



# United Church of God *an International Association*

## **eNews from Ministerial and Member Services**

Issue 310

January 25, 2018

### **Personal From the President...**

Dear fellow servants of God,

What a week it has been in Santiago, Chile! Seeing our brethren face-to-face makes all the difference in the world to both the visitor and the one visited. Beverly and I truly enjoyed seeing our brethren in the vibrant Santiago congregation whose pastor is Jaime Gallardo, with his wife, Mara. Elder Jaime Díaz and wife Lorena came up from the Temuco congregation in south Chile.



Gathering of ministers and wives at the ministerial conference in Santiago, Chile.

On Monday and Tuesday, we held a Leadership/Ministerial Conference at the church hall. Mario Seigle and I gave four leadership presentations. Other elders who participated were Gabriel García and his wife, Andrea, from Mexico City. Pastor Raúl Machicao came from La Paz, Bolivia. I had never met him before and really appreciated getting acquainted with him and better understanding the churches in Bolivia and brethren in Peru. Besides those who were physically present were Israel and Thelma Robledo from Guatemala, Scott and Gayle Hoefker from the United States as well as Jaime and Janet Salek from Bogotá, Colombia, on a Web conference.



Mario and Caty Seiglie welcome Raúl Machicao from Bolivia to the Santiago conference.

There were good questions about practical Christian challenges. We addressed how to know that God has been working in our life and in the Church. We had discussion about a minister's wife's role in counseling. A good dialog ensued about the Millennial generation taking over the reins of leadership in the Church. I answered that we are to look optimistically to those who are maturing. They bring a special desire to become involved that perhaps other generations did not show as strongly.

On Tuesday, we held a ministerial conference. Each of the pastors gave a brief report about their areas, but then enumerated their difficulties and challenges. Issues ranged from immodest wear at Sabbath services to how to distribute *Las Buenas Noticias* magazine in their country. Then we all joined a discussion about solutions. It was mutually encouraging and helpful to all of us, as good ideas were shared.

Yesterday, Wednesday, Jaime Gallardo, his wife, Mara, Mario Seiglie, along with Bev and myself, drove about an hour and a half north of Santiago to see the Feast site in Olmué. It is truly a spectacular location in the coastal mountains of beautiful Chile. The climate here is very similar to California's except that now it is the middle of summer. They expect about 120-130 people to attend.

On Thursday, today, we leave for Argentina where we will meet our brethren in Oberá in the Misiones area. Our plan is to arrive home on Tuesday. Thank you for your prayers and interest in God's Work with 600 brethren.

### **Enduring Hope for Times when All Seems Hopeless**

I received word today that Aaron Dean, International Coordinator and Ambassador Bible College Dean of Students, was taken to the hospital emergency room last night, Wednesday, in severe pain and unable to breathe. The doctors determined that he had a blood clot in his right lung. He was anointed shortly after arriving at the hospital. He is currently resting and has been given a clean bill of health otherwise, but remains under observation. He will undergo further tests on his legs in an attempt to identify where the blood clot came from and to determine if there are any more. He is hoping to be released on Friday to go home. Your prayers for his speedy and full recovery are much appreciated.

Where does one find hope when all seems hopeless? Hope describes a condition or feeling of expectation and a want or desire for a specific act to occur. When we're in the middle of a troublesome situation or a full-blown trial, hope helps us get through the difficult times.

I have seen this time and again in my ministry and have even experienced it myself! And this includes times when I have gone to encourage and support someone engulfed in a serious trial, only to be strongly encouraged by the afflicted person when I thought I would be the one providing encouragement.

As you all know, several in the Church of God are currently experiencing serious health and other challenges, including cancer and other debilitating conditions that are emotionally draining. But we often hear of their amazing positive response to these trials and draw strength from them!

How does this happen? What spiritual strength does God impart to those undergoing serious difficulties?

Here's one example: Joy Jones, mother of three children and wife of minister David Jones in South Dakota, recently was diagnosed with breast cancer. That's tough, very tough. Yet, Mrs. Jones wrote publicly on Facebook: "We have tremendous hope that God is going to lead us through this valley and that He intends good from this trial. He has never dropped us, and I am confident that He does not intend to start now." She acknowledged the difficulty and challenge she and her family currently face, but she also quietly affirmed the source of her strength: "We are still digesting this information. It is a lot to take in. I thank those of you who have reached out and surrounded us with love and prayers. Truly, that is what we need right now. Your prayers, support and love have been like a blanket that I am holding tightly around myself. When I get scared, those prayers hold me up."

When I read that, I was personally inspired. My personal challenges and troubles fell away by comparison. It filled me with hope, with the expectation that God's will would be done and that Mrs. Jones' request was heard at the highest level, even to God's throne.

As King David wrote: "We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and shield... Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone" (Psalm 33:20, 22, New Living Translation).

When the fire comes--and it will come in some form for all of us in ways that we may not even imagine--we need to have this hope firmly fixed and active in our lives.

Paul gives us some insight about the role of hope in the divine quality of love that comes from God. In describing the spiritual characteristics of love, Paul tells us that the love that comes from God "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7). *Bear, believe, hope, endure*--that's a great spiritual framework with which to face and persevere in trials.

So, when we pray for God's Holy Spirit to be given to us, let us always remember to ask that God would literally pour out His love into our hearts through that gift (Romans 5:5). Filled with that divine love, we can then personally bear up under stress, be confident and not lose our ability to believe in the power of God to deliver us, hope--have a confident expectation that this too will not only pass, but go on to greatness--and finally to endure to the end! As Jesus Himself emphasized, "but he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Tonight in Santiago, I led a Bible Study on the first chapter of Ephesians. As I read these verses, I felt the power that comes to help us endure whatever we must face: "The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people" (v. 14). "I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him" (v. 19).

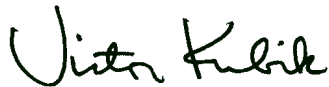
If and when you feel that all is hopeless, be like David and look to God as your shield, the One who will envelop you with powerful love and endurance, filled with hope! Echo David's words, "For in You, O Lord, I hope" (Psalm 38:15). And add your prayers for those who presently find themselves in the midst of trials, small or large!

Our God is a loving and personal God. He cares about you personally, and He cares about His saints who are enduring difficult trials. Looking for hope in what appears to be a hopeless situation? God is ready!

My prayer for you, as our prayer should be for all who fear God and serve Him, is the same as Paul's: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, New International Version).

Powerful hope is available. May you find it today!

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

## **From Ministerial and Member Services...**

### **Leadership Workshop Registration Closed**

The Leadership Workshop to be held in Portland, Oregon, is now at capacity and we are unable to accept any more registrations at the present time. For those who would like to be added to a wait list in case we receive cancellations, please contact Kathe Myers at [kathe\\_myers@ucg.org](mailto:kathe_myers@ucg.org).

### **Keyboard Available**

We have a member in the Missouri area whose husband recently died and left a piano keyboard that could be used for church services. She would like to offer it to any congregation or member who could use it. Contact Bobbie Williams directly at [Palm15Casino@msn.com](mailto:Palm15Casino@msn.com) for details.

## ***Ministerial Journal* to Resume Publication**

The desire is for the *Ministerial Journal* to resume with a quarterly production schedule so that it can continue to be a solid resource for the ministry of the United Church of God.

We are looking for many elders to contribute and bring insight into the word of God and serve to motivate other elders to improve their expository and exegetical skills. Perhaps you could write on one of the following topics:

- Developing speaking ability, presentations, etc.
- Reviews of books and other educational materials that you have been found to be helpful in your ministry.
- Sound pastoring principles.
- Aspects of training and developing local elders, deacons and deaconesses.
- Counseling insight from seasoned elders to the younger elders.
- History-related articles on historical heresy, church history, etc.

Each elder should have at least one pearl of wisdom to share which can serve to encourage and inspire. What could you share to help and motivate others to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? We encourage you to contribute to this publication.

Articles for the next issue can be submitted to [mj@ucg.org](mailto:mj@ucg.org) and are due by February 28 for the next issue of the *Ministerial Journal*, which is scheduled for publication on March 23.

We look forward to serving you in this publication!

## **Cincinnati Living 1835 Young Adult Weekend - March 16-18**

The Cincinnati congregations' annual Living 1835 Young Adult Weekend, "Desire What God Requires," is scheduled for March 16-18, 2018.

How do we as young adults apply justice, mercy, and humility in our lives? Are we passionately, actively pursuing what the Lord requires of us? Join us for a weekend of spiritual growth, friendship and service as we explore the meaning of Micah 6:8. All high school grads from age 18-35, married or single, are invited to attend. There will be interactive seminars, services, and social activities as well as an opportunity to take action by applying ourselves to service.

The cost for this exciting weekend is only \$35 if you register by February 17th. Your registration also includes three meals! (After the deadline, the cost will be \$40.) For more details and to register, please visit: [living1835.com](http://living1835.com)

If you are interesting in contributing or serving in any capacity for this weekend (special music, sound crew, housing visitors, etc.) or if you need financial assistance, contact Cody Martin ([cody.martin91@yahoo.com](mailto:cody.martin91@yahoo.com)).

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