

January 26, 2018



Ground has been broken in Cincinnati for the new video studio. Andrew Bergman, who is attending Ambassador Bible College, sent me this picture.

I've included the February calendar for the area with this week's Pastor's Update.

The combined Nashville/Murfreesboro teen study originally planned for February has been postponed to March. There is also a social planned in Murfreesboro for Saturday night, March 17. We will have services at 2:30 followed by a Bible study and then the social. Please notice that services in Nashville on that date will be at 10:30 am.

We had to cancel the Proverbs 31 Women's Study in January due to inclement weather. We have a Women's Study scheduled on February 11. Also, please note that the next Young Adults Bible Study is on February 24.

Nashville/Murfreesboro Prom

The Nashville and Murfreesboro congregations cordially invite all teens and young adults to the United Church of God Southeast Regional Formal!

This year's event will be held at the Baird Chapel of Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN on March 24 with Senior presentations followed by a catered dinner starting at 6pm and the dance from 7:30pm to midnight.

REGISTRATION

The deadline to register is MARCH 9th, 2018. The fee is \$25 per person, which includes catered dinner and dance with snacks and drinks. *WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT PAYMENT AT DOOR. ALL ATTENDEES MUST PAY BY THE DEADLINE.* Be sure to mail your registration form with your check. This form is made available through the Facebook group under the files tab: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501814639841015/files>

Please make checks out to United Church of God - Tennessee. You can mail your payment to Ronnee Ellithorpe, 100 Meadow Brook Lane White House, TN 37188. For questions about registration, please email UCGsoutheastprom@gmail.com OR call/text Ronnee Ellithorpe at 615-498-2251.

SABBATH SERVICES

Sabbath services will be held at Cumberland University in the Baird Chapel (same location as the dinner and dance). Time is 2:30pm. If you are interested in performing special music at services, please contact UCGsoutheastprom@gmail.com or Ronnee Ellithorpe at 615-498-2251.

SENIOR BIOS

2018 Seniors! Please submit this year's Senior Bio form along with your registration form. All of the seniors and their accomplishments will be recognized at Formal. The Senior Bio form is made available through the Facebook group under the files tab: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501814639841015/files>

PROM PHOTOS

We will have a silly photo booth and opportunities for formal photos to be taken free of charge! All photos will be uploaded to the UCG Southeast Regional Formal Facebook group following the event.

DIRECTIONS

The address for Baird Chapel at Cumberland University is 1 Cumberland Square, Lebanon, Tennessee 37087.

From Nashville:

Take I-40 East to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn Left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is on right.

From Knoxville:

Take I-40 West to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn Left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is on right.

From Chattanooga:

Take I-24 West to I-840 East (Lebanon, Knoxville). Continue on I-840 East until it meets I-40. Take I-40 East to exit 238, South Cumberland Street. Turn north and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn left onto Leeville Pike and continue for 0.3 mile. Take 2nd Right on to South Greenwood Street and continue for .2 mile. Turn Left onto McClain Avenue. Campus is in right. (nashville.ucg.org)

Atlanta Ski Trip

Some who have asked if they could still come to this year's **Atlanta Ski Trip** despite missing the January 19 (\$10) reservation deadline. The answer is yes. We needed to establish our numbers early on for the ski resort, but we can take additional skiers and snowboarders at this time if some still want to participate. Skiers or snowboarders still need to reserve a spot using the form on the Atlanta UCG webpage. (<https://www.ucg.org/congregations/atlanta-ga/posts/6th-annual-ucg-atlanta-ski-trip-february-4-2018-539261>)

Additionally, the Knoxville, TN congregation has its Sabbath Service near Gatlinburg on February 3. Mr. Jay Ledbetter, Pastor of Knoxville, has stated they will host a covered dish meal after services that Sabbath with barbeque. **Attendees are encouraged to bring drinks, chips, and desserts.** There will also be Bingo in the evening.

Michigan's Mid-Winter Weekend

Our youth group is having a Mid-Winter Teen, Young Adult, Family Weekend/Lock-In on February 10, 2018. There will be services and a potluck at Estrabrook School with a Lock-in at Eastern Michigan University.

For those that do not want to do the lock-in there are hotels in the area and also possible members' homes. If anyone would like more information they can call either Mr. or Mrs. Fitch at (517) 663-2495 or Janet Franke at (734) 483-0397.

It will be a fun weekend for our youth and young adults. There are flyers with registration forms on the information table.

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

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).



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.

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 Cathy Seigle 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Kubik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victor Kubik