



United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

United Church of God
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March/April 2003

News At a Glance

Burnetts to Transfer to Louisiana

Andrew and Lisa Burnett, assistant pastor in Eugene, Roseburg and Coos Bay, Oregon, will be transferred late this



spring to pastor the church circuit in New Orleans and Covington, Louisiana, and Laurel, Mississippi.

Mr. Burnett and Joseph Horchak (now serving the Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio, congregations) are the first hired and trained elders from the new Ministerial Candidate Program. "Ministerial Services is very grateful for the good fruits already being borne by this program," said Richard Pinelli, Ministerial Services operation manager.

"We're looking forward to getting to know all of the brethren and serving in the Covington, Laurel, and New Orleans congregations," said Mr. Burnett.

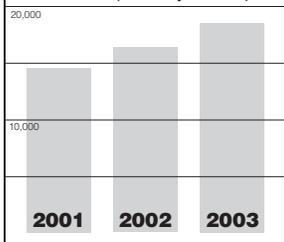
Radio Responses Increasing

A total of about 6,100 new *Good News* subscribers have been added through the *Good News* radio program.

See "News at a Glance," page 2

United Statistics

World News & Prophecy
Circulation Up 28 Percent in
Two Years (January issues)



Council Discusses Budget Plans for Next Year

by Don Henson

The Council of Elders began its current round of meetings Feb. 26 with the traditional administrative reports from the president, treasurer and media operations manager. David Register joined the meeting by teleconference to further refine plans for the annual meeting of the General Conference of Elders.

President's Report

In the first report of the day, Roy Holladay gave a wide-ranging summary of activities and recent developments:

• The Church has completed the \$1 purchase transaction of the 3.6 acres of hillside property that adjoins the office.

• John Elliott and Dave Baker have returned from a trip to Kenya. This was a transitional visit, as Mr. Elliott will assume responsibility for United's work in Kenya and Tanzania. Mr. Elliott has submitted to Mr. Holladay a strategic plan for the region.

• Mr. Baker has been contacted by the Church of God of Israel (which is located in India) expressing interest in the UCG. There are issues concerning the day on which they observe Passover.

Mr. Baker sent copies of United's doctrinal and study papers on the Passover, but has not yet received their response.

• The Ambassador Bible Center school year is off to a very positive start, with 41 students in attendance. Gary Antion reports that this year's class is especially responsive and attentive.

• Due to the imminent possibility of war, the theme for the March-April *Good News* has been changed. The cover story is "After Iraq, What Next? America Faces a Dangerous World."

• *Bonnes Nouvelles*, the French edition of the *GN*, began in January.

• Work is underway to develop "first contact" literature which will explain our teachings in very simple, brief form.

• A mailing list will soon be compiled for a monthly E-letter from the president, similar to updates currently sent to members. This will be a virtually free method of staying in close contact with *GN* subscribers. The goal is to establish a mailing list of about 100,000.

• Our fully redesigned Web site will be on-line within the next two weeks.

• Members continue to be faithful

See "Council," page 2

Youth Corps Projects Announced



Heidi Hanisko directs the Legacy Institute chorale during Sabbath services in Thailand; volunteers help at youth camp in Ghana. These and other projects are planned for United Youth Corps volunteers in 2003

The UCG Youth Education team is excited to announce the 2003 United Youth Corps International Service Projects. This year qualified young adults will have the opportunity to participate in projects in the Caribbean, in Africa and in Asia. Projects include:

Philippines: Staffing a youth camp in the Philippines from May 18 to 30. Volunteers will act as counselors and activity instructors. Activities will be similar to most Unit-

See "Youth Corps," page 3

ABC Student Leaders Chosen

Roy Holladay announced the following ABC 2003 student body leaders:

Student representative: Daniel Harper.
Secretary: Lori Holladay.

Treasurer: Taylor Tootle.

Social Activities Committee: Kristina Hirst* (committee head), Tamara Crow, Kat Giza, Jonathan Magee, Kamie Treybig.

Service Projects: Cindy Gore*, Josh and Melissa Stevens. Cards: Lily Miller*.

Kitchen Care: Lynda Edinborough*, Tiffany Merriman, Kim Mortier, Michelle Smith.

ABC Message Board: Linda Saar*, Shannon Guy.

ABC Times/Web Page: Jonathan Reimann*, Jeremiah Reagan, Mark Holladay—Web; Zach Moss and Natalie McQueen—ABC Times.

ABC Music Representatives: Craig McQueen* and Michelle Zollner*.

ABC Technical Support: Terry Shipman* and Taylor Tootle. **UN**

GN Innovations Speed Turnaround, Lower Costs

by Scott Ashley

With the last two issues of *The Good News*, we have begun using recent technological advances to both lower production costs and speed the turnaround time from when an issue is completed to when it is actually printed and mailed.

So far, it appears that it will reduce costs by \$500 to \$1,000 per issue and eliminate three to five days out of our production cycle for each issue, which will allow us to be somewhat more current in our issue content.

For decades the production process for publications such as ours included several steps that are now being reduced or eliminated through applying computer technology to the printing process. Some of the most expensive and time-consuming steps involved converting each page of a publication into a series of four page-size film negatives, one for each of the ink colors (black, cyan,

magenta and yellow) used in the printing process. These film negatives then had to be positioned and fixed in precise registration so printing plates could be produced for each of the four ink colors.

Recent advances in printing technology have led to the elimination of the steps involving film, with computer-generated files now being used to directly produce the images on the printing plates.

Our art director, Shaun Venish of Austin, Texas, now takes our final issue files, which are generated using QuarkXPress software, and converts them into "portable document format" (PDF) files rather than sending them out to have them converted into film.

Using the Internet, he transmits the files directly to computers at the R.R. Donnelley plant in Pontiac, Illinois, where *The Good News* is printed. They then do some final file preparation and post the final pages to a Web site where

he and I review the pages one final time and approve them or make any needed corrections. This saves us several days' time, formerly wasted in shipping film and proofs back and forth, and eliminates considerable overnight shipping expenses.

After testing the technology with reprints of several of our magazine-size booklets, we made the switch to computer-generated PDF files with the January-February *Good News* with no discernible reduction in quality. However, we had the printer create a set of proofs that we could check to be sure no problems came up during the process. With the March-April issue, we were confident enough in the process to check and approve the issue's pages on Donnelley's Web site.

This is one of many ways we are using computer technology to reach more people with the gospel in an ever-changing world. **UN**



ABC student leaders: Lori Holladay, secretary; Daniel Harper, student representative; and Taylor Tootle, treasurer (photo by Janet Treadway)

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News At a Glance

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Some people are attending Sabbath services as a result of this programming. January 2003 was our best month to date—with four times the number of responses of our first month, August 2000. Responses per year have been:

2000 676 (partial year)
2001 2,857
2002 2,137 (cut number of stations)
2003 399 (through Feb. 9)

Our best response weekend so far this year was on Jan. 5, with 114 callers inquiring about "A Journey to Hell," with Don Henson. We received 112 calls two weeks later to our "What Happens After Death?" program.

A new station was added in Waterloo, Iowa, KXEL, 1540 AM, airing Saturdays at 10:15 p.m. CST. The current station log can be viewed on our Web site at www.ucg.org/radio.

Gary Petty will be in Cincinnati on March 12 and 13 to record six or seven new radio programs.

Peter Eddington

Video Editor and Producer Hired

After a two-year search, Clay Thornton has been hired as video editor and producer in the Media and Communications Services department. "This posi-



tion has been in our Operation Plan and budget for the past couple of years, but finding a suitable employee has been challenging," said Peter Eddington, operation manager of the department. Mr. Thornton plans to move to the Cincinnati area to begin work in the home office in April.

"Clay has invaluable experience to bring to our department, and has most recently worked for CBS in Los Angeles," said Mr. Eddington.

Some of Mr. Thornton's duties will include:

- Non-linear video editing and production. He already has experience on the Avid Media Composer, plus other systems.

- Several video projects each year that are recurring, including the Feast sermon video, the United Youth Camps

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"Council," continued from page 1

and supportive in tithes and contributions. Category 1 income (first tithe) is running at a 2.8 percent increase over last year, just ahead of the budgeted increase of 2.4 percent.

- The proposed budget for 2003-04 calls for an increase of 3.7 percent over the current budget. Highlights include a \$263,000 increase in the budget for proclamation of the gospel and a proposed 5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all employees.

- There are currently 1,906 coworkers and another 4,347 non-member donors on file, who account for 16 percent of the Church's income.

There is an interesting development in South Africa. After lengthy discussions with two of our pastors in the area, André van Belkum and Bill Jahns, two elders from our former association have expressed their full agreement with UCG teachings. They, along with several other members, have begun attending the United congregation in Johannesburg. Attendance there had been in the 70 to 80 range, but is now over 100.

Pilot public Bible lectures were presented in the Seattle-Tacoma, Washington, area on the weekend of Feb. 22 and 23 by Dennis Luker, Howard Davis, Randy Stiver and Rex Sexton. Letters had been sent to *Good News* subscribers inviting them to the lectures and a series of 60-second radio commercials were run on local stations. On Saturday night, Feb. 22, a presentation titled "What's Next for America?" was given in Bellevue and Tacoma.

In Bellevue, 55 new people attended and the lecture in Tacoma attracted 24.

Beginning with this session, the Council reporter's baton has been passed to Don Henson. Mr. Henson pastors the UCG congregations in Pittsburgh and Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Wheeling, West Virginia. He brings a wealth of writing experience (both secular and church-related) to the job, in addition to his many years of pastoral work.

Doug Johnson

At the Sunday night lectures, titled "The Kingdom of God," there were two more new attendees and 22 who returned in Bellevue (for a total of 57 new people for the two nights) and in Tacoma two came back for the second night while 15 attended for the first time (for a total of 39 new people). The presentations included a 22-minute video titled "The Real American Heritage," emphasizing that our nation is descended from Israel. Most of the new people who attended had heard about the lectures through the radio spot ads.

Mr. Holladay updated and covered the eight mandates given him by the Council. In connection with that, he provided the Council with a history of the Christ-Centered Servant Leadership project.

Mr. Holladay concluded his remarks by pointing out that there have been many exciting developments in recent months and that God is certainly granting His blessing.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick reviewed the current status of this year's budget and then gave a summary of the proposed budget for 2003-2004.

Regarding the current fiscal year, Dr. Kirkpatrick reported the Church's financial situation remains unchanged. So long as the upcoming Holy Day offerings meet projections, we are on track to meet the budget of \$18,240,000 for the current year. The biggest question marks are the final totals for member assistance and insurance expense. At this point we are 64 percent of the way through the current fiscal year and anticipate ending the year almost exactly on budget. That is quite a blessing, especially considering the weak and uncertain national economy.

With only a couple of exceptions, each organizational unit of United is at or slightly below budget for this year.

- The Public Proclamation function is slightly over budget at this point because of the expense of the tape program for *Bible Study Course* graduates.

- There have been a few adjustments in international subsidies due to unanticipated developments, but they will come in within 1 percent or so of budget.

- The assistance fund is under bud-

getted projections, because some who were receiving assistance have been able to find sources to help meet their needs.

- Insurance and health care will end the year slightly over budget. This is a difficult expense to predict. Even though self-insurance is the most economical insurance option, after each employee pays his deductible and co-pay portion, the Church pays the next \$70,000 of medical expenses before insurance takes over. There have been several major insurance expenses this year, but at this point all have been paid.

- Other cost centers (such as Ministerial Services, Festivals, General Conference, Council) are on budget.

Budget Proposal for 2003-04

The proposed budget for the next fiscal year, starting on July 1, stands at \$19 million, which represents a 3.7 percent increase over this year. Interestingly, the last 12 months show a 3.8 percent increase compared to the income for the corresponding previous 12 months. More specifically, in the last 12 months, Category 1 income has increased 2.0 percent while Category 2 (Holy Day offerings) is up nearly 8.3 percent, which is significantly greater than the percentage increase in festival attendance. Category 3 income is even. A comparison of running-year totals is not the only measure, but it indicates that a 3.7 percent increase in the budget for the new fiscal year is very reasonable.

The budget includes a proposed 5 percent cost of living adjustment for all employees. It is the first such across-the-board COLA in the eight-year history of UCG. The largest increase (\$263,000) is for Public Proclamation. International subsidies would increase by \$127,000 over last year.

Other highlights of the presentation:

- The total of international subsidies would increase, however in specific instances, some areas will see a decrease as their own income will provide greater support for their needs.

- The Ministerial Services budget would include three new hires.

- Among other things, the Public Proclamation budget allows for the printing of two new booklets, sustaining a 500,000 *Good News* subscription

list and a printed version of the *Youth United* magazine. It does not specifically include the production of the "first contact" literature, but that could probably be accomplished within the budget.

- Cost of insurance and health care has increased by 26 percent in the last two years.

Media Report

Peter Eddington gave a detailed report on the progress and plans of United's media efforts, some of which are reported in "News at a Glance."

The March/April *GN* print run will be about 439,000. Our goal is to reach 500,000 but by the end of this fiscal year we will likely fall somewhat short due to the number of waiting room non-renewals. However, this will give us stronger readership demographics, since we will have more individual subscribers. Card-deck advertising has been very successful, yielding a \$2.51 cost-per-response.

Statistics reveal that non-members most likely to renew their subscription are those who originally received the magazine as the result of a *Reader's Digest* ad (35 percent), a TV program (35 percent) or direct mail (33 percent).

A booklet on the Middle East in prophecy is nearing completion. If the income holds up, we hope to offer it soon.

In January our Web site had about 135,000 visitors, an average of about 4,300 per day. By comparison, in 1998, we received about 300 visitors per day.

GCE 2003

This year's annual meeting of the General Conference of Elders will take place May 3 to 5 in Cincinnati, and the theme will be "Maximizing Your Ministry."

David Register, chairman of a task force set up to plan the GCE meeting, joined the Council by teleconference to present the task force's plan.

After some discussion and adjustments, by unanimous vote, the Council approved the plans for the 2003 GCE annual meeting.

For a full set of Council reports, see www.ucg.org/about/council. **UN**

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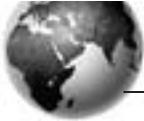
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News From **Around the World**

UCG—British Isles National Council Meets in Gloucester

The United Church of God—British Isles National Council met in Gloucester Feb. 9. Bryan Ellams opened the meeting for the first time as chairman. Here is a summary of business conducted:

- **Videos at Services:** To spread the speaking load and benefit from the excellent video sermons from UCGIA, it was decided to have, on average, one sermon out of three be a video. Those not played will be available for borrowing from each church library. It appears each area has equipment to show videos.

- **Proposed Budget for 2003-04:** Some of the items included for the remainder of this year and budgeted for next year are (a) a test insert card to 10,000 to 20,000

Reader's Digest subscribers, followed by a larger "rollout" after a response level has been determined; (b) consideration of one or more advertisements in a daily or Sunday newspaper; (c) additional funds for youth activities, including recognition for scholastic achievement and church service; (d) opening a fund for UCG-BI members to help other brethren in need at home and overseas; (e) looking at extending our *World Tomorrow* broadcast coverage to a wider audience through additional radio stations; (f) bringing the *GN* circulation to an average of 5,000 per issue in the United Kingdom during 2003; (g) offering a Bible study in new areas and existing church areas to those

on the *GN* mailing list for more than a year; and (h) building an operating reserve to the value of three months of expenses.

- **Feast Site Update:** Application forms need to be completed by each UCG-BI member to help the Grange Tourist Information Centre assess how many overseas visitors can be accepted to the Feast this year. Each UCG-BI member and their family will be automatically accepted. Application forms as well as volunteer forms will be circulated to each congregation.

- **Date for Annual General Meeting:** Sunday, June 29, was selected as the date for this year's annual meeting.

- **New Council Member:** Due to the resignation of non-executive council member David McDermott, Mark Webb was asked to fill the vacant slot as per the Constitution of UCG-BI. The chairman will be looking for a suitable replacement as secretary in due course.

- **Summer Camp 2003:** Sites in southern Wales seem to be more available than those in southwestern England this year. "Bunk barns" are being looked into for accommodation. David Fenney will book a selected site soon.

- **Applications for Charity Membership:** Four applications were accepted.

- **World Tomorrow Copyright:** There was initially some concern about possi-

ble copyright difficulties, but initial inquiries have proved encouraging. Further confirmation will be sought to avoid any unnecessary problems.

- **Subcommittees to Speed Council Business:** Subcommittees were initiated for Media and Internet, Strategic Planning and Finance, Constitution and Bylaws, and Feast Sites. Further details will be posted as we request help from members and associates who have skills in these areas.

- **Improve Performance of Council:** The chairman handed out homework for council members—a publication titled *The Hallmarks of a Well-Run Charity* from the Charity Commission. **UN**

Letter From Brethren in Zimbabwe

André van Belkum, chairman of the South African National Council, sent these excerpts from a letter he received from two members in Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe. He wrote, "It gives some idea of what our members there face on a daily basis, and how God provides and cares for them. The letter covers a period from the Feast until January this year. The members, Stephen and Vétina Tshabalala are very dedicated and loyal to God and the Church."

The Feast was wonderful! We were so happy to attend this year's Feast. There were problems, but I thank God that we were given the spiritual food that was so much needed at this time of the end. We will remember the instruction for a long time.

We had a safe and peaceful journey back home [they traveled overnight on a train from Harare to Bulawayo]. God continues to strengthen our faith. During the Feast someone stole my son's cell phone and a bankcard. We all prayed for God's intervention, and that the thief would return the stolen items. Would you believe, after the Feast the thief was caught, and brought back all the items he had stolen. This made us truly thankful for His love and sure increases our faith.

Today we were informed that there is no fuel in the country. The shops have no flour, no bread, and the few who have bread charge Zim.\$150 a loaf. One kilogram of flour sells at \$250, if you can get it. A liter of cooking oil is now \$1,100, and it's available because of the high price, and people can't afford to buy the oil. The long lines for maize meal are no more, because there is none available. How do workers who earn \$5,000 a month survive? Please remember us in your prayers.

In the country areas it's even worse. We visited our family in the rural areas [most people in Zimbabwe are small-scale farmers who live in the country] after the Feast, and found people starving. They wake up in the morning and go out hunting for wild fruit, and surprisingly there are plenty of wild fruits

this year. My sister mentioned that after planting her maize, the crops grew until the plants were about a meter. But before they could produce cobs, they dried up and died.

We are living in fear because of the social disorder occurring in our country. At my place of employment many workers spend the day without eating.

Mr. Hlazo [a member from Harare] was here for the weekend, and we listened to two tapes from the home office. It was a wonderful time for us, and we enjoyed fellowship for a long time!

We are all physically much better. After asking for anointing, the pain my wife suffers from disappeared. We thank God for that.

These past two Sabbaths we listened to sermon tapes with a new person, Mr. J. Ndlovu. He is a teacher, has read our literature and seems very interested in the truth. It's humorous, but he mentioned that Christ was indeed three days and three nights in the tomb, and he can't understand why he never noticed this fact before, especially since he is a math teacher!

This past Sabbath he told us that a thief broke into his house, but for some reason did not steal any of the expensive items, but only took a hair dryer, which does not even work. He even left the front door open as if he was in a hurry. I told Mr. Ndlovu that if he does what God instructs and obeys Him, God will perform even more amazing miracles. I pray that God will work with this man, and that we will set a good example.

At times [Vétina] experiences stomach pains because of the diet we are forced to eat. Otherwise everything is fine. God is protecting us and looking after us like a real Father.

Please send our warm regards to all the brethren. I will keep you informed, although we are not sure letters will ever reach you. May God keep you all fit, and may He bless all with good health and protect us from this evil world. We are praying for you all. Please pray for us that we will hold onto the truth revealed to us. **UN**

Update From Southern Africa

by André van Belkum

Since the inception of United we can be grateful for the outstanding growth in virtually all aspects of our work in Southern Africa. We can remember when the circulation of the *GN* was less than a hundred and we did not have any booklets to distribute. Our attendance was less than 50. Despite a number of major challenges along the way, God has blessed us with steady growth.

In each office report we see the percentage increases, some huge, of incoming and outgoing mail, booklet requests, people asking for the *Bible Study Course*, letters expressing appreciation for our literature, increases in our income and so on. We are especially excited about renewed interest on the part of people to fellowship with United, and about others attending for the first time.

Surrounding Countries

Except for Zimbabwe, there is encouraging growth in both Malawi and Zambia. Kambani Banda has been

appointed as a permanent member of the full-time ministerial team in Southern Africa. We are grateful to the Council of Elders for considering this request so favorably, especially since his salary will be paid directly from the home office starting with the new budget year. Through the generosity of LifeNets, he also has the use of a reliable vehicle with which to visit the members in Zambia and, from time to time, other areas.

Bill and Cheryl Jahns are serving the congregations in Malawi. There is a tremendous amount of work there, especially with the number of people attending who have not been baptized. And the two congregations in Blantyre and Lilongwe need care and attention.

The report below is from Derrick and Cherry Pringle who oversee our small office in Kitwe, Zambia. They receive bulk shipments of literature directly from the home office. They receive and send mail to Zambia and Malawi.

Zambia and Malawi Report

"For the January/February *Good*

News, we received 900 copies and posted 312 to Malawi and 304 to Zambia. The Banda, to be hired to rest were distributed around the Copperbelt, to various clinics, libraries, etc. Renewal notices sent: 127 for Zambia and 155 for Malawi.

"New subscribers: 37 for Zambia and 3 for Malawi.

"Booklets mailed: 259 altogether. "So the work is also growing here. Although we feel it is going slowly here on the Copperbelt, André van Belkum says we have had 100 percent growth over last year, so I guess that's not bad for 'small beginnings.'"

The Pringles also mentioned that they are now required to pay large fees to get new work/entry permits, adding to the difficulties of living in this part of the world. Please continue to pray for your brethren in Southern Africa. **UN**



Kambani and Shirley Banda, to be hired to rest were distributed

"Youth Corps," continued from page 1

ed Youth Camps and lodging will be in tents in a lush jungle setting. This camp also includes a hike up 10,000-foot high Mount Apo on the Philippine island of Mindanao.

South Africa: Staffing a youth camp on the coast of South Africa from June 29 to July 4 (with an optional three-day photo safari in one of South Africa's famous game parks before camp).

Volunteers will act as counselors at this camp held at a sea adventure center, which focuses on water activities in the Indian Ocean including sea kayaking, surf rafting and obstacle courses.

Jamaica: Staffing a camp on the Caribbean island of Jamaica from Aug. 10 to 17. Volunteers will act as counselors and activity instructors. Activities

will be similar to most United Youth Camps.

Ghana: Teaching computer skills to church elders and lay members in Ghana, West Africa, in August (two weeks long, dates yet to be finalized). Volunteers will teach basic skills on common applications including Windows, Word and Excel.

Ghana: Staffing the camp in Ghana in August (one week long, dates yet to be finalized). Volunteers will act as counselors and activity instructors. Activities will be similar to most United Youth Camps.

Thailand: Teaching at the Legacy Institute School in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from May 2003 to March 2004. Volunteers on this project will teach some combination of English, music, computers, speech and/or farming to rural students from the Karin and Katchin tribes from the Thai-Burmese-Chinese border areas during this nine-month pro-

ject. The historic city of Chiang Mai, located in northern Thailand, allows easy access to hill tribe village visits, elephant trekking and river rafting, among other fascinating experiences.

The United Youth Corps seeks to offer international service opportunities to qualified young adults starting at age 18. Participating on these programs requires hard work, commitment to Christian values, the desire to serve and personal expense.

Previous volunteers will tell you that you'll get much more from participating in these projects than you'll be able to give!

To read and download a fact sheet and/or an application for each project please visit the Youth Corps Web page at www.ucgyouth.org/youthcorps/. You may also contact Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org or at (636) 561-4026.

Joel Meeker

New Senior Pastor Visits Brethren in Kenya and Tanzania

by John Elliott

In January Dave Baker and I traveled to East Africa where I was recently assigned to serve as senior pastor for Kenya.

Leaving our respective homes in New York and Arizona, we met in Detroit and flew on to Amsterdam. From there our flight took us over the Alps and the Mediterranean, across Libya, the dunes of the Sahara Desert and along the Nile River as it meandered through Sudan and passed through Khartoum. After 20 hours in the air we finally landed in Kenya.

After a brief night's rest, we drove into downtown Nairobi the next morning to meet with one of our principal assistants in the region, David Gichuru, who works for Kenya Telecom. We met with him and another leader, Antonio Ndung'u, to discuss church matters and members' needs in the area. David then gave us a walking tour of some of the landmarks associated with the Church of God in Kenya down through the years.

Visiting Congregations in Kenya

Leaving Nairobi by car, we began our visiting tour heading north and westward. We passed the Jomo Kenyatta International Center for Science and Agriculture, a noble institution to which both Herbert W. Armstrong and the Japanese government once lent support. From there we stopped to see a couple of waterfalls and a large pool that has hippo living in it. After a stop overnight at Naro Maru, one potential Feast site we toured, we began meeting members in various locations.

Each day was filled with travel to remote villages in the countryside. Besides meeting and counseling individuals, I was introduced to all seven of our congregations along with as many smaller groups. To each group I gave a Bible study on the subject of repentance and baptism. We currently have 259 attendees in the region, with 39 baptized members. After preaching to them, the groups would inform us of the needs they face and request help from us. Needs typically include hall rental assistance, literature requests and funds for many things, including transportation to church and the feasts, renting post office boxes in order to receive Church mail, help with the cost of medications, build-



Some of the Elburgon, Kenya, group including Dave Baker, David Gichuru, Gilbert Murimi and John Elliott in back row

ing materials for constructing meeting shelters, etc.

David Gichuru took several days off work to act as guide and translator for the first part of the trip. Later he returned to Nairobi and other members joined us along the way to perform this function for us.

Besides these groups and congregations that are very much a part of United, Dave Baker also introduced me to a very helpful young man who travels between congregations in southwest Kenya and Tanzania giving sermons derived from our sermon tapes and literature and preaching in the Swahili or Luo languages. He and his family rent a small room inside our church hall in Migori. John traveled with us for several days as we visited churches and groups in southwest Kenya and Tanzania.

On the first Sabbath, we drove on hot, dusty roads to our rural congregation at Got Kachola on the western edge of Kenya near Lake Victoria, which meets in a schoolhouse. There Dave Baker and I gave split sermons on "God's Calling" and "What Is the True Church?" Afterwards we performed the blessing of little children for several in the congregation, including one "Dave Baker" and two "Bill Clintons." Ten anointings followed, nearly all for malaria, and two included typhoid fever. The congregation's leaders spoke with us about the

hall situation, since the school no longer wants to rent to us. They have purchased land and some materials but need \$400 assistance to be able to complete the project. I hope to take funds to them for that purpose on my next trip to the area for Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

On Sabbath afternoon we drove on through the dust and heat to our congregation in Migori and held a similar service. The hall needs a coat of paint inside and out and some reed mats in the ceiling to block the radiant heat from the tin roof. I have requested these improvements be completed by April when all the members from southeast Kenya and Tanzania are invited there for Passover, the Night to Be Much Observed and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I plan to be

with them to conduct the Passover and, along with my wife, Merrie, to celebrate the start of the Festival with them.



John Elliott with a group of church members after Sabbath services in Migori, Kenya

After services Dave Baker went to the local hospital to anoint a member who was very ill. She needed an operation, which Dave arranged for. I learned recently that she died before the operation was performed.

Into Tanzania

From Migori we traveled south into Tanzania and visited two congregations that meet regularly there. The first at



Dave Baker and John Elliott (rear) pose with members of the Nyanjagi, Tanzania, congregation

Nyanjagi meets at the "estate" of their leader, Richard Kibuye, where we held the Bible study. The traditional compound of adobe huts with thatched roofs provides cool and comfortable shelter for the Kibuye family. However, the large congregation needs a shelter to meet in to shield it from the equatorial sun and occasional downpours. Richard has offered the land needed and the members will provide the mud bricks. They requested assistance for framing timber, roofing and nails. I have approved their request and have solicited funds from various donors to take with me in April for this and a plethora of other needs. At the end of our meeting we were invited inside one of the huts and were served tea and some food. This honor was given to us by nearly every group we visited and every home we entered.

Next we traveled to the other congregation near Lake Victoria. There our main leader in Tanzania, Joash Okinyi, explained that he had recently been released from jail. An unsuccessful landgrab by his neighbor resulted in Joash being reported to the police as being a member of a church that practiced illegal devil worship. Joash was jailed indefinitely but was able to obtain the booklet, *Is There Really a Devil?* He

explained to the police that if we believed in devil worship you would read it in this booklet. Once they read the booklet, they immediately released him.

The Okinyi group receives our literature at a post office some 10 miles away. Joash has always made the trip to retrieve everyone's mail using a bicycle. Last summer his son borrowed his bicycle to go fishing on Lake Victoria. There, he was attacked and killed and the bicycle was never seen again. After the Bible study, we visited another small group and then drove to Tarime where we purchased a new bicycle for Joash, complete with headlamp and chain lock. As we drove the dusty roads, both Dave and I began to become ill.

Illnesses and Feast Plans

Turning northward again, we reentered Kenya and continued visiting groups and giving Bible studies as far north and west as Siaya. Dave Baker's health worsened into a feverish flu-like condition, while mine remained cold-like. One objective of the trip was to tour several potential sites for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. We visited seven total, with three becoming top prospects.

Leaving the hot, arid lands of the west, we again traveled inland through the mountains with their endless tea fields of orange pekoe. Just outside the city of Nakuru is a state game preserve that we took the opportunity to drive through for a few hours. The game is abundant and easily spotted in the early morning and late afternoon. We saw impala, gazelle, waterbuck, rhinoceros, cape buffalo, zebra, monkeys, baboon and a leopard asleep with its kill. From there we drove back to Nairobi.

Back in Nairobi we had other meetings including one with Kurt Hoyer, a member who works for the American embassy, and David Gichuru. On the Sabbath we held services with our brethren from the Nairobi area. That day Dave Baker felt a little better, but that night he re-



A curious waterbuck and a leopard sleeping in a tree with its kill in the Nakuru State Park

lapsed with something that was later diagnosed as "attenuated mumps." (He did not begin to recover from it for another two weeks. I have had a lengthy

bout with nausea and diarrhea for a couple of weeks so far since returning home.)

On Sunday, David Gichuru and I flew to the east coast city of Mombasa to tour potential Feast sites and a summer camp site. Since Dave Baker could not travel, I asked Benjamin Gichuru to accompany us. As a teen Benjamin had attended summer camp at the site we toured and I hope to use his expertise when we become financially able to hold a summer camp at that site again in the future.

We also toured a resort that became my top choice for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. The accommodations and seaside location will afford a millennial-type environment for the Feast. The cost is similar to other resorts, but it offers much more for our brethren. Transportation for the membership is not that much more expensive than other locations would be, either. Each local member can travel to the Feast, have nice



Feast hotel for internationals near Mombasa, Kenya

accommodations, meals and activities at an affordable cost. Almost next door is a very nice RCI resort that will be offered to international members wishing to come to Kenya for the Feast.

That evening the three of us flew back to Nairobi.

The next day I picked up Joel Meeker at the Nairobi airport where he was laying over on his trip through the French-speaking areas of Western and Central Africa. We spent the day together along with Dave Baker and had much discussion about the work in East Africa. I gained great insight from both Dave and Joel in many important areas.

That evening we all boarded airplanes and headed for our final destinations.

The trip was valuable for the membership and very insightful to me. In addition to my regular duties as a pastor in Arizona, I now find myself managing a region of new growth. I have submitted to Roy Holladay a strategic plan for the region, which seeks to build a solid infrastructure for United, develop local leadership in the region, address literature needs, provide congregational support and member programs, and maximize the Festival experience for all possible.

East Africa holds many special treasures, the greatest of which are the people God is calling into His family. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the work in East Africa and the brethren here in Arizona. Both groups are very excited about getting to know each other and being involved where possible. **UN**

Australian Chairman Reports on Consistent Growth

by Bill Eddington

This report briefly sets out some of the accomplishments of UCG-Australia in 2002, concentrating on the two principal areas distilled from the mission statement and clearly shown on the emblem of the Church here in Australia and around the world—"Preaching the Gospel, Preparing a People."

Preaching the Gospel

"Controlled, consistent growth" would be the well-chosen phrase characterizing the accomplishments in the media and publishing area for the year of 2002. This resulted in the *Good News* circulation for 2002 increasing by more than 74 percent when compared to 2001.

An outstanding development for 2002 was the enthusiastic, thoughtful and consistent participation of the membership in media efforts. Those who were able to participate are to be heartily congratulated. After the Media and Publishing Committee identified the most effective programs for participation (mailbox drops, establishing and managing newsstands, the placement of cardholders and the manning of stalls at county fairs and markets) many members became involved. Over 300,000 letterbox cards were dropped in 2002, and newsstands were established on a regular basis. Nearly 3,000 copies of *The Good News* are distributed via newsstands each issue and additional locations are planned for 2003.

In order to further raise the awareness of member participation in our program, media tables were established at all Feast sites in 2002. These tables were most effective at the larger sites and at sites where the Festival coordinator actively promoted the display of media material and opportunities for participation. Many brethren left their Feast site clutching instruction sheets, cards, cardholders and newsstands.

For the last two years the Media and Publishing Committee has looked for the most cost-effective way of advertising to the public by carefully testing advertisements and introducing reply-paid cards to make it easier for readers to respond. The most economical and successful advertising medium has been *Reader's Digest*, which, in addition to generating a high number of initial responses, also has the advantage of a long shelf life. *Reader's Digest* subscribers often pass their copies on to resale stores and opportunity shops, as they are reluctant to destroy them. A single issue of *Reader's Digest* not only stays around for a long time, but may cross a number of socioeconomic levels.

The other significant development for 2002 was the completion of a comprehensive *Good News* subscriber development plan. The plan took two years to fully implement, but is now in place and producing fruit. It includes special literature offers enclosed with each envelope of literature sent from the Australian National Office. This

provided an opportunity for us to help subscribers develop a better understanding of the plan of God in a logical and progressive manner. Literature offers are also mailed with each issue of the *Good News* magazine. This latter innovation greatly increased requests from subscribers for additional literature.



Bill Eddington, Australian National Council chairman

In addition, a semiannual letter mailed to all *Good News* subscribers offered a specially recorded audiotape and literature on a topic of interest. The first semiannual letter mailed in November 2002 offered a tape on "Understanding the Spirit World," with the complementary booklets, *What Happens After Death?* and *Is There Really a Devil?* We were pleasantly surprised by the response to this letter which, by the end of the year, was running at an exceptionally high 22 percent. The Australian National Office estimated that more than 6,550 pieces of mail were handled in 2002 as a direct result of these literature offers. There is no doubt the program also contributed to the 30.6 percent increase in the number of letters received and answered during the year.

Bible Study Course graduates were also offered regular audio sermon tapes, culminating with an offer of the *United News-Australia*, to introduce them to our congregations and church life. Along with the offer of *United News-Australia*, graduates were given the option of requesting the name and phone number of the elder in their area, and 13 percent of those who received this offer asked for an elder's name and telephone number. Most pastors reported an increase in visit requests and first-time attendance at services. Donors and coworkers showed an increase of 58 percent over 2001.

Overall it would be true to say that God abundantly blessed the efforts of the United Church of God to preach the gospel in Australia in 2002. We look forward to continued blessings and growth in 2003.

Preparing a People

We were very pleased to add Stephen Clark to the salaried ministry during the year. The spread of our congregations throughout Australia and the few elders available to serve them

has placed quite a burden on the ministry, and Stephen's ordination will ease that situation. Stephen and his family are currently serving with our other salaried elders in Queensland, Bill Bradford and Reg Wright.

Church attendance remained stable throughout the year and it was very pleasing to see 19 people baptized in 2002. Hopefully, the increasing interest being registered at the National Office will lead to more growth in this area.

The comprehensive program for the younger people of the Church continued in 2002 and culminated as always with a most successful summer camp held at Lake Macquarie in December. While the physical and sporting activities of the camp are important to its success, the personal development and Christian living program prepare the young people to serve more effectively in their local congregations and for future leadership responsibilities.

The daily Christian living classes and Bible studies were supported by a new class on how to serve. Instruction on how to relate to older members of our society led to two visits to an aged care facility in the area. Campers put on a concert for the residents and were able to talk with them afterwards. These opportunities provided excellent experience for campers that will be of direct benefit to the Church in the future.

Another leadership camp, with the theme of "Living Responsibly," was conducted for 18- to 30-year-olds during the year. This camp was an important reminder of the spiritual principles

that lead to living a successful life in a secular society.

Three years ago the National Council established a fund to assist worthy applicants attend the Ambassador Bible Center conducted each year at the UCGIA home office in Cincinnati. This year the fund was used to assist Craig and Natalie McQueen attend the 2003 session.

Effective support for preaching the gospel and preparing a people was provided by our three employees in the National Office—two full-time and one part-time. It seemed the volume of mail handled and the essential administrative tasks involved in the "work behind the work" increased every day. This is good news, of course, because it demonstrates growth coming from our efforts to serve our God. But it brings challenges with it and, at times, the employees became over-burdened. The dedicated volunteers who come in to assist from time to time helped, but we do need to be conscious of the demands placed upon Reg Wright, Ruth Root and David Sandland.

There is also encouraging information regarding the sound financial position of the Church in Australia. Steadily rising income and tight control of expenses was a feature of the past 12 months.

Treasurer Drew Efimov reported, "There is no way of approaching our income situation this last year other than having awe and giving appreciation to God. For the calendar year 2002 we received a total income of \$855,758. This is approximately \$173,000 more than we had anticipated."

Australian Women Enjoy Educational Seminars

The Ladies Educational Seminar Weekend was held at the Margate Conference Centre in Brisbane, Australia, Dec. 6 to 8, 2002. Fifty-eight women enjoyed a great weekend, designed to help us get to know one another in an informal atmosphere. The theme was "Discovering Your God-Given Gifts"—the aim being to identify our talents, and apply them in our daily lives.

The Sabbath service was conducted by Bill Bradford, who gave a sermon on servant leadership, emphasizing that personal happiness comes from serving others. The special music and singing presented during the service were truly delightful.

In the afternoon we heard fascinating facts from Dawn Goodger about "Unexpected People in Unexpected Places," and Debbie Efimov gave a thought-provoking talk on Esther enti-



The Ladies Educational Seminar Weekend in Brisbane drew 58 women Dec. 6 to 8, 2002

led "A Time Such as This." Jenny Bradford, who helped organize the weekend, addressed the subject "Who Makes Us to Differ One From Another?" She emphasized our need to understand and appreciate the differences between us.

Arts, crafts and discussions occupied the evening. On Sunday morning Ruth Root and Jenny Bradford helped us to "Discover Our Gifts," and Jeanette Dean showed us how to work together as a team.

"The women's weekend was a refreshing change from the daily routine with three small children!" said one

We continue to be blessed by receiving an annual subsidy from UCGIA, but an objective of the National Council is to become self-sufficient as soon as possible and perhaps receive support only when special or unusual opportunities to fulfill our commission present themselves.

At an administrative level, a great amount of time was spent by the National Council's Policy and Planning Committee crafting a revised constitution for UCG-A. This was necessary to ensure we comply with the Corporations Act and to correct some inconsistencies in the previous document. Unfortunately, the need to do this caused the deferral of the 2002 election of lay persons to the National Council.

At the time of writing this report the new constitution was with a solicitor for final checking and, by the time you receive this report, I expect that the constitution will have been adopted and the lay person elections completed.

I would like once again to express my appreciation for the diligence and dedication of the members of the National Council, its committees, advisors, the staff in the National Office and other members who work quietly behind the scenes. Their work generally goes unnoticed and they seek no accolades, which is in full accord with the spiritual principle expounded in Matthew 6:1-4. But without their diligence, dedication and commitment, the achievements of the United Church of God-Australia in 2002 would have been the poorer. **UN**

of the participants, Mandy Jennings. "The Sabbath service was a special treat for me personally as there were no distractions. Each of the ladies who spoke at the seminar had a unique and very interesting perspective on their subjects. I left the weekend feeling renewed and full of enthusiasm (even though I was very tired from all the talking I did!). I hope we can do it again soon!"

The team spirit is definitely alive and very active in those who worked to prepare and present such a great get-together.

Anne Colombet

Inspiring Lessons From South America

By Mario Seiglie

What a wonderful group of brethren we have in South America! Their struggles to keep and to grow in the faith are so inspiring. There are over 700 brethren in this part of the world, living in countries in the northern tip of the continent such as Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and then southward to Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Chile and Argentina.

As an international representative of the Council of Elders, I had the opportunity, along with my wife Caty, to visit many of the brethren from Bolivia and Chile. We had served that area of the world for 21 years until being assigned to pastor the Garden Grove, California, and the Hawaiian congregations. Of course, our hearts will always be intertwined with those of the dear brethren we left behind in that part of the world.

Inspiring Story—4-Year-Old Defending the Faith

In La Paz, Bolivia, we had lunch with most of the brethren at the home of Raul Machicao, a deacon. There I met Teresa Escobari, who attends the La Paz, Bolivia, congregation. I was intrigued about how she came to the faith.

She is a preschool teacher, and as Christmas time arrived, she prepared her class to celebrate the holiday with a

special party. When the day arrived, she had the party ready and told the children they should draw some Christmas pictures, including that of Jesus Christ, and play around a Christmas tree.

She asked Matias Arambulo, a 4-year-old, who is the son of a church member, to draw some Christmas images. He told her, "I shouldn't adore any images of Christ, and I'm not going to participate." She insisted, but he again refused to go along. She was greatly surprised, and asked him why not. He answered, "Because they are false, and are one of Satan's deceptions."

She was intrigued by his answer and asked, "Doesn't Santa Claus bring gifts at Christmas time?" Matias answered, "No, that's only a person dressed in disguise." Then, she asked him about his religion. He said, "I'm an Israelite, and go to the United Church of God."

Some days later, the confused teacher asked Matias' mother for an interview. She went to his home, and the mother explained to the teacher the details about what Matias had told her. The teacher then said her she wanted to know more about Matias' religion, and so she started receiving the *Good News*

magazine. Some weeks later, she began attending services.

When we met for that Sunday luncheon, she mentioned she was so grateful for all she had learned—for truly she had been deceived—and all of this happened because a small child was willing to stand up for the truth. It has changed her life.

On our previous trips, we noticed that Matias, who is now 6, is a very bright boy that takes his religion very seriously. He reminds us of a young David who stood up for the faith. He is a fine example for all of us, and especially for the youth. You never know how God can use a good defense of the faith to call people to His way of life.



Matias Arambulo was "evangelizing" at age 4

Another Inspiring Story—This Time From Chile

From Bolivia, we flew on to Santiago, Chile. Since this was early January 2003, the youth camp had just finished in the southern part of the country. The youth were very excited after a week of camp and there were youths from three different countries—Chile, Uruguay and Argentina. Saul Langarica, the pastor in the area, was in charge of this successful camp that served close to 90 youths.

One of those teens, Gabriel Castillo, came to camp for the first time. Gabriel suffers from a childhood disease and is confined to a wheelchair. He was quite introverted until he came to church. But once he started attending with his family, the youths enthusiastically received him, and he began making friends.

At the youth camp, many of the youths gave a brief speech about a subject of their choice. When Gabriel's turn came up, no one was prepared for what followed.

Instead of focusing on his handicap, he began telling them how much his life had changed since coming into the Church. Before this time, he thought he would live isolated in his home, as a virtual hermit, and no one would ever take him into consideration. He had been in complete despair and didn't want to go on living. But now he is part of the youth in the Church and had received so much warmth and affection. It had changed his whole life.

Then he startled his youthful audience by telling them, "You might have legs, but many of you don't know where

you are headed. I don't have good legs, but I know where I am going." He was referring to the hope of being in God's Kingdom, and the opportunity in the future of becoming a member. He mentioned his body didn't work as it should, but his mind certainly did. He asked them to look beyond his outer appearance and focus on his inner life, which is very rich. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience. According to many of the youths, his speech was one of the highlights of camp.

There was a common theme in this trip—never underestimate a person's potential if he or she truly takes the Church seriously and does his or her part. We heard how a 4-year-old boy, without knowing it, did some "evangelizing" and as a result, an adult started attending Church. Then, in Chile, a young man, seriously crippled, also "evangelized" the youth attending camp by showing them how a life can be changed by receiving love and accepting God's ways. Experiences such as these are what make these long trips so worthwhile. **UN**



Gabriel Castillo danced and participated in camp in spite of being confined to a wheelchair

Serving a Highlight of the Australian Summer Camp

by Jenny Bradford

Dec. 20 was the beginning of yet another summer camp in Australia. Some new activities were added to the schedule—visits to an aged care home, lawn bowling, waterskiing/tubing and a day out at the University of Newcastle added greatly to this year's camp.

Waterskiing, tubing and bowling were on the schedule for Sunday. At the University of Newcastle on Monday, four sports were offered: water polo, rock climbing, a body combat class and European handball. Water polo proved to be exciting, as it was played in an Olympic-sized pool with professional water polo gear.

Rock climbing thrilled most as the rock climbing wall is the second highest in Australia. "For someone who's scared of heights, it was a little hairy looking down from right at the top, but the experience was well worth it," said first-time camper Joseph Vogiatzis. "It was a great experience and I would do rock climbing again if the chance arose."

European handball was a fun sport which was new to everyone. "It was a combination of soccer and netball," said Michelle Lyons, who expressed her interest in the game. "But it was more fun than netball and more enjoyable than soccer."

Sailing this year was considered to be the best ever. "The weather and wind were very good this year, as opposed to previous years," said Bradley Huthnance who helped out with the sailing for a few

days. "I was very impressed with the way the campers sailed!"

One evening we had a karaoke night. Warwick Lehmann received the only standing ovation for his rendition of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and was even



Campers in Australia prepare for and then visit elderly people in a nursing home

asked to perform again at the dance on Saturday night.

Drama was popular as campers were given the challenge of coming up with a skit to perform on the last night. It was very obvious that a lot of effort went into preparing the skits and that Jo Robertson really enjoyed teaching drama class. "They seemed to have a really great time and were all enthusiastic. What was most rewarding was seeing the shyer campers come out of their shells and enjoy themselves," she said.

The hike proved to be adventurous

with all the creatures found in the rain forest. Hikers weren't warned about the leeches until the hike was almost over. This was a definite advantage for the girls as most of the boys who found out about the leeches tried to torment the girls with them. (Imagine what it would have been like if the boys had discovered them 30 minutes earlier!)

Showing Care for the Elderly

Most of the campers agreed that visiting the aged care home was the highlight of camp! Campers participated in three instructional sessions before the visit so they would know what to expect. They were taught how to react if the elderly had hearing problems, mistook them for a relative, kept repeating themselves, etc.

"Both [my husband] Drew and I were very impressed with the campers at the aged care homes," said Debbie Efimov. "The ladies who worked there were impressed with how our young people interacted with the elderly. They have a lot of groups visit, but they usually don't interact as much as we did." She went on to say that the training classes had definitely paid off. "The campers handled themselves very graciously and appropriately throughout the visit. Drew

and I were really proud to see them give up their time to spend it visiting with the elderly."

Campers were delighted to be given the opportunity to serve. "To come to summer camp and be taught the principles of serving others is a great thing . . . but it is even better to be given the opportunity of putting those principles into action," said



Shanna Gray, Susie Watson and Jessica Archer sing; David Reeve, Paulahi Marshall and Aaron Barton prepare for water sports; tubing

Paul McQueen. "Visiting the aged care facility gave us all an invaluable opportunity to do just that. I think it was a highlight of camp for a lot of people. This says a lot considering there was also waterskiing, rock-wall climbing, drama, water polo, dancing, etc."

With so many exciting activities in a safe, Christian environment, many are counting the days until next year's camp. Almost all the first-time campers felt camp had exceeded their initial expectations. "Camp was everything I thought it would be, and nothing like I expected. For example, I thought we would make good friends, but I didn't expect to do it yelling



from water tubes. I thought we would face challenges, but I didn't expect to face them with both legs in one stocking, playing fish with rubber gloves or looking through glasses with Vaseline on them (Dare to Care Aged Challenge). I thought we might learn self-development, but I didn't expect to learn it by hanging off the rudder of a capsized sailboat. And most of all I thought we would develop our relationship with God, but I didn't expect to do it with so many awesome people," said Maria Vogiatzis. **UN**



From the Word

Can There Be a "Just War"?

■ Struggles of conscience over the justification of war have long haunted Christians. How does one make sense of apparently necessary military actions in this modern world?

by David Treybig

An impending war with Iraq has dominated the news. On one hand, there is almost universal agreement that Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, is a rogue dictator responsible for the savage murder of innocent people and a man who has not cooperated with United Nations' demands that his country destroy and account for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) that intelligence reports confirm exist. On the other hand, the world is divided over what to do about his refusal to comply. In recent years, it has been somewhat like Mark Twain's quip that everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it. Now U.S. President George W. Bush proposes military action against Hussein in order to make the world a safer place.

Building a coalition of nations to justify going to war with Hussein has not been an easy task for President Bush. The news has been filled with stories citing the division among European nations over this issue. While Britain, and some eastern block European nations support Bush's position, Germany, France and Russia want to send more UN weapons inspectors to Iraq in an effort to buy more time and, hopefully, avert an impending war. The rift threatens to destroy NATO and the good relationships that have existed between the United States, France and Germany since World War II. Many Europeans just don't think that going to war is the answer.

In the United States, President Bush's support is much stronger. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the American populace has rallied behind the president's efforts to strengthen homeland security. Interestingly, even though the economy is in a prolonged sluggish period, something Democrats could normally expect to propel their party to power, voters today are more concerned about security than the economy. People reason that if they aren't secure, there is no economy and they trust the Republican leadership to do a better job of protecting them than the Democrats.

Today approximately 60 percent of Americans believe the United States would be justified in going to war with Iraq. Yet there are still many who disagree with this decision for various reasons including the number of American lives that would be lost and the huge financial cost involved. Some cynically claim that this would simply be an "oil war"—one the United States would

fight so as to keep the cost of oil under control. Such talk, however, doesn't factor in the huge oil business France enjoys with Iraq—one of the more obvious reasons the French oppose war.

Within the United States, division over whether to go to war is not confined to political parties—for there are notable exceptions to the general perceptions of Democrats being doves and the Republicans being hawks. Iraqi immigrants to the United States do not believe a war with their native country is morally justified. While many openly admit that Hussein is a horrible leader, they don't want to see their country ravaged by war and innocent civilians killed. They argue that Hussein's non-use of WMD in the previous war with the United States shows that he wouldn't use them now—because if he did, he knows the entire world would come after him and annihilate him and his country.

The "Just War" Theory

Christians, too, are divided over going to war with Iraq. While some reject war—any war—as inappropriate, others claim that war is sometimes a necessary evil in order to prevent a greater evil. Those who support war generally do so under a concept called the "just war" theory that says war is justified when there is a just cause, just intent and is enacted as a last resort.

Furthermore, proponents of this theory say that a legitimate authority must make the decision to go to war, set specific, honorable goals for the war and strive to limit the number of casualties, particularly civilian, in order for a conflict to be considered "just." Based on this criteria, several prominent Christian leaders including Richard Land, Bill Bright, Chuck Colson, D. James Kennedy and Carl Herbster recently wrote President Bush saying they believe a war with Iraq would be a "just" war.

Those who believe in "just" wars note that God has set up governing authorities, nations, which have the responsibility to punish evildoers and that it is our Christian duty to support them. As Romans 13:1-6 explains: "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you

also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing."

The preceding passage shows that God intends for national governments to use their authority to curtail evil. But does this justify the theory of "just war"? Many Christians have a hard time reconciling this theory with Jesus' admonition to "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45). After reading Christ's instructions, such individuals wonder how anyone could consider any war "just." Calling violence and bloodshed "just" violates the clear intent of Jesus' instruction.

In an effort to make sense of these apparently contradictory instructions, some have reasoned that when Christians engage in "just" wars, they aren't doing so as Christians—but as necessary servants of the state. But even with this belief, analyses of preceding wars by "just war" proponents reveal that even just wars often include unjust incidents. For example, World War II is considered by many to be a just war because it was fought to control forces that would have limited personal freedoms. Yet within that war, many innocent civilians lost their lives in the saturation bombing of cities—a clear contradiction of "just war" criteria. Given the confusion and complications that abound over this issue of going to war, how can we make sense of Jesus' and Paul's teachings?

Two Trees

When God created Adam and Eve, He placed them in the Garden of Eden and gave them instructions regarding which foods they were to eat. Within the garden were two trees: "the tree of life" and "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9). Adam and Eve were told that they could eat of every tree except the latter. Eating it would exact the penalty of death (verse 17).

Soon Satan came along in the form of a snake and enticed Eve to disobey God by eating the fruit of the forbidden tree. Satan told Eve that she wouldn't die if she ate the fruit and that it would really be good for her to do so as she would then "be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). As the account explains, Eve ate this fruit, as did her husband, Adam (verse 6). Because of their disobedience, they were driven out of the garden and denied access to the tree of life whose fruit would have yielded "eternal life" (verses 22-24).

As subsequent scriptures reveal, this was a pivotal point in the history of mankind. Adam and Eve's poor choice set a precedent that most humans have mistakenly followed ever since (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21). By sinning against God, they incurred the death penalty (Romans 6:23). Follow-

ing in Adam and Eve's path of self-determination and sin, we, too, were "alienated" from God and in need of "reconciliation" with Him—a process made possible by the death of His Son (Colossians 1:21; Romans 5:10).

In rejecting Divine revelation, our first parents decided for themselves what was good and evil. Important to note, the tree they ate of was called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"—not solely evil. This represents the mixture of both good and bad that exists within our societies today. All human beings continue to eat the fruit of this tree of the knowledge of good and evil and experience both the good and the bad of doing so until they are reconciled to God and given access to the tree of life representing eternal life.

The good and evil portions of Adam and Eve's choice are clearly evident in warfare. Even proponents of "just war" acknowledge the terrible price in the loss of human life that accompanies it. President Bush, in his State of the Union speech, candidly revealed that in deciding that it was necessary to go to war with Iraq, he did so reluctantly.

For those living under the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, war is an accompanying evil that is part of the system. Paul's comments in Romans 13 regarding civil authorities represent the human governments God has set up until His Kingdom replaces them. Wars are part of the fruit of living under the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that will remain and increase in these last days (Matthew 24:7) before Christ's return to this earth.

War and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

Even though God allows wars because of mankind's rejection of Him, God still guides the outcomes of these conflicts according to His plan and purpose. Ancient Israel was a nation who lived under the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Even though they were promised many physical blessings for obedience to God's laws, the covenant God made with the nation didn't include eternal life. This is one of the better promises of the New Covenant offered to only a few in Old Testament times (Hebrews 8:6).

When ancient Israel left Egypt, God's plan was that He would fight for them. At the Red Sea, when the Egyptian armies threatened attack, Moses told the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace" (Exodus 14:13-14). In the parting of the Red Sea and its subsequent unparting, God destroyed the entire Egyptian army (verses 26-28).

Though the ancient Israelites saw God's power firsthand through numerous miracles, they still didn't trust God to protect them. When they next faced a disagreement with Amalek, Moses instructed Joshua to select men to go fight against them (Exodus 17:8-11). God intervened and miraculously allowed Israel to win as long as Moses held his hands up beseeching God's help (verse 11).

Subsequent history shows that though God offered to fight for their nation so the people wouldn't have to do so, Israel never really trusted God to take care of them. They believed they had to fight and, like other things that God allowed because of the hardness of their hearts, He allowed Israel to fight their battles. What Israel didn't seem to realize was that God was involved in the battles anyway, directing their outcome as He willed.

Modern warfare is no exception. Miraculous stories are told of God's intervention in World Wars I and II. How was it that the Allies got perfect, unseasonable weather just when they needed it? Why did a stray bomb accidentally go down the smokestack of a building and destroy Germany's efforts to develop a hydrogen bomb? God can and does intervene in wars—but He has a better way for those who truly seek Him.

War and the Tree of Life

For those of us who have committed our lives to Jesus Christ through baptism and thereby been granted access to the tree of life (eternal life), we are not to be involved in warfare at this time. In John 18:36, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

At this time, we are ambassadors of the coming Kingdom of God (2 Corinthians 5:20) and our work is a "ministry of reconciliation" (verse 18) whose purpose is to instruct and teach those whom God calls how to live under the tree of life. Jesus' instructions in Matthew 5 to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us have direct application. God certainly has the power to protect us, but if He allows an enemy to kill us, He also has the power to resurrect us again.

When Jesus returns to this earth, the Bible reveals that the nations of this earth will gather to fight against Him (Revelation 17:12-14; 19:14-15, 19). Those who have accepted the call to live under the tree of life will then join Him in the battle. This will truly be a "just war" because the all-powerful, all-knowing Jesus Christ will be directing it. Only after this horrendous battle will wars finally cease and human beings enjoy the abundant peace that will come when all dwell under the tree of life. God speed that day! UN

Modesty: A Vanishing Virtue (Part 1)

■ Realizing the immense cultural pressure our members face in our modern world, this article is being provided as an introduction in educating our membership on the subject of modesty in dress. This article will focus on the pervasiveness of immodest dress in our society and the challenge this poses for those of us striving to live godly lives. A second article, to appear in the next issue of *United News*, will identify godly principles to consider in our clothing and appearance as Christians. A sermon further addressing this subject is also being planned to be given in all congregations.—*Youth Education Team*

by David Treybig, with contributions from Kathy Giese and Zeldia Hanisko

Upon traversing America in the 1830s, French author and statesman Alexis de Toqueville attributed the extraordinary prosperity and growing greatness of the nation to “the superiority of their women,” who were protected by “punishing rape by death.” Continuing, he noted that “no other crime is judged with the same inexorable severity by public opinion. There is reason for this: as the Americans think nothing more precious than a woman’s honor.” It was a time of chivalry, honor and modest dress. It was a time when a woman “could walk anywhere alone without fear, so great was men’s respect for their modesty” (Wendy Shalit, *A Return to Modesty, Discovering the Lost Virtue*, 1999, pages 39-40).

The times have obviously changed. Today, many women struggle to be treated with respect yet dress with little regard for modesty. Many men enjoy viewing immodestly dressed women while claiming to respect them. What went wrong? How did modern styles of dress develop and how do they affect those of us who are striving to live godly lives?

Within the Church, there are many individuals who have set wonderful examples in the way they dress. This article should not be construed as a complaint against these people. To the contrary, they deserve our praise and emulation given the modern trends within our society. As we will see, we Christians are clearly involved in a clash of values concerning dress—one of the most visible aspects of modesty.

Surveying today’s fashions, we see that designers have decided skin is in. For those who watched the latest Super Bowl game between the Oakland Raiders and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (which reportedly had the second highest number of television viewers since the event began 37 years ago, with an estimated audience of 137.6 million people), there was ample evidence. Whether viewing the commercials or the musical performers, there was the same consistent message: skimpy, skin-revealing clothing is what’s hot.

Television viewers of this annual American football classic saw a controversial commercial for Miller Lite Beer in which two young women get into a fight over whether the beer tastes great or is less filling. During the fight, the women rip each other’s clothes off as one gets thrown into a fountain and they continue their fight in a mud pit wearing only the bare minimum of clothing.

Women’s groups quickly denounced the ad as exploitive of women while the company defended it. A spokesperson

said that it was only a lighthearted look at the way some guys think and that all the controversy was unwarranted. Of course, controversy helps enormously in spreading the company’s message.

During the game, the Miller commercial wasn’t the only glimpse of exposed flesh. Another ad featured women wearing skimpy swimsuits and the half-time entertainment included a lead female wearing basically a bra for her top and a lead male without a shirt. Marty White, editor of *ChristianityToday.com* Connection wrote, “I haven’t watched a Super Bowl for several years . . . But I did watch it this year, and it was interesting in more ways than one. The commercials were entertaining, of course, but it’s disheartening to see how much further the envelope of good taste (did I say good?) is pushed each year” (Jan. 29, 2003).

Pushing the Limits

The decline in standards of dress depicted during Super Bowl XXXVII didn’t happen overnight. Popular musicians, movies, television and fashion designers have all made their impact as a multidimensional attack upon the modesty of previous generations.

Laura Sessions Stepp wrote about the recent history of these trends: “In terms of sexy dress and power, there was no bigger celebrity than pop singer Madonna. Girls who weren’t even born in the 1980s know that’s when Madonna started turning underwear into outerwear. Through her MTV videos, Madonna made sure we knew she was a self-possessed woman who would take from life exactly what she wanted, regardless of what any man might want from her.

“She was followed, of course, by vocalists Spears and Lopez, who reinforced the idea to millions of fans that titillation equals liberation. During these same years, designers, manufacturers and retailers bought into a concept called ‘deconstructionism,’ meaning the near elimination of clothing.

“In 1989, the same year that Madonna sang ‘Express Yourself’ as she grabbed her crotch, bare-breasted models were walking the runways followed by women in corsets and black stockings, hip-slung pants and slip dresses. (Fashion analysts at the time gave the slip dress less than a year. They were wrong, as any middle school dance will prove.)

“Adult lines started ad campaigns featuring teenage girls, and it was only a matter of time before the juniors market stepped in, followed by children’s wear. Stores like Wet Seal, Hot Topic and Gad-zooks picked up the Playboy line, then Hotkiss, whose marketing director knew exactly what to say: ‘We appeal to an independent girl with enough self-confidence to wear our body-conscious and

provocative clothing’” (Washington-post.com, “Nothing to Wear: From the Classroom to the Mall, Girls’ Fashions Are Long on Skin, Short on Modesty,” by Laura Sessions Stepp, June 3, 2002, page C01).

Interestingly, young women who choose to remain virgins until married (a trend that is increasing in the United States but is largely ignored by liberally biased media), often see no problem with dressing provocatively. Consider the case of Daniela Aranda.

“Even though she lives 700 miles from the nearest ocean, Daniela Aranda was recently voted Miss Hawaiian Tropic of El Paso, Texas, and her parents couldn’t be prouder. They’ve displayed a picture of their bikini-clad daughter smack-dab in the middle of the living room. ‘Dad always say to me, ‘You don’t look like a virgin.’” says Daniela, 20 who wears supersparkly eye shadow, heavy lip liner and a low-cut black shirt. ‘But what does a virgin look like? Someone who wears white and likes to look at flowers?’

“Daniela models at Harley-Davidson fashion shows, is a cheerleader for a local soccer team called the Patriots and hangs out with friends who work at Hooters. She’s also an evangelical Christian who made a vow at 13 to remain a virgin, and she’s kept that promise. ‘It can be done, I’m living proof’ . . . Daniela knows about temptation: every time she walks out onstage in a bathing suit, men take notice. But she doesn’t see a contradiction in her double life as a virgin and beauty queen; rather it’s a personal challenge” (*Newsweek*, “Choosing Virginity,” Dec. 9, 2002, page 64).

Revealing clothing is not limited to female recording artists and beauty queens; the sexy look is available for most everyone—in all sizes. It is becoming increasingly popular to see male models without shirts and young men wearing saggy pants to reveal the tops of their boxer shorts. Not to be left behind, females now wear low-slung pants showing off the tops of thong underwear from behind and bare midriffs from the front. And if the clothing isn’t skimpy, it is likely to be skin-tight.

A Trip to the Mall

A visit to a local shopping center can be revealing in several ways. From east coast to west coast and across the fruited plain, young people can be seen strolling the corridors sporting the previously mentioned clothing. And according to some, it is challenging to find more conservative styles. With stores displaying mannequins donning the bare essentials, the pressure to conform is enormous. The not-so-subtle message is, “Everyone is dressing like this and so should you.”

Sadly, Americans are listening to the

message and responding. The pressure to look sexy is now even directed to preteens. According to Laura Sessions Stepp, “This is the world of naked fashion for girls from high school on down—even to elementary school—the less-is-more look flaunting breasts, bellies and bottoms. Many, if not most, schools forbid or discourage it, parents and teachers complain about fighting the ‘whore wars,’ and yet the trend shows no signs of letting go after a decade of growth.

“What many find truly astonishing is the tender age at which it’s first aimed, a trend that older teenage girls themselves tag as disgusting. You can find terry-cloth bikinis at GapKids, metallic-looking bras and bikini underpants labeled ‘Girl Identity’ in the girls’ department of Sears, and thongs for girls ages 7 to 14 at Abercrombie, the kids’ arm of the youth chain Abercrombie & Fitch.

“Do you actually sell any of these?” a visitor asked an Abercrombie clerk in Virginia recently, holding up a pink-and-yellow-striped piece of stretch cotton only slightly larger than a Band-Aid.

“Unfortunately, yes,” replied the clerk, no more than 21 or 22 herself. ‘Last week a mother came in here accompanied by two girls—they were maybe 10 or younger—and said she had to buy a thong for each of her daughters because they told her every other girl in their classes had one.’

“An Abercrombie spokesman announced . . . that the company would no longer supply youngsters’ thongs because of a letter campaign by aggrieved parents. But they could still be found on the shelves of several local stores.”

Key Messages

Whenever parents or schools label current styles as improper and strive to curb the wearing of such clothing, there are consistent messages about personal freedoms that are often shouted back by those who oppose. Many believe it’s OK to flaunt it, if you’ve got it, and that sexy dressing is power. To such individuals, just about everything is fine if you are comfortable with yourself.

Among those who dress provocatively, there is little concern for the impact upon others. Among teenage girls, there is a widely held belief that a girl isn’t trashy because of what she wears. Most reason that a girl is only trashy if she is having sex. Many say if boys have a problem with what they wear, they should just get over it since girls have as much a right to express themselves as boys. Besides, they say, it isn’t the girls’ job to keep the boys in line.

The Effect on Christianity

Given the fashion scene around us, what is the effect upon those of us striving to live godly lives? Author Wendy Shalit notes that “a society that has lost its respect for female modesty is not just one which no longer teaches men to be protective of women, it is a society which treats its women as a kind of joke” (*A Return to Modesty, Discovering the Lost Virtue*, page 146). How ironic that our society—which professes great respect for women—accepts standards of dress that undermine that principle.

Doug Phillips, in his introduction to *Christian Modesty and the Public Undressing of America* by Jeff Pollard,

explains that with “the rise of antinomianism (the rejection of God as lawgiver), the resurgence of Gnosticism (the belief that God is not concerned with physical things) and the widespread acceptance of the neutrality postulate (the notion that the Lordship of Christ over human action only extends to spiritual matters), many 20th-century Christians have simply allowed themselves to be swept away by cultural trends, rather than following the biblical admonition to take every thought and action captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ” (page 12).

Continuing, Phillips writes: “In past centuries, Christian peoples were often noted for their modesty, and heathen peoples for their immodesty. Today, the line between the professing Christian and the savage tribesman has become increasingly blurred, as more and more ‘Christian’ people resort not only to the pagan practices of scarification, tattoos and body mutilation, but have thrown off the ‘restraints’ of modest dress in favor of the trendy and the physically revealing” (page 13).

Of course, it is not just women who are affected in a society that lost respect for modesty. In the book of 2 Peter, we read about righteous Lot who lived in the sexually perverse city of Sodom. The text explains that Lot “was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked” and that he was “tormented . . . from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds” (2 Peter 2:7-8, emphasis added throughout).

Within the Church of God

If righteous Lot was affected by the society around him, are we not also affected by the trends of the society in which we live? What we see and hear does have an impact. As 1 Corinthians 15:33 puts it: “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”

The Bible reveals the principle of cause and effect. As Proverbs 6:27 explains, “Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?” Since the world does have an effect upon us, let’s consider how it is displayed.

At United Youth Camps, provocative clothing occasionally shows up even though instructions to the contrary are included with every application. In most cases our youth are respectful to the staff members who ask them to change into more modest clothing, yet the message is clear. When our youth live in a society of declining standards, it’s hard for them not to become desensitized to what they see around them and dress similarly.

Immodest dress can also be seen at church functions among adults. Whether it’s someone in a skimpy swimsuit at a beach party, a revealing dress at a dance or a plunging neckline and rising hemline at services, the influence of the world has made an impact.

Acknowledging that declining standards of dress have affected us is not meant to be a slam against anyone because many within the Church dress impeccably. It’s simply recognition of the times in which we live and the challenge we face. Realizing there is a problem is the first step in being able to personally evaluate the way we dress. In the next article, we will consider some of the biblical principles we can use to make godly decisions in this area. UN



The Feast of Tabernacles

In this special supplement are descriptions of Feast sites in alphabetical order by country. More sites may be added, but sufficient information was not available to print in this issue.

The *Festival Planning Brochure* will be mailed at the end of April. It will contain additional site information; a list of housing establishments for U.S., Canadian and some other sites; helpful tips for planning your Feast; and articles on the meaning of the Feast.

On the following pages, the + sign at the beginning of international phone numbers signifies the country code. Dollar amounts are in U.S. currency unless noted otherwise. The Web site www.oanda.com provides up-to-date currency conversion information.

Argentina

Mendoza

For a second consecutive year we plan to have the Feast of Tabernacles for Argentina and Chile in the beautiful city of Mendoza, Argentina.

Mendoza is in the foothills of the Andes, in the western part of Argentina. It is actually closer to Santiago, Chile, than to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is about 240 miles from Santiago and can be reached by plane either from Buenos Aires or from Santiago. For those who prefer to go by bus, the trip from Santiago to Mendoza is about six hours, including the time needed for border crossing between Chile and Argentina. Americans do not need a visa for either Chile or Argentina, though they must have valid passports.

We will be renting several buses in Chile to take the members to Mendoza. Visitors who wish to keep the Feast with us are welcome to join us in the buses as well. The cost for the bus trip will be approximately \$30 round trip from Santiago to Mendoza.

The members in Chile and Argentina will be housed in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, which will also be the location for services. Unfortunately, this hotel is not large enough to accommodate our visitors. However, we have located a four-star hotel nearby, the Hotel Ibis. The cost is \$25 per day for single occupancy, or \$12.50 per day per person for double occupancy. These prices include breakfast. There are also other hotels of the same or higher category in the vicinity. However, we recommend the Hotel Ibis because of its

nice quality and its closeness to the main hotel where we will have services.

Temperatures in Mendoza for that time of the year are in the 70s and normally there is no rain during Feast time.

Those of you who would like to attend the Feast in Mendoza will not regret your decision. You will have the opportunity to meet hundreds of your brethren from this part of the world and at the same time enjoy the beautiful surroundings. We will help you as much as possible with your reservations. You do not need to send money for your reservations now, but please confirm that you are coming as soon as you decide. You can E-mail us at slangarica@unidachile.org or write to us at Casilla 10384, Santiago, Chile.

We look forward to receiving our visitors. We know this will be a great opportunity for all of us to be together in this part of the world and strengthen one another in God's Festival.

Location of Services: Auditorium of the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, Mendoza, Argentina.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 8 p.m.

Saul Langarica

Australia

Frederick Henry Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

The Feast site in Tasmania will again be at the Pines Resort, on the tranquil shores of Frederick Henry Bay. The resort is 20 minutes from Hobart, Australia's second oldest capital city, and 10 minutes from Hobart Airport.

Prices for on-site chalet accommodations range from \$A40 per person per night, twin share, to \$30 per person per night with four people sharing. Other types of accommodation are available within 20 minutes drive from the venue. On-site facilities include a spa, sauna, licensed bistro, heated pool, tennis court, BMX bike track and a games room. Golf, horse riding and seven miles of sheltered ocean beach are close by. Within easy driving distance are historic Port Arthur and Richmond Village, both of which have associations with Tasmania's convict past. Weather at Feast time should be fine and cool.

Location of Services: The Pines Resort, Surf Road, Seven Mile Beach.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: For those deciding on accommodation at the resort, bookings can be made by contacting: The Pines Resort, Surf Road, Seven Mile Beach, Tasmania 7170; telephone +61 3 6428 6222; Web site www.pinesresort.com.au. For further information, contact Stephen Clark by E-mail at slclark5@bigpond.com.au or by telephone at +61 7 5547 6596.

Stephen Clark

Merimbula, New South Wales

The charming township of Merimbula is on the aptly named Sapphire Coast (from the deep sapphire of the Tasman Sea).

Approximately a six-hour drive from either Sydney or Melbourne, this unspoiled township with apartment buildings no higher than three floors is situated on a picturesque inlet and is able to offer a relaxed holiday with delightful boardwalk cafes, restaurants and clubs. Its size and lifestyle also mean that the Feast here is always pleasant—not only are the brethren you are always bumping into friendly, but so are the local people.

Costs for accommodations are very reasonable, with plenty to choose from.

There are tours and fishing trips, whale watching and sailing, though it is a little chilly in the surf at Feast time. The weather is usually mild and sunny

with temperatures in the 20s Celsius (70s and lower 80s Fahrenheit)—great for walks and sightseeing!

Check the following Web site for more information on this pretty part of the planet: www.sapphirecoast.com.au. Maybe we will see you "down under"!

Location of Services: Inlay Bowling Club, Main Street, Merimbula.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: Accommodations at Merimbula can be organized through: Fiske and Nagle Real Estate, P.O. Box 55, Merimbula, New South Wales, Australia 2548; telephone +61 2 6495 3222.

LJ Hooker, P.O. Box 1, Merimbula, New South Wales, Australia 2548; telephone +61 2 6495 1026.

For further Feast information, contact Barry Williams by E-mail at barry_williams@bigpond.com or by telephone at +61 3 9743 4341.

Barry Williams

Noosa, Queensland

Noosa is a popular resort town on the Sunshine Coast about one hour's drive from the Brisbane International Airport. This is truly a semitropical paradise with excellent climate and golden beaches, backed by a scenic hinterland. This site features year-round swimming and surfing, fishing and boating, scuba diving, whale watching and, for all you fans of Steve the Crocodile Man, the Australia Zoo with Steve Irwin is just 30 minutes down the road.

Noosa is a modern resort with an abundant range of one- to three-bedroom condominiums and holiday apartments, many with beach or waterfront locations. Sheraton-class accommodations to budget motels are also available. Gourmet dining and international shopping is a plus for this resort area. For the overseas visitors, the value of the Australian dollar still makes this an attractive possibility.

Average temperatures for Feast time are 18 to 27 degrees Celsius (63 to 81 Fahrenheit) with water temperature of 21 Celsius (70 Fahrenheit).

Organized activities will include youth Bible studies, special Bible studies, young adults activities, family dance and talent show.

Key Dates to Remember

April 5, 12, 19 U.S. and Canadian head-of-household members should clip out their completed 2003 Festival Registration form (see next page) and give it to their local Festival advisor at Sabbath services.

Late April *Festival Planning Brochure* to be mailed to member households.

May 17 Notification at services if any sites cannot accept all transfer requests (automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Panama City Beach).

June 1 Members attending a U.S. or Canadian Feast site may begin making reservations from the list of accommodations supplied in the *Festival Planning Brochure*.

Location of Services: Bicentennial Community Centre, Bicentennial Drive, Noosa.

First Service: Friday, Oct 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: You may contact specific establishments through the Web by searching for Noosa at www.yahoo.com. If you would like assistance, contact Bill Bradford at 26 St. John Cl., Parkinson, Queensland, 4115, Australia. Phone is +61 7 3711 5599 or E-mail at billbradford@bigpond.com.au.

Bill Bradford

British Isles

Grange-Over-Sands

The United Church of God in the British Isles is pleased to announce that once again our Festival site will be Grange-Over-Sands in the beautiful South Lakeland area of England, overlooking Morecambe Bay. The countryside reflects the majesty of God's creation—many call it a "mini-Switzerland." The poet Wordsworth and writer Beatrix Potter have strong connections to the region—just a short drive away is the Lake District National Park. It's also the area in which the

If You Want to Transfer to a Site Other Than Your Assigned Site...

Transferring Within the United States or Canada

- U.S. and Canadian head-of-household members should fill out the 2003 Festival Registration Form found on the next page of this issue of *United News*.
- Indicate your preferred transfer site on the Registration Form.
- This form is to be given to the Festival advisor in your local congregation on April 5, 12 or 19, 2003.
- Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Panama City Beach. Pastors will receive transfer notification by May 17.

Transferring to a Site Outside the United States or Canada

- Any member wishing to transfer to a site outside the U.S. or Canada should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly. Some contact information is provided in this supplement, with site descriptions, and some additional housing information may be provided in the *Festival Planning Brochure* that will be mailed late April.
- Please do not make non-refundable travel arrangements until you receive an acceptance letter for that site.
- Further information and housing lists will be made available to those accepted for transfer.

Transferring Into the United States or Canada From Other Areas

- Brethren wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site from another country will automatically be accepted. However, please have your minister contact the home office via E-mail at USFestival@ucg.org. The information provided should include the requester's name, number of adults age 20 and over, number of teens, number of those 12 and under and the Feast site requested.
- The home office will forward pertinent information to the respective Festival site coordinators.

Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Feast Information

Due to several deaf/hard-of-hearing (HH) members and interpreters who have already made plans to attend Hawaii for the Feast of Tabernacles in 2003, Hawaii will be an officially designated Festival site for the deaf/HH. Currently there is no other site that has several deaf/HH members or interpreters who are committed to attend. We may designate another site later on as those involved finalize their plans. Regardless, we will keep everyone in our United Deaf/HH Program Directory informed regarding the Festival site decisions of our deaf/HH members and interpreters who serve them. We will strive to match up interpreters with deaf/HH members wherever possible.

If you are deaf or hard-of-hearing, but are not yet included in our United Deaf/HH Program Directory, please contact Mark Welch at mark_welch@ucg.org, or P.O. Box 967, Kellyville, OK 74039. Or you may call 918-247-4325 to be included or to give input. We would like to know what your needs are and what Festival site you plan to attend so we may better serve you.

Mark Welch

family of George Washington, the first American president, lived. Today a U.S. flag flies over a church just around the bay from Grange where one can read the details of the family.

Grange-Over-Sands is an unspoiled resort from the Edwardian era, a step back in time to a gentler and quieter age. Grange is on the north shore of Morecambe Bay and has a one-and-a-half mile traffic-free promenade by the sea. For more information on the area, see www.grange-over-sands.com.

Within a 15-minute drive or bus ride is beautiful Lake Windermere, the largest lake in the Lake District, being some 10 miles long. For those who wish to see something of Scotland, it is about a two-hour drive by car to Glasgow and a little further to Edinburgh.

If you would like to enjoy the Feast with us this year, you will need to contact the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) at Grange-Over-Sands. They are doing all the initial work on our behalf. Accommodations are limited and we have to make sure that we don't exceed the maximum for the hall. The TIC will send you a Feast Pack, which includes details of the Feast site and an *application form* to be sent back to them.

The Grange TIC will be maintaining a register for us to keep track of who has been given the "green light" to attend in Grange. (Even though members from the British Isles will be automatically accepted, we will need an application form as soon as possible to confirm you will be with us this year.) There will also be an introductory letter from the Church and a Festival volunteer form, which our Festival staff would appreciate receiving from you.

The Tourist Information Centre will have the most up-to-date information on available accommodations, so it would be good to make arrangements for accommodations through them. They do know the area extremely well and if you just tell them what you need, and the price level within which you are happy, they will telephone you or E-mail you with possibilities for your consideration.

Reservations: Contact the Tourist Information Centre, Victoria Hall, Main Street, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 6DP, England. Telephone them at: +44 (0) 15395 34026 or fax +44 (0) 15395 34331 or contact them by E-mail at: grangetic@south-lakeland.gov.uk.

Please be sure to mention that you

are attending the United Church of God convention in October 2003. However, in the event of particular difficulties, please feel free to either call me, Peter Hawkins, at +44 (0) 1923 827550 or E-mail me through peter_hawkins@ucg.org.

Whether you are a visitor from overseas or a British resident returning to Grange, we do hope to spend time getting to know you better at this year's Festival. Members of the United Church of God in Britain enjoy hosting our new and returning visitors. We are looking forward to seeing you and to sharing what we believe will be an inspiring and peaceful Feast.

Peter Hawkins

Cameroon

Douala

Douala, the principal port city of Cameroon in central Africa, will host the Feast of Tabernacles in 2003. Lodging is available at a number of hotels in the city.

Approximately 50 people are expected to attend this site. This site is French-speaking only, so any wishing

to transfer need to be fluent in the language. Services will be held at the UCG hall in the Bessengue quarter of Douala. Activities will include a family games day and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Cameroon.

Reservations: More information and registration forms may be received by contacting Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org, or (636) 561-4026, or by writing to 926 Ampere Place, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367, USA.

Joel Meeker

Canada

Kelowna, British Columbia

Among the many vacation destinations a visitor can consider in British Columbia, there is one travel constant that never fails to memorably reward visitors. It's a place where, regardless of season, world-class amenities are always available to enjoy. It's a place where the climate is mild and sunshine is something to be expected. It's a spot blessed with spectacular mountain scenery, where nature cradles pristine

lakes and trims them with warm, sandy beaches and blossom-dusted hillsides. It's a haven for recreation all year round—enjoy golfing, boating, windsurfing, swimming, fishing, hiking and camping. It's Kelowna, B.C.! It's often referred to as the Hawaii of Canada.

Kelowna is located in the beautiful Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. This is a major fruit-growing region and has lots of vineyards producing world-class wines. The settled area lies in the valley along the shores of Lake Okanagan, which is about 120 miles (nearly 200 kilometers) long and between 3 to 6 miles (5 to 10 kilometers) wide.

Kelowna has a metropolitan population of about 100,000. It offers a variety of recreational activities, has many fine restaurants and lots of shopping. There are unending miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, trail riding and family walks. There are about eighteen golf courses within a short drive, and most will be open until the end of October. There are centers for family outings, mini-golf and kids' attractions. For Internet users, a local Web site (www.castanet.net/) provides current news, weather and local happenings. The climate in autumn is usually still

2003 Festival Fund

To meet Festival expenses throughout the world, U.S. members are asked to send in a 10 percent donation from their expected second tithe total (a tithe of the tithe). **Canadian** members may make a similar donation to the Canadian office.

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

Your PIN: U _____	Donation Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Name _____	
Address _____	City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

2003 Festival Registration

United States and Canadian head-of-household members should clip out or copy this form and take it to services on April 5, 12 or 19, 2003. It should be filled out and given to the Festival advisor in the local congregation.

Members wishing to transfer to a U.S. or Canadian site *from another country* will automatically be accepted; however, please have your pastor contact the home office via E-mail at USFestival@ucg.org. The information should include the requester's name, the Feast site requested, the number of adults age 20 and over, number of teens and the number of those age 12 and under.

Any member wishing to transfer to a site *outside the United States or Canada* should contact the Festival coordinator of that site directly. Some additional information may be in the *Festival Planning Brochure* to be mailed at the end of April.

Name _____					
Address _____		City _____		State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____	
Home Telephone () _____	Work Telephone () _____	<i>How many in your household will attend?</i>	Number of Adults (over 20) _____	Number of Teens (13 to 19) _____	Number of Children (age 12 and under) _____
<i>Where are you planning to attend?</i>	Assigned Site [] _____	Transfer [] _____	Choice of Site _____	(Automatic transfer approval is expected for all U.S. and Canadian sites except Panama City Beach. Pastors will receive transfer notification by May 17.)	
Number of Single Adults _____		Number of Seniors (60 and over; include spouse even if under 60) _____			
<i>Special Needs:</i>	Handicapped Parking Wheelchair [] _____	Deaf [] _____	Hard of Hearing [] _____	Need Translation (specify) [] _____	

Do Not Mail to Home Office—Contact Local Festival Advisor or Pastor for Registration

2003 Feast Sites

- Argentina**
- Australia**
Frederick Henry Bay, Tasmania
Merimbula, New South Wales
Noosa, Queensland
- British Isles**
- Cameroon**
- Canada**
Kelowna, British Columbia
Mont-Sainte-Anne, Quebec
Regina, Saskatchewan
St. John's, Newfoundland
- France**
- Germany**
- Ghana**
Accra
Kumasi
Elmina
- Guatemala**
Antigua
Esquipulas
- Italy**
- Jamaica**
- Kenya**
- Malawi**
- Mexico**
- New Zealand**
- Peru**
- Philippines**
Baguio City
Davao City
Iloilo City
- Rwanda**
- St. Lucia**
- South Africa**
- Togo**
- Tonga**
- United States**
Bend-Redmond, Oregon
Branson, Missouri
Escondido (San Diego), California
Hagerstown, Maryland
Jekyll Island, Georgia
Kerrville, Texas
Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii
Lexington, Kentucky
Panama City Beach, Florida
Steamboat Springs, Colorado
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Additional sites are planned, but most will not encourage transfers.

fairly warm with crisp nights. Rain is not normally a problem as the area is arid. It is a good idea to bring clothing that is suitable for weather in the 50s and 60s Fahrenheit (13 to 18 Celsius).

Motel prices are reasonable, with a selection to meet all budgets. There is a provincial sales tax of 7.5 percent (or 8 percent on hotels) as well as GST, which is 7 percent. Visitors from outside of Canada can apply for a GST rebate. The Canadian dollar hovers around 65 cents US.

An international airport, just north of town serves the area with direct flights from Seattle.

Location of Services: Kelowna Community Theatre, 1375 Water Street, Kelowna, B.C.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. The following day's service will be at 2 p.m.

Rainer Salomaa

Mont-Sainte-Anne, Quebec

Quebec City, considered one of the most beautiful cities in North America, provides a spectacular backdrop for observing the Feast of Tabernacles. Here you can sample a taste of Europe with a distinctive French flavor without leaving North America. With more than 4 million tourists visiting the area annually, language is not a problem as most people in the service and hospitality industries speak English.

The Festival location of Mont-Sainte-Anne is a half-hour drive east of Quebec City at Domaine Mont-Sainte-Anne ski resort complex. This serves as our main center for meetings and lodging and has attendance room for just over 300. The condominium and chalet accommodation sits at the base of the magnificent mountain with sweeping panoramas of the St. Lawrence River. A variety of condos and villas are also available at Chateaux Montmorency a few kilometers away. Most units have kitchens/kitchenettes, fireplaces and laundry facilities. Close by the Festival site is excellent dining in Quebec's many fine restaurants. French cuisine is considered among the best in the world, and there are restaurants to suit every taste and budget.

It is an area of scenic beauty situated at the edge of the Laurentian Mountain range with several breathtaking waterfalls. From the top of Montmorency Falls (one and one half times the height of Niagara) is a sweeping view of the skyline of Quebec City. Just east of Mont-Sainte-Anne is Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Reserve where each fall thousands of migratory snow geese feed on the banks of the St. Lawrence. Popular spots for families are the Museum of Civilization and La Musée de L'abeille (a natural history bee museum) with a winery producing mead (honey wine) that can be purchased on site. Reopening this year after extensive renovations is the zoo and aquarium. Golf, hiking and horseback riding are available; and about an hour's drive further east, at the junction of the Saguenay and St. Lawrence Rivers, several species of migratory whales can be observed. A boat cruise is available to see these magnificent mammals.

Quebec City is rich in history and Old Quebec is a fascinating place. Rue

Saint Paul is well known for its abundance of handicraft and antique shops. A city bus tour takes in the Plains of Abraham, Battlefield Park and the Citadel of Quebec. The walls protecting Old Quebec constitute the largest fortifications still in use in North America. The Old Port is rich in history; and a dinner cruise on the St. Lawrence provides fun, fellowship and a new perspective of Quebec City.

Festival activities include a Quebec City bus tour, opportunity for whale watching, family social, family day and a variety show. International visitors enjoy the advantage of a favorable exchange rate with the Canadian dollar. Visitors should remember to have some photo I.D. or passports available for crossing the border.

Location of Services: Domaine Mont Sainte-Anne, 203 rue Val des Neiges, Beauré, Quebec.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: 15 percent (part is refundable to Feastgoers from outside Canada).

Graemne Marshall

Regina, Saskatchewan

Regina started in 2001 as a satellite site to Kelowna, B.C. In 2002, Regina became a full Feast site and enjoyed the warm and inspired Festival gathering of 160 brethren. This year Regina again will welcome God's people to this friendly area for the full eight days.

Regina is in the center of Canada's sprawling wheat-producing prairie. It is where crystal blue skies meet the horizons of the seemingly endless golden wheat fields. The city itself is a friendly and inviting oasis in this vast expanse of God's rich harvest landscape. From the magnificent parliament buildings (surrounded by the 2,300-acre Wascana Park) and its palatial manicured landscape to the friendly citizens and business folks, Regina welcomes you.

Regina is a modern city with a certain country charm. Rich in history, it has played a significant part of the developing history of Canada. To experience the history one only needs to visit the RCMP Centennial Museum. In addition, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum has three galleries that provide a fascinating look at the province and the world.

Activities are plentiful and varied from glow bowling and archery, to the Saskatchewan Science Centre with its IMAX theater and its Power House of Discovery where hands-on makes science fun for young and old. There is also a fine selection of restaurants and fun eating ideas like Applause Feast and Folly Dinner Theatre. One constant blessing will be the ability to share these days and the activities as a group.

Also, located just 45 minutes to the west of Regina is the small city of Moose Jaw. Rich in history and sites to explore, this adds to the area's activities.

The international airport is located on the western outskirts of the city and is a short drive from the center of the city. With the currency exchange, those coming from the United States also receive a 50 percent plus increase in their spending dollars.

Regina's central location provides

shorter driving distances for many scattered brethren, and as a convention city, it supports multiple housing combinations. We will list our main motel below but if there are special needs, one can look at the Web site <http://bestlodging.com>.

We also suggest contacting Regina Tourism through its toll-free number 800-661-5099, extension 299, or on the Web at www.tourismregina.com for a visitors' guide.

We have a block of rooms at the West Harvest Inn, and will hold services in this same location. There is a good restaurant on site, with an additional number of eating establishments close by. Final motel prices will depend on the number of bookings that are made at the West Harvest Inn.

If you have specific questions you may contact Lloyd and Helen Teetaert, 35 Storey Cres, Regina, SK, S4X 1L3, Canada. You can call Lloyd Teetaert at (306) 545-4448 or contact him by E-mail at lteetaert@sk.sympatico.ca. Additional inquiries can be made to Glen White at (403) 931-1007.

Location of Services: West Harvest Inn, 4025 Albert Street South, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 3R6; phone numbers for reservations are (800) 853-1181, (306) 584-1345.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: 13 percent—6 percent provincial and 7 percent GST. Visitors from outside Canada can apply for a GST rebate.

Glen White

St. John's, Newfoundland

We invite you to come share in the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles 2003 in the beautiful city of St. John's, Newfoundland.

For more than 500 years, explorers, adventurers, pirates and all manner of seafarers have made their way to St. John's naturally sheltered harbor. First discovered by John Cabot in 1497, it was claimed for the British Empire in 1583 by Sir Humphrey Gilbert. St. John's is the oldest and most easterly port city in North America, and today is the capital of Newfoundland and Labrador.

St. John's has a rich and colorful history, unmatched by any other Canadian city. With a population of 175,000, St. John's is a thriving modern-day city with first-class facilities and services. St. John's offers an enticing combination of old world charm, unique architectural and historic landmarks, fine cuisine and access to spectacular coastlines, wildlife and many other choice attractions.

Shop or just stroll on Water Street, the oldest commercial street in North America, or visit Signal Hill for a panoramic view of the harbor and the city. Signal Hill, so named because the arrival of ships was announced from there by a series of flags, was also the site where Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless signal in 1901.

Take a boat tour from St. John's harbor, or one of the numerous boat tours from other villages minutes from the city, to watch whales and seabirds, and view the spectacular coastal scenery.

For those who love to walk, St.

John's has many scenic walking trails. If you love to eat, we have numerous fine restaurants. If you like to visit scenic or historic sites, you won't be disappointed.

The people of Newfoundland and Labrador are among the most friendly and hospitable in the world and have retained many aspects of their European heritage, including their accents and humor.

Because of the small number of people at this site, St. John's tends to be a very family-type Feast. With only 80 people in attendance, it is easy to get to know each other.

The price for rooms at the Best Western Traveller's Inn is \$86 double occupancy, and there is a complimentary full buffet breakfast for guests. Other accommodations are available as well.

For more information about this site, contact David Smith at dave_smith@ucg.org, or visit the Newfoundland and Labrador Government home page at www.gov.nf.ca/.

Location of Services: Best Western Traveller's Inn, 199 Kenmount Road, St. John's, Newfoundland.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: Newfoundland has a HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) of 15 percent. For those who are not Canadian citizens, a rebate of 7 percent on purchases is available. Hotels and motels also charge a 3 percent accommodation tax.

David Smith

France

Nouan-le-Fuzelier

Soyez les bienvenus en France!

Set in the heart of the beautiful Loire region of France, the village of Nouan-le-Fuzelier will again host the Feast of Tabernacles in French Europe. Nouan is located about two hours south of Paris by car or train. The Loire is a region noted for its beautiful green and rolling plains watered by serene rivers. Because of its beauty and proximity to Paris, the valley of the Loire was selected by kings, queens and nobles of France as the site for their beautiful Renaissance chateaux. These stunning constructions represent the pinnacle of French Renaissance architecture and are some of the most famous buildings in the world.

Lodging, meals and services will all be on-site at the ferme de Courcimont vacation center. It is not necessary to rent a car during the Feast. The site is all-inclusive, meaning that one per-person cost covers lodging and three meals per day including wine with lunch and dinner. Services will be held alternately in French and English with simultaneous translation offered via portable FM radio receivers (to be brought by those needing them). Festival activities will include many opportunities to fellowship with members from different countries, guided coach excursions to some of the most beautiful Renaissance castles of France including Chambord, Chenonceau, Cheverny and Amboise, as well as opportunities for wine tasting and shopping.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 8:30 p.m.

Reservations: More information

and registration forms may be received by contacting Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org, or (636) 561-4026, or by writing to 926 Ampere Place, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367, USA.

Joel Meeker

Germany

Schluchsee

Set on Lake Schluchsee in southern Germany, in a beautiful area just 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the Black Forest's highest mountain, the Feldberg (1,493 meters, 4,860 feet), is the picturesque town of Schluchsee.

Lake Titisee, with its picturesque town of Titisee, is a 30-minute drive from Schluchsee, and the famous Rhine river waterfall in Schaffhausen/Neuhausen, Switzerland, is about 60 minutes by car. The area is familiar to brethren from past years when the Feast was observed in Bonndorf.

Temperatures in October can still be mild, but the evenings can be chilly because of Schluchsee's altitude (900 meters, approximately 3,000 feet).

Accommodations for transfer guests are available in selected hotels and vacation apartments. Vacation apartments offer kitchenettes. Half-pension arrangements are available in most hotels. Lodging costs range from \$50 to \$100 for a vacation apartment and from \$40 upwards per person for hotel accommodations. (Transfer guests can make their own reservations if they so desire; lodging information is available via the Schluchsee Web site.)

The hall where services will be held is within walking distance of most lodging units within the main village area.

Direct German federal railway (Bundesbahn) service is available via Freiburg to Schluchsee. However, car rental is recommended for ease of transportation and sightseeing. Schluchsee is located approximately 180 miles (300 kilometers) south of the Frankfurt International Airport, or 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of the Zurich International Airport.

Expected attendance is approximately 175. Services will be held in German, with simultaneous translation into English.

For more information, visit the Schluchsee Web site (in German and English) at www.schluchsee.de

Location of Services: Grosser Kur-saal, Kurhaus Schluchsee (next to the Rathaus, behind the tourism office).

First Service: Friday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: Visitors wishing to transfer should write to Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Or fax to +49 228 9 45 46 37 (within Europe 0049) or send an e-mail to UCG-Germany.at@fot@gutenachrichten.org.

Paul Kieffer

Ghana

Three Feast sites are planned for Ghana this year. International visitors are welcome, and possibly will have the opportunity to attend all three sites.

The three sites will be in the capital city of Accra; Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti region; and Elmina, a major tourist attraction with a Portuguese-built slave castle. Western-style hotels will be offered in each of these sites.

If you are interested, please contact Melvin Rhodes by E-mail at melvin_rhodes@ucg.org.

Melvin Rhodes

Guatemala

Antigua

This year we will hold the Feast of Tabernacles of our Great God in the colonial city of Antigua, Guatemala, which is about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Guatemala City.

Antigua is an old city, the second oldest city in Guatemala. It has good weather, between 19 and 25 degrees Celsius (67 and 77 Fahrenheit) at the time of the Feast. It's a quiet, scenic town with many options in restaurants and hotels.

The hall for services is located in the town center. The hotels we will use are near the hall.

The hotels for the foreign visitors are the Hotel Antigua (for one person, \$90 per night; for two persons, \$100 per night) and the Hotel Radisson Villa Antigua (for one or two persons, \$120 per night). This includes dinner on the arrival day and breakfast and lunch the next day).

The airport departure tax at Guatemala Airport is \$30 per person.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

Information/Reservations: For more information, contact Luis Mundo: by E-mail, drmundotello@hotmail.com; telephone, (502) 256-1341 (Spanish only); mail, Apartado 1064, 01901 Guatemala City, Guatemala.

If you wish to make a reservation, we will need the following information:

a) Name of the person or persons for whom you are reserving a room, the type of room that you require—single or double (for 1 or 2 persons) and the day of arrival and the day of departure.

b) Date, hour, airline and flight number to Guatemala.

c) Date, hour, airline and flight number leaving Guatemala.

We hope to see you at the Feast!

Luis Eliseo Mundo Tello

Esquipulas

The brethren of El Salvador and Guatemala warmly invite you to join them this year in Esquipulas, Guatemala, for the Feast of Tabernacles. We had a wonderful Feast here last year, with 202 in attendance. Visitors joined us from Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and the United States. Lying on the Guatemala/El Salvador/Honduras border, Esquipulas is rarely visited by gringo tourists. The city is primarily a commercial and tourist center, where tourists can find many typical local crafts. Esquipulas is called "The City of Peace."

Esquipulas is located about 4 1/2 hours from Guatemala City. Visitors flying to Guatemala City must take a bus to the feast site. It is recommended,

though, that visitors fly to San Salvador, El Salvador, and travel with the El Salvadoran brethren to Esquipulas. When you arrive at the San Salvador airport, you will be required to pay \$10 per person for a "tourist card." When you leave from either airport for the United States, you will be required to pay an airport tax of approximately \$30 per person. Only cash will be accepted, so be sure to set aside this money at the beginning of your trip. A bus will be rented for the trip. You may have to pay a small fee to cross the border into Guatemala, and to return to El Salvador. Rental cars are available for the adventurous.

Most of the activities, including services, will be held at the Hotel Payaqui, which is within walking distance of most of the hotels in the city. All of the hotels have accommodations for large families. All have a swimming pool, satellite TV and hot water. At least one more hotel will be contracted, and prices will be posted on our Web site (see below). The hotels offer a discount for meals in their restaurant (up to 20 percent) and, of course, you are free to eat elsewhere in the city or at other hotels.

The exchange rate is approximately 7.60Q (Quetzales) per \$1. There are several banks in the city with varying hours of operation. Only one ATM machine has been located, at Bancafe, two blocks from the Hotel Legendario. The ATM accepts VISA and PLUS cards only. Travelers' checks can be exchanged for quetzales at the banks with your passport as identification. Dollars can also be exchanged at the hotels. It is better to exchange money at banks or hotels, rather than the borders or airports. If you travel to El Salvador first, there is no need to exchange your money, as El Salvador's currency is the U.S. dollar.

English translation of services will be provided. You may bring your personal headphones to use with the receivers you will be given. Visitors may join the Spanish brethren singing in Spanish, or may bring their English UCG hymnals. Extra Spanish hymnals will be available.

For more information, and to see pictures of last year's Feast and the hotels in Esquipulas, please see the El Salvador congregation's Web site at: www.unidaelsalvador.org/feast/index.html.

Location of Services: Hotel Payaqui, Esquipulas, Guatemala.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

Reservations: Visitors wishing to attend this site should contact Herbert Cisneros at: hcwpnj@integra.com.sv or Barbara Parada at: jbr_parada@hotmail.com. You can also write to: Iglesia de Dios Unida El Salvador, Apartado Postal 2499, San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A. Or you can call (011) (503) 225-4308 (Spanish or English) or (011) (503) 228-1099 (English).

When registering, please include names of all family members and ages of children at the time of the Feast and include your choice for accommodations. Also please provide your travel information so that someone can meet you at the airport in El Salvador or direct you to where a bus can be taken from the airport in Guatemala. A

deposit for 50 percent of the hotel cost will be required. After you register and your hotel cost is confirmed, please send a check or money order made out to "Barbara Parada (Esquipulas 2003)" and mail it to: 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718, USA.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Esquipulas!

Herbert Cisneros

Italy

La Principina (Grosseto), Tuscany

You will be most welcome to our brand-new Feast site located near the beautiful town of La Principina, a green oasis in the southern Tuscany plain near the Latium region, a short distance from historically famous cities such as Florence and Rome.

La Principina is an oasis bordering on a natural park and is very close to a sandy beach on the clean Tyrrhenian Sea. It is only 4 kilometers from Grosseto, the main town of the province.

Our Feast site is only 135 kilometers from the Florence airport, 110 kilometers from the Pisa airport and 185 kilometers from the Rome airport. Such short distances are comfortable, especially for brethren travelling from overseas. Upon request, the Church can provide you with bus transportation directly to and from the airport in Rome, or Florence or Pisa, before and after the Feast.

The Feast hotel, a brand-new four-star facility, has a beautiful meeting hall where our Church services will be held. Services will be in both English and Italian, with simultaneous translation.

Hotel rooms are neat and well furnished. They are equipped with air conditioning, bathroom, telephone, TV set and shower.

The Feast center offers a number of other facilities, such as tennis courts, soccer fields, volleyball courts, swimming pools for adults and for children, jogging track, beach service and a beauty center with sauna and Turkish bath.

At our Feast center one can also ride horses, bowl, take part in organized games and fulfill one's spiritual and cultural interests. This area is archaeologically rich, and one can easily reach many important cultural centers such as Rome, Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa, Volterra and Orvieto. Souvenir shopping will be also possible at the nearby Castiglione della Pescaia, a picturesque seaside town, just five minutes drive from our Feast hotel.

All Feast participants will be able to fellowship and enjoy their meals together, at the same hotel restaurant as well as in its indoor and outdoor facilities. This will enrich the Christian fellowship and Feast atmosphere. The Tuscany cuisine is probably one of the most balanced, delicious and exquisite in the world.

The hotel management is offering the special prices of 60 to 67 euros (approximately US\$60 to 67), depending on the type of accommodation you choose. These prices are per night, per adult person, and they include the full board (three meals a day). This price is also available for extra days immediately before or after the Feast. With God's help, the hotel prices are the same as last year's.

Discounts for children are 50 percent for children 3 to 6 years old and 35 percent for children 7 to 12 years old. Nothing is to be paid for children up to 2 years old.

English-speaking brethren wishing to help by participating in the choir, special music, talent show and other Feast activities will be most welcome. A choir director and pianists would be most helpful.

Traditionally in October, the night and day temperature range is 70 to 76 degrees Fahrenheit, offering a very pleasant autumn.

During the Feast period you may participate in cultural tours to Florence, Siena, San Gimignano and Rome. Our young brethren will organize a number of activities, such as a family day, a talent show, activities and games that promise to be real fun for all.

The small group of Italian brethren hope that you and your family can make it to Italy this year. We very much look forward to welcoming you and fellowshiping with you.

First Service: Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m.

Reservations: Feast information or registration should be requested as soon as possible, by E-mailing directly to carmelo.anastasi@tin.it or through the Italian Web site (www.labuonanotizia.org), or by fax: +39 035-452-16-26, or by telephone: +39 035-582-140, or at the following postal address: La Buona Notizia, Casella postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy.

Carmelo Anastasi

Jamaica

Ocho Rios

Jamaica, one of the Caribbean's brightest tropical jewels, is an island of intoxicating natural beauty—from lush rainforest and mountainous terrain to spectacular waterfalls, sun-drenched beaches and turquoise waters.

This year's Feast will be held at the Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort in Ocho Rios.

Its exquisitely landscaped grounds, coupled with its spectacular open-air lobby with waterfalls flowing into the one-of-a-kind Fantasy Pool, create a lasting impression. The genuine warmth and friendliness of its people coupled with professional service will make your Feast experience one that will be long remembered!

The resort is about 90 minutes from Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay. Round-trip airport transfers can be arranged through the hotel for US\$30 per person.

The resort has five restaurants, plus a beach grill for surfside burgers and refreshments; a 1,350-foot white sand beach; three swimming pools, Jacuzzi

and an array of land and water activities.

Club Mongoose, a fully supervised children's activity center, provides programs for kids aged 2 to 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is US\$10 per child per day.

The all-inclusive prices per room per night are: single occupancy, US\$170; double occupancy, US\$210; triple occupancy, US\$300. A child 12 years and under sharing with one adult or two children 12 and under sharing with two adults are free.

These rates include the following:

- Rooms with private balcony overlooking the bay or Caribbean Sea.
- Full buffet breakfast daily.
- Lunch from a choice of three restaurants.
- Dinner from a choice of five restaurants or Lavish Theme Party Buffet.
- Late night snacks.
- Unlimited beverages.
- All hotel taxes and gratuities.

Reservations: (1) Go to Caribbean Web page (www.ucgcaribbean.org) and download a hotel reservation form.

(2) Complete the form and fax it and credit card guarantee to Paula Williams or Lorraine Plummer, (876) 974-2289. Check payments should be sent to: Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Accounts Department, c/o Marriott Biscayne Bay, 1633 North Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33132.

Direct any other queries to Dulsia Donaldson, sales manager: E-mail ddonaldson@rhijagrande.com, fax (876) 974-2162, telephone (876) 974-2201-4. All reservations must be accompanied by two nights' deposit and must be received by June 20, 2003.

(3) After sending the application and housing deposit, please send a copy of completed application to Kingsley O. Mather, fax (242) 364-5566, phone (242) 324-3169, mail P.O. Box N-8873, Nassau, Bahamas, E-mail ucgcarib@coralwave.com.

Location of Services: Portland Ballroom of the Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

Information can also be downloaded from: www.ucgcaribbean.org.

Kingsley O. Mather

Kenya

East Africa's diverse landscapes, charming peoples and inspiring wildlife conspire to captivate all who dare experience her. God has blessed the Kenyan and Tanzanian brethren this year with a special millennial-type setting for His Feast. About 75 devoted local brethren invite their international brothers and sisters to make the trek to assemble together near Mombassa, Kenya, on the beautiful Indian Ocean.

Activities will include beach activities, snorkeling, a local wildlife park, area sightseeing and shopping. The resort will accommodate all our African brethren, while a nearby RCI resort welcomes international guests with modest rates. Some meals will be catered, while others will be "self-catered" using the full-kitchen facilities in your room, or enjoyed at the RCI resort's international restaurant.

An optional post-Feast safari is being organized to visit the world-class Masai Mara game preserve on the Serengeti plains. East Africa promises to form a permanent bond with those who courageously come to experience her.

Reservations: For more information, contact John Elliott by E-mail at john_elliott@ucg.org.

John Elliott

Malawi

If you are looking for a beautiful, unique location to keep the Feast this year, Malawi may be the place for you. The Feast will be held on beautiful Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa. Lake Malawi is about 362 miles long and 10 to 50 miles wide.

Malawi is a peaceful country with very friendly people. There are plenty of activities that you can participate in, such as safaris to game parks, sailing, kayaking and snorkeling. Malawi is a landlocked country in Africa bordered by Tanzania to the north, Zambia to the west and Mozambique to the south.

The climate is mild with high temperatures around 27 degrees Celsius (80 Fahrenheit) at that time of year. Entry to Malawi is easy, as an American passport is all that is necessary. Visas are not required. There is an airport fee (\$20 at the present time) that must be paid before leaving the country.

Access by air is available to the lodge from Lilongwe which is about 170 miles from the Feast site. British Airways and South Africa Airways have many flights to Malawi. Keep in mind that Malawi is a malaria area and precautions should be taken. The Feast occurs during the dry season, which reduces the risk.

Housing is available at Nkopola Lodge in Malawi. All rooms at the lodge have air conditioning and digital satellite television. The lodge has gear available for the watersport of your choice, including waterskiing, snorkeling, windsurfing or canoeing. Rates are about \$60 a day per person at the present exchange rate. This includes both dinner and breakfast. The lodge is located within walking distance of the hall where services are held. Other accommodations at a reduced price are also available in the area.

Lake Malawi offers a wonderful environment for observing the Feast of Tabernacles. Attending the Feast in Malawi offers the opportunity for a unique African experience.

Reservations: If you are interested, call Bill Jahns at +27 11 868 1838 or send an E-mail to bill_jahns@ucg.org.
Bill Jahns

Mexico

Queretaro

Queretaro City will host the Feast in Mexico this year. It is the capital of the state of Queretaro, and located 220 kilometers (135 miles) to the north of Mexico City by the federal highway 57D. It is a beautiful, colonial city dating back to the year 1531. As always, the Mexican Feast will be

celebrated with the folklore, beauty and warmth of the Latin brethren.

The historic downtown offers the visitor over 460 years of history and tradition through its aqueduct, temples, mansions and palaces that make this city one of the most beautiful colonial spots.

Queretaro City is characterized by its colonial architecture and its beauty. History fills the essence and backs up the tradition of Queretaro City, where an important part of today's Mexico was forged. Its indoor and outdoor monuments constitute a real museum under the intense blue of Queretaro's sky.

Some of the activities will include a "Mexican Family Night" with dinner and dance with live music, a ladies' breakfast and a children's party. Other activities will include daily Bible studies, as well as other activities for youth.

The five-star hotel Real de Minas Queretaro will be the host hotel for the Feast. It is located on Av. Constituyentes 124, about 15 minutes from the downtown area by taxi, and about 2 1/2 hours by car from the Mexico City International Airport. The Real de Minas Hotel will let us have one of their beautiful halls for free, if we can occupy 50 rooms. We need visitors from other countries to fill this allotment, so we would like to encourage visitors to come.

Hotel room costs for internationals will be 750 pesos (about US\$68) per night for a double occupancy. Extra bed for an adult will be 150 pesos (about US\$14) per night and extra bed for children will be 80 pesos (about US\$7) per night. (At this time the exchange rate is about 11 pesos to US\$1.)

Junior suites with a king size bed are also available at 1,600 pesos (about US\$145.45) per night.

This will be the second year in a row that we will have the privilege of having only one hotel to host all the Mexican and international brethren. This situation will allow for much more fellowship and convenience for all our brethren attending this site.

The hotel will provide meals at affordable prices. We are still working out these and other details.



A plaza in Queretaro

For the most part, the climate is comfortable year round. Days can be hot at the end of the summer, gradually cooling as you move through the fall. Nights throughout the year are usually cool.

Reservations: For hotel reservations, contact the hotel at: Srita. Selene Perez, Departamento de Reservas, Hotel Real de Minas Queretaro; telephone +52-1-442-216-0444; fax: +52-1-442-216-0662; E-mail: reserve@realdeminas.com.mx.

For airline and ground transportation contact Gordon Barr at Travel Gallery, 1388 Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91106; telephone (800) 858-6999 (North America toll-free) or (626) 577-9717; fax (626) 577-0577; or E-mail at gordon@travelgallery.com Information is also listed at www.travelgallery.com

Lauro Roybal

New Zealand

Napier

Napier, our new site for 2003, overlooks the Pacific Ocean in the Hawke's Bay region of New Zealand's North Island. This eastern seacoast area is well known for its warm Mediterranean climate, fine wineries and world famous art deco and Spanish mission architecture. There are some 40 vineyards and wineries in the Hawke's Bay region, a number with restaurants on their premises. Napier is a popular seaside tourist destination for Kiwis and international visitors of all ages.

Domestic air service is available from two major international airports—Auckland and Wellington. Car rentals and coach service are also offered around the country. Napier is about six hours' drive by car from Auckland, and four hours' drive from Wellington.

Services will be held in the Napier War Memorial Centre, located on the oceanfront in downtown Napier. The main meeting room enjoys a panoramic view of Hawke's Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Details, photos and Webcam shots of the War Memorial Centre can be found at www.venues.co.nz.

A wide range of accommodations is available near the War Memorial Centre, on or near Marine Parade—some within walking distance. Napier and neighboring towns offer establishments ranging from four-star hotels to motels, lodges, homes and camping grounds. Prices range from NZ\$40 to \$200 per night. Other less expensive accommodations are also available. Two good accommodation Web sites are www.aatravel.co.nz and www.jasons.com.

Local activities in Napier and the Hawke's Bay region include deep-sea fishing, windsurfing, kayaking, parasailing, land yachting, jet boating and tandem skydiving. A large, inexpensive hot salt-water pool facility has just been completed next to the War Memorial Centre. The National Aquarium of New Zealand and the Splash Planet water park are located in or near Napier. Some visitors might enjoy a visit to a gannet colony along the coast or a swim with dolphins at Marineland of New Zealand. A wide variety of tourist information and activities is available on the Hawke's Bay Web site at www.hawkesbaynz.com.

Location of Services: Napier War Memorial Conference Centre, 48 Marine Parade, Napier.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: For further information, please contact Jeff Caudle, P.O. Box 22, Auckland 1015, New Zealand; E-mail jeff_caudle@ucg.org; phone +64-9-8175855; or fax +64-9-8139182.
Jeff Caudle

Peru

Arequipa

The Feast this year will be held in the beautiful city of Arequipa, Peru. Arequipa was founded on Aug. 15, 1540. It is located at the foot of the Misti vol-

cano at 2,350 meters (about 7,700 feet) above sea level. Arequipa is surrounded by fascinating little villages where farmers still use some Incan constructions. Also in Arequipa you can find two of the world's deepest canyons, the Colca and the Cotahuasi. Visitors enjoy the fine architecture of Arequipa, and soon realize why we call Arequipa the "white city." It gets this name due to the pearl-white volcanic rock used in its buildings.

If you are interested in joining us for the Feast in Arequipa this year, please contact us as soon as possible. We will be providing English translations.

Contact Manuel Quijano by E-mail at smquija@terra.com.pe.

Manuel Quijano



Arequipa, Peru

Davao City

After five years at the GSP Camp and having outgrown its facilities, God has now led the Church in the

Philippines to a new location—the prestigious five-star Marco Polo Hotel in downtown Davao City. (Its Web site is www.marcopohotels.com.) The Marco Polo, Davao, is situated in the heart of Davao City's bustling business and commercial district, a mere 20 minutes' drive from Davao International Airport. A complimentary airport shuttle service is available for hotel guests.

Davao has a wide variety of housing and meal options. More details will be available in the Festival Brochure or through updates in the UCG Philippines Web site (www.ucg.org.ph).

Festival services will be held in the beautiful air-conditioned ballroom. The first service will be held at 8 a.m. on Oct. 11, Sabbath (there will be no opening night service). All services are in English (with translations into the local Cebuano dialect). Other social activities will be held at appropriate locations in the city.

Davao City is located on the second largest island in the nation. It has the distinction of being named "the most livable city in the Philippines" by *Astaweek* magazine. Located one-and-a-half-hours by jet from Manila (about \$60 one-way airfare), it is blessed to be outside the typhoon belt perennially affecting the rest of the country. The climate is mild with a temperature range of about 22 to 32 Celsius (75 to 90 Fahrenheit).

Since Davao is also known as the "fruit basket of the country," every Feast a "Fruit Festival" is held to give everyone an opportunity to sample the various exotic tropical fruits of the Orient. In addition, beautiful white beaches lined with coconut trees abound along the shores and the clear tropical waters reflect peaceful blue skies. The present currency value of US\$1 = 53 pesos gives good mileage to the U.S. dollar. Taxes are inclusive of costs. Tips are at one's discretion.

Davao international airport connects directly with flights to and from Singapore and other destinations. Davao is also connected to the rest of the country by several land, sea and air transport companies. Most of its taxi units use two-way radio transceivers.

Location of Services: The Marco Polo Ballroom on the second floor of the Marco Polo Hotel, located on the corner of Claro M. Recto Street and Manuel Roxas Avenue in Davao City.

First Service: Sabbath, Oct. 11, at 8 a.m.

Reservations: For more details or help in reservations, please contact Davao festival coordinator Edmond D. Macaraeg by mail at: P.O. Box 81840, 8000 Davao City, Philippines; or by telephone (+63-82) 241-0733; or by fax/phone: (+63-82) 241-0150; or by mobile phone (+63) 918-904-4444, or (+63) 919-553-0922; or by E-mail: ed_macaraeg@ucg.org. See you there!
Edmond D. Macaraeg

Iloilo City

One of the three Feast sites for UCG Philippines will be held once again in Punta Villa Beach Resort in Iloilo City,

Rey M. Evasco

which is located in the Visayan Islands in the central Philippines. About 283 miles from Manila, it is the gateway to the flourishing Western Visayas region. Iloilo's climate is tropical. Temperature ranges from 27 to 32 degrees Celsius (82 to 90 Fahrenheit) throughout the year. It has two main seasons—rainy (June to September) and dry (October to May).

You can travel to Iloilo from other parts of the Philippines in style. By air, there are jets daily from Manila, which take about an hour for a one-way fare ranging from US\$45 to US\$50. By sea, sailing time is about 20 hours from Manila for a one-way fare ranging from US\$18 to US\$30. The city's public road networks are regularly plied by passenger jeepneys, metered taxis, buses and private cars.

A visit to Iloilo is a trip back to the past, without losing touch with the present. One can still find scores of neo-classical structures dotting the streets. Most of these are ancestral homes, mansions built during the Spanish era; reminiscent of a glorious past. Within the city, one can find a few surviving antique homes, another facet of Iloilo's rich heritage.

Room rates are as follows: Executive rooms with hot/cold bath, TV and refrigerator—US\$25; double queen-sized bed rooms with hot/cold bath, TV and refrigerator—US\$20; standard double bed rooms with hot/cold bath and TV—US\$16.

Morning services are a daily feature, balanced by a variety of afternoon social activities and sports except on the Holy Days.

If anyone would like to take a side trip to one of the best beaches in the world, Boracay Island is highly recommended.

Location of Services: Coral Ballroom, Punta Villa Resort (fully-air conditioned).

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m.

Reservations: For more details, bookings or reservations, contact Florante G. Siopan, P.O. Box 713, 6100 Bacolod City, Philippines; by telephone +63-34 708-3005 and +63-34 435-3231 and (cell phone) +63-9187571349; or by E-mail florante_siopan@ucg.org.

Florante Siopan

Rwanda

Muhazi

Beautiful Lake Muhazi in north central Rwanda will be the site of the Feast of Tabernacles for 2003. Attendance at this French and Kinyarwanda-speaking site is expected to be about 60. Lodging, meals and services will be in a house and on its grounds on the lakeshore. Meals will be prepared by those attending this site. Visitors would need to stay in Kigali and commute to the site each day via a 45-minute taxi ride.

Activities will include a family activity day, a talent show and Bible studies.

At the time of writing, no visa was required for U.S. and most European citizens. Nationals of other countries should check with the Rwandan embassy in their country. A yellow

fever vaccination may be required for entry.

Reservations: More information and registration forms may be received by contacting Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org, or (636) 561-4026, or by writing to 926 Ampere Place, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367, USA.

Joel Meeker

St. Lucia

Rodney Bay

The island of St. Lucia is 238 square miles with a population of 150,000. The St. Lucian people are renowned for their friendliness, warmth and wel-



St. Lucia

coming approach that can shine as brightly as the Caribbean sun.

The island is lush and tropical with an abundance of plant trees everywhere. The famed Piton Mountains are the signature of St. Lucia. These volcanic peaks are named Gros and Petit and rise 2,620 feet and 2,460 feet, respectively. Beyond their sheer size, these natural skyscrapers symbolize the island: pristine and dramatically beautiful.

Other attractions are Diamond Falls and Mineral Baths, along with the "Drive-In Volcano." The falls come down through sulphur springs, turning the water to a brilliant variety of yellows, greens and purples. The adjacent Mineral Baths are built among the ruins of an original 18th-century structure commissioned by Louis XIV. The "Drive-In Volcano" is the world's only such attraction, with bubbling pools which shoot forth 50-foot high clouds of steam.

The Feast this year will be at the elegant Rex St. Lucian Hotel in Rodney Bay. The hotel has long been renowned for its relaxed atmosphere, spacious rooms and Edenic grounds. Located on beachfront property, one can stroll along Reduit beach, one of the finest in St. Lucia. Or browse in elegant boutiques in the hotel arcade. Or feast in one of the three restaurants, from the 24 different ice cream selections in the Quarterdeck Café, to the standard selections in the Mariner's Restaurant, to the exotic tastes and flavors of the Oriental Restaurant.

We look forward to you joining us this year at the Rex.

The rates are as follows: single occupancy, US\$170 per room per night; double occupancy, US\$210 per room per night and triple occupancy, US\$285 per room per night. For children under 12, the first child is US\$25 per night and the second child is free.

The all-inclusive rates include:

- Room accommodations.
- All meals and afternoon tea.
- A wide variety of cocktails.

- House wines, local beers and soft drinks.

- All on-property activities.
- All applicable taxes and tips.

Location of Services: The Conference Centre of the Rex St. Lucian Hotel, Rodney Bay, St. Lucia.

First Service: Friday, Oct 10, at 7 p.m.

Reservations and Registration: Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel's direct line 1-758-452-8351 and mentioning that you are with the United Church of God conference.

To register for the Feast, which is different from the reservation, contact Arnold Hampton P.O. Box 75, Randallstown, MD 21133; (410) 655-6265; fax (410) 655-9027; E-mail arnold_hampton@ucg.org.

Arnold Hampton

South Africa

Uvongo

If you would like to enjoy the Feast near the shores of a warm ocean, with friendly brethren and a relaxing environment, you should consider coming to Uvongo, South Africa! Situated about 120 kilometers (80 miles) south of Durban, on the edge of the Indian Ocean, the area is well known for its subtropical climate. United Church of God has celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles here each year since 1995.

Visitors will enjoy the small-town atmosphere that means you often meet other members by chance. If you have access to the Internet, check out the photos of the 2002 Festival activities and the Festival schedule at www.ucgrsa.org, which also has links to other South African sites. Links include Web sites of the South African Tourism Board; a local Uvongo Web site and several others to help plan your visit and make your stay memorable.

Overseas visitors will also enjoy the benefit of a favorable exchange rate. Presently (February 2003) one U.S. dollar buys about 9 rand, and one British pound buys around 14 rand. This means that excellent quality hotel accommodations and meals are very affordable.

Lush tropical vegetation surrounds the area. Sugar cane fields and tea plantations are a few kilometers inland. A steam train takes passengers to a nearby restaurant for a cream tea after chugging an hour or so through the countryside. Youngsters paddle down the river that runs into the sea near St. Michael's, a few minutes drive from the hall.

Because there are so many areas to visit and enjoy, it is worthwhile for visitors arriving by plane to hire a car from the Durban airport. The Festival activities are all close to Uvongo, so if you can arrange transportation to the Feast site, a rental car is not absolutely essential.

Temperatures are from the lower 70s Fahrenheit (lower 20s Celsius) with a 10-degree variation. Feastgoers should take note that the Feast falls during the rainy season, though we often have just the right weather for activities!

Accommodations are mostly self-catering, with a wide variety of two- or

three-bedroom holiday apartments available. Hotels are scarce, but there are two in close proximity to the hall. The area is a premier tourist attraction so there are many restaurants as well as shopping centers that cater to most needs.

Accommodation costs will range from \$25 to \$40 per day for self-catering units. Hotel rates fall into the same price range per person per day, including dinner, bed and breakfast. As the Feast this year falls outside of school holidays, rates should be considerably cheaper than last year.

Uvongo is situated close to a golf course and other sporting activities such as tennis, horse riding, swimming and surfing (the area enjoys a warm sea current).

There are also a number of scenic drives, such as the well-known Oribi Gorge. Another place of interest, especially for overseas visitors, is the Zulu village near Durban.

Attendance is expected to be about 260.

Location of Services: Uvongo Town Hall.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: There is a 14 percent VAT. Visitors may request a refund for the tax on souvenirs, etc., at the point of departure if they have receipts.

Reservations: Visitors interested in attending or who need more information, should contact André van Belkum by E-mail at andre_van_belkum@ucg.org or by telephone at +27 (31) 267-1109. If dialing from within South Africa the area code is 031. Festival accommodations are described in the Festival Brochure on www.ucgrsa.org.

André van Belkum

Togo

Kpalime

Members from Togo and Benin will celebrate the Feast on the farm of a member in the town of Kpalime, about 75 miles north of the capital city of Lomé. About 40 people are expected to attend this French-speaking site. As this site is French-speaking only, anyone wishing to transfer in needs to be fluent in the language. Lodging, meals and services will be on the farm property and those attending the Feast will prepare the meals.

Activities will include hikes, a family games day, soccer matches and a talent show. A visa and a yellow fever vaccination are required for entry into Togo.

Reservations: More information and registration forms may be received by contacting Joel Meeker at joel_meeker@ucg.org, or (636) 561-4026, or by writing to 926 Ampere Place, Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367, USA.

Joel Meeker

Tonga

Mu'a

If you like a relaxing, enjoyable and friendly environment, Tonga will be

one of the best Feast sites for you. The Feast will be held again in Mu'a, which is 12 miles from Nuku'alofa, the capital.

This year the attractions include scenic tours with wonderful views, as well as visits to historic sites. Coral reef tours and snorkeling will be available. In addition, traditional dancing and dinner at the sandy beach of Good Samaritan Inn would also be interesting for visitors. There is a lot of beautiful beach that is safe for swimming, picnics or coastal walks.

The temperature usually ranges between 20 and 25 degrees Celsius (68 and 79 Fahrenheit).

Nuku'alofa, the capital, offers a variety of good hotels and motels. The prices range from T\$65 to around T\$150 per night.

Accommodations available include: International Dateline Hotel, telephone +676 23-411, fax +675 23-410; Harbour View Motel, telephone +676 25-488, fax +675 25-490; Nuku'alofa Hotel, telephone +676 24-244, fax +675 23-154; Seaview Lodge, telephone +676 23-709, fax +675 26-906.

Location of Services: The Church Building, Mu'a, Tonga.

First Service: Friday Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Reservations: Visitors interested in attending or who need further information, please contact Heamasi Ta'ufu'ou by E-mail at htaufou@kalianet.to, by telephone at +676 29165 or by mail at P.O. Box 2617 Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

Heamasi Ta'ufu'ou

United States

Bend-Redmond, Oregon

The Bend-Redmond area is pleased to host the Feast of Tabernacles again in 2003. Nestled in the pines of Central Oregon, Bend is the hub of the resort area in the Cascade Mountains. The beautiful scenery of snow-capped mountains, towering Ponderosa pines, sparkling lakes and mountain streams with spectacular waterfalls provides a millennial setting. Warm, sunny days and crisp, cool nights offer typical fall weather.

All types of housing are available near the meeting facility, from low cost motel rooms (some with kitchenettes) to resort homes and condominiums with full kitchens, fireplaces and hot tubs. Other scenic resort housing accommodations are available in Bend and Sunriver.

Central Oregon offers a wide range of family-oriented activities—far more than could possibly be crammed into eight days. The nationally acclaimed High Desert Museum features impressive indoor natural history exhibits and live animal programs in an outdoor setting. Newberry National Volcanic Monument offers views of interesting features of the area's volcanic past. Crater Lake is another well-known nearby scenic attraction.

Outdoor activities include hiking or biking your choice of many miles of trails, horseback riding, hay rides, rock climbing, rock hounding, fishing, canoeing, boating and white-water rafting on the world-famous Deschutes

River. Golfers will enjoy some of the nation's best courses with reasonable green fees. Other facilities include art galleries, nature centers and observatories and lava caves.

Bend has three shopping malls, including a factory outlet mall. The small tourist town of Sisters is a must for window-shopping and souvenirs. Sunriver Resort offers a full range of activities, shopping, dining and housing.

Feastgoers will enjoy a full range of dining. Special dining experiences include a dinner train, a chuckwagon restaurant featuring a live Western music show, and a unique dining facility which offers a 24-ounce marinated steak dinner with all the trimmings for a price you won't believe in the rustic atmosphere of a former cowboy shack. This year for the first time a new Broadway-type musical dinner theater will present a special performance exclusively for us.

Location of Services: Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center, Middle Sister conference hall, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond (less than a mile from the Bend-Redmond airport).

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Larry J. Walker

Branson, Missouri

Situated in the beautiful hardwood forested hills of the Ozarks, Branson is a beautiful area for the Feast of Tabernacles. It sits beside two lakes, and is surrounded by clear flowing springs in one of the most beautiful areas of the Midwest.

The area has something for almost everyone. It has plenty of first-class accommodations as well as an abundance of things to do. Whether you want to shop the three outlet malls, go to music shows, play golf on one of the six golf courses, take the kids to the lake or one of several amusement areas or simply "get lost" on the miles of hiking trails in the area, you'll find it at Branson.

This will be the eighth year for Branson to host the Feast, and should be the best year yet. The beautiful hardwoods should be reaching their peak of fall color during the Feast. If so, the color is spectacular. Families enjoy the variety of things to do that Branson offers. Just a few minutes from your accommodations you can be in the "heart of it all," or you can be in the tranquility of the woods on a hilltop watching nature. Branson hosts more than 60 live music shows, with something for every taste in music.

Accommodations range from kitchenettes to first-class hotels, most of which include a deluxe continental breakfast. Or you can enjoy a beautiful condominium overlooking the hills and lakes. Prices are all reasonable.

Weather during the Feast is usually mild, with normal lows in the 50s and highs in the 70s or low 80s. Services will be held in a beautiful modern theater with plush theater seating for 1,600. We do have an allergy-free room for those who need it.

Location of services: Baldknobbers Theater, 76 Country Blvd., Branson, Missouri.

First Service: Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10 a.m.

Taxes: Vary from 6 to 12 percent.

Michael Blackwell

Escondido (San Diego North), California

For the sixth consecutive year, the San Diego area will host the 2003 Feast of Tabernacles at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido, California. The California Center for the Arts in Escondido is a beautiful fixed-seat concert auditorium with an adjoining museum and park.

Escondido is a northern suburb of San Diego, about 30 minutes north of downtown San Diego and the Lindbergh International Airport. The airports in Ontario, and Orange County, California, are about one hour away from the site.

The Escondido area offers less traffic congestion and a slower pace than the busier downtown areas of San Diego. North San Diego County also offers a variety of housing options from homes and condos on the beach to economy properties near the meeting facility. Housing prices range from \$49 to \$200 per night, plus a 10 percent room tax and 8 percent sales tax.

Available optional activities in the San Diego area include the world-famous San Diego Zoo, the Wild Animal Park, Sea World and Lego Land in nearby Carlsbad.

We will host a number of special activities for all age groups, including a Family Day, teen activities, young adult activities, seniors' lunch, and a special dinner-concert. We are expecting about 1,200 to attend. Average temperatures range from highs in the 80s to evening lows in the 60s.

Location of Services: California Center for the Arts Escondido, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, California.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: 10 percent room tax and 8 percent sales tax.

Dave Register

Hagerstown, Maryland

Hagerstown will again host the Feast of Tabernacles in the northeastern United States. Situated in the Cumberland Valley and ringed by the Appalachian Mountains to the west and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east, Hagerstown and surrounding Washington County offer many family, recreational and cultural activities.

Attractions in the Hagerstown area include a major mall, the Civil War battlefield at Antietam Creek, the largest outlet mall in Maryland, a museum of fine arts, five state parks, five area golf courses, ice rinks in an ice and sports complex, biking trails (a 10-mile trail that follows the former Western Maryland Railroad line) and river rafting. Fine dining restaurants, neighborhood pubs and grills, diners, delis and fast-food chains provide menus with dozens of choices for all budgets.

Hagerstown is located at the intersection of I-81 and I-70 and is equidistant (70 miles) from Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This proximity provides

the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational field trips and enjoyable excursions to these metropolitan areas. We will again offer day trips to places such as Washington D.C., Baltimore or Lancaster County Amish country. Gettysburg is also less than an hour's drive from Hagerstown. For more information go to the Hagerstown Web site at www.marylandmemories.org.

The Clarion Hotel & Conference Center Antietam Creek will host services and provide the bulk of housing accommodations. Many brethren will enjoy staying at the hotel and being able to walk to services without leaving the building. The Clarion features an on-site restaurant, indoor pool and atrium area, free fitness center for hotel guests, and an indoor track. Check out their Web site at www.ClarionAntietam.com.

Major airports nearby are Baltimore's BWI, Washington's Dulles and Ronald Reagan National, and Harrisburg International Airport. Expected attendance will be around 800.

Location of Services: Clarion Hotel & Conference Center Antietam Creek, 901 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, Maryland.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: There is 10 percent room tax and 5 percent sales tax.

Dave Myers

Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Jekyll Island site is located just off the coast of southern Georgia. Beautiful beaches, walking, hiking, fishing, golfing, tennis and wildlife viewing are available. A tour of Millionaires' Village is one of the highlight attractions. Horseback riding is available on Jekyll Island and nearby St. Simons Island.

Temperatures range from 60 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit (16 to 24 degrees Celsius), with the possibility of rain. Major airports for arrival and departure are Savannah, Georgia; Brunswick, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Florida. A rental car is advised. There is a toll to enter the island of \$3 per entry. Economy passes are available.

Room rates vary, with motels costing from \$43 to \$150 per night and condominiums from \$62 to \$287 per night. Rental homes and cottages are available from \$41 to \$370 per day. Expected attendance is 1,000.

Location of Services: Hartley Auditorium, 1 Beachview Drive, Jekyll Island, Georgia.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: Local tax is 5 percent; state tax is 6 percent.

Bob Jones

Kerrville, Texas

Kerrville is truly a Texas hill country paradise. The accommodations are first-rate, the scenery is majestic and the people are friendly. Our new site is located in the heart of the Texas hill country, where sparkling spring-fed creeks meander through the rugged terrain and rolling hills of the Guadalupe River Valley. After many years in Corpus Christi, a new venue is now open for our brethren to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

We have reserved the Inn of the Hills

Conference Resort (www.innofthehills.com). Having exclusive use of the conference resort will give us unlimited opportunities for intimate fellowship and activities. Additional housing is available within two miles of the Festival site.

With most of our members staying on the property or within a few minutes' drive, and our exclusive use of all meeting rooms, we plan to offer special venues for teens, singles, young adults and senior citizens. This intimate setting will also afford the opportunity for select seminars that will enhance the keeping of the Feast. Services will be a short stroll to the newly completed 800-seat ballroom.

It is our desire to pattern the Festival after many of the smaller international sites. We plan to offer bus tours to nearby San Antonio, enabling our brethren to visit the famous River Walk, River Walk Mall, the Alamo and other popular sites. We hope to offer special tours of some of the 16 wineries that are located within an hour of the resort. Historic Fredericksburg, with its German heritage and over 150 shops and boutiques, is only a few miles away.

Kerrville's riverfront location lends itself to a variety of water-oriented recreational activities, such as canoeing, kayaking, tubing, fishing, swimming and waterside family picnicking. Numerous antique shops, contemporary art galleries and boutiques, as well as two challenging golf courses, add to Kerrville's appeal.

As the Feast approaches, please visit the Ft. Worth UCG Web site at www.ucgfortworth.org for details of specific Festival activities.

The Inn of the Hills Conference Resort has a beautiful courtyard with pool and spa. Its on-site restaurant, the Alpine Lodge, has seating for 160, and the Inn Pub, open nightly, offers live entertainment.

Complimentary membership to The Family Sports Center, located just across the street, is available to those staying on property. This facility has an indoor pool, lap pool, basketball, racquetball and volleyball courts, weightlifting center, sauna, a 16-lane bowling alley and other amenities. There is a six-screen public movie theater adjacent to the resort.

With all of its out-of-the-way charm,



Inn of the Hills Conference Resort, Kerrville, Texas

Kerrville is only one hour from beautiful San Antonio on one of the state's most scenic drives. It is only 1 1/2 hours from Austin and 4 hours from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The elevation is 1,645 feet with mild climate and weather averaging a high of 80 and a low of 52.

Make plans now to experience God's Feast in the Texas hill country!

Location of Services: Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Highway, Kerrville, Texas.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: Room, 12 percent; local sales tax, 8.25 percent.

Britton M. Taylor



Maui, Hawaii

Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii

For the first time in United's history, a beautiful Maui, Hawaii,

will host the Feast. Maui is known for its gorgeous beaches, verdant scenery, fine weather and many tourist attractions, especially for young people. We will be meeting in the city of Lahaina at the modern and air-conditioned Maui Theater, seating close to 700 people.

Although Maui has a reputation for having more expensive housing, the prices compare with Kauai. There are affordable one-bedroom oceanfront condos for as low as \$90 and even two-bedroom oceanfront for \$125, which match condo prices on the mainland. All the housing will be within an easy 15-minute maximum drive to the Maui Theater.

There will be plenty of activities available for young and old. Among these are a traditional luau, a children's party, a seniors' luncheon, a youth dance and snorkeling. Tourist attractions include miniature golf, a large aquarium facility, golf, deep-sea fishing, surfing and helicopter rides to several of the National Parks in the area.

The island of Maui is located about 80 miles south of Honolulu, Oahu. There are frequent direct flights to Maui from the U.S. mainland. Check with your travel agent or on-line. Daily temperatures should be in the 80s Fahrenheit (26 to 31 Celsius).

Since the Maui Theater will be used in the evenings, the first service will be on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m.

Location of Services: Maui Theater, 878 Front St., Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii.

First Service: Saturday, Oct. 11, at 10:30 a.m.

Taxes: 11.5 percent.

Mario Seiglie

Lexington, Kentucky

Lexington, Kentucky, is in the heart of the Bluegrass State. When most people think of Lexington, they think of two things—horses and basketball. Although the locals are proud of both, there certainly is much more to offer in the Lexington area. The University of Kentucky in Lexington adds a strong college flavor that brings with it many amenities ranging from wonderful and numerous restaurants to small quaint shops, many parks to walk in and easy access to a variety of sight-seeing favorites.

One of the sights close by is the Kentucky Dinner Train (a train ride and dinner) that provides an enjoyable evening for all. In nearby Harrodsburg is "Shaker Town," home of the Shakers where you can shop and eat in a most unique setting. Lexington has mall shopping for those who just can't live without

one trip to the mall during the week, and of course it has numerous horse farms, the most famous one being the Kentucky Horse Park, which is open for tours.

There will be several opportunities for tours and trips together throughout the Feast as well as activities such as "pickin' and grinnin'" night—a time for all the musicians attending to get together and play some music for all those who enjoy listening. Lexington additionally boasts some very nice facilities in which to hold family and teen activities. It truly is a beautiful part of the country.

Location of Services: Heritage Hall East, a part of Lexington Center, attached to Rupp Arena at 430 West Vine Street in Lexington. It is on the ground floor, so there are no steps where we are meeting. There will be some housing available attached to the facility; however, there are steps in between these two locations.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: The hotel/motel tax rate is 12.36 percent and the state tax rate is 6 percent.

Mark Winner

Panama City Beach, Florida

The Edgewater Beach Resort along the coastline of Panama City Beach will again host the Feast of Tabernacles in Florida for 2003.

Edgewater's 110-acre gated community incorporates an array of activities and amenities sure to make a successful Feast with 11 swimming pools, 12 tennis courts, 11 shuffleboard courts, four hot tubs, a tanning salon, gift shop, game arcade and one full-service restaurant.

A complimentary tram service is available for transportation across the resort and to the meeting facility if needed. Part of the resort rests along the coastline. Step back a few yards

from the ocean, and you'll find yourself on the deck surrounding Edgewater's famous Lagoon Pool. Landscaped islands and several flowing waterfalls find their way into this 11,000-square-foot Polynesian-style, free-form pool, while several whirlpools and reflecting ponds make this tropical area complete.

The other part of the resort, across the street connected by a 10-foot wide pedestrian walkway, houses the meeting facility and a cluster of luxurious golf villas; a nine-hole, par-three executive golf course with nine lakes and several island greens; a complete clubhouse and pro shop; 12 Plexicushion tennis courts with six lighted for night play; and also shuffleboard courts.

Edgewater's health club is a 1,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that features everything from cardiovascular exercise equipment to an aerobics salon to a massage therapy room.

Housing: Approximately 70 percent of the units are oceanfront, which includes studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums. The remaining condos surround the meeting facility and golf course. Prices per night throughout Edgewater Resort will range from: studios, at \$77; one bedroom, \$92 to \$118; two bedrooms, \$102 to \$141; and three bedrooms, \$122 to \$185. Long Beach Resort, a mile away and a part of Edgewater Resort, provides studios at \$70, one bedroom at \$98, two bedrooms at \$124 and three bedrooms at \$151. Economy accommodations, some oceanfront, will also be provided nearby. These economy properties will range from \$25 to \$65 per night. Most of these are efficiencies, with some having full kitchens.

The long-term success of this site depends on members only using the housing listed in our housing brochure. The low price for the meeting facility saves the Church thousands of dollars each year and Edgewater Resort is trusting the cooperation of our mem-

bers to use the housing listed in our brochure. Some condos in the area may be less expensive, but the rates at Edgewater are comparable and of dependability quality.

For more information, check out the resort's Web page at: www.edgewaterbeachresort.com.

Location of Services: Edgewater Beach Resort, 11212 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, Florida.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, 2003, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: 11.1 percent.

Harold Rhodes

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

In north-central Colorado at the head of the Yampa River Valley, and at an elevation of only 6,710 feet, lies the major destination ski resort of Steam-



Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel

boat Springs. It is a scenic and beautiful mountain area of a little different type than previous Colorado sites.

One of the most attractive features of this Feast site is having the meeting facility and the majority of housing under one roof. Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel is very new and is luxuriously appointed. Accommodations are condominium style and range from parlors to very spacious three-bedroom units at prices comparable to Keystone's. Three-bedroom units will be in short supply, but a two-bedroom unit is equipped to sleep more than the average. Tax and resort fees are 15 per-

cent. For a "virtual tour," check www.steamboatgrand.com.

The town of Steamboat Springs has a distinct Western atmosphere. Its name derives from early settlers who thought a geyser at a hot spring on the river sounded like the intermittent puffing of a steamboat. There are several hot springs in the area, the most prominent being the Steamboat Springs Health and Recreation Center. This has an array of features, including mineral pools, saunas and a waterslide. There are 150 mineral springs in the vicinity, and seven can be visited on a 2-mile walking tour. Other attractions include Fish Creek Falls, museums, art galleries and marinas at both Stagecoach Reservoir and Steamboat Lake.

Other less expensive, but nearby housing will also be listed in the *Festival Planning Brochure*. There are ample fine restaurants, many of them rated in both Mobil Guide and AAA. Many of the types of mountain activities available at previous Colorado sites are also present.

To reach Steamboat Springs, take Highway 9 north from Silverthorne, which is on I-70. At Kremmling, turn left on U.S. 40. This will take you over Rabbit Ears Pass and down into the town. It is 90 miles from Silverthorne. From Denver allow at least three hours. Commercial airlines serve the airport about 20 miles out of town.

Location of Services: Priest Creek Ballroom, Steamboat Grand Resort Hotel, 2300 Mt. Werner Circle. Coming into town from the south on Hwy. 40 turn right onto Mt. Werner Road, then left on Mt. Werner Circle.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: Taxes and resort fees are 15 percent.

Larry Neff

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

Spectacular autumn colors, unique sandstone formations, enormous

indoor water parks, go-cart racing, hiking, riding the famous amphibious "Ducks"—all this and more is what makes the Wisconsin Dells a great Festival site for the entire family.

Services will be held at the beautiful Crystal Grand Music Theater. This modern facility seats more than 1,900 people and is ideal for lingering conversations and fellowship. Parking is conveniently located next to the facility.

The Dells offers a large variety of housing including ultra-modern theme resorts with elaborate indoor water parks. There are also homes and cottages available for rent on lakes, rivers or in the woods. Condominiums are available in various price ranges. Traditional style motels offer an exceptional value. Several facilities offer large indoor water parks and whirlpool suites, so ask about them when making reservations. All establishments require a housing deposit and cancellation policies vary, so ask about them when making reservations.

Wisconsin Dells is a unique site in its family atmosphere and accessibility. Most accommodations are within a few minutes' drive of the Crystal Grand Music Theater as well as the dozens of attractions and quaint shops.

The Madison, Wisconsin, airport is an hour away from the Dells, the Milwaukee airport is two hours away and Chicago's O'Hare airport is a three-hour drive. The weather at Wisconsin Dells can vary from beautiful autumn weather to crisper temperatures.

Additional information can be found on the Web at www.ucg-beloit/dells. Expected attendance is 1,100.

Location of Services: Crystal Grand Music Theater, Rt. 23 (one-half mile east of I-90), Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

First Service: Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Taxes: Local tax is 5.5 percent; hotel tax is 11 percent.

Steve Nutzman

Letters

Unsung Heroine

We wanted to thank you for publishing the story on Marie Robertson ["Unsung Heroine: 'Senior Teenager' Serves Loma Linda in Many Ways," January issue, page 4]. Many people have remarked about it. She heard from people she hadn't been in touch with for 30 years!

Sadly, Marie died Feb. 15. I am sure glad the article was published in time for her to see it. Her whole family was just in town for the funeral and to dispose of the estate, and they were especially happy about the article.

California

Faith, Family and Friends

Thanks so much for the *United News!* The January copy was awesome—especially Melvin Rhodes' article on Ghana! What lessons we can learn from those people—the importance of greeting! Though Americans are time conscious, even they would say faith, family and

friends are of utmost importance at a time like 9/11—but with Ghanaians it appears it is a daily routine to care about people!

Also, thanks for the "Treasure Digest." That is an appropriate word for it. "Treasure": "The Devil's Devices," "Not Even Solomon . . ." "It's a Mine Field," "Symbolism of Snow" and "Origin of Valentine's Day"!

Internet

Photo IDs Needed

I would like to bring up a point about *United News*. As an example, page 4 [January issue, "Thanks to Volunteers"] I see the names of Holladay, Pinelli and Winner mentioned in the related article, but I also see three photos of—likely some of the volunteers referred to? But I see nowhere, in captions under photos, the names identifying those people!

I think if I was a volunteer and had my mugshot taken, I would make sure the photographer not only got my name, but

spelled it right for future use of the photo! Also, the family members would enjoy seeing their loved one's photo and name in print. I've seen this occur in other issues of *UN* and I know that group and candid shots can be tough to identify. I may be overreacting here. I don't know the folks in the photos, but when I see other names in print and not theirs, then I go to their defense.

Arizona

Thanks very much for the reminder. We would like to encourage all our "volunteer" photographers to send in not only the names of those in the photos, but their own names so we can properly credit the photos we receive.

Merciful Miracles

Thankfully God doesn't place limits on the number of miracles that He performs for a particular person or we'd be planning a funeral right now. Barely two years ago, right before Thanksgiving 2000, our son was involved in a car

wreck at 70 mph on a busy freeway so bad that he had to crawl out of his window and did so without any injuries except for a bruise from his seatbelt.

This past week a deer darted out from nowhere and smashed into his car so quickly that he had no time to brake or do anything else. Just the other day we heard of someone being killed when a deer smashed into his car, but God in His sweet mercy delivered him once again without injury. We hope this is the last car wreck, but thank God that He doesn't forget how to pull people out of car wrecks or get tired of doing so!

Texas

Prophecy on the Radio

Can you please let me know if you are affiliated with the former Worldwide Church of God? I was born into the WCG 43 years ago and have not been a part of it for about 11 years now. I was driving home late Sunday night from taking my daughter back to college

when I heard the *Good News* radio program (104.3 in Chicago). I have not heard prophecy from the Bible on the radio for so long, I could not believe it! My daughter, now 21, was 11 years old when my husband and I could no longer bring her to the WCG and tell her that what was being taught was from God. Now we have another child (he is 3) and I pray every day that we can find a church that preaches God's Word. I have not found another to take my daughter to in all of these years. I look forward to hearing from you and send you my best thoughts and prayers.

Internet

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* are welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or E-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Treasure Digest

BRP Spring Feasts Supplemental Readings

The Bible Reading Program supplemental readings for Passover and Unleavened Bread were printed in the March/April 2002 *United News* on page 2. You can also find this on the Internet at www.ucg.org/articles/un/un0203/bible.html. Just adjust the dates to suit your needs this year.

How Does the Holy Spirit Help?

Galatians 5:19-21 describes our natural state, and as we examine ourselves before Passover, we see some of these carnal tendencies still lurking in the recesses of our minds. What can we do?

In 2 Timothy 1:6-7 Paul describes the antidote. God's Spirit gives us the help we need, but we must stir it up—rekindle the flame till it is blazing within us. It is not a spirit of timidity or cowardice, "but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

When we admit we need added help and ask God for it, the Holy Spirit helps provide the willpower we lack (Philippians 2:13). It also provides the divine love of God that allows us to obey God's law and take action to clean out the dark catacombs of our minds (Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 13). And it helps us to have a sound mind (self-control, RSV; self-discipline, NIV).

All this help is available, if we seek to be "renewed day by day" by God's Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:16).

(Based on a sermon by Richard Pinelli, Feb. 8, 2003, to the Cincinnati East congregation.)

"Baali" No More

Some things *do* get lost in the translation. God shows through Hosea that He still loves Israel in spite of her infidelity (Hosea 2:14-16). The Hebrew words reveal an interesting play on words not conveyed in the English translation.

"At that time, Israelites are to call God *Ishi* ("My Husband") instead of *Baali* ("My Master" or "My Lord") in order to remove all remembrance of their former devotion to Baal. Actually, ancient Israel practiced syncretism, i.e., blended religion, often confusing the identities of Baal and the Eternal—in part because both were referred to as Lord" (Bible Reading Program for Hosea 1-3, Feb. 27 reading).

The Bible Reading Program (www.ucg.org/brp) covers many such interesting facts about the Bible. If you haven't read it recently, check it out today!

Humility and Pride

I am convinced that it takes humility to recognize humility. And that it also takes humility to recognize pride. Pride sees faults in others, while humility recognizes faults within. Pride accuses others of pride and sees humility as weakness.

Humility contains the power to conquer pride. Humility is loved and has many friends.

Understanding pride is an important key to self-control; in the presence of pride, self-control will flee. Another truism is that self-control is a friend

of humility. In fact, it is a loving friendship that produces righteousness.

Pride is all alone, and often contains fear; while humility is a tower of peaceful strength.

I have observed a conclusion of the matter: Humility spawns kindness, gentleness, self-control, love and righteousness, while pride spawns conceit, jealousy, fear and blame. Pride accuses and condemns, and supports lying, greed, hate and unrighteousness.

"Everyone proud in heart is an abomination [detestable] to the LORD . . . Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:5, 18). "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (Psalm 10:4).

"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life" (Proverbs 22:4). "Blessed [happy] are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven . . . Blessed [happy] are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:3, 5).

Dale Schurter

Which Women Came to Jesus' Tomb?

The Gospel writers recorded the events of Christ's death and resurrection from various points of view. Putting them together gives a fuller picture. For example, which women went to the tomb?

"Apparently Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and 'the other women from Galilee' (Luke 23:55). John singles out Mary Magdalene for mention (20:1) presumably because it was she who brought information back to Peter and the other disciples: she herself implies in 20:2 that there were others with her—we do not know. So the writers could each be mentioning by name those of the party whose behaviour made an impact on those from whom the writers gained their information." (*Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible*, page 530.)

A Taxing Situation

Tax day (April 15 in the United States) is approaching. What does the Bible have to say about this taxing subject?

In an age where tax collectors were despised and lumped with sinners (Matthew 9:11), and in an empire ruled by the evil Nero, Paul still strongly insisted on the necessity to pay taxes. Since all authority comes from God, "Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor" (Romans 13:7).

"A few years after Paul wrote these words, Nero launched a persecution against the church at Rome; multitudes lost their lives, and not because of doing evil" (*NIV Bible Commentary*, Volume 2, page 588).

It may not make it easier, but we can be glad we don't have to pay our taxes to Nero!

Counting Blessings: Money No Longer Going Up in Smoke

"I used to be a heavy smoker," Rama Naidoo wrote. But thanks to Herbert W. Armstrong's teaching that "you are not pleasing your neighbor by smoking," this member from Durban, South Africa, quit.

"When I think about cigarettes, it would cost me over 300 rand per month South African prices for three cartons. So I am saving 300 rand a month! I have no excuse for not paying tithes and offerings. Please print this to help those who are struggling to

pay tithes and offerings." Our blessings might be something different, but we all have blessings to count.

Respect and Love—Meeting the Needs of Husbands and Wives

"The more you relinquish control and respect your husband's thinking, the more powerful and masculine he will feel. Your faith gives him added strength and reminds him who he is and that he wants to take care of you and ensure your delight."

Laura Doyle advises wives in *The Surrendered Wife*.



"If he feels disrespected, his natural instinct to provide, protect, and adore his wife is derailed. When a wife respects her husband, he naturally responds with more confidence in himself and gratitude for his wife. This makes him cherish her more, and spend more time and effort memorizing the things that make her happy" (pages 56-57).

Kind of reminds you of Ephesians 5:33.

Parents: Promote Positive Attention-Seeking

"All of us are born with the basic need for attention," writes Kevin Leman in *Bringing Up Kids Without Tearing Them Down*. "All children start out with this basic skill, which they hone to a sharp edge as they go about the business of growing up."

"Because every child starts out in life with a natural desire to please you—the parent—you have a golden opportunity. Since children are going to seek your attention ('Hey, Daddy, watch me!'), you might as well do all you can to teach them how to be a positive attention-getter rather than a negative one. How you interact with your children as they seek your attention is the critical issue."

Dr. Leman suggests:

"1. Don't overreact to what your child says or does.

"2. Do show interest without putting on pressure" (pages 106-107).



The Proverbs 31 Woman of Today

The following poem was written in connection with the Garden Grove, California, Women's Enrichment Weekend on "Unlocking the Proverbs 31 Woman in You" (see page 21). The author, Nola Wells, attends the Garden Grove congregation.

The mother of King Lemuel, in Proverbs 31, Described a virtuous woman, who would complement her son. The Proverbs Woman of Today, tho' challenged by a different time, Tries her best to emulate virtues his mother had in mind. She extends her hand to others; finds ways to reach the poor, Gives of her time and substance, but aware she could do more; She considers seeds and plants her garden with the choicest veggies, That being done, you just might find her deftly trimming hedges. For staples and for special foods she oftentimes will go That extra mile, or many blocks to shop with "Trader Joe."

Her husband and her daughters, her sons and others too,

They rise and call her often, for favors she might do.

Her husband safely trusts her, she's proved that she will guard

The household budget, so she's now mistress of her MasterCard.

She's well acquainted with the malls, from Nordstroms to Rob-May,

And scans the ads religiously for special sales or clearance day.

The PVA and DAV, she supports from time to time;

And all those address labels will last until two-thousand-nine.

Her household does not fear the cold, whether home is condo, house or flat,

To keep that cozy atmosphere, she simply flips the thermostat.

Every day she's thankful for God's blessings and His WAY.

Her prayer is that He's pleased to see the Proverbs Woman of Today.

What Is Worship?

Worship is one of those religious-sounding words that the average person doesn't think much about. If you press him, the average man might say it has something to do with how we act toward God or some supreme being, maybe what religious people do in a cathedral, church, synagogue or mosque. Maybe it has something to do with prayers or praise or singing?

The English word *worship* is pretty broad. But it might be more helpful to know what the Bible means with the words that are translated *worship*. What does the Bible say about worship?

The word most often translated *worship* in the King James Version is the Hebrew *shachah* (*Strong's* number 7812). *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* says it's used more than 170 times in the Hebrew Bible to mean "to worship, prostrate oneself, bow down."

Consider typical uses of this word in Exodus 34:8, Psalms 66:4 and 95:6, and Zechariah 14:16.

Worship in this sense carries the connotation of bowing down in deep respect and honor to a superior (sometimes a king or master, but in a much deeper way to the God who created us and who gives us life). This worship can be accompanied with singing praises and meeting together to keep God's Feasts.

In the New Testament the main word used is *proskuneo* (*Strong's* 4352) used nearly 60 times. *Strong's* says this word is probably derived from 2965, "meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand." *Vine's* says it means "to make obeisance, do reverence to (from *pros*, 'toward,' and *kuneo*, 'to kiss.'")

The second most commonly used word translated *worship* in the New Testament is *sebamai* (*Strong's* 4576) meaning "to revere." It is used six times. *Lattreuo* (*Strong's* 3000) is used four times, and means "to serve, to render religious service or homage." The *New Bible Dictionary* says this "originally signified the labour of slaves or hired servants. And in order to offer this 'worship' to God his servants must prostrate themselves—Hebrew *histahawa* or Greek *proskuneo*—and thus manifest reverential fear and adoring awe and wonder."

Worship in its most specific biblical sense means to bow or even prostrate yourself before God, revealing the deep reverence, honor and respect we have for Him. This meaning and the underlying attitude toward God it carries is too often lost in the loose way the term is used in English today.

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker" (Psalm 95:6).

Richard Bennett

Principle or Politics?

A Fundamental Choice in Human Affairs

■ Politics doesn't happen just in government. It can happen in the office, on a sports team or wherever humans interact. What does the Bible tell us about politics compared to the way of principle?

by Matthew Fenchel

Should Christians become involved in politics?

The Bible directs us to pray for our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-4). However, generally speaking, Christians do not involve themselves in governmental politics. Jesus Christ said: "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). As ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), God has not called us to save this world by involvement in human government, but rather to give a foretaste of the heavenly government to come. In doing so, we are to show honor to our human leaders and do what we can for our communities (1 Peter 2:17; Galatians 6:10).

The question remains though: Should Christians become involved in politics? With regards to being involved with a political party of government, clearly God has given us a different calling. However, we all realize that politics do not just happen in the inner workings of government. Politics happen at all levels of human affairs. There are office politics. Politics in clubs and organizations. Politics happen in sports teams, from peewee to professional. Politics can happen in neighborhoods and in our schools. Yes, even in the Bible we find a number of illustrations of politics in ancient Israel and in the New Testament Church.

Should Christians become involved in politics in any form? Is that how God's Kingdom on earth will function? Or much rather, doesn't God expect us to have principle as the foundation of our conduct and interaction with others?

As we assess our spiritual condition prior to the spring festivals (1 Corinthians 11:28) and prepare for our future roles as kings and priests (Revelation 1:6), the Bible instructs us that our love for God is reflected in how we treat one another (1 John 4:20-21). The choice of principle or politics is a fundamental one in human affairs.

Definitions

Before we go further, let us establish working definitions for the purpose of this article. These are based on *The American Heritage Dictionary: College Edition*.

Principle: "Rule, law or standard of moral and ethical behavior. Virtue of character." The concept of principle concerns itself with *who you are*. A person of principle bases his words, actions, decisions and relationships on what is right and objective.

Politics: "Intrigue or maneuvering within a group. Artful, shrewd, crafty, cunning." This definition of politics concerns itself more with *who you know*. (Anyone ever hear of the saying: "It's not what you know but who you know"?) A person participating in this definition of politics bases his words, actions and decisions on personal gain and promotion through manipulating those he knows and the relationships he has with them. (Note: While "politics" can be defined validly in different ways, the purpose of this article is to focus only on the above aspects of "politics.")

In the remainder of this article, we will contrast the way of godly principle with wrongful politics, examining biblical examples in the process.

Humility Versus Self-Promotion

The biblical contrast that is obvious here is Jesus Christ and Lucifer. With regards to Jesus, we read the following in Philippians 2:3-7: "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. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men." (Please also see Mark 10:42-45.)

By contrast, we read the following about Lucifer (Satan). "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning . . . For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

The principle of humility means that a person has a modest opinion of himself. He focuses the attention on what God is doing and on the accomplishments of others. Like Christ, a person seeks out God's will for where he can best serve—within the Body of Christ and in other areas of life. Humility is based on the give way of life, concentrating on giving to others and God. A humble person does not focus on himself, but rather on the task at hand, seeking to give honor to others.

Self-promotion means that a person is actively seeking to improve his image in the eyes of others. The attention is on him. He is trying to move up. He promotes himself. He is probably not content with his position in human affairs and interaction. Like governmental politics, he seeks name recognition. Self-promotion is part of the get way of life.

Is it wrong to receive a promotion at work or be recognized for our accomplishments? Of course not. God will reward us for our works when Christ returns and that will be very good. In 1

Timothy 3:1 we also read, "If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work" (although this does not automatically mean that the *desire* is good).

The Bible also reminds us that true promotion "comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and exalts another" (Psalm 75:6-7). With regard to the Church, God places a person where He wills (1 Corinthians 12:18). True promotion comes from God.

How does that work? It is based on *who a person is* and not *who a person knows*. "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:11-12). God is looking for people with a servant character of leadership—like Jesus Christ. Christ humbled Himself, and certainly was exalted (Philippians 2:9-11). Satan tried to exalt himself, but was abased (Isaiah 14:15-19). Can you think of an example in the Bible of someone trying to promote himself to a higher position that worked out well, that God honored?

Diligence Versus Ingratiation

The story of Ruth is an inspirational pearl in the period of the Judges. Ruth, a woman from Moab, had married a Israelite man. He, his brother and father all died in Moab. Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, then decided to go back to Israel. She tried to persuade Ruth—to do the logical and sensible thing—stay in Moab with her own people. Ruth would not hear of it. Not thinking of her own happiness, comfort or wealth, she said: "For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me" (Ruth 1:16-17).

After arriving back in Israel, the two poor widows quickly found themselves rather destitute. Again, showing sacrifice, diligence and selflessness, Ruth found a field she could legally gather grain in. Her outstanding reputation for hard work and her care for Naomi generated handsome compliments from the owner of the field, Boaz. But that was not the end of her reward. Boaz eventually married Ruth. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, whose lineage, of course, led to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Ruth had not sought wealth, position or prestige. She was simply diligent to do what was right, which in this case was caring for Naomi. In the end, God cared for Ruth. Ruth followed principle. (See Proverbs 10:3-4).

Success in unrighteous politics often involves not diligence in deed, but ingratiation oneself to those in power. In the history of Israel, King David had the power. Twice individuals thought they

could win favor with David by claiming to have killed David's (supposed) enemies. The first story is in 2 Samuel 1. The second story is in 2 Samuel 4. David though, was a man of principle and rejected both attempts to curry his favor. He had the men executed.

There are two main ways in which ingratiation (trying to win someone's favor) is attempted. One is through flattery. Another is by first doing something for that person, in hope of receiving something in return. Both are condemned in the Bible. Simon the sorcerer tried to buy the power to impart the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:9-24). The meaning of the word *simony* comes from that incident: "the buying or selling of a church office or ecclesiastical preferment" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*).

Jesus Christ could certainly distinguish between a sincere compliment and deceitful flattery. "And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do



You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?" (Matthew 22:16-18). Like David, Christ saw through the thin veil of flattery and correctly addressed the situation.

Proverbs provides a good deal of counsel on this subject.

- Proverbs 25:6—"Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great."

- Proverbs 20:19—"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips."

- Proverbs 26:28—"A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin."

Ephesians 6:5-6 states: "Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

In Israel, judgment was not to be taint-

ed by bribes. "And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous" (Exodus 23:8). While most people are not legal judges, the principle still applies. The judgment needed in the affairs of life should not be tainted by those who are trying to be deceitfully "nice" or "bribe" with compliments, loyalty or favors. The concept of "I'll scratch your back if you will scratch mine" (or *quid pro quo*) as a political strategy has no place in a Christian community. As kings and priests in the Kingdom of God, we will be expected to exercise the righteous judgment of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 11:1-5)—decisions that are right, objective, lawful and fair.

Service Versus Influence

In both the Old and New Testaments, Moses is praised as one of the great leaders in the Bible. His attitude was a meek one of service (Numbers 12:3). In Exodus 18:13-16 we read: "And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, 'What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?' And Moses said to his father-in-law, 'Because the people come to me to inquire of God. When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.'"

Moses was a leader dedicated to serving the *people* by pointing them to God. He was also humble enough to realize that his father-in-law had a better method that could *serve more*.

By contrast, Absalom is a classic example of a leader trying to serve *himself* by influencing others to look to him. "So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, 'What city are you from?' And he would say, 'Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel.' Then Absalom would say to him, 'Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you.' Moreover Absalom would say, 'Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice.' And so it was, whenever anyone came near him to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel" (2 Samuel 15:2-6).

Moses used his position to serve those under him. Absalom used his position (as a prince) to undermine the rulership of King David and to win people over to his cause. Moses was sincerely and deeply concerned for the welfare of the people, based on God's instructions. Absalom sought to influence others to

see his point of view and support him in the wrong way.

A servant's heart is one that looks out for people for whom he has responsibility. Maybe we are a supervisor on the job or hold an office in a club or organization. The principle of service means we want to make sure that those under us are well taken care of. It is the attitude of

the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-14; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

The political attitude is to use others (especially those of lesser authority) to create a momentum of personal loyalty. Such a person wants a personal following, but is willing to undermine those above him in order to move up. This creates division. It was division based on

personal loyalties that Paul strongly condemned in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. The concept of political influence is wrong; the results are negative.

Objectivity Versus Favoritism

For us as Christians, probably one of the most encouraging attributes of God

is that "there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:11; see also 1 Timothy 5:21 and Galatians 3:28). All humans who have ever lived have the opportunity for salvation. We can all expect penalties for our own sins. We can look forward to rewards for our own works. God is the ultimate in fairness and objectivity.

Peter and Paul were leading apostles in the New Testament Church. In many ways, they rightly deserved honor for their loyal service to God. However, it is interesting to note that—despite Peter's position and overall good character—he was not perfect and had to be corrected. Paul showed no favoritism to him on one occasion, and openly rebuked Peter. "Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy" (Galatians 2:11-13). To Paul's credit, he addressed a wrong, even though it was a fellow apostle who was in the wrong. To Peter's credit, we have no record of him showing animosity towards Paul for his correction.

Being objective with issues of right and wrong means that a person looks honestly at the issue at hand and makes a decision based on the truth of the situation—not based on who the person is (or is not) or on other subjective factors. Israel was told not to show partiality to the poor (Exodus 23:3). Then, in verse 6, they are told not to discriminate *against* the poor either. James admonishes Christians not to show favoritism to the rich (James 2:1-4).

When is it most difficult to be objective and resist favoritism? Probably when the situation involves a friend. We

don't want to offend him. We want him to benefit, because he is our friend. Yet we are challenged by the Bible not to show partiality. Being a true friend means being objective—helping our friend realize the truth—and not favoring him unfairly to the detriment of someone else. If the friendship is strong, there won't be a personal offense over objective matters. Proverbs 27:6 states: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

Of course, there is then the opposite scenario—trying to remain objective when the person is not a friend, but perhaps even an "enemy." Personal offenses can cloud our judgment on objective matters. It is vital to see the strengths and good in people, even if we might personally have differences with them. That is the principle of objectivity.

Choose Principle, Not Politics

Satan has corrupted the entire world with a foundation of self-promotion (or the get way of life), ingratiation, wrong influence, favoritism and lies. This world is in the process of collapse. Jesus Christ set us the example of the Kingdom of God: humility, diligence, the mind of a servant, objectivity and truth. (Of course, there are many other righteous principles that could be added to this list.) It is upon this foundation that Christ will usher in a new order and a new government to this earth. Kings and priests in the Father's family will lead using this foundation.

Through God's Word and the life of Christ, we have the opportunity now to establish our lives and relationships on principle. Let us take advantage of that privilege, and look forward to the day when the whole world is established on that foundation—principle, not politics. **UN**

The Foundation of Truth

Perhaps the foundational choice that we make in our interaction with others is the one of truth versus falsehood. Are we going to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth," or will we compromise with that principle?

One of the tragic stories in the New Testament is found at the beginning of Acts 5. The early Church was just becoming established, and certain physical needs had to be addressed. Brethren were selling possessions in order to help provide funds for others. Ananias and Sapphira did the same—but then lied about how much they had earned on the sale of their land. Why they did this is not stated. Maybe they wanted to retain some of the money (which was their right to do—see verse 4), yet still give the impression of generosity and sacrifice. Whatever the reasons, they had lied to God by trying to give a false impression to their brethren. Their lives ended abruptly.

It is the foundation of the truth that Jesus Christ came to establish. He not only preached and taught the Word of God, but demonstrated in all His deeds that He acted on truth. He complimented people when they were right. He corrected them when they were wrong. He called the disciples His friends, yet rebuked them strong-

ly when needed. He never told a single lie—not even a "little white lie." The apostle John especially conveys Christ's dedication to the truth.

- John 4:23-24—"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- John 8:32—"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

- John 14:6—"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

David insightfully wrote in his repentant Psalm 51 that God desires "truth in the inward parts" (verse 6). This is also known as "integrity of heart" (1 Kings 9:4; Psalm 78:72). It means we are honest in our relationships with others. Honesty is our principle. We act and speak the truth—in love (Ephesians 4:15)—but not "little lies," false flattery or deceit.

We return again to a contrast between Jesus Christ and Satan. In John 8:44, Christ says this of Satan: "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his

own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." Satan lies to deceive and falsely accuse (Revelation 12:9-11)

In 3 John we read of Diotrephes, who used lies against the apostle John and attempted to raise himself to a leading position in the Church. "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church" (verses 9-10).

Lies cause division. They separate friends. Decisions based on false information run amok. Of the seven things listed in Proverbs 6 that God hates, at least three of them have to do with lying. In the end, all liars will have their place in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8). God views this issue very seriously.

Proverbs 12:17 states: "He who speaks truth declares righteousness." All of us know people of integrity, who are honest and candid, who seek the truth. We trust such people. We can rely on them. They are people we want friendships with. They are people of principle. These are the people whom God will use in His Kingdom. **UN**

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Retiring Pastor Reflects on Early Years of the Work

■ What was it like working with Herbert Armstrong, starting an office in Europe and helping do God's work for more than 50 years?

George Meeker
interviewed by Joel Meeker

Q. How and when did you come in contact with the Church of God?

A. My father began listening to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's radio broadcast in the mid-1940s. My dad and I were close, so he would talk to me about it and we would discuss the various topics. I began listening too. I remember being very impressed by Mr. Armstrong's powerful voice; I imagined that he must have been well over 6 feet tall.

In 1950, as I was finishing high school in the Kansas City area, I wrote for an application to Ambassador College. I didn't get a response right away, so I spent the money I'd saved for college on a car. Then I received a call from Mr. Armstrong asking if I could still come to Ambassador. I drove my car out to California, had a tour of the campus given by Mr. Armstrong and, with his encouragement, decided to enroll.

Q. What was Ambassador College like in those early years?

A. It was very small compared to what it became. All of the classes were taught in the building that later became the library. All the students lived in one building, the Mayfair mansion, while I was a student. The men stayed on the third floor, the women on the second floor, and the ground floor was the "student center"—dining and common room. We could all eat our meals sitting around one table. Mr. Armstrong taught all the Bible classes; there were three or four other teachers for the other subjects. In the early years there was a rather informal atmosphere. Almost everyone was on a first-name basis.

We all had jobs on the campus. I worked on the grounds and in the mail-room. There wasn't much money in those days, so we never really were "paid." What we earned was simply deducted from what we owed the college.

Q. What was Herbert Armstrong like?

A. He was very involved in the lives of the students at the college, very interested in the students themselves. He spent a lot of time talking with us. I remember him as always being very friendly. In a way, he was a gentle father figure to everyone, not at all overbearing. He was nearly 60 when I first met him, but I remember him as being very energetic, as much as any of the students. Loma Armstrong was also very involved; usually when you saw him, you saw her. They were very frequently in Mayfair. She was a very important part of everything that was going on at that time, and took a special interest in the women students.

Q. How large was the Radio Church of God then?

A. As I recall, there were only three congregations and two ministers when I

arrived in Pasadena. Basil Wolverton was an elder in the Portland, Oregon, area, and Herbert Armstrong was the minister in Pasadena. During my years at Ambassador seven or eight men were ordained, but things were still very small.

Q. What were church services like at the time?

A. At first services were held in the main library room. Then we had to use two rooms, and the speaker would stand in the doorway between them so everyone could see him. Mr. Armstrong did all the speaking at first. He could speak very intensely for three hours, and we felt like we needed those long services. When we outgrew the library, we moved to the Shakespeare Club in Pasadena, and things kept growing from there.

Q. What happened after graduation?

A. I continued working in the mail-room. I remember we used to get many bags of mail. One time I remember



George Meeker

being at the post office to pick up our mail at the same time as another radio speaker was there to get his. He got just a handful and we had bags and bags full. The fellow was very impressed by the quantity of mail we received.

Burk McNair and I were ordained the same day in January 1955. In June of that year, I was sent to England with Mr. Armstrong's eldest son, Richard. I was to assist him in setting up and running the first church office outside the United States. Air travel still wasn't very developed, so we crossed the Atlantic by ship, the French liner *Liberté*.

Q. What was it like getting started in Europe?

A. Dick and I first made a tour through the continent. We disembarked in France, and took some time to see a bit of Europe by car, and also to visit prospective members. Mr. Armstrong's radio broadcast had started airing on Radio Luxembourg in 1953, so we had some visit requests. In Holland, I remember, we visited a man who had named his son Herbert, after Herbert Armstrong. In all, we traveled through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

While I was making a further side trip to Germany, Dick leased two rooms for an office in a building on Cranbourn Street, just off Leicester Square in London. Before very long we had rented all four rooms on that floor. Dick also purchased the office furniture we needed to start the office. Our first project was to answer a shoebox-full of mail we had brought with us from Pasadena. That's really all there was to the office at first. It was a very simple beginning for the "international work."

Q. How did the London office operate?

A. My daily routine was to pick up the mail at our BCM (British Crown Monarchs) address, which was within walking distance of the office. I sorted and processed the mail, banking whatever money came in. If there were letters to answer, I did that as well. We were responsible for all addresses outside the U.S. at that time, so I remember getting mail from places as far away as the Philippines and South Africa.

Church literature, including the *Plain Truth* magazine, was printed in the U.S. and bulk shipped to us. We would then mail the literature from England. We addressed the mail using a type of addressograph machine. Names and addresses were stamped onto small metal plates. Then the individual plates were inserted into the stamping machine, and we pulled a lever, which then placed the mailing information on the envelopes. Each piece was hand-stamped, and usually there were between 2,000 and 3,000 *Plain Truths* to be mailed. It was a pretty time-consuming activity. Then we put it all in big red mailbags, called the post office, and the postmen would come to pick them up.

Q. How did things develop in Europe?

A. Mr. Armstrong held his first European evangelistic campaign in several cities around England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in September 1954. Volume 2 of his autobiography gives some of the details. He held a longer series in London in June of 1956. The Armstrongs arrived in London in April of 1956 and left almost immediately with Dick Armstrong for a five-week tour of the Middle East. I recall that I didn't have a regular salary during that time. Mr. Armstrong had told us we could use whatever money came in the mail for our living expenses. We all had faith that there would be enough income for me to live, and there always was.

He held nine meetings in all, one of which was conducted by Dick Armstrong and one by Garner Ted. That campaign marked the moment when the church really began to form in England. Following those meetings we had Sabbath services every week, with an attendance starting at about a dozen people. By that time Frank Longuskie had come from Pasadena to join me in the office. Dick Armstrong had gone back to the U.S. by that time. At first we were the only two baptized members in the little congregation. He and I did the speaking, and little by little the church grew. Our responsibilities changed several times in the following years. I was sent back and forth across the Atlantic several times.

Q. What do you remember about the founding of Ambassador College, Bricket Wood?

A. In June 1959, Mr. Armstrong purchased Hanstead House, a somewhat neglected but beautiful estate north of London, to be the site of a new Ambassador campus as well as the British office of the church. Raymond McNair did most of the legwork in locating this property. Ernest Martin was to begin teaching at this campus, so I was asked

once again to act as office manager. I moved back to England in early 1960, just as the office equipment and supplies had been moved to the Bricket Wood campus. The new office was located in some refurbished stables on the campus grounds. I took up my new responsibilities right away.

Lots of work had to be done to get the buildings ready to open the college for classes in 1960. In our spare time all of us pitched in, doing things like helping the paint crew to make sure we'd have everything ready on time.

The college opened in the summer of 1960. Most of the students the first year were Americans or Britons who had transferred over from the Pasadena campus. But, as I recall, we also had students coming in from Australia, Canada, South Africa and Germany.

Memorial Hall, as Hanstead House was rechristened, served the same functions that Mayfair had when I was at college in Pasadena. The women students stayed on the top floor, the men were on a different floor, I believe. Initially, the Armstrongs also had an apartment in the building. Classes, meals, college activities—everything was in that building.

Q. Was there any reaction in the neighborhood when the campus opened?

A. There was some curiosity in the local community. Our doctrines were so different from those of the Church of England that Ambassador College was bound to raise some questions. I don't recall there being any opposition, though some unfavorable things appeared in the press. Much of the British press was not too trustworthy at that time as they were more interested in a sensation to sell papers than in the facts.

Q. How did you end up coming back to the United States?

A. One of the students who came from Pasadena for the start of Bricket Wood was a charming young lady

If I had any advice to give young people starting out in the faith today, I would encourage them to really get to know the Bible—to spend lots of time with it. We all need to be very familiar with, and well grounded in the unchanging instructions and principles of God's Word

named Karen Kunkel. I had met her earlier in Pasadena, but it was in England that we became interested in each other. Mrs. Armstrong was a bit of a matchmaker, and she gently encouraged the two of us to get to know one another better. We began courting, and were finally married in November 1960. There was an urgent need for pastors in the field by that time, so we traveled back to the U.S. in July of 1961, on the *Queen Mary*, to take up a pastorate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We've continued to serve God's people in various pastorates in the United States since that time.

Q. How would you compare the church in the early days with our situation today?

A. I would say I see positive and negative changes. It is sad that we are now fragmented into different groups. A unity of purpose was one of the hallmarks of our early years. People had a willingness to submit their personal desires to the good of the work. It seems not every-

one has that same willingness today, although there are those who are still steadfast and faithful after many years—years often fraught with challenges and disappointments. It gives me great joy to see people that I had first met on a baptizing tour perhaps in the 1950s or early '60s, and to know that they are still enduring to the end.

On the positive side, I think now we as a church are even more careful about substantiating what we believe. In United I find an unwillingness to change any doctrine or practice unless the need for change can be clearly proven. There is a more deliberate process for approving (or reconfirming) our positions. When some few changes have been made, in my view they've been well documented. The church's explanations are very deliberately considered by many people. This prevents any one person from being appointed or appointing himself "protector of church doctrine." My observation is that sometimes in the past the church's positions, though they may have been correct, were not sufficiently documented. I believe the system in place is better at protecting against error today.

Q. Based on your life's experience, do you have any advice to give to young Christians?

A. If I had any advice to give young people starting out in the faith today, I would encourage them to really get to know the Bible—to spend lots of time with it. We all need to be very familiar with, and well grounded in the unchanging instructions and principles of God's Word. I think perhaps we did that a bit more in the early years. Church members really studied the Bible, they knew what it taught, and they patterned their lives and their decisions after it. They might have needed some help from time to time, to discuss applications of biblical principles with others, but the foundation was always the Bible. Funda-

mental principles like the Ten Commandments will never change, and they should guide all our actions.

Q. Looking back on your years in the Church of God, some of which included some pretty difficult moments, how would you sum things up?

A. Looking back on my life and career, I can say I have no regrets. There have been situations I wish would have been handled differently through the years, but nothing sufficient to cause me any second thoughts. Karen and I feel we've had a very good life. It's been a pleasure to work in the congregations where we've served. We have developed some wonderful friendships that have lasted 30 or 40 years, friendships I simply can't qualify. Some of those good friends are no longer alive, but the memories of such strong friendships can't be replaced. And we have the opportunity to be developing new friendships as time goes on. We've had a very good life; God has been very gracious to us. **UN**



Local Church Updates

Teen Speech Club Sponsors Spaghetti Dinner/Variety Show

For two years, the Northeast Ohio Teen Speech Club has contributed to LifeNets programs by selling calendars to help the youth camp in the Philippines. The amounts raised by these fundraisers were honorable, but the teens in the club wanted to do more and decided to host a spaghetti dinner/variety show night.



The date for this activity was scheduled for the Sabbath of Dec. 14, 2002. This date was chosen to coincide with the Council of Elders meetings in Cincinnati, so Clyde Kilough could be our guest speaker at services. Months of planning and hard work went into this activity.

The activity was held in North High School in Akron, Ohio. Three congregations (Cleveland, Canton and Youngstown) canceled services to meet together in Akron. We also had visitors from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Columbus, Ohio; Cambridge, Ohio; Wheeling, West Virginia; and Sacramento, California! Many commented that the large crowd reminded them of the old days in the Church.

Teens served in nearly every aspect of the Sabbath services, including ushering, parking, greeting, special music and song leading. The sermonette was given by Phil Myers, the president of the Speech Club, on how to resolve conflicts between people. Mr. Kilough presented an inspiring sermon on what real wealth is—using his experiences from the Philippines as examples.

The spaghetti dinner followed services. The teens also served in nearly every aspect of the dinner. One interesting side fundraiser was what we called the “Shave Frankie for Malawi” fundraiser. Frank Edwards, a member in Akron, agreed to shave off his 25-year-old beard if we could raise \$200 or more for LifeNets. As the brethren went through the dinner line, they could donate to the “Frankie” fund. We ended up raising \$1,331 to shave Frank’s beard!

The variety show was a huge success. We had acts ranging from dancing and vocal solos to skits and poetry recitations. We even had a group sing-along of the “Mickey Mouse Club” theme song. Our three emcees built the show around the theme of corny jokes. They were bad!

At the conclusion of the show, Frank Edwards was brought out and had his beard shaved off on stage. We suspect that Frank’s beard was the most valuable

beard in history—raising \$1,331 alone for the LifeNets project.

This fundraiser was a huge success. After all the money was counted, we found out we had raised a total of \$2,970.78 for the LifeNets project in Blantyre, Malawi. It specifically is being used to build a well for the brethren there. This well will save the brethren from walking over a mile to get their water! Because of our unique “Shave Frankie” fundraiser, it was decided that the well would be named “The Frank Edwards Well.” On Feb. 7, 2003, Bill Jahns delivered \$5,000 (which included the money raised in Akron) to Malawi. The work on the well will start immediately.

To find out how your congregation



Frank Edwards donates his beard; Thouvenens perform; Gabe Ellis recites poem (photos by Matt & Karen Smith)

can sponsor an activity to raise money for a specific LifeNets project, E-mail Victor Kubik at vic@kubik.org or call him at 888-821-0095. For more on LifeNets, visit www.lifenets.org.

You can view more pictures at www.ucglive.com/ucgpics and at <http://lifenets.org/volunteers/akron2002.htm>.

Erik Jones

Cincinnati North Hosts Its First Winter Ball

The Cincinnati North, Ohio, congregation, known for hosting the Winter Family Tournament, sponsoring a summer preteen camp and producing the teen magazine *US Teens*, just added another activity to the busy schedule.

Members of the congregation hosted the first Cincinnati Winter Ball, Feb. 1. It was a spectacular gala with ladies beautifully dressed in formal gowns and guys decked out in their best suits or tuxes. The setting was a 19th-century colonial house reminiscent of Scarlet O’Hara’s in *Gone With the Wind*.

The price of admission was a favorite bottle of wine and snacks. There was so much food that even the largest appetite was well fed. The sparkling lights and candlelit tables served as a perfect place



Craig and Natalie McQueen, ABC students from Australia, have a ball (photo by Janet Treadway)

for many to fellowship, while others hit the dance floor to the tunes of great music, played by Church members, Todd O’Brien and Jeff Pulliam

People from as far away as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, came to enjoy the evening. There were about 200 in attendance, but as word gets out, you can almost guarantee that next year will only be bigger and better.

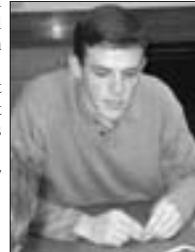
Janet Treadway

Cincinnati East Holds Young Adults’ Mixer

The Cincinnati East, Ohio, young adults sponsored their fourth annual young adults’ mixer for all the area young adults. The activity took place Saturday evening, Feb. 8, in the home office building.

Everyone pitched in with his or her favorite games, snacks and drinks. Everyone was having so much fun that at the close of the evening, no one wanted to leave. There were about 60 in attendance.

Janet Treadway



Young adults enjoy Cincinnati East mixer; Taylor Tootle studies his next move (photos by Janet Treadway)



Austin Music Fest—see article, page 14, February UN (photo by Wayne Solum)

108 Attend Garden Grove Women’s Enrichment Weekend

The second annual Women’s Enrichment Weekend brought together 108 enthusiastic ladies Jan. 17 to 19. The Women’s Club of UCG-Garden Grove sponsored the event with the theme “Unlocking the Proverbs 31 Woman in You.” Most of the ladies were from Southern California, but 28 ladies traveled from Arizona, and a few came from northern California and the Pacific Northwest. The location was the Coun-



Dianne Clark and Muriel Soga make presentations at Women’s Enrichment Weekend (photos by Jean Updegraff)

try Inn & Suites in Costa Mesa, a beautifully appointed, elegant European-inspired hotel.

The weekend began on a social level Friday evening with ladies able to meet at a nearby restaurant, followed by a get-acquainted social opportunity. On Sabbath morning the services started with three special music solos and then Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Garden Grove congregation, began the weekend with an excellent sermon on the background of Proverbs 31, emphasizing verses 1-9.

The afternoon began with an introductory and humorous presentation by Renea Apartian, followed by Dianne Clark who gave seven positive keys to unlocking our understanding of Proverbs 31. She pointed out that the characteristics and accomplishments listed in Proverbs 31 can

be seen as an idealized composite, or may be achieved in stages throughout an individual woman’s lifetime. We learned that the women in God’s Church have much in common with the Proverbs 31 woman, only in a different time and circumstances.

After a wonderful meal, the evening began with “Wisdom in Communication” presented by Deborah Barr. Afterwards, we had a “Who Am I?” game in which the ladies had to guess by yes and no answers which woman’s name was on one of the many cards held by one of the women at the table.

Susan Webber began Sunday morning with a heartfelt very special presentation showing God’s faithful stewardship of us. Then Sylvia Kennedy enthusiastically moderated a session wherein the ladies did their own “acrostic.” Each table was assigned two or three letters of the alphabet and asked to decide on an adjective for each to describe this special woman. At the end we had 26 qualities we could aspire to.

Afterwards, Muriel Soga and Cathy Seigle gave personal examples of ladies with the Proverbs 31 qualities. Muriel presented the wonderful examples of Alice Chonde and Esther Chilopora of Malawi, and Cathy Seigle gave us very inspiring examples from her own family and the women she knew for many years while serving in Chile with her husband.

After a nice lunch by the pool, Esther Salcedo gave a thought-provoking session on “Balance—Staying Off the Tightrope.” Dianne Clark closed with “So, What Do We Do Now?” She gave tips on goal-setting and how to apply what we had learned during the coming year.

Evaluation forms were completed and the results were fantastically positive. The ladies left with wonderful memories, enriched with closer friendships and new knowledge, and encouraged and inspired.

Jean Updegraff

Jan Noel Presented Gift in Appreciation of Service

Lyle Welty, regional pastor, presented Jan Noel with an engraved crystal



Lyle Welty presents Jan Noel with plaque Sept. 14, 2002

plaque on Sept. 14, 2002, for her long-time service to God’s Church. Mrs. Noel is the widow of Gene Noel, who died of cancer April 12, 2002. (See “Tribute: Eugene A. Noel” in the June 2002 issue of *United News*.)

The presentation took place in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Noel were extremely instrumental in maintaining God’s truth in the Columbus area during the period of late 1994 and early 1995.

The following is the inscription on the plaque: “Presented to Eugene & Jan Noel with deep appreciation for 37 years of faithful service, dedication and devotion to God and His people.”

Homar Wray

Announcements

Births



Alexander Patrick Groves

Tim and Teresa Groves are pleased to announce the birth of their fourth child. Alexander Patrick Groves was born on Nov. 19, 2002. He weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. The family attends the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation. Proud grandparents are Larry and Betty Brannan, who also attend the Jefferson congregation.

Noah Joseph Sanchez was born March 11, 2002. He weighed 5 pounds



Noah Joseph Sanchez

9 ounces and measured 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are Joe and Janine (Reimann) Sanchez and his grandma is Velma Wright.

Randy and Nadine Christian of Brownwood, Texas, are happy to announce the adoption of their son,



Anthony Armstrong Christian

Anthony Armstrong Christian. Anthony's adoption was completed Dec. 2, 2002. He was 27 months of age, weighed 32 pounds and was 37 inches tall. Anthony attends the Coleman, Texas, congregation with Mommy and Daddy. Big sister is Mayra Jasmine.

Thomas and Kristie (Weiss) Rocheleau of Surprise, Arizona (NW Phoenix congregation), would like to announce the birth of their daughter Taylor Jean. Taylor was born Sept. 8, 2002. She weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Big brother Thomas is thrilled with his new sister.

Grandparents are Edward and Ardith Weiss of Big Sandy, Texas. Great-grandparents are Monroe and Lula Enos of Winona, Texas; and Beulah Weiss of Holiday, Florida.

Joel and Suzanne Borton are extremely pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Charlotte Sophia, on Feb. 13, 2003. Sophia



Charlotte Sophia Borton

weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Sophia is the first grandchild for both Jerry and Diane Oliver of Spokane, Washington, and Bob and Janet Borton of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Her parents and grandparents are bursting with joy.

Weddings

Brian and Amanda Crane are happy to announce their wedding. They were joined in marriage on June 23, 2002, in Port Trevorton, Pennsylvania, by David



Amanda and Brian Crane

Baker. Amanda Charles was part of the Levistown, Pennsylvania, congregation. Brian Crane is part of the Gilmer, Texas, congregation, where the couple is currently attending.

Tom and Kathy Charles are the parents of Amanda. Walter and Kitty Crane are the parents of Brian.

Jeannette Hoffart and Mark Freeman were united in marriage on Aug. 18, 2002. The ceremony was performed in Columbia, Missouri, by Greg Sargent. The bride was attended by Tricia Harrington (her sister) and Suzanne Mor-



Jeannette and Mark Freeman

gan. The groom was attended by Ron Mueller and Mike Fisher.

Parents of the bride are Dave and Kathy Hoffart of Hampton, Minnesota, and parents of the groom are Bob and Pat Freeman of Jefferson City, Missouri.

The bride and groom are both students at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, where they now reside.

Deborah Pettit and Bob Hedge were married March 15, 2002, in Old Hickory, Arkansas. The ceremony was performed by Jack Williams. Madonna



Deborah and Bob Hedge

Damron was maid of honor, and Joe Keeton was best man. Mr. and Mrs. Hedge live near Wickes, Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Zimmerman together with Mr. and Mrs. Michael Miller of Phoenix, Arizona, are pleased



Courtney and James Miller

to announce the marriage of their children, Courtney and James. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father in Scottsdale, Arizona, on Nov. 24, 2002. Friends and family members witnessed the outdoor ceremony on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. Maid of honor was Sara Dunn of Georgetown, Kentucky. Best man was Rick Williams of Phoenix. The bride's sister, Chelsea

Zimmerman, served as junior bridesmaid. Jim and Courtney reside in Phoenix and attend the Phoenix North-west congregation.

Anniversaries

Tony and Sharon Dominguez of Denver, Colorado, would like to announce their 35th wedding anniversary. They were married Feb. 4, 1968, and have both been baptized for 30 years. They have three grown sons, two granddaughters and two grandsons. "God has blessed us more than we can ever hope to thank Him!"

The San Antonio, Texas, congregation celebrated with George and Nancy Peyton their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 7, 2002. They were surprised with a reception and cake and later pre-



George and Nancy Peyton

sented with an anniversary clock with the inscription of Dec. 6, 1952, their wedding day. They have been members of God's Church since 1965 and truly appreciate their Church family. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Merle and Wanda Cunningham, of the Pensacola, Florida, congregation,



Wanda and Merle Cunningham

celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 14, 2003. A special acknowledgement was made by the Pensacola brethren on Feb. 15. They have been members of God's Church since 1964 and he has served as an elder since 1977. Merle retired from Neiman-Marcus in 1998 after 44 years in visual merchandising. They have three children, Vicki Salcedo of Atlanta, Georgia; Cathy Cunningham of Milton, Florida; and Kelly Cunningham of Dallas, Texas. They also have

two grandchildren, Andrew and Kimberly Long.

Obituaries

We are saddened to report the death of Janis Spurlock of San Ramon, California, on Jan. 17, 2003. Jan was born on Aug. 13, 1933, in Alameda, California, to Leon and Thelma Mae Ader. Her father served as the first under-sheriff of Alameda County.

When Jan graduated from high school in 1951, the California State Teachers Association honored her as the outstanding girl graduate in science and mathematics in the entire state. She was one of the first two women ever accepted to the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California at Davis. She maintained a straight 4.0 average throughout medical school, and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1957, becoming the first woman to receive her doctorate in veterinary medicine there.

Jan began her veterinary practice in Oakland, California, where she soon met Herschel Spurlock, a former U.S. Navy Seal who was studying at the University of California in Berkeley. Herschel and Jan married on Jan. 20, 1962.

Herschel and Jan were both baptized in 1969, and attended the Oakland congregation. Both became a part of the United Church of God in 1995.

For many years Jan battled a number of health problems that left her weak and emaciated and unusually susceptible to communicable diseases. She eventually gave up her veterinary practice, and it became increasingly difficult for her to attend services regularly, though for years she was still able to travel with her husband to the Feast of Tabernacles. Though she had been unable to attend any services for several years, she remained as actively involved in the Church as her health would allow, keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days as best she could at home, listening to tapes and trying to keep up on all the Church news.

Jan grew increasingly thin and weak, and a fall in early January caused her to be hospitalized with a broken leg. She only survived a few days, and passed away on Jan. 17, just three days prior to the Spurlocks' 41st wedding anniversary. Those who knew Jan will always remember her bright smile, her quick wit and her absolute refusal to complain or feel sorry for herself. She was alert and concerned about others to the very end, and three days before her death, she was still planning dinner for their anniversary. Jan was buried in the National Cemetery in Gustine, California. She is survived by her husband, who still resides in San Ramon.

Calvin C. Singleton, 77, died Aug. 22, 2002, after a yearlong illness. "Cal" and his wife, Ruth, had been married almost 55 years and were members of the Red Bluff, California, congregation. Cal served in the U.S. Army for 20 years and retired in 1966. He then bought a shrimp boat and fished off the Texas coast for 15 years. Cal and Ruth were baptized in

1987 and attended in Corpus Christi, Texas, until moving to Berry Creek, California, in 1996. He will be remembered for his dedication to his church and friends and his will to carry on. Grave-side services were conducted in Yolo, California, by Red Bluff pastor, Jim Chapman.

Jean Micallef, a member of the Toronto, Ontario, congregation, passed away on Jan. 28, 2003, at the age of 67, after a long period in the hospital from complications resulting from diabetes. She is survived by her husband, Joe, also a



Jean Micallef

member of the Toronto congregation, and by two sisters, Mary and Teresa.

Jean Catherine Gauchi was born in Toronto in 1936 of Maltese parentage, and on leaving school pursued a career as a dental technician. In 1964, she had a chance meeting in a restaurant with a professional musician, Joseph Micallef, who was also of Maltese origin and was visiting Toronto for a musical engagement. Because of Joe's traveling commitments, however, it was not until 1967 that they were able to marry and settle in Toronto. In 1983, they were called into God's Church and began fellowshiping

with the Worldwide Church of God. Later, they became members of United.

Jean had suffered from diabetes from an early age, and this became an increasingly serious problem as she became older. In the autumn of 2002 she became hospitalized, and after a long struggle to combat her failing health, she finally succumbed on Jan. 28. She was a shy, gentle lady who was much loved in the congregation, and although her loss is felt by all, it is, of course, her husband who has suffered the most at her passing. He wishes to express his heartfelt thanks to all the brethren for their prayers during Jean's long illness, and for the comfort they have given to them both.

Marie Skorseth, 81, died of a sudden, massive heart attack on Dec. 20, 2002. She was born on March 25, 1921 in Jamesport, Missouri. After finishing high school, she worked in Chicago for the Brach's Candy Co. and later began working for the Southwest Bell Telephone Company in Kansas City as a



Marie Skorseth

payroll clerk. She found her greatest joys in life were nearly 57 years of marriage

to her husband, Orville, and being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Marie was a longtime, faithful member of the Church of God. She first learned of the truth through her mother and was eventually baptized in 1966. She was a member of UCG from its beginning in Watertown, South Dakota. She was the oldest member of the local congregation and had remained very active right up to the time of her death.

She is survived by her husband, a daughter (Jean), two sons (Lyle and Ken), three grandchildren and two great-grandsons. Jean and Ken are members of UCG.

Martha Hefner, 90, of Valdese, North Carolina, died Jan. 17, 2003, from complications following a stroke. Martha was a longtime member in the Church for over 40 years. She was loved and respected by all the brethren who know her and by many friends in her community. She attended for many years in the Lenoir, North Carolina, and later the Hickory, North Carolina, congregations. When UCG Hickory began in January 1996, Martha was one of the first ones through the door. She was a very strong lady in her beliefs and faithfulness to God's Word.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Mayo; two sons, Robert and William; one grandson; and one sister.

Jerry Lee McNeil, 60, passed away Jan. 16, 2003. He was born in Asheboro, North Carolina, on Nov. 8, 1942. He married his wife, Barbara, in May 1968. They raised two daughters, Barbara Renee and Jerry Michele, in God's Church.

Jerry started listening to Herbert W.

Armstrong on radio in 1960 and has been a member of the Church since 1976. He was happy to be a member of the United Church of God congregation in Asheboro.

Jerry worked in furniture in Asheboro and High Point for many years. His interests included reading, fishing, hiking, woodworking and shortwave radio.

Jerry was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and colon on Oct. 16, 2002, and other tests showed multiple tumors in the liver, spleen and lymph nodes. Jerry was blessed to be able to stay at home with the help of hospice and his devoted family. His attitude and spiritual outlook remained strong throughout his illness. Jerry and his family were especially thankful that God helped him to celebrate the Feast 2002 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

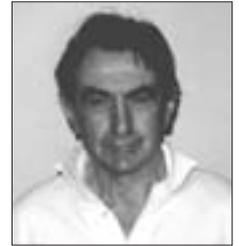
He is survived by his wife, Barbara Smith McNeil, and daughters and sons-in-law, Renee and Allen Ritch and Michele and Kevin Bortree. He was blessed with five grandchildren: Joseph, Christopher and Travis Ritch and Courtney and Cory Bortree.

Funeral services were conducted by David Mills, pastor of the Asheboro, Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina, congregations, on Jan. 19, 2003. Inez Burrow of the Asheboro congregation provided music. Pallbearers were Steve Redding, Tom Burrow, Ted Keener, Wayne Blake, Billy Davis and Melvin Parks. Jerry was an inspiration and was loved by many. He will be greatly missed.

Louis Lubomir Mikulik, 80, died of a heart attack on Nov. 20, 2002. He was born June 18, 1922, in Strascice, Republic of Czechoslovakia, and received his civil engineering degree there before the Communists took

over the country.

After unsuccessfully trying to get his father's flour mill back from the Communists, he had to flee the country in a biplane. He made his way to the United States where he obtained political asylum and received his Certificate of Naturalization in 1954.



Louis Mikulik

He went to work in Hammond, Indiana, as a butcher. Later he joined the U.S. Coast Guard and then became a U.S. Merchant Marine officer. He loved the sea, and would have preferred to live and die at sea. But on Dec. 26, 1968, he wrote a letter to the Masters, Mates and Pilots' union stating, "This is my request for withdrawal. The reason: My weekly presence required ashore . . ." He gave up sailing because he believed we must not work on the Sabbath. Louis later became a carpenter for almost 20 years before retirement.

Roland Clark, an elder in the Loma Linda, California, congregation, spoke at his memorial service Jan. 26, 2003. Louis Mikulik was a humble man and lived simply in a small apartment in San Pedro, California. He freely gave of his time to help others in need and also took the time to remember UCG with a generous after-death donation.

Tribute: James Earl Jenkins

James Earl Jenkins, a longtime pastor, died Feb. 4, 2003, at the age of 76 at his home in Mississippi.

Jim was born Jan. 25, 1927, in Dyersburg, Tennessee, and spent his childhood years in Kansas. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy at age 17. At age 20, he met the love of his life, June Moore of Salina, Kansas. They were married July 6, 1947.

They had five daughters and "inherited" four son-in-laws: Juanita and Conway Magee, Janice and Dan Creed, Jamie and Hubert Stephens, Jolinda and Dave Schreiber. (His daughter Julie died at age 2 1/2.) Jim and June were married for 55 years, had nine grandchildren and one great-grandson: Ryan, his wife Stacey, Rod, Richard, Julie and Cabe Stephens; Jonathan Magee; Chad and Courtney Creed; and Jamie and Kelley Schreiber.

Jim enjoyed an early career as an electrician for Kansas Gas & Electric and for Beechcraft, and later as a sales manager for a furniture store in Wichita, Kansas.

Jim was called into the Church at the age of 25 (in 1952), baptized in 1954 and ordained a deacon in 1962.



James Earl Jenkins

He was ordained an elder in 1965 and moved to Pasadena to attend Ambassador College. He first assisted in New Orleans, Louisiana, and later pastored 14 churches over a period of 36 years: Jackson, Mississippi; Monroe, Louisiana; Kansas City, Missouri; Wheatland and Casper, Wyoming; Scotts Bluff, Nebraska; Greeley, Colorado; Union, Middle-town and Brick Town, New Jersey; Jersey City, New York; Houston and Victoria, Texas; and Meridian and Laurel, Mississippi.

Jim retired from the United Church of God in April 2000 and continued to serve in the ministry he loved, as his health permitted. He was a jovial man who loved to tell stories that made you both laugh and cry.

Jim's funeral was Sunday, Feb. 9. Regional Pastor Ken Giese read his obituary and his longtime friend Frank McCrady gave a tribute to their friendship. Roy Holladay, his respected and well-loved colleague and friend, officiated.

Stacey Stephens sang Jim's favorite song: "How Great Thou Art," his granddaughters Stacey and Kelley sang "Our Fond Memories" and his son-in-law Dave Schreiber sang "Be Strong and Know That He Is God." The service concluded with a video, which was a celebration of his life.

Jim wanted to express his utmost appreciation for the many cards of encouragement sent during his illness. It meant so much to him to know the brethren were praying for him and it gave him much strength. He commented before his death that the next sound he would hear would be the sound of the trumpet. He said, "I so look forward to the return of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to serve God for eternity."

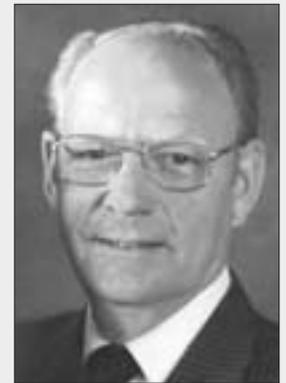
Tribute: Selmer Hegvold

Selmer Hegvold, a longtime minister in God's Church, died of complications from pneumonia in the Veterans' Hospital in Houston, Texas, on Dec. 24, 2002. He was born and raised in South Dakota where he learned a lot about wood, having been a forest ranger in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He served in the military during World War II as an army engineer.

After the war was over he went to work with his father as a cabinetmaker. It was during this time that he heard Herbert W. Armstrong on the radio. His father had been listening to Mr. Armstrong for some time. In 1952 he and the family, along with his parents, attended their first Feast of Tabernacles in Seigler Springs, California, where all four were baptized.

After moving his family from South Dakota to Pasadena, California, in 1953, Mr. Hegvold worked in the cabinet shop making cabinets and furniture for the college, as well as attending Ambassador College part-time. He was ordained an elder in 1960.

During his ministry Mr. Hegvold served in El Monte and Santa Barbara, California; Portland, Oregon; Vancouver, Washington; Chicago, Illinois;



Selmer Hegvold

Gary, Indiana; Big Sandy, Texas; and Pasadena Imperial. He began working with the Deaf Program in 1980 and gave up his duties as a full-time pastor to devote all his time to the deaf brethren in 1990.

Retiring in 1992, he and his wife, Iris, moved to northern California. Iris died in 1996 and in 2000, he moved to Houston, Texas, to live with his son, David.

Mr. Hegvold is survived by eight children, 20 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

promotion, ABC graduation ceremony and a special ABC class or two.

- The ongoing sermon video- and audiotape program. We send out eight titles every eight weeks.

- *Good News* radio program recording and editing.

- Cataloging United's videotape library. "We have a backlog of hundreds of hours of unlogged stock and b-roll videotape footage that needs to be reviewed, labeled and logged into our searchable database to help make finding footage a little easier," said Mr. Eddington.

- Helping with audiovisual needs at Council of Elders meetings, the General Conference of Elders meetings and at ABC classes.

"Clay also has a good understanding of audio recording, camera audio and live mixing," said Mr. Eddington. "In addition, he is familiar with studio and interview camera lighting. I believe his experience at KCBS and previously at Ambassador Television will be a fine addition to our staff here."

"This opportunity is a dream come true," said Mr. Thornton. "I'm greatly looking forward to working with Peter Eddington and the home office staff."

"Seven Habits of Highly Effective Young Adults" Set for Labor Day

The 2003 Northeast Regional Young Adult Weekend is scheduled for the Labor Day weekend. Rooms will be reserved at a hotel (\$65/night) at the Newark International Airport (EWR) in New Jersey. Several interactive seminars and messages will be given by guest speakers on the theme of "Seven Habits of Highly Effective Young Adults."

The hotel is located just across from New York City, which has a host of significant sites—the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Ground Zero, the Empire State



What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

- Check out the latest information and camper application packets for United Youth Camps 2003.

<http://www.ucg.org/youthcamp>

- Listen to the streaming audio and video sermon titled "Count Your Blessings" by Gary Antion and see the new sermon transcripts titled "How to Make Wise Choices" by Robin Webber and "The Jesus Many Never See" by Ken Martin.

<http://www.ucg.org/multimedia>

On [vcmagazine.org](http://www.vcmagazine.org)

- The March-April *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on "When I Die, Will I Go to

Heaven?," "The Story of Stan Musial," "The Earth Is Full of His Goodness" and "Does Arrogance Really Work?"

<http://vcmagazine.org>

On [youthmagazine.org](http://www.youthmagazine.org)

- The January-March *Youth United* has articles on courage, leadership, "News for Youth," questions and answers and more. See the new April-June issue April 1!

<http://youthmagazine.org>

Other Helpful Links

- Youth and young adults' Web site.

<http://ucgyouth.org>

- Singles' Web site for singles in the Church.

<http://www.ucgsingles.org>

- UCG Race Relations Committee site. <http://www.ucgrace.org>

- Good News Bible Reading Program. <http://www.ucg.org/brp>

- Good News Web site. <http://gnmagazine.org>

- Local multimedia efforts. <http://www.ucg.org/multimedia>

- News pages with Council meeting reports, letters, Home Office Updates, etc. <http://www.ucg.org/about/council> <http://www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact: webmaster@ucg.org

Building, UN headquarters, Times Square, Grand Central Station, Radio City Music Hall and more. A group tour of some of these sites is planned. The hotel is also near Jersey Gardens, the largest outlet mall in the tri-state area. Young adults, married and single, from all regions are welcome to attend. Many additional details will be forthcoming.

Kevin Epps

Canadian GNs to Be Shipped More Cost-Effectively

The March/April issue of the *Good News* magazine for Canada will be shipped directly to Canadian addresses from the printer, R.R. Donnelley. Up until now, R.R. Donnelley was sending (in bulk) all 150 cartons (15,000 copies) to the Canadian National Office for processing and mailing.

As the subscriber list has increased, the sorting, inserting and mailing has become very time-consuming. Very soon the current staff would not have been able to handle the work expeditiously. Since our last full-time employee, Wayne Lue, was hired in 1999, we have

received more than 30,000 pieces of mail and distributed in excess of 400,000 pieces of literature. Our mailing list has grown by more than 16,000.

The change came after John LaBissoniere, *GN* circulation manager, and Ed van Pelt, Canadian office manager, began discussions about methods of shipping the *GN* to Canada. Mr. LaBissoniere suggested that it might save time and money to have the magazines shipped directly from the United States. Mr. van Pelt conducted an analysis of the costs to mail the magazine from Canada while Mr. LaBissoniere began negotiating with the printer.

Now R.R. Donnelley will be mailing all but 1,500 copies directly to Canadian individual and waiting room subscribers, and "bulk" shipping copies to Canadian congregations for newsstand distribution. This will all be done for less than what it would cost the Canadian office to do it (when internal Canadian Office processing costs are included). We are also hopeful that subscribers will receive their issue faster than before.

Linda Wasilkoff

WNP Circulation Up

World News and Prophecy (WNP) is

being sent to 15 percent more households than a year ago. The majority of new subscribers are from our *Good News* mailing list. We now offer the magazine to new coworkers and to those who have been through the *Bible Study Course* graduate audiotape program. In the March-April 2003 issue of *The Good News*, we will highlight WNP a little more than usual to generate some more readers. Over the coming months we'd like to see the number of non-member subscriptions double from around 5,000 to near 10,000.

Peter Eddington

Members Sponsor Cable-Access Telecasts

"As a result of reading the articles in the February issue of *United News*, we have four brethren who have requested to sponsor the *Good News* telecast in their areas (West Palm Beach, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Huntsville, Alabama; and Hammond, Indiana)," said Steve Nutzman. "If we receive approval to air in Chicagoland, the new station total could be around 20 stations. If we add 20

stations, then the *Good News* would air on 32 stations total (12 at present)."

If you would like to be a sponsor:

- For the *Good News* television program produced in Beloit, Wisconsin, please contact Steve Nutzman at steve_nutzman@ucg.org or by telephone at (608) 758-9228.

- For the Portland, Oregon, *Tomorrow* program, please contact Howard Davis at howard_davis@ucg.org or by telephone at (503) 760-0973.

Staying in Touch With GN Readers, by E-Mail

As part of the subscriber development program, the next batch of *Good News* renewal cover wraps will ask for subscribers' E-mail addresses. "The goal of this will be to begin a monthly E-letter from the president, similar to the member updates that go to our church members," Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager. "This will be a virtually cost-free way to reach out monthly via E-mail to our *GN* readers. We hope to eventually have around 100,000 signed up."

Campers and Staff: Apply Now!

Camp season is almost here! You should be getting the *United Youth Camps 2003 Magazine* in the mail soon if you don't already have it. It has helpful information to get you ready to go to camp at one of the seven U.S. regional summer camps (or perhaps an international camp or Winter Camp next December).

Articles, camper comments, cool pictures and an application form, along with detailed descriptions of our U.S. camps will help you choose which United Youth Camp to attend this summer. Space may be limited at some camps, so don't procrastinate.

Attention potential staff members (age 18 and older): If you want to serve on a UYC



staff, contact the camp director as soon as possible. Visit the Web page at www.ucg.org/youthcamp/staff/ for more information and an E-mail link to our camp directors. We are always looking for young adults who have been to camp who now want to serve on the staff. Last year we ended up with more applications than we could use, so apply early.

This will be the ninth year of our regional camp program, and lots of fun, excitement and challenge await you in "the Zone." Start saving and preparing now for one of the best weeks of the year!

Larry W. Greider
United Youth Camp Coordinator



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News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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