

UNITED NEWS



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

Vol. 22, No. 6

UCG.ORG/MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

ABC Welcome Picnic and Orientation

by Frank Dunkle and Chelsea Dawe

Ambassador Bible College faculty and alumni welcomed 23 new students to its 18th class with a wild-West-themed picnic on Sunday, Aug. 28. The alumni-hosted event began with a welcome from ABC coordinator Frank Dunkle, followed by a “people scavenger hunt” that included students, faculty and alumni. Participants were issued the challenge of finding a different individual to fulfill every requirement on their scavenger list, such as those who had “ridden a horse” or those who “can name the year the California Gold Rush began.”

Participants also enjoyed a delicious lunch of barbecued chicken and beef, mac and cheese, and coleslaw. During the lunch break, students also had the opportunity to pose for a picture in a photo booth complete with Western costumes and props.

The next activity was the novelty olympics, which tested their skills in speed, balance, cooperation, quick thinking and

even quick eating, as well as providing many opportunities for a good laugh!

The next and final event of the picnic was a delicious cobbler dessert. Many of the students, faculty and alumni stayed for fellowship with each other long after their dessert was gone!

On Monday, Aug. 29, the students gathered in the ABC classroom for orientation. The resident faculty explained policies and procedures and also encouraged students to make the most of this special opportunity. UCG president Victor Kubik added that preparing for future service is an important part of the ABC mission. During the afternoon, the new students took a tour of the home office, enjoyed having a dessert social with the staff, and then met with choir director Ken Shoemaker to begin the process of forming this year’s choir.

An exciting school year is off to a positive start! The ABC faculty and alumni look forward to getting to know the newest class. **UN**



Top left: New ABC students take part in games at the picnic.

Top right: Sean Kelly runs in the relay races while other students and alumni cheer on their teams.

Bottom: Students at the start of ABC during orientation.

Photos by Linda Merrick and Jonathan Magee

Plan Now to Have the Best Spiritual Feast Ever!



When we plan to have the best spiritual Feast ever we can be on the correct path that God wants us to be on.

by Randy Urwiller

The Feast of Tabernacles and the Eighth Day are only weeks away! By now we have made our travel arrangements and our housing reservations. And we’ll soon finish our final preparations before setting

out. But have we planned to study the importance of these Holy Days to God’s plan of salvation? We should.

Our observance of the Holy Days will be more meaningful to us spiritually when we plan ahead and study their significance before the Feast occurs.

The seven-day Feast of Tabernacles pictures Jesus Christ’s reign upon the earth for 1,000 years in the Kingdom of God. His millennial reign will establish true peace upon the earth!

Immediately following the seventh day of the Feast is the Eighth Day. This holy day celebrates the culmination of God’s plan of salvation, the time when God will physically resurrect the billions of people who died without knowing Him or understanding His gospel. He’ll give every person the opportunity to choose eternal life.

We greatly anticipate keeping the Feast each year, and we yearn for Christ’s return to establish the Kingdom. But living in the world can dull our appreciation for the reality of God’s Holy Days if we observe the

Feast superficially, with physical pleasures primarily on our mind! We can avoid making this mistake when we prepare ourselves spiritually for keeping the Feast.

God in His infinite wisdom and love created His Holy Days to help us stay focused on our only hope for salvation, Jesus Christ. Christ always points us to the Father. To have a spiritually enriching Feast, we need to prepare spiritually.

So before packing your luggage for the Feast, plan to review your understanding of the Holy Days. Study the Bible. Review Church literature. Pray for deeper understanding. Meditate. Share your thoughts with others and create more interest in the meaning of God’s Holy Days. Visualize what life will be like for the physical inhabitants of God’s Kingdom and for us, the saints serving there as kings and priests.

For example, visualize how unlike this present world life in God’s Kingdom will be. God inspired Isaiah to write: “The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing

child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den” (Isaiah 11:7-8).

Do you see it? Lions lazily chewing straw like oxen! Cows and bears grazing in pastures green! Can you hear the delighted squeals of the toddler as a cobra slides through her fingers and tickles her toes! So unlike our “fang and claw” world today!

God in His infinite wisdom and love created His Holy Days to help us stay focused on our only hope for salvation, Jesus Christ.

We Can Visualize More

Parents will not know the despair of infant mortality, and they will watch their children and grandchildren thrive. Large families will be the norm, and generations of family members will share many happy years together. The elderly will not be

Please see page 19



INSIDE UNITED NEWS

Challenger West Report	2
Challenger East Report	2
Forward! Cry Aloud or Sigh and Cry?	3
From the Council: Stop, Look, Listen!	3

Don't Forget to Support the Festival Fund	4
The Good News in United News	5
The Call of the Trumpet	5
The War Has Already Been Won	5
How to Get the Most Out of This Feast	6
Break Down Barriers	6

Doing Right When Everybody's Not	7
Leadership Conference in Australia	8
Visit to Angola	8
Announcements	9
UYC 2016 Camp Reports	11
Honoring Retiring Ministry	20

BY THE NUMBERS

456

The amount of campers at all UYC teen camps in the United States.

UYC 2016 Reports

Challenger West

The Challenger West leadership program for young adults completed its fifth successful season in the Wind River Wilderness near Dubois, Wyoming, Aug. 7-16. The program had 14 participants from across the United States and two from Australia. The five staff this year were Matthew and Lisa Fenchel, Andrew and Tiffany Beattie, and Lynette Fenchel as medical staff. Wil and Sue Berg once again hosted the staff during the scouting week and provided critical base-camp support to the program in the months leading up to departure and for first-day orientation.

The program consisted of backpacking, camping, rock-climbing, orienteering, rappelling and fishing at 10,000-plus feet in elevation. The purpose of the program is to mentor spiritually committed young adults in biblical leadership and service. Participants were required to read *Discover Your True North* before coming on the program, which focuses on leadership through character development. Each participant had a chance to lead a group for a day, and each day consisted of lead-

ership mentoring, group dynamics and debriefing. Each participant also gave a small talk on some spiritual or leadership lesson during the week.

Every day featured a staff-led Bible-discussion that focused on key leaders in the Bible and how they did (or did not) demonstrate the character of leadership in certain events of their lives.

The program was blessed with a terrific group of young adults. They threw themselves into every aspect of the program, accepted the challenges—of which there were a variety—and enjoyed the successes of perseverance. They were an excellent example of teamwork and looking for opportunities for leadership development. In addition to a great rock-climbing site, the Beatties located a second, more difficult rappelling site that no one shied away from!

Fishing on Ross Lake was excellent, and the group was blessed with a generous fish-fry on the last night in the wilderness, with several very large trout taken. Camping on Ross Lake was nearly “millennial”



Photo by Tiffany Beattie

with waterfalls coming off of glaciers and towering mountainsides.

New this year were two group meals made from fresh ingredients, which made for an enjoyable first meal after the initial hike, and then again on the Sabbath. (Most food taken up is freeze-dried, to save on weight.) Also a “first” for the program was ice—all around our tents on Friday morning, due to a vigorous hail shower during the night! It made for a beautiful scene at

sunrise on the mountain meadow.

The program finished with a 10-mile hike from south Ross Lake back to the trailhead—and then a delicious dinner of wild-game goulash prepared by Mrs. Berg.

The initial feedback from all participants was very positive. The staff tries to improve the program each time, and we look forward to offering an even better program in 2018!

Matthew Fenchel

Challenger East

A dozen young adult challengers gathered around the campfire along Little Beaver Creek in the Appalachian Mountains of eastern Ohio. They took turns reciting Psalms one night and poems another as their peers contemplated the flickering flames and listened attentively. Campfire time is reflection time at Challenger East.

These chosen few came to learn to do things with their hands—things like flint-knapping (also known as arrowhead and stone tool making), fire-starting with the pioneers’ flint and steel, fly-tying and then fly-fishing with their own flies, cooking from scratch over the campfire in cast iron, carving longbows, and the art of on-the-spot sketching in their journals.

The weather carried its own hot, humid challenge, so the Challenger East resident naturalist, Matthew Smith, offered

a “cool” river hike. Using seine nets, the participants netted, identified and released numerous small fish of various species, as well as crustaceans and insects. Challengers came away with the wisdom of new skills and confidence.

The Challenger (East and West) program’s main purpose is the spiritual challenge. The 2016 theme for East was “The Faith Once Delivered.” The morning leadership-focused messages by a male staff member and the evening Bible classes and discussions had a profound impact.

Challenger East director Randy Stiver and assistant director Dan Dowd presented segments on the history of God’s true Church from the time of the 12 apostles to the present. Understanding the sobering challenges faced by all those generations of God’s people provided powerful insight



Photo by Jennifer Iiams

for this year’s participants who desire to overcome the false values of today’s world.

If you’re interested in this kind of a personal challenge, remember that Challeng-

er East will seek a few more good young adult men and women for 2017. We hope to see you there!

Randy Stiver



Local Church UPDATES

Troyer’s Hollow Weekend

A weekend in the midst of nature with no cell service and bullfrogs croaking in the river is a perfect getaway.

On June 24-26, the North Canton congregation held their annual camping weekend at Troyer’s Hollow in northern Ohio. There were 50 adults and children in attendance at the weekend, and those who came slept in tents and ate most

meals together.

The overall theme focused on God’s plan, God’s way, and God’s Church. Although this is a family activity, the focus of the Bible studies and seminars were geared toward young adults. A Bible study titled “How to Give an Answer to the Hope That Lies Within You” started off the weekend on Friday evening.

The Sabbath was relaxing in this deep valley amongst giant trees. Cowboy coffee, brewed over the campfire by pastor Randy Stiver, was shared with all who were able to handle the strong drink that was as thick as mud in some sips, yet delicious.

The Sabbath services included two split sermons. Randy Stiver gave the first sermon that focused on God’s plan. John Miller gave the second sermon and he focused his on God’s way. After services there was a potluck and a seminar about Church history given by Mr. Stiver. After dark some of the young adults enjoyed some time stargazing. Many stars and

constellations were seen in the remote area where there are hardly any lights.

On Sunday morning there was a pancake social with a seminar about “How to Give an Answer” following. In this particular seminar the young adults were encouraged to role-play situations where they had to give an answer to coworkers, friends, family, etc. about their beliefs. The young adults involved in these activities all agreed this was very helpful in preparing them for the future encounters they may have. Overall, the weekend was a success.

Linda Merrick



VICTOR KUBIK
President

As I travel with our *Beyond Today* team to cities for our *America: The Time Is Now!* presentations, it is humbling, even marvelous, to watch the faces of new people as they hear a biblical message that both cautions and encourages. We are indeed delivering a warning message.

Sometimes we're asked about our "warning message." What is it? The Bible clearly declares: "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). We have that precious prophetic message from the biblical prophets, apostles and even Jesus Himself, which we strongly proclaim today.

But our warning message is far more than a graphic description of the prophesied terrible events that are to come. Our warning message focuses on the consequences of sin, the collective result of breaking or ignoring what God com-

Cry Aloud or Sigh and Cry?

mands all to do. Peter tells us what the outcome, the purpose, of biblical prophecy is: "I now write to you . . . that you may be mindful of the words spoken before by the holy prophets" (2 Peter 3:1-2).

Peter goes on with a description that easily fits with events of our day: "Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts" (1 Peter 3:3). He fearlessly writes that on the prophesied Day of the Lord that the works of man "will be burned up" (1 Peter 3:10).

So what is our present duty? "Therefore, since all these things [of our present age] will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (1 Peter 3:11). What should we be doing?

Our warning message centers on what presently makes up humanity's hearts and minds. It is a warning about sin. It is a warning about what the consequences of what happens when repentance is scorned and sin is championed.

So here we ask: What is God's will in all of this? Peter tells us: God "is *not* willing that *any* should perish but that *all* should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9, emphasis added throughout).



Do not be afraid of the choices of this world. Stand up and cry aloud and speak the truth.

What Does This Mean?

Directly quoting Jesus, the apostle John declared: "For God so loved the world

Please see page 19

From The COUN



by Robin Webber

Many years ago, my wife and I learned a valuable life-changing lesson while watching the Jane Austen-inspired film titled *Sense and Sensibility*. Austen's novel transports us to 19th century England, in which there was a notable gentility and respect towards others whose lives you entered by extending a gracious bow or curtsy and holding your peace until it was your turn to verbally engage. We were left with the thought of how different our world might be if people in a figurative sense bowed more and talked less and offered grace and dignity to those we encounter.

Since that initial viewing I've had decades to put this concept into practice, whether in marriage, the ministry, or eight years on the Council of Elders. Let's face

Stop, Look and Listen!

it—I've been in a target-rich environment at every turn. Have I succeeded yet? No, not at all! I'm still a work in motion. I'm reminded of the apostle Paul's words: "Not that I have already obtained, or am already perfected; but I press on" (Philippians 3:12). But it's my desire to create an atmosphere that offers dignity and respect to each personal interaction.

All of us are in the same boat, and sometimes our entrances and exits into lives of others are rocky due to our lapses towards practicing the simple and yet profound admonition discovered in James 1:19, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." As Christians, each of us desire to be individuals that tear down proverbial walls and build bridges of understanding that enhance relationships—but how often do we put foot in mouth because we simply haven't put our heart in our ears and kept it there? The reality is that most of us are communication-impaired from lack of education, training and, sometimes unfortunately, raw human nature. The coarseness of talking over one another, getting the last word in or ignoring the individual altogether has dramatically multiplied in our culture and cannot help but impact our interpersonal skills as Christians.

How then do we learn to "bow more and talk less"? Oh yes, please don't misun-



derstand: We need to speak our piece. But when, where and how? To help figure it out, let's focus on some basic instructions our parents gave us when learning to cross a street. These loving safe guards are relative to avoiding personal injury to others and us when it comes to communication. Remember being taught: "Stop, look, and listen. Then look the other way one more time, and then cross." Let's apply these

Please see page 22

United News (ISSN 1088-8020) is published 7 times per year (in January, February, March, May, July, September, November) by the United Church of God, an *International Association*, 555 Technecenter Dr., Milford, OH 45150. © 2016 United Church of God, an *International Association*. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

UCGIA Council of Elders: Scott Ashley, Bill Bradford, Aaron Dean, Bob Dick, John Elliott, Mark Mickelson, Jorge de Campos, Mario Seiglie, Rex Sexton, Donald Ward, Anthony Wasilkoff, Robin Webber

President: Victor Kubik

Media and Communications Services Manager: Peter Eddington

Managing Editor: Mitchell Moss

Assistant Editor: Linda Merrick

Copy Editor: Milan Bizic

Doctrinal reviewers: Arthur Suckling, Chuck Zimmerman, Gerald Seelig

Web-first article doctrinal team: Gerald Seelig, Arthur Suckling, John LaBissoniere, Chris Rowland

Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted. **Subscriptions:** *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, an *International Association*, and their coworkers. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News*, United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or to one of the international addresses below.

Address changes: POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Mission Statement: The mission of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples.

International addresses:

AFRICA & ASIA (except as listed below): United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org
AUSTRALIA: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia. Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

BENELUX countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg): P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020 8386 8467 Fax: 020 8386 1999

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 614-1234, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 614-1749 E-mail: info@ucg.ca

CAMEROON: United Church of God Cameroon, BP 10322

Béssengue, Douala Cameroon.

OTHER FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie—France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.

CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

EAST AFRICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): United Church of God—East Africa, P.O. Box 75261, Nairobi 00200 Kenya. E-mail: kenya@ucg.org

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@gutenachrichten.org

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24121 Bergamo Centro, Italy. Phone/Fax: (+39) 035 4523573. E-mail: info@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Phone: +265 999 823 523. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763

NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos,

Nigeria. Phone: 803-323-3193. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org

PHILIPPINES: Philippines: P.O. Box 4774, MCPO, 1287 Makati City, Philippines. Cell/text: +63 918-904-4444. Website: www.ucg.org.ph. E-mail: info@ucg.org.ph

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 541027. Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 U.S.A. E-mail: norden@ucg.org.

SINGAPORE: United Church of God, P.O. Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia.

SOUTH AFRICA (and Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland only): United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 1181 Tzaneen 0850. Phone: (+27) 0797259453. E-Mail: RSA@ucg.org

SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS: Iglesia de Dios Unida, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. Phone: (513) 576-9796

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 518, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

SWITZERLAND: Phone: 49 228 945 4636. Website: http://www.vkg.org

ALL OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONS NOT LISTED: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076,

Kitwe, Zambia. Phone: (0026)0966925840. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 928, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011716273. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

Internet access on your computer:
The United Church of God, an International Association, has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address www.ucg.org gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News*, as well as our booklets. The address www.ucg.ca accesses the Church's Canadian website, www.ucg.org.au the Australian website, www.labuonanotizia.org the Italian website, www.goodnews.org.uk the British Isles website, www.ucg.org.ph the Philippines website, www.ucgeastafrica.org the Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda site and http://south-africa.ucg.org the Southern Africa website.

Don't Forget to Support the Festival Fund

by Rick Shabi

The Feast of Tabernacles is the highlight of the year for many. It is a great blessing to be able to gather together at Feast sites around the world to picture the coming millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

A lot of planning goes into preparing the Feast every year. Those involved are happy to dedicate their time, effort and expertise, and the ministry looks to God as they prepare messages for our spiritual food.

But the Feast costs a lot of money. Hall rentals, equipment rentals, second tithe assistance for those who don't have adequate funds, printing expenses, activities expenses and more add up to a lot.

We need your help in being able to provide the Feast venues that enhance our celebration. Please consider sending a portion of your second tithe to help support the Feast. If you have any questions contact your pastor or the treasurer, Rick Shabi, at any time. **UN**

Use the form below to accompany a check or money order.
In the memo of your check or money order write: **Festival Fund.**
Send slip with the money order or check to:
United Church of God, PO Box 541027 Cincinnati, OH 45255

2016 Festival Fund

In order to provide meeting places and financial assistance for people otherwise unable to afford to attend the Feast, **U.S.** members are asked to contribute a portion of their festival tithe to help with these expenses. **Canadian** members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the space below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Beyond Today* label.
- Make your check payable to United Church of God and label it "Festival Fund."
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, in one of the labeled reply envelopes mailed to you from the home office.
- Affix postage and mail.

Your PIN:

U _ _ _ _ _

Donation Amount Enclosed: \$

Name

Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Going Outside the United States for the Feast?

You'll Need to Know These Holy Day Offering Procedures

by Rick Shabi

There's a lot of excitement and planning that accompanies the Feast of Tabernacles. When you are going to a Feast site outside the United States, in addition to travel plans, hotels, and currency exchange, you might want to consider how and when to make your Holy Day offerings, if you would like your contribution to be included in your year-end receipt for tax deduction purposes.

Each year, the question arises from U.S. members travelling to foreign Feast sites (including Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean) whether they should mail in their Holy Day offerings to the home office or if they should contribute directly at the Feast site they are attending.

It comes down to this: If U.S. members travelling abroad want their Holy Day offerings to be included in their end-of-year donation receipt, they should mail their offerings directly to the home office in Cincinnati, before or after the Feast.

United States law states that only contributions to the Church in the United States are tax-deductible. Contributions

to foreign church organizations (which include donations at foreign Feast sites) cannot be taken as tax deductions, and the Church cannot issue donation receipts on those offerings.

So by mailing your Holy Day offerings to the home office, your contributions will be appropriately receipted and reported to the IRS, allowing you to take a tax deduction at year end.

Of course, so as not to "appear before the Lord empty-handed," and out of courtesy to the international area hosting the Feast where you attend, please consider giving some of your offering (preferably in the local currency) on the Holy Days at the site you attend.

To summarize: Only those offerings received at the home office can and will appear on your U.S. donation receipt for tax purposes. Any offering given at an international Feast site will be kept in the country of donation, and no donation receipt will be issued for those funds.

If you have any questions on this long-standing Church policy, please be sure to contact us through your pastor. **UN**



Local Church UPDATES

Portland Members Dig for Fossils

On the weekend of June 17-19, brethren from the Portland and Bend congregations gathered in the small town of Fossil, Oregon, for the first ever Family Geology Weekend. Armed with trowels, claw hammers, small picks, and putty knives, they arrived for a weekend of camping, digging, and learning about ancient history.

Fossil, Oregon, is a town built on an ancient lake or ocean bed and is known worldwide as a great place to dig for leaf, plants, and small aquatic animal fossils buried in layers of sedimentary rock. It is one of the few places in the U.S. where digging for fossils on public land is allowed.

The weekend had a bit of a wet start, unusual for the Oregon desert country. Sabbath services were held in a motel room filled with camping chairs. Portland pastor Rex Sexton gave a Bible study focusing on how the fossil record is not only compatible with the biblical account of creation, but provides support for Scripture rather than refuting it.

Following the study, members went to the nearby Paleo Center to view fossils and hear a presentation on the types of fossils in the area. Sabbath afternoon everyone went on an educational hike at the nearby Clarno Unit of the John Day Fossil Beds. It made for a beautiful Sabbath afternoon stroll surrounded by immense rock palisades displaying various layers of different types of rock formations, some with petrified trees and other fossils protruding out.

It was a vivid reminder to everyone of the majesty of God's creation.

Following a relaxing evening around the campfire, members rose early on Sunday to pack their cars and head over to the fossil bed located behind Fossil High School. There, armed with small digging tools, they set to work searching for evidence of ancient plants. Some diggers worked aggressively on the hillside uncovering layers of sedimentary rock, while others carefully split the layers apart to uncover the fossils. The dig was successful with nearly every participant managing to dig up at least one fossil. The weekend was a great way to bring brethren together and provide them an opportunity for a hands on lesson to gain a deeper appreciation for creation and Bible history.

Stephanie Lippincott



The Call of the Trumpet

Photo by Jessica Ruscello/Unsplash



by Josh Lamoureux

“The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

A day of rejoicing is just around the corner! The Feast of Trumpets reminds us of that awesome prophetic event, when Jesus Christ returns at the sound of a trumpet to begin the process of establishing His Kingdom on earth (Revelation 11:15). This annual Holy Day is greatly anticipated by us in the Church. It ushers in a festival season rich with meaning and experiences. Every year we can be refilled with hope as our focus is set towards the climax of God’s blueprint for mankind. But this

day does not only point us towards the future, it also holds much meaning for our present walk with God as well.

During the period that the Bible was written, trumpets were often used to communicate a message. Throughout the Old Testament and books of prophecy we read of many times that trumpets were used to tell the nation of impending war, of coming joy, the onset of peace, a warning of destruction and much more. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16, the trumpet of God symbolizes a tool used to communicate God’s message. Observance of the Feast of Trumpets should allow us to spend time thinking about the second coming of Christ. Where will we be spiritually on the

day that He returns? Will we be at a place in our lives where we are willing and ready to respond to the call of the trumpet?

Certainly in this forthcoming moment, God will be sending a message to all of the earth, but we must not forget that God is communicating to us right now! It is a message of importance for all mankind. Choosing to listen, believe and respond allows us to take part in the special events listed in the end of the Book.

In the exciting yet fearful events to take place during the end times, it’s hard to imagine that the majority of people will not rejoice in the second coming of the Messiah (Revelation 16:9, 11, 14). Our joy in the return of our Savior should be tempered with the realization that there are many who still have yet to turn their hearts to God. Are we responding to the call of God’s trumpet in such a way that this message is able to be shared through us as well? Are we mimicking Christ by sounding our own trumpet and communicating the message of God to others?

As we anticipate the Feast of Trumpets, we should be reminded of God’s commission to His followers on earth (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8). We still have much work to do in this world, along with countless people to reach. Our wish should be for

many to be standing with us at the return of Jesus Christ, just as this day that we are anticipating pictures. As we know, this is also the desire of our Heavenly Father (2 Timothy 2:4, 1 Peter 3:9).

Are we actively involved in the proclamation of the gospel to mankind? Are we letting God use us as a tool in His plan for mankind? Our behavior and words should all point back to Him. Our lifestyles should reflect the true Light! We should be looking for, and using, opportunities God gives us personally and as a Church to share the Word of God with others. Doing this helps us be faithful stewards who wait for the Master to return (Matthew 25:14-30).

While we wait for the call of the trumpet in the future, we should ask ourselves what we are doing to be that trumpet call of God’s message right now. We have been called for a great purpose, to be firstfruits, or “leading examples” of God’s way of life. It’s our great calling to set a standard for others to see, to proclaim the way of God and to help the world follow it. Let us answer this message from above, and reflect the call of the trumpet in our own lives as the day of Jesus Christ’s return quickly approaches (Zephaniah 1:14)! **UN**

The War Has Already Been Won Christ Is and Will Be Victorious

by Aaron Creech

When a Christian is considering baptism one set of scriptures often turned to is Luke 14:31: “Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” This verse reminds us we must be fully committed when we enter into baptism with God.

But this story also has an interesting lesson that is tied to the Day of Atonement. The Day of Atonement represents when Satan will finally be locked away for 1,000 years so that the Millennial reign of Christ can begin without the influence of Satan. But unlike human wars we already know who is going to win. We don’t have to be like the king in Luke 14, trying to decide whether our side will win. If we commit to God’s side we are assured of victory.

Christ’s victory and binding of Satan is a forgone conclusion and really more a formality than a battle. We know God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and in Revelation 20 we see God shows definitively that Satan will be defeated and bound. Satan knows he has a short time before he will be defeated (Revelation 12:12). Even the demons know and admit that their defeat is going to be the outcome (Matthew 8:29). It is encouraging and the Day of Atonement is a great reminder that the outcome is decided, Satan will be defeated and the world will be free from his influence.

The day pictures a time very shortly after the return of Christ when He fully establishes His Kingdom on earth by removing the previous leader, Satan the devil. The removal of Satan is the true sign of the end of his reign and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

But really, the defeat of Satan has already taken place as well. As much as the Day of Atonement pictures the removal of Satan from the world, God the Father and Jesus Christ have taken steps to

defeat Satan in our lives already. We don’t have to wait until the future fulfillment of the Day of Atonement to be released from Satan. Christ already came down and defeated Satan as a human to free us from him. Hebrews 2:14 tells us, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Through Christ’s perfect life, death, and resurrection Satan has been defeated.

When Christ returns to defeat Satan and have him bound for 1,000 years He will do it as a spirit being. But Christ came as a physical human being and defeated Satan nearly 2,000 years ago. The word “destroy” in verse 14 actually means to disarm or remove. Christ came and disarmed Satan. He took away his power over us. Mankind will have to wait until Satan is removed from the world, but we can take advantage of him being disarmed in our lives right now. We may live in a world that is deceived and led by Satan, but you and I have been freed, and Satan has been



Photo by Kayley Dykstra/Unsplash

defeated for us already. He knows it, his followers know it, Christ knows it, and the Father knows it. Do we know it?

In Matthew 28:18 Christ said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Our King is already in control. Our King is not going to war without being sure of the victory, we can be confident about that. We know what side is going to win. We know what side has already won. The Father and Son have already won, and they are going to win again. We can be and will be victorious with them as well. **UN**

How to Get the Most Out of This Feast

by Jacob Mammen

You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations (Leviticus 23:41).

I'm going to pose a simple question to you. Be warned: I feel like the more time you spend thinking and reflecting on it the more complex it might get. The question is simply this: Will you be getting the most out of your Feast experience this year? I hope the quick answer for all of us is yes! Let's park that thought for a bit, and we'll revisit it again later.

I will be real with you. I'm a reflector of past Feast experiences—or any experience really! I like to think about what went well and what did not. There are Feasts that I didn't have the right frame of mind to really get anything out of it. Reflecting on those Feasts I realized I viewed the Feast time as solely as a "vacation" and a time to socialize and to have the most fun ever. Socializing and having fun are wonderful parts of the Feast, but it shouldn't be the overarching reasons we go.

As I reflected on those Feasts where I was present only in body and not present completely spiritually, I began to wonder: "Was the only time I bowed my head to pray at the beginning and end of services?" "Did I really only open God's Holy Word during services and that's it?" "Wow, did I really go the entire Feast and not have any alone time with my Creator and Savior and enter their Holy presence simply because I was too busy?"

I'm being honest with you folks, and I

hope in like manner you are being honest with yourselves! Do we spend time praying on our knees, reading the Bible or other spiritual material, do we meditate and enter Holy presence by spending some quality alone time with God and Jesus Christ? Are we serving? Are we being holy examples? Are we getting the most out of the Feast? Folks, these are tough questions to answer, and even I have a hard time answering these questions because I might not like the honest answer, but I do ask myself these questions. I invite you to not only ask them, but to answer them honestly. There's comfort knowing that we are only telling God what He already knows, but He appreciates that, because He can work with that.

Thankfully, as I reflected on my shortcomings from prior Feasts long ago I realized that I needed to make some changes or I'll be continually missing out! Now those changes didn't all happen the next Feast. But it started with the next one, and I continued to build upon those changes year after year. I tried to deepen my understanding of the holy text, pray more, spend alone time with God, serve more. This year I hope to learn the concept of being able to be served, as it's been a tough year for me, as well as my family! I made, and I'm continuing to make, small changes consistently, with conviction, as I continue to experience and see how powerful and life altering the Feast is. It can be life altering for everyone if we put in an honest effort. Friends, these small



Photo by Amber Duran

Sabbath school is a great way to serve at the Feast. This photo was taken at the 2015 Feast in Branson, Missouri.

changes will begin to add up over time and what you'll experience is something that's incredible and real!

These days at the Feast, some might see me and think I might be a bit of a loner. That's fine, but it's during these times that I have time to get some powerful one-on-one time with God and Jesus. Maybe it's during a stroll at sunrise or sunset on the beach, in a forest, on top of a mountain, or even alone in a room while people are out. Whatever the backdrop, it's time I enjoy where I can just sit, think, and meditate on the greater meanings of my personal experiences or the great lessons from my personal shortcomings. Sometimes I bring along my Bible and stop to read a bit. Then I continue walking and reflect on what I just read! Other times there's not a lot of talking involved, and that's okay. I'm simply enjoying being in the presence of God at a Feast location with

its own unique beauty.

Maybe this Feast is the Feast you find time to pray a little more. Maybe this Feast is the Feast where you really dive into God's Word and learn more about His plan for you. Maybe you'll search out more opportunities to serve. Maybe you'll take a little time to take a stroll and meditate and reflect. And as with any Feast, have a ball! Enjoy the scenery, the socializing, the great food, and all the activities. But let's all make an honest effort to make this Feast our most spiritually memorable one yet.

To revisit the opening question, "Will you be getting the most out of the Feast?" I ask you this: Will you? Make it a reality by choosing to act on those hopes and desires of getting the most out of the Feast. At the end of the day, while we are to enjoy these Holy Days, they are not Feasts unto ourselves, but to God. **UN**

Break Down the Barriers at the Feast

by Linda Merrick

There have been multiple times at the Feast of Tabernacles or other places where I thought to myself, "I wish I talked to that person." I have noticed that I have built walls or barriers around myself and have a hard time getting to know people sometimes.

One time someone brought it to my attention that these walls were hindering me and my relationships. While standing around at the family dance at the Winter Family Weekend a person I know came up to me to talk to me. I think he genuinely wanted to get to know me a little better, but my body language was tense and for some reason I was ready to bolt from the conversation. I did not feel threatened by this person. To this day I am not sure why I felt this way in that moment. Well, he noticed that I was struggling with the conversation and pointed it out to me. I've never had anyone point out this fact before in a middle of a conversation. I also noticed that my body was literally facing away from him, and I was giving short answers to his questions. When I noticed this I physically moved my feet so they pointed towards him, made myself more engaged in the conversation

and made sure to ask him questions too. At the end of our conversation before we parted ways, he praised my conversational ability.

After this I realized something had to change within me that I needed to put myself out there more and break down these 10-foot walls I had built around myself. He was not the only person I had these "ready to run with short answers" type of conversations with. I never doubted my ability to have a good conversation. In fact I am fully capable of conversing with those I feel comfortable with and consider my friends. The difference here was that for some reason I didn't feel comfortable around him. The reality was that I just didn't know him and needed to get to know him.

When we go to the Feast of Tabernacles we must focus on getting to know people. These people are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We must break down these barriers that hinder us from being unified with the family of God. Now I am not saying we must share our life story or become instant best friends with every single person we meet. There are per-



Photo by Elizabetta Foco/Unsplash

Don't let your barriers get in the way of a great friendship with your brother or sister in Christ.

sonality clashes. But you also might be surprised that the one person you never thought you could be friends with might actually become your best friend some day. We must let our guard down just a little if we are ever going to connect and cultivate that sense of community.

Here are some points to help you to connect to others at the Feast:

Go Up to Someone New

This is easy for some, and if it is easy for you then maybe you can make it a point to meet several new people at the Feast. If you struggle with social anxieties then maybe you can set a goal of a smaller number of

people. If you are too shy or overwhelmed to even go up to one new person, it might help to find someone you already know and then find a new person to talk to with your friend. If you are in a group of people and someone else is not contributing much to the conversation, bring them into it. Ask them questions. Let them share their thoughts on the topic. This is an easy way to get to know people.

Be open and let your guard down some. Consider how open you are to new people. Do not share every detail of your life, but if you do not share some things then

Please see page 21

Doing Right, When Everybody's Not

■ To parents of teens: Welcome to this ongoing series of articles written with you in mind. These “hot topic” articles will specifically address current cultural issues and the challenges that you may be facing as a family and, most importantly, how to deal successfully with them in light of the Bible.

by Gary Smith

One of the challenges we must face in the Christian life is that by coming to know the truths of the Bible we are at times forced to make a choice in certain situations. We know what's right, but if we choose to do what is right, we will stand out from the world around us. From a human perspective, it is hard to do what is right when everyone else is not.

This is a difficulty for all Christians, but it is an especially a serious challenge for children and teens.

Pressure to Conform for Adults and Young People

How do we deal with the pressure to conform as adults?

As an adult, you have become more adept at rejecting negative influences, pressures and temptations. You worry far less what others think when you refuse to go along with the crowd on something you know to be wrong. The pressure to conform is still there, but being more mature, you have become more capable of resisting the pressure that is brought to bear. You don't worry about the opinion of others if you don't go along with something you know to be wrong.

We must look for opportunities to emphasize doing what's right in spite of peer pressure to go along with the crowd.

You have learned as a Christian the importance of putting God first at all times. It's a lesson the apostles learned shortly after the Day of Pentecost. They learned not to buckle to the pressure from the religious leaders of the day to cease preaching the gospel message entrusted to them by Jesus Christ. Their reply to those who admonished them to desist sharing the truth was, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:27-30).

The apostles were committed to preach the truth regardless of the consequences. They would not give in to religious or governmental pressure to conform. Like the apostles, you know that you are to do what is right even when others are not. But do your teens understand this fundamental principle of Christian living?

Conformity

Schoolchildren feel the need to conform—to be like everyone else—more than adults. I know this to be true from personal experience.

At the beginning of my teen years, I went to a school that had a mix of well-to-do and less well-to-do teens. In that time there was a definite unwritten dress code among my peers. There were certain items of clothing that were popular and beyond the financial reach of the less moneyed families. One such item was Levi's jeans. It was embarrassing to have to wear the knock-off brand of jeans from J.C. Penney or Sears instead of the coveted and popular Levi's. It was an especially difficult situation when someone would point out the “cheap” jeans. I didn't want to stand out, but when singled out by others it was embarrassing. What a relief it was when I received my first pair of Levi's and I could conform to my peers. In my early teens, I definitely felt the need to conform.

This pressure to conform is intense for teens because they are still maturing, and their values have not become fixed in their minds. The fact that teens do not have firmly established values emphasizes the need for parents to be imparting true values. God inspired Moses to emphasize the teaching approach we must take in Deuteronomy 6:7, “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” Our teaching is to take place on an ongoing basis. We must look for opportunities to emphasize doing what's right in spite of peer pressure to go along with the crowd.

Called to Do the Right Thing

Let's consider a few areas where Christians are called to do the right thing even as the rest of world doesn't follow the same path.

God's people, including teens, have been called to keep the seventh day holy. By observing the Sabbath you can miss out on jobs, friendships, sports, parties and the fun that can take place Friday nights and Saturdays. When you choose to keep the Sabbath, you automatically stand out in a non-Sabbath-keeping world, and there is great pressure to go along with the crowd. As a parent, you might talk to your children about how they are dealing with the pressures associated with the Sabbath.

You have been called to honor and reverence God's name. Christians are to honor God's name even when many around them



Photo by Nick Faltermeyer/Unsplash

Do not let peer pressure force you into buying a fancy pair of shoes or pair of jeans. What you wear does not define you. But who you spend time with can define you. Do not let those who are going down the wrong path take you with them.

regularly exclaim, “Oh, my God!” “God!” “Jesus!” and acronyms such as “OMG” in texts. Many haven't a clue about honoring and reverencing God's name. But once God opens one's mind to the truth of the Third Commandment, they make a habit of putting it into practice. You might ask your teens about how they are dealing with honoring God's name.

The Scriptures tell us: “Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God]” (Ephesians 5:4, Amplified Bible). Do your teens know what is right in the area of language? Are they willing to do what is right in a world where vulgarity and coarse language are commonplace?

Another area to consider in regard to our calling is that God wants us to “flee sexual immorality” (1 Corinthians 6:18). Our world is saturated with sexual immorality on every front, and it seems like everyone around is indulging in this area of life. But is that really acceptable? Even if many are involved in sexual sin in one form or another, what must you choose to do? You must choose to do what is right in God's sight. You must not conform to the world around us, but you must seek to conform to what is right and pleasing to God (Romans 12:2). You might talk to your teens about “fleeing sexual immorality.”

A final area you might consider in regard to doing what is right is in the area of alcohol and drugs. The over-consumption of alcohol and taking drugs in various forms is becoming more and more acceptable in society. The real challenge on alcohol and drug usage comes when friends are indulging in what you know to be wrong. You might ask your teens: “Does this come up? How are you handling this challenge?”

We have considered just a few areas in life in which we can face pressure to conform. There are many others where Christian values are challenged, so we have to be on alert to what is right and

be dedicated to follow through on what we know.

As we understand between right and wrong, we come to realize that we must do what is right (James 1:22-25). When we do choose this path we will be different and stand out. But we also have to come to the reality that being different is worth the suffering we may have because of the choice we made.

Why Do What's Right?

The Bible is encouraging, as it is full of examples of human beings, both young and old, who have stood up against pressure to conform to what they knew to be wrong. Why are there multiple examples recorded for us in the Bible? One reason is that these examples of doing what is right are there to show us the right path to follow. The second is to show the positive outcome of doing what is right and pleasing to God.

Let's Consider the Example of Daniel

The prophet Daniel and his friends are prime examples of people who chose to follow God even though it made them stand out. Everyone else was conforming to the path established by those in power.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were selected to be a part of a training program to serve in the government of Babylon. However, they learned that the food and drink offered in the program was unacceptable based upon the Bible.

What should they do? Why not just go along? No human being would know they did anything wrong. But they would know. Most importantly, God would know.

Daniel and his friends chose to put God first, rather than defile themselves with the king's food (Daniel 1:8). They chose to do what was right even though the others involved in the program took part in the food and drink offered.

The encouraging lesson is that God

Please see page 19

National Leadership Conference in Australia

by Victor Kubik

National Council chairman Doug Gray summed up the July 10-11 Australia Leadership Conference in the Gold Coast as follows:

“We believe the conference was a significant milestone in our development as we now plan how best to develop people for greater service—but more than that, to encourage and place trust in our leaders to take on and exercise the responsibilities of leadership. That is our great need as we endeavor to care for God’s people in this country.”

Well said!

More than 90 pastors, elders, deacons and leaders came together on the Gold Coast, Australia, for meetings focused on the future leadership of the Church at all levels. Whatever technology we have for connecting ourselves electronically, nothing can replace the personal face-to-face contact we have in meetings such as this. Delegates came from all of Australia, New Zealand, Tonga and the United States.

The convocation actually began on the Sabbath, as 200 were in attendance for Sabbath services. Bob Dick and I gave relevant messages for the conference: “Attitude” and “Five Mindsets of a Servant.”

The conference began Sunday morning, and the contents of the presentations went in two directions. One emphasized character and conversion in leaders, while the other was aimed at training and skills. I started with my first lecture that was titled “The High Calling of the Ministry.” It’s a title that was intended to fit all types of service in the Church. We didn’t want

this to be strictly a ministerial conference for ordained ministers, but neither did we want to be so generic about service subjects that they lost their relevance in how they applied to the future life and health of the congregation. While only a few will become ordained ministers, everyone in the room can serve and must have similar qualifications of working with people, sacrifice, hospitality and many other traits.

Bob Dick gave two side-by-side lectures about character and integrity. He explained the difference between the two and how they are vital attributes in a leader’s ability to serve effectively.

Bill Bradford spoke about doctrinal integrity and teaching just as you’ve been taught. The identity of our Church is our doctrines.

We had three presentations from our spouses: Beverly Kubik, Jenny Bradford and Dyanne Dick, on “Meaning of Help Meet,” “Appreciating One Another,” and “Words of Advice for Those Who Serve God’s People.”

Then I followed with how we plan to educate our future pastors and elders. Currently we have various programs with online training, a pastoral development program, seminars, regional conferences, the Labor in the Word program and ongoing pastoral education as well as Ambassador Bible College. From all these ways we already have of educating, we want to form a coordinated program with a faculty to provide the right tools to the right people.

We spoke about how we now, particularly in the United States, oversee smaller congregations with part-time and volunteer pastors. These ways differ from older models of one pastor over three or more



Mrs. Kubik, at the right, with attendees at the Gold Coast, Australia, leadership conference.

churches. We have tried this for the past five years with positive results and greater effectiveness. Some of that is already being implemented in smaller Australian congregations with favorable results.

Stephen Clark gave an interactive presentation about working with teens and children and spoke about society’s challenges to family and children. Tomorrow’s leaders need to be equipped to serve our young people in the Church.

We had a few question-and-answer sessions that evoked many good questions (and answers) about tomorrow’s leaders. We spoke at length about relationships and building Church community. The focus was on creating a sense of family and interdependence in our congregations. It was also about a Church that one could become involved in. Since we are so scattered, there was discussion on how we can all be tied together more. We were all happy to be with one another and talked about how we can continue to communicate and bond. We have not had a conference of this kind in Australia in eight years.

I was very encouraged by the positive exit survey that expressed gratitude for

learning how to handle specific congregational scenarios, lessons learned over the years, understanding the specific needs of the congregation, and how to meet them. Suggestions were given for future practical topics that included mental illness, marriage challenges, parent/child relations, addictions, interpersonal conflicts, unrest in congregations, dealing with conspiracy theories, young adults who have grown up in the Church but are going through “experimental years” as well as common biblical/doctrinal questions and answers.

From the outset of the conference, we stated that the purpose was to learn, socialize and share. We accomplished all three and more.

While many were involved in the planning and organization of the conference, I want to express special commendation for the dedicated work of the pastoral planning team of Doug Gray, Bill Bradford and Stephen Clark, as well as Ruth Root and Geoff Robertson for all their hours in preparation and technical support for this conference. **UN**

Jorge and Kathy de Campos visit Angola

by Kathy de Campos

Traveling to another country can be very challenging and can bring many concerns and questions. What is the culture of the people of the country, what are the customs, foods and diet, language spoken, weather, etc.?

Recently, I had the opportunity of traveling with my husband to Angola. It was my first trip there. I had heard so many positive things about the brethren in Angola from my husband Jorge, who has traveled there. I was excited, and nervous, to meet the brethren there. I did not expect the wonderful and inspiring experience that followed!

We arrived in Luanda, Angola, on July 14 and were met at the airport by Paulino João Foi, pastor and member of the Council of Elders of Igreja de Deus Mundial. He accompanied us on the airplane to Huambo. Huambo has the second largest congregation of brethren in Angola. We were taken to the local church, where we were met by many of the pastors, wives, and brethren. After a wonderful welcome

of prayers thanking God for our safe arrival and asking for His blessing on our visit and the activities planned, we greeted some of the brethren.

On Friday, as we arrived to the Church hall, brethren were singing hymns. The brethren really enjoy singing and were practicing new hymns. The program that was to follow was focused on developing leadership skills. During lunchtime, I had the opportunity to speak to some of the ladies, with Jorge translating. I was impressed with the beautiful dresses and how respectful they were to each other. After lunch, there was an additional leadership presentation followed by more hymn singing.

The Sabbath service began about 10 a.m. Services were held outdoors, as there were 346 brethren who attended from different areas of Huambo. Definitely, one of the highlights of the service was the different choirs that performed. Each choir had a beautiful outfit representing their congregation. We were also welcomed to the area by the regional director of reli-



Jorge and Kathy de Campos with brethren in Angola.

gious affairs of the province.

After the service concluded, we were asked to leave first. We went and stood in the back of the garden. As each row filed out, they came very orderly and greeted us. Everyone had the opportunity to greet us, and then each other. We greeted all 346 brethren! A delicious meal was served after services of meat, fried fish, greens, beans, corn meal, salad and fruit. After dinner, we had a Bible study and more hymn singing. The Sabbath was concluded by prayers for the profitable and uplift-

ing day! It was an inspiring day!

Leadership training and meetings continued on Sunday. I presented a session on how women in the Bible showed leadership qualities. I gave the examples of the Proverbs 31 woman, Esther, Ruth and the leadership qualities they had. We then broke into groups and discussed how we can show leadership in the Church, community and home. Each group of ladies appointed a spokesperson and then presented their ideas. Jorge led an interactive

Please see page 22

Announcements



Ella Tresa Henke

Born Dec. 24, 201



Krista Kasperson & Joel Martin

Engagement



Robert Charles Miller & Nancy Lee Campbell

Married on July 10, 2016



Royce & Evelyn Eslinger

70th Wedding Anniversary

Births

Ella Tressa Henke

Darren and Amber Henke are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first daughter, Ella Tresa Henke, on Dec. 24, 2015, at 12:15 a.m. She weighed 6 lbs., 3 oz., and was 19.75 in. long. Ella was 10 days overdue and was born in Amman, Jordan. Ella is loved by the entire family even if they have yet to meet her in person. She truly is our little blessing with a pleasant temperament and a bright smile.

Engagements

Krista Kasperson and Joel Martin

Krista Kasperson of Cheshire, Connecticut, and Joel Martin of Delaware, Ohio, are excited to announce their engagement. A July 2017 wedding is being planned in New Hampshire.

Weddings

Robert Charles Miller and Nancy Lee Campbell

On July 10, 2016, Robert Charles Miller and Nancy Lee Campbell were married at Robert's home near Freeport, Ohio. The ceremony was performed by their pastor, Len Martin. Robert was baptized in 1967, and Nancy was baptized in April of this year. Nancy knew much of God's truth through the years, and it all fell into place after finding the United Church of God.

The Millers honeymooned at Wayne National Forest. They live near Freeport and attend the Cambridge, Ohio, congregation.

Anniversaries

Royce and Evelyn Eslinger

After having courted on horseback and being separated during World War II, the date of May 4, 1946, began a remarkable journey for Royce Eslinger and Evelyn Price. On that day, they traveled to a jus-

tice of the peace who presided over their wedding vows. Their honeymoon was also simple. In spite of that, they have remained together for 70 eventful and fulfilling years.

Shortly after their marriage, they embarked on an intense study of the Bible. Then they sought to find a church that taught what they had learned. That search led to the Radio Church of God, and they were baptized in the summer of 1954. For four years, there was no local congregation for them to attend. Then the Springfield, Missouri, congregation started, and they began to make the 80-mile, one-way trip to services each week—something they are continuing to do even though they are now both in their 90s. The difference now is they have someone to drive them. They are happy their health allows them to attend church most weeks. They are also happy to have four generations of family who attend in Springfield as well as other congregations.

On their actual anniversary this year, the Eslingers celebrated by going out for lunch. The following Saturday evening, about 70 family members, friends and brethren gathered for a surprise celebration of their 70 years of married life. Everyone enjoyed a barbeque with salads, desserts and a special cake to commemorate the special occasion.

Eight members of the congregation traveled an hour and half to the farm after services to join the celebration. Forty-one family members were in attendance with some who came from Arkansas, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Canada to be there for the occasion. This included their four daughters, a son-in-law, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sister-in-law, nieces and a nephew. When asked how to have a long and happy married life, Mrs. Eslinger replied, "Hang in there and stick with it through hard times and good times." She adds that the real secret for a long marriage is to ask God for help every time there is a disagreement and you will be surprised at how much better you feel!

Ron and Jean Peterson

Ron and Jean Peterson were honored in a surprise 65th wedding anniversary party



Ron & Jean Peterson

65th Wedding Anniversary

on June 5, 2016, in Lakeland, Florida.

The Petersons were married when Ron came home from the Navy in 1951. All seven of their children were present, as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, church brethren and friends—114 altogether.

The Peterson family prepared and catered the whole event with daughter-in-law Charlene responsible for cooking and coordinating the whole affair. Eldest son Reg Peterson's toast noted that music has been a big part of the heritage that Ron and Jean have given their children, including a family band. He said the legacy of Ron and Jean was more than talented musical children: It was the memories, character, traditions and example of service they provided. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson attend the Plant City, Florida, Living Church of God congregation, where Ron serves as an elder. Their daughter Brenda Wendling, attends the Fort Wayne, Indiana, United Church of God congregation.

Obituaries

Payton Hendricks

Payton Hendricks, member of the Nashville congregation, died May 16, 2016, at age 94 from complications of a long-time lung disease (COPD). He was born on Dec. 20, 1921, in Central City, Kentucky, and grew up on a farm where he acquired many useful skills from his father. He loved to play the guitar and fiddle. He was an avid musician until his crippled hands no longer allowed him to play.



Payton Hendricks

Dec. 20, 1921 - May 16, 2016

In the late 40s he moved to Akron, Ohio, where he met his wife Norma, and they married in Evansville, Indiana, in 1953. They had two sons: Bob and Paul David. Bob died on May 16, 2013, three years prior to Payton's death.

Payton began listening to Herbert Armstrong in 1957, and he and Norma were both baptized in 1960 by a visiting ministerial team from Pasadena. He and Norma went through many trials and tests during their early Church years. The hardest one, due to former marriages, was that they had to separate for over 10 years. They were reunited in 1974 when the new understanding came out in regard to divorce and remarriage.

Payton moved to Nashville in 1967 and worked for the Nashville Bridge Company, from which he retired in 1986. He was "unshakeable" in his dedication to God and the Church. He was also known for his quiet nature and beautiful smile.

He is survived by his wife Norma; son Paul David; and two children from his

Please see next page

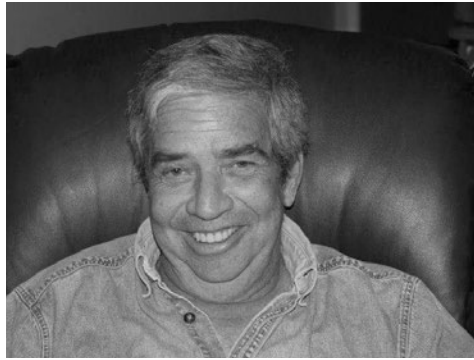
Announcements: Send us announcements from your local congregation! Have your pastor review what you write, and send it in to UN@ucg.org. We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photos with captions. Please double-check the spelling of names, and include the author's and photographer's names. **E-mail is preferred**, but we will also take physical mail as well! Please include a self-addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned.

Announcements



Gerald Iiams

Mar. 27, 1956 - June 7, 2016



Garland Manis

1961 - May 3, 2016



Orpha Wingfield

Oct. 9, 1909 - Apr. 19, 2016

former marriage; and his other wonderful grandchildren, who were a huge blessing—both while he lived, throughout his illness and death. He will be greatly missed, and we know we will see him in the Kingdom.

Gerald Iiams

Gerald Leon Iiams was born on March 27, 1956, in Goble, Oregon, to Kenneth Eugene and Frieda (Buttner) Iiams and died Tuesday, June 7, 2016, at the age of 60.

He was a resident of the Watonga, Oklahoma, community since 1989 and in 2003 opened GLI Works as a self-employed heavy equipment mechanic.

Gerald was raised in southwest Pennsylvania and graduated from Avella High School in Avella, Pennsylvania, in 1974. He later graduated from the Canadian Valley Vo-tech automated technology program in El Reno, Oklahoma.

On July 1, 1984, he married Valarie Puskas in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. They had one daughter, Rachel, born in 2000.

He was a member of the United Church of God, where he served weekly as an audio technician. Gerald has been an avid hunter since the age of 12, when he bagged his first trophy, a bear. He enjoyed quietly helping those in need, and touched many lives in the local community.

Gerald was preceded in death by his father Kenneth, and one sister, Linda.

He is survived by his wife Valarie and

daughter Rachel; two brothers: Michael Iiams of Post Falls, Idaho, and Steven Iiams of Glendora, California; and his mother, Frieda Iiams of Rathdrum, Idaho, as well as numerous other relatives and friends.

A memorial service for Gerald was held Friday, June 17, 2016, in Watonga, Oklahoma.

A memorial fund has been set up at the First State Bank in Watonga for Gerald's daughter, Rachel.

Garland Manis

Garland Manis, 55, from DeWitt, Arkansas, passed away May 3, 2016, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and was laid to rest on June 6, 2016, at Cedarcrest Cemetery in DeWitt. He was a member of the Little Rock Arkansas congregation and is a second-generation member of the Church of God.

Garland was a loving husband to his wife Julie Manis as well as a devoted father to his daughter Stephanie Arends (Michael Arends). He is the youngest sibling of four brothers: Raymond, Larry, Roy, Doyle; and five sisters: Audrey, Nina, Deanna, Ginger and Edna. He is preceded in death by his parents Ray "Hap" Manis and Mary Ruth Dumond Manisas, as well as his brother Larry.

Garland had the wonderful ability to entertain others with his stories and had a very unique humor about him that could bring a laugh out of almost anyone. He was born and raised in a small town and

enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping and other relaxing outdoor activities.

When Garland was young, he would help his family out in their large garden and loved sneaking into the tomato section and helping himself to one or two. As an adult he, his wife and his daughter lived on a farm where they raised around 5,000 ducks a year for commercial hunting, for which he and his dog, Bear, would routinely be the guides.

In 2008 Garland was diagnosed with kidney failure and thus started his long struggle with his health. He had two strokes and 20 surgeries, including a major heart surgery. Later in life, Garland took great pleasure in fishing, boating and just "hanging out" with his dog Harley.

Garland was greatly loved by many and will be missed immensely, but we do take solace in the fact that he now gets to rest and no longer be in pain from his disease.

Orpha Wingfield

One of the oldest members of the Church of God, Orpha Wingfield, died at the age of 106 (and a half) in Alamogordo, New Mexico, on April 19, 2016.

Orpha was born near Mayhill, Territory of New Mexico, on Oct. 9, 1909, to parents of an early pioneer family in the area, Ollie and Josephine Miller. In 1920 the family moved their cattle to a ranch in the San Andreas Mountains west of Tularosa Basin. She attended school through high

school in Tularosa and graduated in 1929 as valedictorian of her class. In 1931 she married Walker Lee Wingfield who was also a member of a pioneer family in the area, and they lived and worked on the Three Rivers Ranch.

In 1934 the couple moved to Tularosa, and Orpha worked in various jobs until moving to Chicago during the depths of the Depression as they looked for work. In 1940 they returned to New Mexico, and Orpha worked as a meter reader (on a one-meter route) and as a switchboard operator in the Forest Service telephone system. Since there were only two or three telephones in the area, messengers were sent out to notify persons of incoming calls—if they could be located.

The couple moved back to Tularosa in 1951. During that year Orpha "accidentally" picked up a radio broadcast by Herbert Armstrong. She got an address and wrote for some literature. Two years later she was informed about a baptizing tour coming to the area and requested a visit.

Orpha met the baptizing team of Herman Hoeh and Rod Meredith in Las Cruces and was subsequently baptized in the Rio Grande River near Las Cruces, New Mexico, in July of 1953. It was 15 years before a church started in Las Cruces in 1968, where she attended until the 1990s. After 1995, Orpha attended the United Church of God in El Paso until she could no longer drive and there was nobody to take her to services.

Orpha lived in her own house independently in Tularosa until she was 105 years old. She studied alone and even composed Bible studies. She was an avid reader, having over 1,000 books in her personal library. She was also a painter, and the walls of her house had numerous paintings. She also wrote poetry.

Orpha Wingfield was a wonderful example of enduring faith, and she held fast to the truth for 63 years.

New England Wilderness Hike



A group shot of those who participated in the hike.

The New England congregations of Worcester, Massachusetts, and Londonderry, New Hampshire, held a wilderness backpacking trip on July 8-10. The group hiked on Stratton Mountain in Vermont.

The expedition began Friday, when the group met, organized food into various backpacks and set off. The 12-person group included 10 teens and adults, a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old! After about four miles, the group was about to reach the top of Stratton Mountain. They climbed the tower at the top during a lunch break.

Then they went back down to Stratton Pond, where the trail leading to the usual camp sites were flooded. After a few dar-

ing members tried crossing the swampy trail, it was decided for some of the group to cook dinner by the pond. Meanwhile, others made trips back and forth from the spring to filter water, and another group scouted out the surrounding areas for sites to camp. The backpackers camped for the night about 100 feet from the water's edge.

They spent the Sabbath enjoying God's creation and fellowshiping even through the afternoon rain.

Sunday was cool and drizzly. The group trekked out about five miles and then went back to their cars parked at the trailhead. Despite the rain, it was a successful trip, and there's already been talk of another one for next year!

Ariana Del Signore

UYC 2016 Photos

Camp Pinecrest

Missouri—June 24-July 1



Camp Cotubic

Ohio—June 26-July 3



UYC 2016 Photos

Camp Hye Sierra

California—June 26-July 3



Camp Woodmen

Alabama—June 26-July 3



UYC 2016 Photos

Northwest Camp

Oregon—July 24-31



San Gil del Campo

San Gil, Santander, Colombia—June 23-28



UYC 2016 Photos

Boca del Rio

Ixmiquilpan, Mexico—July 31-Aug. 7



Preteen Camps

Camp Tomahawk



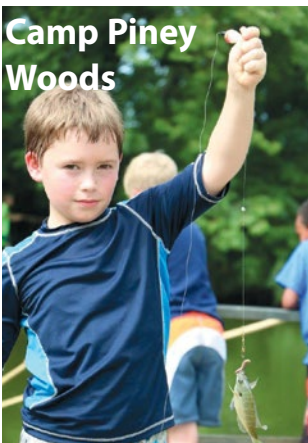
Northwest Camp



Camp Seven Mountains



Camp Piney Woods



Camp Colorado



Camp Buckeye



Camp Ironwood



UYC 2016 Reports

Camp Pinecrest

Missouri—June 24-July 1

This year was the 21st year that United Youth Camps has made use of the facility in southeast Missouri.

On June 24, with 71 campers and 49 staff checked in, the camp program began with an orientation to prepare for the week ahead. With orientation completed, staff and campers proceeded to the gym for “get-acquainted” games organized by assistant camp director Brian Shaw.

Camp Pinecrest begins with the Sabbath. A seventh-day beginning provides a time to relax and enjoy a spiritual focus before launching into a busy activity-filled week.

Saturday morning, after a sumptuous breakfast, the campers and staff enjoyed a Bible study on the camp theme, “Guided by God’s Word,” presented by Brian Shaw. The study was followed by an ABC presentation and Sabbath hymn sing. A leisurely Sabbath continued with services at 2:30 p.m. Split sermons were given by Randy Urwiller and

Gary Smith, serving to introduce the Christian living theme focused on the importance of the Word of God.

The first day ended with six Bible challenges. Each dorm had to solve a Bible word search, identify Bible mad gabs, search and read the Scriptures, identify Bible stories, draw clues in Bible pictiory, and Bible outburst.

The activity week began on Sunday. Each day began with a Christian living class for all campers and staff. With a spiritual foundation established, dorms proceeded to the activities.

Regular activities campers enjoyed included riflery, archery, ropes, softball, speedaway, journalism, rock climbing and rappelling, volleyball and stand-up paddle boarding. Two new activities were introduced this year: pickleball and ultimate frisbee.

Each evening, a different activity was offered. Campers

and staff enjoyed dodgeball, a Q&A Bible study covering camper questions, the amazing race, a fun show, and an awards ceremony followed by a dance.

As the camp came to a close, various members of the United leadership team heard from those who work at the camp. The Pinecrest staff have many different groups come through the camp, and they observe and compare the various groups. They made a number of positive comments about United teens in light of their displaying those qualities that are essential to the Zone.

It is to God’s glory and honor that 120 campers and staff can join together to create a memorable, godly depiction of God’s Kingdom for one week. Camp Pinecrest is an annual reminder that a glimpse of the Kingdom will one day be a reality not just for one group of people, but for all mankind.

Gary Smith

Camp Cotubic

Ohio—June 26-July 3

Camp Cotubic, in Bellefontaine, Ohio, had to be moved to a later week on the calendar (June 25-July 3) to avoid a conflict with the Day of Pentecost. Even though this overlapped with four of our other United Youth Camps, Camp Cotubic experienced an increase in camper attendance. This year 131 campers came to enjoy an exciting week at camp, served by 49 staff members.

Camp Cotubic always provides a quiet and beautiful environment for our teens to come out of the world and focus their attention on strengthening their relationship with God and each other. The weather this year was perfect, with daily high temperatures averaging in the low- to mid-80s.

We had our traditional line-up of activities consisting of high ropes, climbing wall, dance class, arts and crafts, vol-

leyball, soccer and watersports. This year we took a break from basketball and softball and replaced them with gaga ball and football. The wilderness skills class became a hybrid of wilderness skills and the amazing race. Also this year, Mitch and Dana Moss conducted a team-building class, which was very well received. This is the first time that we have conducted a team-building class, and it provided an opportunity to discuss biblical principles in a very practical way.

In addition to the daily Christian living classes focused around the overall camp theme, “Guided by God’s Word,” the campers also participated in a practical Christianity class where they were divided into small groups and each group created a list of the “Benefits of Keeping the Ten

Commandments.” Every camper was given their own copy of the compiled list at the conclusion of camp.

This year, we decided to hold a camper vs. staff soccer match instead of the traditional softball game, to allow for greater participation. While the staff held an early and commanding lead, the campers staged an amazing rally in the closing minutes and lost by only one goal. The stage is now set for a possible rematch in 2017!

Planning has already begun for Camp Cotubic 2017. The dates will be June 18-25, 2017, so mark your calendars, start saving for your tuition, and plan to attend!

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the entire camp program.

Len Martin

Camp Hye Sierra

California—June 26-July 3

Hye Sierra is set on a beautiful and serene 160-acre camp located amidst the magnificent pines and regal redwoods of California’s Sequoia National Park. As a private camp, Hye Sierra offers us a fantastic isolated location to come together as a family of like mind and values to play, learn and inspire individual growth. Our focus at Camp Hye Sierra is to show that God’s way truly works in this modern age. Hye Sierra’s remote location allows us to craft a unique Zone environment in order to help foster a focus on growing as a Christian and building lasting relationships with others.

For one week, each of our 214 staffers and campers left their everyday environments to be immersed together in

fun activities, godly relationships and spiritual discussions. We had an amazing week learning about God, seeing His creation, having fun and making friends!

The Christian living classes provided incredible discussions about using God’s Word as our daily guide. Campers and staff had lively conversations about how to navigate this world with God’s Word as their guide and seeing God’s blessings in their lives for obedience and resisting wrong. The week ended with the Sabbath, where we discussed the importance of being on the right road, the one that leads to eternal life. It was inspiring to see the growth in our campers and staff.

We also had a wide range of successful activities that were dorm bonding, athletic, challenging, engaging, creative, and goal-oriented. God’s hand was very evident at camp, not only in the safety at our activities, but also the weather. Our daytime temperatures were warm but pleasant, while the nights were cool and comfortable.

We are very thankful for your prayers for a successful Camp Hye Sierra. Your prayers were answered on a daily basis, and we were most appreciative! God is absolutely calling our youth, and it is a great pleasure for all of us as staff to be serving God’s campers.

Ed Dowd

Camp Woodmen

Alabama—June 26-July 3

Camp Woodmen ran from June 26-July 3 with 36 campers and 46 staff. The camp overlapped with others this year and led to a smaller number of campers at Woodmen. Since there were fewer campers, activity staff were able to participate in more activities with the dorms, which really brought the campers closer to the staff. The campers were also able to get to know each other better.

Two new activities at Woodmen this year were the “price is right” evening activity and team challenge. The “price is right” ran just like the television game show, with lots of energy and participation. Team challenge required participants to work together by solving puzzles in order to find a treasure. It was challenging, and everyone had

fun working together as a group.

We participated in our normal camp activities including softball, ultimate Frisbee, speedaway, volleyball, basketball, dorm Christian living, archery, riflery, swimming, dance class, high ropes and campus improvement.

The weather was perfect. It rained for a bit on the first day, which left the weather in the comfortable 80s with low humidity. We were blessed to have a big storm go around us, not affecting any activities except for one swimming class. The weather was truly a blessing this year!

The food was the best it’s ever been! This was the first year our staff did all the cooking, and it really made a difference. Local brethren donated fresh eggs from their

broods. They were “eggcellent”! Everyone was impressed and happy with the food this year.

The spiritual food was even more filling throughout the week, as the camp theme was “Guided by God’s Word.” Campers and staff were reminded throughout the week of the importance of looking to God and applying His Word in their lives.

This year of Woodmen was the best year yet; ask anyone who went, and they’ll most likely agree. The staff did a great job encouraging and serving. The campers also served in many areas, including staying in the Zone. We look forward to another great camp next year!

Emma Courtelyou

UYC 2016 Reports

Northwest Camp

Oregon—July 24-31

On July 24, 114 campers, 75 staff, and four mini-campers came together for a week of learning to be guided by God's Word as they enjoyed activities and fellowship on the spectacular and scenic Oregon coast! This was our largest Northwest Camp in recent years, and for the first time our campers and staff had the opportunity to "ride the trails and sing cowboy songs" as part of the camp experience.

Our theme for the week was "Guided by God's Word," and was reinforced during every activity. Each day there was a Bible-based theme and memory scripture that were part of the overall theme.

We enjoyed a campfire on the beach one evening as the sun was setting over the Pacific Ocean. Campfire time included several tug-of-war competitions, a Bible quiz game, dorm greetings and scripture reciting, dorm inspection reports, and a campfire story illustrating the

theme of the day.

We were blessed with cooler, nearly perfect weather for the week. The activities at camp were archery, arts and crafts, riding skim boards and boogie boards, dance class, kayaking, swimming, pickle ball, softball, speed-away, volleyball and water skiing.

This year LeeAnn Luker, Ben Light, and LeeAnn Holaday presented the excellence in living class that focused on the beauty of the man/woman relationship our Creator blessed us with.

This year we had the same number of boys and girls, so the dance class and brother/sister dorm events went smoothly. We also had many international visitors with us: Anna and Ruben Dekker from the Netherlands, Sarah Habicht from Germany, plus Aaron Jennings and Sarah Lucassen from Australia serving on staff.

We very much appreciate the members from the Port-

land, Oregon, congregation who worked a long day on the Sunday before camp to prepare for the arrival of the horses. We also cannot say enough about how much we appreciate those who volunteer to serve on staff. Our staff worked hard this year to do a professional job in every respect. We even had two young ladies who volunteered to be the "cleanup crew" for the horses. The girls were able to ride a horse occasionally, so they said it was worth it.

A big thank you to everyone involved! Camp would not be possible without the support of the parents, staff, financial help from individuals and the Church, and backing from the administration. Most of all, the successful camp program is the result of the blessing and protection of our Heavenly Father and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Rex Sexton

San Gil del Campo

San Gil, Santander, Colombia—June 23-28

The 2016 Colombian United Youth Summer Camp was held at the Hotel San Gil del Campo just outside the city of San Gil, Santander, Colombia, with a total of 19 campers, five staff from Colombia, and three staff from the United States—two of which were the Colombian pastor and his wife.

This centrally located city made travel to camp easier and less expensive for all who attended. Hotel San Gil del Campo is a former monastery and affords an absolutely peaceful and tranquil location with vistas of mountains and valleys.

Campers and staff stayed in hotel rooms that housed four to five people comfortably, and we all ate together in the dining hall that provided three meals each day. We started each day with a spiritual compass check and ended each day with a Christian living class or other Bible activity using the 2016 United Youth Camps theme of "Guided by God's Word." Building bonds of friendship with our spiritual family was also a huge part of camp. Plenty of time for fellowship and relaxing is an integral part of this camp, allowing time for bonding and renewing friendships.

Returning again this year was the Bible skit activity. Campers were randomly divided into three groups. Each group selected a Bible story to turn into a skit based on the camp theme. They were entertaining, well done and enjoyed by all.

Another favorite activity was swimming. The most requested activity, the amazing race, was organized by Courtney Horvath.

On Sabbath morning, Vicky the hotel manager led the campers on a nature walk. Campers were able to view 500-year-old tombs of the indigenous people from this area, and many varied trees, vegetation, and fruits. During Sabbath services, Ronaldo Medina led songs and camper David Sierra gave a sermonette explaining that each of us is an example for those that come in contact with the Church. Jaime Salek gave a sermon titled "Choose the Blessings of God," one of the daily focuses from this year's theme.

After the Sabbath, everyone participated in a dance. A collection of songs from Colombia and the United States, with the chicken dance being a favorite.

Once again, we made a bus trip to the National Park of Chicamocha. Half of the campers had never visited the park before. Everyone also had the opportunity to experience the 450 meter long *cable-vuelo* (zipline) while at the park.

On the last day, all campers shared what they learned at camp in short two-to-three-minute speeches, and camp director Scott Hoefker encouraged everyone to "remember the themes that were discussed during camp and to put them into practice in our daily lives between now and next year's camp." Campers were challenged to see who could recite the most memory scriptures from the Christian living classes. Both Abrahan Martinez and Cristian Martinez recited all eight memory scriptures.

The entire camp was blessed with peace, cooperation and a spirit of camaraderie. A hearty thank-you to brethren who gave generous donations to allow our youth to attend and experience an uplifting atmosphere and growth opportunity with others that would be difficult without such help.

Gayle Hoefker

Boca del Rio

Ixmiquilpan, Mexico—July 31-Aug. 7

The Mexican youth camp took place in Ixmiquilpan and is located in the state of Hidalgo about three hours from Mexico City.

Camp was located at the Hotel Campestre, which has a soccer field, basketball court, volleyball court and a swimming pool. All were used for the camp activities.

There were youth from Acapulco, Chiapas, Mexico City, Monterrey, Tabasco, Tepic, Veracruz and also from the country of Panama. We were fortunate to have John Velazquez and his wife Mireya from California who participated as staff. The total attendance was 22 youth, eight adults and one baby. We had two young adults participate as servant leaders who helped with the evening closings as well as other activities.

The camp theme was "Wise and Knowledgeable." Each day was focused on a specific subject: "Fun," "Wisdom in Proverbs," "Love," "Passion," and "Motivation." On Friday night we had a questions-and-answers forum,

and Sabbath services that were preceded by hymn song-leading lessons in the morning.

We worked daily to develop a balance of intellectual and physical knowledge through all activities. Each day before breakfast we had a mini ice-breaker session. The group was divided into three groups with a color and mascot. In Proverbs 30:24-28, it describes that the ants, rock badgers, locusts and spiders are "exceedingly wise." We used the first three as mascots to remind us of the main camp theme.

We had two field trips. One was to a complex with swimming pools and slides. We also enjoyed the hot springs, delicious food and zip lining. The second field trip was to play mini-golf. The 18 holes were a challenge for most of the campers since most of them had never played this fun game before. A pool table, trampoline, giant chessboard and board games provided us with additional entertainment. We also had a special dinner

prepared by a chef on Friday night.

For a craft activity campers were able to create their own painted mug. We also had a fun dance and a talent show with biblical role-plays, jokes and singing.

After acquiring new knowledge, we now need to apply it to become truly knowledgeable and wise.

We invite all youth who wishes to participate to come and join us in these wonderful activities next year.

Gabriel García

SEE MORE CAMP PHOTOS HERE:

www.flickr.com/photos/united-church-of-god/albums/72157672075281652

UYC 2016 Reports

Preteen Camp Tomahawk

Tennessee—June 5-8

Camp Tomahawk, held at the Nacome Camp and Conference Center in Pleasantville, Tennessee, was a big success with our 43 campers coming from all over the Southeast, even as far away as Florida! Thanks to everyone for their prayers for a safe and successful camp, as God once again blessed us with an unusually mild summer with little to no humidity and awe-inspiring nighttime clear skies.

Kicking off each day with a Christian living class,

campers set out to enjoy a fun-filled day of activities. Some of the highlights this year were new caving games like hide-and-seek in the dark, a new human foosball court and nature education involving some of Tennessee's natural wildlife. One activity that the kids literally dug into was our campus improvement activity, where we removed all the years worth of leaves and debris that had collected in the culverts and drains at the facilities. The Nacome staff were so absolutely impressed by our

kids' great attitudes and hard work. They complimented endlessly about how the kids made a difference.

There was also an abundance of serving attitudes this year from all the Camp Tomahawk staff. Without the 38 staff members who volunteered their time, Camp Tomahawk wouldn't exist. Thank you for your dedication and service to making camp possible for the youth. The 2017 camp dates are already set for May 28-May 31.

Matthew Puckett

Preteen Camp Colorado

Colorado—June 5-8

Camp Colorado enjoyed near perfect weather in spite of thunderstorms forecasted for each day of our seventh annual preteen camp near Estes Park, Colorado, from June 5-8. God's blessings were evident throughout camp!

This year all of our compass checks and Christian living classes centered around our theme, "Guided by God's Word."

An added new activity this year, 24 girls and 25 boys were thrilled to ride horses for the very first time in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. They even learned to lasso hay bales and longhorns!

Once again they sought to hit the bullseye at archery class and to maneuver and even race canoes and play tag in canoeing class. They were all challenged for the first time in two classes of multi-ball (a combination of kick-

ball, soccer and basketball) and made tie-dyed t-shirts and special, unique creations of stationary from shaving cream and food coloring in their arts and crafts classes.

Each year at Camp Colorado the preteens begin and end camp with a special combination of field games designed to test their agility and coordination—but mostly they just have a lot of fun playing unique and exciting team games! They go on two nature hikes as they learn more about God's amazing creation. Each night around the campfire, in the crisp mountain air, they have sing-alongs and are challenged with Bible games testing their knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Also each night they proved their enthusiasm for God's way of life!

Before heading for their cabins each night to get some

needed rest, the entire camp enjoyed the light show from launching hundreds of LED rocket copters high into the night sky!

The 49 preteen campers were joined by six mini-campers and 45 dedicated teen and adult staff members for a total of exactly 100 at camp. Attendees were from six different states—Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Kansas, and as far away as Indiana!

Also the parents and grandparents of all the campers who had to stay back home enjoyed reading about each day's activities on the Camp Colorado blog.

It was another awesome year at Camp Colorado. Now we begin planning for an even better year in 2017!

Mark Welch

Preteen Camp Piney Woods

Texas—July 10-13

Thirty preteen campers enjoyed a very successful camp in the Piney Woods of East Texas, and 13 teen staff helpers were joined by several dozen adults comprising an imported staff, along with many of the local East Texas brethren.

Everyone went above and beyond so all could enjoy the many different types of activities at camp. The water activities (swimming, fishing, dunking booth, bounce house with sprinkler, water balloon fight) are always

popular in the warm Texas summer weather. Other fun activities included bow making, archery, baking, kick-ball, dodgeball and of course multiple sessions of gaga ball.

Our theme for the camp followed the teen camp theme "Guided by God's Word."

Our compass checks and our activities were based on this theme. Parents were on hand to see the end of camp awards ceremony, where the campers sang two music

pieces—"God's Word" and "Hide Your Word in My Heart." We give thanks to our Heavenly Father who has blessed this camp so tremendously. It was amazing how most of our outdoor activities took place under cloud cover and cooler breezes; not the sunny 99 degrees predicted in the forecast.

God answered so many prayers that were lifted up asking for His guidance and direction in all that was done.

Jim Moody

Preteen Camp Ironwood

Minnesota—July 17-20

This was the 15th year that a preteen camp was held at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, Minnesota. There were 140 of us, 72 preteens and mini dorm campers, 23 teens and 45 adults.

Our goal was to enrich the campers' lives by giving them opportunities to build relationships with other children who share common beliefs, experience a variety of challenging activities and deepen their relationship with God by getting to know more about their loving Father through daily christian living and music classes. The theme of this year's camp was "You're Never Too Young to Make a Difference!"

In Christian living we looked at the biblical examples of young people and the difference they made. We showed

the campers ways to make a difference at camp and encouraged them to make a difference when they returned home.

The preteens enjoyed the new Jelly video, *Jelly Makes a Difference!* and easily learned the song "You're Never Too Young to Make a Difference," which they performed at the closing day program. The campers were delighted by a few surprise visits from Jelly at their camp activities.

Camp Ironwood is a family camp with many parents bringing the whole family and spending four days together. This year we had a wonderful group of teens who served as assistant counselors and activity assistants. They were the big brothers and big sisters to the campers. Adult staff served as activity coordinators, counselors, support staff and some as dorm parents.

Activities included horseback riding, swimming, arts and crafts, field games, climbing wall, archery, BB gun shooting, creek walk, team challenge, campus improvement, sling shot, mini farm and a new activity of tubing down a long slip-n-slide. Campers also enjoyed evening activities: game night, a campfire sing-along, carnival, treasure hunt and novelty olympics.

This was an experience that those who attended Camp Ironwood this summer will not soon forget. We praise God and thank Him for another successful year at Camp Ironwood!

The dates for next year's preteen Camp Ironwood will be July 16-19, 2017.

David Schreiber

UYC 2016 Reports

Preteen Camp Buckeye

Ohio—July 31-Aug. 3

Camp Buckeye, located in north-central Ohio's beautiful Amish Country, ran from July 31-Aug. 3. This year we had 96 campers (a 20-percent increase over last year) and 74 staff members. We have maxed out the facility and will likely have to reduce the number of staff next year to make more beds available for additional campers.

The weather was dry and hot, but the grounds of the facility provide ample amount of shade throughout the day.

Activities included archery, arts and crafts, canoeing, court games, field games, fishing, indoor games, team building and watersports. The new 3,000 sq. ft. state-of-

the-art swimming pool with a wading area, sprayground, splash pad and dual spiral tube slides was a thrill for everyone! The hot summer provided the new swimming pool with warm water temperatures.

Team building was a new activity for this year. It was enjoyable to watch the children learn to communicate and work as a team to overcome the challenges.

The Christian living classes were "Making Right Choices," "How Sin Defiles Us," and "The Bible Is Our Instruction Book for Our Lives." All three of the Christian living instructors incorporated attention-getting demonstrations or visual aids in their classes, to help the children grasp the

concepts being taught.

Every year we strive to instill the concept of the Zone into our program. This year the arts and crafts staff developed a fun activity incorporating the seven elements of the Zone.

Our praise and thanks to God for His blessings and protection, enabling us all to enjoy another successful year at Camp Buckeye!

We will be returning to the same facility next year. The dates will be July 30-Aug. 2, 2017.

Thank you to everyone who supports our preteen camp program.

Len Martin

Preteen Camp Seven Mountains

Pennsylvania—Aug. 8-11

This was year two at beautiful Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp, tucked away in the mountains of Central Pennsylvania. We had 59 campers ranging in ages from six months to 12 years old.

Each day we started with a guitar-led worship and prayer before breakfast. We then dispersed to Christian

living classes focused on the story of the Ten Commandments and Israel's 40 years in the wilderness. The rest of the day was packed with various activities such as swimming, field sports, boating (complete with splashing), woodshop, human foosball, volleyball, hiking, and tyedye. We had nightly campfires with songs and entertain-

ing "minute to win it" games to end each day.

Thank you to an excellent staff and parents who came to help make the camp a success! And thank you for all the prayers. All campers and staff arrived safely to and from camp. We plan on returning next year to the same facility!

Rachel Massie

Preteen Northwest Camp

Oregon—Aug. 2-5

Northwest Preteen Camp 2016 was held in the beautiful foothills of Mt. Hood in Oregon. It was the "beary" best year ever! Our theme was from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, "Love . . . bears all things." We learned to love each other and bear with each other.

There were 85 campers and 64 adult and teen staff, a total of 149. A big thank-you goes to the parents and volunteers who sacrificed time and finances to be part of a great service to God's youth.

Swimming provided an opportunity to learn a new skill and have great fun. The river float was an adventure with brightly colored inner tubes carrying campers

down the Salmon River.

Archery was, and is, an all-time favorite. For arts and crafts campers had a service project for the shut-ins. The campers created cards of encouragement. Another project was sand art and a picture frame for the camper.

Sports activities expanded the camp theme. During these activities there was a poster that depicted the parts of a bear and added scriptures explaining the theme.

Dance and music gave campers a concept of movement to music, and campers learned the Feast songs too. The campfire was fun with silly songs and great skits from each dorm.

There were seven girl dorms, and their names were the

Berry Buckets, the Gummy Bears, the Sweet Cinnamon Bears, the Good News Bears, the Praying Pandas, the Care Bears and the Honey Bears.

There were five boy dorms, and their names were the Sleuths, Brother Bears Bearing Burdens, Bro Bears, the Grizzlies and the Jellystone Bears.

Campers and staff came from all parts of the Northwest plus California, Ohio, and even Germany and the Netherlands. If you would like to join us for Northwest Preteen Camp 2017, please check out the website at uyc.ucg.org for updates.

John and Sandy Cafourek

The New England Memorial Day Weekend

The New England Memorial Day Weekend, held in Westford, Massachusetts, was wonderful fun with over 100 brethren in attendance!

The weekend kicked off on Sabbath morning, May 28, with seminars for adults and teens and Sabbath school for the younger crowd. The first seminars for the adults was by a member of the New Hampshire congregation, Vinny Del Signore. Mr. Del Signore expounded on biblical principles and character relating to our current world situation. Meanwhile, the teens and young adults attended a seminar presented by Andy Diemer, pastor for the New England churches. Mr. Diemer explained to his young audience the highest purpose for their lives: committing wholeheartedly to God's way of life. The second seminar was New England church's ministerial

trainee, Josh Lamoureux, who presented a seminar for all ages. Mr. Lamoureux taught how to inspire personal motivation in others.

Following the seminars was a picnic style lunch and then Sabbath services. Split sermons were given from Josh Lamoureux and Andy Diemer. Mr. Lamoureux reminded us of the importance of our spiritual family. Mr. Diemer followed up with a message stressing how the Church must stand out as lights in this present evil world. The New England choir and guest members sang a rousing chorale piece for special music.

Much fellowship followed Sabbath services and continued through the catered dinner. Promptly at sunset, the dance started. DJ Briana Salva, with the expert help of her posse, revved the mixer's engine and got the party started. The



music featured oldies but goodies, line dances, and even a polka with plenty of other jiving tunes!

On Sunday morning, May 29, the young enjoyed games of volleyball and basketball along with swimming. Then, the Spanish-speaking brethren of the Southern New Hampshire congregation hosted an afternoon family picnic at the home of Julio Meran. Hamburgers, hot dogs, steak, chicken, and hearty amounts

of guacamole were consumed along with copious amounts of fellowship and fun.

Those who attended our first New England Family Weekend will attest that it was a worthwhile experience! Several visitors from other churches were so glad they made the journey and promised to encourage others to come to future events. Hey, it could be you. We hope to see you there!

Andy Diemer

Spiritual Feast

Continued from page 1

burdened with loneliness or fear (Isaiah 65:20).

Everyone will find pleasure in the labor of their own hands. All will live contentedly in their own homes and enjoy their fruitful gardens. The squalor of overcrowded cities will not exist (Isaiah 65:21-22).

Without the influence of Satan (Ephesians 2:2), people living in the Kingdom will be eager to obey God. They'll listen to Jesus Christ and His saints (that's us) who will openly teach and guide them in God's way of righteousness: "But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:20-21). What an amazing time to live!

Meditating on God's Word and visualizing life in God's Kingdom enriches our hearts and minds. Our expectations can

burn more brilliantly for what awaits us! But there's more.

God wants all people to receive salvation. He's "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The Eighth Day reveals God's great mercy and love for all people, including people we know and love.

Through that physical resurrection of the Great White Throne judgment, all who died without real hope will live again to choose eternal life. And we see that incredible scene of the resurrected billions, and we will be there to help each one grasp the depths of God's love: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

As we plan to observe God's Feast, let's also plan to be prepared spiritually for the things God has planned for us! **UN**

Fargo, North Dakota Celebrated 50 years



Members of the Fargo, North Dakota, congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Church of God in Fargo. Members from another fellowship joined the UCG members for the event at the Seventh Day Adventist meeting hall on the afternoon of July 9. Pastor Herb Teitgen gave the sermon that reviewed the history of the apostolic Church, a brief history of the Church in New England, the history of the Church in the 20th century and principles for enduring and remaining faithful.

The Sabbath service was followed by

a delicious potluck meal and a number of photo albums of members and events relating to the Fargo congregation were made available for viewing. A 10-page brochure was prepared that listed the pastors who had served the congregation over its 50 years. It also featured a chronological summary of significant events concerning the congregation. Each family who attended received a copy of the brochure.

Following the potluck meal those assembled watched a presentation by Herb Teitgen that featured photos of members and activities relating to the congregation over the decades. Then members enjoyed desserts and a special anniversary cake. There was a great deal of fellowship and reminiscing throughout the event.

Herb Teitgen

Cry Aloud

Continued from page 3

that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We, who are in the Church, are part of the firstfruits (James 1:18), the first to be called the children of God. As firstfruits, we are today to proclaim and demonstrate God's way of life, so that our future spiritual brothers and sisters—literally billions of people—will have a tangible warning and witness to know what the terrible consequences are of ignoring the wide-ranging and deliberate purpose of God, which Paul described as "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27, English Standard Version).

In that context we fulfill our calling to "cry aloud and spare not." Within the power that God gives us, we "tell My people their sins" (Isaiah 58:1-2). This represents a somber and awesome responsibility, one that God describes as fulfilling the role of a spiritual "watchman" (Ezekiel 33:7). If we do not accomplish that purpose to God's satisfaction, He will hold us accountable (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

As we preach "Thy Kingdom come," we openly tell of the terrible things that are prophesied to happen. Ours is a daunt-

ing work that requires us to stand up and speak with a voice of clarity, a voice that fearlessly declares what will happen, and most importantly, *why* it will happen.

But even as we deliver this warning message, even as we watch the world fall apart about us, even as millions clamor in anguish, we should also weep. The prophet Ezekiel recorded this remarkable prophecy: "The LORD said to him, 'Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men *who sigh and cry* over all the abominations that are done within it'" (Ezekiel 9:4).

Ancient Jerusalem was already demolished, and Ezekiel was a Jewish captive in Babylon when this was written, so obviously it is prophecy for a time beyond that of 593-571 B.C.

We are not a "prediction organization." There are many religious organizations which solely focus on prophecy as their mission.

We are blessed by God to be able to see prophetic events coming together. But it is not important to smugly "know" what may or may not happen. What *is* important is our precious understanding of *why* these things are happening and how we can share God's attitude toward coming prophesied events: "As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in

the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness . . . *Why should you die?*" (Ezekiel 33:11, New Living Translation).

Ours is a daunting work that requires us to stand up and speak with a voice of clarity, a voice that fearlessly declares what will happen, and most importantly, why it will happen.

As He neared the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus Himself passionately reflected this attitude: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, *but you were not willing!*" (Matthew 23:37-38).

Yes, it is devastating to watch the world spiraling down. The Internet drips with unhelpful, caustic sarcasm over the U.S. presidential election. People lash out at

total digital strangers over social issues. We read of corruption at the highest level in Brazil, in Syria, in Venezuela, in Russia, in Singapore, and yes, in the United States. We watch people mock and fight.

But we are *not* to respond in kind!

Again, as Peter declared, as we watch potential prophetic events heat up, "What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" (2 Peter 3:11).

Do we sigh and cry over the way this world has chosen? Let us look to Paul, as he describes our expected standard of conduct: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection*" (Colossians 3:12-14).

Yes, God commissioned His Church to thunder a warning message. Indeed, we must "cry aloud and spare not." But as we do, it must be based on an understanding of "what manner of persons ought you to be" as we sigh and cry over the needless abominations manifested during these last days of this present evil age. **UN**

Doing Right

Continued from page 7

was involved in the matter. God, noting their faithfulness, gave them favor with the administrator of the training program, and by eating what God approved the young men were clearly healthy at the end of the trial period.

When we are challenged on doing what is right and we choose that way, God will be with us just as He was with Daniel and his friends.

The Challenge

In the present age, whether young or old, you will be challenged concerning doing what is right. We must not give in to pressures to go against God's truths.

Will you give in to the pressure to conform to the pressures and temptations around you, or will you hold fast to what you know to be true?

By our doing what is right when everyone else is not, our Savior Jesus Christ will know that we love Him enough that we will deny ourselves in order to please Him.

Determine in your life to do what is right even when others are not. **UN**

Gary Smith, along with his wife Liz, have served in the ministry since 1977. Currently they serve the Houston, Texas, congregation. They have had the opportunity to oversee Camp Pinecrest since 2011.

Please let us know what topics you would like to see addressed in future articles by e-mailing Steve Nutzman—United Youth Camps coordinator—at compasscheck@ucg.org

Honoring Retiring Ministry

Randy and Kay Schreiber

For 50 years Randy Schreiber has worked for the Church in various ways.

Randy Schreiber is currently the pastor of four church congregations. He pastors all of Arizona and New Mexico, which includes Northern Arizona; Show Low, Arizona; Phoenix, Arizona; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

His first ministerial assignment began in 1971 during his college practical theology class at Ambassador College. This class included a work-study program where he worked under John Ritenbaugh in Norwalk, California, as a ministerial trainee. After graduation in 1972, he was sent out to serve in California in the areas of Merced, Fresno, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Mojave and Bishop, and he worked under Wayne Shiflet. Mr. Schreiber explained that during that time, the area was the second largest geographical pastorate in the United States. "We put on over 70,000 miles yearly during my two-year period of service there," Mr. Schreiber explained.

Other assignments Mr. Schreiber held were Denver, Colorado; Kalispell, Montana; Enid, Oklahoma; Jackson Hole/Alpine, Wyoming; Blackfoot and Twin Falls, Idaho; Reno, Battle Mt./Carlin and Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix, Show Low, Yuma and Northern Arizona, Arizona; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1973, Mr. Schreiber was hired on full-time at graduation from Ambassador College, became a minister and married the love of his life, Kay Jantzen.

In 1977, he asked to leave the full-time ministry because he felt he needed some "real world" work experience. He and his wife left Denver and moved to Kalispell, Montana, where he served as pastor and began working "outside of Church." He briefly worked in sales and soon after bought his own chain saw and began working for the U.S. Forest Service thinning trees in the Glacier National Park region. Later he also worked for a custom homebuilder, where he was able to learn carpentry.

During their time in Montana the Schreibers had a mindset focused on independence and being self-sufficient. However, God allowed that sense of independence to fall apart. Mr. Schreiber explained that a lack of wisdom and poor choices caused their financial independence plans to crumble. He said, "God did not want us to rely upon ourselves and distance ourselves from the Body of Christ. Lesson learned: We need God, and we need each other. For the next 40 years, that lesson has always stuck with us. Without putting God first, our physical plans will come to nothing. God called each of us to be a part of the Body, not apart from His spiri-

tual Body. While challenges do arise, and circumstances change, these principles remain. Because we are one with God and with each other—it would be difficult to be an 'independent Christian.'"

In 1979, he was hired by the Church to come back on full-time in the ministry. This was during a Church crisis, and he worked full-time until 1994. In 1994 he decided to retire from the ministry when the Worldwide Church of God was going through dramatic doctrinal changes. During the next six years he held various jobs. However, during five of those years, he was also the pastor of the Reno and Las Vegas congregations in United Church of God. Once again, in 2000, he was accepted into the full-time ministry in the state of Arizona.

While transitioning into retirement (retirement date is Sept. 1, 2016), Mr. Schreiber will continue to serve as pastor in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and continue to serve in Arizona under the pastor. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schreiber plan to serve God's Church in any way they can, which includes continuing to work with the Deuteronomy 6 youth instruction program, conducting marriage seminars, and serving the home office as needed. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schreiber are looking forward to spending more time with their kids and grandkids. Mr. Schreiber wants to work around his home, fix up his '88 Dodge pickup and other things he hasn't been able to focus on over the past several years.

When reflecting back on their years serving in the full-time ministry this is what Mr. Schreiber shared:

"Over the 56 years as part of the Church of God, there have been trials and tests to try our faith and convictions. The many splits in the Church and loss of members or friends have been the source of sadness and discouragement at times. That said, being called into God's truth is the greatest blessing a person can have. Staying true to God's way and following the laws of love brings blessings, happiness and deep fulfillment. We would not trade the life that God, in His mercy, has given us for anything."

Close friends and family shared these thoughts

Kay Schreiber: We have been married for over 43 years, and we have continued our families' legacy of serving God's people together as a team. Randy's service and leadership style is one of inclusion. We both believe and have promoted a whole-Church effort, so that every member has a place of service within the Church. Randy has a gift of seeing people in a positive manner, not focusing on challenging areas, so this helps to nurture the membership in their godly spiritual



journeys. As a result our churches have had a broad, diverse, and variety of programs that promote all members serving collectively to build stronger relationships with God and with each other as members of God's Body. Additionally, we have been very involved in youth and teen activities, camps, pre-teen camps, and youth programs during our years in the ministry. We love working with families and kids!

"Our future retirement plans will include serving God's people, but with different methods. We look forward to God's guidance in our future."

Steve Buchanan: "Randy and Kay and their family were among the first in our ministry to respond to the enormous difficulties the Church of God faced in the early and mid-1990s. I have greatly admired his stand for the truths that we all hold dear. Under very difficult circumstances, Randy was forced to give up his

pastorate because he wouldn't endorse false doctrines. In addition, the example he set during those times was very telling. He stayed in his area (Reno) and continued to serve the members as a 'non-career' minister. And he, Kay and their family waited until the ultimate solution was provided in 1995. An unforgettable, joyous memory Terri and I will always cherish is seeing Randy's wonderful, optimistic smile at our inaugural conference in the Indianapolis, Indiana area, in early May of 1995. The Schreiber family has set a wonderful example of loyalty and service through almost 50 years of employment! We all wish them a very blessed and fulfilling retirement! Staying true to God's way and following the laws of love brings blessings, happiness and deep fulfillment."

Linda Merrick

Year of Giving Continues

The "Year of Giving" continues in Portsmouth, Ohio, with our young people, ages 12-25. Each young person chooses a month and a charity, then they are responsible for coordinating a service project involving our local congregations.

In April, Jacob Call and Sophia Del-Signore collected personal items for "Choices" for Victims of Domestic Violence in Columbus, Ohio. In May, Joe and Victoria Shoemaker collected items for the animals served by the Adams County Humane Society. In June, Ben Shoemaker and Chelsea Shaw collected personal items for the Women's Crisis Center in Maysville, Kentucky. In July, Wesley Call collected food and clothing items for the Salvation Army in Portsmouth, Ohio.

Our local brethren continue to participate by donating items to send on to those



Ben Shoemaker and Chelsea Shaw with items they collected for the Women's Crisis center in Maysville, Kentucky.

in need. Many people participate in making this a great success.

Kevin Call

Honoring Retiring Ministry

Glen and Connie White

On the Sabbath of July 2, two days after their official retirement, Glen and Connie White were recognized for 55 years of service to God and His people in a simple presentation after services in Missoula, Montana—their home congregation. In addition to a beautiful crystal globe with the Church seal, and the base inscribed with a warm and heartfelt tribute from the Church, Connie was also given a beautiful bouquet of roses. Afterwards the congregation enjoyed a sheet cake decorated with a congratulatory message of appreciation for their years of service to God and His people.

Glen White graduated from Ambassador College, bachelor of arts in 1964 and was ordained on May 30, 1964. While in the full-time ministry he has pastored congregations within the United States in Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, California, Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Mr. White also spent over 15 years pastoring churches in Canada where he served as a Canadian district superintendent (1968-1976) and was on the Canadian Council, both as committee member and committee chair (2000-2004).

Having a deep love for the youth of God's Church, Glen White has been an active contributor to the United Youth Camp programs in both Canada and the United States. He was the camp director for Crow's Nest Youth Camp in Canada for four years and has served over 16 years at camps in the Northwest and West in a variety of roles, including both directing and assisting activities, serving as a dorm parent and providing biblical instruction through Bible studies and discussions.

Additionally, Mr. White coordinated the Feast site in Regina, Saskatchewan,

for four years (2001-2004) and the Feast in Bigfork Montana for five years (2010-2015), he has been a member of the personal correspondence department and served on the focused education committee with a special interest in alcohol addictions and recovery.

When reflecting back on their years serving in the full time ministry this is what Mr. White shared:

"Since Ambassador College 1960-1964, the establishing of Church areas [Omaha, Des Moines-Winnipeg, Manitoba] and the Shepherding of established Church areas in the subsequent 13 transfers has been a way of life. Pastoring, administering, counseling, happily baptizing those God has brought to repentance and striving to pass on the truths of God to others is all I have wanted to do and still strive to accomplish. Retirement is a strange word in my world. It will be an altering factor to our present ability to serve but other doors will open and the joy of sharing the Gospel will continue. The words of the apostle John reflect our feelings. 'I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth' (3 John 4). All glory for anything accomplished goes to the Father and the Christ, whom we want to serve for all eternity."

Close friends shared these thoughts

Bob Dick: "Glen and Connie have been our friends and neighbors in the Northwest for the last 26 years. The Whites are warm, friendly and enthusiastic and have left a trail of members throughout the Northwest, from Seattle to Montana, who love and respect them. Glen's love of the outdoors is a perfect fit for the area and he has shared that love with generations of teens at summer camp. His humble and



approachable spirit has endeared him to teens and adults alike—you can always talk with Glen. And if you are looking for warmth and hospitality look no further than the 'White House'."

Steve Nutzman: "Heartly congratulations to our dear friends Glen and Connie on their well-deserved retirement after serving many faithful years in the ministry. Glen and Connie, please know you are loved and appreciated for your dedication to God's elect. You both have caring hearts because of God's love in you."

Roc Corbett: "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Glen is that kind of friend to me, and we've 'stuck' with one another in many circumstances over the years. In the years following my ordination I considered Glen as one of my best mentors, because he was always someone I could count on as a close friend, someone who I knew would be there to listen

and support, to encourage and teach, to share wisdom gained through experience, and to stand in the gap for me on those occasions when I needed help. We shared many adventures together as friends, and could always be open with one another, knowing there was a level of trust between us that is rare. Glen has retired from the full time ministry, but his role as one of my best friends will never end. Congratulations, and many thanks, Glen and Connie as you move into this new phase of life and service."

Glen and Connie White have been married for 35 years. They have three children and 12 grandchildren. In their retirement they plan to continue to serve the scattered brethren, continue to preach, teach and write articles, serve at United Youth Camps and teach their grandchildren the truth of God.

Lisa Fenchel

Barriers

Continued from page 6

you cannot really get to know someone.

Check Your Body Language

Make sure you are facing the person you are talking to. Point your feet towards them and do not keep your arms crossed the entire conversation. Also consider how fidgety you are. And make sure you smile!

Really listen in a conversation. Do not just hear what the person is saying, but be engaged. Ask questions and focus on what they are saying. Try to find things you have in common, but do not disregard what you don't have in common. You could learn something new by listening to their knowledge.

Embrace the Awkward Silence

When there is a lull in the conversation, do not immediately run away or pull out your cell phone to check the weather. Use this time to think of another question to ask. It's OK to stand in silence for a few seconds.

Do Not Be Locked Into Plans

Making plans with friends or to see some exciting tourist spot are not bad things. But when you have plans at specific places with specific people every day of the Feast you leave little room to allow new friends to come along with you or for you to be invited out with them.

Consider Your Internal Attitude

Before even going to the Feast make sure you are excited for the Feast and new

people. Maybe you didn't want to go to that Feast site, or maybe something big happened in your life to make you feel bummed before the Feast. You need to push these aggravated feelings aside briefly and focus on God's soon coming Kingdom. When we do focus on the fact that we already are a family with the same goal, then it really doesn't matter what happened before the Feast or that we are not in place we wanted to be. We can still connect to the people in that place regardless.

When you are enjoying yourself and focusing on God's soon coming Kingdom, it is easy to meet new people, and even go up to them. When you do smile at a new friend and say hi to them it is easy to get over the harsh feelings. So make the most of this Feast and break down those barriers! **UN**

Portsmouth Ladies Club

Twenty-nine women met together for Ladies Club in Portsmouth, Ohio, on Aug. 13. The interactive topic was "Bearing One Another's Burdens."

After a short quiz on famous bears, there was a presentation with many discussion points on bearing burdens and serving others.

Delicious snacks were served, and the club concluded with everyone making a burden bear to give away to someone going through a trial. It was an enjoyable event to participate in and reflect on Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Kevin Call

Youth Day in Portsmouth, Ohio



Sabbath school recognition on youth day in Portsmouth.

Aug. 13 was youth day in Portsmouth, Ohio. Caleb Shoemaker started services as our song leader. He was followed by four talks on “What Camp Meant to Me” by Wesley Call, Ashleigh Call, Ethan Call and Shelby James. Special music, “Trust in God” by Lauren Daigle was presented by Ashleigh Call, Erica Call, Elaina Shoemaker and Shelby James.

During announcements we had three graduates recognized for their recent accomplishments: Shelby James (high school), Monica Call (bachelors degree from Shawnee State University), and Audra Bledsoe (bachelors degree from Ohio University). They were followed by three Sabbath school students who completed all of their memory work for the year: Maya Warren, Justin McKinney and Seth McKinney.

Services were rounded out with a sermon titled “Finding the Love of Your Life.” It is always an enjoyable Sabbath when we get to see our young people step up and be willing participants in the service.

Kevin Call

Visit to Angola

Continued from page 8

Bible study with the teens on how to build a relationship with God through prayer. This concluded the leadership training.

On Monday, July 25, we were taken to the airport in Huambo and went to South Africa. A few of the brethren were there to say goodbye and to thank us for our visit. Our journey continued onto Johannesburg and Cape Town. We were able to meet with brethren and friends, some of whom we have known for a long time!

The time came for us to leave. What a wonderful and profitable experience! The Angolan brethren are so warm and hospitable; the South African brethren as well.

It is inspiring to see how God is working in different parts of the world. It reminds me of the scripture in Habakkuk 2:14: “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” **UN**

Stop, Look, Listen!

Continued from page 3

safeguards one at a time to enhance our abilities to responsibly and lovingly communicate with others.

1) Stop!

If we’re going to treat others with dignity we begin by understanding that everyone is made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27), and that alone demands our personal care and attention towards all whose paths we cross—family, friend, neighbor, coworker or fellow Church member. Beyond this, Christ told us we are to “love our neighbors as ourselves” (Matthew 22:39). Which of us does not desire to be heard word-by-word and to have someone to listen to what we are saying? Seneca, the first century Roman philosopher, put it this way: “Listen to me for a day—an hour!—a moment. Lest I expire in my terrible wilderness, my lonely silence! O God, is there no one to listen.” If we’re thoroughly honest, the closer the relationship to us, the more we need to consider these steps, because familiarity can breed bad manners.

To actively listen to another person requires willpower, concentration and strong mental effort underpinned by respect and love.

But let’s ask ourselves an important question. Let’s say our heart is right. But why then do we keep having accidents in communication? There’s something we need to understand about how our minds work. It’s been determined most people exhibit about a 25 percent effective listening score. To be blunt that means we’re listening with less than half of one ear. Here’s our anatomical reality: We can externally receive about 125 words per minute from another person. But that back room of our brain can be processing words at a lightning pace. The reality is that our buzzing brain that’s simultaneously thinking its own thoughts immensely overwhelms our external intake. To slow our brain down is not natural. In fact it can be almost painful.

But that’s where mind over matter and God’s Spirit over human nature come into play. Hearing and listening are two different creatures altogether. Listening is not a passive activity! It just doesn’t happen on its own. To actively listen to another person requires willpower, concentration and strong mental effort underpinned by respect and love. Yes, we have to stop and give the right of way to others!

Consider the positive alternatives of avoiding communication errors such as no longer misinterpreting ideas, misreading people’s intentions, getting

instructions wrong, and the list could go on. Challenging? Yes! Hard? Absolutely! But not to do so devalues others by our expressed lack of interest. God’s instruction and desire for us is just the opposite as expressed by the apostle Paul: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3). As the old saying goes, “God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.” Maybe so we could bow more and talk less.

Put everything down (everything!), look the person in the eye, and give them your all, because that is what’s required to show respect, love and genuine concern.

2) Look!

So often we limit effective communication to what we say, but it’s noteworthy what Solomon said: “The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both” (Proverbs 20:12). God gave us two incredible sets of tools to build bridges of relationship to others. Can you imagine fighting a battle with one hand tied behind your back? Well that’s what occurs when we simply use our ears, but not our eyes, to drink in of someone’s expression to us.

If you don’t think so, just go into a restaurant, cover your ears, look around for a few minutes and just take it all in with your eyes. What you perceive may not come across audibly alone. It may be the shrugging of shoulders, a sly smile, someone looking away and yawning, or someone rapidly turning their head in a certain direction. Shakespeare said, “All the world’s a stage,” and if you are only using your ears and not your eyes, then you’re missing a large part of the play.

Stephen Covey, in his well known book titled *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, enlightens us by explaining, “Empathetic listening involves much more than registering, reflection, or even understanding the words that are said. Communication experts estimate, in fact, that only ten percent of our communication is represented by the words we say. Another thirty percent is represented by our sound, and sixty percent by our body language. In empathetic listening, you listen with your ears, but you also, and more importantly listen with your eyes and with your heart. You listen for feeling, for meaning. Your listen for behavior.”

We live in age of technological distractions, and many people tout their ability to multitask. One thing never to do is multitask when someone is talking with you. Put everything down (everything!), look the person in the eye, and give them your all, because that is what’s required to show respect, love and genuine concern.

To do otherwise sends off immediate signals that you are too busy to care, you’re bored to death, or you just don’t consider what’s being said as important.

I always freeze-frame in my mind and heart a certain episode in which the apostles Peter and John encounter the man at the Gate Beautiful. This man had been placed on the ignore button most of his life until two men who respected God and their fellow man showed genuine love towards this individual, as Scripture describes: “And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, ‘Look at us.’ So he gave them his attention . . .” Yes, eyeball to eyeball and heart to heart—as Peter would continue, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (Acts 3:4-6). Think about it—how many wonderful and meaningful connections have we missed with people, because we didn’t stop everything, give them our full attention with listening ears and Peter-like eyes “fixed” on them? Well, the past is past, but we can start now. First, there is still one more important step.

3) Listen!

Remember Seneca’s lament: “Listen to me for an hour—a day—a moment?”

Forget the hour or day—some of us, no, all of us, have at times not even been able to give a “moment” of thoughtful listening before sharing our “ifs, ands, and buts” that have not been requested or at best are premature in sharing. Just think of Job’s so-called friends, and then think again.

Scripture tells us in Proverbs 18:13, “He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is a folly and shame to him.” Consider why this is so important in weighing once again the thoughts of Steven Covey from *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*: “If I were to summarize in one sentence the single most important principle I have learned in the field of interpersonal relations, it would be this: Seek first to understand, then to be understood. This principle is the key to effective interpersonal communications. Next to physical survival, the greatest need of a human being is psychological survival—to be understood, to be affirmed, to be validated, to be appreciated. When you listen with empathy to another person, you give that person psychological air.”

Yes, silence can be truly golden to serve others. It truly can be a breath of fresh air, because at times it’s so rare. Proverbs 15:4 tells us that a wholesome tongue is a tree of life. But it doesn’t just happen. To put it in very graphic sense: We have to push our tongue back, move our ears forward, and use our hearts as a door-stop—so we don’t get in the way. I’m still learning to bow more and talk less to my fellow man, and I hope you will join me as we learn to stop, look and listen. **UN**

Southern Africa Conferences Sharpen Vision and Mission

by **Darris McNeely**

God’s people in Southern Africa are doing well and are in the capable hands of dedicated servants who care for their spiritual needs. My wife Debbie and I were asked to travel to the region this summer to visit and conduct training sessions for the men and their wives. It was a delightful experience.

We left the States on July 27 on a flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. After a one night layover we traveled on to Lilongwe, Malawi, where we held the first of the meetings. The Church owns its own building there, and it was a suitable venue. More than 30 men and ladies from Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia attended.

Two elders attended from Zimbabwe—Mike Mukarati and Mabasa Chichaya. Both are capable men who care for the scattered members. We first met Mike 16 years ago in Harare, Zimbabwe, and it was good to renew our friendship.

We were encouraged to meet the leaders from Zambia. One deacon, Filius Jere, edits our *Beyond Today* audio tracks into a “Zambian version” by removing Western references that do not relate to his people. He adds an intro and outro with a local address and then puts it on local radio. The Church there has grown in numbers, and there is promise for the future.

Our second conference was in Johannesburg, South Africa. The South African churches are served by three elders, several deacons and other leading men and women. No one is salaried by UCG, and all serve in addition to their full-time jobs. Roy Demont is the chairman of the the South African National Council and makes regular visits to all the congregations.

South Africa has seen steady growth in the past five years. *Beyond Today* television is aired in South Africa, and they have a substantial mailing list for the magazine. They eagerly anticipate two upcoming *Beyond Today* live appearances in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Steve Myers will be conducting these presentations before this year’s Feast of Tabernacles.

We discussed the United Church of God’s Vision and Mission Statements, and I gave a talk titled “Leaders Are Disciples First.” We also had a lively interactive discussion on how to approach and work with “lost sheep”—those who for whatever reason find themselves estranged from the Church while still holding to the faith and need of contact. Some of the areas here are having growth from members who have been part of the greater Church of God diaspora. The Cape Town church has grown to over 30 members as a result of a



Darris and Debbie McNeely with brethren stand in front of the LifeNets Internet Cafe in Malawi.

large group of people joining in fellowship with us in recent years.

Debbie conducted a session with the ladies, and they were encouraged to help their husbands fulfill their duties in the Church and take the lead in service where needed. Fellowship and time together for the members is a rare opportunity. They enjoy the time they have together.

South Africa’s history is at once colorful, tragic and fascinating. The end of apartheid and the coming of majority rule continues to be worked out among the distinct cultures of the region. While we were there the nation conducted local elections. The results highlighted the ferment that con-

tinues to challenge everyone. Everyone in Africa shares the hope for a better life. The true gospel of God offers the foundation for that hope.

At the end of both conferences I concluded by reading Acts 20:32, “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” This is Paul’s farewell blessing to the Ephesian elders in Miletus. It has become a favorite verse of mine from the book of Acts.

Southern Africa is doing well. Pray for all who serve in this region.

High School and College graduates of 2016



Steve (Stevie) Allen Burgett, III

2. Steve and Anna Burgett, Jr.
3. Mansfield, Ohio
4. Stevie plays the trumpet and the guitar and enjoys basketball, golf, baseball and running track. He has lettered in golf and baseball. He has worked for Wasiniak Construction in Norwalk, Ohio, for two years. Stevie enjoys working on his truck, going to church, spending time with his friends and going to camp. He loves to have fun and joke around with people. He is always making someone laugh.
6. He will continue to work and attend college at Terra State Community College in Fremont, Ohio, and get a degree as an auto technician.
7. Favorite Scripture: Micah 6:8.



Monica Call

2. Kevin and Debbie Call
3. Portsmouth, Ohio
4. Monica attended Shawnee State University and received a bachelor of science degree in business administration in December 2015.
5. Activities she was involved in are organizing the teen/young adult card writing program, the United Youth Corps project in Guatemala, and serving as United Youth Camps staff. She enjoys movies and hanging out with friends.
6. She plans to work as an analyst for a corporate financial institution.
7. Favorite Quote: “There is always, always something to be thankful for.”—Unknown. Favorite Scripture: 1 Peter 5:10.



Elizabeth Joseph

2. Brian and Angela Joseph
- Grandparents: Bill and Patty Bratt
- Larry (and the late Bobbie) Joseph
3. Dayton, Ohio
4. Elizabeth graduated from Sinclair Community College with a degree in liberal arts and science.
6. She plans on continuing her education in early childhood education and currently works full time as a nanny.



Gregory Joseph

2. Brian and Angela Joseph
- Grandparents: Bill and Patty Bratt
- Larry (and the late Bobbie) Joseph
3. Dayton, Ohio
4. Gregory graduated from the Hobart Institute of Welding.
6. Gregory is currently working full-time doing welding and ironwork as well as working part-time at a local dairy farm.

Graduate’s Name	involved in, hobbies, unusual skills, etc.
2. Parents’ Names	6. Plans after graduation
3. Congregation	7. Additional comments (favorite Scripture, favorite quote, motto, advice, poetry, wisdom, etc.)
4. School, work, internship, co-op or other accomplishments	
5. Interests, interesting facts about him or her, Church activities	



What's New In MEDIA?

BEYOND TODAY

Television Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Literature	Airing Period
<i>Wars of Gog and Magog</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Is There Really a Devil?</i>	Sept. 11-17
<i>Three Mind-bending Truths</i>	Steve Myers	<i>The Gospel of the Kingdom</i>	Sept. 18-24
<i>Your Ultimate Purpose</i>	Gary Petty	<i>Transforming Your Life</i>	Sept. 25-Oct. 1
<i>Kingdoms at War: Handwriting on the Wall</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Book of Revelation Unveiled</i>	Oct. 2-8
<i>Kingdoms at War: The Mystery of the Fourth Beast</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Final Superpower</i>	Oct. 9-15
<i>Celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Today's World</i>	Steve Myers	<i>God's Holy Day Plan</i>	Oct. 16-22
<i>A Halloween Story</i>	Steve Myers	<i>Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?</i>	Oct. 23-29
<i>What's That Parable All About?</i>	Gary Petty	<i>The Bible Study Course</i>	Oct. 30-Nov. 5



www.ucg.org/jelly/jelly-makes-a-difference



LISTEN TO THE **INSIDE UNITED** PODCAST

www.ucg.org/members/united-news/inside-united

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 20:** *America: The Time Is Now!* Raleigh, North Carolina
Sept. 22: *America: The Time Is Now!* Greensboro, North Carolina
Sept. 25: *America: The Time Is Now!* Charlotte, North Carolina
Oct. 3: Feast of Trumpets
Oct. 12: Day of Atonement
Oct. 17-23: Feast of Tabernacles
Oct. 24: The Eighth Day

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



Up and Coming

Orange County to Celebrate 50 Years

To commemorate the start of the Church of God congregation in December 1966 in Orange County, California, the Garden Grove church will host a 50th church anniversary on Dec. 31.

We have planned for a full day of learning, fellowshiping and reminiscing. Following the 2:30 p.m. Sabbath service, all can enjoy a social and looking at the photo displays spanning the years. Then will be a dinner in the fellowship hall. The evening will feature a program of tributes and sharing of many memories.

Past attendees are invited to share this special celebration. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jean Updegraff at jeanupde@sbcglobal.net. More information will be posted later online.

Jean Updegraff

Outgoing Mail Processing Clerk and Warehouse Assistant Position Posted

The United Church of God announces an opening for a full-time Outgoing Mail Processing Clerk and Warehouse Assistant. Primary responsibilities will include:

- Processing outgoing mail to domestic and international areas.
- Receiving goods and supplies, office deliveries, literature shipments and other materials from USPS, UPS, DHL and

FedEx.

- Monitoring and reporting on warehouse inventory of mailing supplies, office supplies and Church literature.
- Running mailroom equipment and machinery.
- Transporting outgoing mail from the office to the post office via truck and/or van.

- Fulfilling other duties as assigned.

A high school education is necessary, and strong language, math, logic, reasoning and communication skills are required. The incumbent must frequently lift and/or move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision and the ability to adjust focus.

Potential employees must be baptized

members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God.

For more information about the position, please contact human_resources@ucg.org.