

# UNITED NEWS



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## 7 Tips to Prepare for Passover

■ Make a difference this Feast. Prepare for it!

by Bill Bradford

The upcoming Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread are not just unique observances for God's people, nor are they just reminders of the meaning of certain aspects of God's plan. The Feasts are all these, but they are designed to do something for the person who observes them with understanding. The observance should move a person forward in the faith and in the mind of Jesus Christ. The person should experience change and growth because he or she uses the observance for what it is intended. Many don't experience growth, or change or a renewal. Maybe all that is experienced is a day off work. Here are several things you can do so that these first feasts of the year will have the greatest impact in your life.

1) **Prepare for the Feasts by anticipat-**



**ing the observance and the meaning of the Feasts.** Messages are given at church to help us understand the depth of mean-

ing in the Passover as we approach it. We should strive to make it personal. That is, not only did Christ die for the sins of

humanity, but that He died for you personally. Consider what it took for Jesus Christ to suffer and die for your sins. Consider what the release from the bondage of those sins provided as you anticipate eating Unleavened Bread for seven days.

2) **Ask God to give you special understanding about the Passover and Unleavened Bread.** Pray that it will so move you toward a growth and change in your life for the coming year.

3) **Determine—make a conscious decision to commit yourself to God's purpose as revealed in the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread.** Have that intention before the Passover comes.

4) **The Passover is a time of self-examination and retrospection of one's life.** We consider that we are made worthy through the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As we walk our path toward the Kingdom of God, we should indeed look forward

Please see page 11

## President Dennis Luker Announces Decision Not To Serve Second Term

■ In a letter to all members, UCG President Dennis Luker announced he would not serve as president for a second three-year term. Below is his letter.

Dear Fellow Ministers and All Brethren,

I am writing this personal letter to you to make you aware of an important decision that I have made in my life. My three-year term as president is nearing its end and the question has now become whether or not I should continue as president of the United Church of God, *an International Association*—if the Council of Elders so accepts.

The decision that I have come to, with advice and counsel from my wife and others, is that I should not seek nor accept a second presidential term. Here is why. While it is not well-known outside

of my family and some people here in Cincinnati, my health has taken a serious downturn in the last few months because of complications from an enlarged prostate gland. This is common among older men and for years I have privately struggled with this, doing my best to maintain my health with proper nutrition, exercise and medical advice.

Most important of all, I have been anointed and put my faith and trust in God for healing. My healing and my life are in God's Hands and I want His Will, not mine.

Serving as the president is a 24/7 job. At this time I do not have the energy or strength to fulfill the responsibilities of president of UCGIA for another three-year term—which would begin on July 1 of this year. I have discussed all this with the Council of Elders and they have accepted my decision to decline from

Please see page 14



## news AT A GLANCE

### Second Annual NYC Summer Young Adults Weekend in June

You are cordially invited to attend the second annual NYC Summer Young Adults Weekend. Beginning on the Sabbath of June 22, and lasting through Monday, June 24, the theme is "Think BIG—Take Risks for Growth." Needless to say, this is an excellent opportunity to meet and fellowship with those of like mind in a socially stimulating and culturally diverse locale.

Activities being planned include at least two interactive seminars based around the above theme, as well as a formal dance after the Sabbath. Sunday will include visiting three or four

Please see page 15



### INSIDE UNITED NEWS

From the Council: <b>Do This in Remembrance of Me</b> .....	2
<b>Rejoice With Me!</b> .....	2
Forward! <b>Can You See God's Hand...</b> .....	3

<b>News From Around the World</b> .....	3
From the Word	
<b>Cynicism: An Enemy to Defeat</b> .....	4
<b>Children of Mercies</b> .....	4
<b>They Had to Kill Jesus</b> .....	5
<b>Be Living Proof</b> .....	5

<b>Birth Defects: No Justification for Abortion</b> .....	6
<b>How Smooth Are You in God's Hands?</b> .....	6
<b>Announcements</b> .....	7
<b>Local Church Updates</b> .....	9
<b>Children's Corner</b> .....	14

### BY THE NUMBERS

74,559

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## “Do This in Remembrance of Me”

■ The New Testament Passover needs to emphasize remembering the death of Jesus Christ.



by Gary Antion

One of the most important commemorations of each year is the New Testament Passover service. It's a special time for us as Christians as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ being applied for us at our

baptism. The memorial is also very special because of the commitment we made at baptism with God to follow Him for the rest of our lives. In addition, we share the communion of the bread and wine, which depicts the unity we so desperately need if we are to accomplish the work that Jesus commissioned His Church to do.

We will miss the main meaning of Passover, however, if we do not observe it *in remembrance of Jesus Christ!*

Passover is an excellent time to recall what Christ's sacrifice means to each of us. He shed his blood for our sins and saved us from the death penalty. It also calls to mind the New Covenant that we now have made with Him through His blood. Both of those aspects are brought to mind at the Passover. We also remember how God saved those Israelites whose homes were covered by the blood of the perfect male lamb when death “passed over” their homes to kill the firstborn of those whose homes were not covered.

Bringing those issues and others to remembrance at the Passover memorial are well and good. However, we must not lose sight of the main meaning of the New



Testament Passover. When the apostle Paul shared Christ's instruction of the Passover, here's where his emphasis was: “Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me.” In the next verse he quotes Christ again as

saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25). Paul went on to say that by doing so, we show the “Lord's death.”

**Please see page 11**

## Rejoice With Me!

■ We never know what joys God has in store for us that are just around the bend.

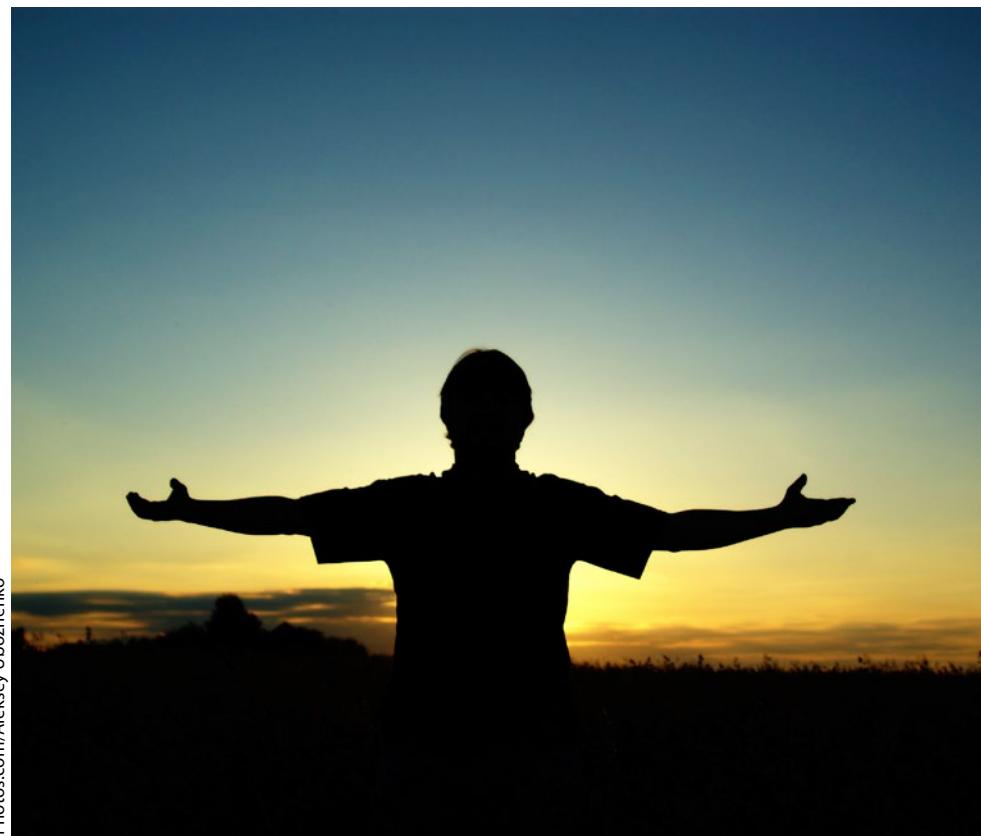
by Carolyn Prater

My oldest son died last summer. Surviving the loss of your child isn't easy, though we are greatly comforted by God's plan of what is to come. I tossed and turned and woke every hour the first few nights. I went for long walks by myself, just to relieve some of the stress.

But mostly, I prayed. So did many wonderful brethren, too. Soon I felt as if God had cradled me in His hand and I could sleep in peace again. Every card and hug meant so much more than I can say. “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26, New International Version).

I write not about the suffering part, which God has miraculously healed, but about the rejoicing. I know you will rejoice with me when you hear this story.

When I was a small child, my younger sister blurted out that our daddy was not my daddy, just her daddy. A relative told her this. I was shocked. But once I knew I had another daddy, I wanted to know all about him. I pestered my mother for all of the information I could get about who my father was.



Photos.com/Aleksey Ubozhenko

My mother gave me his name. He was a six-foot-tall blonde-haired German, she said. They were very young. Their parents had sabotaged their marriage. He joined the army, and her mother burned all his letters, save one, which my mother read to me. We treasured that letter for many

years. It was the only link I had to my blood father.

My father came home on leave and saw my mother and me—her new baby, at her family's gas station. He asked to hold me. It was too late to do anything else. My mother had already married. My father

kissed my head and touched my cheek. Handing me back, he turned quickly and left before everyone could see his tears.

All through my childhood, I dreamed of my father finding me some day. He would have figuratively come in on a white horse and saved me when times were bad. I wanted to find him, but I didn't know how to do that. I knew he might have a family now too. I wondered if I had other brothers or sisters. I knew I had an aunt and some uncles. I would have liked to have known them.

When I was baptized, most of the longing to have met my real father dissipated. I felt confident that I had a Father in heaven who was even better than a physical father. My Father could hear me at any time. He is always with me. One of these days, I thought, I would probably enjoy meeting the man who had fathered me, in God's Kingdom. I would get to talk to him then.

Time ticked by, and I had my own family. Then the Internet made getting information a whole lot easier. I was 42 when my husband bought our first computer. Every once in a while, I'd make a small attempt to find my blood father. But it wasn't a priority, because I had my Father in heaven.

In 2012, after my son had died, the

**Please see page 11**



**DENNIS LUKER**  
President

Christ's Passover and the wonderful Days of Unleavened Bread are almost here! LeeAnn and I wish you all a blessed Holy Day season!

We always look forward to these spiritual festivals as we annually renew our faithful commitment to our savior and the Father. Through all of God's Holy Days, but especially through the Passover, we have come to personally see God's hand in our lives.

Here are three ways to help you better see God's hand in your life too, and in the lives of all God's brethren.

### 1. God Loves All Mankind

Since God is our spiritual Father and *is* love, He loves humanity as a true and loving parent would. So it follows that the Father and Christ would show all people everywhere the ultimate *act* of love that leads to the ultimate *gift* of love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). As God's plan unfolds, that incredible love shows His hand in the history of all people everywhere.

### 2. God Loves Each of Us Personally

We are God's sons and daughters, His children, living for His Kingdom (see 2 Corinthians 6:18). He is the perfect Father and loves us each personally. Jesus loved His own disciples, and we are also His own



Photo: www.Ablestock.com

*So if Christ died and now lives to love each and all of us, then how can we do less for Him?*

disciples. "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:1). Christ and the Father love you and me very personally—now and always will.

### 3. Jesus Christ Loved Us With His Life and His Death

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Our Shepherd is our Savior who died for our sins so we could escape the penalty of second death. But we are saved

by His life (Romans 5:9-10). In that sense, Christ lives for us and deeply loves us daily. So if Christ died and now lives to love each and all of us, then how can we do less for Him?

Remember those words of God's personal love for you, dear brethren. Through that love you can see God's hand in your life now and in His soon-coming Kingdom. At this Passover season I am reminded of Paul's faithful statement: "For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). All else is details, but love God with all your heart, and you'll see His hand in your life. **UN**



## news from AROUND THE WORLD

# Aussies Work With Chinese Orphanage

by Maria Tyler

Recently, members of the Mackay, Queensland, Australia, congregation, Rob and Maria Tyler, spent a few weeks volunteering with the Chinese Orphans Assistance Team (COAT) in Jiao Zuo, Henan Province of China. COAT is to be distinguished from the Chinese government controlled orphanages. COAT takes children from the governmental institutions and brings them into the COAT family, which includes grouping the children with similar special needs, and placing them in a home with a rostered set of Ayis (care-takers). This way, the children are raised with other children who have similar needs and become familiar with the same set of Ayis—a family environment. Many of these children are given up by their parents as a result of the high cost of medical care in China. COAT currently runs six "family group" homes, called "Eagles'

Wings" homes because they want the children to rise high above the storms of life on "Eagles' Wings" and achieve the potential that each one is meant to achieve.

COAT was started by an Australian, Linda Shum, from Gympie, Queensland, six years ago. She first went to China to visit orphans 14 years ago, with a company called ICARE. When this organization moved to work in another area, Linda and her late husband, Greg, founded COAT. COAT is an incorporated body under the Department of Fair Trading in Queensland, Australia, and has full tax exemption and deductibility through a partnership with Global Development Group (GDG). Rob stumbled across COAT through a work colleague, who is Linda's nephew. COAT's base is in Gympie and it is run out of Linda's home, which keeps the Australian overheads to a minimum. Wages are their biggest expense, as COAT necessar-

ily employs more than 40 Chinese National staff, who are trained to care for the children in the way they need to be cared for. COAT's volunteers do not get a wage, and must be able to fund themselves.

Volunteering work involves looking after, providing therapy or other special skills for and to children of various ages and special needs, as well as improving their environment. COAT also attends to the medical needs of the children (which is their second largest expense), such as organizing for specialist operations, many of which have to be performed in another province. This is an extremely costly exercise, as Chinese hospitals aren't like those in Australia, where patients are fed, washed and in general, attended to by hospital staff.

Maria visited one of the Eagles' Wings babies in the local hospital and wrote this:

Please see page 10

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# Cynicism: An Enemy To Defeat

■ Cynicism is a very insidious affliction and will result in eternal death unless we repent of it.

by Donald Ward

Society has been trained to be cynical. No one trusts anyone else. We are continually reminded of our dishonesty. Leaders in virtually every institution you can name have had suspicion cast on their behavior. We have been taught to lampoon and poke fun at time-honored traditions and values. Nothing is sacred—everyone and everything is fair game for critical review. Unbridled criticism is the precursor of cynicism.

Are you cynical? Do you sit in the seat of the scornful (Psalm 1:1)? *The Free Dictionary* defines cynicism as an attitude of scornful or jaded negativity, especially a general distrust of the integrity or professed motives of others. One of the key words in the definition is the word “motive,” which can be defined as the reason and cause for one’s actions. The cynic believes that actions taken by organizations, and/or individuals are based on

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ulterior motives.

Is it any wonder that cynicism is one of the nation’s deadliest diseases?

Within the Church of God, we’ve had so many ups and downs in recent years that it would be easy to take up a seat with the scornful. But cynicism is a very insidious affliction and will result in eternal death

unless we repent of it. For some people, cynicism is part of their being—their psychological make-up. They have a need to be cynical and critical in order to feel complete.

Cynicism is in fact a form of self-righteousness, in that the cynic always knows a better way. If the cynic were in charge,

we wouldn’t be where we are today. The cynic criticizes and becomes bitter in his heart.

## Respecting the Messenger

What would it take for you to become cynical and sit in the seat of the scornful? God’s Word says, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1). The Hebrew word translated as “scornful” means to talk boastfully, to mock and to deride. It is the equivalent of cynical. God pronounces a blessing on the man that does not sit in the seat of the scornful—in the seat of the cynic.

But sadly, the pages of the Bible are filled with men who sat in the seat of the scornful and became cynical. God identifies these people in Jude’s epistle to the Church of God. “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ‘to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spo-

Please see page 12

# Children of Mercies

■ As God’s children, three ways we can practice mercy are providing physically for our fellow man, comforting those who need it and forgiving others who wrong us out of love.

by Roy Fouch

Of all God’s qualities, His mercy is probably the one that’s most endearing to us. It encompasses so much of our lives in so many ways: It is by God’s mercy that each one of us has an opportunity for eternal life. It is through God’s mercy that we are sustained in this physical life—the air we breathe, the sunlight to warm us and help us find our way, food to sustain us, covering to protect us.

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The word *compassion* is closely related to *mercy* in the Bible. The Greek word for compassion literally means “from the bowels.” It implies a visceral reaction to someone who is suffering. Mercy is a combination of this emotional feeling and the response generated from it. Jesus told the story of a man beaten and robbed, left to die (Luke 10:30). Two seemingly religious individuals passed by the man, but they offered no help. Then came a Samaritan, someone who belonged to a group of

people that was pretty despised in Jesus’ day. Jesus said that when the Samaritan saw him, he had compassion on him (Luke 10:33). He took action, tended to his wounds, and took care of him. After telling this story, Jesus asked the man he was talking to: “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same” (Luke 10:36-37).

The lesson for us is to not only be moved emotionally but to take action. This is

how God expresses His mercy towards us, and this is what Christ taught and did. Jesus displayed God’s mercy throughout His ministry on earth. In the beatitudes, mercy is a hallmark of Kingdom of God behavior (Matthew 5:1-12). “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Jesus added, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luke 6:36, New International Version).

Mercy is a part of God’s character that we need to admire, praise and love. Paul referred to God as the “Father of mercies” (2 Corinthians 1:3). Jesus Christ embod-

ied and manifested this attribute—one day, He faced crowds of people who were very needy. He had compassion on them “because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36, NIV). Today we might say His heart went out to them. He had a gut-wrenching feeling of compassion. Jesus acted on His feelings of mercy by giving them comforting words of hope, healing their illnesses, or feeding them.

As followers of Christ and sons and daughters of the “Father of mercies,” are we not called to be merciful as our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are? Three areas we can extend mercy in to others are physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Physically, we should mark James’ words: “Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well. Keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?” (James 2:14, NIV). James told us to take action where a physical need exists. We should apply this principle in our family, the Church and the world at large.

Secondly, providing for the emotional needs of others is an important to building relationships with people. Jesus Christ is referred to in Scripture as Counselor and

Please see page 13

# They Had to Kill Jesus

■ We must grow closer to the great God of loving kindness and mercy whose self-sacrifice gives us hope of eternal joy at His side.

by George Carter

Jesus Christ made it clear from the beginning of His ministry that He would not do away with the law, and He therefore went about removing the tarnish of man-made tradition in order to let the light of truth shine through. The legalistic Pharisees branded such truth as heresy. So they plotted to kill Him.

The Pharisees were basically defenders of the faith who devoted themselves to the honor of the one true God of Israel and maintenance of the law as they saw it. But in their fervor, they became self-righteous rejectors of the law of God. They imposed their own overbearing standards while they looked down on the general populace as uneducated and easily-led riff-raff.

We should understand that we are all just men and ludicrously incapable of defending God or His law. The Pharisees understood no such thing, but went about in their splendid robes, spouting their high-blown rhetoric, totally incapable of seeing themselves as the pathetic figures that they really were.

Pontius Pilate looked out on the reli-



gious turmoil that was Palestine in his day and rightly concluded that it was out of envy that the priests and Pharisees persecuted this popular preacher, Jesus of Nazareth.

An odd thing about people is that they have a tendency to make their own laws, even as they ignore the laws of God (or in

their self-righteousness, multiply laws in His name). The Pharisees were very good at that. Careful physical observance of the 613 commandments by their own rules was the essence of their religion. These decrees became revered traditions, kept alive by lawyers of great learning. They were proud of them.

We must be careful not to become like the Pharisees. One thing they hated so much about Jesus was that He was a man for *all* people. He had painted a picture of the future when men from every quarter of the globe would be invited to sit together in the Kingdom of God, while those who considered themselves worthy were barred from entry for all their “good works” (Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 13:28, 29). They were impressed with themselves, but Jesus Christ was not, which is why they decided that He had to go. And these vain men would use whatever means necessary to get rid of Him.

## Jesus' Kingdom Is Not of This World

Had Jesus stood up for Himself, the people might well have come to His aid. But He did not. His Kingdom was not of this world. It wasn't then and isn't now, but soon will be! Few people throughout time have really understood that. When people back then did try to make Him king, He slipped away and soon after that made some remarks that turned many against Him (John 6:15, 50-66). There was a sort of last-ditch revival four days before Passover when the crowds greeted Him with loud Hosannas on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:4-11), but Jesus disappointed them and didn't follow

Please see page 13

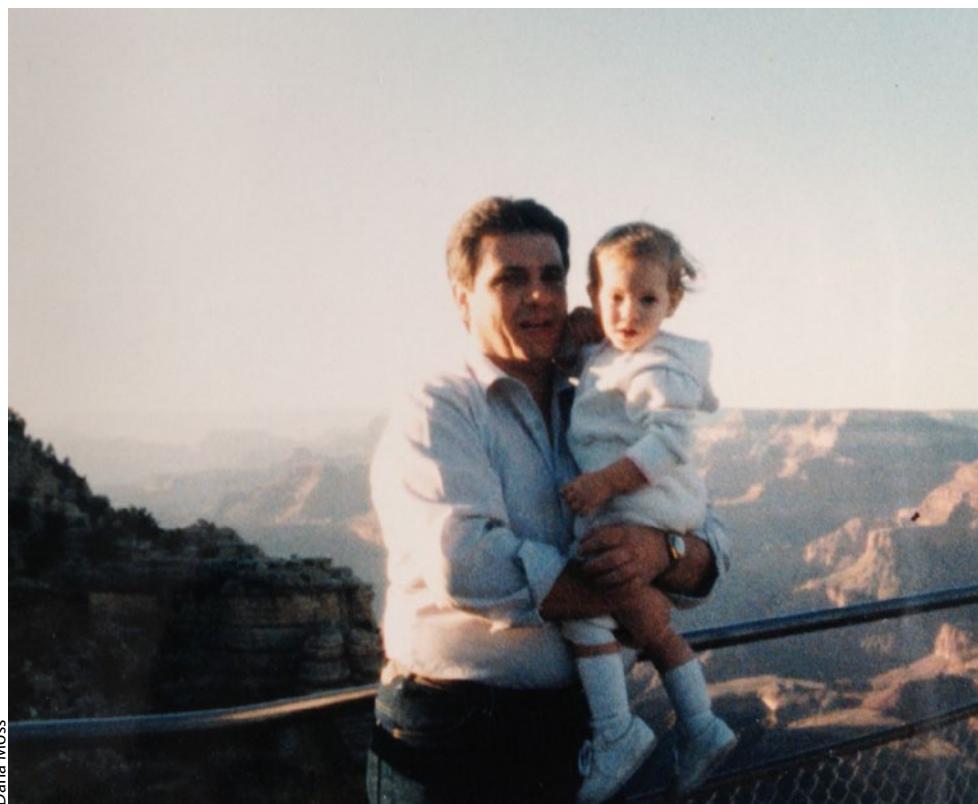
# Be Living Proof

■ There is a God in heaven. Are we living proof of that?

by Dana Moss

His name was Dan. He was in stage-four terminal lung cancer. Four weeks after his anointing the doctors were scratching their heads because there was no trace of cancer in his body. He kept a journal entitled “Observations On My Miracle by God.” In one entry he said: “Quirk? Coincidence? Luck? Those words don't make cancer go away. There by the grace of God go I. There is a God in heaven and I am living proof.” He kept that faith always, even until the next year when his cancer returned. This faithful man was my dad, and he died from lung cancer when I was only 11.

“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials...” (James 1:2) echoes through my head from time to time. Have you ever endured a trial that you thought was too tough to bear? Too heavy to carry? When God felt so far away? My life after my dad died gradually fell to shambles. Through my depression, sins and loss of faith I didn't heal for a very long time, but when I was 15 I remembered God. I remembered how my dad loved God's way and his unshakable faith. I wondered why he loved it, and I had to find out for myself if God's way was something I could love, too.



Dana with her father at the Grand Canyon.

## 1. You Are A Child of the Living God

“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there they shall be called sons of the living God” (Romans 9:26).

He is your Father, and you are His child. Our Father loves us more than anything. He will never leave you or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:8). His arms are open for you to run into, and He knows what we need before we even ask for it (Mat-

thew 6:7-8) and can't find the words to describe our pain.

## 2. You Are Given God's Living Word

“For the word of God is *living* and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, emphasis added throughout).

Use His living and powerful Word to defend against Satan, who thrives on our sin! Satan loves our sadness, our doubt, our anger towards God. But when you trust in God and believe in His Word, then you can fight any battle that comes your way.

## 3. God Has Given You Living Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a *living* hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

Don't give up. Our Father has mercifully given us living hope. He gave His one and only Son as a living sacrifice so that all men shall live! (John 3:16). God

Please see page 13

# Birth Defects: No Justification for Abortion

■ The residents of a care facility for people with disabilities opened my eyes and convicted me that quality of life arguments for abortion are absolutely wrong.

by Heather Disher

I was unprepared for the scene before me. To my right, a woman in her 40s sat cross-legged on the floor, leaning into the TV screen as she enjoyed her daily cartoons and cereal. She gave my class a shy wave; we were touring the care facility that she had called home for many years. We heard a soft, pitiful cry of a newborn as the six-foot-tall man in the next room had his diaper changed. As I examined the homey environment, our guide turned our attention to the figure seated in the back of the room. “Sean” was reclined in an easy chair, holding a walkman. He wore headphones and a dreamy smile. I remember his new, white, unscuffed sneakers and his brown unruly hair. But mostly I remember his eyes. They weren’t there. I scanned back and forth over his face, my mind reeling from this revelation. The hollows where they should have been were just...blank.

Sean’s caregiver explained the cause, I’m sure, but truthfully I don’t remember. Whatever the cause, he was born this



Thinkstock

way, and it was all he had ever known. His legs were twisted inwards and he had never walked. His hands were curled and distorted. He was “profoundly mentally retarded.” He could neither bathe nor feed himself. He was in his mid-20s but had the functional capacity of an infant.

Some advocates of abortion would say

that a person like Sean could not possibly have any quality of life; that it is selfish to give birth to such a child. What does life have to offer you if you can’t walk, talk, see, or reason? I can’t speak for everyone, but I know a little bit of what Sean’s life was like.

Sean likes music. His “family” at the

care home brings him new songs to listen to, but he also has his favorites. Sean likes going to the movies. He and his housemates go to the theater once or twice a month. He can’t see the images, but he can hear the music and dialogue, and he likes the smell of popcorn. He is shown love and affection in every way that he can receive it, and it showed on his tranquil, joyous face. There are many things that he can’t do, but still many things that he can.

Does Sean matter? Is he important? Does anyone care that he was born? The answer is yes. Absolutely yes. In Matthew 10:29, God shows that all life is precious to Him. “What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.”

Although you and I lead lives much different than Sean’s, we all share the same future. When Christ returns, we will all be judged for the choices we are making now. What will Sean have to answer for? No one can know. But I know one thing for sure: We will all answer for how we treat people like Sean. For the way we use or abuse our power over the weak, the small, and yes, the unborn. **UN**

*This was originally posted to UCG.org as a web-first article on Dec. 7, 2012*

## How Smooth Are You In God’s Hands?

■ A wooden spatula gave me a splinter, which made me stop and think about our purpose as tools in God’s hands.

by Debbie Werner

One morning I was cooking some eggs for breakfast. I grabbed my wooden spatula from the canister next to my stove so I could flip the eggs. Ouch! A jagged piece of the wooden handle unexpectedly gave me a granddaddy of a sliver. After breakfast I put the just washed spatula aside so that the jagged edge could be sanded down. Utensils aren’t allowed to bite back in my household—and I needed to fix the problem.

This incident got me thinking about how sometimes God needs to sand down our spiritual, emotional and mental jagged edges. Sometimes He does this through trials. As anyone who has accidentally caught some skin while sandpapering knows, this can hurt. But trials are ultimately for our benefit as Paul pointed out when he wrote, “No discipline seems pleasant at the time: but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:11, New International Version). The key is to allow the trials to remove things in our lives that make us less usable tools in



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*We should be helping each other gently smooth out any rough edges, exercising wisdom and kindness as we do so. Any roughness in our characters not only hurts God, but those around us, including those we love.*

God’s hands.

Sometimes God sands us down through interactions with other people in conversations or by learning what to do or not

to do by their examples. A proverb speaks to this directly: “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friends” (Proverbs 27:17). We should be

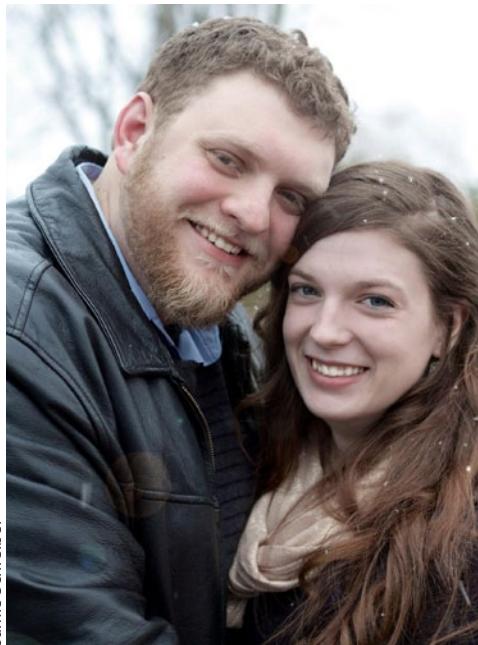
helping each other gently smooth out any rough edges, exercising wisdom and kindness as we do so. Any roughness in our characters not only hurts God, but those around us, including those we love.

Similarly, through Bible study, meditation, prayer and fasting, we can smooth out the rough edges in our own lives. This is the ideal way to learn and grow since it involves the least amount of pain. If we don’t seek to learn this way, God will find a way to finish the work He has started in us (Philippians 1:6) in a more painful way. After all, He doesn’t want to have to say this about us: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for me...” (Hosea 4:6). A useless tool that cannot be fixed should and will be thrown away.

So what’s the ultimate result if we yield to these methods of smoothing down the rough edges in our lives? We become the perfect tools that God wants us to become. We are fully usable for the purpose He has uniquely designed for each of us. So the next time it feels like God is sandpapering my life in some way, I’ll hopefully think back to this incident and remember that He’s doing it for my own good. God doesn’t let His spiritual tools bite back either. **UN**

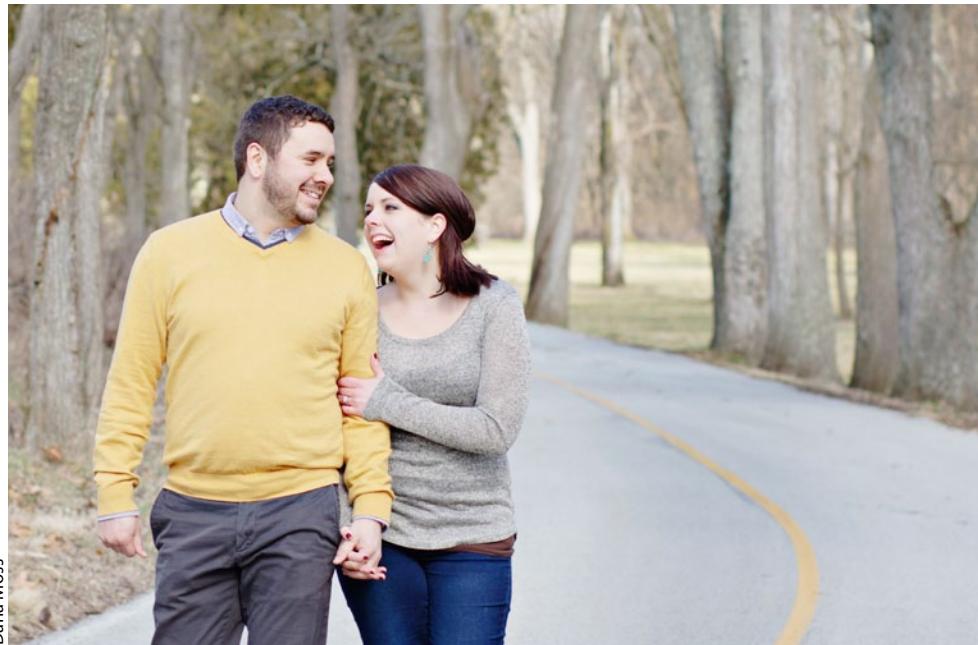
*This was originally posted to UCG.org as a web-first article on Feb. 19, 2013*

# Announcements



Jamie Schreiber

**Scott Buchanan and Lauren Kelly**



Dana Moss

**Matt Hernandez and Kristen Rich**

## Engagements

**Scott Buchanan**, son of Hugh and Boni Buchanan, is engaged to **Lauren Kelly**, daughter of Stuart and Tammy Kelly. Scott and Lauren, both of Cincinnati, Ohio, plan to be married on May 26, 2013, in Cincinnati.

**Matthew Hernandez**, son of David Hernandez and Roxana Smith, is engaged to **Kristen Rich**, daughter of Daniel and Jeanette Rich. Matt, who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Kristen, who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, plan to be married on Aug. 25, 2013, in the Raleigh area.

## Obituaries

**Richard Lee Bazemore** died unexpectedly of a heart attack on Jan. 12, 2013, in Siguatepeque, Honduras.

He was born in Talladega, Alabama, on Oct. 1, 1949, a son of Virgil and Edna Bazemore.

He is survived by his wife Dolores, sons Jonathan (Sylvia) and Richard David, of Greeley, Colorado, grandchild Kristen (daughter of Jonathan and Sylvia), oldest brother Glen Bazemore, nephews Ken and Jeff Bazemore and families, cousins Carol Backus and Stanley McClellan Bazemore, Allan Pernel and Conny Pernel.

He grew up in Greensboro, Alabama. Richard was always interested in trying new hobbies, and this spilled over into his employ over the years. One of Richard's not so well known jobs was in radio. Not only did he have a small radio station in his home, but he was a DJ for WSGN—"the Big 610"—in Birmingham, Alabama, known by his airtime name *Jon Bass*. People used to pass by his home blowing their car horn to let him know they were listening.

He attended and graduated from the University of Livingston in Alabama, majoring in economics and history.

He and Dolores were married Sept. 20,

1974. Both he and his wife were baptized by Ken Martin in June of 1975 in Birmingham.

He moved to Honduras in 1977 working for Phifer, a wire company with offices in San Pedro Sula. In 1979 he took employ with APGreen, working with a well known geologist. At this time he began to become keenly interested in refractory. He noticed that many of the areas in Honduras contained clay that worked well in making the bricks that would work well in high temperature ovens. He and Dolores started a refractory business that grew to a well known company in the years that followed.

He and his family moved to the central mountain city of Siguatepeque in 1999. Richard was well known as a faithful servant and hard worker, both in and out of the Church of God.

He and his wife were instrumental in maintaining contact with the many members in Central America, and have been a very key part of the support structure of Latin America for decades. Richard was also well known for his continual contact and correspondence with many brethren

in the United States via e-mail and Skype. Although the only members in Honduras, they faithfully observed each Sabbath connecting via sermons and webcast with United congregations in Latin America and the United States.

Those who have known Richard will miss his presence, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles in Central America, where frequently he could be seen sitting talking with young and old alike about the Kingdom of God.

Public funeral services were held at *Jardines del Recuerdo* in San Pedro Sula on Monday, Jan. 14, by Guatemala pastor Israel Robledo. A private family memorial service was held on the Sabbath, Jan. 19, at the Bazemore home in Siguatepeque, with Scott Hoefker officiating.

**Lillian Elmer** of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died on Jan. 24, 2013. She was 83. Born Lillian Jeanette Jones on Dec. 15, 1929, to Floyd and Susie Jones in Ferndale Michigan, she was one of 10 children.

Although she grew up during the Great Depression and World War II, she had many happy memories of her childhood

and often shared those memories with her own children.

She met Eugene Elmer (deceased 2010) through a friend, and they married on Oct. 27, 1951. Eugene was in the Navy at the time, and after the wedding they moved to Washington State where Eugene was assigned on a naval base. After completing his duty in the Navy, they moved back to Michigan, where they began their family.

They had four children, Candice (Chuck) Bartley; Patricia (John) Kosmalski; Katrinka; and Kraig. Lillian also had four grandchildren: Jill (Kevin) Daugherty; Joanna (Chris) Gordon; Jeff Kosmalski; and Kyle (Sarah) Bartley; and four great-grandchildren: Garrett, Carter, Reece and Brennan.

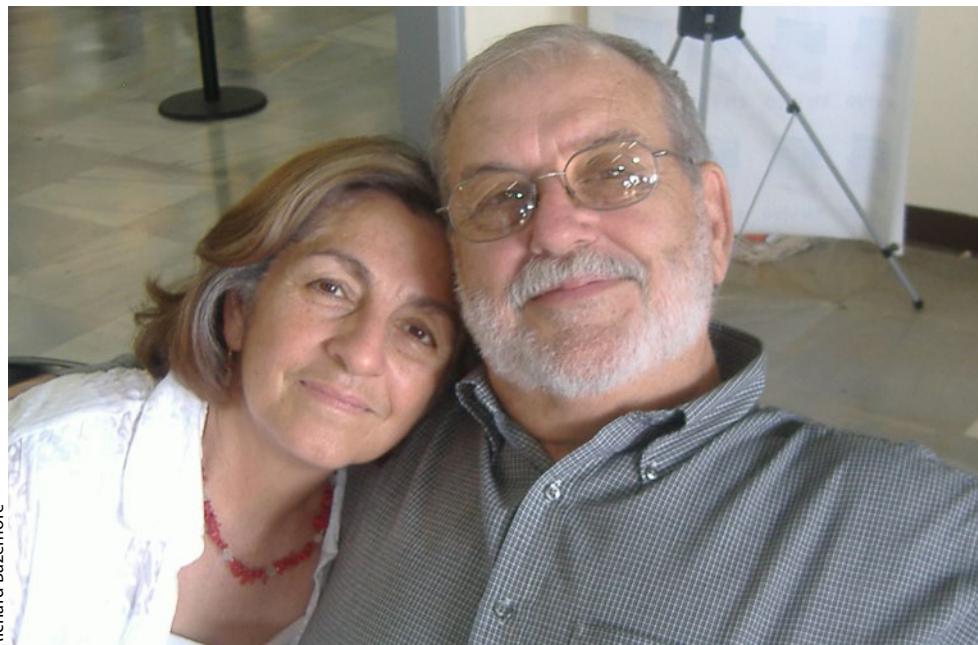
Lillian was, for the most part, a stay at home mom. She and Gene enjoyed taking their young family camping. Many very good family memories were made on those regular camping trips.

In 1972, Lillian and Gene began keeping the Sabbath and attending a Sabbath-keeping church. She was baptized on April 3, 1983. With their family grown, they began to travel the world with trips to Jordan, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Austria, Israel, Mexico, France, Switzerland, Spain, Uruguay, Thailand, Kenya, Turkey, Chile, Costa Rica, China, Greece, Peru, Egypt, many Caribbean islands and many states in the United States including Hawaii. She really enjoyed these trips and was always willing to go on an adventure such as riding a camel, donkey, horse and an elephant.

Most of these trips were taken in conjunction with the Feast of Tabernacles. On many Feast trips, Gene and Lillian would take whatever gifts they thought might be a blessing to the other Church members they would meet at the Feasts, especially when the location was not as blessed physically as we are in the United States. Gifts such as Bibles, toys, coloring books, shirts, flashlights, just to name a few, were much appreciated by the local brethren they felt privileged to meet.

Lillian made friends wherever she went and kept in touch with many whom she met on her world travels. She was an active and dedicated member of the UCG Ann Arbor, Michigan, congregation. She

**Please see next page**



Richard Bazemore

**Richard Lee Bazemore**

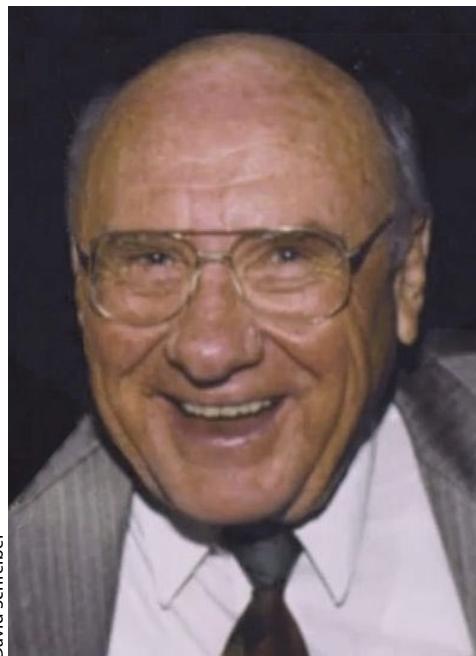


John Kosmalski

**Lillian Elmer**



**Charles Leonard Reed**



**Bob Schreiber**

David Schreiber

**Continued from page 7**

had a strong faith in God, and we are all looking forward to seeing her in God's Kingdom.

**Charles Leonard Reed** died Nov. 14, 2012, at the Palm Drive Hospital in Sebastopol, California. Everyone affectionately knew him as "Charlie" in the Bay Area churches. A memorial service was conducted on Dec. 8, 2012, at the Masonic Center in Oakland by pastor Jim Tuck.

He was born to Elmer and Dorothy Reed on Oct. 1, 1931, and grew up in a family of 13, with four girls and seven boys. They lived in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where his father, Elmer, grew up. His father was a pastor of the local Baptist church.

In 1942 during the height of World War II their family moved to California. In August of 1951, Charlie met his loving wife-to-be, Janet, when friends set up a date for them. A year later Charlie was drafted, and he became a marine. During his entire tour of duty he was blessed to remain on the mainland of the United States. He and Janet kept in touch through regular letter writing and weekend leaves. They eloped and married on Jan. 25, 1954, on one of those weekend passes, and neither of their parents were surprised because of their love for one another.

Temporarily they lived in Costa Mesa and eventually moved back to the Richmond area, where he worked for Pabco Linoleum Company. Later he began working in drywall finishing in the construction business. They bought their first home in Richmond and moved in on their first anniversary. They had three children, Nora Lynnett, Mark Leonard, and Peggy Ann.

In 1958, Charlie began listening to Herbert Armstrong on the radio on the way home from work, and he started receiving *The Plain Truth*. He began tithing to the Radio Church of God, though he did not know there was a local church. In 1974, Garner Ted Armstrong came to

San Francisco, and he received an invitation to a Wednesday night Bible study in Oakland. In 1975, Charlie stopped working on the Sabbath and began attending the Oakland church. He was baptized in August of 1978, and Janet was baptized in January of 1980. They moved to Hercules for a while, which is close by, and later to Sebastopol, where they had a home with acreage.

Charlie began singing in the choir right away, as he loved music. He began giving sermonettes in 1984, and he served in various ways, regularly spoke and later led songs in the Santa Rosa and Oakland congregations almost to the time of his death. Many enjoyed hearing Charlie's down-to-earth and solid biblical messages on the Sabbath.

Janet and Charlie have four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Charlie will be greatly missed by his family and his Santa Rosa and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area Church brethren.

**Bob Schreiber** of Albert Lea, Minnesota, died peacefully on Jan. 25, 2013, at the age of 87. The funeral service was held on Jan. 30, 2013. His son, David Schreiber, officiated. A special tribute was made by two of his sons: Todd and Steve Schreiber. His grandchildren sang: "As For Me and My House" in his honor.

Bob was born on Jan. 6, 1926, to Edward C. and Anna (Peschek) Schreiber in Wagner, South Dakota. He attended Wagner Public Schools. In high school he played the trumpet in the band, was on the debate team, was in the chorus and dramatics, played varsity basketball and football (going to the conference championship) and all the while found time to work 40 hours per week in a drug store. Following graduation in 1944, he served in the United States Army during the final stages of World War II in Europe. After the war he worked for a short time for the Veteran's Administration before accepting a traveling sales position with Bahr's, a beauty supply house based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It was during one of his

sales calls that he met his future bride. On April 23, 1949, he was united in marriage to Marjorie Mae Bosshardt in Faribault, Minnesota. Together they lovingly raised six children: Sue Fakler, Steve Schreiber, David Schreiber, Todd Schreiber, Karrie Christopherson and James Schreiber.

Bob worked for Bahr's for eight years before opening his own supply house, Bo-Dean Beauty Supply, with his partner Dean Borland in 1955. He greatly enjoyed his profession and continued in sales for over 60 years. Sports were a favorite pastime, particularly golf. Bob had a passion for driving and taking care of his cars. He was especially passionate about spending time with his family and friends.

Bob's faith in God and his commitment to his beliefs were very important to him. He started an intensive study of the Bible in the late 60s and began a deep relationship with his Creator that lasted over 40 years. He became a baptized member of the Church of God in 1972. He served faithfully as a deacon for many years and attended United Church of God services until his health no longer permitted it. He loved the brethren and attending services was the highlight of his week.

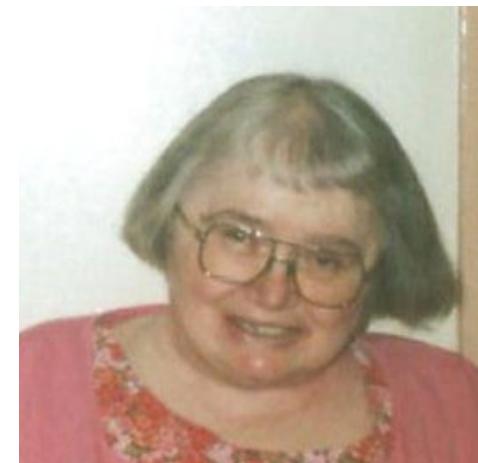
Bob was a very friendly and jovial man. He loved people and was well loved by all who knew him. A devoted family man, he was married to the love of his life, Marjorie, for 62 years. He had a remarkable ability of letting his family know how special each one was and was always encouraging and uplifting. Bob also had an extraordinary way of relating to each person and sharing their interest as if it was his favorite pastime.

Bob touched the lives of so many people and will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his children: Sue (Jerry) Fakler of Osage, Iowa; Steve (Louise) Schreiber of Rochester, Minnesota; David (Jolinda) Schreiber of Albert Lea, Minnesota; Todd (Sarah) Schreiber of Rochester, Minnesota; Karrie (Mark) Christopherson of Albert Lea, Minnesota; and James (Dawn) Schreiber of Albert Lea, Minnesota. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Randy Fakler, Rich (Courtney) Fakler, Mara (Chris) O'Byrne, Andy (Heather) Schreiber, Scott Schreiber, Brian Schreiber, Jamie Schreiber, Kelley (Justin) McGinnis, Jonathan (Cassie) Schreiber, Christopher Schreiber, Micah Conti, Angie (Grant) Erlandson, Brittany Schreiber, and Kelsey Schreiber; and six great-grandchildren. Also surviving are sister Leonilla Christopherson, sister-in-law Mildred Schreiber, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marjorie, and three brothers: Neil Schreiber, George Schreiber and Richard Schreiber.

**Linda June Watkins'** physical life ended on Jan. 31, 2013. Linda had been a resident of the Baptist Memorials Retirement Center in San Angelo, Texas, for several years and had been under hospice care for the last two years.

Linda was born on May 5, 1944, to Evans and Addie Watkins. Linda had



**Linda June Watkins**

been born with several debilitating health issues and was not expected to reach her teen years. However she graduated from Cross Plains High School in Texas and went on to work in several jobs before her handicaps became so severe that she had to live with her sister Lou Ellen Morris in Odessa, Texas, for several years. After the death of Lou Ellen's husband she moved to San Angelo, Texas, to live with her sister and brother-in-law Albert and Fannie Wilson until her health dictated that she move to the retirement center, where she died.

Linda was baptized into the Worldwide Church of God in 1994 while living in Odessa. Linda endured many trials and problems showing true Christian spirit during all of them.

Her favorite scripture was James 1:12: "Blessed is the man that endures temptation: for when he is approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him." Linda will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

Graveside funeral services were held on Feb. 1, 2013, at the Cross Plains cemetery, officiated by Clyde Hubbard.

Linda is survived by her sister Lou Ellen Morris of Odessa, Texas, and her sister Fannie and Albert Wilson of San Angelo, Texas. Her surviving nephews are George Watkins of Cross Plains, Texas; Robie Morris of Austin, Texas; David Morris of Odessa, Texas; Raymond Wilson of Anathem, Arizona; Philip Wilson of Charleston AFB, South Carolina; and Louis Wilson of Abilene, Texas. Her surviving nieces are Theresa Darden of Big Spring, Texas; and Julie Drainer of Odessa, Texas. She was preceded in death by her parents, Evans and Addie Watkins, and one brother, Jesse Evans Watkins.

**Announcements:**

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



# Local Church UPDATES

## Munster Fun Show 2013

The Munster, Indiana, church held its 18th annual Fun and Talent Show on the evening of Jan. 5. This year's program featured a wide variety of performances. In addition to a number of musical and vocal presentations the acts included ballet, individual comedy and oratory, family comedy skits, the Spokesman's Club Olympic Water Ballet (minus the water) and a special guest appearance from Elvis.

*Tom and Vicki Sroka*

## Brethren Gather for Winter Luau

It may have been chilly outside, but inside it was a tropical paradise as UCG members in North-Central Idaho hosted their first Lewiston Luau. Our tiny congregation of less than a dozen swelled to more than 40 as brethren from the Spokane, Washington, area joined us for great food and warm fellowship Sabbath, Jan. 5.

During Sabbath services, songleader Ben Jorgensen shared some Hawaiian proverbs and taught us the meaning of several Hawaiian words such as *aloha* (besides meaning "hello" and "goodbye," it can also mean joyfully sharing life), *mahalo* (besides "thank you," it can also mean "in the presence of the Divine"), and *kahuna* (a priest or expert in a profession). The sermonette was given by local deacon Sam Morden and focused on Philippians 2:3: "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." Spokane elder Paul Moody gave the sermon, titled "Trees of Righteousness." When we flourish and produce good fruit, it glorifies God. The kind of tree we want to be is a rooted tree that produces fruit and prospers. Mr. Moody went on to say that righteous trees are not intended to stand alone, and that UCG is a grove. We provide benefit and strength to each other, and we need to develop relationships with each other that will help us grow.

Following services we were treated to a bevy of delicious food with a tropical flair, and a dessert buffet with a wide range of pies and cakes, including a cake shaped like an erupting volcano. With dinner completed the tables were rearranged and small groups formed for games such as Apples to Apples, Risk, Hedbanz and others. During the games we enjoyed snacks and non-alcoholic strawberry daiquiris and pina



Michelle Mickelson and Sean Iiams were awarded "pineapple people" for being the best dressed at the luau. Photo by Gina Jorgensen

coladas.

The event was a great success, and we look forward to making this an annual event.

*Gina Jorgensen*

## Southern Minnesota's 16th Annual Youth Day and Winter Social

On Feb. 23, 2013, three area congregations: Southern Minnesota; La Crosse, Wisconsin; and Cedar Rapids, Iowa; hosted the 16th Annual Youth Day and Family Winter Social at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, located near Rochester, Minnesota. Our churches were richly blessed to hear a wonderful sermon about "Learning to be a king by being a servant," given by our guest speaker, Aaron Dean. Local teens Dylan Riess and Matthew Yule shared song leading. Opening prayer was given by Daniel Jacobsen. Sermonette messages were given by Joel McNair and Cody Martin from the Twin Cities congregation. Then we heard a harmonious vocal trio by Carson Whynaucht, Lauren McNair and Joel McNair, which was followed by a hymn



The teen choir performing at the Southern Minnesota youth day.



The winter social in Southern Minnesota included a horse-drawn sleigh ride, snow tubing and a game of bingo (pictured).

sung by a youth choir directed by Rich Fakler. Closing prayer was given by Brett Wood.

After sunset the "All American Winter Social" began with the serving of a delicious meal made up of sloppy joes, hot dogs, various salads, chips, drinks and a whole table full of tasty desserts. Evening activities began with snow tubing—there were 40 young people (and a few "young at heart") who endured the bitterly cold temperatures out on the hill. Two days before the event, God blessed us with several inches of fluffy snow, which made the sledding hill perfect for the event. Others who were less adventurous went on a peaceful horse drawn sleigh ride through the trails. The outdoor activities were followed by a rousing game of bingo enjoyed by brethren of all

ages, with special prizes for all the winners.

Cooperation and fellowship were at an all-time high, and by the end of the event it was apparent that it had been a huge success, proven by the room-full of happy, smiling faces.

*Gayle Baylor and Dagmar Howe*

**Local Church Updates:** Send us news and events from your local congregation! Check with your pastor and have him forward what you write. We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred)** or **give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.



Above: Australian member Rob Tyler with the children at Eagles' Wings 6, who have mobility special needs. Below: Maria Tyler with children in Chirala, India.



Continued from page 3

"In China, once the doctor is done with you, you are on your own. You basically just get a bed and a section of a room. The doctor comes around once a day to check on you. So usually one of your family members will stay with you and look after you while you are in hospital. This baby had an Ayi staying with him. He is also going for surgery to fix his double cleft lip in a few weeks, so we have to get him healthy again so that he is ready for surgery, as he must travel to another province for the surgery (no hospital in Henan province does it).

"The work can be physically and emotionally challenging. I admire how the Ayis can do this 24/7. While there, I decided to work with one of the babies only recently taken from a government orphanage. I noticed she had trouble with her muscles, for example, she couldn't hold her head up. So I decided to teach her how to crawl. I positioned her legs, and made her use her

hands to hold her upper body up. It was extremely tiring for her, but eventually, she held herself up for a few seconds all on her own! I felt like I had accomplished something, as she was then much more mobile for the remainder of the afternoon, waving both her hands and her feet around—previously, she had just lay there the whole time."

This was Rob's second time at Eagles Wings. Since his first visit in April 2012, a number of the children had been successfully adopted out to American families, and COAT staff were getting ready to receive more children from the government orphanages. COAT are always in need of assistance in any form, and Rob and Maria would encourage the experience there.

"While we were at Eagles Wings, some of the World Racers came through ([www.theworldrace.org](http://www.theworldrace.org)). They visit 11 countries in 11 months and help out wherever the help is needed. They started in Haiti, with



Maria with Eagles' Wings 2 children.

earthquake rebuilding, and were to finish in the Philippines working with rescued women teaching them new life skills. This is not a tourist trip. It is a chance to serve others. As the world racers say, 'It's not about you, it's about the Kingdom.'"

Rob and Maria also spent some time travelling to small villages in India with Dave and Jolinda Schreiber (of Minnesota), before and after their Feast in Chirala, India. During these travels, they visited an orphanage in Guntar, India, which is, among other things, in need of bedding for the children. Rob and Maria are happy to provide further details of any of the above and can be contacted by e-mail at [m.tyler@cqu.edu.au](mailto:m.tyler@cqu.edu.au).

## UCG-British Isles National Council Meeting Report

The National Council of United Church of God-British Isles met on Sunday, Feb. 17, using Skype. All Council members and officers were satisfactorily linked together.

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved. Matters arising from earlier meetings were reviewed for progress.

CEO David Fenney presented a report in three sections:

- **Church/congregations/ministry:** Our congregations continue to be supported. Planning for our congregations that do not meet weekly to do so at some point is ongoing. This is not simply a cost issue, but a factor of where our elders and lay leaders and current and potential attendees live in relation to those congregations.
- **Proclamation:** Further Kingdom of God Bible Seminars will be held in several of our congregations in or around June and November 2013. A coworker and friends letter was mailed this month, and a subscriber letter is planned. Royal Mail postage increases are expected in April.
- **Administration:** An extension to the lease of Peterson House in Chalfont St. Giles has been signed. A preliminary review of health and safety

issues related to our office premises has been carried out.

Office manager Jan Schroeder highlighted details from the January 2013 monthly circulation report, commenting that with little advertising and a high non-renewal rate our *Good News* subscription list will reduce from a high of around 8,500 copies to an anticipated 3,300. The recent co-worker and friends letter offering the booklet *This is the United Church of God* and article reprints on the subject of prayer has received a 20 percent response rate so far.

In the financial report, treasurer Barbara Fenney highlighted our accountant's review of the Church accounts for the financial year-ending June 30, 2012, and also presented the profit and loss account for the 2012-2013 year up to December 2012. The income is holding up fairly well, and expenditure is generally as budgeted.

**Media and Internet Committee:** David Payne reported on two issues the committee has concentrated on: the ongoing need to have up-to-date content on the <http://ucg.org.uk> website and possibilities for online streaming of Sabbath services and linking congregations using Skype or similar technologies.

**Policies and Procedures Committee:** Carl Torcetti presented a draft health and safety policy, which would primarily be applicable in the Church's office and storage premises. Annual updates to the Church's child protection (safeguarding) policy and practice guidelines were reviewed and accepted.

The Council will next meet on June 16, 2013, in Polesworth, and the date for the Annual General Meeting was set for Aug. 18, 2013.

## Annual General Meeting, UCG-Isle of Man

The United Church of God in the Isle of Man held its Annual General Meeting the week of Feb. 11. Lyn Johnson gave the chairman's report, which highlighted the work of the Church over the last year. Highlights included: two Kingdom of God Seminars; print advertising using a local magazine, *Manx Tails*, and online advertising using Google; the use of Skype to connect the Isle of Man and Carlow, Ireland, congregations, as well as servicing scattered brethren not only on the island but as far afield as Germany and South Africa. Eloise Howard gave the treasurer's report and also presented a budget for 2013. The officers of the charity were re-elected: chairman Lyn Johnson, secretary Laura Rowles and treasurer Eloise Howard. A new constitution was agreed upon, which will be put to the Isle of Man Charity Commission, seeking their approval. **UN**

## 7 Tips to Prepare for Passover

Continued from page 1

in faith, but also look back and reflect on the turns our new life has taken since we made our decision. Are we still going in the right direction?

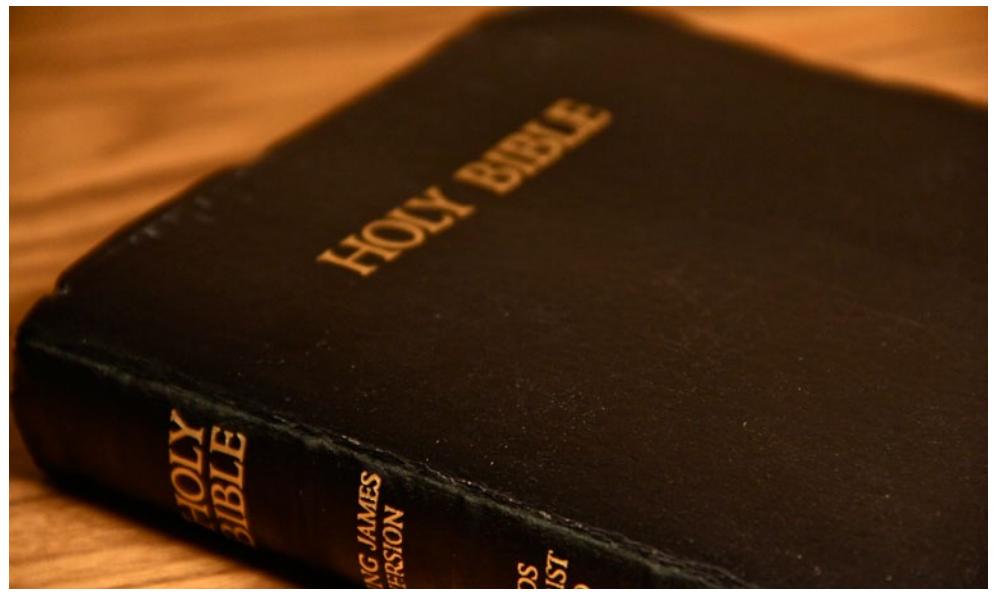
5) **Be thankful for the great sacrifice that was made for each of us.** Be thankful for a life without guilt, without a past to haunt you. Be thankful that you are free to serve God and fulfil His purpose without any doubts or fear. Prepare by thanking God each day leading up to the Passover and Unleavened Bread that we have been freed from sin, freed from the judgements

of others, and freed from self-condemnation.

6) **Each day during the Feast, pray and ask God for His thoughts.** What does he want you to know? What does He want you to do? Write down what you are learning during the Feast, and anticipate each day as a learning experience.

7) **Use these Feasts as a springboard for your spiritual growth during the coming year.** We don't know what the year will hold for us. Will we be prepared? Will this just be another year in the Church—same prayers, same sermons, same behaviour, same problems, same habits, same attitude?

Make a difference this Feast. Prepare for it! **UN**



## Do This in Remembrance of Me

Continued from page 2

Paul did not say, “This do in remembrance of your baptism.” He did not say, “This do in remembrance of the Israelites being protected from death.” The New Testament emphasis needs to be on remembering the death of Jesus Christ.

Our major focus as Christians needs to be on appreciation of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice. Certainly, we need to thank the Father for being willing to give Jesus up for us (John 3:16). Christ gave up being equal to God to take upon Himself the form of a servant (Philippians 2:6-8). He also knew before the foundation of the world that He was going to have to become our Savior (1 Peter 1:18). He is our propitiation (atonement), and His sacrifice is also available to the world when they are called, believe, repent and accept Him (1 John 2:2).

Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus Christ in chapter 53 reveals that He would not be appreciated or esteemed by His people.

*Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus Christ in chapter 53 reveals that He would not be appreciated or esteemed by His people. We dare not allow ourselves to be guilty of not appreciating Him and His sacrifice on the day set apart in remembrance of Him and His death.*

We dare not allow ourselves to be guilty of not appreciating Him and His sacrifice on the day set apart in remembrance of Him and His death on our behalf. Here are some reasons to appreciate Him as we prepare for the Passover season.

- He was willing to give up being the *logos* with God for us (John 1:1-2, 14).
- He left His glory behind to become

- a servant for us (Philippians 2:6-8).
- He was tempted like we are so that He might be a faithful High Priest to us (Hebrews 4:14-16).
- He set us an example and was never guilty of sinning. He kept His Father's commandments (John 15:10; 1 John 3:5).
- He suffered before death to take upon Him our diseases and infir-

- mities (Matthew 8:17).
- He died in the most painful manner humans devised at the time to taste death for all of us (Hebrews 2:9).
- He dwells with the Father and ever lives to make intercession on our behalf (Hebrews 7:25).
- He will share His glory with us when we are changed at the resurrection (Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2).
- He's coming back for us to join Him in bringing peace to this world (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 19:11-14).

The bullet points above give us all a start to appreciating Jesus Christ and remembering Him at the Passover. It's great to know that any time, any where, we have a Savior who is willing to forgive us and care for us as long as we repent and believe in His grace. Please add to the list as you remember Him this Passover and each Passover. Remember the words the apostle Paul quoted: “This do in remembrance of me.” Let's all make sure we appreciate and remember Jesus Christ and His great sacrifice for us on Passover evening! **UN**

## Rejoice With Me!

Continued from page 2

1940 U.S. Census was released. I've got this little genealogy habit. It's like putting together an endless puzzle. And since my parents were born in the 1930s, they would be on this census! And so, on a Friday, I started dabbling around. I knew my parents lived on the same street. I quickly found my father's family. I was sure I had the right person. In an hour and a half, I knew his family line back to 1790. It was really fantastic!

I went into the next room and told my husband the good news. I asked him if he thought I should try again to find my father. He told me to go ahead while there was still time. And of course, the Internet has now come up with even easier ways to find someone.

I typed my father's name and state on Facebook. I came up with about seven people by his name. I looked at them carefully, and there was one person that would be about his age. So I sent that person a short message. “Looking for family. Did you know “my mother's name”? Is your



father...?” And then I waited.

By the time we came home from Sabbath services, seven weeks exactly after my son had died, I checked the site and had an answer! “Yes, I knew her. We both lived on Lockwood Dr. And who might you be? [Later, he told me he had already known the answer.] Here is my e-mail address. Please get in touch with me as soon as possible.” My heart was beating

so fast!

I pounded out an e-mail. I told him I think he is my father. I told him that I'm 57 years old now. I have a rare blood type. Just to confirm the paternity, would he mind telling me his? I was sorry to tell him my mother died a little more than a year before. I told him a little about myself and about my family.

Immediately, I received an answer

back—yes, yes, I *am* your father! He had my blood type! He told me his wife died earlier in the year—it was the same date as my son's birthday, my son who died. This man not only welcomed me, he embraced me and my whole family! He had looked for my mother and me, but had not known her name change and future moves she had made. I have two younger brothers by my father. He gave me his phone number and asked me to call him as soon as I would. I had to calm down and think about this for a little while!

I finally called his number. He had that wonderful, rich Texas accent that I love and grew up around. I could tell he thought before he spoke. He called me “Ma'am” (I miss Texas). There was joy on both ends of the phone. We both cried tears of happiness! I had been different from everyone else in my family. But we have found that I am so much like this man that it borders on the ridiculous! We have laughed and talked! In fact, we have talked on the phone for an hour or two almost every day since then. My father has become one of my heroes, as all

Please see next page

## Rejoice With Me!

Continued from page 11

fathers should be to their children, and as our Father in heaven is to all of us.

My father does have cancer, and for a few minutes, I was sad about that. But I have every confidence in God, who has proven that we can have every confidence in Him, that He loves my father and will take care of my father too. I thank all my brethren in advance who will pray for my father's health too.

I've often avoided talking about religion to others that I meet. But with holidays coming up, I thought I'd better tell my father that I don't keep those days, so that he wouldn't wonder why he didn't get a card. He was overjoyed about that too! He wanted to know more and more about my beliefs. These were questions he'd had for most of his life!

And as soon as he knew about clean and unclean meats, he threw all of the unclean

*The way all of these things worked out is nothing short of a miracle. The timing was perfect. The encouragement my father and I have both felt is a great gift from God!*

out of his house! As soon as he knew about pagan holidays, he removed them from his list of things to do! He began carefully observing the Sabbath from sunset to sunset. I was impressed and amazed! He wanted the booklets from UCG and has studied diligently. He watches our services through the webcast! I'm overjoyed about all of it!

The way all of these things worked out

is nothing short of a miracle. My father had only been on Facebook for a few months, and he was thinking of closing his account. The timing was perfect. The encouragement my father and I have both felt is a *great* gift from God! It seems as if all the years have melted away. It seems as if we have always known each other. I have learned a lot more about God from getting to know my father. Families reflect

a little bit about what the God family is like. It's so wonderful to have someone who loves you so much, and you love them that much, too. God's love for us must be so much more, and that love is so powerful! You know someone has your back. God has our backs!

Recently, my younger son and I got to go down to Texas and meet my father in person. We talked, we laughed and sang together. I told my husband that if you know me, you know my father because we are both just alike in personalities. I understand more about what Christ meant when he said, "He that has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Without having met him before, in my remembrance, I already knew my father. It took a short time to meet him. In a short time, we will meet our Father, though we already do know Him. We never know what joys God has in store for us that are just around the bend! Rejoice! **UN**

*This was originally posted to UCG.org as a web-first article on Jan. 24, 2013.*

## Cynicism: An Enemy To Defeat

Continued from page 4

ken against Him.' These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage" (Jude 14-16).

One major reason people become cynical is because they perceive that there are double standards at work. Yet there will be double standards as long as humans are in the flesh. By contrast, there are no double standards with God. The standards of God and Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word of God do not change. He is faithful. With Him there is no variation nor shadow of turning (James 1:17).

Paul wrote, "Let God be true and every

and you hear it, you had better take heed. Isaiah wrote down the proper view of His Word: "For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word" (Isaiah 66:2).

You may not respect the messenger, but you had better respect the message—the Word of God. Cynicism toward the messenger can be forgiven if repented of, but to be cynical toward God's message is to flirt with the unpardonable sin.

### Respecting the Message

In each generation, people think that if God were to speak to them, they would

either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your 'Yes,' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No,' lest you fall into judgment" (James 5:12).

### Love of God

Another reason people become cynical is because they have not developed a loving, sincere relationship with God and Jesus Christ. They allow the various ups and downs of organizations and men stand in their way. And sadly, oftentimes they are looking for an excuse to criticize and justify their actions. But we must never allow any excuse, reason or cause to separate us from being faithful to our covenant relationship with God and Christ.

When you repent of your sins, are convicted of the truth by the Spirit and Word of God, are baptized, and exercise faith in the sacrifice of Christ for remission of

of ulterior motives.

Satan's cynicism began long before the days of Job. He was at the very throne of God as the anointed cherub that covered (Ezekiel 28:14-17). He looked at his self-perceived importance, beauty and wisdom, and said in his heart that he shouldn't play second fiddle to anyone in the universe. Revelation 12 reveals that he drew one third of the angels with him in his rebellion. Rebellion can be caused by dropping words of doubt and by becoming cynical and bitter.

After Cain murdered his brother because of jealousy, God asked him, "Where is your brother?" Cain cynically replied: "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). But God clearly instructs throughout His word that we *are* our brother's keeper. And we should love one another fervently with no ulterior motives. Note the words of the apostle Peter, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart" (1 Peter 1:22).

### Cynicism Can Be Defeated

All the enemies of faith can be defeated. And every excuse for being cynical can be conquered. We can develop the same mindset that is in Jesus Christ. In fact, we are exhorted to have the same mindset as Jesus Christ and follow his example (Philippians 2:5).

Having the mind of Christ begins with examining ourselves in God's spiritual mirror. We can hide the Word of God in our hearts and meditate on it. We can control our thought patterns and focus on the things that edify, exhort and comfort.

We can follow the admonition given by the apostle Paul, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8). **UN**

man a liar" (Romans 3:4). In other words, the truth of God (the faithfulness of God) does not change because of the actions of men.

Will you let the actions or words of imperfect men take your crown? It's a terrible irony that for a cynic, it is often the very person or situation they are cynical about who takes their crown. They become so cynical that they cannot separate the Word of God from the messenger. It can be easy to think that if the messenger is imperfect, it nullifies the message. Jesus' detractors used this tactic against Him. They called him illegitimate and accused him of being demon-possessed.

But when the Word of God is spoken

listen. But when the Living Word was on the earth and speaking directly to them, they would not listen and take heed. Christ warned the cynical Pharisees to clean up their act—to stop trying to impute evil motives, to stop trying to trap Him (Matthew 23:29-33).

Time after time they came to Him with a statement or a question filled with double meaning. "Master, we know," or "the law says"; "show us a sign"; "by what power..." They were speaking cryptically, with hidden meanings. They spoke with nuance and innuendo, saying one thing, but meaning another. God's warning against double talk is very clear: "But above all, my brethren, do not swear,

sin, you enter into a covenant with God and Christ. You make the commitment to crucify the flesh and live by the Word of God. If you persevere and finish the race, a crown awaits you in the resurrection.

### Cynicism's Insidious Results

In the first chapter of Job, Satan comes before the throne of God. God asks Satan if he has considered His servant Job, who He says fears God and shuns evil. Satan replies: "Yes, Job fears God, but not without good reason!...But take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!" (Job 1:9, 11, New Living Translation). In other words, Satan cynically accuses Job of serving God because

## Children of Mercies

Continued from page 4



*“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:12).*

Comforter. We too can comfort with our words when we know someone is going through a rough time, like the death of a loved one, a health issue, an employment issue or a trying relational issue. We can show mercy by listening, encouraging and giving them emotional support. Fellowshiping can be a powerful way to give this support.

Thirdly, demonstrating mercy spiritually can be practiced in so many ways. One way we can express this godly principle in our relationships with people is the power and process of forgiveness. This could include those who may have hurt us in our youth or offended us in our adult lives. Paul emphasized this when he wrote: “Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,

gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:12-15, NIV). He went on to point out what binds all these together is love—outgoing concern for others.

We learn from the Bible that what we receive from God, we are to extend to others: forgiveness, comfort, mercy, encouragement, providing physical necessities, and emotional support and love in its many forms and expressions. Let’s consider how we can extend mercy to the needy, fatherless, poor, widows and broken-hearted, so we can truly be children of mercies, representing our Father of mercies. **UN**

*This was originally posted to UCG.org as a web-first article on Feb. 17, 2013.*

## They Had to Kill Jesus

Continued from page 5



Photos.com/Lisa Thornberg

*And when all has been accomplished according to the plan that God put in place before beginning, He will make new heavens and a new Earth. And the days of pain and sorrow and fear of death will be no more.*

through. He was not the mighty man they had hoped for.

The people back then were no more ready for a gospel of peace or a Kingdom that demanded adherence to the law, self-sacrifice, and the love of enemies than we are today. Jesus might be called the greatest hero of all time, and so He is, but it’s difficult to understand just what His sacrifice means. He gave up His equality with God to become a human being, with a finite life span. He gave up His role as the Creator of the universe to die on a stake. And He did it to become the One through whom we might receive eternal life. Passover thus became the beginning of God’s plan of salvation.

This is why Jesus had to die; that we might be released from the fear of death

and have the chance to be transformed into everlasting children of our Father in Heaven. And when all has been accomplished according to the plan that God put in place before beginning, He will make new heavens and a new Earth. And the days of pain and sorrow and fear of death will be no more. This wonderful vision and His Father’s Spirit carried Jesus Christ forward and sustained Him throughout His ministry as a man, including that final dreadful day of crucifixion. As we approach Passover again this year we have opportunity to refresh our commitment to God. We should remember the gravity of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made. And we must grow closer to the great God of loving kindness and mercy whose self-sacrifice gives us hope of eternal joy at His side. **UN**

## Be Living Proof

Continued from page 5

believes in you. You can get through any trial if you keep God close to your heart just as Jesus did when He endured the cross.

### 4. You Are A Precious, Living Building Block of the Body

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4).

God has intricately placed you with care to help build up His spiritual House, because you are precious to Him, and He

*If it weren't for this huge trial in my life, I'm not sure I would even be here trusting in God; that I can move mountains with Him on my side.*

wants you to be a part of His family. Continue building *your* spiritual house on God’s mighty foundation of rock (Matthew 7:24-27), and remember to allow God’s guiding hands to take you down the righteous path—even through the trials.

For me, I want to be living proof; for my Father to say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21, 23). But I also want to be a part of God’s Kingdom so I can see my dad again. If it weren’t for this huge trial in my life, I’m not sure I



would even be here trusting in God; that I can move mountains with Him on my side. God healed me and changed my life. Quirk? Coincidence? Luck? Those words don’t make pain, suffering, depression and sadness go away. There by the grace of God go I. There is a God in heaven and I am living proof. **UN**

*This was originally posted to UCG.org as a web-first article on Jan. 22, 2013.*

## Letter from the President

Continued from page 1

seeking a second term as president. The Council was very gracious in accepting my decision and expressed much support, gratitude and encouragement.

When I was named president by the Council nearly three years ago, our Church was facing severe challenges. I am profoundly grateful that the living Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, has led us through the past crisis and has now blessed us with growing strength, stability and unity. The Council is already preparing to place into motion our systematic and thorough process of selecting another president. You will be hearing about this shortly from Robin Webber, chairman of the Council of Elders.

What are my plans from here? God willing, I do plan to complete my term, which ends on June 30. Afterwards, LeeAnn and I will return to our home in Seattle, Washington, and spend more time with our family. Our son lives in Portland, Oregon. Our daughter is in the Seattle area where we also have five grandchildren and three great-grandchil-

dren. So, we will be returning "home" to our family whom we have greatly missed. If I am unable to complete my term, per the Church's bylaws the chairman of the Council will serve as interim president until a new president is selected.

I will not be returning to pastor a church (I will be 76 years old), but I will continue to serve as an elder in every way possible. LeeAnn and I have served together in the ministry for 50 years this coming June. We will continue to serve God's people to the best of our ability as long as God gives us health and strength.

I will close this personal letter with a heart-felt thank you for your incredible faith and dedication to God and His Church. Your love, prayers and support are very encouraging to all of us here at the home office in Cincinnati. LeeAnn and I send our love and gratitude to you all!

Sincerely, in Christ's service,  
Dennis Luker

### Follow-Up Letter

In a follow-up letter, Mr. Luker wrote to inform the Church of his health condition and his decisions for treatment. Below is his second letter regarding his health:

Our dear beloved brethren,

Thank you for the outpouring of love and concern that we have already received from so many of our wonderful friends in the faith. The e-mails and cards have been especially comforting.

The doctors have run an extensive battery of tests to determine Denny's health situation and we are now able to let you know what we are facing. Unfortunately, all indications are that he has a



very aggressive form of cancer. The exact location, type and origin are not yet fully determined, but it has metastasized to several organs. Treatment options are still being explored.

Denny's life is in God's hands, and those are always hands of love and mercy. We continue to seek His will and guidance and we know that Jesus Christ is watching over each one of us and knows how to complete His perfect work in each of our lives. The upcoming Passover service reminds us that our hope and salvation is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let everyone of us rededicate ourselves and take the symbols of Christ's body and blood with renewed faith and commitment.

Denny says, "I am at complete peace and have confidence in God's love, mercy and grace, and trust that His will be done." Your prayers are very much appreciated as we deal with the many decisions we are facing.

Thank you all so much for your wonderful love, prayers and support at this time.

With much love,  
Denny and LeeAnn

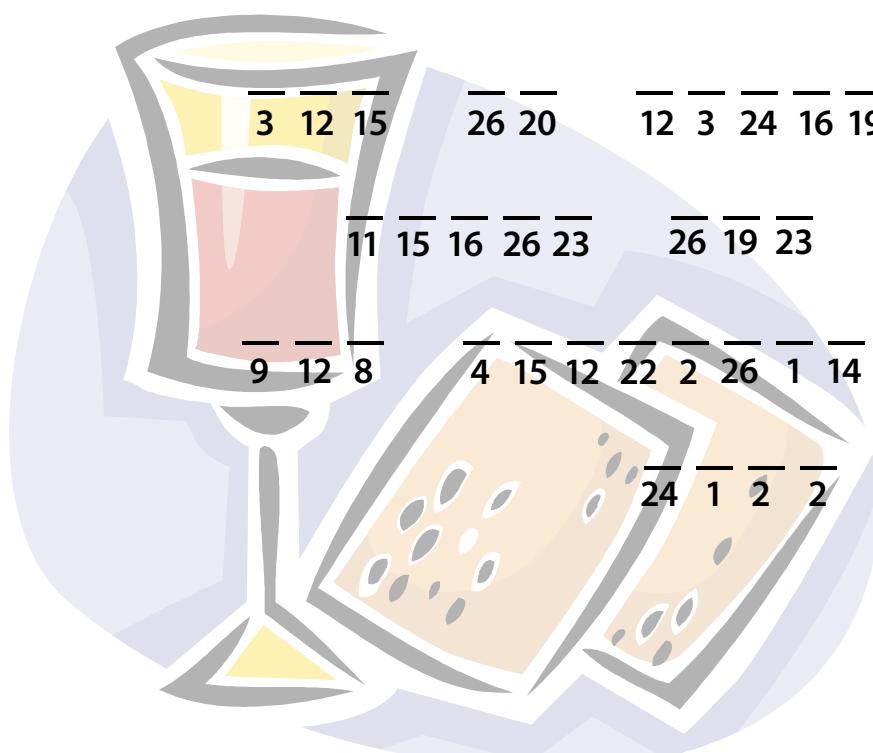
Children's  
Corner

# Passover Cryptogram

Each letter of the alphabet has been assigned a random number. Underneath the boxes is a sentence, taken from 1 Corinthians 11:26. Fill in the blanks with the letters of the alphabet, using the key.

### Key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
26	11	22	23	16	3	21	18	1	10	6	2	14	19	12	4	7	15	20	24	8	25	13	5	9	17



3 12 15      26 20      12 3 24 16 19      26 20      9 12 8      16 26 24      24 18 1 20  
 11 15 16 26 23      26 19 23      23 15 1 19 6      24 18 1 20      22 8 4  
 9 12 8      4 15 12 22 2 26 1 14      24 18 16      2 12 15 23      20      23 16 26 24 18  
 24 1 2 2      18 16      22 12 14 16 20

**Council of Elders  
February Meeting  
Reports and Video  
Available Online**

The Council of Elders came together the week of Feb. 25 for their quarterly meeting. On the first day of meetings, they heard reports from each of the operations managers of the Church and heard from committee chairmen reports.

On the second day, they discussed the strategic plan, discussed budget matters and balloted on the strategic plan.

On the third day, they discussed spiritual gifts in preparation for the upcoming General Conference of Elders, the theme of which will pertain to spiritual gifts. They also held a question-and-answer session with the staff and ABC students, during which the primary topic addressed was Mr. Luker's announcement not to serve a second term as president.

The fourth day of meetings, the Council balloted to release a statement regarding the Days of Unleavened Bread, discussed having a joint Feast of Tabernacles site with Church of God Ministries, International, in Tobago, discussed by-laws and amendments, and wrapped up the day with miscellaneous items pertaining to various matters.

The full Council report and video recordings of the meetings are available on the Council of Elders website at

well-known places of interest, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Grand Central Terminal, the HighLine Park, Wall Street, Freedom Tower/9-11 Memorial, etc. For those who wish to stay, a visit to beaches at Coney Island or Atlantic City is planned for Monday and/or Tuesday. To pre-register, please provide us with your input on which locations you'd like to tour as a group on Sunday and Monday by completing the pre-registration form/survey at [www.nyccogyoungadults.org](http://www.nyccogyoungadults.org). Your feedback will determine which locations we visit.

A registration fee of \$100 will be collected starting April 1 to secure our Sabbath venue and to fund the following evening's activities. Please e-mail [registration@nyccogyoungadults.org](mailto:registration@nyccogyoungadults.org) or contact Jesse Kuczynski at (347) 684-8918 for further information. Photos from last summer's event are on our Facebook page—search for the group "NYC COG Young Adults." If you enjoy the fast pace and cosmopolitan grandeur of the big city, or even if you aren't sure, join your brethren for a weekend in the City That Never Sleeps!

Take a risk, THINK BIG!

*Jesse Kuczynski*



ABC alumni serving at the Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati. Alumni coordinate service projects for various causes each year. ABC is accepting applications now—attend this fall for the experience of a lifetime!

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

*Mitchell Moss*

**An Experience of a  
Lifetime Awaits You at  
ABC!**

Ambassador Bible Center means a special opportunity to grow in biblical understanding and to develop godly character. ABC means opportunities to grow in leadership and service. ABC means having the opportunity to forge lifelong friends who are on the same journey as you in learning the Word of God in an institution that cares for you. At ABC, we are accepting applica-

tions for the 2013-14 academic year. The deadline for applications is July 23. If you need an application, you may write for yours at: P.O. Box 54992, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45254-0992. Or simply go to <http://abc.ucg.org> and download an application. You may e-mail us at [gary\\_antion@ucg.org](mailto:gary_antion@ucg.org). Or if you prefer, please call Gary Antion, the director of admissions, about any ABC-related information. You'll want to get your application in as soon as possible to have the maximum amount of time available to prepare to attend if you are accepted. We look forward to hearing from you concerning your desire to attend this dynamic program in biblical studies.

*Gary Antion*



The attendees of last year's first annual NYC young adult weekend posing in front of the Brooklyn Bridge



Above: Council members Roc Corbett and Mario Seiglie during one of the meetings of the Council of Elders. Below: ABC students and office staff during the Council Q&A session.

# What's New In MEDIA?

## ■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Airing Period
<i>Who Is Jesus?</i>	Darris McNeely	March 10-16
<i>Is Spiritual Leavening in Your Life?</i>	Gary Petty	March 17-23
<i>How Christian is Easter?</i>	Steve Myers	March 24-30
<i>Christ's Resurrection: Our Hope of Life</i>	Darris McNeely	March 31-April 6
<i>The Sabbath in History and Prophecy</i>	Darris McNeely	April 7-13
<i>You're Probably Not Saved—Yet</i>	Steve Myers	April 14-20
<i>A Thief in the Night</i>	Gary Petty	April 21-27

## ■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On March 4, Internet manager Aaron Booth reported the following stats for UCG Web activity:

- 47,466** total Facebook fans.
- 35,477** total Twitter followers.
- 1,091** videos posted on YouTube.
- 2,423,418** video views on YouTube.
- 209** Bible FAQs posted.
- 1,108,341** Bible FAQs views.
- 688** e-mail campaigns (*This Is the Way*, UCG Weekly

Update, *GN* Newsletter, *WNP* E-news) sent. **913,124** clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns. **255,473** booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store and Barnes and Noble. **74,559** booklet downloads from Amazon's Kindle Store. **4,517** *Good News* iPad app downloads.

## Featured Links

■ **UYC 2013 Camp Teaser Video**  
<http://uyc.ucg.org/content/2013-camp-video-teaser>

We are super excited about seeing you this summer at one of our teen or preteen camps situated across the United States and the world. The most recent issue of the *United News* gives a summary of the information found at the United Youth Camp website.

For teen camps, the online application process will open in just a couple weeks—and the preteen camp paper applications will be available soon also. In the mean time, enjoy a little video teaser of the camp program. The 2013 Camp Video will be sent to church congregations at the end of March. In the meantime, enjoy your winter!



**UYC Camp Teaser Video**

# UNITED NEWS



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 20:** Festival Planning Brochure available online
- March 25:** Passover
- March 30:** Southeast Regional Prom, Nashville, Tennessee
- March 26-April 1:** Days of Unleavened Bread
- March 29-April 1:** Families For God Weekend, Minnesota
- April 12-14:** Atlanta Women's Enrichment Weekend, Georgia
- May 4-6:** General Conference of Elders, Cincinnati
- May 19:** Pentecost
- May 26:** ABC graduation, Cincinnati
- June 22-24:** Second Annual NYC Young Adults Weekend, New York City

## SECOND ANNUAL NYC YOUNG ADULTS WEEKEND

### June 22-24

Beginning on the Sabbath of June 22, and lasting through Monday, June 24, the theme is "Think BIG—Take Risks for Growth."

Activities being planned include at least two interactive seminars based around the above theme, as well as a formal dance after the Sabbath. Sunday will include visiting three or four well-known places of interest. To pre-register, please provide us with your input on which locations you'd like to tour as a group on Sunday and Monday by completing the pre-registration form/survey at [www.nycocgyoungadults.org](http://www.nycocgyoungadults.org). Your feedback will determine which locations we visit.

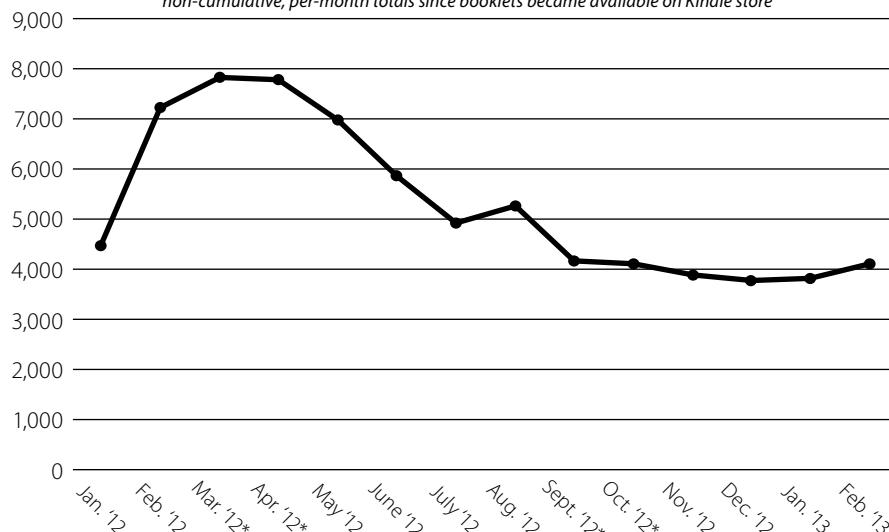
A registration fee of \$100 will be collected starting April 1 to secure our Sabbath venue and to fund the following evening's activities. Please e-mail [registration@nycocgyoungadults.org](mailto:registration@nycocgyoungadults.org) or contact Jesse Kuczynski at (347) 684-8918 for further information. Photos from last summer's event are on our Facebook page—search for the group "NYC COG Young Adults."



## UNITED STATISTICS

### Digital Booklet Downloads from Amazon Kindle Store

*non-cumulative, per-month totals since booklets became available on Kindle store*



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