

UNITED NEWS



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UYC Program's 19th Successful Summer

by Mitchell Moss

The United Youth Camps program has wrapped up its 19th successful summer in the United States, and several camps are still on the schedule in the coming months both here and abroad. See photos and reports from the teen camps and preteen camps both in the U.S. as well as around the world.

This year's U.S. teen camps all shared the theme "Remember Your Creator." Each day's Christian living topic for discussion and learning was coordinated across camps. The themes were "LOOK to Your Creator," "LISTEN to His Word," "LEARN to Fear the Lord," and "LIVE Committed to God's Way."

Read the camp reports from this year, and it's evident that God's blessing and the hard work of the UYC staff and volunteers, and the positive attitude of the campers all contributed to this being a season of camp to remember. **UN**



Clockwise from top: Camp Pinecrest, Philippines, Cotubic, Cotubic, Northwest.



news AT A GLANCE

Council of Elders Considers Best Methods for Accomplishing Mission, Continues Review of Governing Documents, Appoints New Treasurer

Milford, Ohio—During a retreat preceding the regular four-day quarterly meeting, the Council of Elders met to discuss how best to improve the Church's mission of preaching the gospel to the world. During the regular meetings on Aug. 13-15, the Council discussed several other matters including

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Class size of the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2014



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AARON DEAN
Financial Services
Operation Manager

In teaching personal finance at ABC I am often asked about investing, since bank savings rates fell below one percent. In the parables of the talents in Matthew 25, Jesus Himself showed that at a minimum the servant should have put the money out to simple interest instead of burying it.

I always enjoy trying to do more with my money through various programs by understanding, and following, the rules of how things work. Although this analogy in Scripture is used to show we must grow spiritually, we can use the physical to extract lessons as well. Often what one does physically can help us do the spiritual.

It is much easier to recognize our efforts when monetized. Putting money in a savings account requires little work. For those

who enter the financial markets, there is some work in keeping up on the latest economic events. The more the potential reward, the more diligence one must pay to the appropriate information to make sure they are making a profit and not taking a major loss. In some market instruments such as the futures market, fortunes are made or lost on a daily basis, simply on timing, requiring diligent and close attention.

Measuring our “doubling” effort is not so easy when trying to count spiritually. If you are truly doubling your spiritual talents, you are continually asking God to help you. You are always looking for ways to learn more about God, helping your spiritual brothers and sisters and the community in general.

I learned about being in the world, but not part of it, when travelling with Herbert Armstrong. On one occasion, when he allowed me to accept a position on the board of King Leopold of Belgium, it was an honor. But more importantly I realized he did this to put me in a spotlight to show

what I believed and how I lived.

Each of us is in God’s spotlight. If your Christian life is hidden from the world, what have you accomplished for Him? He knows how we act at all times, and how well it reflects Him and His Son as something others may not appreciate, but should notice. When you learn to reflect Jesus Christ in everything you do in public and private, when you learn to look for the little ways to serve, when you are tuned in to other’s needs and provide help, you have indeed doubled your talents, and your reward will be great.

At the feast we always have the opportunity to reflect God’s way of life. I enjoy reading the reports that show how well God’s people represent Him. Even our children show the light at our camps. It is an honor and privilege to join my fellow Christians in showing God’s plan and way of life through our conduct at every opportunity throughout the year. May the King say to each of us, “Well done,” as we enter His Kingdom. **UN**

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From The COUNCIL

A Promise to Remember



by Rex Sexton

Of all the wonderful promises given to us by our Savior, perhaps the most profound is, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” These words give us comfort and hope during challenging times, but have you ever examined the context of when this verse is given to us?

This promise is in the final chapter of Hebrews, most likely written by the apostle Paul. Hebrews 13:5 says: “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

The gospel writers do not record Jesus Christ saying those exact words, but similar promises are recorded, such as, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). The words in Hebrews 13:5 apparently are quoted from the Lord’s promise to Joshua after the death of Moses. “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses,

so I will be with you. *I will not leave you nor forsake you*” (Joshua 1:5, emphasis added).

The Rock of Israel, the YHWH of the Old Testament, the one who became Jesus Christ, spoke these words to Joshua (2 Samuel 23:3, 1 Corinthians 10:4). But now they are given to us.

In order to understand and apply this profound promise, the background and setting of Hebrews is vital. While no exact date can be certain, the internal evidence of Hebrews is that it was a message to the Church in Jerusalem and Judea right before the city’s destruction by the Romans in A.D. 70. Due to the detailed analysis of the role of the High Priest and the Day of Atonement in Hebrews, I would conclude that it likely was read as a sermon or special message on the Day of Atonement in Jerusalem in the late A.D. 60s.

The Roman Siege of Jerusalem

In A.D. 66 the Jews of Judea rebelled against their Roman masters. In response, the Emperor Nero dispatched an army under the generalship of Vespasian to restore order. By the year 68, resistance in the northern part of the province had been eradicated, and the Romans turned their full attention to the subjugation of Jerusalem. Just when it looked like Jerusalem would fall, Emperor Nero died by his own hand in the spring of 68, creating a power vacuum in Rome. Nero left no heir, and there were four men who wanted to be Caesar. After 10 months of battles and chaos, Vespasian was declared emperor and returned to the Imperial City with much of his army. The siege of Jerusalem was lifted, and the Jews celebrated, claiming that God had delivered them from the

Romans and given them victory.

Their celebration was short lived. Less than a year later the new Emperor sent his son, Titus, in command of five Roman armies that besieged Jerusalem and eventually destroyed the city and temple in the summer of A.D. 70.

According to the fourth century church historian Eusebius, during the temporary lifting of the Roman siege the Church at Jerusalem was warned to flee for their safety. “The people belonging to the church at Jerusalem had been ordered by an oracle revealed to approved men on the spot before the war broke out, to leave the city and dwell in a town of Peraea called Pella” (Eusebius History iii:5). The destruction of the city, Eusebius says, came only after the Jerusalem Christians had made their escape. Hebrews 13:13-14 is recognized by some scholars as an admonition for the Church to flee Jerusalem: “Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”

In fact, one plausible summary of the book of Hebrews is “Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed, but it will have no effect on Christians because we have a heavenly temple, spiritual High Priest, and look for a future city.” It was time to leave the beautiful physical temple and city that had been the focus of Jewish religion for 1,000 years and Christianity for 37 years.

So in this time of war, people fleeing their homes, destruction, and uncertainty, the writer of Hebrews gives Christians a list of important things to do so that they can continue in God’s grace and serve Him. Although we are being besieged by

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International Camp Reports

Philippines Challenger Camp

Photos on page 2

The Philippine United Youth Camp in 2013 was a miracle. With a 30 percent cut in subsidy last November, we didn't have the usual funds for camp this year. But God still demonstrated His power. He moved the hearts of a few people to donate some of the needed funds to make camp possible this year. God convincingly showed that, with Him, nothing is impossible!

A family of 32 campers, 30 staff and eight mini-campers (70 people) came together for fun, camaraderie, adventure and training at the beautiful climate of Eden Nature Park in Davao City from April 17-23. Most staff arrived a week earlier for orientation, training and setup.

Our camp theme this year was "Be Anchored to God." Edmond Macaraeg explained why this theme was chosen: "This world is carrying with it our youth in 'a flood' toward destruction—through Satan's influence. So if you're being carried by a flood, what do you do? You anchor yourself... We have to anchor ourselves to God and His Word."

Every day, an hour of silence from 5:00-6:00 a.m. is set for personal Bible study, prayer and meditation. Also before lights out at 10:00 p.m., each dorm and the staff prays again to acknowledge God's guidance, protection and blessings during the day.

Campers prepare all their meals, wash their own dishes and maintain the cleanliness and orderliness of their respective dorm areas—where they are also rated on a daily basis. The dorms usually invite one another to have meals together.

Christian living classes begin at 8:00 a.m., and each day focuses on different areas of Christian life as it relates to the theme. Each morning included discussion about different aspects of the camp theme.

Perhaps the most popular activity was the confidence course. With safety harnesses secured and a raw egg to protect, each camper and counselor had to hike more than three miles (almost five kilometers) through sloping terrain (carrying food and water supplies), pass through five obstacles along the way: wall climbing, rappelling, a zip line, monkey bridge, and the mud tunnel.

Though dirty, exhausted, and overtaken by darkness, the campers hike back to the campsite, with a feeling of accomplishment after having completed the confidence course—raw eggs unbroken!

On one special evening (Saturday night), we had a "Hawaiian night." Campers were creative in producing their "authentic" costumes. It was also a showcase of talent from

both campers and staff and a night filled with food, fun and unforgettable memories!

Campers were also given the opportunity to learn some useful skills. Each of them attended any two of these workshops: basic computer troubleshooting, basic vehicle maintenance, beadwork, calligraphy, cooking, journalism, notebook making, and public speaking.

On the Friday evening of camp, Mr. Macaraeg conducted a Bible study, where campers were free to ask various questions about life, problems, doctrinal issues and Christian living. The following morning everyone had brunch and then assembled for Bible bowl. At the afternoon Sabbath service, Charles Macaraeg gave the sermonette and Edmond Macaraeg gave the sermon.

Toward the end of camp, each dorm exchanged notebooks with the other dorms and wrote encouraging messages on each other's notebooks. Both smiles and tears can be seen as they read what was written in their own notebooks.

So once again, bags were packed, things were gathered, tears were shed, friendships were built, lessons were learned and experiences were gained. This camp was indeed a miracle!

Daniel Macaraeg

Colombia

Photos on page 2

The Colombia summer youth camp got off to a great start right before the beginning of the Sabbath on June 28, 2013. A total of 21 campers from throughout Colombia and seven staff from Colombia and the United States came together at *Centro Recreacional Teyuna* just outside of Santa Marta, Colombia, for their third annual summer camp. Some campers had traveled as far as 20 hours by bus to come to camp.

The Sabbath was a great way to let everyone rest after a long travel day on Friday. As with all the United Youth Camps this year, the "Remember Your Creator" theme and the five accompanying sub-themes of "Look, Listen, Learn, Live God's Way, and Learn to Lead" were incorporated into all activities at camp, including the daily morning compass checks and evening Christian living classes.

At the end of camp during a special camper speech activity, campers shared that "the five steps of the theme gave them a concrete way to live their lives that they can apply every day."

All campers participated in the song leading and godly femininity seminar on Sabbath morning, with Sabbath services and fellowship time in the afternoon. After sundown, everyone came together for one of Colombia's favorite activities: a dance.

Daily camp activities included compass checks, Christian living classes, fútbol (soccer), basketball, volleyball, cartoon drawing, amazing race, water slide, swimming and boating. One day was spent at the beach where everyone got too much sun. One afternoon was spent at *La Quinta de San Pedro Alejandrino*, the museum of the

plantation and final resting place of Simón Bolívar, who liberated five countries from Spain.

Evening activities included high-spirited games of Bible Pictionary and Bible trivia—where all participants were zealous in trying to acquire points—and a campfire where a game of "broken telephone" had everyone laughing.

Wednesday afternoon, July 3, came all too soon when we had to say goodbye and make our ways to our respective cities and homes. The campers conveyed how very happy they were with the concentration of biblical learning they received that week, and with the many memories of fun and laughter they experienced together as one family.

Gayle Hoefker

Congo

Photos on page 2

Our first youth camp was held at the Verbist Center Mbudi DR Congo from July 9-15. According to some parents, the first and only camp that ever took place in Congo was about 20 years ago.

This year, 20 young people in total participated, and six adults served as staff members. The Verbist Center is a Catholic center with dormitories, a kitchen and a cafeteria. It is a lovely setting for activities such as soccer, basketball, jogging and gymnastics with a variety of team challenges.

We started the day with a short Bible study followed by

breakfast, and sports activities. For the Christian living classes, we studied the Holy Days, their order, and more importantly their meaning. We also studied the seven days of creation ending with the day of rest. In Genesis, we also went through Noah's ark and the generations between Adam and Noah. These Bible classes were instrumental in helping our young people understand the purpose of the Holy Days, the Sabbath, and why we obey the laws regarding clean and unclean meats.

The camp theme was "Discovering True Values." Our

young people grow up in a society that has lost true values, and in this developing country, many young people are mainly taught by the TV set and by the streets. From time to time, because of political unrest in Congo, children are not able to go to school, and the illiteracy rate is high. Some of our youth are affected by this as well! The challenge we face is therefore very great.

We are very grateful to all those who made this camp possible and hope to have another camp next year.

Moïse Élisé Mabout

Canada Preteen Camp Wildrose

Photos on page 2

July 21-24 marked the fourth anniversary for Camp Wildrose in Darwell, Alberta. There were 30 campers, eight tag-alongs, and a staff of 24 who attended. Families traveled from various parts of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta to enjoy this four-day children's camp for ages 5-13.

The weather was perfect, warm and sunny, allowing us to enjoy all of our outdoor activities. This is the first year we have not had severe weather at camp.

Campers enjoyed canoeing on the lake, archery, a sand candle craft, orienteering or map reading, teamwork challenges, parachute games, beachball activities, theater, soc-

cer and cooking classes. The children made cookies and muffins in the cooking class and sampled their wares at snack time. They also participated in a wilderness survival class where they trudged out to the bush to build real weatherproof lean-tos.

Every day featured two sessions of Christian living,

where the children learned concepts in resisting temptation, dealing with peer pressure, choosing the right path, seeking forgiveness, the effects of sin, God's protection and the power of our words.

One hot afternoon, the children were divided into two age groups to play a variation of the traditional duck-duck-goose game involving water! This was listed as a favorite activity by many campers.

One of the highlights of the day was the fireside time in the evenings. Special campfire snacks such as s'mores and bannock were enjoyed. One evening a demonstration of lariat roping was given. Many children enjoyed the

chance to try a skill they had never experienced before. Another evening featured a charade type game played in groups where each group had to create a machine using their bodies.

On the last day for our camp finale, we had a hotdog barbecue and picnic games. Young and old(er) participated in a blindfolded watermelon eating contest, shaving whipped creamed balloons, tossing water balloons, a sack race, and of course, the traditional tug-of-war.

Many said this was the best camp yet. We can definitely attribute that to a well-knit, unified group of volunteers, each performing their duties with joy. A group of lovable,

well-behaved, enthusiastic and fun-loving campers is also what makes Camp Wildrose so absolutely wonderful! Experience and cooperative weather were also key factors. This family-oriented experience is so important in the work of unification. It gives our youth a base in Christian living by example and practice, and the opportunity for strong bonds of friendship to form. We look forward to seeing each other again next year and meeting new people.

We are most definitely looking forward to next year's camp and the opportunity to make it the best camp experience yet!

Susan Davis

British Isles

Photos on page 2

The British Isles summer camp for the Church's teenagers and younger children ran from July 26-Aug. 4, at the Peak Centre in Edale, Derbyshire, England.

This year's activity was larger than recent years: 31 campers in the age range of 7-19, plus 14 adults and some Sabbath visitors. There were 52 people present for the Sabbath service on Aug. 3.

The 31 campers came from the UK (16), Germany (8), the Netherlands (3), Ireland (2) and Latvia (2).

The 14 adults came from the UK (11), Austria (1), the Netherlands (1) and Germany (1). As usual, the staff put in much personal effort and worked well together as a team. Their efforts were very appreciated.

Specific responsibilities of being group leaders were assigned to four older teens.

The camp program included four activities arranged with the Peak Centre (archery, circus skills, fencing and climbing wall). The group spent an afternoon in the city of Sheffield, for swimming and other activities, and a day

in Buxton, a nearby spa town, for shopping, picnicking, sightseeing and playing in the park.

In addition, there were crafts activities, including felt making from fleece and then using the felt to make wrist corsages for the final dinner, indoor and outdoor games and sports. Zumba was very popular, as was a session of Scottish country dancing.

Each day there were several forums—biblically-based discussions on age-appropriate topics. Most of the adults present contributed to these sessions. Subjects included the Golden Rule, etiquette, the beliefs of the Church, not taking God's name in vain, prayer and Bible study, not putting a stumbling block in others' way, various applications of the "borrower is servant to the lender" principle, including what could happen if someone breaks the rules and some unscrupulous person sees it. Other topics included Internet dangers and the new challenges of "sexting" and online bullying. One evening we had a frank discussion with the over-12s related to the subject

of premarital sex (our teens are not naïve; they are very aware of what goes on around them).

Each day we ended activities with a hymn and a prayer and started the day's activities the same way. The younger children had an earlier bedtime and, consequently, had their own activities when they rose earlier in the morning! We tried to encourage the campers to volunteer for prayers before meals and at the beginning/end of the day. The younger children volunteered regularly and the older teens were more reticent, but we did have prayers in English, German, Dutch and Latvian, by both boys and girls.

For the final dinner, each gentleman escorted one or two ladies, and photographs were taken. Following dinner there was a slideshow of photos taken at camp and several musical performances and skits by campers and adults.

Each camper received a certificate recording positive aspects of their time at camp.

David Fenney

Nigeria

Photos on page 2

This year's camp in Nigeria was held Aug. 18-25 in a one story house located on the coastal village along the Ojo local government area of Lagos. It offered an amazing and relaxing view of the ocean on its frontage with rear access across a lagoon using fiberglass boats. The setting affords everyone an exciting, spiritually rewarding week of fun and challenging activities while learning about God's way of life.

The staff arrived very early in the morning with camp supplies to set up tents and activity areas prior to the campers' arrivals. The setup included two sets of make-shift tarpaulin showers, five three-man tents, three 10-man tents and a shelter for the kitchen area, among other things. Campers joined the staff later afternoon and pitched in as well to make sure camp was set up and ready to commence well before dinner at 7:30 p.m.

After dinner, the camp director addressed the campers and staff, speaking on the need to live a life of service to those around us, especially those of the household of faith. There were 27 campers and 13 staff making a total of 40, though two mini-campers joined later in the week.

Each activity day began with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed immediately by a 15-minute compass check to help orient everyone with the right spiritual mindset and focus. Camp activities included craft class, (this year teaching origami), kickball, dance class, volleyball, archery, swimming, leather work and team challenge. Each activity was taught and reinforced with spiritual life-changing lessons that each camper can relate to, and aimed at helping them grow to be the kind of Christians God wants us all to be.

The evenings wrapped up each day with Christian living with topics on God's perfect gift, the use of the tongue, perseverance, and one entitled "Adding U to Unity." On two nights, Christian living was in the morning, and on those nights we had movie night and indoor games night.

The banquet night, which always comes on the last night of the camp, was celebrated with gourmet meals in a formal setting with simulated candle lights and other colorful decorations. Campers had the opportunity to demonstrate table etiquette, escorting a lady and other etiquette skills. They also had fun-filled time with Bible

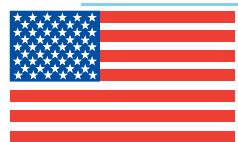
quiz and an interesting display of formal waltz that was a wonder to watch, especially in our environment and culture.

The Lagos congregation joined us at camp on Sabbath for church services and departed late afternoon. It was a wonderful Sabbath with a beach in the background, cool refreshing breeze and with coconut trees all around. It added an inspiring and deep warmth to the fellowship and refreshments shared after Sabbath. Everyone was leaving camp by 9:30 a.m. the next day after having been up by 5:00 a.m. for the first set of campers and staff traveling to leave across the lagoon and everyone else working together to break camp.

All in all, the week of activities, the unique and serene setting and close interaction offered everyone the opportunity to form stronger friendship ties while developing godly character.

We give thanks to God our Father and to Christ Jesus our Lord for the blessing, protection and good weather conditions all through.

Oludare Akinbo



U.S. Camp Reports

Camp Cotubic

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Once again Camp Cotubic in Central Ohio kicked off UCG's teen summer camp program. From June 16-22, the program hosted 116 teens and 58 staff members. This year the weather was very favorable, and we were able to enjoy the facility to the utmost.

We had a new media class on photography, and in arts and crafts we built and launched model rockets. We also enjoyed many of the usual standard camp activities, such as softball, volleyball, archery, and dance. The high ropes course, climbing wall, zip-line, and giant swing

are some of Cotubic's most outstanding features, as is the blob and giant slide at the waterfront. Still the best thing about the UYC program is that our primary focus is on learning and practicing principles of Christian living.

Each dorm began the day with a Christian living class that explored an aspect of this year's camp theme: "Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth." Camp provides the perfect opportunity to not only learn biblical principles for living, but to live them out. One could say that summer camp is a large laboratory

for practicing the way of give and love!

Studying and talking about God's way of life at camp never detracts from the fun. Camp is that much more fun because the way of love makes people happy. The campers could easily see this in the example of our outstanding staff, who served so well this summer. Many

of them were campers themselves not long ago, and they were eager to help others enjoy the same type of camp experience they had as teens. That is one of the best indications that we're doing something right in the camp program.

Frank Dunkle

Camp Pinecrest

Photos on page 9

Camp Pinecrest began on the evening of Thursday, June 20, with the arrival in Fredericktown, Missouri, of 50 staff members and 60 campers. The staff and campers came from 12 different Midwestern states.

Camp director Gary Smith emphasized to the staff that this year's Christian living theme was crucial to the success of the camp. For a safe zone to be created for staff and campers, each staff member needed to "remember their Creator" throughout the week. In other words, for the campers to fully grasp "remembering their Creator in the days of their youth," we as adults needed to remember the One to whom we had made a commitment in our words and deeds.

The mix of young men and women was almost even (42 young ladies and 38 young men), and the teens were divided into six dorms.

After the introduction of staff and campers was complete, the teens returned to their dorms for meetings and the opportunity to meet their dorm parents.

The Sabbath provided a relaxing day of spiritual education with a Bible study on the subject of being godly ladies and gentlemen, a hymn sing, and Sabbath service

where Mitch Knapp spoke about the camp Christian living theme.

As Sabbath came to a close, each dorm engaged in a series of Bible challenges. Each dorm had to go through six stations: Bible Pictionary, matching biblical couples, identifying pictures of biblical events, determining the answer to Bible questions, remembering their Creator by focusing on the creation, and singing Bible hymns.

Each day of the activity week began with a Christian living presentation emphasizing different aspects of the Christian living theme. Each theme was emphasized in the dorms throughout the day by the staff and was summarized each evening with some final words from the morning presenter.

Campers during the activity week were able to enjoy shooting for accuracy and a high score at the rifle range and archery field, meet the challenges and strive for the best time in the Amazing Race, compete in speed-a-way and softball, and bump, set, and spike in volleyball. They were able to test individual and group skills at the ropes course, contribute articles to the *Pinecrest Journal*, and canoe down the Black River.

After dinner on Wednesday, a fun show was held with musical presentations and a skit from each dorm. The fun show was followed by *National Camp Radio* hosted by Brian Shaw, which added to the fun and humor of the evening.

Camp came to an end with a dance. Campers were able to have one more evening of fun and fellowship before all came to a close on Friday morning. At a break in the dance, all enjoyed a summary slide presentation of the week. Also during the break, Carson Whynaucht and Ben Shoemaker received the Ozzie Englebart Memorial Award in recognition of their display of service and character throughout the week in their dorms and throughout the camp.

Camp Pinecrest ended on Friday morning, June 28, as all headed back to their homes. It was a most memorable week because staff and campers lived up to the admonition found in Ecclesiastes 12:1: "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth."

Gary Smith

Camp Hye Sierra

Photos on page 10

Hye Sierra experienced one of its best camps yet this summer. From the morning flag raising ceremony, daily compass checks and exciting activities, both fast and slow, to the evening Christian living classes and campfires, the Hye Sierra camp experience is uniquely different from the world around us. Remotely located in the mountains of Sequoia National Forest, our UYC staff is uniquely responsible for all aspects of camp needs. From rock climbing to janitorial staff, lifeguards to cooks and dish crew, this experience brings to life what Paul states in Ephesians 4:16: "...by what every joint supplies according to the effective working by which every part does its share." We gave leadership opportunities to campers and young staff, which resulted in the honing and development of godly qualities exemplified by the Zone environment.

This year's theme was taken from Ecclesiastes 12:1, where we are encouraged to remember our Creator in

the days of our youth. This biblical theme provided an incredible center point for many discussions about not only looking to our Creator, but realizing the importance of focusing on Him. We concluded the week by talking about qualities of leadership and not taking the bribes that Satan is offering. The spiritual discussions were insightful and motivating. We are thankful to God for blessing this most important aspect of camp.

This year we offered a wide variety of activities during the day, including kayaking, fishing, dance, volleyball, archery, basketball, speed-a-way, capture the flag, swimming, team building, and Bible classes. Several new activities this year included wilderness survival, arts and crafts, and UYC's only rock climbing and rappelling program. Another unique activity we provide at Hye Sierra is an annual visit to one of the world's largest living things, the General Grant giant sequoia tree. Camp ended on a high with a Sabbath evening

banquet, camper speeches on biblical topics and, after sunset, a dance under the stars.

During this past spring, many campers along with their parents and congregations participated in fundraising activities. Many financial donations were provided to us this year, which enabled us to purchase some much-needed equipment, including parts to repair our kayaks, new rock climbing gear and scholarships. We also received donations of volleyballs and quality coffee for our staffers. From the Hye Sierra family, we would thank each of you for helping to support this camp.

For all 214 participants at Camp Hye Sierra, we are collectively thankful for God's blessing on this camp, its campers and staff, and our Creator's involvement in learning more about Him. God certainly blessed everyone's focus and efforts at all levels. With God's participation, we can certainly exclaim, "What a great camp!"

Ed Dowd

Camp Woodmen

Photos on page 10

Northern Alabama provided a wonderful setting for Camp Woodmen, which ended its 16th year on July 7. There were a total of 73 campers and 44 staff.

Our daily Christian living classes emphasized the camp theme of "Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth." Campers were given memory verses to focus on each day. The daily themes encouraged continual strengthening and development of their relationship with God.

Camp Woodmen offered a wide variety of activities, including archery, basketball, dance, sand volleyball, softball, riflery, high ropes, swimming and water sliding. We also reintroduced speed-a-way and low ropes

into the activity schedule. Our evening activities included novelty olympics, a fun show, two dances and a Friday evening Bible study.

God blessed us with beautiful weather all week in the mid 80s and held back the rain during the activities. We were supposed to have heavy rain on Thursday and Friday, but the rain bypassed camp and did not spoil any activities.

We had three guests with us during portions of the week. Steve Nutzman, overall United Youth Camps coordinator, visited for a few days to observe the camp and provide additional help. Jerold and Mary Ann Aust visited one day so Mr. Aust could give a presentation

about Ambassador Bible Center. We also had four staff members—recent ABC graduates—give brief speeches about their experiences at ABC.

Every evening before camper curfew, campers and staff gathered in the meeting hall to sing the hymn "Remember Your Creator." It was a great way to focus our attention on God's Word right before bedtime.

We had a wonderful group of campers and an exceptional service-oriented staff focused on God's way of life. We thank God for His protection and direction at Camp Woodmen 2013.

Shawn Cortelyou

Beautiful Camp Magruder, located just south of Rockaway Beach, Oregon, hosted the UYC Northwest Camp for 2013. This was our fourth year using the fantastic facility, which is a scenic 160 acres of double beachfront property, located between a scenic beach on the Pacific Ocean and a mile-long private lake to the east.

Numbers were strong, with 102 campers being served by 58 staff, making a total of 160 at the camp.

Northwest camp provides lots of beach time, with volleyball, speed-a-way, skim boarding and boogie board wave riding classes. This year we added a half-day kayak river trip down the scenic Nehalem River for the older dorms, giving them a chance to explore one of Oregon's rivers, famous for salmon and wildlife. The kayak trip was made possible by the purchase of five new kayaks this year, thanks to the donations from fundraisers of several congregations in Washington and Oregon.

The overall theme of the week was Ecclesiastes 12:1: "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." Campers and staff were constantly reminded of the theme with a banner in the dining hall, placards in the dorms, and daily themes for Christian living classes that illustrated how to put the theme into practice in everyday life.

As a way to begin camp on an encouraging and positive note, a special Christian living class was given on Monday before lunch. Patty Sexton spoke to all the girls on the subject of "Living as a Christian Lady," and the boy campers heard a series of short lectures on the subject of "What It Means to Be a Man," presented by Ron Goethals, Dwyer Hockwald, Ben Stores, David Blue and Rex Sexton.

On Friday, the day began with a presentation by David Goethals on the theme of "LEARN to LEAD," given with all of the campers and staff together. Mr. Goethals related several accounts of the challenges he experiences as a teacher at a large high school, and encouraged the campers to resist the pressures of society and be leaders living the right way of life.

The dance instruction classes have been a huge success over the years. By now most of the campers know several line and group dances in addition to the traditional waltzes and swings. Campers have dance opportunities at a casual dance on Tuesday evening and a more formal one the final night of camp after the traditional banquet.

We had 16 graduating seniors attending camp this year. At campfire time each evening several of them gave a short talk to the campers with their personal stories, goals,

and advice to younger campers. The maturity and level of commitment obvious in these young men and ladies was an inspiration. Obviously the parents of the campers have worked hard to teach them to live according to God's Word as they were growing up. Thank you parents for sending us such a great group of campers!

The staff at Camp Magruder provided excellent meals and many compliments. The facility director told us, "Your camp sets the bar for all other camps," and mentioned how much he appreciated that we keep the camp free of litter and respect the property.

On her survey form, one of our 16-year-old girl campers wrote, "Camp has changed my life for the better and I will always remember the lessons we learned here." Her comment no doubt reflects the sentiments of all the teens who attended UYC camps this summer.

We are planning to have Northwest Camp in 2014 from July 19-27, 2014. Campers and staff who would like to apply please begin making plans for another fabulous week of learning God's Word and putting it into practice while enjoying challenging activities, beautiful scenery, and making new friends.

Rex Sexton



Preteen Camp Reports

Camp Colorado

Photos on page 2

Our first UYC preteen camp of the 2013 season, Camp Colorado, concluded Wednesday, June 12, after a very successful four days in the gorgeous Rocky Mountains, 16 miles south of Estes Park. Our 30 campers were on their very best behavior, and the 17 staff members did a marvelous job in caring for and instructing the campers. We were blessed with absolutely perfect weather throughout the camp, and no one sustained any serious injuries.

The young campers were impressive as they demonstrated much knowledge of the Bible during the Bible game sessions near the campfire every evening. Compass checks and Christian living classes focused on the theme of "Friends Forever—God's Way."

Throughout the four days of camp, campers were

awarded with "Bible tickets" from their counselors and staff as they demonstrated various attributes, attitudes, and skills such as encouragement, unity, kindness, patience, knowledge, leading by example, etc. Each "Bible ticket" was printed with a scripture corresponding to the attribute, attitude or skill being rewarded. The "Bible tickets" were then turned in for small prizes at the end of camp. This method proved to be very effective in focusing our campers on the goals of our United Youth Camps.

Our young campers thoroughly enjoyed going on nature hikes and learning more about nature and God's amazing creation. They were challenged in their archery classes to hit the target and then to aim for the bullseye. In canoeing class they learned a few canoeing strokes,

raced canoes, and played tag. A few even swamped their canoes for an extra measure of fun! They all enjoyed making some new creations in their arts and crafts classes. And they all had a great time playing various field games and everyone appreciated the challenge of learning to work together more effectively.

One afternoon was devoted to a puppet workshop where each camper and many staff members made their own "sock" puppets. As a grand finale to the workshop, each dorm did a very creative Bible-themed play using their puppets.

Once again, we all had a wonderful time at Camp Colorado, and we invite you to join us for another awesome camp next June in 2014!

Mark Welch

Camp Piney Woods

Photos on page 11

Camp Piney Woods, located in the Piney Woods of Big Sandy, Texas, concluded on Wednesday, June 26, after four very successful days of activities and adventure. A total of 38 campers from five different states enjoyed lots of fun activities and learning more about God's way of life. The camp theme from Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path," was reinforced in all our activities, including Bible lessons, Bible charades, and Bible trivia. Camp activities were held primarily at the UCG East Texas church hall and included

arts and crafts, science, basketball, and the camp favorite, gaga ball. A big highlight was going to Don Ward's house to swim in his indoor swimming pool and fish in his pond. Everyone caught at least one fish—with most having multiple catches. The biggest catch was a 14-inch bass caught by 5-year-old Mindy Crane. We concluded camp with an awards ceremony where campers were presented with certificates and lanterns and sang three songs honoring God and His Word.

We give thanks and praise to God for his divine over-

sight and blessing us with this opportunity to work with His little ones in such a focused environment. We'd also like to extend a huge, heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who made the camp such a huge success, including the 15 adult and five teen staff, and many of the local East Texas brethren. Many went above and beyond the call of duty, and their dedicated service was a tremendous blessing to the camp. We are already looking forward to Camp Piney Woods 2014!

Jim and Laura Moody

Camp UCanDo

Photos on page 11

"Take 10" was the theme of this year's Camp UCanDo, which focused on the Ten Commandments. A total of 21 campers, seven teen staff and 19 adult staff spent three busy days at the central Indiana preteen day camp. Each day began and ended with a "campfire," where the campers discussed the theme, sang songs and practiced learning the Ten Commandments using a finger game. Then it was off to the different activities.

In arts and crafts, campers tie-dyed their camp shirt to make a one-of-a-kind creation and made Ten Commandments plaques. Bible classes focused on why the Ten Commandments are important for us today. "Are You a Bible

Detective?" got campers to search out Bible scriptures to solve a puzzling mystery.

Other activities included outdoor games, which featured "capture the duck," kick-ball and relay races, and a science class where the campers made and erupted volcanoes. Campers learned line dances, put together their own camp newspaper, and wrote encouraging notes to other campers and staff at the mail center. The youngest campers also had fun with bubbles, sidewalk chalk and play dough.

The campers were involved in two service projects this year. They made fleece blankets to give to a local nursing home, and they created cards that will be used to send notes

to sick or shut-in brethren.

Tuesday was made extra special with a visit by Jelly. The campers were so excited that they could hardly wait for the program to start. After the show and singalong, each camper had a picture taken with Jelly.

On Thursday afternoon, both campers and staff participated in a wacky novelty olympics. A glow stick parade, skits and a group line-dance finished out the final day. Everyone had a great time!

Cynthia McClain

Camp Kiwanis

Photos on page 12

Camp Kiwanis, located in Central Pennsylvania, proved to be a wonderful time for the campers and staff. The weather was very hot, with temperatures in the mid-90s. We were very thankful for God's love and protection while there. Thankfully there were no heat related issues, but the pool and creek were a big attraction for all of us! We had our largest group ever,

with a total of 115 people (60 campers, 10 parents and 45 staff). The campers learned a lot about Jacob and Esau, built friendships as well as wooden benches, went swimming, fishing, kayaking, played sports and put on a musical play about Jacob and Esau. New and returning campers commented about the great camp food, which we all appreciated. The teens and kitchen staff

set a wonderful example of serving with great attitudes in the midst of the heat and long days. As camp ended, the camper comments were very positive, and many were sad camp had ended. There was a lot of talk about looking forward to next year which means, in the eyes of those we were all there to serve, camp was a success!
Renita Brummett

Camp Ironwood

Photos on page 12

This was the 12th year of preteen Camp Ironwood, where the 41 campers, three wide-eyed mini dorm campers, 26 unselfish and giving teens, and 36 amazing adults enjoyed a four-day camp in the beautiful and peaceful setting at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Rochester, Minnesota. The camp was held from July 21-24.

The campers made it plain on their applications that they wanted to attend camp to "learn more about God, to make friends with other children who believed as they did, and to have fun." The staff (both teens and adults) were committed and dedicated to this goal. One person summed it up by saying, "I want to show our children that God's way of life works on a bigger scale than just our home."

Each day began with separate Christian living and music classes for both the teens and campers. The theme for the

camp was "Faith and Courage to Obey and Serve God." The children were delighted to receive a surprise visit from Jelly, who helped teach the campers what courage and faith was, and he also shared his latest video and song, "Courage and Faith."

Each day was full of activities such as horseback riding, archery, swimming, team challenge, field games, arts and crafts, slingshot, nature and exploring, climbing wall, and much more. A family atmosphere was experienced throughout the camp as teen staff were assigned to each dorm as a big brother or big sister. The teens ate several meals with their dorms as well as encouraged the campers throughout the day. Each dorm also had dorm parents who visited the dorm in the evenings to share a Bible lesson or story and conclude the day with prayer. We even

had two official grandmas and a grandpa to help complete the family atmosphere.

God provided us with absolutely beautiful weather, safety and protection each day. His Spirit flowed throughout the camp as each staff member brought their love, skills and their God-given talents to the camp and generously shared them with all. We were grateful to God for His guidance and direction and for His Spirit of love, joy and peace, which prevailed during the camp. We were blessed beyond measure and give all credit and glory to God for a successful camp.

The dates for next year's Camp Ironwood will be Sunday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 23, 2014. We hope to see you there!

David Schreiber

Camp Tomahawk

Photos on page 12

This year was an inspiring year for both staff and campers at Camp Tomahawk. Even with the addition of new activities, a new location and new faces, God's hand could be seen in everything, as camp was once again full of beautiful smiles and great "zone" attitudes. There were 33 campers and 34 staff enjoying the scenic and peaceful NaCoMe Camp, with unusual temperatures ranging from 78 degrees during the day to 53 degrees at night. With just the right amount of sunshine and a gentle breeze throughout the day, God gave Camp Tomahawk the inspiration to focus on this year's theme, "Remember

Your Creator."

Crawling through caves was one way to discover God's creation and His creatures who prefer the cool and damp underground. Campers got a unique view into this hidden world. Through archery, campers learned patience and perseverance when trying a new activity they may have not done before. Even Jelly participated this year at Camp Tomahawk by joining us during our movie night and introducing his latest video of how to find courage and strength during those tough trials.

In addition to new activities this year, we introduced

a new role at Camp Tomahawk called the "Teen Titans." Young adults and teens from seven different states got into the Zone by taking on roles such as assistant counselors and activity staff assistants. Together with the adult volunteer staff, the Teen Titans learned how to develop and strengthen their role as leaders within God's Church and how important it is to teach by example.

Thank you to our Father and every staff member and camper for helping make Camp Tomahawk another successful year.

Matthew Puckett

Northwest Preteen Camp

Photos on page 12

The Northwest Preteen Camp, Aug. 4-7, 2013, was located in a forested area near the foothills of Mt. Hood in Oregon. We had the highest attendance of all 12 years, with 72 campers and 64 adult and teen staff from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The camp was richly blessed with beautiful, warm weather. We needed it for plunging into the cold waters of the Salmon River for a river float—however, a heated pool was great for the cool days and nights.

Campers made cards for shut-ins and picture frames at arts and crafts. Campfire is never complete unless we do "Aroostasha." Campers played unusual sports games, which were carried over into a two-hour field day the last day of camp. Dance class prepared the older campers for teen camp and provided games set to music for the younger set. The favorite activity for everyone is always archery. This year the camp director was being

chased by a moving target, a giant sea creature, a shark with sharp, shiny teeth! Each camper had the opportunity to "save Mr. Cafourek" as he surfed just ahead of the shark's open mouth.

The theme was "Dive Into God's Word." Each dorm chose a sea creature to represent the dorm. B-4 chose the lantern fish that have eyes like headlights, because it brings to mind letting your light shine. One dorm learned about God and His creation through the octopus. An octopus uses its ink to counter-attack so it can flee from danger. Lesson: God provides a way of escape from sin. They can also regrow a detached tentacle and return to a whole state. Lesson: God forgives us of our sins. We are never too broken or damaged to return to God.

Another dorm chose the candle fish, which also taught the lesson of letting your light shine. There were some great lessons from sea turtles. Sea turtles migrate

very long distances. Our Christian walk is compared to a long journey. The hard shells protect them from harm much like the armor of God protects us. Campfire always started with cheers from each dorm. "We are the B-3 sea turtles—tough shells, pure hearts!" Other sea creatures were starfish and urchins (that cling to "the Rock"), swordfish (the sword of the Spirit), and the dazzling dolphins. G-4 were angler fish (fishers of men). Angler fish have an antenna that glows out in front of them. The girls were determined to take that concept and become a light to others in camp activities! Each of the eight girls and counselors had a "light" name: Dome Light, Firelight, Beacon, Reflector Tape, Twinkles, etc.

The next Northwest Preteen Camp is scheduled for Aug. 3-6, 2014. The theme will be "F.R.O.G.: Fully Rely on God." E-mail john_cafourek@ucg.org for applications, which are due May 1, 2014.

John and Sandy Cafourek

Camp Buckeye

Photos on page 12

Children from as far away as Colorado, New Hampshire and Georgia, along with children from nine other states converged on North-central Ohio from Aug. 4-7 for the preteen camp Buckeye. This year Camp Buckeye had 60 children (a 20 percent increase over last year) and 75 staff members.

Every morning began with a Christian living class followed by a variety of activities including archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, field games, fishing, indoor games, water sports and "the Way," a class designed to teach children practical applications of living the way of life that Jesus taught.

This year we had a night class devoted to viewing stars

and planets. This was a great tool in the overall theme of "Remember Your Creator in the Days of Your Youth"! The children were able to clearly see the rings around Saturn and reflect upon several scriptures, including Psalms 8:3-4: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"

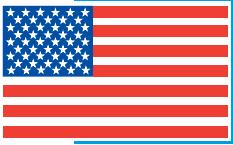
The children performed biblical skits at the campfire and also learned a new song, which they sang for the parents at the closing ceremony, "I Will Remember My Creator." The lyrics (adapted from Ecclesiastes 12) and music were

written by Zak Mortensen, from the Terre Haute, Indiana, congregation.

The weather was perfect throughout the entire camp, with the exception of the final few hours prior to the parents' arrival. A couple of tornado warnings required us to scurry into the basement and one tornado did touch down one mile away from camp, but God protected us all and the weather cleared back up in time for the parents to arrive and everyone was able to go home safely.

Camp Buckeye will back at the same location next year, Aug. 3-6, 2014!

Len Martin



U.S. Camp Photos

Cotubic

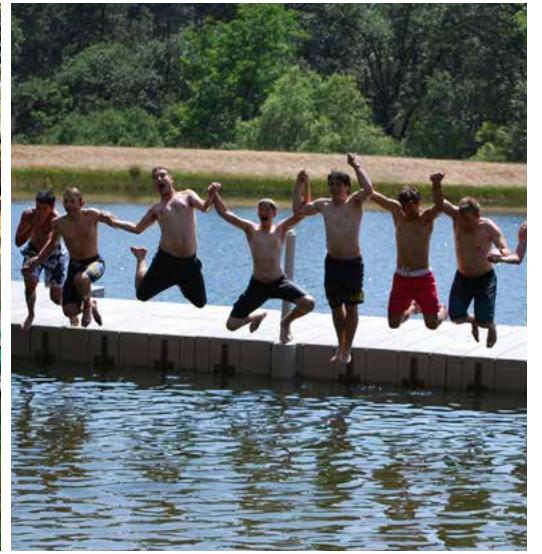
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Pinecrest

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Woodmen





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Colorado

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UCanDo

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Kiwanis

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Ironwood

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Tomahawk

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Northwest

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Buckeye

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Announcements



Harrison Patrick Rangel



David Archer and Michal Lisa Capo



Glenford and Gwendolyn Clement



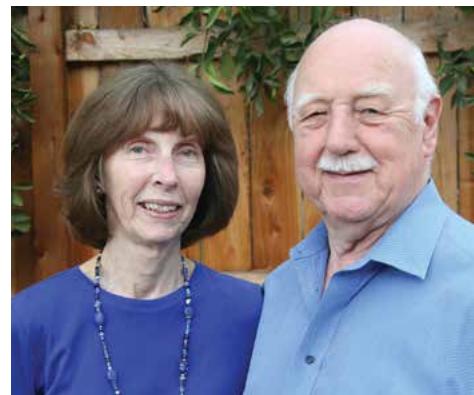
Jerry and Sue Fakler

Births

Rudy and Judy Rangel of the Cincinnati East congregation, and proud grandparents Patrick and Joanne Read and Rudy and Carolyn Rangel, are thrilled to announce the birth of their son, **Harrison Patrick**. Harry was born on May 7 and weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. He likes eating, sleeping, giggling and his big sister, Edie.



Clifton and Helen Baugh



Ralph and Ingrid Helge



Roy and Norma Holladay

Engagements

Once upon a time a wild young Aussie man travelled across the sea where he met an adventurous American beauty. The two became friends as kindred spirits—young adults committed to God and in love with the outdoors, especially rock climbing. But they parted ways for many years, for there were many adventures and lessons to be gained for each. One day, the beauty's adventures led her to the land down under to serve in youth camp, which led to a reunion with her Aussie friend. They worked together, climbed together and prayed together. In the process they realized that two are better than one and a threefold belay rope is not easily broken. Therefore, Nancy and James Capo and Torin and Tracy Archer are ecstatic to announce the engagement of their children, **Michal Lisa Capo** of Tucson, Arizona, and **David Archer** of Sydney, Australia. They will tie the knot on Sept. 8, 2013 in Arizona.

Anniversaries

Glenford and Gwendolyn Clement celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with their spiritual family on April 13 at the church hall in Chagaunas, Trinidad. Deacon Dale Bissessar congratulated the couple on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago congregation, and thanked them for their wonderful example and service through the years. The couple was presented with a lovely pair of engraved crystal champagne flutes. Afterward, everyone enjoyed lunch and a beautiful anniversary cake.

Glen and Gwen were married on April 14, 1988. They had known each other for several years, and had become

good friends. After hearing a sermon about marriage, where it was noted your spouse should be your best friend, Glen proposed. At first, Gwen thought he was joking, but soon realized differently. As the saying goes, "the rest is history." Glen and Gwen are blessed with a son, Denzil. Both still actively serve in the Trinidad and Tobago congregation.

On June 8, 2013, the Southern Minnesota congregation enjoyed honoring **Jerry and Sue Fakler** with a cake and punch in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary. The couple was married on May 27, 1973. At that time they had both already been attending church in Rochester, Minnesota, since October of 1971.

On June 15 **Clifton and Helen Baugh** of Jefferson, Arkansas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Little Rock congregation surprised them with a cake and a gift. Clifton and Helen were married in the home of the local elder, Kelly Barfield, on June 15, 1963, at 8:30 on a Saturday morning. Afterwards they attended church services. They have two living sons and eight grandchildren.

Ralph and Ingrid Helge were married in the lower gardens of Ambassador College on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22, 1962. Their reception was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Elliott, who lived right across the street from the college at the time. Herman Hoeh officiated. They were both senior students at Ambassador College, and they graduated together later that year, in 1963.

Ralph was baptised in Chicago, Illinois, in or around 1956. Ingrid was baptised in Seattle, Washington, in 1959. Before attending Ambassador College, Ralph

had been practicing law for five years, and after his move to California, he passed the California Bar and served the Church in a legal capacity over 50 years. Ralph was ordained an elder on Dec. 15, 2007, and serves in the Los Angeles, California, church. Ingrid has been involved in special music from the time she was in college till today, and she serves the brethren in other ways as well. They live in Pasadena, California.

The Helges were blessed with three children: Eric Helge, Lisa (deceased), and Kristie (Thomas) Helge. Kristie (married to John Thomas) is the mother of their grandchildren, Alexander (Xander) Thomas (16) and Kayla Thomas (14).

To celebrate the occasion of their 50th anniversary, Kristie organized a special dinner for her parents with many of their friends.

On the Sabbath of June 1, 2013, the Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Rome, Georgia, congregations of the United Church of God honored **Roy and Norma Holladay** on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Cake and punch were served, and a gift was presented to them in each congregation. The Holladays were married on June 3, 1963, in the lower gardens of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. After the wedding they were sent out into the ministry to serve in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio. Over the next 50 years they served in numerous churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Texas, Virginia, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee. Mr. Holladay has served as a pastor, regional pastor and senior pastor, served on the Council of Elders, and has been the chairman of the Council twice.

He has also served as the president and acting president of UCG. They have been



Dwain and Jeanine Sanders

blessed with five sons and daughters-in-law and 13 grandchildren. Chattanooga and Rome are truly blessed to have the Holladays serve us, as they are true examples of Christ-centered servant leaders.

Dwain and Jeanine Sanders, who met while in an a cappella choir while attending the West Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 11, 2013. They were married on April 11, 1963, in Newport, Washington, where her parents lived. They have four sons: Karl, Timothy, Mark, and Dan, and one daughter, Naomi. They also have four grandchildren. They were both called into the Church through Jeanine's mother, who gave them a *Plain Truth* magazine just days before she passed away. They were both baptized exactly one year later on May 10, 1969 (Mother's Day). Dwain has been involved in music most of his life, teaching music and being a choir director. He has been the festival choir director at several feast sites. Jeanine has worked as a librarian. They live on a 2.5-acre farm in Port Orchard, Washington, where they raise sheep for the wool that Jeanine spins herself. Dwain runs his own construction company along with their son, Daniel.



James and Florence MacConnell

Their words of wisdom for young couples are: "Always communicate with God and your mate first thing every morning and learn the power of forgiveness."

James and Florence MacConnell from Sequim, Washington, celebrated their 60th anniversary on June 27, 2013. They met at a community dance in Claremont, New Hampshire, and were married in Windsor, Vermont, on June 27, 1953. They have two sons, Rodney and Chuck, five grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. James was baptized in January of 1973, and Florence followed in March of the same year. They have both worked in many different fields and have had an adventuresome life. They have many fascinating stories to tell. They are now retired and living on a 5.2-acre farm, raising beef, sheep and chickens, and growing their own grains for flour. The wisdom they would like to pass on to young couples is, "Remember why God put you two together, and tenderness goes a long way." On June 15, the Tacoma and Sequim churches got together to celebrate this special occasion.

Obituaries

Daniel J. Charles, age 91, of Lititz, Pennsylvania, died at home on May 31, 2013. Born in Lancaster, he was the son of the late Daniel M. and Mary Shirk Charles. He had two older half sisters, Evelyn Seitz Dull and Arlene Seitz Calhoun. In 1940, he graduated from the new JP McCaskey High School and joined the U.S. Navy as a radio operator in 1943 in the Pacific. Dan first met Jeanette Bucher at the chocolate factory where both he and her dad worked. They were married on June 8, 1946, and celebrated nearly 67 years of marriage together.

Dan and Jeanette had five children: Theresa (James) Ross of Lititz, Pennsylvania; Cynthia (Jim) Hedges, of Nevada, Missouri; Tom (Kathy) Charles of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania; Christina (Alan) Weaner of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; and Philip (Tammy) Charles of Lititz, Pennsylvania; as well as 17 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. It has been a blessing to see family at church services or Feast of Tabernacles locations over the years.

In the 1960s Daniel began listening to *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast and took the *Bible Correspondence Course*. In



Daniel J. Charles

January of 1973, they began attending church in Lancaster. They were baptized that spring. Over the years, Dan was part of the Harrisburg and York congregations of the Church of God. While unable to attend services the last three years, Dan was encouraged by the support and care of his wife and family.

He worked as an electrician for Warner-Lambert in Lititz for 27 years before retiring in 1984. Dan enjoyed gardening, especially flowers, as well as playing pinochle, researching trains and trolleys in Lancaster County, taking photos and traveling. For many years, the Charles' opened up their backyard for the annual seniors corn roast picnic. When asked for life advice, he told a grandchild, "Follow God and obey His commandments." He will be remembered for his sincere faith and constant dedication to God and the soon coming Kingdom.

Ann Smith, of rural Goodland, Indiana, died May 9, 2013. She was 85. She was born Phyllis Ann Long on June 2, 1927, to Earl and Mildred (Kirkwood) Long in Rensselaer, Indiana.

She married Russell Smith—to whom she was ever devoted—in 1947. They farmed in Goodland until Russell's retirement a few years ago. Ann loved their home, built as a wedding present by her husband's parents. Her husband survives.

Their children are Russell "Ed" Smith Jr., Dennis (Annie) Smith of Texas, and Terry Smith of Goodland. All survive. She had seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Baptized March 1, 1975, a member of the Lafayette Worldwide Church of God congregation, she joined the United Church of God in 1995. Ann was the



Ann Smith

congregation's official greeter. Tiny of frame, her bear hugs were no indicator of her size! She believed human touch was important for health and wanted none left untreated!

Ann's floral arrangements decorated church services for many years. Always striking, most were tweaked with a nest with tiny blue eggs here, a Northern cardinal on a branch, there. She also created detailed drawings for cards, even folding her own envelopes. Many friends hold dear their collection of Ann cards.

She was a lover of God and His way, her Russell and their kin, beauty wherever it was to be found, and her Church friends. She enjoyed her five-acre yard with its many small gardens and koi ponds, a mini Eden visited by the public. A rainbow of day lilies and irises thrived in her tree-lined gardens. For her bird friends, she grew copious beds of coneflowers. She also tamed the grounds' chipmunks. All this, Ann's warm friendship, love of storytelling and hospitality, were available to those visiting the Smiths.

Her pastor, Michael Grovak, said he was honored to officiate at her funeral, but it was a difficult day. "Mom Ann was very special to my wife Michelle and me," he said. "In fact, she often said we were her adopted children. And we felt the same way about her. She reminded me of my own mother, who died when I was six. She was petite, vivacious and loving, just as Ann was."

Ann spent the last two years struggling with Alzheimer's disease and was moved from Indiana to a Texas care facility last fall. She died of a MRS infection resulting from a broken hip, pelvis and shoulder earlier this spring.

Leona J. Walker, age 73, of Calvert City, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, March 23, 2013, at Baptist Health hospital in Paducah, Kentucky.

She is survived by her husband, Lowell T. Walker of Calvert City, Kentucky; a son, Timothy Walker and wife Rhonda of Calvert City, Kentucky; one sister, Sue Mason of Paducah, Kentucky; two grandchildren, Andrew Walker of Calvert City, Kentucky, and Chris Jeter and wife Crystal of Benton, Kentucky; and one great-grandchild, Tate Jeter of Benton, Kentucky. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bob Vines and Naomi (Patillo) Vines; a son, Jeffrey T. Walker; one brother, Robert Vines; and one sister, Mary Koebel.



Leona J. Walker



Stella S. White

Born on Dec. 30, 1939, in Marshall County, Kentucky, Leona was one of four children, being the youngest of three girls and one boy. She and her husband Lowell were married on March 18, 1960. They had 53 years together.

Leona was a homemaker, but she also worked as an LPN at Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, Kentucky, for 12 years. She was well acquainted with pains and sufferings. She had a true concern for the welfare of others. And she knew deep, personal pain. She and Lowell lost their older son, Jeffrey, to an accident in 1980. In more recent years, Leona's health deteriorated with increasing problems and pains. She had congestive heart failure along with other conditions, and in 2009, she was diagnosed with an inoperable aortic aneurysm. For three-and-a-half years she lived with the knowledge that any second could be her last. With quiet courage she accepted that reality and rested in the fact that her life was truly in God's hands. She was at peace with the situation.

Lowell was baptized in March of 1975, and then Leona followed in November of 1977. Lowell was later ordained a deacon and then an elder in 1997, their home church being the Paducah congregation. Together they made a great serving team. Even in her last few years with her increasingly limiting health problems, Leona would travel with Lowell to the outlying church areas when he was speaking. She was a true "Christian Soldier," enduring hardship in serving God and the brethren. And on Saturday morning, March 23, 2013, her spiritual battles were finished.

Leona had a signature statement that she always signed off with. When someone would tell her goodbye she would say, "See ya!" And, yes, she will! May God hasten the resurrection of His saints.

Stella S. White died June 11, 2013, four months after her 100th birthday. The funeral service and interment was officiated by Mark Mickelson in Spokane, Washington, on June 18.

Mom was active, social and vibrant. She loved her family, siblings, her loyal, caring Church family, and her many friends.

She is remembered by those of past and present acquaintance as a willing worker and had no hesitation to tackle any job needing to be done. She was a servant to many in multiple locations in the greater Northwest.

As her son, I stand in awe of her 100-years blessing from God. I am also

humbled by the plethora of evidence of her persistent Bible study and of notes that were left in her papers, reminding herself of God and scriptural instructions.

Mom was baptized 55 years ago into the Church of God. She placed her baptismal vows as priority in her life. She experienced a number of ministerial transfers in serving the various church areas. She suffered the loss of her friend and life partner Elder Valden White in 1997. She lived by herself for the next seven years and the balance of her life with sister Maureen in Manson.

When Dad died she asked the question of why and searched for an answer.

I shared my feelings with Mom at that time. I said simply, "Mom for 66 years you have been known as Mrs. Valden White, and now God has elected to give you extended opportunity to develop an additional identity as Stella White." And she responded to that time gift from God.

Mom held fast to the biblical truths she proved from the Word of God for these 55 years of life. She believed the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and as Jesus said: "Man shall live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

She clung to the promise of our Savior as recorded through the apostle Paul in

1 Thessalonians 4:13-29, that the Lord shall return at the last or seventh trumpet of God, and the dead shall be raised first to meet Him in the air (verses 16-17). As Mom was given awareness in her last moments, these very words were read to her. This is what she believed to her final breath.

I will miss my mother and reflect often on her life and example. As her character and personality materializes in the spoken and written memories by those she loved and served, a fuller picture of this lady, the matriarch, my mother, becomes even more precious. The greatest comfort is that God knew it all along and will

remember her and welcome her into His coming Kingdom at the soon coming resurrection.

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.



Local Church UPDATES



Micah Conti and Jonathan Jacobsen.

Southern Minnesota Honors Two Graduates

Micah Conti and Jonathan Jacobsen were honored with a cake and punch reception on June 1, 2013, by the Southern Minnesota congregation. They also received a \$50 gift certificate to Amazon.com and a graduation book signed by members of the congregation.

Micah Conti graduated from Byron High School on June 9, 2013. He is the son of Sarah Schreiber of Rochester, Minnesota, and Joe Conti of Burnsville, Minnesota. Micah participated in track and field while at Byron High School. In 2012 he qualified for and participated in Minnesota state track and field competition in the 4 X 4 relay. Micah graduated with honors in anatomy, physics, biotechnology, economics and sociology. He enjoys cycling and is training to compete in a triathlon this fall. Micah is in his fourth year in customer service at Hy Vee grocery store. His future plans are to continue working at Hy Vee, where he was just promoted. He will be attending college this fall, where he will pursue a degree in computer science.

Jonathan Jacobsen finished his senior year of homeschooling this June. He is the son of Bonnie and John Jacobsen of the Southern Minnesota congregation. Jonathan is a very talented musician. He plays the piano, cello, and the violin, which he started playing at the young age of three. He will be going to ABC this fall and has future plans to go to the University of North Dakota to pursue a degree in exercise physiology. He has



Cheryl Regnier with the Secret Prayer Sister cards.

served as staff at pre-teen camp Ironwood several times and has attended sessions of winter camp and other Church-sponsored camps at various locations during his teen years.

Dagmar Howe

Fort Wayne Illustrates Power of Prayer

Ladies in the Ft. Wayne, Indiana, congregation just concluded a Secret Prayer Sister (SPS) group this summer for two months starting in June, 2013.

A questionnaire was available for those who wanted to participate, ranging from teens to senior citizens, asking about what things they wanted their prayer sister to pray about every day. The author of this idea, Cheryl Regnier, formulated and collected the questionnaires. Each person drew a ribbon-wrapped set of blank cards that contained the identity of the lady they'd be praying for.



Al Mischnick's 50th anniversary of service in the ministry.



Katie Welch at the Mansfield picnic.

There is a table available at church services each week where the ladies can leave anonymous cards of encouragement for their sisters to collect if desired.

The first Sabbath in August was the "big reveal," where those involved learned who has been praying for them and offered a small thank-you gift/card.

Peggy Moss

Little Rock Honors Al Mischnick for 50 Years of Service

On the Sabbath prior to Pentecost, the Little Rock United Church of God congregation hosted an award ceremony and reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Al Mischnick for his 50th anniversary of service as an ordained minister of God. Mr. Mischnick was presented his plaque and Mrs. Mischnick her rose by Little Rock's pastor, Fred Nance. The ceremony was a surprise for Mr. and Mrs. Mischnick. Mr. Mischnick said he smelt a rat when his daughter, Connie Seelig, and his son, Don Mischnick, sneaked into services just as they were starting. Connie, Don, and several grandchildren had made the trip to see their father and grandfather honored. Following services there was a reception with cake and punch.

Jean Howdeshell

Mansfield Enjoys Sabbath in the Woods

Mansfield, Ohio, UCG brethren enjoyed another special Sabbath in the woods on June 8, 2013. We met in the Pugh cabin on the Malabar Farm State Park. God provided a pleasant day. Our pastor, Vern

Hargrove, provided the spiritual food, and the brethren provided the potluck meal. After services, we had a recognition of our lone graduating senior this year, Katie Welch. Katie is planning to attend Kent State to major in math and social studies in middle childhood education.

Ted Wilson

Mississippi and Louisiana Congregations Hold Wonderful Picnic

The Laurel, Mississippi, and New Orleans, Louisiana, congregations held their third annual picnic on Sunday, June 9, at the home of Jim and Gayle Wilkins. Mr. Wilkins pastors the area.

Families arrived at the Wilkins home near Seminary, Mississippi, starting at 10:00 a.m. and enjoyed games and fellowship until late into the afternoon.

A swimming pool was set up for the younger children to enjoy while young and old alike engaged in corn hole games. For the uninitiated, this game is a cross between basketball and horseshoes.

Food was centered on hot dogs, hamburgers, and beef ribs, but there was much more to eat with side dishes of many varieties. There was also homemade ice cream with a variety of toppings for dessert. The younger children overcame the heat of the afternoon by throwing water balloons and eating watermelon. Music was provided by one of our brethren while others sang along. A corn hole champion was crowned after

Please see next page



One mini-member enjoys the Mississippi and Louisiana picnic.



Little Rock picnic.

a double elimination tournament. Our cloudy skies kept the temperatures bearable without any rain to hinder the fun.

Greg Musgrove

Little Rock Enjoys Annual Picnic

The Little Rock congregation enjoyed their annual picnic on June 9 at Maulmelle State Park. The weather was ideal, and 41 brethren and guests enjoyed the activity. The meal consisted of a taco bar and potluck items provided by the brethren. Ice cream was churned in the afternoon. The men competed in horseshoes, and the children enjoyed the playground and play dough activities. The air buzzed with happy conversation.

Jean Howdeshell

Florida Members Pitch in to Help Member Repair Storm Damage

On Sunday, June 23, a work party was held at the Indiantown home of Tom Banister to replace a portion of his roof, which was damaged by a tropical storm last year. Members from the Ft. Lauderdale, Vero Beach, Tampa, and St. Petersburg, Florida, congregations participated in the work party. While the men worked, the ladies prepared an ample lunch, which was served as everyone waited on a heavy midday shower to pass. The job turned out to be a big one and took the entire day, but it was completed. Now the Banisters can repair ceiling damage caused by the leaking roof. Although the work was hot and difficult, everyone enjoyed a day of camaraderie, getting to know one another better, and the satisfaction of helping a brother. Tom and his wife Mert are very appreciative of this labor of love. They were deeply touched by the turnout of volunteers, some of whom travelled several hours to help with the project.

Mary Smith

Boise Congregation Celebrates 50 Years

The Sabbath of June 22 was enjoyed



Florida members helping to repair storm damage at another member's home.

by 60 brethren who came together for Sabbath services and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this congregation. Jim and Joan Tuck, Mark and Michelle Mickelson and Terry Swagerty, former Boise pastors or associate pastors, were able to attend. Traveling all the way from Oklahoma was a special guest, Dale Hampton. Mr. Hampton was the first pastor way back in 1963. Following services a special potluck meal and 50th anniversary cake were enjoyed, followed by an interesting slide show presentation, which was organized by an elder in Boise, David Blue.

Brethren enjoyed seeing photos of people in many activities such as senior dinners, Spokesman's Club, YOU activities, sports activities and dinner dances.

The following day an estimated 110 people attended a church picnic. A few participated in leisurely sports, but mainly people just enjoyed visiting with one another. Thanks to all the brethren over the years for the contributions made to God's Church for the first 50 years in Boise, Idaho.

Steve Nutzman

Virginia and North Carolina Brethren Help Repair Storm Damage for Local Member

On June 29, 2012, a derecho roared through much of the country, wreaking havoc by bringing down many trees and



One North Carolina members helping to repair storm damage at another member's home.



Members who were there for the Boise congregation's beginning 50 years ago.

causing widespread power outages. The trees around the home of Peggy Good in southwestern Virginia were also hit. Over the next several months, strong winds continued to bring down more branches. Finally several winter ice storms last winter caused even more branches to litter her yard.

On Sunday, June 30, 2013, a work party showed up with several families from the Roanoke, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, congregations. A full day of chain saws buzzing and brush piles burning transformed the yard. A meal was served after several hours of work, and that gave a much needed break. After the meal, everyone got back to work. The afternoon finished with cantaloupe and watermelon. The yard clean-up was great, but the better reward was brethren working and fellowshiping together in peace and harmony. It will be so nice when the whole world learns this valuable principle.

Peggy Good

Dallas Hosts Marriage Enrichment Seminar

On the Sabbath of June 29, 96 members, including a few from other United Church of God congregations, participated in an interactive Marriage Enrichment Seminar led by Randy and Kay Schreiber. A special church service covered the topic of "Becoming One," which applies not only to our marriages but also to our relationships within God's Church. Participants were excited to see how they



Dallas marriage seminar attendees.

tied the physical marriage relationship with our preparation to be the Bride of Jesus Christ. Originally designed to be a two-day event, this particular session needed to be condensed into one day due to unavoidable circumstances.

After the church service and a brief intermission attendees began learning about five key elements of a healthy marriage: commitment, sacrifice, love, nurture and trustworthiness.

Materials were handed out during the seminar to aid in participation and learning. Mr. and Mrs. Schreiber successfully motivated and engaged the audience in an interactive discussion that stimulated the thinking and application of the material presented. Their presentation was warm and engaging. A big thank you from the Dallas area to the Schreibers for their time and effort to serve in this way!

Jennifer Ledbetter

Albuquerque Churches of God Come Together to Hold Annual Picnic

On Sunday, July 7, 2013, members of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, UCG congregation joined members from other groups at the annual combined Albuquerque Churches of God Picnic. It was graciously hosted by Ray and Sherry Randall at the Randall Cabin and Pavilion in the Manzano mountains outside Tajiue, New Mexico.

The facility includes volleyball and basketball courts, a giant swing set, horseshoe pits, hiking area, a go-cart area, and large pavilion. Other activities included a live music hymn and sing-a-long with guitar accompaniment, a scenic mountain tour in the open air "fun van," and a video of the UCG Feast of Tabernacles in Italy. The Randalls provided picnic fare of hot dogs, hamburgers, all the trimmings and drinks.

The fellowship, food and fun was enjoyed by members from up to five local Churches of God. Brethren ate, and laughed, and visited, and sang, and played, and found each other again. Ray and Sherry said they "just love having everyone come," and added that they're already planning for next year's picnic to be bigger and better!

Karen Ford



Two teens of the Phoenix East congregation at one of their many service projects this summer.

Phoenix East Teens Have Busy and Productive Summer of Service

The Phoenix East, Arizona, teens have been a busy group. Along with attending monthly Bible studies and teen activities, they get involved with the local congregation. Some of the teens have been assigned duties at services each week, and those who don't are eager to jump in and help. They have also hosted two luncheons with the seniors in which they served and fellowshiped, bringing everyone closer together.

In April, many participated in a service project that helped fund our region's

pre-teen camp. May saw them host a fundraiser yard sale with proceeds funding the local teen activities for the year. They also volunteered for secretarial and treasurer notation duties. To end the month, the teens participated in a "luggage tag" fundraiser led by Scott and Michelle Delamater that helped campers attend UYC Hye Sierra in California.

In June they had an outing to Jumpstreet, which boasts 20,000 square feet of wall-to-wall trampolines. Mid-June brought a Bible study, dinner, swimming and a work project for shipping the luggage tag orders. At the end of the month, the teens converged at the Nettles' house for a late-night social before heading out for Camp Hye Sierra at 2:00 a.m.

July and August will surely find them

in area lakes and pools, enjoying water activities as Arizona bakes in triple-digit temperatures.

As the teens move on through the year, they plan to be involved in service projects, both in the church and the local community.

Robert and Lorelei Nettles

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 photos with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

A Promise to Remember

Continued from page 3

the forces of Satan instead of the forces of Rome, the list is profound for the times in which we live.

The specific purpose statement or summary statement of the message is given in Hebrew 12:27-28: "Now this, 'Yet one more,' indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

Then chapter 13 continues with the writer's list of important things not to forget during this time of upheaval. The list includes:

- Entertaining strangers—refugees and those in need would be frequent
- Remembering Christians in jail for their beliefs
- Keep your marriage honorable—avoid adultery
- Don't be covetous of physical possessions—live by faith that God will provide
- Remember the ministry that Jesus Christ established and has provided

for the direction and teaching of the Church. We are admonished to follow their example. This is the only admonition that is repeated, and it is repeated twice. Verse 17 adds: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be

incredible treatise of truth written to a Church that is on the precipice of experiencing chaos and upheaval.

In victory, the Romans slaughtered thousands. Of those spared from death, thousands more were enslaved and sent to toil in the mines of Egypt. Others were dispersed to arenas throughout the Empire to be butchered for the amusement of the public. The temple's sacred

on the precipice of upheaval and perhaps wars. We are not living in a city surrounded by hostile armies quite yet, but the signs of impending disasters are rampant.

The world's economy is based on paper money and mountains of debt that could fall in an instant. The modern nations descended from Israel are rapidly losing the blessings of Abraham as a result of national sins. The fulfillment of the curses in Leviticus 26:14-38 are starting to come to pass.

During this time prior to the great tribulation and eventual return of Jesus Christ many are asleep (Matthew 25:1-5). Hebrews warns us to awaken out of sleep.

"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Romans 13:11-12).

Remember that Jesus Christ promised never to leave us or forsake us, but that promise carries with it our responsibility to continue in the faith and obey and serve Him from the heart.

Let me suggest that all of us need to examine our lives in comparison to Hebrews 13. We each need to ask how we are doing in obeying this list of vital things to do as the day of Christ approaches. **UN**

During this time prior to the great tribulation and eventual return of Jesus Christ many are asleep (Matthew 25:1-5). Hebrews warns us to awaken out of sleep.

unprofitable for you."

- Reject different and strange doctrines
- Give thanks to God continually
- Do good and forget not to fellowship (referring back to 10:25, "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together")
- Pray for the ministry
- Embrace—warmly receive—the ministers who guide the Church (verse 24).

This is how the writer concludes this

relics and gold were taken to Rome where they were displayed in celebration of the victory, and that vast wealth was used to build the Colosseum where Christians were later slaughtered and fed to wild beasts.

The Judean Church, though, was for the time safe in Pella. Those who followed as the writer of Hebrews admonished were spared and able to continue teaching and spreading the gospel.

Today many would observe that we are

documents to identify any statements that are ambiguous, awkwardly phrased or in conflict with other points in the documents. The review of the Constitution is complete, and the review of the Bylaws should be completed by December. The task force's review of the Rules of Association has yet to begin. The task force gave updates on its review and had the Council approve its recommendations. Before these recommended edits to the Constitution can take place, the documents edits will have to be presented to the General Conference of Elders for ratification.

Kingdom of God Bible Seminar Discussion

Media and Communication Services operation manager Peter Eddington headed up a discussion about the Kingdom of God Bible Seminars. His report

stated that overall, the seminars have been a positive experience, with new baptisms resulting, and even a brand new congregation having been started in the Philippines comprised only of seminar attendees. He recommended to the Council that the seminars continue to be a part of the Church's media efforts, and that in addition to the already established local seminars, the Church will plan, promote and produce campaign-style seminars with guest speakers, choir performances, extensive local advertising, etc. in two major U.S. cities a year.

Ministerial and Member Services and Treasurer Updates

In Victor Kubik's election to the office of president, his former role as Ministerial and Member Services (MMS) operation manager has remained vacant. Mr. Kubik has continued to fill that role in addi-

tion to his duties as president. During its August meeting, the Council approved Mr. Kubik's recommendation that treasurer Aaron Dean become a full member of the MMS team to assist Mr. Kubik specifically in international areas. To fill the office of treasurer, the Council approved Rick Shabi, who is a pastor in Florida. Mr. Shabi has been a certified C.P.A., has served as CFO to several companies, and has operated his own medical consulting business for years before becoming a pastor. He feels he can serve the needs of a church our size while continuing to serve as pastor to several congregations in Florida.

To find more details about the quarterly meeting of the Council in August, visit the Council website at <http://coe.ucg.org/councilreport>.

Mitchell Moss

Please see next page

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

an ongoing process of review of the governing documents of the Church, future plans for Kingdom of God seminars and who will fill the role of Ministerial and Member Services operation manager.

Three-Year Governance Review Project

The review of the governing documents is a three year ongoing project by a task force headed up by former Council member Bill Eddington. In 2010 the Council delegated to the task force the project of reviewing UCG/IA governing

ABC Continuing Education: Alive and Well

ABC's continuing education program is alive and well. Under the supervision of Randy Stiver, two cities were selected this year for presentations. We only did one last year as we were trying to conserve financially. This year Tampa, Florida, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, were selected.

Tampa's seminar took place on July 13-14 and Tulsa's took place July 20-21.

Aaron Dean and Gary Antion were the presenters for Tampa. Pastor Chuck Zimmerman and his able elders did a great job preparing and serving at the function. It was well attended with around 150 on Sabbath for services and four hours of the 10 seminar hours. On Sunday there were 93 who did the entire program. Of those, 73 were in attendance in person while the other 20 viewed the second day online via a webcast. On the Sabbath Mr. Dean gave a sermon about Ruth and drew parallels to our Christian lives as we face similar needs and circumstances as a Church, with Christ our Redeemer as Boaz was for Ruth. Mr. Antion followed with a sermon titled "Be Ready to Give an Answer." He stressed the importance of Bible study and knowing the Scriptures so we might be ready to defend our faith if asked. He also showed that we need not answer foolish questions or those intended to "trap" us.

For their seminar presentations, Mr. Dean related events of the Church in his experiences over the decades. It was fascinating to have him relate situations that he encountered while serving with Herbert Armstrong for 12 years. He also brought information from his personal family finance class at ABC. He showed how to get good credit and how to help your children with their credit ratings, along with other money-saving tips. Mr. Antion explained the seven seals of Revelation and expounded them for three hours of his five. The other two hours he covered the motivational prophet Haggai. A question-and-answer session wrapped up the Sunday presentations.

The enthusiasm was very evident for the seminar, and we are grateful for the food and refreshments provided by the Tampa-St. Petersburg congregations. Soon after the event was completed, we were asked when we were coming back to do another!

ABC instructors Ken Graham and Darris McNeely gave classes from their curriculum at the seminar in Tulsa. Mr. Graham gave presentations on the tabernacle, the offerings and textual criticism. Mr. McNeely gave material

from Acts, doctrines and world news and prophecy. Together they gave a fair "sample" of ABC.

Attendance was over 90 in some form of attendance throughout the weekend. Mr. Graham commented on the friendly and engaging personality of the Oklahoma members: "This was the most grateful group I think I've ever visited. It was a continuous flow of thanks and appreciation from the members to me every time I met someone new. So I see the tremendous benefit of the seminars to outlying congregations."

ABC continuing education seminars—taking a little sample of ABC to the brethren—are alive and well!

Gary Antion

Greensboro, North Carolina, 50th Anniversary Celebration Coming Up

The Greensboro, North Carolina, church is planning a 50th anniversary celebration on Nov. 2. The church began with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm on Nov. 2, 1963, at the Greensboro Coliseum, with 172 in attendance. At the time, Greensboro was the only church in the area, and members came from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. Some brethren traveled four hours each way on two-lane highways in order to attend services each Sabbath. Greensboro was a mother of several other congregations, which were later started in the region.

The special Sabbath service starts at 2:30 p.m., with guest speaker Roy Holladay giving the sermon. After the service there will be a festive dinner, followed by an anniversary program with 50 years of nostalgic memories including a PowerPoint presentation with pictures from the last 50 years, the reading of the history of the church, and comments and memories by some of the old-time members (including several charter members who were there for the first service in 1963).

The location for the anniversary celebration is the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 279 Eastchester Dr. (Hwy 68), High Point, NC 27262. Visitors are welcome to join us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. For any questions or to contribute pictures or comments, please contact David Mills at david_mills@ucg.org.

David Mills

Summertime Sees Improvements at the Home Office

Summertime has seen several improvements made, regular maintenance calls and more efficient equipment purchases around the home office. These all come on the heels of a LifeNets-



Then treasurer Aaron Dean and warehouse manager Tim Sipes filling in the new concrete channel in the lecture hall.

sponsored grounds improvement project that saw a revitalization of the landscaping at the office in the spring. The most instantly recognizable improvement was replacing the carpeting and repainting the walls in the Ambassador Bible Center lecture hall. Other improvements include a new folding/stuffing machine in the mail room, *Beyond Today* improvements with better cameras and a rearranged set, and repairs to fill potholes and other issues in the parking lot. The overall goal of all of these improvements has been to maintain the building so it can better serve the local congregation and the Church at large.

Ambassador Bible Center Gets a Fresh Coat of Paint

The carpet in the ABC lecture hall had been scheduled to be replaced several years ago, but wasn't due to budget constraints at the time. Several tears in the carpet, need for tile near the windows due to occasional leakage, and the need for new cables to be run for the weekly Sabbath webcast all meant it was time to make the improvements. Tom Disher and the webcast crew have been making big improvements to the quality of the weekly Sabbath webcast and bi-weekly Bible study webcasts, but that meant running more cables across the floor. The cables were a tripping hazard, so part of the re-carpeting project was to cut new channels in the concrete to run those cables and to allow future cables to be run as well. In addition, they cut a channel to facilitate having a second camera for two-camera shoots. Also part of the project was re-painting the walls and removing peeling wallpaper under the chair rail. The tile in the dining area was re-waxed, and tile was installed along the window bays and by the exterior door, where water has sometimes leaked in, which stained the carpet before. The project was managed by maintenance supervisor Tim Sipes, who coordinated the overall project along with overseeing several work parties that included local Church members and home office employees.



A candid shot of Gary Petty in the new standing arrangement on the BT set.

Beyond Today Set Sees Upgrades

Besides improving the scripts and content of *Beyond Today*, one of the most impactful improvements has been the purchase of new cameras. Not only new cameras with better image sensors, but also better prime lenses, which make for a sharper image and shallower depth-of-field. The previous cameras were purchased in 2006 and would be able to continue serving, but new sensor technology gives better performance in the same conditions. The old ones still have value and will be sold to help compensate for the cost of the new ones. In addition, the production crew helped open some space up in the cramped set by moving the control desk into an adjoining office. The raised floor in the studio has also been removed, which will allow for the presenters to stand at a higher table instead of sitting at the low desk like before. All combined, the production and visual presentation of *Beyond Today* will benefit from these small and incremental improvements.

New Folding and Inserting Machine Saves Time and Money

On Tuesday, July 16, a new folding and inserting machine was installed in our warehouse by Neopost. This new inserter is a Neopost DS-200 Folder/Inserter that can fold and insert various materials into envelopes at up to 4,800 pieces an hour. This inserter replaces the old inserter that was purchased in 1998 and was no longer able to be properly supported and maintained by Neopost. The new DS-200 will not only be able to insert letters and tithe envelopes (as the old inserter did), but it can also insert *Good News* magazines and booklets. We can now do several weekly mailing jobs using this new inserter that we had to previously do by hand.

All said, the home office facilities are looking their best and will continue to be maintained for the benefit of as many brethren and employees as possible.

Mitchell Moss and Richard Kennebeck

ABC Begins 15th Year

A welcome picnic and orientation were held on Aug. 18-19 for the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2014. Some of the accepted students had not arrived due to other circumstances, so 37 were in attendance. When all are here we will have 42 students for this class of 2014. The ABC alumni served diligently at the picnic to provide fun and food to the new ABC students. Games were planned to help the students bond and get to know each other better. The food was coordinated by Connie Sipes, our kitchen supervisor. A Scottish theme added to the fun. The students seemed to have a good time and the chatter from them was especially enthusiastic.

Monday saw the orientation of the students for ABC with faculty members detailing how each aspect of their experience this coming academic year, what to expect and how to succeed.

Tuesday, classes began at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Frank McCrady III teaching the Gospels 1 module.

We ask for your prayers for a safe, inspiring and successful year at ABC.

Gary Antion



One activity at the ABC welcome picnic involved a big red ball.



The leadership training attendees in South Africa.



Brethren in Brazil with the cattle donated by LifeNets in the background.

INTERNATIONAL news

South Africa Holds Leadership Training Course

The Johannesburg, South Africa, congregation held a leadership training course on Aug. 9-11, 2013, at the Willow View Conference Centre. The participants were the deacons and leaders from all the church areas in South Africa, and numbered seven men and five wives.

The subjects covered were as follows: The high calling of the ministry, being motivated by love and not position or money, basic principles of peacekeeping; respect, diplomacy and delicacy; advancing future speakers; song leading and music; being clothed with humility—success depends on it; being helpers of their joy—the congregation comes first.

Four men delivered split sermons on the Sabbath, which were recorded and evaluated by the whole group on Sunday morning. This exercise was found to be very valuable to everybody and will be repeated when next possible.

The home office sent recordings by Randy Stiver and Aaron Dean, which were extremely valuable.

Everybody agreed that the course was a resounding success and that a follow-up should be held in the not-too-distant future.

Roy Demont

Three New Members Baptized and New Feast Site in Brazil for 2014

Shannon Lucas and Jorge de Campos completed a successful visit to the northern region of Brazil in early August. They had Sabbath services on Aug. 10, with 47 brethren in Maloca de Moscou, conducted a Kingdom of God Bible Seminar for

32 people, baptized three young people into the Body of Christ, and led an interactive youth Bible study. They also conducted a leadership training session for 23 men and ladies for about four hours on Sunday morning. Mr. Lucas taught a very enthusiastic group of men how to lead songs in church.

The brethren in Maloca de Moscou have three video-taped counseling sessions of about one hour each on repentance, faith and baptism. The local dea-

cons helped the brethren who desired to be baptized with individual studies using these recorded pre-baptismal sessions. Therefore when we visited them they had counted the cost and understood the prerequisites to baptism as well as the lifelong commitment that is made at baptism. A few brethren had been requesting baptism during previous visits, but now, after going through these video studies they were ready. As such, Valdir Marcelo, Edison de Souza Eduardo and Fernanda Mateus da Silva were baptized.

We also visited the LifeNets cattle, and they are looking well. They have a new corral, and we have now eight heads of cattle, which includes a bull, cows and some young calves. We are hoping to buy a few more cattle to breed a little faster. The brethren are very excited and happy with the help from LifeNets.

We also had the opportunity to visit a lovely site for the feast in 2014. We had visited this place previously, but God had not opened the doors. However during this visit it became evident that God ripped the doors off the hinges, as they are only too eager to accommodate us and they have all the basic facilities we require for both the local brethren and visitors from overseas. The prices are also very accommodating, and we hope to see a few visitors from overseas coming to Brazil next year for the feast. It is about 22 miles outside of Boa Vista, on a tarred road. It is a very pleasant setting to have plenty of Christian fellowship with family and ideal for children and young people. The local church leaders came to visit and see the site. They are fully supportive of and very excited about this choice.

One area where we could help them is to have a person in the church who understands farming to go there with Jorge de Campos early next year, so that he may ask the right questions and determine how we may educate them to be more effective in their main activity, which is agriculture. This could lead to a Youth Corps project. They are now planting cassava (mandioca), beans, tomatoes and other fruit trees. But additional guidance is needed. We are now helping them with the hire of a tractor to cultivate about 17 acres of land. This will give them a push to be able to plant more as currently they do all digging via manual labor and simple instruments like hoes.

The brethren are growing in Christian understanding from regular video sermons in Portuguese for their Sabbath services in the morning. They also conduct youth and children's studies after lunch and review the sermons by stopping the video, translating where necessary to the local Indian language of Wapixana, so that they all understand the material and can apply it. They also do Bible studies with the booklets as guides and on Thursday nights conduct an extra Bible study using previously played sermons. They are grateful to all the help they receive from the home office and are growing in Christ's peace and harmony. Your prayers that God may continue to grant them growth and peace is appreciated.

Jorge de Campos



What's New In MEDIA?

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>The Four Horsemen of Revelation</i>	Darris McNeely	Sept. 1-6
<i>How to Stop a Porn Addiction</i>	Steve Myers	Sept. 7-14
<i>Near Death Experiences and the Bible</i>	Gary Petty	Sept. 15-21
<i>Is This the End Time?</i>	Darris McNeely	Sept. 22-28
<i>666 and You!</i>	Steve Myers	Sept. 29-Oct. 5
<i>Will a Temple Be Built in Jerusalem?</i>	Darris McNeely	Oct. 6-12
<i>72 Hours to Chaos</i>	Gary Petty	Oct. 13-20
<i>Who Is Jesus?</i>	Darris McNeely	Oct. 20-26
<i>Dabbling With Demons</i>	Gary Petty	Oct. 27-Nov. 2

■ New Spanish Language UCG Website Now Live

We are pleased to announce the Spanish language site <http://espanol.ucg.org> is live. This site hosts all the content of United Church of God, an International Association has produced in Spanish. You will find

booklets, *The Good News*, *United News*, Bible Study Course lessons, sermons, blogs, FAQs, *Beyond Today* programs, *BT Dailies*, Holy Day calendars and more new sections to come.

Follow United in Spanish, Iglesia de Dios Unida, una Asociación Internacional on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IglesiadedeDiosUnida and on Twitter @iduai.

Thanks to the Spanish team who made this possible to all the Spanish brethren in the world.



The new Spanish Website <http://espanol.ucg.org>

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

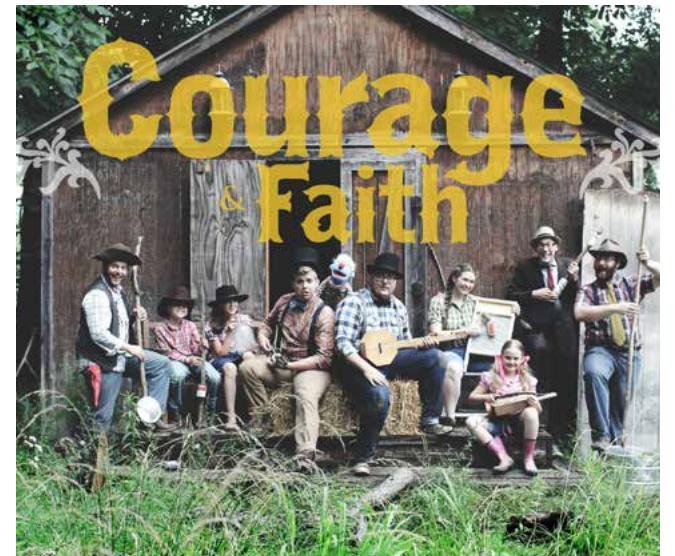
Gabriel García

Featured Links

■ Jelly: Courage and Faith

<http://www.ucg.org/ucg-short-film/christian-living/jelly-learns-courage-and-faith/>

A game of hide and seek quickly turns into a test of Jelly's courage and faith.



Jelly: Courage and Faith

UNITED NEWS

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 5:** Feast of Trumpets
- Sept. 14:** Day of Atonement
- Sept. 19-26:** Feast of Tabernacles & Eighth Day
- Oct. 27-29:** Area Ministerial Conference, Southern California
- Nov. 2:** Greensboro 50th Anniversary Celebration, North Carolina
- Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving
- Dec. 9-12:** Council of Elders Quarterly Meeting, Cincinnati
- Dec. 20-24:** Winter Family Weekend, Cincinnati
- Dec. 23-27:** Southwest Preteen Camp, Arizona
- Dec. 25-31:** Winter Camp, Wisconsin

WINTER FAMILY WEEKEND & CAMPS ANNOUNCEMENT

Winter Family Weekend 2013 Details Online

The winter family weekend site <http://wfw.ucg.org> is now online and ready for registrations. There's a link to the Great Wolf Lodge website to book your rooms and the discount code to receive the group rate. Like last year, rooms will be booked directly through the Great Wolf Lodge instead of through the Church. The winter family weekend is scheduled to take place Friday, Dec. 20 through Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Remember to Register for Winter Camp & Southwest Preteen Camp

The deadline for registering for the teen winter camp camp in Wisconsin (Dec. 25-31) is Dec. 1. The tuition for winter camp is \$265 if sent by Dec. 1, and \$280 if sent after that. Contact Dan Dowd at dan_dowd@ucg.org or visit <http://ucg.org> for more details and to find the application.

Preteen Southwest camp will be Dec. 23-27 in Arizona. The deadline for application is Oct. 18, and tuition varies by age group. Contact Nathan Ekama at n_ekama@yahoo.com for more info or visit <http://ucg.org> for further details on price, location and to download the application for attending.



UNITED STATISTICS

Church Location Requests

