

news AT A GLANCE

New Instructors Welcomed to ABC

Ambassador Bible Center concluded the final week of the first semester on Jan. 14. The second semester began on Jan. 18 with a vibrant week that included five new instructors. The new instructors include:

- Anthony Wasilkoff (on loan from Canada), who will teach Pentateuch 2.
- Steve Myers, who will join the faculty to teach Epistles of Paul and help out with ABC administration.
- Randy Stiver, who will do the Writings class.
- Frank McCrady, who will be teaching Gospels 2.
- Aaron Dean, who will teach a new class, Personal and Family Finance.

We are excited to welcome these quality individuals to ABC. We have much to look forward to in the second semester, including the Super Bowl Party, the Charity Auction to raise money for educational needs in Zimbabwe, a field day to the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, the General Conference of Elders meeting, graduation dinner, grad brunch and graduation.

Gary Antion

Beyond Today Records on Location in Europe

Beyond Today presenter Darris McNeely and Media and Communications Services operation manager Peter Eddington traveled to Eastern Europe to film two *Beyond Today* programs on location.

The first program, "Europe on the Threshold," was filmed in Vienna, Austria, and covers the history of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe. It also shows how an end-time revival of the Empire will soon emerge on the world scene.

The crew then traveled to Budapest, Hungary, to film the second program, "The Coming King of the South." Recorded

See "News at a Glance," page 11

Special Ministerial Conference Looks to Christ to Advance the Work



Ministers and wives take part in a breakout session on congregational care at the "Look to Christ: Advance the Work" ministerial conference

■ UCG ministers attended a special conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 31 to Feb. 1.

by Amanda Stiver and Peter Eddington

Over 330 elders and wives were present on Monday, Jan. 31, to begin a special ministerial conference "Look to Christ:

Advance the Work." On that cool, crisp January day, President Dennis Luker set the tenor for the meeting with a commission to the elders to grow in humility and godly love in order to build upon the Rock that is Jesus Christ and finish the work He has given us to do.

The feeling of reassurance and gratitude that permeated the atmosphere as attendees greeted each other the previous night

continued unabated throughout Monday's meetings. The invigorating fellowship was evident by the ceaseless buzz of conversation during breaks and meals.

The instructions in Philippians 2:3-5 were emphasized repeatedly by the day's speakers: for "each to esteem others better than himself," to "look out not only

See "Conference," page 9

Hundreds Gather for Northwest Weekend

■ The annual Northwest Weekend hosted by the Portland, Oregon, congregation took place Dec. 24-27.

by Karen Schuster

Northwest Weekend 2010, hosted by the Portland, Oregon, congregation, was the most successful ever, with 431 attendees. The weekend, which ran Dec. 24-27, consisted of ABC Continuing Education seminars, sermons, Bible studies, a teen dance, a family dance, volleyball, basketball and cheerleading. This fun weekend was also extended to allow some participants to stay overnight at a cozy ski lodge on Mt. Hood for tubing and skiing.

Attendees came from several states, including Alaska, California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and Washington. Some also journeyed all the way from Canada as well.

Meaty sermons and seminars were given throughout the weekend. Randy Stiver represented ABC during the continuing education seminar, where he covered the following topics: "Give



Sabbath services at the Northwest Weekend (photo by Rob and Tina Slocum)

See "NWW," page 9



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BY THE NUMBERS

43,204

booklet downloads from
Apple's iBookstore



Members Sustain Damage as Floods Wreak Havoc on Queensland, Australia

by Judy Nelson and Bill Bradford

The recent flooding in Australia began back in December with extensive rains in central Queensland. They were certainly needed, seemingly breaking the long drought. However, it kept raining. The rain then moved to the coastal areas in the north and then moved to the coastal areas in the south. Eventually an area the size of Texas was under flood waters.

Toowoomba, one of Australia's largest inland cities, had a flash flood Jan. 10 due to a hard downpour for about two hours. This water then flowed down to the valley below and destroyed one town completely and damaged several others.

The heavy rain covered a part of the Brisbane River catchment area, and it was only a matter of time before the lower Brisbane River flooded and inundated the Brisbane suburbs near the river, as well as the central business district.

About 11,900 homes in Brisbane were completely submerged, as well as 2,500 business. Another 14,700 homes and 2,500 business suffered damage from floodwaters.

The death toll, as of the article date, is 20 dead with 12 missing

Flood Affects Brethren

Some members in the area were affected by the flooding. One member, Felicia McQueen of Toowoomba, was in the central business area, which experienced what was called "an inland tsunami." She was shopping with her young child, and the shopkeeper told her to leave immediately because they were closing the shop. She drove

home on a street that within minutes was to be hit with the deadly wall of water. She turned off into her street with only seconds to spare. She commented, "I think sometimes the miracle is not the exciting save from disaster, but God's protection by removing us from disaster."

Further down the valley, the two-story home of Brian and Zelma Moreton of Ipswich had only the rooftop showing above the floodwaters.

In Brisbane itself, three members suffered damage. Peter and Veronica Blick had water to a height of one meter in the second floor of their home. Lloyd and Elaine Kleier and their son also had floodwaters to a depth of one meter enter their home.

Terry Laverack from the beautiful riverside suburb of Fig Tree Pocket, however, experienced massive loss. His house was totally submerged for days. He has lost everything. His home has had to be completely gutted with only the studs showing. All his belongings, except for clothes and a few personal items, are totally ruined. His insurance company is refusing to meet his claim, saying, as they are with most of the claims, that this event didn't meet the proper definition of a flood.

Loaves and Fishes

Amid this devastation, there was a little humor to find. Three ladies from our congregation baked and made sandwiches for members who went to help Terry with the massive cleanup. Since they could not find a clean place to set up the little sidewalk café, they put the table on the street. Soon they were swamped with people coming from all directions for morning tea. It



Cleanup begins after flood waters recede

was certainly going to be a "loaves and fishes" event!

The prepared food was not going to last long, but suddenly the volunteers began to see food arriving from everywhere. They were soon reinforced with pizzas, chicken rolls, sandwiches and biscuits from the good-hearted people of Brisbane. They received freely and distributed freely.

This flood of 2011 has been one of the saddest events to happen to Queensland in recent history. But it has brought out the best in people. It has been most inspiring to work alongside people from all walks of life who are willing to help their fellow men in their greatest hour of need.

Please keep those affected in your prayers. **UN**

UCG-Germany Reports End-of-Year Stats

UCG-Germany spent \$36,800 on printing costs for public proclamation in 2010, bringing the total for the decade ending in 2010 to \$321,000. These printing costs were paid with local funds without any subsidy for public proclamation from the home office of the United Church of God in Cincinnati, Ohio.

British Isles Feast of Tabernacles Location Confirmed

The National Council of United Church of God-British Isles met on Dec. 12. The Council confirmed Winchester as the location for the Feast in 2011 and Llandudno in 2012. Options for 2013 onwards will be discussed with the ministry.

Spanish Beyond Today Translators Receive Equipment Upgrade

Media and Communications Services reported an exciting update regarding the Spanish translation of *Beyond Today*.

The small UCG family production studio called Sierra Production in Santa Rosa del Sur, Colombia, have been producing Spanish

voiceovers for the *Beyond Today* TV program.

However, with the editing system now almost 10 years old, it was in great need of upgrading and replacement.

The home office purchased new computer editing equipment for the project in December of 2010 and shipped it to the studio in Colombia. However, LifeNets has since reimbursed United for the whole cost of purchase and shipping!

We appreciate Victor Kubik and LifeNets for their generosity and willingness to help a small family business do its part to preach the good news of God's Kingdom in the Latin American world.

Peter Eddington

Young Adults Take On Challenger Program in Nigeria

by Paul Moody

A total of 13 enthusiastic participants plus staff spent seven days and eight nights camping in the wilderness region of central Nigeria. What could inspire such an adventure? The answer is committed young adults seeking to be challenged, both physically and spiritually.

This session, which ran from Dec. 23 to 31, 2010, marked the second consecutive year of Challenger in Nigeria. The Plateau State wilder-

ness region is a breathtaking grassy savannah with rolling hills and unique rock formations stretching as far as the eye can see. Scattered throughout this plain are small villages and independent family farms that, for the most part, seem untouched by time.

The purpose of the Challenger program is to take young adults who are dedicated to God's truth and give them specified training in godly character, Christ-centered leadership skills and service to others. All

of this takes place in a wilderness setting where the participants experience activities from which they draw principles that will strengthen them spiritually. For most, this program removes them from their normal routine and places them in an environment where they must accept physical challenges, discomfort and very basic living conditions.

The staff included elder Oludare Akinbo, along with his wife Tohun, and Paul Ogunidipe from Lagos, Nigeria, as well as pastor Mark Mickelson and Paul Moody from Spokane, Washington.

Each day began with breakfast and a morning Compass Check designed to focus everyone in a specific spiritual direction for that day. Activities included backpacking, hiking, orienteering and learning survival skills.

ONLINE

<http://africanmountainmen.blogspot.com>

SEE: Photos of this Challenger Program in Nigeria



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Profile: Edmond Macaraeg

by Johnny Kretz

Edmond Macaraeg was born in Zamboanga City, Mindanao Island, at the close of World War II. Both of his parents were from the northern island of Luzon. Having already made a personal covenant with God in writing in March 1965, the earliest opportunity he had to be baptized was in June 1969, when he went to Metro Manila. While Mr. Macaraeg and his family were living in Bonn, Germany, he was approved to study at Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England, for the 1973 school year. Unfortunately, the Ambassador College campus there was closed before classes were even to begin.

Mr. Macaraeg has been serving in the ministry for 34 years. He was ordained as a local elder in November 1976 then as preaching elder in May 1979 in Davao City. At the end of an intensive one-year ministerial education program in Baguio City, his ordination as pastor took place in December 1985.

In September 1968 Lorna Gonzales moved from Bonn to work in the Philippine office of what was then the Radio Church of God, known as Ambassador College Agency in Metro Manila. In May 1969 Mr.

Macaraeg also arrived from Zamboanga del Sur province in Mindanao Island to work in the same office. In October 1970 they were married.

The Macaraegs have seven children. Four sons and a daughter take an active part in serving God's Church in the Philippines. Two other daughters, currently residing in the United States, in Wisconsin and Colorado, used to work for the Church.

Presently Mr. Macaraeg is the UCG Mindanao regional pastor, overseeing 18 video groups and congregations, and is also United Youth Corps national director. He has been a Festival coordinator every year from 1977 to the present.

During his ministry, Mr. Macaraeg has learned that "serving God and His people is the most fulfilling job ever, yet the most challenging, and has produced the greatest hurt feelings also."

Looking ahead to the future, he added, "There is much [to be accomplished in



Lorna and Edmond Macaraeg

the Church], but the biggest problem is that the 'laborers are few' (and rapidly growing old), plus finances pose some limitations, apart from organizational difficulties."

Like all the members around the world who are struggling with life's challenges, your Filipino brothers and sisters send you their greetings, and also ask that you remember them in your prayers. **UN**

FORWARD! To Eternity—and Beyond!



RANDY STIVER
Assistant to the president

"To infinity—and beyond!" Thus goes the refrain of the popular animated film *Toy Story*. It may be mathematically impossible, but that never stopped Buzz Lightyear! In fact, mathematical impossibilities never stopped the work that Jesus Christ gave His Church to do either. As our Lord and Master said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Even as we in the United Church of God slog through a truly sad time of losing friendships in the faith, we are pressing forward in every quarter of God's work, preaching the gospel and preparing a people to serve the great Messiah at His return for the infinity of eternity in the Kingdom of God. Lest we lose sight of spiritual progress amidst the current turmoil, let's look forward toward the great things that God is doing among us.

As Christ's brethren, we're not unfamiliar with turmoil. Consider our historical brother John the Baptist who, when persecuted, imprisoned and wearied (enduring serious turmoil), wondered whether Jesus was truly the Messiah. Christ sent him a powerful message, reassuring him among other things that "the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Luke 7:22). And who is poorer than those who don't know the true gospel of the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached?

Likewise, today United commits tremendous resources and energy to pro-

claiming God's way of life, Christ's return and the coming of the Kingdom of God in print, on television and on multiple websites on the Internet.

Renewed Efforts to Do the Work

The open door to place the *Beyond Today* television program on the U.S. nationwide cable station WGN America has been a huge boon to the gospel. In a relatively few months of broadcasting there we have had numerous new donors to the cause plus some already attending the Church!

The Good News magazine has consistently remained the most widespread print periodical proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom over the last 15 years. And don't forget *The Good News'* younger sibling *Vertical Thought*. Although the circulation is considerably less the *GN*, *VT* is largely unique within our milieu. Aimed at today's youth and God's young people in His Church, it focuses toward the future as "a magazine of understanding and tomorrow's leaders." *Vertical Thought* and *The Good News* are set to go forward with invigorated editorial energy!

And here's more good news! The United Youth Camps program, replete with new directors, is developing exciting plans for instructing our youth in the fundamentals of God's Word even better. We are



Darris McNeely on the grounds of the Hapsburg Schönbrunn Palace while recording the *Beyond Today* program "Threshold of a New Age" (see page 12)

planning strategic locations for teen and preteen camps, some old favorites and a couple of new adventures. These will soon be publicized in *United News*, the camp magazine and online at uyc.ucg.org. In addition to camps, pastors and members are planning a bevy of regional social activities for God's treasured young people—proms, campout weekends and other special events are getting underway.

With relatively few adjustments, the United Feast sites are operational and will soon be ready for your Festival planning. Whether on the holy weekly Sabbath or the annual festivals, the United Church of God presses on toward God's Kingdom.

Your prayers and service help us move forward together—to eternity and beyond! **UN**

The Jordan Volunteers: Our Vocational Journey

by Amber Henke

One day while working at the YMWA Center for Special Education, a field trip had been planned for the vocational section, where my husband Darren works. It sounded like a great opportunity to spend time with the students outside of school and to see more of Jordan, so I went to the head of the section where I work to ask if I could go too.

She paraphrased my question in such a way that I couldn't stop thinking about it: "You would like to go on the vocational journey?" The reason it struck me is that I, as a Christian, am already on my own personal vocational journey—as is every true follower of Christ.

The English word *vocation* is derived from the Latin word *vocare*, which means "to call." According to *Webster's Dictionary*, a vocation is "a summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action; especially a divine call to the religious life." We baptized members have received our summons, accepted it and are now taking part in a lifelong journey through which we strive to be worthy of the vocation for which we were selected.

Our vocation, our divine calling, is to be in the ruling government of God, when His Kingdom is established here on earth.

Concerning these positions, notice what the prayers of the saints state in Revelation 5:10: "And [You, Christ] have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." So, our ultimate vocations are to be kings and priests in the coming Kingdom of God. What a bright and glorious future we have ahead of us!

However, in order to have this future, we must go through a lifetime of training in order to prepare for it. Think of it this way: When applying for a job, we must have the skills necessary for that position, and our future position is no exception.

In Matthew 5:3-10 Christ gives us the characteristics that we must develop in order to fulfill our calling.

- First on the list, we must be poor in spirit, humble before both men and God.
- Second, we must learn to mourn for sin and its consequences.
- Third, we must become meek, enduring injury with patience instead of resentment.
- Fourth, we must always seek righteousness, striving with our whole heart.
- Fifth, we must be merciful, just as God has been merciful to us.
- Sixth, we must become pure in heart, being undefiled by sin.
- Seventh, we must learn to make peace, always seeking to overcome strife and division.
- Eighth, we must be willing to endure persecution for righteousness' sake.

This is by no means a comprehensive list, but it is the foundation that godly character is built on.

The development of these characteristics and attitudes doesn't happen overnight. We must work hard to obtain and develop them, and some of them can only be learned through hard trials. We must stay strong through these trials, because through them God is preparing and teaching us.



Students lunch at a restaurant in Jerash



Students have a picnic at a banana farm in the Jordan valley

In James 1:2-4 we are told to "count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." Of course we not only learn through trials, but also through blessings and opportunities that are placed before us. Through these ways of teaching,

God is preparing and training us for the ultimate job, a job He selects specifically for His precious sons and daughters.

Since the day I asked if I could attend the vocational field trips, I have gone on two—first to Jerash and then to a banana farm in the Jordan Valley—and they were both wonderful experiences! Darren and I know that God is using the opportunities presented to us through the Jordan Project to create and refine the above characteristics within us.

As Christians, we need to stay focused on our vocational journey and work hard so that our lives reflect the training necessary to be worthy of the positions for which we were selected. **UN**

Read more about the volunteers' experience in Jordan by visiting their blog at www.ujcordan10.blogspot.com.

Campers Enjoy Jam-Packed Week at Winter Camp

by Jeremy Lallier

While much of the world was celebrating the eve of a new calendar year, a small group of United Youth Camp campers and staff, nestled away in quiet Montello, Wisconsin, were welcoming in God's Sabbath at the end of a jam-packed week of activities and fellowship.

When the group arrived at the Sky Lodge almost one week prior, the small crowd was a mix of friends and strangers, familiar faces and new ones. But after just seven short days, both campers and staff had undergone the peculiar transformation known so well to veterans of the camp—they had become one tight-knit family.

Attendees of Winter Camp often joke that Wisconsin's freezing temperatures force us to stay close, but it's something more than that. For a solid week, veterans of camp and newcomers alike are exposed to what we've termed the *Zone*. It's a phrase we use to refer to the environment that comes when God's people are able to come together and live His way. In the end, after all the resulting peace, warmth and joy, it's almost impossible to do anything *but* walk away having made brand-new lifelong friends.

The camp activity schedule included Winter Camp exclusives like broomball on the ice, horseback riding through the snow, ice-skating, cross-country skiing and tubing along with UYC staples such as ultimate Frisbee, flag football and photography.

Every day at Winter Camp began with breakfast followed by a Compass Check. At the end of every day, the entire camp got together for a variety of activities, ranging from Bunco to Christian Living to a variety show, after which campers returned to their dorms to rest up for the next day.

Winter Camp culminated with its annual Saturday night dance and camp slideshow, followed by the presentation of a scrapbook to Winter Camp directors Gary and Gale Black for their years of hard work and service in organizing and directing the camp.

It was an honor and a privilege to witness so many young people pursue not only friendships among themselves, but friendships with God. For one week, we saw the tranquility and the excitement that results when people edify and strengthen each other while seeking to follow their Creator. **UN**



Campers connect an inner-tube train before sledding down the hill

The Young Faces of *Beyond Today*

Media intern Sabrina Clore sat down with four of the behind-the-scenes *Beyond Today* staff to discuss their role in preaching the gospel.

by Sabrina Clore

The *Beyond Today* crew plays a crucial role in preaching the gospel via television broadcasting and the Internet. Using the various mediums, their goal is to present the gospel message in the most effective way, reaching people in our modern age at their level of understanding.

What is not widely known is that most of the crew on *Beyond Today* are under 35 years old. Clint Porter, 28, works as motion graphics specialist and has been at the home office for five years. Tom Disher, 26, works as a senior website designer but volunteers his

from what you're working on. That is why I got into doing this in the first place. For instance, with *Beyond Today* it's really exciting to see the letters come in from people who just had their minds opened to a whole new area that they'd never thought about before in a doctrine.

Having spent their lives searching for some kind of answer and then they finally see this program, they realize, "I was looking for this. This fits with the things that didn't make sense when I compare the Bible to what people are saying." I think that's really rewarding.

Jamie Schreiber: When you see comments on YouTube and letters that are inspired from the videos that you've worked on, that's so encouraging! Also when I went to Australia for the Feast last year, I was absolutely overwhelmed because of all of these folks who had heard my name and knew I was working for the Church, and they wanted to meet me. They really inspired me to want to put more youth films together. They want to see some more.

SC: What is your favorite aspect of working for the Church?

Rudy Rangel: Everyone has days when they get down about work. But when you work for the Church, what we do—the effects of it—will last for eternity.

Tom Disher: Seeing people who say, "Wow." When people find a website and they've been looking for something and it finally connects—you help make that connection—man, that's cool. I worked at GE before I worked here, and my project was to help streamline a process to make locomotives and shave off costs for a big company. So, being here and actually seeing the results is pretty awesome compared to cranking out widgets more efficiently.

CP: I was setting up mainframe security administration for Marathon Oil and SAIC—same story like that, by comparison. I think one thing that's really neat about working here, too, is knowing what our mission is—what it is and what we're trying to do. It's very exciting to get to be the physical hands that

are actually doing something that somebody else is praying for.

They want to see it go forward, and you're the instrument that's being used to actually make it happen. It's neat to be a part of that process. We certainly very much appreciate how all of those different pieces are needed to make it happen.

SC: Tell me why you think television is an important aspect of preaching the gospel, doing the work of God.



Top, Tom Disher and Sabrina Clore; left, Clint Porter and Rudy Rangel (photos by Elizabeth Cannon)

ONLINE

<http://www.beyondtoday.tv>

WATCH: *Beyond Today* programs

time to operate the teleprompter during program recording. Both Jamie Schreiber, 26, and Rudy Rangel, 31, are associate media producers and are responsible for operating the video cameras.

Producing *Beyond Today* is a collaborative effort. All team members are also involved in production meetings and editing scripts alongside senior video editor Clay Thornton, *BT* presenters Darris McNeely, Gary Petty and Steve Myers, as well as Media and Communications Services operation manager Peter Eddington.

Sabrina Clore: What is the most interesting or rewarding experience that you've had while on the job?

Clint Porter: I think for me, it's when you see some direct result

CP: One of the important factors, a lot of the time, for people coming into the Church is the quality of the congregations of the people they come into contact with and the health of congregations. But when it comes to the media, it's been important to also remember that we've got different sides of the gospel message. We are making disciples as God calls people into the Church, but at the same time we've got this commission to warn the world.

These are people whom God isn't necessarily calling right now, but they do need the warning message. And they may glorify God later in the day of visitation through having heard what is being presented. Television is important to that because there are only certain ways to warn people as opposed to making disciples.

TV is important and is a medium where you can still come into contact with people who browse across where you are. They flip across, and they might hear something that is interesting and listen to it, which is a different experience than the Web where you're often going somewhere specific. The reason we use all of these different media is because each one offers something unique that is an inroad into some people's lives.

SC: What is your favorite *Beyond Today* program so far and why?

JS: One of the ones Rudy and I worked on pretty hard is "Dancing With the Dark Side." We got to shoot lots of cover footage with a former witch. It was very interesting being in the room while the interview was going on, and we had fun challenges to light a per-



son who didn't want to show her face. She told her stories, and we got to shoot reenactments.

RR: She had an interesting perspective, which enhanced the show. She actually attested that the evil spirit world out there exists.

TD: I think that's my favorite because we brought in an actual expert, someone who's actually been through that. It's easy to listen to a minister talk about it, but bringing somebody's real life experience into it is really cool.

CP: "The Day After Christmas," I thought, was a really good program. And it helped that Rudy and Jamie went out and got interview clips for the intro, which really helped build the case by just asking people about Christmas. The approach to that program was very warm, approachable and respectful to somebody coming from a Christmas-oriented viewpoint. I thought it was handled very well.

SC: How do we try to set apart the *BT* program and make it interesting to viewers?

JS: My main focus lately has been the very beginning of the show—the opening teaser. I've tried to put in as many graphics or reenactments as possible. The program "Solving the Israel and Arab Conflict" gives a scenario of a terrorist, so my cousin, Jonathan Magee, and I did a reenactment of it. Basically, it's like the hook of a movie. We're trying to grab the viewer within the first 20 seconds of the show, so hopefully they'll continue to watch.

SC: Is there anything else that you want to share about your job—that you feel would be important for people to know?

RR: For me, you see us laughing and having a good time, but we very much take our jobs very seriously. We know the weight of the commission that Christ gave to us.

We are trying to put a message out there, for not just a specific age group. We do try to make a message relevant to everyone, which is hard to do. Young people may like this episode better or older people might like that episode better, but as a whole we try to work together to put something out there that will appeal to as many people as we can.

CP: One last crucial element is the outstanding leadership of Peter Eddington and Clay Thornton. People have developed so much from working with Clay. He has an Emmy in editing and is just a fantastic picture person, knowing where the story needs to go in these programs—and Peter as well. I have never met anyone like Peter, who is well rounded in understanding the technical aspects and also deals well with people. They've been fantastic mentors.

RR: They are also excellent team players, won't take control and openly take input. When they both like a program, it means a lot, because they are well educated with lots of experience.

SC: What's the best way for members to send feedback?

CP: One way is visiting the *Beyond Today* contact page and filling it out with feedback: www.BeyondToday.tv/contact.

In addition to praying for the program, keeping up with it and sharing ones that they do feel are relevant on the Web, I would want people to know we have a very open-door policy to feedback—or any kind of thing people would like to convey about what they feel worked well or didn't work well on the program. We encourage those new to the Church to give feedback since most of us grew up in the Church. We very much thrive on feedback. **UN**



Tom Disher, Sabrina Clore and Jamie Schreiber

Learning From the Past

We are very blessed to have access to God's precious Word! He has inspired all Scripture for us, and yet we often take this for granted. When we do not read the Bible or apply its lessons, we repeat the mistakes of the past.

For example, God's chosen people today (spiritual Israel) can learn from the history of God's chosen nation (physical Israel). Let's consider two lessons that we can learn from the children of Israel.

Christ Leads His People

At the end of their slavery, ancient Israel witnessed God's awesome power through the 10 plagues. Afterwards, as they marched out of Egypt, the Israelites followed God in a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:18, 21). A short while later, with the Egyptian army pursuing them, the Israelites were trapped at the Red Sea and afraid for their lives. They said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?" (Exodus 14:11).

An important lesson from the Exodus is to remember that Christ, not man, is leading His people (Ephesians 5:23). It seems amazing that God's chosen nation could complain and fear for their lives, so soon after witnessing miracles and experiencing freedom. The Israelites quickly forgot that it was God leading them to the Red Sea,

not Moses. Today, if Christians don't continue to draw near to God and keep their vision on Him, then we will also forget that Christ is the One leading us and that He will not forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Trust God

Another vital point to glean from these same events is to learn to trust God in everything, including our safety and direction. The Israelites saw many great miracles expressing God's love and power, yet their actions showed their lack of faith. As children of God, are we willing to trust that Our Father cannot lie and that He will fulfill His promises (Titus 1:2)?

Prior to Christ's second coming, God will lead His chosen people out of this sinful world (like the Exodus) and guide His children to a place of safety (like the Promised Land). Satan will pursue the followers of God (like the Egyptian army), yet God will protect us from our enemy and provide a way of escape.

God's desire for all of us is to learn from the lessons of the past and to wholeheartedly trust and obey Him! If we are building faith now, then when our "Red Sea trial" comes along, we will trust God to lead us through it (Psalm 9:10).

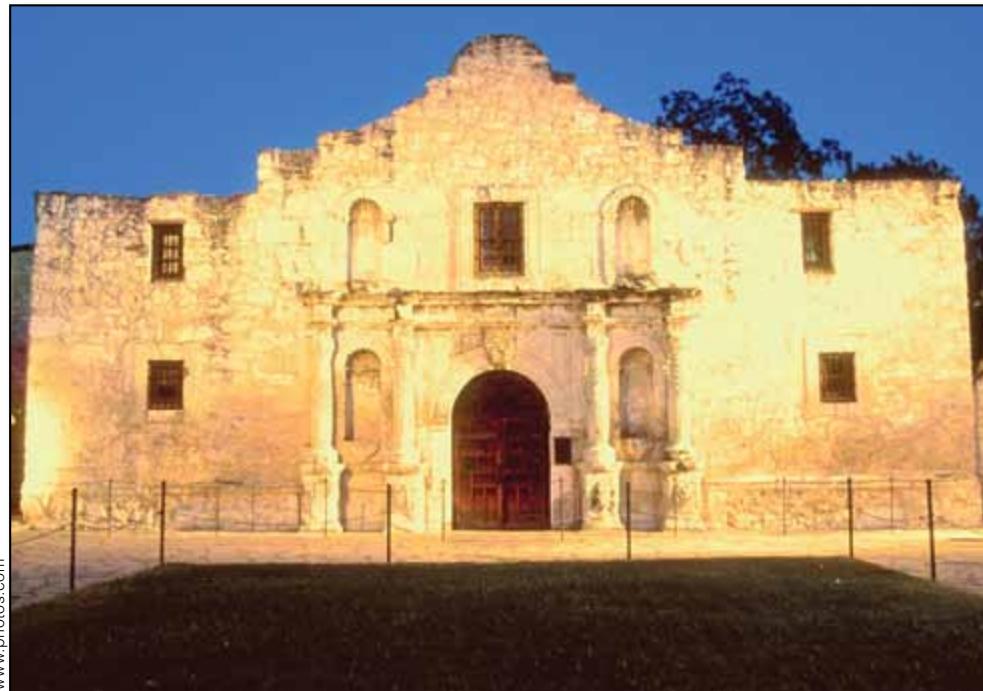
The Bible reveals how to learn from the past. As spiritual Israel, may we never forget that Jesus Christ is leading us and that He deserves our full trust!

Doug Wendt

Orlando, Florida, congregation

A Legacy of Courage

The battles we remember most are not necessarily the ones that are won.



In March of 1836, 187 men—men of vision and dedication—suddenly found themselves facing circumstances that would require their personal sacrifice for a greater cause. This small band of men fighting in the Texas War of Independence against Mexico found themselves defending the Alamo Mission near San Antonio, Texas, against almost 2,400 soldiers of the Mexican Army.

"Remember the Alamo" is a hallmark in American history—not because the United States won, but because it lost. Those men are remembered for their courage and self-sacrifice. The initial outcome was not what they would have wished for, certain-

ly, but their deaths, though bittersweet, helped to unify a territory and strengthen a nation.

And so it is with God's people. All of us, no doubt, have prayed fervently, repeatedly and even fasted for the healing of friends or extended family members only to have the outcome not be what we had hoped. We have known people who have succumbed to disease who maintained an incredibly positive attitude—a selflessness and a courage that were truly inspiring. They lost the battle, but we remember the fight. We are impacted by the personal loss; we are empowered by the example. What we gain from them is a legacy of courage and faith.

When we respond out of compassion in prayer, we are people unified in a common cause. We are beseeching God for intervention and healing. But what about our faith when the battle, that tenacity for physical life, has been lost? The bulwark of their faith must be ours too—God's will is perfect. That is the bottom line. Maybe we try too hard to understand why when all we really need to know is that God's will is perfect.

The apostle Paul, while imprisoned, wrote to the Philippians a letter filled with encouragement and love for them and gratitude to God and Christ for the opportunity to serve. His life wasn't exactly a bowl of cherries. Neither were the lives of those recorded in Hebrews 11, the examples of extreme courage and faith. Ultimately, we understand that though the battle may be lost, we can win the war.

That hallmark in American history—the Alamo—is not just a lesson in history. It is a lesson in how to live and perhaps how to die. Paul recounted in 2 Timothy 4:7 that he had fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith. We should do no less!

Barbara Dundon

Missoula, Montana, congregation

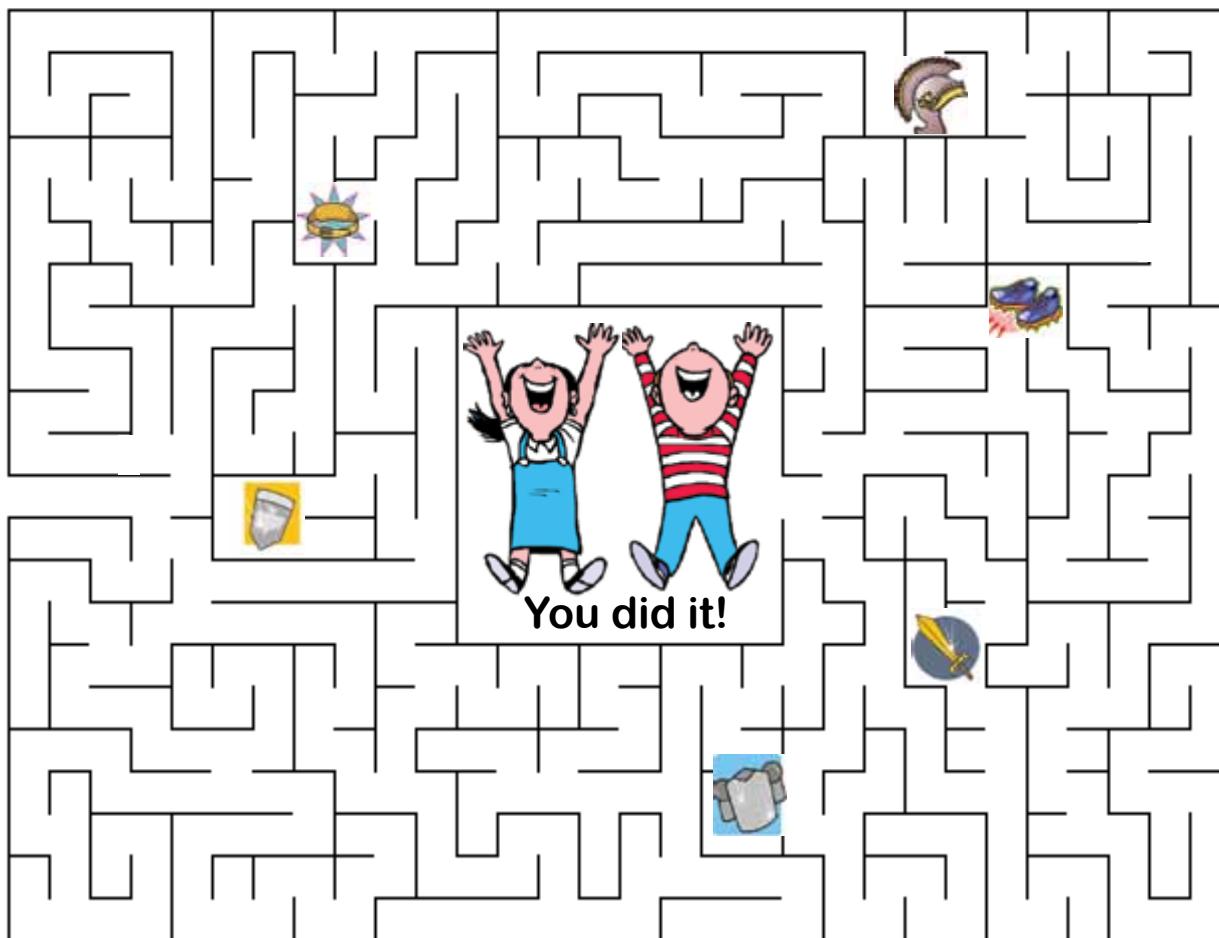
Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to *United News* at the home office. Guidelines are available on request (UN@ucg.org).

Children's
Corner

Put on the Whole Armor of God

There are at least two paths to get to the middle. Help Philip and Lydia make it to the center. Both need to pick up parts of the armor of God. Can you name all the parts of God's armor? (Hint: Ephesians 6.) Puzzle by Sabrina Clore





From THE WORD

Jesus Christ: A Sure Foundation

■ When circumstances around us threaten to shake our faith, we must turn to the One who is our sure foundation.

by Debbie Werner

As a child, I was fascinated by the game of Jenga. The game begins with a tower of rectangular pieces of wood, grouped in threes and then layered on top of one other. The successive layers of blocks sitting perpendicular to the layer below creates a sturdy tower. Each player has to remove one piece at his or her turn. After each round, the tower gets wobblier and increasingly unstable until it finally collapses.

Remembering this game got me thinking about our spiritual and physical lives and how we all try to maintain strength and focus in this unstable world. In our lives, if notable components of character are missing, we become vulnerable to spiritual collapse. To prevent decay, we need to remain grounded on the surest foundation in our physical and spiritual lives: Jesus Christ.

My Jenga Tower Was Wobbly

During my first few years of college, I was on incredibly shaky ground. I was living with strangers, hours away from the comforts of home. My high school friends and I were slowly drifting apart as our lives led us on more divergent paths. I was making new friends, but it always takes time to develop the trust that leads to a solid, life-long friendship.

Meanwhile, my brain was soaking in information from my textbooks and classes as I sought to make the most of my education. Many of those con-

cepts involved political agendas and philosophies that I was just beginning to recognize. Everything in my life seemed to be in a state of flux.

Thankfully, God chose that time to reach down and pluck me out of the chaos and set me on the solid ground of His calling. In every sense, He saved my life by continuing to pull my attention toward a more lasting education than what I found at school. And then, in the years to follow, He enriched my understanding of the respect He wants me to have toward Him and His Son. Christ is the focal point of our psychological, social and intellectual well-being. He wants us to “have life, and...have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

During college I became burned out on all the empty knowledge found in this world. I was hungering for something lasting. I had to turn to Christ, the Giver of truth (John 17:17) and read His Word to stand strong.

It soon became easier and easier to filter out the “knowledge” that my professors clung to as truth. The more I studied God’s Word, the more I could identify the philosophical junk floating around in what I was learning, and it became easier to appreciate the truth in my studies where the knowledge was in alignment with what Christ taught.

Our Spiritual Foundation

Jesus Christ is the linchpin of our entire physical existence. Without Him our lives would have no meaning or purpose. Everything begins and ends with Him. We read, “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Colossians 1:16-17).

He created everything we see, hear, feel, taste and touch; and He made all the things that we cannot yet sense while we wait for our spiritual transformation. As the *Life Application Study Bible* puts it, Christ is “not only the Creator of the world, but He is also its Sustainer. In Him, everything is held together, protected, and prevented from disintegrating into chaos... None of us is independent from Him.” The various physical and mathematical laws that keep the entire universe in order originated in Him.

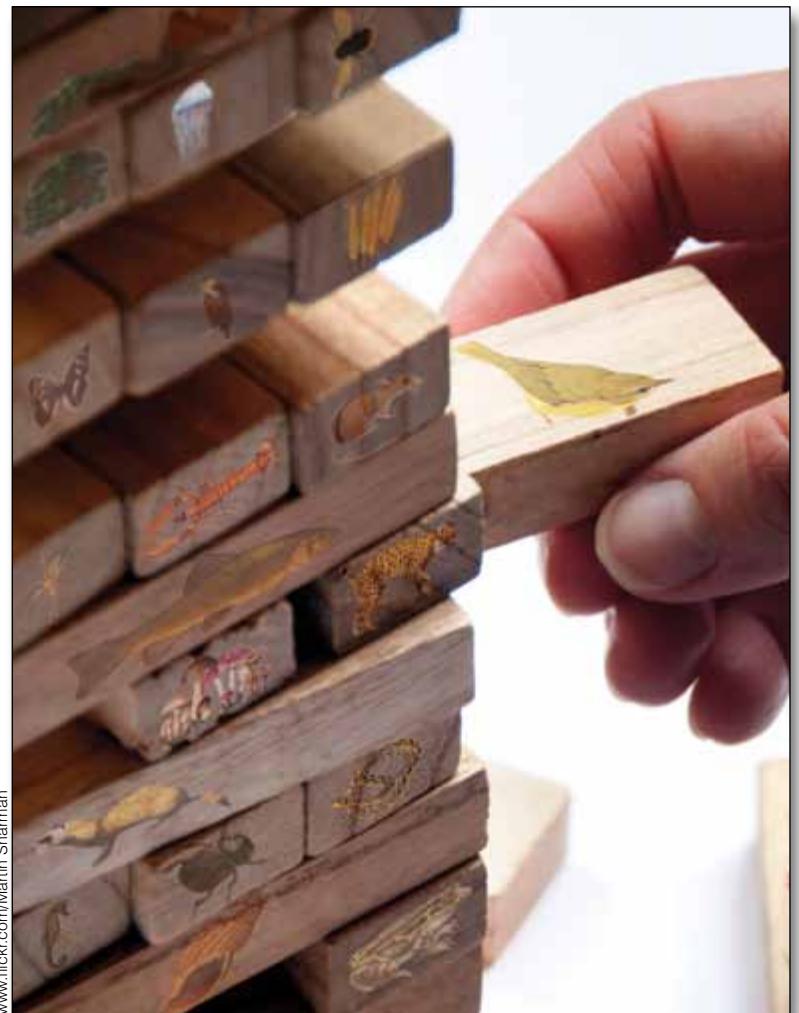
Most importantly, Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection offer us the chance to have a deep and rewarding spiritual life now. He gives us the ability to have a direct relationship with our Father (John 14:9-10) so that we can have an unbreakable, deep connection with all in the God family.

As John puts it, “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” (1 John 5:20). You can’t get any more stable than having a deep relationship with God.

As the Head of the Church, Christ provides direction and leadership to the body of believers (Colossians 1:18). Of all the parts of the body, the head knows the most and understands the fullest and has the clarity to direct all the actions of the body. We must look to Him for all guidance. By closing our prayers in His name, we receive a daily reminder that our lives and future are intimately connected to His life and future and that we need His leadership.

True Stability Found Through Christ

By firmly securing ourselves to a commitment to study and apply God’s Word in our lives, we



In our lives, if notable components of character are missing, we become vulnerable to spiritual collapse.

will be able to move forward in our relationships with God and to withstand any trial thrown at us, no matter its intensity (Psalm 125:1; Proverbs 10:25). That is a tremendous blessing! During those uncertain college years, I learned where to turn in order to find the security I craved.

God firmly stands behind His people and advises us to give Him our burdens (Psalm 55:22; Proverbs 10:30). But it is still our responsibility to faithfully pursue righteousness by following His laws with the proper attitude (Psalm 119:172). By being “rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” we are “storing

up for [ourselves] a good foundation for the time to come, that [we] may lay hold on eternal life” (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

Everything that we—with God, Christ and the Church—have built together stands strong! We must each live our lives in the full pursuit of Christ and His attitude, example and teachings. That is the only way to truly live both now and forever and to maintain the stability that we all so desperately need in this chaotic and spiritually empty world. **UN**

Debbie Werner is a member of the Portland, Oregon, congregation.

Pearls of Wisdom

In this new section, we ask *United News* readers to share their stories, advice and tips regarding the issue’s featured question. We hope this exchange of wise words and lessons gleaned from life experiences will be a benefit to all the brethren.

Send in Your Response

Send your 100- to 300-word answer, along with your name and congregation, to your local pastor and ask him to forward it to *United News*. You can also e-mail them to UN@ucg.org. We may use your response in an upcoming *United News*!

February’s Question:

What is your favorite church social event?

Refuse to Grow

■ We are admonished to grow in godly service and leadership. As Christians, we know it is necessary as Christians to grow in these ways, but is it possible to lose a once beautiful attitude of service, leadership and love?

by Bev Galli

Our 4-year-old son sat at the edge of the kiddie pool with a spray bottle filled with water in his hand. It was a great toy for him on that humid 90-degree evening in June. There were other colorful plastic toys also, but that one was especially fun. He enjoyed spraying himself and anyone else who was nearby.

My husband, two friends and I were sitting on the pool's edge keeping an eye on our son. The pool was not very crowded. In fact, on this particular evening, we were the only ones there, other than the lifeguard.

Then, two boys appeared, who were about 10 and 12 years of age. They immediately jumped in the pool and soon befriended our son. They rather humbly approached him and asked if they could play. They allowed him to squirt them and they each took a turn at squirting him. The squirt bottle did not spray very far, but the spray was refreshing. They were having a great time. The boys were filled with smiles, good humor, friendliness and amazing, uncommon humility. They played together beautifully for about an hour.

When we were ready to leave, we all said "good-bye" and "thank you." We complimented them on their kindness. Their help in entertaining our 4-year-old was much appreciated. We said that we hoped to see them again.

Commando Squad

The next evening the scene was identical. We were watching our son play with his spray bottle in the kiddie pool. Suddenly in the pool area the "Commando Squad" appeared, carrying large, new "super soaker" guns. The two boys who had befriended our son the previous evening had arrived. But this time they did not smile, nor were they kind or friendly. They bore scowls and anger on their faces. Even their walk was different; it was arrogant and demanding. They were so vicious toward our son with their squirt guns that we had to ask them to leave him alone. We could not believe that they were the same boys!

What would make these service-minded young men change overnight? What would cause anybody to lose such a beautiful attitude?

Growing in Selfish Ambition and Conceit

I am using the story of what happened to these boys as an example of what could happen to us as Christians. Of course, for the boys it happened overnight; but for us it might take months or years for us to lose our love of serving. Realistically, the boys probably just wanted to be "cool." They possibly would have come back on a third day, again willing to love and serve. However, we could use their example to visualize and learn.

In Philippians 2:3 Paul tells us what may happen to make a service-minded individual change. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit." Selfish ambition and conceit may have entered their hearts.

The dictionary calls ambition "a strong desire for success, fame, power, wealth, etc." Selfish ambition might be described as a focus on our 1) power and responsibility; 2) job, position or title; or 3) the desire to look "cool" in the eyes of others, (instead of the people we are trying to serve).

The boys used their new "super soakers" as a tool to let us know



The boys used their new "super soakers" as a tool to let us know they had power. They no longer wanted to serve our little boy, but decided that it was more important to achieve a certain image. They were visibly "lifted up."

they had power. They no longer wanted to serve our little boy, but decided that it was more important to achieve a certain image. They were visibly "lifted up."

Conceit may contribute to a Christian's attitude change as well. An inflated image of self (one's greatness, talents or abilities) is an enemy of service-mindedness. Do we begin to see ourselves as too important to serve and love little ones?

Can this happen to us? Can we grow in selfish ambition and conceit? It may be easier than we think to grow in these harmful ways, though it is unlikely that it would happen overnight.

The solution to stopping selfish ambition and conceit is found in the remainder of Philippians 2:3 and continuing in verse 4. "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

Fighting Selfish Ambition

How can we, as Christians, fight against selfish ambition and conceit? Here are some things we can do:

Focus on the needs of the people we are serving, rather than our power, job or title. This is love and

this will help stop selfish ambition.

Focus on God, the giver of our abilities, rather than on our own talents. This is humility and this will help stop conceit

Ask God to help us repent of any seeds of selfish ambition or conceit that are in us.

Finally, pray that you might grow in godly service, leadership, sincere love and humility.

Let us not carry selfish ambition and conceit as "super soakers" to "soak" or "put down" others. We must not allow ourselves to grow in these ways! Refuse to grow in selfish ambition and conceit! **UN**

Bev Galli is a member of the Columbus, Ohio, congregation.

Letters

Inmate Grateful for Simple Act of Kindness

To my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
First and foremost, I truly hope this finds everyone doing well and so very blessed!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who attended the Feast in Wisconsin Dells this year, who took time out and cared enough to send cards and letters by mail. These simple words I now pen to you could never express fully the amount of love or compassion I felt by your simple acts of kindness. No matter the reason(s) for our absences this year, I assure all of you that each of us recipients were extremely uplifted and felt blessed because of the love of Christ in your hearts that you shared with us.

The Feast is now over and time marches on in these

end times. Just the thought of the ways of this world with the condition in which it is in makes me long for the days which the fall Holy Days foreshadow, as I know each of you looks forward to them as well. This is our eternal hope, "Thy Kingdom come."

Again, thank you so very much. Take good care of yourselves and each other.

Until next time or until we meet, may our dear Heavenly Father shine His peace, joy, grace, mercy and agape love down upon us and all of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Pendleton Correction Facility, Pendleton, Indiana

Good News Keeps Subscriber Focused

Thank you for keeping me focused on God's Word. I look forward to each and every e-mail that the Church sends me. If I didn't have you all to keep reminding me to keep up the faith, I would be lost.

This world has become so evil and so dangerous, and I'm getting more scared as each day and each week passes. I hope with all my heart that God, our Heavenly Father, will end this system of things real soon. There are no morals of goodness and cleanness left in this world, because Satan has lured so many people to his way of thinking.

I appreciate all the e-mails, the wonderful magazines you send every few months and all the reminders of the scriptures you send out in the newsletters. They keep me true to the Church and especially to Almighty God.

I live way out of the main city of Pueblo, on a ranch, with only distant neighbors, so it is very lonely and very stark.

I just want you to know that I read everything you send, sometimes twice, even three times.

Thank you and everyone at United Church of God. You are all loved and appreciated.

Internet

Continued from "Conference," page 1

for [one's] own interests, but also for the interests of others," and especially to "let this mind be in [us] which was also in Christ Jesus."

During the day's breakout sessions, which sought to assess the experiences and spiritual health of each region of the Church in the United States and around the world, a sense of deep concern and care for the brethren was clear. Ideas flowed on ways to better support, care for and defend each congregation as well as train, mentor and develop both pastoral and local leadership.

Leadership and Advancing the Work

The second day of meetings began by tackling the subject of leadership by looking to Christ. Mr. Luker, along with Ministerial and Member Services team members Roy Holladay, Gary Antion and Victor

service among the congregations in the United States and around the world. Stories of the ways in which God has provided leadership, speakers, translation skills, funds and other necessities in all of these regions were encouraging. The positive and spiritually energizing atmosphere of the first day of meetings was carried through to the second day. The unity of purpose at this conference was present and palpable.

On the atmosphere of the conference Glen White, pastor in Montana, commented, "I feel the same way now that I felt 40 years ago, when we [the Church]



Left, Merrie Elliott speaks at the ladies' tea; above, John White, Jim Hopkins and Joe Handley (photos by Amanda Stiver)



ONLINE

<http://coe.ucg.org/videos>

WATCH: Presentations from the "Look to Christ: Advance the Work" conference

Kubik, addressed various facets of the definition of Christ-centered servant leadership. They expounded on Jesus Christ's example of leading by serving and of cultivating the heart and character of a true servant. Discussion ensued on the traits necessary for us to identify and develop spiritual gifts among the elders and members for the service of the Body of Christ.

During regional breakout sessions elders and wives shared ways to promote

were building back in the 1960s. Our greatest time is ahead of us."

The second part of the conference theme, "Advance the Work," filled the second half of Tuesday. Melvin Rhodes, chairman of the Council of Elders, set the spiritual tone for proclamation efforts by drawing attention to Matthew 24:14, "And

to proclaim God's message to the world.

Following his address were presentations by Media and Communications Services operation manager Peter Eddington and many of the department's personnel, including Internet managing editor Aaron Booth and the editors of several UCG publications. The presentations covered our

this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come"—emphasizing our commitment to do whatever it takes

progress and future plans for television, the Internet and print. The redesign of the UCG website, which will be launched in May, was previewed. An exciting plan to hold public lectures this year in church areas across the United States was introduced. The brethren are specifically asked to pray for this project and all proclamation efforts.

President Dennis Luker drew the day to a close with an admonition to look to Jesus Christ as the leader of the Church, focusing on the theme of Philippians 4:13—that we may be able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us. **UN**

To see more photos from the ministerial conference, go to www.facebook.com/UCGUnitedNews.

Continued from "NWW," page 1

the Devil His Due," "Ultimate Justice—The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ," "Why Change and Why Believe: The Power of Repentance and Faith" and "Sons of Thunder—The Truth About Military Service and War." Rex Sexton, pastor of the Tacoma, Washington, congregation, spoke on "The Seven Churches of Revelation." Bend, Oregon, pastor Larry Walker gave a two-part sermon on Colossians. John Cafourek, pastor in Salem, Oregon, spoke on "A Checklist for Growth." Robert Dick, pastor in Portland, Oregon, spoke on "Are You A Principle-Centered Person?"

Northwest Weekend also had wonderful music presentations. The Northwest Weekend Youth Choir was led by Hansel New and accompanied by Linda Hansen. Allison Churchill played the piano for services, and songs were led by Luke Hansen. Behind the scenes, Portland's mainstay sound volunteers, Chip Chuprinko and Chris Robertson, managed the sound system.

On Friday evening after the ABC seminars, the young adults enjoyed bonding time during a social organized by Kim Schuster.

After Sabbath services a wonderful spaghetti meal was served for the attendees. On Saturday night the teens enjoyed a semiformal dance with the theme, "A Rooftop in Paris." Chris Robertson created wonderful varied lighting effects for the dance. Tina Slocum and Tammy Kelly coordinated all of the wonderful snacks



for the "hungry" teens! Nadine Messerly coordinated all of the decorations for this fun and glittery dance enjoyed by the attendees! While the teens were dancing upstairs, a casual dance and opportunities for wonderful conversation for all the other age groups was happening downstairs. The time spent together made Saturday night full of fun for everyone with lots of occasions to bond together as brethren.

On Sunday the games began. Volleyball and basketball teams played in fabulous regulation high school gyms with professional referees officiating the games. Uniform-clad cheerleaders cheered the games on at half time. At the end of the day trophies and ribbons were given to players and cheerleaders to take home for lifetime memories.

The weekend drew to a close Sunday night on beautiful Mt. Hood in the cozy Salmon River Lodge. The lodge was a perfect location to have a conversation with friends next to a crackling fire. Those who chose to stay for this additional night shared dinner and breakfast together, having enjoyed an evening in a winter wonderland—tubing under the night sky. The next day, attendees skied or snowboarded down the world-renowned Mt. Hood slopes for a full day of winter fun.

Northwest Weekend was a fun-filled, rich time that enhanced the lives of young and old alike! Hope to see you there next year! **UN**

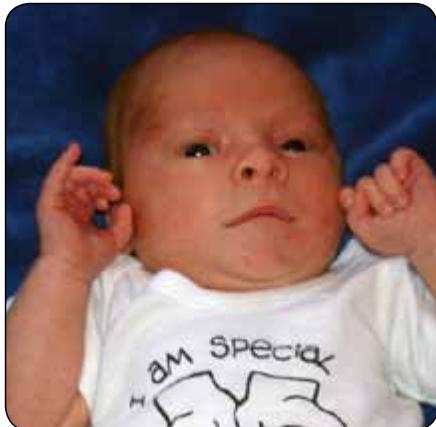


Clockwise from top left, three teens stop for a photo at Sabbath services, snowboarders hit the slopes of Mt. Hood, Randy Stiver teaches an ABC Continuing Education class (photos by Rob and Tina Slocum)

Announcements

Births

Tom and Carla Erickson of Grand Forks, North Dakota, are happy to announce the



Alex Erickson

birth of Alex Haldor Erickson. He was born on Oct. 4, 2010. He weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 21½ inches long. Big brother Eric and sister Joy are proud of him. His grandfathers, Herb Teitgen and Haldor Erickson, are too.

Weddings

A beautiful sunny, late autumn day, Nov. 29, 2010, was the setting for the marriage of Michelle de Campos of Cincinnati, Ohio, to Gabriel Vautour of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Parents, Jorge and Kathy de Campos and Jean-Pierre and Camilla Vautour, are pleased to share this happy news. The wedding was held in Cincinnati with guests welcomed from South Africa, Canada, California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Indiana, Georgia and Cincinnati.

Attendants of the bride were Clarissa Hooser (matron of honor) and Jennifer



Michelle and Gabriel Vautour

de Campos, sisters of the bride; Emily Levesque, sister of the groom; and Denise Lambert and Lori Schroeder, friends. The groom was attended by Zach Zimmerman (best man); Mathieu, Samuel and Julien Vautour, brothers of the groom; and Stephen and Eric de Campos, brothers of the bride.

The bridal party was led by Caleb Hooser pulling his little sister, Abigail, down the aisle in a beautifully decorated wagon. Flowergirls were Brooklyn Booth and Bri-

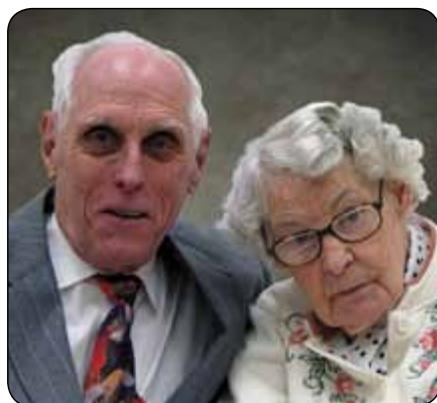
ana Evans. The bride followed, looking radiant as she walked down the aisle by both parents. Father of the bride Jorge de Campos performed the wedding ceremony. It was a beautiful day filled with love and joy shared by so many who wholeheartedly gave their time and energy to make this day so special.

The newly and happily wedded couple, Gabriel and Michelle Vautour, now reside in Ottawa.

Anniversary

On the Sabbath of Nov. 6 the Minneapolis, Minnesota, congregation presented Ron and Helen Goltz with a dozen roses in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1960 Helen was a widow with two



Ron and Helen Goltz

young daughters and was taking Catholic instruction so she could marry a Catholic man she had met. However, her parents, George and Ruth Hix, had been baptized in the summer of 1960 in the Radio Church of God. Her father prayed that God would call Helen and work out something better for her.

On Oct. 13, 1960, Ron and Helen had a chance meeting over lunch at a local café. Helen was sharp with her words to him, and after returning to work she began to feel remorse. The only thing she knew was that his name was Ron. That evening, they saw each other again, and her reaction was quite different.

Two weeks later, Ron told Helen that he was taking a trip to Seattle, Washington, to see his father. She asked if she could go along, and he agreed on one condition—that they get married first! She accepted, and they were married on Nov. 5, 1960.

When Ron and Helen visited her parents, George would bring his Bible and wanted to talk about religion and his faith. After a while, Ron wanted to listen. The Minneapolis congregation was started on the Feast of Trumpets in 1963, and George was among the pioneers of that congregation (Ruth died the year before). By December, Ron and Helen began attending, and they were baptized March 13, 1965.

Helen has been disabled by a stroke. Just before the Feast of Tabernacles in 2010, she was not expected to live. But by God's grace she gained strength, and they went to keep their 46th Feast of Tabernacles and returned home to celebrate 50 years of marriage!

Obituaries

Doug Knott, 64, died Dec. 2, 2010, after a courageous battle as one of the longest surviving quadriplegics. He lived totally paralyzed from the neck down for 26 years. Most in this condition live no more than five years, so Doug outlived the odds five times over. He is survived by his brother James and by his sister Margaret. He was preceded in death by his parents.

On Aug. 1, 1984, Doug was shot twice while leaving his apartment in the International China Town District of Seattle, Washington, by a neighbor, who then committed suicide. His neighbor had a history of erratic behavior, and he shot Doug for no apparent reason. One of the bullets hit his spinal cord at the base of his head, and he became a quadriplegic from then on, needing continuous care and life support. Along with Doug's family and the local congregation, his handful of dedicated caregivers turned out to be his best friends and in a very real sense his extended family.

His brother Jim wrote, "The truly strange thing that happened that day and would carry him for the next 26 years was



Doug Knott

he didn't have to worry about himself anymore. Gone were the concerns and struggles of everyday life that he had such a hard time with."

From that time forward the only thing Doug had control over was his mind, including his thoughts and his attitude, which he directed toward God, striving to bring every thought into captivity to the mind of Christ. Thus, he looked back on this as being a blessing and a positive turning point in his life, as it turned him to God and to God's truth. Not long after this, he was baptized by Dennis Luker and he remained a faithful member of God's Church in Seattle, Washington, for the next 26 years.

Mr. Luker wrote, "Doug was an incredible example of faith in God, despite the severity and length of his trial... His positive attitude despite his severe condition was always an inspiration to me." A memorial service for Doug was held on Dec. 10 with Steve Shafer officiating.

Della Lou Faulkner, age 85, of Fredericktown, Missouri, died on the Sabbath of July 3, 2010, at the Heritage Gardens Care Center, in Greenville, Missouri. She was

born on Sept. 26, 1924, in New Orleans, Louisiana, a daughter of Willie and Leola Percy.

Della married John Samuel Faulkner Oct. 17, 1941. Mr. Faulkner preceded her in death on Nov. 20, 2003. Della is survived by sons, Sam and Roy, and daughters, Caroline Malare and Donna Kay Faulkner, as well as numerous grandchild-



Della Lou Faulkner

dren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Della was baptized June 20, 1970, and was a member of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation.

For the past 12 years or so, Della was homebound totally, and then a resident of Heritage Gardens. Usually, one visiting Della would either find her picking out a song on her guitar or reading from her Bible. Both were always close by.

The light displayed by Della prompted the following comment from the nursing home: "We are so blessed to have had her here as a resident. She has helped to brighten so many of her peers' lives. Her singing and playing of the guitar has just really gone over well. We all look forward to the times that she felt the want/need to play for the rest of us. We all wonder why we are where we are at the time we are there."

The funeral service was conducted by Rick Beam on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, with interment at the Revelle Cemetery in Cherokee Pass.

Frances Kelly of the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation died Oct. 22, 2010,



Frances Kelley

at the age of 96. Frances was born in Hamlet, North Carolina. She attended business

school and worked as a cosmetologist, in women's clothing stores and a coffee shop restaurant. She traveled extensively in the Carolinas, New York and California.

In the 1950s she began listening to Herbert Armstrong and moved from New York to California. Frances was baptized in 1963, marking the beginning of her most important journey. Frances moved back home to North Carolina in the 1980s and attended the Charlotte congregation.

Frances was lovingly called "Grandma Kelly," though she had no children of her own. God's brethren became her family. She enjoyed getting to know everyone and planning Sabbath meals for the brethren. She will be remembered for her hospitality, cooking and entertaining in her home, where many were welcomed to enjoy hours of great food, fellowship and laughter.

"Grandma Kelly" will be greatly missed by all her friends who loved her dearly and look forward to seeing her again in God's Kingdom.

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



Ethel Register

Ethel Register died on Dec. 23, 2010, at the age of 92. Mrs. Register was ordained a deaconess and served as an elder's wife in the Lawton, Oklahoma, church.

Mrs. Register was born Ethel Lorene Goodman on Oct. 11, 1918, to Henry Harrison and Donna (Hoover) Goodman. Ethel grew up in Tipton, Oklahoma. She graduated from Laing High School in Tipton and went to Draughms Business College in Lubbock, Texas.

Lloyd Register was attracted to Ethel's beauty, multiple talents and fun personality. They were married on Dec. 26, 1941. Lloyd and Ethel were faithful members of the Church of God.

Tribute Ethel Register

Mrs. Register was active in the Church and in her community, Frederick, Oklahoma. In 1951 she organized Frederick's first boys' Little League. In 1959 she organized the first local softball teams with Camp Fire Girls and served as chairman for four years. She served in numerous capacities with the Camp Fire Girls, the Frederick Teen Town Council, the Cub Scouts, as well as serving as chairman and president of numerous other community organizations.

She organized the first "Little Mr. and Miss Frederick Pageant" for little tots and served as chairman of this organization multiple years. She was an avid bowler and golfer and enjoyed getting out on the Frederick Country Club golf course well up into her late 80s.

Ethel and her husband, Lloyd, served numerous ways in the Church driving 2½ hours one way to attend in Oklahoma City. She was willing to serve in the Church, whether it was cleaning restrooms, hosting meals in her home or cooking her amazing potato casserole for potlucks.

Her husband was an ordained elder in the Church of God and Ethel was ordained a deaconess in the early '70s. Although Ethel suffered from severe pain and weakness for many years, she

was faithful and never missed a Feast of Tabernacles until the year of her death. Her favorite Scripture was 1 Peter 5:10, which she would meditate on daily. Her funeral was the 69th anniversary of their wedding.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lloyd; four sisters, Clara Mae Haynie, Stella Mixon, Mabel Fowler and Pearl Young; and two brothers, Cecil and Harlie Goodman. She is survived by two children, Lloyd (Sharon) Register III and Renee Walden; 10 grandchildren, Tess (Wyatt) Ciesielka, Audrey (John) Robinson, Jodie (Shawn) Dumas, Lloyd "Jon" (Carol) Register IV, Tim (Kelly) Register, Dustin (Monica) Register, Jess (Tara) Register, Josh Register, Tara (Bob) Sacco and Erick Pace; 15 great-grandchildren; and many dear friends.

In her final weeks, Ethel received scores of cards and an outpouring of love from brethren from around the world, for which she was very thankful. Ethel was buried beside her husband near her home in Frederick.

The funeral was attended by family and friends from across the United States and was conducted by Wyatt Ciesielka, officiating minister, and Guy Burke, local elder.

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

above the Danube River, this program covers the prophetic future revival of the king of the South as he does battle with the king of the North, as described by the prophet Daniel.

The booklets *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* will be offered to viewers for more information about these important prophecies.

A Shoestring Budget

As a further update, the journey to Hungary and Austria to record these two *Beyond Today* programs was done at minimal cost to the Church. Mr. McNeely used personal frequent flyer miles and personal funds for his portion in Hungary. For the nights in Budapest we stayed in a dormitory at the Central European University for just \$13 per night. We ate almost all of our meals in the dormitory cafeteria for just a few dollars for a full cafeteria-style meal.

God's tithes and offerings are precious, and our media staff do their very best each day to squeeze the value out of every penny—whether it's our *Good News* magazine production, *World News and Prophecy* printing, *United News* distribution, UCG website management, online advertising, print

advertising, television time buying or on-location video shooting. We do our very



Peter Eddington and Darris McNeely record *Beyond Today* in Vienna, Austria

best to honor the tithes and offerings given to God by our membership, our donors and our coworkers.

Peter Eddington

New Bible Study Guides Series Explores "Getting to Really Know God"

Media and Communications Services announced a new *Free Bible Study Guides* series "Getting to Really Know God" that examines what God reveals about Himself. The series also offers practical tips from the Bible about how to walk with God in a close relationship every day.

This six-lesson series explores questions such as:

- What single word best defines God's character?
- Did the Father or the Son appear and speak to people in the Old Testament?
- What is meant by God creating man "in His own image"?
- What seven great lessons does the creation teach us?
- What was the main reason for the life and death of Jesus Christ?
- What is a major key to making your Bible study personally profitable?
- What is the ultimate, most powerful way to stay close to God?

The lessons include links to many helpful related resources and provide practical "Apply Now" sections. The series was researched and written by Don Hooser, a United Church of God minister now living in Texas.

We also added a number of new short Bible studies to the "3 Bible Tips" section. And we plan to post two more new series of *Free Bible Study Guides* soon! There are now 60 lessons posted on the site.

Mike Bennett

Great Lakes Teen Weekend, Feb. 18-21

The Lansing, Michigan, congregation will be hosting a Great Lakes Teen Weekend, Feb. 18-21.

Steve and Kathe Myers, as well as Melvin Rhodes, will be presenting seminars on Sabbath morning, followed by services and a dance. Several activities are planned for Sunday.

The cost for the weekend is \$25 per person and includes all meals and activities. The University Quality Inn is giving us a special rate of \$64.95 plus tax per night (includes a hot breakfast daily).

A schedule of events and a registration form can be found at www.ucglansing.org. For more information, you may contact Amy Welch at jeffamywelch@hotmail.com.

Amy Welch

Phoenix Women's Weekend, March 12-13

Once again, the Phoenix East Women's Weekend Committee is planning a 2011 Women's Weekend.

The Phoenix Women's Weekend will be held Saturday evening and Sunday, March 12 to 13, in Tempe, Arizona.

Proverbs 31 is about a virtuous woman and sets a goal for us as women today. Join us for a motivating weekend as we showcase "A Woman of Worth."

Go to the "Announcements" page at <http://phoenix-east.ucg.org> for a schedule and registration information.

Merrie Elliott



What's New In MEDIA?

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On Feb. 2, Internet managing editor Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

- 31,411** total Facebook fans.
- 8,372** total Twitter followers.
- 583** videos posted on YouTube.
- 1,511,818** video views on YouTube.
- 187** Bible FAQs posted.
- 783,457** Bible FAQs views.
- 332** e-mail campaigns (This Is the Way, UCG Weekly Update, GN Newsletter, WNP E-news) sent.
- 495,681** clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
- 43,204** booklet downloads from Apple's iBookstore.

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

- Feb. 6-12** "The Mercy Effect" with presenter Gary Petty.
- Feb. 13-19** "Spiritual Conspiracy" with presenter Steve Myers.
- Feb. 20-26** "Will Jesus Return Tomorrow?" with presenter Gary Petty.
- Feb. 27-March 5** "Thy Kingdom Come" with presenter Steve Myers.

■ Beyond Today Breaks Record

On Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011, *Beyond Today* set another record high response on the cable station WGN America. The program "The Moment After You

Die," cohosted by Darris McNeely and Gary Petty, received 1,227 total responses.

As a result, a new record low cost per response of \$9.78 was generated. Combining this excellent outcome with previous totals reduces overall cost per response on WGN to \$15.83 (from \$17.21 just eight weeks ago).

Peter Eddington

■ Good News Print Advertising Expands

The *Good News* print advertising campaign for the current fiscal year included the distribution of 8,200,000 business-reply insert cards in a variety of card-pack mailers. Each of our 3-by-5-inch card inserts promotes one of our foundational booklets and offers a subscription to *The Good News*.

In mid-January we expanded this campaign to include an additional 2,100,000 inserts to be mailed in March, April and May 2011. With this, our total distributed will rise to 10.3 million total inserts, and we expect response to reach nearly 50,000 by the close of the fiscal year in June.

So far this fiscal year, subscriber response to the print advertising campaign has been much better than

expected. Over 12,243 responses have already been recorded at a cost per response of just \$2.29.

John LaBissoniere

■ Booklets at Barnes and Noble Online Store

The booklet *Jesus Christ: The Real Story* is now available for free download at www.bn.com. Search "Jesus Christ" in the search box at the top of the page, and our booklet will appear on the first page.

■ Writers: Send Us Your Bios!

Media and Communications Services is planning to launch a new ucg.org site in May 2011. On the new site we will feature a bio page for each writer who has had an article printed in any of United's publications (excluding announcements or "Local Church Updates").

Here's what we need from all writers:

- 1. A short bio** (two to three paragraphs, written in third person).
- 2. How you want your name displayed** (e.g., Tom versus Thomas).
- 3. A high-quality photo** that shows your face clearly. Please do not send a group shot. Photos must be sent in JPEG format.

4. (Optional) your e-mail address. This will allow our system to automatically contact you when someone comments on your article.

Send your information to bios@ucg.org. Thank you for helping make the new website a success!

Featured Link

■ Giants

<http://tinyurl.com/BTGiants>
Watch the new video project "Giants," created by Jamie Schreiber, Jeremy



Lallier and Jonathan Magee. In our lives trials can loom over and threaten to crush us. The secret to overcoming them lies in the story of a ruddy-faced shepherd boy who struck down a giant thousands of years ago—reminding us that with God, all things are possible.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 18-21:** Great Lakes Teen Weekend, Lansing, Michigan, jeffamywelch@hotmail.com.
- Feb. 18-20:** Young Adults' Weekend, Houston, Texas, <http://houston-north.ucg.org>.
- March 12:** Southeast Regional Prom, <http://atlanta.ucg.org>.
- March 12-13:** Phoenix Women's Weekend, <http://phoenix-east.ucg.org>.
- April 1-3:** Minneapolis, Minnesota, Families for God Regional Weekend, dsmorker@yahoo.com.
- April 18:** Passover (service previous evening).
- April 19-25:** Days of Unleavened Bread.
- April 23:** 50th anniversary celebration, Wichita, Kansas.
- May 15-16:** General Conference of Elders annual meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- June 6-10:** ABC Continuing Education Seminar, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- June 12:** Pentecost.
- July 9:** Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, 50th anniversary.

"Once Upon a Springtime"

Southeast Regional Prom March 12, 2011

The Atlanta and Jefferson United Church of God congregations will be hosting the 12th Annual Southeast Regional Prom in Gainesville, Georgia, on March 12. All teens and young adults between the ages of 12 and 30 (young married couples too!) are cordially invited to this event. This year's theme is "Once Upon a Springtime."

Sabbath services will be at the Gainesville Civic Center at 2:30 p.m. followed by the formal/semiformal dance starting at 8 p.m. Parents are welcome to attend the dance as well. Light snacks, a dessert buffet and beverages will be available.

Discounted tickets are available in advance at \$20 per person with a maximum charge of \$40 per family. Please make a payment to "UCG—Atlanta," and send it to Robert McCurdy, 3833 Glen Robbie Ct., Loganville, GA 30062.

Additional information about motels, seminars, senior recognition and directions is available at <http://atlanta.ucg.org>. Need more information? Contact Philip Aust at (770) 529-1690.

Philip Aust

UNITED STATISTICS

Total Mail 2007-2010

- Subscription & Lit Cards
- Total Mail (noncards)
- Internet Responses

