hours a day were spent listening and talking with the men of the tribe in an attempt to learn the language. To Don's surprise he found an intriguing contrast—a Stone Age people with a highly sophisticated language.

As the relationship between the Richardsons and the Sawi strengthened, three Sawi tribes decided to move next to the Richardson's jungle cottage and establish

chaos the Richardsons concluded they had but one choice if they were to keep the tribes from killing one another: They had to leave and let them go back to their separate villages. As Don and Carol began packing the reality of the loss sank in and tribal leaders begged them not to go. They promised a solution—a Peace Child.

In the deep roots of Sawi culture rested a survival tool reserved for drastic times.

Paul like other great teachers understood the greatest challenge in bringing the world to conversion is reaching them on their own turf mentally and emotionally. This will be our challenge also.

new villages. The results were disastrous.

They found themselves in the midst of endless fighting. The slightest offense resulted in shouting, stomping, screaming and the eventual hail of spears and arrows. Wounds were nursed and bandaged if not fatal, and the feuds went on. Fourteen battles were fought in the first two months. In the midst of ceaseless

In an emotionally charged ceremony a father would take one of his infant sons and, carrying him tenderly in his arms toward the other tribe, place him in the arms of an enemy tribesman. It was emotionally wrenching. Mothers wailed at the loss of their babies, and fathers wept as they delivered them into enemy arms.

But for the Sawi it was a last ditch effort

more thoughtful about giving “as they are able.” But all of us may ask God to inspire connections with those who have need. The friendships resulting can mature over time to be mutually edifying! It's a beautiful thing, when God is the foundation of a friendship.

Physical Investment

Can we freely offer the gift of our labor to those who are trying to get out of debt or struggling financially? How

much could that benefit their household, and how much love for them does that express? The possibilities for how we can serve are endless, but we'll probably only see them if we are asking God to open our eyes to them and are growing in our relationships with brethren.

Financial Investment

We may only be privy to the financial needs of our brethren if we have first invested in a relationship. Financial help

at peace. Every tribe who received a Peace Child considered it the responsibility of the whole tribe to guard the life of their new citizen. Their honor depended upon it, and so did peace. Peace between the tribes was guaranteed only as long as the child lived.

The Richardsons who had failed to break through the cultural barriers of a society of deceit finally found a door—a redemptive analogy—the Peace Child. They had found a practice from within the tribes, and as they used it to explain that Jesus Christ was offered by His Father in order to make peace with us, the barriers began to fall. The Jesus who had been the victim of the deceitful “hero” Judas became the Peace Child who all could honor and respect. Sawi ears could now hear. Changes followed.

Looking forward to the second resurrection, scores of generations scattered around the globe over millennia will rise from the dead. Every imaginable and unimaginable culture will come to life. As with all who went before them, conversion cannot be commanded. Hearts much be reached, ears must be opened. Teachers will need to connect with every pattern of thinking from every age and help create connections with God. What will your redemptive analogies be? How will you teach the true and only Peace Child to men and women of every age? **UN**

might be given through clothing (especially for families with children), healthy food not available at area food banks, cash, gift cards, or paying someone's bill. We must discern whether or not assistance would be received as a blessing or as a kind of insult or embarrassment. Though hopefully the former, some do not want to receive outside help because they feel strongly that they should be con-

Please see next page

The Poor Shall Be With You Always

Continued from page 13

tent with what they have, so anonymity is crucial if we really feel strongly that God is leading us to provide some kind of monetary support and has blessed our income to be able to do so.

The Best Kept Secrets

If and when we do find opportunities,

we are further challenged to keep it as much a secret as possible (Matthew 6:3). One reason is to cover over sins or faults. James exhorts us to resist showing partiality among our brethren (James 2; see also Proverbs 14:20-21; 16:19). Consider that when we open brethren's financial sins to censure or judge it more harshly than our own sins, we do exercise partiality. Someone may decide to share their struggles openly, but let it be their decision. We want others to mercifully cover our faults and sins, so let us also keep watch on our own lips. As Proverbs 11:13 says, "A tale-

bearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter" (See also Proverbs 11:22).

The second reason for giving secretly is that glory goes to God rather than to the mere vehicle by which God has given a blessing (Luke 18:14). However we help, we are only a means of transportation. If God had not blessed us, we couldn't share it with others. God provides in so many ways. In abilities (making gainful employment more likely), in mentors, in learning marketable skills. Accept these blessings, knowing that the gifts we receive from

God grow and multiply as we invest them in other people (see Proverbs 11:24-25).

And, if we receive blessings through other people, whether anonymously or not, be thankful and content that God has provided by inspiring them, and that it is blessed to receive *and* to give. And as we are able, we can also choose to be a vehicle of God's blessing to others (Hebrews 6:9; 13:16).

I pray that we as a people will be found in the Book of Life, perhaps under the broad category of "those who overcame." Today is a new day. What will you do? **UN**

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord."

We need as many musicians as possible 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.

When registering at <http://feast.ucg.org/music>, tell us about yourself, 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.

Complete the music volunteer form on the website even if you already indicated on the festival registration form that you would like to participate in music. By completing this online form, you will be providing the music coordinator assigned to your festival site with valuable, additional information that will be of help to them in organizing the various music performances at the Feast.

We also have a need for pianists to accompany choirs, soloists and congregational hymns at services. Pianists, as well as instrumentalists and vocalists who can serve in these ways should also complete the online music volunteer registration form.

Once you have volunteered, 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, but to volunteer (or contact your special music coordinator) as soon as possible—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.

Special Music Coordinators

Anchorage, Alaska—Randy Schmidt, (414) 659-8347, rschmidt46@wi.rr.com

Bend-Redmond, Oregon—Mary Jo Rydholm, (360) 754-8473, mjrydholm@yahoo.com
Branson, Missouri—Larry Keener, (816) 523-4914, larrykeener@earthlink.net
Cincinnati, Ohio—Dorothy Seifert, (740) 569-7727, dorothyu2@gmail.com
Gatlinburg, Tennessee—Ken Shoemaker, (937) 779-7690, Ken_Shoemaker@ucg.org
Jekyll Island, Georgia—Corbin Rose, (989) 529-8532, corbinisnotyou@gmail.com
Maui, Hawaii—Fred Crow, (408) 238-5324, fred_crow@ucg.org
New Braunfels, Texas—Neil LaCasse, (517) 663-1764, neilbabeleanor@gmail.com
Ocean City, Maryland—Dennis Ulrey, (630) 441-8308, drden52@gmail.com
Oceanside, California—Dan Salcedo, (714) 637-4335, danielesther.salcedo@gmail.com
Panama City Beach, Florida—Arvid Simmons, (615) 568-0395, avsimmons@aol.com
Steamboat Springs, Colorado—Mitchell Moss, (513) 549-4030, mitchell.e.moss@gmail.com
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin—Russ DeVilbiss, (262) 694-5044, russ@devilbissfamily.net

Canada

Canmore, Alberta—Oliver Hooser, (214) 417-5279, ohooser@msn.com
Gros Morne, Newfoundland—Kevin Ford, (905) 808-0811, fordian65@yahoo.com
Sites yet to be determined: Midland, Ontario; Abbotsford, British Columbia; Bigfork, Montana; Phoenix, Arizona

Rick Shabi

Chattanooga Plans 2013 Ocoee Rafting Trip

The Chattanooga, Tennessee, congregation will be hosting the annual Ocoee white water rafting trip on Sunday, Aug. 4, at 10:00 a.m.

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

We have reserved a block of rafting spots. In order to guarantee that you have a seat please send a signed liability waiver and a check payable to the United Church of God, Cleveland, for \$26 per person by July 15th 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.

Allen Dance

ABC Continuing Education Hosts Nearly 60, Covers Portions of Full Classes

On Friday, June 14, 57 ABC Continuing Education students received their certificates of completion in the Ambassador Bible Center lecture hall at the home office. They came from across the country to attend the five-day seminar featuring 30 hours of classes taught by seven

full-time and adjunct ABC instructors, plus a special two-hour presentation by Church president Victor Kubik called, "Building a Vision for the Church."

Each instructor delivered lectures taken from his regular ABC courses, the idea being that long term seminar attendees (over half of the number this year) would gradually accumulate a full ambassador education in the Bible. The Gospels instructor Frank McCrady's classes were "Discipleship as Taught by Christ." Adjunct instructor Frank Dunkle taught the book of Jude. Darris McNeely gave several lectures from his Acts class. Epistles of Paul instructor Steve Myers covered Colossians during the seminar.

ABC Coordinator Gary Antion lectured Revelation, Habakkuk and "Five Qualities of Leaders" from his practical Christianity class. Finally, continuing education coordinator Randy Stiver taught Bible geography and several hours on "God's Wisdom vs. the World's Wisdom".

ABC secretary Kathy DeCampos and volunteers cooked daily meals.

On the seminar survey students overwhelmingly expressed their appreciation for the in-depth and lively instruction. A number wanted the program expanded to two weeks each summer. The ABC faculty and staff thank you for coming to the home office seminar to continue your education in God's Word and way of life. For those of you in the Tampa, Florida, area, faculty members will be teaching weekend seminars with a total of ten hours of Bible classes July 12-13, and in the Tulsa, Oklahoma, area on July 21-22. Remember: continuing education means keep learning!

Randy Stiver





Shaylee Jo Thomas

Continued from page 10

Shaylee Jo Thomas

Parents: Dean and Laurie Matson, Dennis and Maria Thomas

Congregation: Fargo, North Dakota

High School Accomplishments: Her accomplishments throughout high school include being involved in National Honor Society, student council, FFA, Knowledge Bowl, show choir, as well as playing volleyball, basketball, and running track.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She has attended United Youth Camps for many years and hopes to serve there in the future. Her hobbies include photography, playing sports, and spending time with her family.

Plans After Graduation: Shaylee plans to attend North Dakota State University in the fall, majoring in either English education or photojournalism.

Favorite Quote: "We can complain that rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice that thorn bushes have roses."

Favorite Scripture: "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

Jatea Spring Thomson

Parents: Sue and Jim Thomson

Congregation: Twin Falls, Idaho

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Makeup artistry, photography, drawing

Plans After Graduation: Jatea plans on getting her mastery makeup artist degree and becoming a makeup artist. She wants to work on music videos and movies for the entertainment industry in South Korea.



Jatea Spring Thomson

Favorite Quote: "Your life is an occasion, rise to it."

Julie Waterhouse

Parents: Roy and Michelle Waterhouse

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Academic letter and pins, orchestra letter and pins, and National Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests: Julie plays the cello. She likes listening to music, being outside, taking pictures, and hanging out with friends. She has attended preteen Camp Buckeye, Heritage, Cotubic, Pinecrest, and Northwest Camp. Julie's favorite Feast sites are France, Germany, Italy, and San Diego. Her favorite Church memories are Columbus fun show, church picnic, summer camp, prom, and Winter Family Weekend.

Plans After Graduation: Julie will attend Otterbein University and get an early childhood education degree with a minor in French. She will also be a member of the Otterbein Orchestra. After Otterbein she plans to go to ABC and then would like to get a masters of library sciences degree.

Favorite Scripture: "For where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Kristen Wilson

Parents: Keith and Michele Wilson

Congregation: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Accomplishments: Valedictorian at Washington High School in Washington, Pennsylvania; student body president, 2012-13; North American Steel Band Association citation of excellence; 2013



Julie Waterhouse

Leaders of Tomorrow award, 18th Congressional District of the U.S. House of Representatives; Waynesburg University A.B. Miller Honor scholarship; Waynesburg University chemistry scholarship; junior achievement of Western PA State Farm scholarship; math competition highest individual score award.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests: Kristen has been camper and staff at Camp Cotubic and Camp Buckeye. She plays music: trumpet, piano, voice and steel drum. She is involved in Future Teachers of America. She enjoys writing, poetry, plays, and acting in drama club performances.

Plans After Graduation: Kristen will attend Waynesburg University, double majoring in chemistry and secondary education.

Favorite scripture: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord" (Psalm 112:7).

Kathryn Marie Youngblood

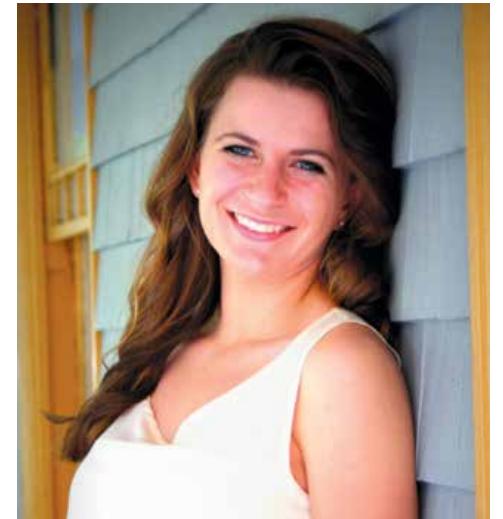
Parents: Joe and Susan Youngblood

Congregation: Columbus, Georgia

High School Accomplishments: Kathryn was valedictorian of Columbus High School Liberal Arts Magnet. She was a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship, recipient of AFLAC/CHS PIE Scholarship and the Charter Scholarship from the University of Georgia. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, National English Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, equestrian club, National Spanish Honor Society and National Science Honor Society.



Kristen Wilson



Kathryn Marie Youngblood

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kathryn volunteers at her local congregation in assisting with the preparation of services. She will be attending Camp Cotubic this summer for the first time and Camp Woodmen for the seventh time. Last year she attended the Northwest Camp and worked at Camp Tomahawk. Kathryn enjoys writing, reading, kayaking, hiking and camping.

Plans After Graduation: Kathryn plans to attend the Honors College at the University of Georgia.

Favorite Scripture: "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future" (Proverbs 31:25, New Living Translation).

Favorite Quote: "I'm not sure what I'll do, but—well, I want to go places and see people. I want my mind to grow. I want to live where things happen on a big scale" — F. Scott Fitzgerald.



Congratulations, University Class of 2013

Rachel Emily Jackson

Parent's Names: Steve and Sarah Jackson

Congregation: Boise, Idaho

University Accomplishments: Certified 4-H judge and multiple species champion and trainer of multiple champion dog showmen. In the top one percent of students in the History Department at Northwest Nazarene University and graduated with a bachelor of arts in

history from the university.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Door greeter and help with set-up and take-down of the sound system. A top-level, voracious reader, she enjoys books, horses, history, 4-H judging and having historical debates with former professors.

Plans After Graduation: Is currently enrolled in the masters program at Norwich University Online and will receive

a master of arts in history in 2014.

Favorite Quote: "If you don't know history, you don't know anything"—Michael Crichton.

Favorite Scripture: "A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel" (Proverbs 1:5).

What's New In MEDIA?

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Change Your Life Story</i>	Gary Petty	July 7-13
<i>Evolution's Leap of Faith</i>	Steve Myers	July 14-20
<i>I Believe, Help My Unbelief</i>	Gary Petty	July 21-27
<i>Biblical Questions for the President and You</i>	Darris McNeely	July 28-Aug. 3

■ Beyond Today Begins Fourth Year on WGN

We are pleased report that negotiations with *WGN America* for renewal of our *Beyond Today* airtime contract are now complete. Beginning July 7, 2013, the United Church of God will begin its fourth year of telecasting every Sunday on *WGN America* at 8:30 a.m. EST.

Our new contract runs for two years—until June 28, 2015. It includes a standard four-week cancellation clause and a very modest price increase of about one percent per week for the term. This year *WGN America* gained between one and one-and-a-half percent in household subscribers, up from 75 million to 76.5 million.

Peter Eddington

■ UCG-Australia Renews Beyond Today Airtime

United Church of God-Australia has just signed a twelve-month contract with channel 4ME for the *Beyond Today* program to air on Saturday and Sunday mornings for the next 12 months.

The *Beyond Today* television program is a very effective means of preaching the gospel in Australia. Not



Gary Petty on Set at *Beyond Today*

only does it reinforce our other advertising, but a first time viewer also receives solid biblical teaching. Many of our long-time *Good News* subscribers have also showed new interest after viewing the program.

Featured Links

■ Young Adult Bible Class <http://abc.ucg.org/events/live-young-adult-bible-class-yabc-webcast-friday>

The continuing education program of the Ambassador Bible Center and the youth and young adult services arm of Ministerial and Member Services are excited to launch a new, monthly Young Adult Bible Class (YABC). Planned for once a month, the YABC is issue-driven—it will address current topics of concern and importance to youth and young adults. “Young adults” of all ages are welcome to join us! Each class will feature a downloadable handout connected to the webcast link. In addition to background on the topic and key scripture passages, it will also contain several questions for you to discuss later with your friends and family.

■ Live Online Bi-Weekly Bible Studies <http://www.ucg.org/live-bible-study>

The Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation of the United Church of God is continues its bi-weekly Bible study every other Wednesday night. Visit the website listed above to find out what time to tune in and what topic is being presented.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 30-July 7: Camp Hye Sierra, California
- June 30-July 7: Camp Woodmen, Alabama
- June 10: Bi-weekly Bible study online
- July 9-11: Preteen Camp UCanDo, Indianapolis
- July 10-11: *Beyond Today* taping, Cincinnati
- June 15-18: Preteen Camp Kiwanis, Pennsylvania
- July 21-28: Northwest Camp, Oregon
- July 21-24: Preteen Camp Ironwood, Minnesota
- Aug. 7-8: *Beyond Today* taping, Cincinnati
- Aug. 12-15: Council of Elders quarterly meeting, Cincinnati
- Aug. 18-19: ABC class of 2014 welcome picnic, orientation and beginning of classes, Cincinnati
- Aug. 18-20: Area ministerial conference, Colorado

DECEMBER YOUTH CORPS PROJECT

Youth Corps and Good Works Jointly Sponsor Project in Guatemala

Good Works and United Youth Corps are jointly sponsoring a project in Guatemala in December 2013. Participants will volunteer at a local orphanage. We are currently accepting applications to fill six volunteer positions. Participants will be required to pay for half of their airfare (total will vary based on location) and spending money. Room and board will be provided by Good Works. Please visit www.ucgyouthcorps.org for more information and to print an application.



UNITED STATISTICS

Beyond Today Audience Response

monthly totals, including phone, Internet and mail responses

