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United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

Vol. 10, No 8

www.ucg.org

September/October 2004

News At a Glance

Compass Check Popular on the Web

The weekly home office Compass Check meetings, which include an encouraging message on keeping our "spiritual compass" focused on God's way of life, have become a popular addition to the ucg.org Web site.

On May 10, the first Compass Check was posted in video format for both broadband and dial-up Internet connection users. The first one contributed over 580 views to the total 1,200 video views for May. Over the next few months video views increased to 1,800 views for June and 2,200 views for July.

The majority of the video views, 75 percent, come from visitors who are requesting to view the "ondemand" streaming video at broadband Internet connection speeds. It is interesting to see the trend toward higher-speed Internet access, as experts had predicted.

Each Compass Check video is posted on the Web site for four weeks.

Aaron Booth

Media Center Fund Growing

"It's been encouraging and exciting to see the fund for our proposed Media Center start from having just a few dollars back in July, to the current total of \$83,371!" said Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager. This special, restricted fund was approved by the Council on July 7. At the end of July, the fund totaled \$3,224 and then by the end of August grew to \$81,530.

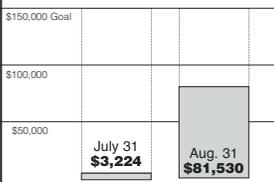
The Media Center will be akin to a television studio, where weekly programming will be recorded for streaming video onto the Internet and broad-

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United Statistics

Media Center Restricted Fund

(to contribute, note on your check that it is for the "Media Center" or "Video Studio")



Council Completes Media Philosophy and Much More

This article is excerpted from daily reports by the Council reporter, which are available on the Web at www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm.

by Don Henson

The Council of Elders began its latest set of quarterly meetings Aug. 25 at the home office in Milford, Ohio.

President's Report

Roy Holladay began his report to the Council by summarizing his trips to Ghana (see "Ghana Welcomes 10 Visi-

tors," page 3); Camp Hye Sierra in California; Montana for Pentecost; and Colorado Springs, Colorado, to give marriage seminars.

He reported on ABC 2004 and mentioned that so far 23 students have been accepted for next year's ABC program and five other applications are being processed. There is normally an influx of applications after the Feast of Tabernacles, so ABC is on pace for 35 to 40 students for 2005.

The 10th summer of United Youth Camps has just been completed, with approximately 600 campers and 300

staff participating—a slight decline from 2003 because there was no Challenger camp in the Tetons this summer.

The Church's Good Works Program was started this year. Completed projects include raising funds to provide a roof for a church building in Ghana and the purchase of a van. Current projects include the purchase of food reserves and water purification systems for members in Kenya and the construction of two church buildings in Cameroon.

The first education conference was held in March of this year, with 23 par-

ticipants. Based on topics discussed in the meetings, Mr. Holladay intends to develop a five- to 10-year plan that will be evaluated and adjusted each year.

Mr. Holladay concluded his presentation by discussing some of the challenges and opportunities the Church faces today.

One of our greatest opportunities is the continuing development of our teens and young adults. Trends indicate that the Church is retaining a higher percentage of our young people now than in

See "Council," page 2

35 ABC Students Graduate Aug. 8



Award winners Cheryl Tootle, Freda Taggart, Mary Ann Miller, Terry Hayes, Daniel Peabody (photos by James Capot)

The Ambassador Bible Center class of 2004 graduated Aug. 8. After a welcome and invocation by ABC coordinator Gary Antion, the student representative, Thomas Campbell, asked, "Why are we here?" Why does the Church invest in ABC, and why do students give up so much to attend? He noted that this year's class was always asking questions, giving them deeper understanding of priceless biblical knowledge. He encouraged his class-

mates to keep asking questions and to remember where the answers are—in the Bible.

Academic officer Ralph Levy's address encouraged the students to continue to serve. The Council of Elders Service Award was presented by Les McCullough to Freda Taggart, Cheryl Tootle and Terry Hayes. The Ambassador Award of Excellence was presented by Roy Holladay to Mary Ann Miller and Daniel Peabody. **UN**

13 Couples Attend Third Leadership Workshop

The third annual Leadership Workshop took place over the Labor Day weekend from Sept. 2 to 6. This year 13 couples were invited, bringing the total for the three years to 54.

Fred Crow, from the San Jose, California, congregation, summed up the first day of classes with one word: "Wow!"

Clyde Kilough, chairman of the Council of Elders and one of the presenters, said this year's smaller group seemed very responsive.

The topics of the five days of classes and the names of 12 of the couples were listed in the article "12 Couples Invited to Third Leadership Workshop," page 16 of the August *United News*. The 13th couple is Dennis and Paula Horlick from Toronto, Ontario.

Richard Pinelli, Ministerial Services



Gary Antion speaks with Paula and Dennis Horlick; the workshop attendees in class Sept. 2 (photos by Michelle de Campos)

operation manager, told the Council of Elders Aug. 25 that there have been good fruits from the workshops. Seven

of those who participated in previous years have been hired into the ministry and two were ordained elders. **UN**

Media Statistics Highlight Growth

■ Millionth address added to U.S. address file; 3 millionth booklet printed.

Friday, July 30, the mail processing staff added the millionth person to the U.S. address file. In the last 12 months 176,894 were added, and half a million have been added since September 2001. It took more than six years to reach half a million, but less than three years to double that.

Here are some 2003-2004 fiscal year statistics Peter Eddington presented to the Council of Elders Aug. 25.

- Total incoming mail: 466,148, up 27 percent.
- Pieces of literature mailed from home office: 449,553, up 45 percent.
- Booklets printed: 440,000, bringing the total to more than 3 million.
- Bible Study Course lessons printed: 160,000, for a total of 1.02 million.
- Print promotions mailed: 7.5 million, up 30 percent.
- Internet requests: 122,827, a 133 percent increase.
- Good News readers signed up for monthly e-letter: 10,264, up from 582 just 15 weeks ago.
- Internet personal correspondence: 1,131 answers sent, up 21 percent.
- U.S. members or associated with UCG: 16,728, up 12 percent since 2000.
- World News and Prophecy: 26,273 subscribers, up 24 percent. **UN**

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News At a Glance

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casting on cable television. You can read more about the project in the August *United News*. The chart on page 1 shows progress toward the goal of \$150,000.

Feast Webcasts

Webcasting of services at the Feast of Tabernacles can be accessed through the Web site www.ucg-fot.org/2004.

Bible Readings to Resume Dec. 1

Following the August 2004 issue, the Bible Reading Program will be replacing regular Scripture readings with supplementary literature until Dec. 1, at which time regular readings will resume.

This is due to a persistent production schedule problem that has been difficult to resolve. We hope that the publication of the supplementary material for the next three months will give us the time needed to catch up on regular commentaries and eliminate the need for all but the planned festival breaks in the year.

Please bear in mind that keeping on schedule requires writing about one commentary each weekday. As you can imagine, this is a rather tall order, so your prayers for God's direction and empowerment are needed and appreciated.

The fall program change will also give us time to evaluate survey input and use it to refine the program where warranted. Thank you to all 1,216 people who filled out the survey.

Tom Robinson

E-mail Updates Show Significant Growth

We are seeing significant growth in new people signing up to receive our weekly UCG Web Site updates and UCG Member updates. We currently have 9,135 subscribers to our www.ucg.org Web site updates, a 50 percent increase over the past six months. This service provides our users with the latest new items on our site. About 120 new people are signing up each week!

In addition, there are 8,005 people receiving UCG Member updates, which gives members updates of Church news and other important developments. You can sign up for either service by simply going to our Web site at www.ucg.org or visiting our updates page at www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm.

The *Vertical Thought* e-mail update alerts teens and young adults to new material posted at verticalthought.org. This service has 1,018 subscribers.

A very exciting development is the number of *Good News* readers who are now signed up to receive our monthly

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the past, and many are anxious to be involved with and participate in the Church.

There are many growth opportunities in international areas, where the greatest limitation is manpower and the amount of budget available to support the growth.

The Church has faced challenges over the last few months, as well. The home office administrative staff has been discussing how to deal with these situations on two levels. The first is how to make information available. Personnel issues can be delicate and any public discussion of them must take into account biblical, moral and legal standards. Recent communication on the subjects of the winter family tournament and the evangelism conference are examples of a more proactive approach that is being taken. Consideration is also being given to developing teams that are trained in conflict resolution that could be sent to help mediate situations that arise.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Kirkpatrick presented the Council with a detailed final report on the budget and the auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004. Auditors once again gave the Church an unqualified ("clean") financial report (see details of the financial reports on pages 7 and 8).

The 2003-2004 fiscal year ended with income at just less than half of one percent (0.4 percent) above the budgeted amount and expenses at 98 percent of the budget. This enabled the Church to add about \$500,000 to its cash reserves. By this coming fall, it appears that the Church will be able to reach the goal (established by Council resolution) of establishing a cash reserve equal to 10 weeks of expenses.

Dr. Kirkpatrick reported that two budget categories finished the year over budget—health care and insurance, and international subsidies.

The budget for the current fiscal year calls for a 2.25 percent increase in total income over last year's total. Compared

to the first eight weeks of last year, the income for this year-to-date has been stable, with a slight upward trend. Income showed a 1.12 percent increase (through Aug. 26). He explained that we are early enough in the fiscal year that these percentages can change quite a bit from day to day, but the overall trend has been encouraging.

Ministerial Services

Richard Pinelli reported that there are currently 93 U.S. field pastors, serving 223 congregations—an average of about 2.5 congregations per pastor. Average Holy Day attendance is approximately 12,500 and average Sabbath attendance is 10,200 to 10,400. There is about a 2 percent growth in attendance over the previous year.

Ministerial Services finished the fiscal year \$258,000 under budget due to fewer transfers than last year and because qualified candidates have not been available to fill all open positions. There were two new hires last year. Mr. Pinelli said he is hoping to fill a Ministerial Services position at the home office. He would like to hire someone with field pastor experience, but that will be difficult since the Church is already short on pastors to serve the congregations.

The summary of educational projects included video Bible studies that are being prepared on the topics of marriage, biblical textual development, the intertestamental period and the covenants. The next ABC class tapes that will be sent to the congregations are the General Epistles and the class on Daniel and Revelation.

Media Report

Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager, also reported on a number of statistics on the growth in preaching the gospel using various media and the Internet. See "Media Statistics Highlight Growth," page 1.

Amendment Process Recommendations

Robert Dick introduced Roc Corbett, who recently resigned from the Amend-

ment Committee after serving as chairman for six years. Mr. Dick emphasized that Mr. Corbett has handled with integrity and dedication one of the most difficult responsibilities in the committee system.

The Council of Elders invited Mr. Corbett to the meeting to afford him an opportunity to share his experiences, observations and suggestions regarding the amendment process.

As he started his presentation, Mr. Corbett provided each Council member a copy of Bylaw Article 12, which describes the amendment process. He then led the Council through a detailed review of the bylaw, pointing out instances in which the Council had not carefully followed the procedures it outlines and offering personal observations on how the Council could work more effectively with the Amendment Committee.

Mr. Corbett's observations and suggestions to the Council were made in a very positive and respectful manner. He emphasized throughout his presentation that his purpose in highlighting the difficulties that had arisen during his term as chairman was to help the Amendment Committee and the Council work together more effectively. The Council was very receptive to his comments and began discussing the proposals later in the meetings.

On Aug. 29 the Council selected two elders to fill vacancies on the Amendment Committee: John Miller and Mark Rorem, with Gerhard Marx as an alternate. On Sept. 1 Clyde Kilough announced that the Amendment Committee had chosen Rick Avent to be its new chairman.

Doctrine Committee

Aug. 26's meeting focused primarily on doctrinal issues. During the morning Jim Franks and Tony Wasilkoff led the Council through a Doctrine Committee update and the discussion of four doctrinal study projects.

Mr. Franks, chairman of the Doctrine Committee, opened with a review of the committee's projects:

- Personal Correspondence Depart-

ment project. The Doctrine Committee was asked to review and approve some 300 letters written by PCD so they can be provided to elders as resource material. The letters were given to the Advisory Committee for Doctrine, which made a few necessary edits and approved most of the letters. Sixteen letters were returned to the Doctrine Committee for further review. That review has been completed and recommendations have been made.

- Paper on interracial marriage. This paper was written by the Race Relations Committee, which was formed as part of the Focused Education Program. The paper has been reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Doctrine. The Doctrine Committee has also completed a preliminary review and will provide the authors with recommendations. A copy of the paper was distributed to the Council and a discussion of the paper will be scheduled for the December meetings.

- Paper on the meaning of the Greek term *porneia*. This paper was produced by the Family Life Studies Committee and was reviewed by the Doctrine Committee at the end of last year. Due to questions raised by one of the reviewers, the Doctrine Committee will review the paper again to resolve any lingering questions.

- Sacred names. There have been requests for more material on this subject. Several articles have appeared in the *Ministerial Quarterly*. A rough draft of a study paper has been written but is not ready yet to be presented to the Doctrine Committee.

- The calendar, new moons, etc. The Doctrine Committee currently has four papers/articles on this subject. A rough draft of one more article on the subject of postponements has been written but is not yet ready to be presented to the Doctrine Committee.

A *United News* article will be written before next spring on the count for Pentecost. In 2005 Passover is on the weekly Sabbath (observed Friday evening) and the First Day of Unleavened Bread is on Sunday, a pattern that occurs occa-

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September/
October 2004
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United News
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United News (ISSN 1088-9020) is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, an International Association, 555 Technecenter Drive, Milford, OH 45150. © 2004 United Church of God, an International Association. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

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Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.

Subscriptions: *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, an International Association, and their coworkers. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News*, United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or to one of the international addresses below.

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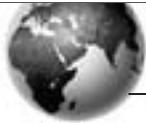
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News From Around the World

Ghana Welcomes 10 Visitors

In mid-August, the United Church of God in Ghana welcomed 10 visitors from the United States: Roy Holladay, president of UCGIA; Jim Servidio, who will be helping coordinate the Feast of Tabernacles in Ghana this year; Melvin Rhodes, senior pastor for Ghana; and seven United Youth Corps volunteers who helped with the summer camp.

The volunteers were: Heather LaFave, Flint, Michigan; Andy Lausted, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dan Lausted, St. Paul, Minnesota; Erika Pedersen, Minneapolis; Jeremiah and Josh Reagan, Houston, Texas; and Jonathan Roybal, Los Angeles, California. Below are excerpts from a report by Jonathan Roybal. Plans are to post his full report on verticalthought.org in October.

Youth Corps Ghana Trip, or "Mr. Rhodes' Wild Ride"

We arrived in Accra, Ghana, on Tuesday night, Aug. 10, after many hours of travel. The next day we visited Elmina, a town built around an old coastal fortress originally constructed by the Portuguese, and the following morning

we went to a small preserved rain forest park, where a Canadian team of engineers had built a walkway in the rain forest canopy, 150 feet up. After a snack of

See "Ghana," page 6



Above, Roy Holladay addresses the pastors in Ghana. Above right, the group visits an orphanage in Ghana. Right, Jim Servidio, Mr. Holladay and Melvin Rhodes stand in a church building in Agona that is awaiting a roof by Feast time thanks to a Good Works project



International News At a Glance

First Swahili Booklet Being Distributed

In Kenya, Antonio Ndung'u and Simon N'gan'ga have completed the printing and have begun distributing the Church's first booklet in Swahili, *Imani Msingi Za Kanisa La Mungu La Uungano Ushirikikiano Wa Mataifa*—a translation of our *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet.

"It is a real blessing to be able to distribute these doctrines to new people in their native language," said senior pastor John Elliott.



The first Swahili booklet has a color cover like the English

letter out in the summer was that several youth from the Toronto congregation were in the office in August to help out with this massive project. "Their help is greatly appreciated and a large dent was made in this mailing," said Edwin van Pelt, office manager.

In other news, about 25 percent of the "mail" received this year in the Canadian office is from the Internet. This is up from about 18 percent last year.

Collingwood Feast Site Adds Capacity

After the cancellation of the Quebec Feast site left a shortage of Festival seating room in Canada, the management of the Cranberry Resort in Collingwood, Ontario, has made available a beautiful tent (heated if necessary) that will comfortably seat 230 people.



Tent will add seating capacity for the Feast in Collingwood, Ontario

The tent, coupled with the 260 seats in the main hall and the possibility of using an additional 80 seats in an adjacent room, should give us plenty of room to accommodate anyone who desires to keep the Feast with us in Ontario. We look forward to seeing you there!

Garry Lucas and Dennis Horlick

Good Works Cookbook Response Overwhelming

The Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation's cookbook fund-raiser for the Good Works program has received overwhelming response. As orders were being processed just after the Sept. 1 deadline, the number of cookbooks ordered was approaching 3,000.

"We really appreciate the enthusiastic response," said Tom Kirkpatrick, who coordinates the Good Works program. "This will allow us to fund additional Good Works projects as they come on line. We plan to ship the cookbooks as soon as they are printed."

Belinda McCloud of the Cincinnati East congregation, who coordinated the project, thanked all the members who sent in over 1,800 recipes. Unfortunately, only 1,050 recipes could be printed.

While the majority were from the United States, recipes came from around the world, from Australia to Zimbabwe.

German GN Adds Pages

Two of the six issues annually of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine will now be published with 24 pages instead of the regular 16-page issue. The change is made possible by discontinuing the semiannual letter, which previously had been mailed to all subscribers who had renewed their subscription to *Gute Nachrichten*. The cost of mailing 2,000 semiannual letters is greater than printing an extra eight pages for 4,000 subscribers. Instead of being mailed, the semiannual letter will be published in *Gute Nachrichten* twice a year in the 24-page issue.

The first issue to have 24 pages will be the September-October 2004 issue.

UCG-Canada Mails Over 12,000 Semiannual Letters

In August the Canadian office staff was involved in the large project of mailing its latest subscriber development letter. The letter is actually a combination of three letters to subscribers—a subscription renewal for *The Good News* magazine, an offer to receive two booklets (*Is the Bible True?* and *How to Understand the Bible*) and an explanation of UCG-Canada's privacy policy. All in all, over 12,000 letters will be sent to all the subscribers on the Canadian mailing list.

By staggering the mailing of the letter, the staff hopes to also stagger the responses so they don't receive them all at one time.

One of the benefits of sending this

UCG-Germany Sponsors First Summer Camp

From Aug. 3 to 8, 17 children and nine adults from Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland attended summer camp at the hostel Naturfreundehaus just east of Bielefeld, Germany.

Following a brief orientation meeting on the afternoon of their arrival day, campers participated in various team games and then enjoyed their first meal together. After dinner staff member Wim Dekker from the Netherlands took the group into the forest for an evening discovery hike. The campers had to look for clues hidden along their route and then answer Bible questions in order to proceed to the next hidden clue site. After finding the last clue, campers had fun building a small dam on a forest creek in a ravine.



Campers listen to forest ranger and learn to grind wheat



On Wednesday, Aug. 4, the first full day of camp, the local forest ranger led the group on a morning hike through the woods. Among other things,

he explained the importance of the forest as a source of drinking water, encouraging the campers to be conscious of the environment and to take care of it. After a hearty lunch the boys enjoyed a game of football (soccer) on the playing field near the hostel, while the girls were challenged to use their imagination in creating various crafts.

Thursday, Aug. 5, was a day of swimming and picnicking. On a sunny day, the campers enjoyed an outdoor swimming pool and several indoor ones, including a 100-foot long water slide and a current chute where swimmers could test their strength by attempting to swim upstream against the current. Campers enjoyed table tennis, badminton and var-

See "German Camp," page 6

First Regional Conference Held in South Africa

The South African ministry of the United Church of God held its first conference since UCG started in 1995. The conference was held at Qwantani, a beautiful facility located in the Free State, from Aug. 6 to 9.

André van Belkum gave a lecture on "Encouragement" to the ministry. Bill Jahns spoke about sermon preparation and researching on the Internet for sermons.

Several videos were sent from Cincinnati covering various aspects of the ministry. Gary Antion's lecture on "Making Connections in Counseling" was shown. Jim Franks' presentation on "Exposito-

ry Preaching" was especially helpful. Clyde Kilough's interactive lecture on "Godly Leadership" gave the South African ministry insight into the characteristics of a godly leader.

Several local brethren joined the ministry for Sabbath services.

The ministry was very appreciative of the opportunity to get together and cover material that has previously been presented to the ministry in the United States and other areas. All reacted with positive comments about this informative conference and another conference is planned for next year.

Bill Jahns



South African ministerial conference attendees: Bill Jahns, André van Belkum, Neville Smith, Stan Botha, Neil Becker, Jorge de Campos, Kathy de Campos, Cheryl Jahns, Elise van Belkum, Barbara Botha and Erlene Becker

Church Grows in Nigeria

■ During a recent visit to Nigeria on behalf of the United Church of God, Fred Kellers, Doug Horchak and Jim Franks witnessed amazing growth in Church membership. Several ministers, including Mark Mickelson, Bruce Gore, Todd Carey and Dale Schurter, working in conjunction with a strong core of local leaders have contributed to the development of a viable work in the country of Nigeria. Here is a report on the recent trip to Africa's most populous country.

by Jim Franks

Most of the news articles and reports about Nigeria emphasize violence and danger. There is indeed danger when one travels to this part of West

Africa, but there is a very different world in Nigeria, which is as amazing as it is unlikely. This is the world of the United Church of God, Nigeria, pastored by Fred Kellers. When Paul instructs us to come out of the world, nowhere is there a greater contrast than you will find in Nigeria. The United Church of God has several wonderful congregations of happy and excited brethren spread across this large country. And they are growing at a rapid rate!

Nigeria has a population of approximately 150,500,000, which makes it the most populous African country. This population is crammed into an area that is approximately twice the size of California. This makes for large urban areas such as Lagos. This former capital is one of the largest cities in the world with a population estimated to be between 12 and 15 million people. Yet when traveling through this city you will be hard pressed to spot a single electronic traffic signal! It's the same in most of the major cities.

This explains how difficult and dangerous it is to travel around the country. The only word that accurately describes road travel in Nigeria is chaotic! But amazingly we saw few accidents and were rarely late to our destination because of the intense traffic.

Sabbath Church of God

Since 1999 the United Church of God in Nigeria has been growing steadily. Most of the growth has come from personal contact. There are many energetic people such as Dr. Oladele Akin-Ogundeji (a deacon in Lagos) who have given of their time to distribute *The Good News* magazine through-

out the country. From the efforts of a number of brethren in Lagos, Benin City and Owerri, the Church has seen dramatic growth in the past couple of years.

In 1999 there were 15 members of the United Church of God scattered throughout the country. To that number 16 new people were added by the Feast of Tabernacles 1999. These were people who had no previous Church of God background. The attendance at the Feast in 1999 was 31. This past year 120 people kept the Feast with United. But this is only the tip of the iceberg.

Early in 2003, a group of individuals who called themselves the Sabbath Church of God obtained a *Good News* magazine and from there made contact with Fred Kellers. This group has no ordained elders, but there are recognized leaders among them. In early 2003 there were 400 total members attending the Sabbath Church of God in five congregations around the city of Owerri.

Owerri is the largest city in Imo state (formerly known as Biafra). One of the bloodiest civil wars in living memory was the Nigerian Civil War of the late 1960s. It is estimated that over 400,000 children starved to death during this terrible period of time.

On May 26, 1967, the Nigerian government declared a state of emergency as an answer to the gathering storm in the eastern part of the nation. It was on May 30, 1967 that the independent nation of Biafra was proclaimed. In December of 1969, Biafra was cut in two by government troops. When Owerri fell Jan. 6, 1970, Biafran resistance collapsed and an unconditional cease-fire was declared on Jan. 12.

Estimates of the number of dead from hostilities, disease and starvation during the 30-month civil war are thought to be between 1 and 3 million. The end of the fighting found more than 3 million refugees crowded into a 2,500-square kilometer enclave. The economy of the region was shattered. Cities were in ruins; schools, hospitals, utilities and transportation facilities were destroyed or inoperative (U.S. Library of Congress; countrystudies.us/nigeria/23.htm.)

It is in this area of Nigeria that the group formerly known as the Sabbath of Church of God can be found. After making contact with the United Church of God and being visited by Fred Kellers, several attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall of 2003.

From these individuals five groups considering themselves part of the United Church of God began holding regular meetings on the Sabbath under the direction of leaders from the nearest congregation of United in Benin City. Peter Aluyi, a deacon, and James Aghimien and Israel Igdaliah, longtime Church of God members from Benin City, have been helping with the services since early this year. Passover

services and the Days of Unleavened Bread were conducted this past spring.

With this burgeoning group of members who desperately want to learn more about God's Word and the teachings of the United Church of God, Fred Kellers asked Doug Horchak and Jim Franks to travel with him to Nigeria to conduct a series of seminars for selected individuals from among the leaders of the former Sabbath Church of God group.

Our plans were to attend all five congregations and meet the membership, conduct three days of seminars in the city of Owerri, visit in the homes of the various leaders, and finally return to Lagos for a Sabbath service and a Bible study. During our 10 days in Nigeria we were able to visit and attend services with every congregation except for the group in Benin City.

Our first night in Owerri we were awakened around midnight to gunshots being fired in front of our hotel. The next morning we were told that these gunshots were from the vigilante groups that patrolled the streets in some neighborhoods after dark. The gunshots were a signal that all was well. But it was hard to convince us that hearing gunshots in the middle of the night was a good thing!

The total attendance of the five congregations around Owerri was 180. These are all new people who have now expressed their sincere desire to become part of the United Church of God. The five congregations and their attendance on the Sabbath are: Owerri with an attendance of 25; Obiangwu, 18; Atta, 25; Nguru, 29; and Umuekwunne, 83.

These are the members from the former Sabbath Church of God who have accepted the Holy Days and the teachings of the United Church of God. They already have banners made up declaring themselves to be congregations of the United Church of God with Mr. Kellers as their pastor. It remains to be

seen exactly how many will ultimately be in the United Church of God, but based on the response to our recent visit, the majority seem desirous of joining with us in fellowship on the Sabbath and during the festivals.

Because of the increased numbers we will be holding two Feast sites in Nigeria this year, with a possible attendance of over 200. Mark and Michelle Mickelson along with their two children from Spokane, Washington, will be in attendance this year at both sites. Many of the new people have only recently become aware of second tithe and only began saving it this spring. How many of them will actually be able

to attend the Feast this year remains to be seen. But the future looks very bright for the United Church of God in Nigeria.

Seminars

On Sunday morning, July 18, we began our seminar classes for the leaders of the new group and the leaders of United in Nigeria. For three days Fred Kellers, Doug Horchak and Jim Franks taught classes for 18 men. Each day there were five one and one-half hour long classes, with plenty of time for questions in each session. Titles of the classes were as follows: Your Calling as a Christian/Your Calling as a Leader, Overview of the Holy Days and Plan of Salvation, Head Coverings and Explanation of Tongues, Baptismal Counseling, Structure of United/Documents and History of United, Tithing in the Church Today, Clean and Unclean Meats, Church Ceremonies, Structure of a Local Congregation/Role of Elders and Deacons, Use of Alcohol and a concluding question-and-answer session.

The group bonded during the three days. It was a humbling experience to teach such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of men. The questions were insightful and delivered in a respectful manner. At the conclusion of the sessions the group explained their desire to continue teaching what they had been taught in the seminars to the group that has agreed to meet as congregations of United. It was exciting to see their devotion to God's Word.



Clockwise from above: Doug Horchak at services; Jim Franks, Fred Kellers, Casmir Okoro and Mr. Horchak boarding a plane for Owerri; Mr. Kellers teaching a seminar (photos by Oludare Akinbo and Jim Franks)

Visiting in the Homes of the Members

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our trip was visiting in the homes of the members over a three-day span (Wednesday to Friday, July 21-23). In spite of their poor surroundings we were treated as honored guests wherever we visited. It is customary among the Igbo people to present honored guests with the kola nut. In every home we received the traditional kola nut to show that we were indeed honored guests.

It was also humbling to see the love of the members for us as visitors and for the other members of the congregations. This is not the picture of Nigeria that



most people see in the newspapers or magazines in the United States. The love, humility and willingness to serve others spoke volumes about the character of the members in Nigeria.

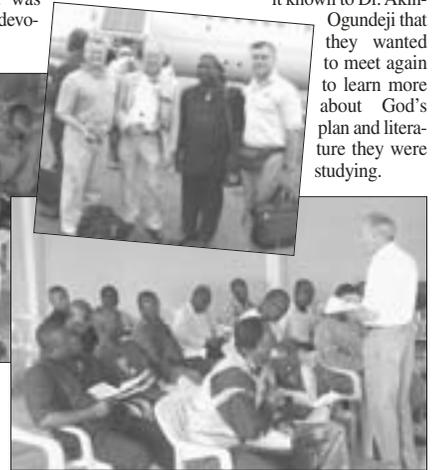
We did have one tragedy during our visit to the members. On Saturday night, after Sabbath services in Atta, a young member lost her baby. The young boy died after developing a high fever that very day. He was 18 months of age. The grieving mother was staying in the home of Geoffrey Iwuji. We were able to visit with her and console her after such a tragic death. Before leaving the Iwuji home we prayed that God would comfort her heavy heart.

Prospective Member Meeting in Ibadan

In addition to visiting with the members in the Owerri area, on Sunday, July 25 (the day of our departure), Doug Horchak accompanied the deacon from Lagos, Dr. Akin-Ogundeji, to the city of Ibadan to meet with interested *Good News* readers wishing to learn more about God's truth.

Six prospective members and three members met with them in a small room at the Palace Hotel in Ibadan. In addition to many doctrinal questions, the entire subject of salvation was discussed for three hours. At the end of the Bible study, all of the participants made

it known to Dr. Akin-Ogundeji that they wanted to meet again to learn more about God's plan and literature they were studying.



Our final meeting with the members was a Bible study in Lagos on Sunday afternoon. The members there are well grounded, friendly and an exciting group to be around. Each one has a story to tell, and we enjoyed getting to know them.

Many of the members in Lagos are young adults who have a strong commitment to God's truth. Their pastor, Mr. Kellers, accurately describes them as the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." They truly stand out in a nation filled with so much adversity. We left Nigeria on Sunday night, July 25, with many vivid memories and a lump in our throats. The love of the brethren in this part of the world is simply overwhelming. UN



United Youth Camps

Character Counts at Camp Carter

The theme for next year's camp video will be "Character Counts at Camp," so that was this year's theme at Camp Carter. After services in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 17, the 39 staff members headed over to camp to begin their "on site" training in anticipation of the arrival of 113 campers on Sunday afternoon.

This year was the largest camp we've had at Camp Carter. Our first year was 2000. That year we had 39 staff members and 112 campers, 16 of whom came from international areas. So we had one more person this year than our inaugural year. This year 78 of the campers were from Texas, but we also had 14 other states represented.

At camper orientation we reviewed the opportunities campers would have for fun in the coming week, while focusing on Christian principles. In conjunction with the "Character Counts at Camp" theme, we noted that learning how to make wise decisions was an important manifestation of godly character. Each day's Compass Check would build on this concept.

Monday morning's Compass Check was given by Britton Taylor, head of the softball activity and lakefront coordinator. He focused on Deuteronomy 30:11-20 and Proverbs 20:11 explaining that all of us must make many

choices each day—regardless of our age—and reminded everyone that choices always bring consequences. Some consequences are good; others are bad. So we should think about the choices we make.

On Tuesday morning, David Treybig, transportation head, golf instructor and head boys counselor, covered the topic of "One Taste Can't Be That Bad," recounting the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. Their wrong choice based on human reasoning apart from God had devastating consequences.

Larry Greider, overall coordinator for United Youth Camps, arrived on Tuesday for a short visit and gave the Compass Check Wednesday morning: "It's Just a Little Lie." The basis of his presentation was the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5. God's community (whether the Church or our camp "family" for the week) requires honesty to retain viability, so we need to maintain truth in both word and deed.

Thursday's Compass Check, "400 Angry Men and One Good Woman," was given by Gary Petty, football and Christian Living coordinator. He used the story of David, Nabal and Abigail to point out that choices made entirely on emotions are usually bad ones.

Program director Frank McCrady gave the final Compass Check on Fri-

day: "Faith Is a Choice." He used the story of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3 to point out that sometimes obedience to God brings bad consequences from others, but we must have faith that God will cause it to turn out good for us in the end.

The life skills class, taught by Mr. Petty, tied in with the theme of character and making wise decisions by covering the topic of making wise decisions about managing money. Poor decisions in this area of life can have lifelong implications on one's family.

Activities remained basically the same as the last several years, including basketball, crafts, dance, football, golf (for the oldest boys dorm and oldest girls dorm only), horseback riding, lakefront activity, life skills, newsletter, rap-

elling (for the oldest boys dorm and oldest girls dorm only), ropes, softball, skeet or archery, strength training, swimming and volleyball.



Evenings included open activities (three nights) and a line dance (Tuesday night) as well as the regular snacks and fellowship time before Christian Living. We had some very good discussions during the Q&A portion of Christian Living each night, as we have had the last several years.

Once again we were blessed with good weather as well as the wonderful spirit of cooperation and encouragement as campers and staff enjoyed "the Zone" at Camp Carter.

Ken Treybig



Campers at Camp Carter enjoy a Waverunner on the lake, golfing, softball and the ropes course (photos by Ken Treybig and Katherine Turner)

Camp Davidson: Adventure and Following God's Calling

From Aug. 8 to 15, 115 campers and 60 staff members attended Camp Davidson on Suttle Lake in a beautiful mountain setting in central Oregon. A fantastic staff team set a challenging and high standard. Campers responded well and were motivated not only to have fun, but to excel.

Every day began with a 45-minute Christian Living class. This year's theme was "Where Is God Leading Me?" The Northwest ministry had prepared an outline, which was sent to everyone prior to camp. Classes focused on God's calling, being convinced of the truth, conviction in living God's way and becoming a converted person. On Friday, Rex Sexton (pastor in Washington and waterskiing director) moderated a panel of older teens and young adults who described their successes and challenges in responding to God's calling, and living as converted people in this world.

Campers enjoyed a wide range of activities, including two new events this year: a rock wall and ballroom dance. The program also featured a 10-element low ropes course, a seven-element high ropes course, waterskiing, mountain biking, kayaking and a beautiful half-day hike in the Cascade wilderness. In addition, a 60-foot-high zip-line was a popular activity. Basketball, flag football, arts and crafts, archery, swimming,

camp improvement, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee and "Excellence in Living" rounded out the schedule.

The evenings offered additional opportunities for fellowship and participation in the activities. Each evening at camp concluded with a lively campfire, followed by a "bedside chat" for each dorm with its dorm parents.

On the Sabbath, the campers enjoyed some extra rest, Bible discussions, Sabbath services and a special banquet. Saturday evening ended with a final dance. Campers were able to take home their own copy of *Camp Davidson Days*, the camp newspaper. In addition—for the first time—campers and staff will be able to obtain photo CDs featuring hundreds of photographs of this year's camp. Please also refer to the Camp Davidson Web site at www.ucg-sps.org/uycdavidson

Staff and campers again "let their light shine." The camp managers were very impressed with the respect and courtesy of campers and the caring dedication of the staff. One of the senior members of

the site staff said: "We have a lot of church groups use our camp. It is really nice to have a group like yours which actually lives like Christians."

This year was the final year for Matthew and Lisa Fenchel, who have direct-

ed the Northwest camp for eight years. Campers and staff gave them a warm, yet sad, send-off with a card signed by everyone, shirts and a gift certificate. They also welcomed Andy Burnett,

who, along with his wife, Lisa, will direct Camp Davidson next year. Mr. Burnett visited camp for three days this year, and everyone is looking forward to working with him and his family in the years to come.

Wilderness Session

For the fourth year, an extended Wilderness Session was offered to the older campers and young adults. The schedule for this year changed to include a moderate 12-mile hike, a full day of white-water rafting on the Upper McKenzie River, finishing the third day with a difficult hike up South Sister, a 10,358-foot

mountain. A total of 32 people participated.

While the conditions were more primitive than regular camp (no electricity or running water), the tents were comfortable and the cooking of Berk Weis was five-star! Everyone was divided up into teams to take care of cooking and camp maintenance. Kayakers were brought for free-time enjoyment.

On Monday, we hiked a scenic 12-mile route around Broken Top, Cayuse Crater and Green Lakes. A typical Northwest rain shower ensured that the group did not get too warm or too dry!

On Tuesday, everyone enjoyed a full-day rafting trip down the Upper McKenzie River, one of the most active and enjoyable rivers in the region. The trip provided views of wildlife like deer, ospreys, bald eagles and herons. There were numerous good-natured water battles between the four rafts, and most everyone had a chance to take an "involuntary" swim in the glacier water.

On Wednesday, the camp divided up into two activities. One group enjoyed horseback riding and kayaking. The other group climbed South Sister—with a 5,000 foot elevation gain within about 5 miles. However, the view from the top was awe-inspiring, and everyone made it in good condition.

Matthew Fenchel



Wakeboarding, music and basketball are just a few of the many activities enjoyed at Camp Davidson

Summer UYC Program Wraps Up at Camp Heritage

The 2004 season of United Youth Camps (UYC) summer camps came to a close Sunday, Aug. 22, at Camp Heritage, near Farmington, Pennsylvania.

This year marked the ninth year the program has been held on the Heritage Reservation, a 2,000-acre property operated by the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Twenty U.S. states and two Canadian provinces were represented by the 161 campers accepted this year, including our first Heritage camper from the province of Newfoundland. A staff of 71 brought the total to 232, the highest for this camp since 1997.

Camp director Darris McNeely issued a challenge to the campers at orientation on Sunday night, Aug. 15, as camp began. He asked them to "step it up a notch" in catching the vision of what United Youth Camps are all about, in helping the youth of the Church to come to a deeper understanding of God's way of life. "It's not about you" came to be a frequently expressed way of pointing out service to, and concern for, the needs of others.

Assistant director Doug Johnson addressed the older girl campers (ages 15 to 18) Monday evening on the topic of true femininity as opposed to what the

world too often substitutes for it—flaunted sexuality. Mr. McNeely followed up with a talk to the older boys Tuesday night on real masculinity, challenging them to begin displaying that quality in caring for and looking out for others in the next day's white-water rafting activity.

Campers and staff began each day with a Christian Living session, taught by ministers and senior staff members. Regularly scheduled activities included basketball, swing dance, flag foot-

ball, riflery, tennis, softball, volleyball, campus improvement, wilderness skills and waterfront (water polo and kayaking). Archery was available during the open activities period on three evenings.

The younger

(ages 12 to 14) campers did some spelunking in the Laurel Caverns (and returned to camp extremely dirty!), and the older (ages 15 to 18) campers experienced the thrills (and chills!) of an all-day white-water rafting trip on the nearby Lower Youghiogheny River.

This year was the wettest of our nine years at Camp Heritage, with four inches of rain falling between 11 p.m. Wednesday night and 10 a.m. Sabbath morning. But no regular activities had to be canceled due to the timing of the storms, an answer to the prayers of many.

Two evening traditions had to be

adjusted—the Thursday night camper-staff softball game turned into novelty Olympics in the dining hall, and Friday night campfire discussions became indoor fellowshiping and Sabbath-note writing (also in the dining hall). Staff and camper photos were taken indoors on Sabbath morning (another departure from tradition). But otherwise the rains served only to dampen sleeping bags and other gear in the campers' tents, not the spirits of those at Heritage 2004.

Following Sabbath services on Aug. 21, seven of the staff members dedicated the song "This Day" to Darris and Debbie McNeely for their nine years of service directing the camp. On behalf of the entire staff, Doug and Janel Johnson then presented the McNeelys with an engraved serving platter and an album of Camp Heritage photos and memories. Mr. McNeely had opted some time ago to step aside as camp director in order to devote more time to several of the other "hats" he wears in the ministry, including his work as an Ambassador Bible Center guest instructor and managing editor of *World News and Prophecy*.

Doug Johnson

Doug Johnson has been appointed as the next camp director for Camp Heritage, succeeding Mr. McNeely.



Scenes from Camp Heritage (photos by Jerry Rehor)

Canadian Campers Conquer Challenges and Ruby Mountain

From Aug. 4 to 11, UCG-Canada sponsored a summer camp for the youth. There were 19 participants—four men and 15 campers. The youngest camper was 7, but he was with his father. There were four Americans on this campout, and it became an "all male" camp since no girls had applied.

The objectives were to hike into complete wilderness for 12 miles (18 kilometers), set up a base camp, climb Ruby Mountain, explore the surrounding alpine valleys, fish in Ruby Lake and have time for Christian fellowship. Activities at the camp included chopping wood for the fires, cooking for yourself, staying dry and warm, facing

challenges at the dashboard and Christian Living talks that were held daily. All of our goals were achieved in spite of the lack of cooperation by the weather.

We hiked a total of 40-plus miles (65 kilometers) and climbed Ruby Mountain besides that. Of the 16 campers who started for the mountain, 13 completed the climb. The 13 included our youngest "Mighty Max" who was only 7.

Our hikes took us through beautiful pristine forests and taught us an appreciation for the power of nature. We endured severe lightning and thunder that was accompanied with rain and hail. We had so much low cloud at times that we could not see the mountains that were

towering above us. Streams were crossed dozens of times. The campers learned the value of dry clothing, warm sleeping bags and reliance on others.

Fishing was a priority for some. There were brown trout, cutthroat trout and bull trout in the lake and streams. Not many were caught, but those that were whet the appetites of anyone who could hold a rod. The water was so clear that the fish could be seen teasing the fishermen. Two boys were washing their dishes in the stream and a large 24-inch bull trout came swimming right up to them—that caused a flurry of activity!

This camp was not for the faintheart-

ed. The complaints that were voiced the first day subsided into acceptance and then enjoyment. It was gratifying to hear the campers say they were coming back next year and this time they would know how to pack light.

The campers grew stronger and more positive-minded as the days went by. There is something that happens when people complete a strenuous task together as a team. Our motto was "all for one and one for all." Campers ensured the safety of one another since our success depended on everyone being fit and ready. Next year we



Canadian campers tackle Ruby Mountain

will put in an order for more blue skies.

Robert Berendt

"Ghana," continued from page 3

fresh coconut, we went to visit one of the pastors in Ghana and the half-finished church building that was being built in Agona with help from several congregations through the Good Works Program. The pastor was very friendly and humble—characteristics that I

would find to be exemplary of Ghanaians in general. Then we continued on to Kumasi, where the camp was held.

Camp began the following day. The theme of the camp was serving and being a servant. If I have ever seen people who are willing and ready to happily serve, even despite hardships, it was the Ghanaians.

Interestingly, the way Azariah Maxwell Coffie got the group's attention to start orientation was by singing a song that would soon become irrevocably stuck in our heads because of its frequent use: "I love you with the love of the Lord." I sometimes wished I had my own song to help with chess, which I was introducing to the campers!

I didn't mind only having one or two TV channels, and I could do without the Internet and even without electricity at all, but I really missed hot showers. I was humbled by the example the people there set, dealing with worse things every day as a fact of life. Not only were they not complaining, they were grateful and happy for what they had and ready

to serve you, their brethren. The West Africans' grateful and serving attitude really came out during Christian Living classes and especially church services. There was a certain indescribable dedication that was present in the eyes and hearts of the members there.

And the talent show was truly amazing!

Jonathan Roybal

"German Camp," continued from page 3

ious table games in the evening.

The Oerlinghausen open-air history museum was on the agenda for Friday, Aug. 6. Campers and staff walked to the site after breakfast to learn more about how different cultures from earlier times lived in the region. The museum features reconstructed dwellings based on archaeological discoveries at several sites in northern Germany and offers vis-

itors a hands-on opportunity to see how earlier generations prepared their food. Campers made lunch the old way by cutting vegetables for a soup and grinding wheat by hand on stones to make pita bread. Lunch was prepared over a campfire. After lunch the group made clay pearls that were baked in the campfire and then strung on a leather strap.

On the Sabbath, 17 visitors from the local Bielefeld congregation joined the group for Sabbath services. Following services each camper received a certi-

cate of participation that emphasized his or her contribution to the camp. In the evening campers, staff and visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner.

For the daily interactive Bible study, campers were divided into two groups based on age. Younger campers learned about the seven days of creation using puzzles and other handout materials. The older group discussed the Bible account of creation and the theory of evolution and considered which of the two accounts is more believable

based on clear scientific principles.

The director of the Naturfreundehaus Bielefeld, the venue for the camp, has 40 years experience in hosting. Initially he was a bit hesitant to rent his facility for the summer camp. However, on the last day of camp he commented that the group was so responsible it would not even be necessary for him to be present during next year's camp. "I can give you the keys and leave. You are very nice guests," he said with a smile.

Jesmina Allaoua from Germany, who

organized the summer camp, described the desired result of camp: "With our local congregations being so small, it is important for our children to have friends in the Church. Summer camp gives them the opportunity to make friends, and in just a few weeks they will see each other again at the Feast of Tabernacles. I hope that this year's camp will be the first entry in a long book with lots of positive chapters."

This article is excerpted from the Web site www.ucog.org.

UCG's Audited Financial Statements Reflect Stability

■ After the end of every fiscal year the United Church of God has an independent auditing firm examine the books. Here are the audited financial reports.

by Tom Kirkpatrick

On this page and the next appear the audited financial statements of the United Church of God, an International Association, for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2004.

The independent auditing firm of Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., based in Cincinnati, Ohio, performed the audit. Their audit report also appears on these pages.

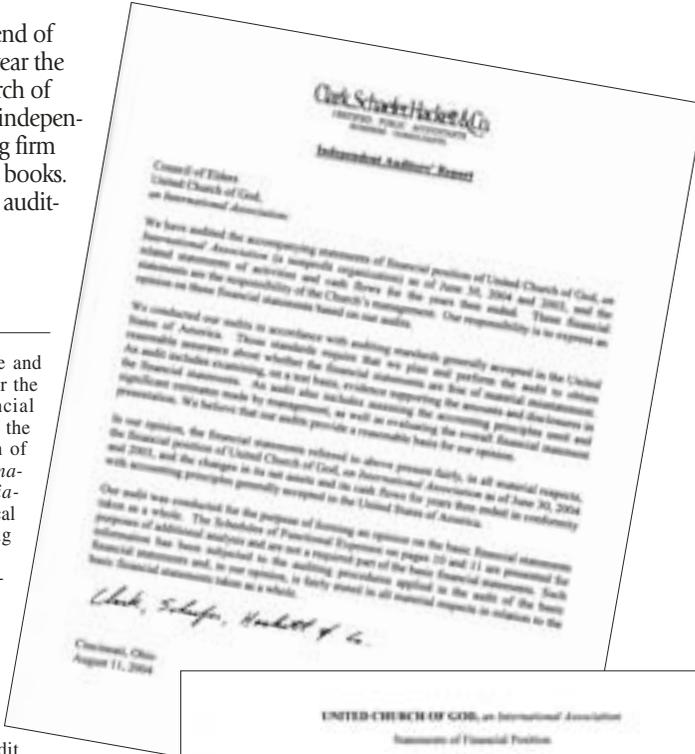
It is gratifying to note God's blessings reflected in these statements. Compared to the preceding fiscal year there was modest growth in the total income, the total assets and the unrestricted net assets of the Church.

Further, our managers and employees continued this past year to cooperate in controlling expenditures, to stay within budgeted amounts and still perform the work before us.

The Church continues to be blessed by God in many ways. It is to Him that we look for the provision of all the resources that we need to carry out the work of the Church, headed by Jesus Christ.

We very much appreciate the financial faithfulness of the members and others who support the work of the United Church of God.

As always, we urge that many prayers ascend to God for wisdom in using what He gives us to properly carry out the mission of the Church.



	2004	2003
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,609,964	4,943,132
Cash designated for retirement fund	788,756	771,146
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,398,720	5,714,278
Prepaid expenses	48,970	37,807
Property and equipment, net	3,321,844	1,684,872
Other assets	-	8,241
Total assets	8,629,534	8,256,512
Liabilities and net assets		
Accounts payable	215,500	201,048
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	129,818	943,867
Payroll taxes withheld and accrued	1,267	11,681
Accrued matching third plan obligations	48,707	38,741
Accrued insurance obligations	97,123	115,798
Mortgage payable	1,468,354	1,318,919
Total liabilities	2,376,809	2,369,240
Unrestricted net assets:		
Unrestricted	6,881,312	6,104,146
Unrestricted - designated by Council of Elders	788,756	771,146
	7,252,725	6,881,312
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 8,629,534	8,256,512

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	2004	2003
Revenues, gains and other support:		
Contributions - individuals	\$ 11,027,711	12,296,796
Contributions - local congregations	544,289	552,782
Holy day offerings and festival fund contributions	5,342,263	5,187,461
Enemy/personal property donations	-	262,804
Dividend and interest income	41,581	42,918
Other income	138,749	116,288
Total revenues, gains and other support	18,096,627	18,418,913
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Field Ministry / Local Congregations	8,376,214	8,098,047
Festivals	984,343	911,114
International	1,627,175	1,480,977
Public Proclamation	1,696,727	1,814,290
Total program services	14,784,477	13,526,428
Management and general:		
Council of Elders / House Office / Insurance & Benefit Plans	3,867,896	4,042,496
General Conference	62,871	89,509
Total management and general	3,930,767	4,131,985
Total expenses	18,715,244	17,658,413
Change in net assets	371,413	800,500
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of period	6,881,312	6,080,812
Unrestricted net assets, end of period	\$ 7,252,725	6,881,312

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	2004	2003
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ 371,413	800,500
Adjustment to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	151,284	158,724
Effect of change in financing assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	8,987	(12,065)
Other assets	8,241	-
Accounts payable	34,412	(181,461)
Accrued payroll and vacation pay	82,794	51,562
Payroll taxes withheld and accrued	(10,790)	(8,249)
Accrued matching third plan obligations	9,962	53,287
Accrued insurance obligations	(18,875)	(146)
Net cash provided by operating activities	617,962	824,826
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of property and equipment	(118,876)	(61,885)
Net cash used by investing activities	(118,876)	(61,885)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Proceeds from mortgage payable	-	1,600,000
Payments on mortgage payable	(70,585)	(61,881)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	(70,585)	1,538,119
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	468,442	2,300,766
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	5,712,278	3,411,512
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 6,180,720	5,712,278

Supplemental Cash Flow Disclosure

	2004	2003
Interest paid	\$ 93,444	89,701

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

	Fiscal Year 2003-4	Fiscal Year 2002-3
Cash and cash equivalents	\$5,469,964	\$4,945,132
Total assets	9,629,534	9,250,552
Total liabilities	2,376,809	2,369,240
Unrestricted net assets	7,252,725	6,881,312
Total income	19,096,637	18,458,933
Change in net assets	371,413	800,500

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association						
Schedule of Functional Expenses						
Year Ended June 30, 2004						
	Program Services			Management and General		
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Commissions	Education	Public Relations	Office/Travel & Business Plan	General	Total
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 1,082,897	99,274	1,881	819,280	1,497,021	3,580,353
Contracted services and fees	3,808	733	-	49,258	118,739	174,538
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	-	-	-	323,274	-	323,274
Phone, media and advertising	11,800	22,848	-	871,960	17,748	924,356
Printing and shipping	16,910	4,228	-	498,461	11,347	626,946
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	112,275	-	16,612	99,631	328,523
Telephone and utilities	84,781	863	-	6,617	75,111	167,372
Supplies	71,076	6,980	-	32,219	25,081	135,356
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	879,311	17,967	-	11,444	197,754	1,096,476
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	112,289	112,289
Grants and charitable support	-	-	-	-	-	-
International support	16,894	1,499	1,437,712	496,268	2,018	2,042,391
Domestic support	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance to the needy	842,674	117,789	-	-	-	960,463
Assistance to local congregations	1,461,281	-	-	-	-	1,461,281
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	1,855,828	-	1,855,828
Other	136,960	88,168	-	31,287	81,017	337,432
Total expenses	\$ 6,176,724	886,111	1,439,112	2,486,317	3,887,086	14,875,350

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association						
Schedule of Functional Expenses						
Year Ended June 30, 2003						
	Program Services			Management and General		
	Ministerial Services/Field Ministry/Local Commissions	Education	Public Relations	Office/Travel & Business Plan	General	Total
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 8,862,847	577,147	-	164,645	6,962,768	16,567,407
Contracted services and fees	2,282	2,640	333	16,818	6,890	22,963
Travel, mileage and advertising	-	-	-	311,267	-	311,267
Phone, media and advertising	18,811	15,888	-	873,487	11,822	909,998
Printing and shipping	31,176	6,178	-	786,796	7,036	821,186
Building and equipment lease/rental	-	112,289	-	16,612	176,759	305,660
Telephone and utilities	88,788	6,511	-	6,617	75,288	177,204
Supplies	76,468	6,511	-	32,219	25,081	139,279
Travel, mileage, meals and lodging	847,877	17,917	-	7,778	188,754	1,062,326
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	112,289	112,289
Grants and charitable support	-	-	-	-	-	-
International support	16,741	1,499	1,488,812	496,214	2,018	2,042,284
Domestic support	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance to the needy	786,277	117,789	-	-	-	904,066
Assistance to local congregations	1,276,277	-	-	-	-	1,276,277
Insurance and health care	-	-	-	1,855,828	-	1,855,828
Other	81,812	88,168	-	31,287	81,017	282,284
Total expenses	\$ 10,088,647	811,114	1,488,812	2,518,788	8,942,426	23,858,607

UCG–British Isles' Campers Enjoyed "Working Together in Friendship"

UCG–British Isles' Summer Camp for teenagers and young adults commenced on the evening of Friday, July 30, and concluded successfully on Sunday, Aug. 8.

Because of the small size of the Church in Britain, camps in recent years have been open to both teenagers and young adults and have been held in venues that offer us self-contained facilities for communal living and group activities. This year's camp was held at an activity center in Edale in the Peak District National Park, a scenic area in the northern part of England.

Twenty-three teenagers and young adults attended, with another five present for part of the final weekend. Eleven other adults, including elders Peter Hawkins and David Fenney and their wives, completed the community.

The weather was generally fine, with long warm spells. An evening thunderstorm had minimal effect as it coincided with a trip to the nearby city of Sheffield where the group shopped, played 10-pin bowling and visited to the cinema.

Forums involving the whole group were held most days. Topics discussed included baptism and prayer and a session devoted to listening skills. A recurring theme was the importance to each individual of his or her relationship with God. One discussion on the subject of relationships was preceded by a viewing of a presentation by Pam Stenzel on the subject *Sex Has a Price Tag*. John Ross Schroeder, an elder and senior writer for *The Good News*, visited camp during the week and contributed to a discussion on the subject of reading in general and Church publications in particular.

The overall consensus was that camp had been a success, with the bonds between the young people themselves and between the youngsters and the older adults having been greatly strengthened. The youngest camper said, "This is my first time at camp, and I really enjoyed it. I have got on well with everyone and have made new friends."

Jako, from Belgium, commented,

"Camp to me means community, action, exchange and friendship. Also, it can sometimes be disappointing, a battle with misunderstandings. But that's OK too and it's definitely life. And because life is like that, we all have to learn how to get on with each other. I think this is the life, and the biggest thing in camp is to learn how to live together as friends



and Christians."

Another first-time camper added, "For me—despite the mostly good weather, the beautiful countryside showing God's creative genius, the plentiful and fun activities, good accommodation and interesting meals—the best things about camp were the people who were there." The young people are now looking forward to getting together during the Feast of Tabernacles and of course at camp next year.

The following record of camp life was contributed by Debi Crook, a young adult who attended camp with her sister, Jayne. Debi, Jayne and their parents are part of the Bricket Wood congregation.

David Fenney

British Isles' Camp Diary

The activity center was equipped with numerous bedrooms, bathrooms and two kitchens providing continuous hot water, much to the delight of the tea lovers amongst us. Other luxuries included computer facilities with Internet connection, a sports hall with disco lights and a climbing wall. The facilities and size of the center emphasizes how

far we have come in the six years since we began this style of summer camp.

Saturday, the first full day of camp, began with an interactive forum followed by the Sabbath service. The rest of the day was spent socializing, getting to know both one another and the equipment at the center. Playing with the disco lights proved a popular option, and while the dancers strutted, the sports minded enjoyed a game of football in strobe lighting. The evening culminated in musical chairs and various other group games.

When you wake up to the sound of "Stebbs," the piccolo master,



Campers enjoyed Sabbath services and a Sabbath meal, as well as activities such as wall climbing and archery (photos by Sonja Hawkins)

playing popular tunes, you know that the first day of activities has begun. After a forum led by Barbara Fenney on listening skills, David Stebbins tested our initiative by presenting us with a multitude of dilemmas such as "name as many ways as you can to misuse a paper clip." Well over 100 ways could be found by the more inventive. To relax after all this brainwork, Sonja Hawkins led a painting class teaching us the basics of mixing colors before we moved on to our individual works of art.

Monday morning was fired off with

an archery class, while the afternoon saw us orienteering around the peaks of Derbyshire with maps and compasses in hand. When we returned to the center, Peter Hawkins led a forum on the subject of baptism. In the evening we enjoyed a sing-along around a campfire. Our efforts continued until it was too dark to read the song lyrics and the mosquitoes were biting too much.

On Tuesday the group took a trip underground into the Blue John Cavern where the rare Blue John stone is mined. Afterwards we



enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Ladybowser Reservoir. The evening's main activity was a quiz testing lateral thinking, music recognition, physical agility and speed on the beat-the-buzzer round and, consequently, bringing out a healthy dose of competitiveness among young and old.

Wednesday morning was a perfect time to clown around in our circus skills class, which had us all juggling, spinning plates and walking on stilts till our hearts were content. It culminated in a show that included performances from

Tim and Matt the amazing plate spinners, Sam and René the diabolo men, Jo and Sue the stilt sisters and was concluded with a surprise finale from Raphael the clown. In the evening we enjoyed a barbecue. The day was rounded off by a partner-swinging country dance led by Tanya Ellams.

On Thursday we took a trip to Sheffield, where the main activity was shopping, followed by bowling and the cinema. On Friday morning we all had the chance to climb the walls of the sports hall and in the afternoon most of the group went swimming.

Friday evening and Saturday morning saw the arrival of more guests for the final day's activities and the Sabbath service. Our final evening meal took place outside on the grass surrounded by the beautiful Derbyshire peaks. The theme for the evening was "Working Together in Friendship." All tables were artistically decorated and each person was represented by an attractive version of themselves made from a balloon.

After the meal, as has become tradition, everyone was involved in a light-hearted skit or performance. These included: the adults depicting the summer camp of 2035 run by the young people of today's camp, the youth bringing us breaking camp news and the Belgian and French campers showing off their judo skills and daring leaps over brave volunteers.

And so concluded another summer camp: a larger, older and more international group than usual. It was a week packed with interesting activities in a beautiful location but of course the reason we keep returning and the reason others choose to come is the wonderful atmosphere and friendships that we share.

Debi Crook

Congratulations, High School Graduates2004

Stephanie Suzanne Alexander

Parent: Sherry R. Alexander
Congregation: Asheville, North Carolina
High School Accomplishments: Beta Club, FFA secretary, Greenville County Junior Youth Orchestra.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Stephanie has loved going to Camp Woodmen. This past year was her fifth year



Stephanie Suzanne Alexander

there as a camper. She plans on applying for assistant counselor or activity staff next year. Stephanie enjoys music and has a small collection of miniature horses. She also enjoys reading Jane Austen novels and any other British literature.

Plans After Graduation: Plans to attend Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, to major in business management with a minor in computer information systems.

Favorite Scriptures: Revelation 21:1-7; Matthew 6:33.

Jonathon Steven Nelson Arnold

Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Arnold
Congregation: Bloomington, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Graduated a semester early. Worked on the school year-



Jonathon Steven Nelson Arnold

book. Presented with an achievement award by the State Board of Education that recognized excellent academic performance in social science. Participated in the Tutor for Young Kids program.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jonathon has attended United Youth Camps at Pinecrest, Heritage and Woodmen. He

has been a staff member at Camp Buckeye preteen camp. He enjoys swimming, playing football and baseball and fishing.

Plans After Graduation: Presently attending Parkland College in Champaign, Illinois, pursuing an associate's degree in computer networking.

Favorite Scripture: Revelation 21:4: "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Diana Avila

Parents: Isidro and Amalia Avila
Congregation: Chicago, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: Honor roll all four years, Prairie State Scholar, Illinois State Scholar, IHSA Conference title for tennis and water polo, scholarships.



Diana Avila

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Diana enjoys playing sports, going to the Winter Family Tournament and spending time with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Attend DePaul University and major in computer animation.

Favorite Scripture: Hebrews 13:6: "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

Andrea Elsa Berendt

Parents: Rick and Heather Berendt



Andrea Elsa Berendt

Congregation: Edmonton, Alberta
High School Accomplishments: International baccalaureate certificates in history, biology, math and French; honors with distinction;

played in the symphonic band and "A" stage band, going on tours to British Columbia, Washington and California; won Harry Ainlay's Fred A. Merrett Award for musical achievement.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Andrea plays saxophone (classical and jazz) and is learning to play the piano and ballroom dance. She enjoys books, movies, history, travel, music, dance and theater.

Plans After Graduation: Extended music master class in Poitiers, France, in August; will start a bachelor of music program at the University of Alberta in September; would like to be a university professor of music.

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:8: "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."

Tim Boden

Parents: Tom and Darla Boden
Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tim enjoys riding Motocross and restoring classic vehicles.



Tim Boden

Plans After Graduation: Attend Universal Technical Institute in Glendale Heights, Illinois, to become a Ford mechanic.

Shea Bradley

Parents: Jim Bradley and Sheba Grafton
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia



Shea Bradley

High School Accomplishments: Member of National Honor Society, Thespan Society, ranked in top 10 in her class, won gold medal for beginning children's reading program.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Shea loves to travel and tries to find a new place to go every summer. She loves swimming and swing dance, and she helps put the Atlanta Prom together each year.

Plans After Graduation: Shea plans to attend the University of Georgia to study to become a research pharmacist.

Favorite Quote: "When in doubt, have something caffeinated, or at least chocolate"—Lauren Estes.

Jerod Leon Brunick

Parents: Ed and Claudia Brunick
Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota
High School Accomplishments: Eagle Scout, All-State Orchestra, varsity football, varsity



Jerod Leon Brunick

track, Regional Honors Orchestra, 4-H, LACHA science club, 4-H Rhonke award.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jerod enjoys camp, cars, motorcycles, music and weight lifting.

Plans After Graduation: Jerod plans to join the workforce until he has earned his physical training certification.

Favorite Scripture: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12).

Mae Caldarelli

Parents: Annie and Aurelio Caldarelli
Congregation: Toronto, Ontario
High School Accomplishments: Choir president, vocal quartet leader, clarinet section leader, cocaptain of the cheerleading team, tutor for music and math, member of the prom committee and Girls' Athletic Association, on the honor roll for all four years. Participated in school spirit days/fund-raisers and other school related events. Ran for student body president 2003/2004.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Singing is a huge passion for Mae, in school and out, including singing in the church choir. Mae tried out for *Canadian Idol*. She has her lifeguarding certificate and spent her summer as a lifeguard.

Plans After Graduation: Planning on attending

the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, to study media information and techno culture. Would like to eventually go into advertising.



Mae Caldarelli

Favorite Quote: "Without suffering there is no compassion."

Carrie Chambers

Parents: Pam and John Chambers
Congregation: Sherman, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Diploma, Art Club. Carrie did illustrations for a children's book published this summer.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Carrie enjoys painting and photography and has done art sketches for children's Bible classes.
Plans After Graduation: Carrie plans to take basic classes at Grayson Community College and earn an undergraduate degree from Parson's School of Design.

Sydney Eden Clark

Parents: Kurtis and Krista Clark
Congregation: Garden Grove, California
High School Accomplishments: CSF Gold Seal Bearer at graduation, marching band, steel drum band, J's and V's Service Club, Girl Scout Gold Award.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Sydney has attended Church summer camp



Sydney Eden Clark

many times. She enjoys travel, camping, dirt biking, mountain biking and boating. She has traveled to over 25 states and four foreign countries.

Plans After Graduation: Sydney plans to attend California State University, Chico, as an exercise physiology major.

Jeff Clowdus

Parents: Rick and Beverly Clowdus
Congregation: Cleveland, Tennessee
High School Accomplishments: Finished high school studies a year early and received high marks for Georgia GED tests.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jeff enjoys church summer camps, social activities, online talks with friends, guitar and



Jeff Clowdus

soccer. He helps with the local church PA system and recording.

Plans After Graduation: Jeff plans on doing on-the-job training toward the goal of becoming a certified master automotive technician.

Danielle Columbia

Parents: Jim and Lynne Columbia
Congregation: Phoenix East, Arizona
High School Accomplishments: Danielle played alto saxophone in the regular and the jazz band in high school. She excelled in photography and her pictures won five awards.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Danielle graduated from the church ACT (Active Christian Teens) group this year and sings in the choir. She attended the Teton Challenger Camp in Wyoming last summer and counts it as one of the highlights of her teen experiences. She enjoys outdoor sports, including all water sports. She loves writing, photography, playing the piano and the saxophone.



Danielle Columbia

Plans After Graduation: Danielle will be attending Scottsdale Community College. She plans to major in journalism. She would like to work in the news media. She also hopes to write a novel, and is interested in writing children's books.

Motto: "You can accomplish anything, if you believe and follow your dreams."

Lisa Renee Cook

Parents: David and Marjorie Cook
Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota
High School Accomplishments: Lettered in varsity hockey cheerleading, Student of the Quarter at East Central Multi-District, active in choir, band and community band.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Lisa plays the flute for special music and has been in the Feast orchestra at Wisconsin Dells for several years. She enjoys being with friends and family, and her most memorable Feast was last year in Italy.

Plans After Graduation: Currently attending Lake Area Technical Institute for cosmetology.

Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:10. *Advice:*

Take one day at a time. There is only so much you can do until it's out of your con-



Lisa Renee Cook

trol, and you need to put the situation in God's hands.

April Counts

Parents: Leigh and Mark Counts
Congregation: Birmingham, Alabama
High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, AB Honor Roll
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: April helps with the church tape library and loves taking pictures and being with friends.
Plans After Graduation: April plans to attend



April Counts

Gadsden State Community College for a degree in real-time reporting (broadcast captioning)

Favorite Quote: "Reach for the moon because if you fall, you'll still be among the stars."

Favorite Scripture: "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Jonathan Crawford

Parents: Scott Crawford and Beth Crawford
Congregation: Red Bluff, California
High School Accomplishments: 3.8 GPA, 1440 on SAT, academic excellence in Spanish, honor roll, principal's list, National Honor



Jonathan Crawford

Roll, Who's Who Among High School Students, orchestra/symphonic band.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Computers, skateboards, soccer, playing music (mostly French horn, some mandolin).
Plans After Graduation: Plans to attend University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, to get a BS in computer engineering.

Amanda Damour

Parents: Tom and Lisa Damour
Congregation: Lubbock, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Graduated with honors DAEP, member of National Honor Society, National Honor Roll, Who's Who Among American High School Seniors, National Young Leaders Council and National Association of High School Scholars. Toured Austria with choir; selected sophomore class president; member of Student Council freshman year; and was a member of the varsity softball team.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amanda was a member of her high school and church choirs, a mentor and enjoys softball.
Plans After Graduation: Amanda is attending the University of Texas at Arlington where she received the Outstanding Freshman Scholarship Award and an IMPACT scholarship. She is planning to major in marketing.
Favorite Scripture: "Love suffers long and is



Amanda Damour

kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Aaron Keith (AJ) Dean Jr.

Parents: Aaron and Michelle Dean
Congregation: East Texas, Texas
High School Accomplishments: AJ scored exceptionally high on the GED exam and was asked to be salutatorian at the graduation ceremony. At Gladewater ISD he was chosen as the Most Outstanding Middle School Student.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Homeschooling allowed AJ to travel with his family and change his schedule to meet his interest. He has traveled in 13 different countries on three continents. He is an accomplished athlete. AJ began water-skiing at age 4, and enjoys all water sports as well as basketball and other team and recreational sports. He is an excellent gymnast, having performed in rest homes and talent shows several times a year. This led to his current job, teaching gymnastics in Tyler at Mid Air Tumbling. AJ enjoys music, singing and dance. He studied violin for two years under the guidance of the Duo



Aaron Keith (AJ) Dean Jr.

Renard in the government-sponsored cultural program. He played saxophone in middle school and has taken up the guitar.

Plans After Graduation: Because of his high academic standing, AJ chose to skip his final year of high school and instead begin college at Tyler Junior College while he makes his future career plans.

Anya Rochelle Drown

Guardians: Charlie and Alma Drown (paternal grandparents)

Congregation: Sacramento, California

High School Accomplishments: Anya maintained a 4.0 GPA her senior year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: For two years Anya was in the International Folk Dance Club at her school learning the waltz, tango and other less known dances such as the Greek national dance. The club performed at nursing homes, dance concerts and the fair. She likes to crochet, make latch-hook rugs and is learning to knit. She loves reading, all genres, and writing, especially poetry, and studying the Bible.

Plans After Graduation: She's engaged to be married in October and wants to work in a clerical or bookkeeping position. Eventually



Anya Rochelle Drown

she wants to become a CPA and raise four God-fearing children.

Favorite Quote: "This above all: to thine own self be true . . . Thou canst not then be false to any man" (Shakespeare, *Hamlet* 1.3.78-80).

Laren David Dubkowski

Parents: Barry and Carol Dubkowski

Congregation: Boise, Idaho

High School Accomplishments: Honor Society, graduated cum laude, gained experience by working after school for four years as a computer tech for the schools in the district. Junior and senior years he earned 15 college credits through Northwest Nazarene University and Boise State University.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Laren helps out with the sound system set up. He enjoys guitar, tennis, music, athletics, socializing, work and cooking.

Plans After Graduation: Laren plans to attend

Boise State University, major in business administration and work part-time tutoring at the university.



Laren David Dubkowski

Quote: "It's been real, it's been fun, but it hasn't been real fun."

Motto: Smarter, not harder.

Advice: Don't take the short end of the stick.

Darrell Duke

Parents: Ted and Joan Duke

Congregation: East Texas, Texas

High School Accomplishments: Taking a home study course has allowed Darrell more time



Darrell Duke

to focus on his music. He has been playing drums since age 5. He is a member of a local band that performs at many social events.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Darrell works with his local church sound. He is often asked to run the sound at weddings and other social events. In his free time he installs car audio and surround sound for home theater.

Plans After Graduation: Darrell will attend college this fall with his primary focus on design drafting and engineering classes.

Additional Comment: "Don't worry, be happy!"

Andrew Giddens

Parents: Ralph and Sherrie Giddens

Congregation: St. Louis, Missouri

High School Accomplishments: Swimmer of the Year ('99-'00), Ozzie Engelbart Memorial Award (Pinecrest 2004), 3.9 GPA and a scholarship to Southwest Missouri State University that covers tuition/student fees.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Andrew has been on the volunteer staff at the Central Region preteen camp for the past three years and a camper at Pinecrest for the past four years. His hobbies include trading card games, reading, computers/Internet, video games and writing.

Plans After Graduation: Andrew plans to go to Southwest Missouri State University to study computer science (with a required minor in mathematics). He will also continue to pursue his hobby of writing fictional stories.

Favorite Quote: "We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in

filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over" (*Fahrenheit 451*).

Favorite Scripture: "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 praise-



Andrew Giddens

worthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

Brian David Goodrich

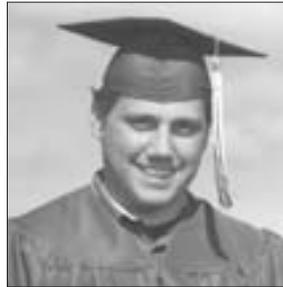
Parents: David and Kandy Goodrich

Congregation: Eureka, California

High School Accomplishments: Through the Humboldt Regional Occupational Program, was the only student to complete all the certificates for Microsoft Office and Adobe Page Maker.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He sets up, runs and takes down the sound system in his local congregation.

Plans After Graduation: Brian plans to go to Collins College in Arizona for 2½ years for a BA in game design.



Brian David Goodrich

Favorite Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8) True Love—if everyone just followed these scriptures, there would be no divorce and the couple could live in true love.

Teri Haney

Parents: Larry and Frances Haney

Congregation: Columbus, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: Valedictorian, a delegate for Ohio Buckeye Girls State '03.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: At church Teri enjoys playing hymns, singing special music and playing the French horn in the brass ensemble. She has attended camp at Woodmen, Heritage, the Tetons and was on the staff for two years at the preteen camp, Buckeye. She loves to travel and her favorite city so far is Paris because you can easily walk everywhere and observe the culture.

Plans After Graduation: Teri plans to attend



Teri Haney

Kent State University to study graphic design and would like to study abroad for a semester or two.

Favorite Scripture: "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Brett Hanisko

Parents: Michael and Zeldia Hanisko

Congregation: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

High School Accomplishments: Fifth in class, Wisconsin academic excellence scholarship, multiple time student achiever and student of the month, AP scholar—5 AP classes, varsity math team, National Merit Scholarship winner, community service,



Brett Hanisko

National Honor Society member, graduated summa cum laude.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brett served as teen club president, sings, plays cello/piano, and was a member of a swing choir and the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Other interests include photography, computers, classical/opera music, math and science—especially chemistry.

Plans After Graduation: Brett will attend University of Wisconsin—Madison, where he plans to major in biochemistry.

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:8.

Amy Sue Hargarten

Parents: Jim and Amy Hargarten



Amy Sue Hargarten

Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota
High School Accomplishments: Amy took college classes in her senior year.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amy loves sewing, cooking and music. She performs for church on piano and with her family singing group as well as with the women's chorus.
Plans After Graduation: Amy plans to develop a sewing business and work at David's Bridal as an alterations specialist.

Joel Hargarten

Parents: Jim and Amy Hargarten
Congregation: Minneapolis, Minnesota
High School Accomplishments: Joel went to col-



Joel Hargarten

lege in his junior and senior years and finished an associate's in computer science.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Joel loves sports and music. He is on the church sound crew and performs for special music on piano and with his family singing group.
Plans After Graduation: Joel plans to develop his own computer business with his brother Jeff.

Ryan M. Hayden

Parents: Cecil and Deborah Hayden
Congregation: Williamsburg, Virginia
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ryan enjoys skateboarding and cars.



Ryan M. Hayden

Plans After Graduation: Ryan plans to continue his education to become an LPN.
Motto: Work hard, play hard, give your all in everything you do.

Mark Helseth

Parents: David and Rosetta Helseth
Congregation: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
High School Accomplishments: President's Academic Award, Geography Bee Award, Excellence Rating—Band, Certificate of Invitation to National Student Leadership Conference, Gifted Education Award, invitation to People to People Student Ambassador Program, A Honor Roll throughout high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Mark's hobbies are reading, basketball and repairing things. He is interested in archae-



Mark Helseth

ology and history and learning about many things. He also likes to be out in nature.
Plans After Graduation: The last week in July Mark was scheduled to attend a biblical archaeology seminar at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. In the fall he will be applying for scholarships, maybe taking a course in finances and continuing to save for college. In the fall of 2005 he plans on attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, focusing on archaeology.
Favorite Quote: "Make order out of chaos."
Favorite Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might."

David Henderson

Parents: Kathy and Jerry Tillery
Congregation: Houston North, Texas
High School Accomplishments: American Volunteer scholarship; certificate of recognition for 320 hours of community service; internship in computer repair.



David Henderson

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David enjoys spending time with family and friends and reading books.
Plans After Graduation: David plans to go to Kingwood College and major in computers.
Favorite Quotes: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give"—Sir Winston Churchill. "Fall seven times. Stand up eight"—Japanese proverb.

David Hirst

Parents: Allen and Sandi Hirst



David Hirst

Congregation: Post Falls/Spokane, Washington
High School Accomplishments: Lettered in cross-country and soccer.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David is a member of the ski patrol at Silver Mountain, and enjoys soccer.
Plans After Graduation: David's plans include being an electrician apprentice and developing a real estate investment company.
Additional Comment: "Be happy."

Natasha Holter

Parents: Randy Holter and Kelly Prucha
Congregation: Portland, Oregon
High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, honor roll, scholar athlete, four-year varsity cheerleading, three-year varsity track.



Natasha Holter

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Church dance team and church youth camp.
Plans After Graduation: Natasha plans to attend Washington State University and receive a master's in English. She plans on becoming a high school English teacher.
Favorite Scripture: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven . . . A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4).

Alyse Howie

Parents: Steve and Helen Howie
Congregation: St. Paul, Minnesota
High School Accomplishments: State champion synchronized swimming trio two years in a row; all-conference in synchro. Three years in a row all-conference orchestra; all-state orchestra.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Alyse has been a synchronized swimmer and an



Alyse Howie

orchestra member for six years. She loves all genres of music and is very athletic. She also did gymnastics, swimming (racing), basketball, volleyball and soccer.
Plans After Graduation: Alyse plans to attend Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to major in music therapy and minor in architecture.

Heather Amanda Kern

Parents: Tammy Sheerin and Tim Kern
Congregation: Dayton, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Fair Valley summer swim team; school swim team; Coaches' Award; Coaches' Attendance Award; women's team won Greater Western Ohio Conference title; school-



Heather Amanda Kern

wide All Sports Award, four years; ballet.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Heather enjoys crocheting, ballet, swimming, bicycling and camping.
Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend Sinclair Community College in Dayton to start a career in teaching (kindergarten).
Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."
Favorite Hymn: "Seek Ye First."

Josh Kinney

Parents: Ken and Ruth Kinney
Congregation: Beloit, Wisconsin



Josh Kinney

High School Accomplishments: Drama Club for four years, serving as historian, sergeant at arms and tech representative (two years). Josh achieved second place in a regional computer-aided drafting (CAD) competition.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Josh enjoys going to all of the church activities that he can, hanging out with all of the local teens and going to church camps. He enjoys working in theater, and he became stage manager and backstage chief.
Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend a local college for two years and then transfer to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study architecture.
Favorite Saying: "Continue on your path and never give up."

Ashley Kuhns

Parents: Dennis and Beth Kuhns
Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, vice president of Spanish Club, varsity letter in tennis, received incentive schol-



Ashley Kuhns

arship award four years in a row and awarded a gold key for scholastic achievement, member of Pep Club, band, Tri-Hi-Y, student council, graduated with honors and received the EPHS Alumni Scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Ashley was vice president of the church Teen Speech Club and has attended Camp Heritage and Camp Woodmen. She has served on the staff at Camp Buckeye, and loves to work with younger children. She loves to play tennis, write, scrapbook and take pictures.

Plans After Graduation: She will be attending

Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, majoring in early childhood education. She was awarded the Presidential Scholarship.

Favorite Saying: "Knowing what you stand for limits what you fall for."

Lynette Adrienne Lobien

Parents: Cliff and Wanda Lobien

Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota

High School Accomplishments: Mabel Stanton Scholarship, BFEA Scholarship, Oscar Howe Summer Art Institute Art Scholarship, National Honor Society.



Lynette Lobien

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Lynette's interests are art, writing, reading, watching cartoons, greyhounds, pet catfish and frogs.

Plans After Graduation: Lynette plans to get through college first, then become a professional artist and get a pet greyhound.

Additional Comments: "My favorite Bible hero is Job because he never gave up on God."

Melanie Logan

Parents: Ben and Joan Logan

Congregation: Delmar, Delaware

High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, National Vo-Tech Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, senior/junior class officer, MVP girls' varsity soccer, first team all-conference girls' soccer, honor roll, Health-Knowledge Bowl champion team.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Melanie has done puppet show/drama ministry, Nicaragua mission team and played

guitar and sang with a pop/punk Christian band. She enjoys paintball, snowboarding, surfing, body boarding and going to concerts.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend Biola University in La Mirada, California, taking biblical studies and focusing on



Melanie Logan

youth ministry. She plans to become certified as a personal trainer.

Favorite Saying: "Why try to fit in when you were born to stand out?"

Michael Anthony Lotts

Parents: Karen and Craig Lotts

Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio



Michael Anthony Lotts

Plans After Graduation: Michael plans to be either a successful nurse/doctor or IT specialist.

Louise Miller

Parents: Marie and David Miller

Congregation: St. Paul, Minnesota

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Louise enjoys singing, dancing and being with her friends.

Plans After Graduation: Louise plans to become an ALC teacher, marry and have children.



Louise Miller

Favorite Quote: "To err is human, to forgive divine."

Mary Miller

Parents: Dan and Martha Miller

Congregation: Cambridge, Ohio

High School Accomplishments: January 2004 Student of the Month; participated in Ohio's Post Secondary Early Enrollment Program

in her junior and senior years; Dean's List of Kent State University Tuscarawas Campus; GPA in top 10 of class; National Honor Society member; John Glenn Scholarship from Muskingum College.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc. Mary enjoys singing, reading, e-mailing friends, going to great church activities, going to camp and lots of other things.



Mary Miller

Plans After Graduation: Mary is attending Muskingum College with a major in middle childhood education. She would like to attend ABC in 2006.

Favorite Scriptures and Quote: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Isaiah 11:6-9. "Smile, you'll brighten at least one person's day!"

James "Jimmy" Henry Mills

Parents: Clay and Renee Mills

Congregation: Austin, Texas

High School Accomplishments: 2001 Texas State Marching Championship; Most Dedicated Band Member 2002-2004.



James "Jimmy" Henry Mills

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jimmy's church activities and responsibilities include songleading, running audio and video systems, playing with the local instrumental ensemble, playing on the Austin/San Antonio basketball team and regular Camp Carter (UYC) attendance.

Plans After Graduation: Attend college as a music major.

Ashley Moen

Parents: Chris and Angela Moen

Congregation: Jacksonville, Florida

High School Accomplishments: Graduated with a 3.8 GPA.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Ashley has been attending camp for eight years, and this year served on staff. She loves drawing and interior design.

Plans After Graduation: Ashley will attend Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida, majoring in fine arts.

Comment and Scripture: "I just want to thank my family and friends for helping me reach my goals thus far. I have been greatly



Ashley Moen

blessed with many opportunities in life, and each time I've been able to grow and mature." "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3).

Jennifer Musgrove

Parents: Greg and Robin Musgrove

Congregation: Laurel, Mississippi

High School Accomplishments: Three years Spanish Club.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jennifer has attended summer camp at Woodmen and Carter and enjoys activities with the youth in the New Orleans and Covington, Louisiana,



Jennifer Musgrove

congregations (sister congregations). She likes to fish and ride four-wheelers.

Plans after Graduation: She plans to attend two years at the local community college and transfer to a four-year college.

Darris Nash Naidoo

Parents: Colin and Meena Naidoo

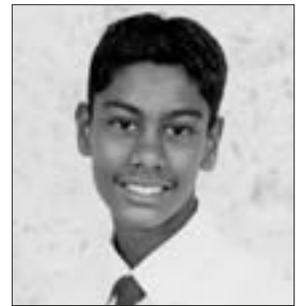
Congregation: Durban, South Africa

High School Accomplishments: Prefect in 2003/2004, Outstanding Achievement in Computer Studies 2003, Certificate of Merit for Technical Drawing and Industrial Arts.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He enjoys sports, especially soccer.

Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal to receive a bachelor of science in computer engineering.

Favorite Scripture: John 3:16: "For God so



Darris Nash Naidoo

loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Carissa Lynn Nelson

Parents: Bruce Jr. and Shirley Nelson
Congregation: Fargo, North Dakota



Carissa Lynn Nelson

High School Accomplishments: FFA officer; National Honor Society; fast-pitch softball.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Carissa has attended church camps and played bass clarinet in orchestras at various Feast sites.
Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College for chef training.

Danielle F. Novak

Parents: David and Frances Novak
Congregation: Denver, Colorado
High School Accomplishments: Volleyball.



Danielle F. Novak

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Danielle's activities include playing piano (since the second grade), hiking, snow-boarding and power boating.
Plans After Graduation: Danielle plans to attend ABC, become an EMT and then pursue nursing.
Advice: Beauty is in the eye of the beholder—so make sure you know what true beauty is.

Gavin Pendergast

Parents: Mick and Brenda Pendergast



Gavin Pendergast

Congregation: Spokane/Post Falls (Idaho)
High School Accomplishments: Graduated with a 3.6 GPA.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Gavin has been skiing for over 10 years, and is a certified ski instructor at Silver Mountain. He also loves many other sports. He has been in the Church since 1996.

Plans After Graduation: Gavin plans to take a year off from school to save for college. He plans to go into the accounting field.

Favorite Saying: The future belongs to those who are steadfast in achieving their goals in life.

Grant Donovan Pennington

Parents: David and Rita Pennington
Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky



Grant Donovan Pennington

High School Accomplishments: Track, golf, basketball and tennis team, Gene Sams Tennis Award, Who's Who Among American High School Students, Academic Honors Diploma, President's Education Award, Mr. Renaissance of Harrison County and nominated for Homecoming Court.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Grant enjoys playing music, body building, playing sports and volunteering at Church camps (Pinecrest, Hye Sierra, Woodmen and Heritage).

Plans After Graduation: Grant plans to attend ABC in 2005, then study finance/management or health at IUS, possibly working in health services or becoming an accountant (CPA).

Jessica Rice

Parents: Kreg Rice and Lisa Manning
Congregation: Houston South, Texas
High School Accomplishments: President of HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America); completed CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) course; Most



Jessica Rice

Outstanding Senior Award in photography and health science technology; member of German Club; independent study with Dr. Virginia Nisbet; swim team and water polo.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:

Jessica enjoys working out and cross-stitching. She loves the medical field and plans to become a doctor of obstetrics/gynecology.

Plans After Graduation: Jessica is going to the University of Texas at San Antonio and majoring in biology and will work part-time as a CNA.

Advice/Favorite Scripture: Have fun! Hebrews 13:2: "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."

Corbin Rose

Parents: Michael and Amy Rose
Congregation: Flint, Michigan



Corbin Rose

High School Accomplishments: Top Ten, National Honor Society, student senate, newspaper/yearbook staff, Big Brothers Big Sisters member, Drama Club, Tech Club, Tech Team, university scholarship.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Corbin sings in the choir, plays for hymns and has been in speech club for teens and young adults. He enjoys fellowshiping with the kids and adults.

Plans After Graduation: Corbin plans to start at a local university, take a break for ABC, then finish college to become either a graphic designer or teacher.

Favorite Scripture: Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine . . ."

Melody Schmidt

Parents: Randy and Darlene Schmidt
Congregation: Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Melody Schmidt

High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, Outstanding German Student, Most Valuable Orchestra Member, highest score of 5 on Advanced Placement psychology and biology exams, high score of 4 on Advanced Placement English exam.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Melody plays violin in the church ensemble and sings in the choir, as well as being involved in the church youth activity/service club. She also enjoys musical theater, drama, music, camping, white-water rafting and reading.

Plans After Graduation: Melody will attend the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, with a major in biology and a minor in German.

Favorite Scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Ephraim Andrew Sheerin

Parents: Paul and Tammy Sheerin
Congregation: Dayton, Ohio



Ephraim Andrew Sheerin

High School Accomplishments: Fair Valley summer swim team; school swim team; schoolwide All Sports Award, three years; Coaches' Award; tennis team; cross-country team; band; Spanish Club; National Honor Society; graduated with an Honors Diploma. Scholarships: University of Cincinnati Cincinnatus and E3 scholarships, Award of Merit, Vandalia-Butler Boosters Association Scholarship, Greater Western Ohio Conference Scholar-Athlete Award.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Ephraim has been the local congregation teen representative. He enjoys bicycling, swimming, tennis and running.

Plans After Graduation: He has been accepted to the University of Cincinnati and plans to major in chemical or aeronautical engineering.

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:8: "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."

Paul Ezekiel Sheerin

Parents: Paul and Tammy Sheerin
Congregation: Dayton, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Fair Valley summer swim team; school swim team; schoolwide All Sports Award, three years; band; Miami Valley Career Technology Center, aviation program—power plant and air frame.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Paul enjoys building models, flying, cars and trucks.



Paul Ezekiel Sheerin

Plans After Graduation: He plans to attend Sinclair Community College to become a commercial airline pilot.

Rebecca Sorby

Parents: Bill and Susan Sorby
Congregation: Sedro Woolley, Washington
High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society all four years, graduated in top 50 out of approximately 230, received band scholarship, third place in art show for ceramics.



Rebecca Sorby

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Rebecca likes to draw and do artsy stuff. She has played the flute for six years. She loves outdoors activities, especially camping and boating. She assists with Sabbath school.
Plans After Graduation: Rebecca will be attending the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. She wants to major in business and possibly minor in art.

Dathan Spieker

Parents: David and Dawn Spieker
Congregation: Watertown, South Dakota
High School Accomplishments: Academic All-State for football, basketball and track; named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*; President's Award for Educational Excellence; national nominee for Wendy's High School Heisman; 4.0 Honor Roll; National Honor Society president; inducted into the National Honor Roll; 100% Math Club.



Dathan Spieker

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Dathan enjoys all kinds of sports. He also enjoys playing video games with his little brother and spending time with his family.
Plans After Graduation: Dathan will attend Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to major in accounting.
Additional Comment: "I have found that you should always respect those around you, because you never know when you might need their help."

Jim Springer

Parents: Jim and Lorinda Springer
Congregation: Sacramento, California

High School Accomplishments: Winner of seven scholarships, officer positions in French Club and California Scholarship Federation, Community Service Award pins, member of yearbook staff, various academic honors, 4.1 GPA.



Jim Springer

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Jim maintains the local congregation Web site and helps with the church sound system. He enjoys basketball, hiking, fishing, cars and photography.
Plans After Graduation: Jim will attend Sierra College in Rocklin, California, and major in civil engineering.
Favorite Scripture: Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so they are without excuse."

Jason Richard Stewart

Parents: Daniel and Jacqueline Stewart
Congregation: Youngstown, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Jason did a mentorship program and took advance placement courses.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He served as sergeant at arms for the Northeast Ohio Teen Speech Club. He has also served as an usher and on the sound crew at church.
Plans After Graduation: Jason plans to go to ABC first, then to Youngstown State University, followed by Logan College of Chiropractic to become a chiropractor.
Favorite Scripture: Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
Quote: "Cheer up. It gets worse."
Advice: Don't hold back. Do everything you can while following God's law.

Roy Quentin Sutherland

Parents: Dennis and Helen Sutherland
Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky
High School Accomplishments: Indiana Academic Honors Diploma, Cub Honors Diploma (science and math).
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Roy serves on the church sound crew, and has attended Camp Heritage and Woodmen. He enjoys playing video games and reading (favorite author, Orson Scott Card).
Plans After Graduation: He will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, studying electrical engineering technology.

Adrian Marie Thomas

Parents: John and Kathy Thomas
Congregation: Lansing, Michigan
High School Accomplishments: Graduated with honors.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Adrian enjoys dance, track and field and spending time with friends and family, especially her 10-month-old nephew.



Adrian Marie Thomas

Plans After Graduation: Adrian will be attending Central Michigan University.

Kathleen Thomas

Parents: Greg and B.J. Thomas
Congregation: Cleveland, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Kathleen received 32 college credits during her senior year and was on the honor roll. She performed many hours of community service working with special needs children as part of Project CARE.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She was part of the Northeast Ohio Teen Speech Club for four years and worked on the staff of the area preteen camp all through her teen years. She enjoys fellowshiping, working out and amusement parks.
Plans After Graduation: Kathleen plans to finish her associate's degree at Lorain County Community College, attend ABC in 2006 and then continue her bachelor's and master's degrees in physical therapy at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.
Favorite Scripture: Romans 8:38-39: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor



Kathleen Thomas

things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Advice: It's always the right time to do the right thing.

Jeremiah Kenneth M. Tiu

Parents: Roberto and Anita M. Tiu
Congregation: Bacolod City, Philippines
High School Accomplishments: Honors: '00-'01 fifth honor, '01-'02 fifth honor, '02-'03 third honor; '03-'04 first honorable mention; Math Trainer's Guild passer ('01-'02); Philippine Math Olympiad participant ('00-'01); 5K Fun Walk third place ('00-'01); Pantomime Contest third place ('01-'02); Oration Contest third place ('02-'03); General Info Contest third place ('02-'03); *Clarion* feature writer (school paper '02-'03); sub-associate editor/entertainment ('03-'04); Filipino Costume third place ('03-'04); Student Council Organization

vice peace and order chairman ('03-'04); Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Essay Writing Contest finalist (fourth year '03-'04); Double Ten Celebration Chinese Vocal Solo Contest second place ('03-'04).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



Jeremiah Kenneth M. Tiu

Kenneth loves singing and is a member of the church choir. He loves participating in church activities.
Plans After Graduation: Kenneth would like to continue his studies in college at the University of St. La Salle pursuing a bachelor of science in commerce with a major in agribusiness. He is grateful that God had given him the opportunity to continue his studies, despite hardships and trials.
Favorite Scripture: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6, in gratitude to his parents).

Laura Lynn Traver

Parents: Marianne and Richard Traver
Congregation: Grand Junction, Colorado
High School Accomplishments: Played junior varsity tennis three years, French Club, National Honor Society, honor roll all four years with 3.5+ GPA, graduated with honors and performed 92 hours of community service. Took media technology class through Mesa State College, learning the basics of camera operation, video production, computer animation (LightWave) and linear and nonlinear editing.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Laura plays tennis with her parents, brother and



Laura Lynn Traver

friends, has snowboarded for about six years. She loves street motorcycles, writing fiction stories, drawing and doodling, video games and comic books.
Plans After Graduation: Laura has been accepted to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, California, and will pursue a degree in computer arts so she can do visual effects for movies/TV.
Additional Comment: "I have always believed in doing my best in whatever I'm doing, because I feel that nothing in life deserves less!"



Messina Truttman

Messina Truttman

Parents: Randy and Cindy Truttman
Congregation: Collinsville, Illinois
High School Accomplishments: High honors, member of newspaper staff, St. Vincent de Paul, Science Club and Rotary Interact Club.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Messina enjoys writing and poetry, jet skiing, tennis, swimming, kickboxing and modeling.
Plans After Graduation: Messina plans to attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to study dental medicine.
Motto or Advice: Dance like nobody's watching, sing like nobody's listening and live like there's no tomorrow!

Kevin Umberfield

Parents: Clay and Jeanne Umberfield
Congregation: Saginaw, Michigan
High School Accomplishments: Valedictorian, honor roll, National Honor Society president, varsity basketball captain, basketball all-area honorable mention, DAR Good Citizen, Student Council treasurer, Student of the Year, Top Citizenship Award, National Merit Finalist, director of six school plays, Science Fair Best of Show.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kevin is a songleader and has performed special



Kevin Umberfield

music solo and with his father. He enjoys the theater and has appeared in many plays in school and at the local Arts Center, including *The Wizard of Oz; Hello, Dolly!; Tom Sawyer* and *Ducktails and Bobbysox*. He has been able to direct and work backstage in several school plays. He enjoys reading, basketball, singing, piano, computers, amateur radio and being with family and friends.

Plans After Graduation: Kevin is tentatively planning on pursuing a degree in civil engineering. He hopes to study abroad in Europe for a semester.

Amber Christine Warren

Parents: Tresa Schoolem and Samuel Warren
Congregation: Sedro Woolley, Washington

High School Accomplishments: National Honor Society, faculty award in history.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Amber enjoys attending camp and doing various youth group activities such as themed dinner parties, dances and outdoor activities.
Plans After Graduation: She will be attending



Amber Christine Warren

the University of Washington.
Favorite Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
Motto: Love never fails.

Janette Willoughby

Parents: Jack and Vicki Willoughby
Congregation: Bentonville, Arkansas
High School Accomplishments: Eta Sigma Alpha National Honor Society.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.:



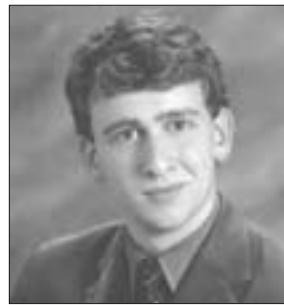
Janette Willoughby

Janette loved being a camper and now a staff member at United Youth Camps. Piano is a big aspect of her life, and she has played for about 12 years. She also enjoys dancing (tap, jazz and pointe).

Plans After Graduation: Janette plans to attend a local community college then transfer to the University of Arkansas.
Favorite Scripture: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Vincent Rogers Winner

Parents: Mark and Colleen Winner
Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky
High School Accomplishments: Graduated third in his class with JHS Honors and Indiana Academic Honors. Member of National Honor Society, Math Team, Academic Super Bowl (science and math), received Best Delegation twice in Model UN.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: He has attended several camps: Sequasin ('95), Heritage ('96-'97), Woodmen ('98-'04). He enjoys playing bass guitar (four years), life-guarding, playing basketball and sand volleyball, strategy games and speaking in various accents.
Plans After Graduation: His plans include



Vincent Rogers Winner

attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and attending ABC after college.
Favorite Quote: "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will" (Vincent T. Lombardi).

Brittany N. Witt

Parents: John J. Witt and Cynthia Y. Witt
Congregation: Laredo, Texas
High School Accomplishments: Graduated sixth of approximately 500, varsity tennis, JV vol-



Brittany N. Witt

leyball, class secretary, Legendary Longhorn.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brittany loves the Bible and the Sabbath.
Plans After Graduation: Brittany plans to attend Texas A&M International University to get a master's in nursing.

Advice: Keep your priorities straight and everything will work out for the best!

Mark Worthen

Parents: Perry and Nancy Worthen

Congregation: East Texas, Texas
High School Accomplishments: All As, home-schooled, started college classes after sophomore year.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Mark participates on his congregation's basketball and volleyball teams. He works with his grandfather as a brick hand and in his father's health food business.
Plans After Graduation: His plans include getting an ABA at Tyler Junior College and a BBA at, perhaps, the University of Texas at Tyler, and to continue working in his father's health food business.



Mark Worthen

Favorite Quote: "A penny saved is a penny earned" (Benjamin Franklin).

Zachary Zimmerman

Parents: Wayne and Jan Zimmerman



Zachary Zimmerman

Congregation: Louisville, Kentucky
High School Accomplishments: Homeschooled through high school.
Plans After Graduation: He will attend Berea College.

What ABC Can Mean for You!

ABC can represent the first letters of the alphabet or a television network. But to the United Church of God it means *Ambassador Bible Center*.

ABC means a biblical education among those of like beliefs. For the first time in your educational experience, you may attend an institution that is geared to your spiritual needs and that places a priority on the morals that you embrace.

It means that you may participate in all of the activities because they are scheduled at times you may attend. It means forming close bonds and friendships with fellow ABC students you'll be with seven hours a day, five days a week for seven months. ABC means service opportunities in the home office and surrounding church areas.

ABC means an opportunity to enhance your life by being taught living principles from God's Word. At ABC, we are accepting applications! Write for yours at: P.O. Box 54992, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0992 or download an application at our UCG Web site at www.ucg.org/abc. Or you may call (513) 576-9796 and ask to speak to Registrar Ralph Levy or Admissions Officer Gary Antion about any questions you may have.

ABC may mean the beginning of a new experience that will have an eternal effect on your life!





From the Word

A Time for Two Vital Lessons

by Anthony Wasilkoff

Recently a fellow believer shared an experience from her school days when she wrote a tribute to a local citizen. The distinguished individual was described as being a "God-fearing person." However, a religious classmate greatly decried this description, claiming that God should only be loved and certainly not feared. This religious friend is not the only one who labors under this unfortunate misunderstanding.

Jesus Christ Himself clearly taught appropriate fear is absolutely necessary for His followers to inculcate. In Matthew 10:28 we are told, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Furthermore, as described in Hebrews 5: 7, our Savior is He "who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear."

It won't be long before all of us will be observing the Feast of Tabernacles.

Some of us will be attending the nearest Festival site, others will be transferring to a site of our choice and yet others will be keeping the Feast at home out of necessity. In all circumstances the scriptural objective for observing the Feast of Tabernacles remains twofold. Each of us will be keeping the same Feast in different locations, but we'll be doing it for the same two vital reasons prescribed by the Word of God.

Learning to Fear God

The first objective for the Feast of Tabernacles is identified for us in Deuteronomy 14:23: "And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always."

Fearing God doesn't come naturally. It has to be acquired. According to the scripture above, it has to be carefully and faithfully "learned." Furthermore, this vital and healthy fear must be reacquired or reviewed each year so as to be certain that it lasts a lifetime, that is, "always."

What does it mean to "fear God"? One of the best definitions I have heard

is "to take God seriously." How many people take God all that seriously in our day and age? In 2 Timothy 3:5 Paul describes the end time as a time when there would be a proclivity for "having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" On the other hand, Psalm 111:10 admonishes, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." We observe the Feast of Tabernacles each year to be reminded of these essential lessons.

Commanded to Rejoice!

The second fundamental objective of the Feast is found in Deuteronomy 12:7: "And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you."

What a marvelous objective! What a wonderful command!

Just in case there was any misunderstanding, our Creator added additional emphasis in Deuteronomy 16:15: "Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands,

so that you surely rejoice."

How remarkable it is to be commanded to be happy for an entire week and to express and share that happiness with others!

Some may think that these two Feast objectives are incompatible, that they clash, that they really don't meld that well together. How can a person fear on one hand and then rejoice on the other?

Aren't these two actions and emotions contradictory? Not at all! The fear of God directs us to the attitudes and behaviors that produce genuine happiness and thus allow us to experience genuine joy that has no hidden or delayed headaches and repercussions.

The book of Philippians gives repeated instructions to the Christian to maintain a positive mind-set of rejoicing. When you have a moment, take a concordance and proceed through this short epistle and look up every passage that uses the word "rejoice" or "rejoiced." A remarkable theme emerges. Remember that these admonitions, although



inspired by God, were being issued by an incarcerated man with limited freedoms to his fellow believers who are "on the outside!"

Wherever you observe the Feast of Tabernacles this year, be sure you undergo a life-altering experience with a firm grasp of the Feast's twofold objective: "learn to fear the LORD your God always" and "you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand." For more than a week we will be blessed to concentrate on God's plan, His truth and His way of life with minimal distractions from the world so that we come away renewed and refreshed. **UN**

'Let's Roll'

■ Todd Beamer became a hero Sept. 11, and his last words became a rallying cry for a nation. God's elect are hearing a similar cry to help save the world. Are we ready?

by Lynn Marshall

It was a lovely September morning—not a cloud to be seen across the brilliant blue sky. United flight 93 took off from Newark bound for San Francisco. It should have been a straightforward, easy, six-hour flight. But instead the plane made a hairpin left turn above Cleveland, veering sharply off course and turning south at first, then east... straight toward Washington, D.C.

It became a story with a challenging message. The words "let's roll" have to do with taking on a task realizing there is a sacrifice involved. It was the story of the civilians of flight 93 at the time of the Twin Towers attack when they took on the hijackers rather than let the plane fly on to Washington.

Later "Let's Roll" would become a U.S. rallying cry against terrorism. It was the only terrorist attack that day in which no lives were lost on the ground as a result of the crash. Tragically it was, the plane fortunately didn't crash into the Capitol nor the White House, Camp

David or any other national landmarks. Instead, it crashed at 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, in an open meadow with only a stone cabin more than a quarter of a mile away. There were many heroes on the flight that day. One of them was a young man named Todd Beamer.

Todd had made a phone call from the flight. He called on the passenger seat Airphone and the call went to Lisa Jefferson, the operator in the Chicago area. Lisa took the call, which covered some 15 minutes in duration. Lisa was the last human link with Todd.

Afterward she provided a firsthand account of what Todd had said and done. Todd kept Lisa informed as to what was happening on the flight. At one time he recited Psalm 23 with her. At another time he said he was going to have to go out in faith.

He also told her a little about his family and made Lisa Jefferson promise to call them and tell them how much he loved them.

Then Todd said to brave fellow passengers, "Are you ready? Let's roll." He left the phone hanging still connected. He never came back on. Lisa heard screaming in the background. Shortly after that the plane went down, blasting a hole in the earth 50-feet deep.

Heroes

Todd Beamer died when he led the charge aboard flight 93 to try to recover the cockpit from the hijackers. His

courageous actions didn't save the lives of his fellow passengers, but he and others helped prevent the aircraft from reaching its target—perhaps the U.S. Capitol building. Todd Beamer, age 32, left behind two little boys aged 3 and 19 months and Lisa his pregnant wife.

After 9/11, a Vietnam veteran sent Lisa Beamer his Purple Heart earned in battle. A World War II veteran did the same. The U.S. Congress gave her a prolonged standing ovation. And of Todd Beamer's heroic act? According to an editorial in the *Dallas Morning News*, he became one of the three most admired individuals in America. Todd and Lisa Beamer became symbols of national and personal strength in the face of crisis, Todd for the brave actions that cost his life, and Lisa for her gracious and courageous response.

Lisa Beamer has written of the tragedy and its effect on her life in *Let's Roll*. She explains that Todd was raised with strong biblical values, which emphasized family loyalty, faith in God and personal integrity. Each morning before school, Todd's mother would read to her children a chapter from the book of Proverbs.

"Let's roll" was a phrase Todd often used with the family. When the boys heard "Let's roll!" they would head for the door. They knew what it meant, sort of "Let's get ready for the next thing we're going to do." And they were Todd's last recorded words.

"Let's roll" is their story—a message of character, courage and faith in the face of horrifying tragedy. "Let's roll" gave courage to a nation at a critical time and then became the rallying cry against terrorism.

A Rallying Cry for the Elect

But what about the firstfruits? It is also our story. How do we view challenge? Todd's one quick heroic act probably saved many lives and he became a hero. But saints "die daily" and do this year after year. And it often seems unnoticed. A promise goes along with this daily sacrifice—that the world will not be destroyed because of the elect's sake (1 Corinthians 15:31 and Matthew 24:22). In this sense we too are involved in saving many lives.

There are many biblical heroes we can turn to who also faced great challenges and saved lives. Esther was a heroine who rose to the challenge of saving her people. Her attitude of "If I die, I die" is one the firstfruits identify with completely. The saints have an overriding purpose in life of spreading the gospel so many can know God's real



truth and be saved.

Todd Beamer will live again in a world free from terrorism. The firstfruits will have a part in preparing that world free of the ultimate terrorist of this world, the one who holds the world captive, Satan.

This should keep our faith strong. And with Esther's words, "If I perish, I perish," we realize that death is just a comma, not a full stop. There is encouragement in remembering the words "let's roll"—for even in death we still make it. What a marvelous plan. What a wonderful God! **UN**

The Fast That God Has Chosen

■ God had strong words for those using fasting the wrong way. What should we be learning by fasting on the Day of Atonement and other times?

by Kurt Hoyer

"They seek Me daily." "They delight to know My ways." "They take delight in approaching God." Surely Christians would like God to say these things about them.

God did say those very things once about a group of people. He sent a special messenger to say those things, and from the context of the message, it could be one of the oldest Day of Atonement sermons on record. He also told His messenger the following:

"Tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." In a series of succinct, biting sentences He dresses down these same people He had just seemingly praised. Why? What is it about the Day of Atonement that we should learn so we can avoid finding ourselves in the same situation?

As you have no doubt guessed the people was Israel, the messenger, Isaiah and the message, Isaiah 58. A deeper look at these passages will give us a fuller appreciation of the Day of Atonement, and what it is supposed to do for us and to us.

After the initial attention-getting salvo, God addresses directly the concerns and attitude of the people using a common teaching device, a hypothetical Q&A between Him and the people. In verse 3 He outlines their complaint. "Why have we fasted and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves and you have not noticed?" (NIV).

God answers the people's question in verses 3 and 4. "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife" (NIV). They were fasting, but it was not working a change in their lives, not even on the very day of the fast! God told them in essence, "You are not doing it right!"

In verse 5 God responds with a question of His own. It is a leading question that seems almost sarcastic in tone. In essence He says, "Is this the kind of fast I want? Do I want you to afflict your souls and humble yourselves?" The question is almost sarcastic because the obvious answer is "Yes!"

Leviticus 23:27 speaks of fasting on the Day of Atonement: "You shall afflict your souls." In verse 29 it says those who did not were to be killed! So the obvious answer to God's question is "Yes!"—but it is not the answer He is looking for. God's question is designed to prompt another question, "Why?" Why fasting, why afflict our souls? If it is not an end in itself, what should we be learning?

The rest of the passage reveals that answer in a very clear way. It underlines a lesson that God has repeated and repeated to Israel from the day He brought them out of Egypt until the day

that you and I were baptized into spiritual Israel. It is a lesson our physical forebears failed to learn and one we dare not fail to apprehend. It is a lesson of developing a godly attitude—the mind of God that motivates the actions He describes here.

In Isaiah 58:6 God mentions four things fasting should work in us. These are not separate things, more like four variations on a theme. Let's examine them and we will see that they should not have been foreign to Israel. They should have known what fasting was all about.

Things Fasting Should Do

A fast is supposed to "loose the bonds of wickedness." Israel's history as a nation began with such an event. "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of . . . the house of bondage" (Exo-



Our sins act as a yoke. They weigh upon us and they allow Satan to control our actions. They push our heads down so we cannot see the light above us.

odus 2:2). God loosed their bonds of wickedness in a dramatic way—He broke the bonds that tied them to Egypt. In Leviticus 16 God gave them a ceremony for the Day of Atonement that highlights this breaking of the bonds of wickedness. Their sins were symbolically lifted from them and placed on the goat to be led away into the wilderness.

No less so with us. We were brought out of sin, spiritual Egypt, by the dramatic sacrifice of God's Firstborn. The bonds of wickedness that held us have been broken. Paul tells us in Romans 6:14 that sin no longer has dominion over us. Fasting helps to loose those bonds that may try to reattach themselves through our weakness. Paul continues in Romans 6:16, "Whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves." Each time we sin another bond of wickedness grabs us. So if we have yielded to sin, this Day of Atonement helps loose us again.

Fasting also reminds us that if we are holding somebody else's bonds, we need to let them go. In Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals a woman. The scribes and Pharisees accosted Him for healing on the Sabbath when it was not a matter of life or death. But Jesus defended Himself with an interesting reference.

According to Jewish custom of the day, it was a sin to feed your ox on the Sabbath. That was too much work. However if your ox was tied in his stall, you could let him loose to fend for himself. Jesus' justification for healing this woman is based on this principle. He

was just loosing her from her bonds.

The second thing fasting does is to "undo the heavy burdens." In Leviticus 23:28, the children of Israel were commanded not to work at all on the Day of Atonement. They were not to be burdened.

God reminds us that sin is a heavy burden (Psalm 38:4). Sin, or a guilty conscience, is a heavy thing to carry around. These heavy burdens can be undone through fasting because the fast makes us aware of our weakness and prompts us to call out for help.

What about the burdens we place on others? Matthew 6:12 is part of a familiar passage commonly known as "The Lord's Prayer." "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Does someone owe you something? Maybe an apology? A second chance? A better deal? What would happen if you were to undo

and scorn? Do we treat some as the Jews of Jesus day treated the Samaritans? Are we oppressive in our jobs or families? This Day of Atonement why don't we let our oppressed go free?

The fourth thing fasting does for us is to "break every yoke"—not some, every. Again Israel should have known this since in Leviticus 26:13 God speaks of having broken the bands of their yoke. Lamentations 1:14 tells us that God breaks the yoke of our transgressions.

A yoke is a device attached to the shoulders of oxen that is then attached to a plow. Its purpose is to enable the farmer to control the strength of the oxen for his own purposes. Part of that control is established by the weight and strength of the yoke. Our sins act as a yoke. They weigh upon us and they allow Satan to control our actions. They push our heads down so we cannot see the light above us.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:30: "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Fasting humbles us, and that humility prompts us to ask for God's assistance to break the yoke of sin. With that yoke broken, we are free to walk as Jesus walked, not as the adversary would direct us.

This is why God wants us to fast. This is what fasting does for us. This is the core of the Day of Atonement. Or is it?

Fruits of a Fast

Isaiah's message does not end with verse 6. God actually mentions several other things in a particular tone. Allow me to paraphrase:

"Here's the fast I'm talking about," says God. "It looses the bands of wickedness, releases the heavy burdens, frees the oppressed, and breaks every yoke. Because of that—because of what it does for you—there are some things I want you to do. In fact, if the fast is proper, you will do them. If you do not, the fast was wasted."

As in many cases, it is our response God is interested in. So what should our reaction to a fast, such as the Day of Atonement, be? What is the fruit of a proper fast?

1. Feed the hungry. Feeling hungry should give us empathy for those who are hungry all the time and should prompt us to do something about it when

we have the chance. Mark 6:38-44 shows that feeding the hungry was part of Christ's work. Has it changed now? Do you know you have brethren whose primary diet consists of a tasteless corn dough, collard greens and tea? Would you want to eat that every day of your life? Some of our congregations run food banks. There are people scattered in all congregations who donate time, effort and money to food programs or who drop food off on the doorsteps of the less fortunate.

Of course this applies spiritually as well. Matthew 5:6 speaks of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. What about us? Our conversations at church should be nourishing spiritually. That does not just mean talking about Scripture. It can include the sharing of experiences, the small miracles that happen in our daily lives. How about our homes? Can the hungry find spiritual food there?

2. Shelter the homeless. Fasting should prompt in us a desire to provide shelter. How is your hospitality?

Churches of God have participated in shelter projects such as Habitat for Humanity. Other congregations have developed teams of people who help refurbish housing for elderly or infirm members. Of course this has a spiritual dimension as well.

Is your congregation a shelter spiritually? Can the spiritually homeless, those who are seeking the truth, find shelter there? Do they feel safe talking about their calling or are they only received into what Paul calls "doubtful disputations" (Romans 14:1, KJV)?

3. Clothe the naked. What do we do with our cast-off clothes? Some congregations run used clothing programs—have you donated recently? Why only cast-offs? How many coats do you have? How many do you wear?

The principle of leaving the gleanings for the poor to collect should teach us that we are not supposed to wring out every last bit of profit. We are to leave some for the less fortunate.

Revelation 19:8 equates clothing with righteousness. Are we helping to clothe the naked spiritually? What do we talk about? Do we spend our time revealing

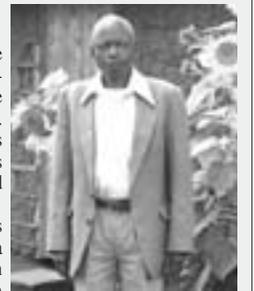
See "Fast," page 23

The Story of Joseph

Joseph Kihara was a longtime member. He lived with his parents on a farm plot in the highlands of central Kenya. For several years he was the only Church member for miles around. He talked with his neighbors, he lent them his literature, he gave them his literature. He was known as "that godly man" or "that good man."

I only knew Joseph for the last few months of his life. I visited with him and his family a few times in the small hut he built himself. On more than one occasion during his fight with the cancer that claimed his life, somebody many miles away would give somebody else some money for x-rays or medicine for "that good man," and the money would pass through several hands before it finally reached him.

We now have two growing groups meeting in that general area. I think Joseph got the lesson of Atonement. He did not hide himself from his own flesh.



Treasure Digest

Helping the Unemployed

While employment goes on a roller-coaster ride with the economy, most available jobs are in the lower paying "service" areas. Older and skilled workers are finding it hard to keep their jobs and even harder to find employment.

The Employment Assistance Network (EAN) was founded in 1995 and has been an effective resource in helping those who find themselves suddenly unemployed and in search of new employment. What can be done?

While many still view their career as one job—one company, "till death do us part," the job market has drastically changed in the past couple of decades. In his book, *The Quick Job Hunt Guide*, author Robert Siedle explains how the corporate giants sought to cut overhead by eliminating employees with long tenure; thus lowering current salaries and expensive retirement plans.

Recent California Employment Development Department (EDD) statistics show that those in the upper wage brackets, \$50,000 per year and above, can expect to change jobs every three to five years—voluntarily or not. And it is not much better for those making less. So it behooves all of those employed to become aware of the job market and to gain or sharpen job search skills.

The EAN has established a Web site to provide resources to the job seeker, www.ean-ucg.org. EAN also has a number of helpful articles and brochures, the masters of which, in

Microsoft Word or PDF format, are available to all congregations.

The Web site is available and friendly to non-Church members as well, and provides a service to the community at large as well. In Orange County, California, other groups, such as "Taco Tuesday," a local networking group, and the Career Coaching and Counseling Ministry of Saddleback Valley Community Church make use of our service.

In every area there are those who have gone through the "layoff/job search/new job" process, and hopefully one will also have a desire to help others along this road. EAN can support that person in helping others. If you are that person, contact us by e-mail at kjosifek@mindspring.com for information on starting a chapter in your congregation.

*Knute Josifek
Los Angeles, California, congregation;
founder and coordinator of EAN*

About My Father's Business

Back in the early '50s, in my formative years of learning, I inadvertently made a decision that seemed to alter the course of my life. The Korean war was looming on the horizon, and American tanks and troops were pulling out of post-war Europe. On my way to school I would watch the long lines of tanks rolling along the cobblestone street toward the railroad depot.

What I was learning in school seemed to have nothing to do with what was happening in real life. In this strange world that didn't make a lot of sense to me, I desperately needed someone caring to whom I could relate.

At home, Oma (my grandma) would look after us kids, provide care, concern and chores. However both of my parents were running a business away from home. We really didn't get to see much of them, since they usually rose and were long gone before we ever got up and didn't come home till late in the evening.

So one day I struck out after school for my father's business. I'm sure my grandma got worried about me that day. However, that afternoon

at work with my dad and mom turned out so well that I decided from that day on to go there after school. For the next three years, if anybody asked me where I was off to in such a hurry, the answer was: "I must be about my father's business."

It didn't take but a few weeks and the three of us—Papa, Mutti (mother) and I—became a close-knit team and family that we hadn't been before. Little did I realize that I wasn't just learning the business, but more importantly, I was learning about my father and mother. Now I would go all over town, delivering orders of soap, brushes, paint or canvas, in my father's name. People would actually call me Mr. and usually give me some token of appreciation for my services.

Life had become much more fulfilling for me. Going to school wasn't so hard anymore, now that I had a real purpose. Papa could also explain some

of my questions about what was going on in this chaotic world. It was great to be about my father's business!

Many years later, I look back on the turn in the road back then that got me involved in my father's business. Then it reminds me of the time when I was called by God, some 10 years later. And to this day, when somebody asks where I'm off to in such a hurry, the answer is: "I must be about my Father's business!"

*Manfred Fraund
Los Angeles, California, congregation*

The \$20 Lesson

She looked surprised when I asked her to crumple a crisp \$20 bill, and even more surprised when I asked her to drop it and grind it into the floor!

It was during a presentation at the Pittsburgh Woman's Retreat, and after my volunteer was done stomping on it, I held up the dirty, crumpled \$20 bill and asked the audience, "How much is this \$20 bill worth now?" Of course the answer was still \$20. When I straightened it out, I could go to any store and still spend it. Just because the \$20 bill was crumpled up and ground into the floor did not cause it to lose its value.

So what does that have to do with you and me?

The stresses of life, the trials that come roaring in unexpectedly, can beat us down. We can begin to feel worthless to our families, on our jobs, in our community, at church and, most importantly, to God. Unmet deadlines, overcommitments, lack of rest and time for ourselves, all have a way of dragging us down and killing our self-worth. But are those feelings based on facts or are they just feelings?

It is at times like these that we must be reminded how much God values us. Christ said, "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Luke 12:7, New International Version throughout).

We must be of great value—God gave His Son for us! There is no way He will give up on you.

But we do feel crushed and worthless at times, so what should we do?

Ask God to encourage you. "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). Our very loving God can lift us up, uncrumple us and encourage us.



So when things start pressing you down and making you feel worthless, remember the \$20 bill lesson. Even though we may be crumpled up and ground into the dirt, we have not lost our value to God, for He paid a high price for you and me, that of His Son! He will not give up on His investment—you! He has the power to uncrumple you!

*Janet Treadway
Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation*

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share in this section? Or if you have any suggestions, please contact *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 or mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Turning the Hearts Reducing the Risk in Selecting a Mate

"I now pronounce you husband and wife" are the words heard at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony by the excited couple. And so they begin a new family unit. The couple has pledged to take one another until death parts them.

A lasting, happy marriage is essential if there is to be stability in the family. Children who grow up in a divorced home or blended family have a more difficult time succeeding in life. While the children of broken marriages are not "doomed" to failure, they have to make adjustments to compensate.

How may we take some of the risk out of mate selection? While marriage will have unexpected turns, we may have a better opportunity of success if we follow some basic guidelines before marrying.

Take plenty of time to make a decision. Let time be on your side. If marriage is rushed, the couple does not have adequate time to learn enough about each other to make a reliable decision. Marriage is a lifetime commitment to share one's life, hopes and dreams with another person. While some have had quick romances and married and are seemingly doing well, that is the exception, not the rule. Take time to see any potential mate under sufficient circumstances to know him or her.

Pray for God's guidance and wisdom. God will not make the decision for you, but you may pray for His wisdom and insight. It is a fact that when you are in love, you see an idealized view of the one loved. The "rose-colored glasses" have to come off in order to see the other person clearly, so seek God's help to have objectivity in making a wise decision.

Seek wise counsel. Parents are well-suited to know their children and can give excellent feedback. They know their children's likes, dislikes and needs since they have known them since birth. Friends who know you well are another excellent resource, if you sincerely seek their input and do not merely want them to "rubber stamp" your choice. Since a church wedding gives a couple a greater chance of remaining together for life, the counsel of a minister is invaluable, especially if he has additional training in premarital counseling. Next time we will look at an additional vital biblical key.

Gary E. Antion



Be Ready to Give an Answer: Why Do You Believe Christ Will Return to the Earth?

The return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords is a truth frequently reaffirmed in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments (Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; 19:16; Isaiah 40:10; Daniel 2:44; Micah 1:3).

We believe the Bible teaches the personal, visible, premillennial (before the 1,000-year reign of Christ) return of Jesus Christ. His return will not be done in secret (Matthew 24:30; Revelation 1:7). "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). He will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). He will make war with the kings of the earth, and overcome them (Revelation 17:14) to bring peace.

He will sit on the throne of His father (ancestor) David (Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:7; Jeremiah 23:5) and establish the Kingdom of God on earth forever (Revelation 11:15). During the first 1,000 years of this reign, Christ will inaugurate a refreshing time, a time of restoration of all things (Acts 3:19, 21). He will be assisted by the saints resurrected as He returns. They will become immortal children of God (1 Corinthians 15:50-53), rise to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17) and join Him as conqueror of earth's rebellious nations and in establishing the Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:10; 20:6), the wonderful world tomorrow (Amos 9:13-14; Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-5).

Jesus Christ came once to bear the sins of many and, as promised, will appear a second time (Hebrews 9:28; Acts 15:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:23). The kingdoms of this world will become "the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever" (Revelations 11:15), and the saints will serve with Him (Daniel 7:18).

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" (Revelation 22:12). As John said, we also pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (verse 20).

For More Information, see the booklets, *Fundamental Beliefs* and *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

"Council," continued from page 2

sionally during a 19-year cycle. In 1974, when the Church moved to Sunday observance of Pentecost, it was determined that the wave sheaf must occur during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, not outside the Feast. Thus next year the count for Pentecost will begin on the Sunday that is also the First Day of Unleavened Bread. The article will cover calendar material relevant to this issue.

• Miscellaneous articles and papers submitted to the Doctrine Committee for review. Each quarter the committee receives about a dozen articles and papers that it is asked to review.

After reviewing the ongoing projects, Mr. Wasilkoff conducted a final discussion of a doctrinal statement titled "The Beginning of the Sabbath in Extreme Northern and Southern Regions." The Council suggested a few edits to the statement and unanimously passed a resolution approving the edited statement, which will now be prepared for release.

Mr. Franks then reviewed a number of questions on the subject of the nature of Christ. The entire Council reviewed the questions and the answers that were given by the Doctrine Committee, while maintaining the confidentiality of those who posed the questions. The questions had to do with whether or not Jesus existed before His human birth. Mr. Franks expressed the Doctrine Committee's appreciation of the manner and approach of those who asked the questions.

The questions focused on the Church's explanations of John 1:1 and Psalm 110 as well as the monotheistic Jewish belief, whether *elohim* is a plural word and whether Jesus Christ was worshipped as God. Mr. Franks read portions of a lengthy letter that was written to answer their questions. The Doctrine Committee was unanimous in agreement that the Church's teaching is correct. The Council was given copies of the questions and the response and asked to review the material within two weeks. Mr. Franks further requested the Council members to e-mail him if they have any questions or see a need to pursue any of the questions any further.

Mr. Franks then led the Council through a final doctrinal review of the study paper, "The Nature of God and Christ." He provided each member with a listing of the 35 headings in the paper and asked them to consider whether the subject was covered thoroughly enough. He pointed out that at the meeting in May 2004 the Council reviewed the first 21 pages of the paper. He then led the Council through an overview of the balance of the paper.

After doing so, Mr. Franks asked if there were any doctrinal issues. Since there were none, he asked the Council to review the entire paper once again and e-mail him any doctrinal questions or issues. When all the questions and issues are resolved, he will turn the paper over to an editor who will prepare it for final Council approval at the December meetings.

The final doctrinal consideration for the morning dealt with a study paper submitted on the subject of the Hebrew calendar. The question was discussed in

open session, but the name of the individual posing the questions remained confidential. The paper suggests that the calendar should be established by observation rather than by calculation and that certain adjustments need to be applied. Mr. Franks quoted from the response that is being prepared to be sent to the author. He gave copies of the paper that was submitted along with the draft of his response and asked the Council to review both. Mr. Franks said he would e-mail the Council members after the meetings to establish a timeline for completing their review.

Review of "Evangelism in the Scripture"

The afternoon portion of the meeting started with Doug Horchak conducting the Council's first review of the study paper produced by the Evangelism Task Force, "Evangelism in the Scripture." Members of the task force are Bruce Dean, Peter Hawkins, Ken Graham, Tom Robinson, Jim Servidio and Doug Horchak (chairman).

Mr. Horchak reviewed the major headings and provided an overview of each section of the paper:

- What Is Evangelism?
- Evangelism in the Old Testament?
- Evangelism in the NT: What the Greek Words *Euangelizo* and *Kerusso* Reveal.
- What Is an Evangelist?: A Look at the Word *Euangelistes* in the New Testament.
- Local Evangelism: What Does the Bible Say?
- "General Membership Involvement."
- Plus seven appendices.

On Aug. 29 Mr. Horchak worked out a schedule for further review of the paper, asking for Council input by two weeks after the Feast, followed by task force review and then Doctrine Committee review. Final Council review and approval are scheduled for December.

2005 Feast Video and Bookstore Distribution of Literature

The open session concluded with a brief discussion conducted by Peter Eddington on the topics of suggestions for the 2005 Feast of Tabernacles video and consideration of bookstore distribution of UCG literature.

The Council tentatively agreed to focus on Southern Africa, including Malawi, Zimbabwe and other nearby countries, for the 2005 video, reserving the final decision until after the Feast.

Mr. Eddington then introduced discussion of the concept of repackaging some of our literature (for example, *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*) and making it available for purchase as either a paperback or hardback book. He stated that he wanted to get Council approval before pursuing this opportunity.

He pointed out that everything we publish would still be available free to anyone who requests it, and that the bookstore market would expose the Church to a different audience. There would be no expense involved, since money generated by sales would cover the publishing costs.

Discussion focused on the success of previous similar efforts and whether it

was philosophically acceptable to sell our literature.

After the discussion Mr. Eddington took a straw poll, which indicated that the majority of the Council members were not in favor of pursuing the idea.

Aug. 27 the Council approved modifications to two employee policies and initial plans for the 2005 General Conference of Elders. The Council concluded business in executive session.

Edits to Policies

Edits to two policies were unanimously adopted by the Council. The Early Transfer for Ministerial Assignments policy was revised to clarify the language so that it fulfills the original intent of the policy, which is to defray some of the additional expense incurred in the sale of a home in the event a pastor is transferred before completing four years at an assignment.

The termination of employment policy was revised to delegate to the president authority to terminate an employee, subject to the Council as part of the Human Resources employee grievance review process.

Sabbath Service Format to Remain Unchanged

Richard Pinelli reported the results of an experiment in eight congregations in which the opening prayer was given before the first hymns. In seven of the eight congregations members indicated that they preferred the traditional order of services.

Mr. Pinelli concluded that the Church will maintain the traditional order and make an effort to remind members to be prepared for the start of the service (as several Council members suggested).

Evangelism at the Feast

Mr. Pinelli asked for the Council's feelings on the subject of evangelism at the Feast of Tabernacles sites, which the Festival coordinators discussed in a recent meeting. The policy has been to let each Festival coordinator determine

what seems most appropriate for his Feast site.

After hearing comments from many Council members, Mr. Pinelli thanked them and concluded that it would be valuable to develop a written policy in the future and that for now each Festival coordinator would continue to have the responsibility for making a determination on this matter for his site.

Plans for GCE 2005

Dave Register, chairman of the GCE 2005 Task Force, joined the Council meeting via teleconference to review the preliminary plans for the 2005 annual meeting.

After some discussion of the specific wording of the themes submitted, the Council modified one slightly to: "Seize the Vision: The Next Decade and Beyond," which they, by resolution, unanimously adopted. The Council also agreed that for the Sabbath service at the beginning of the conference the chairman and president will give split sermons.

In a brief executive session, the Council selected Frank Fish to serve on the task force, replacing Joe Horchak, who had asked to be relieved of this duty.

Policy on Accrual and Dispersal of Property and Assets

Mr. Kilough brought to the Council's attention the need to determine whether formal organizational guidelines should be developed on how to disperse Church property in the event of a congregation separating from United and how to deal with the accrual of property in the event of a group or congregation joining the Church.

Mr. Horchak and Mr. Dean both commented that it seems reasonable to have such a policy. Mr. Kilough noted that the policy would need to be approved by the General Conference as an amendment. He directed Mr. Darden to draft a statement, which would be reviewed by the Strategic Planning and

Finance and the Ethics, Roles and Rules committees.

Communicating With the Church Membership

On Aug. 29, Aaron Dean, chairman of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee, conducted a discussion on the issue of communicating important information to the Church membership.

Roy Holladay pointed out that in some situations the Church walks a thin line legally concerning public disclosure and comment, in particular with situations that involve personnel matters. The overall approach has been to take a low profile and make few if any public statements, which has resulted in a certain amount of misunderstanding and criticism of the Church.

In discussing the matter with the Ministerial Services team, it has been decided that the Church should take a more proactive stance in providing information. Information (and often misinformation) spreads very quickly over the Internet, and whoever states his case first usually seems to be right. It makes the Church seem defensive to come out later with an explanation.

Clyde Kilough commented that speculation always fills the void caused by a lack of information. He pointed out that whatever the Church publishes in-house (even if it's labeled "confidential") finds its way into various publications and Web sites that are not necessarily favorable toward United. Mr. Kilough stated that United needs to provide more information more quickly within the Church through letters to members, letters to the ministry, *United News* articles, etc., to equip our members with helpful information. If we do that more effectively internally, it will also be picked up by external sources.

Mr. McCullough summarized that the Council agrees that something needs to be done to improve our communications efforts. Mr. Holladay pointed out that the need is urgent. He suggested seeking a professional consultant for now and discussing a longer range solution during the December meetings.

Mr. Kilough requested the Media and Communications Committee and the home office administration to work together on a formal suggestion to the Council.

Media Philosophy

July 18 to 20, the Media and Communications Committee met in Cincinnati to develop a draft of a media philosophy based on 18 historical marketing principles developed in earlier meetings. The Council carefully reviewed the statement, suggested final edits, then unanimously approved it (see "Media Philosophy of the United Church of God," this page). Specific policies and strategies will be built on this philosophy in future meetings.

You can find more extensive reports on these Council meetings on the Web at www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm.

The next set of Council meetings will run Dec. 8 to 14, with committee meetings Dec. 6 and 7. The following meetings will be Feb. 25 to March 2 or 3, 2005 (the ending date will depend on the agenda). Committee meetings will be Feb. 23 and 24. **UN**

Media Philosophy of the United Church of God

Preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God is a divine commission given to the Church. The gospel message, which includes God's offer of the gift of salvation, shows His love for humanity. We must reflect that same love in the way we deliver His gospel to the world. We seek to provide the world with hope for salvation, to help those who believe and repent, and to warn of the consequences of sin.

Jesus Christ and the apostles set clear examples of how to deliver the gospel most effectively. The principles illustrated by their examples still apply. We must speak and write in a way that challenges our audience's wrong beliefs in a manner that is simple to understand, engaging, convincing and compelling. We must tailor the message to fit different cultural, national, religious and linguistic groups.

In a spiritually blind world, the deep truths of God are most effectively presented in a manner that leads from "milk" to "meat." For that reason, we must present the truth of God in a way that does not overwhelm people in either content or quantity.

The message is more important than those who deliver it. Consequently, we believe in focusing attention on the message of truth rather than on those who sponsor it. Furthermore, we believe in delivering the gospel primarily in the public arena rather than inviting people into the Church to receive it.

We believe we are required to freely give the truth to the world. Therefore, we offer our materials without charge or obligation.

We understand this is not the only day of salvation and that God alone can call someone, which means we are not responsible for converting the world. Nevertheless, we are still compelled by our mission to preach the gospel to all the world and care for those whom God calls.

We are ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. As ambassadors, our message must remain above the ideologies, politics and religions of this world.



Local Church Updates

Charlotte Goes Camping

The Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation wanted to get a head start on the camping experience this past May 21 and 22. About 28 "hearty" campers braved the beautiful blue skies, white sandy beaches and balmy weather of Huntington State Park in South Carolina for a weekend of fun, food and fellowship.

Friday evening the campers arrived and set up camp.



Top, happy campers at Charlotte campout; below, Sabbath services in the shade (photos by Larry Lambert)

We dined on hotdogs and hamburgers and enjoyed a campfire under the stars. Sabbath morning we had a brunch with omelets, fruit, coffee and juice and a very relaxing walk on the beach.

The young people had a Bible study around noon and Sabbath services were held at 2 p.m. in a very picturesque setting. The wind sighed through the pine trees as we sat, very comfortably in our beach chairs, and listened to a sermon on "Planning to Have a Good Attitude" given by our local elder, Larry Lambert.

Dinner that night had a Mexican theme, with tacos, quesadillas, refried beans, rice and drinks. Again, the crackling campfire lent subtle light to our warm fellowship and a few marshmallows were toasted for good measure.

It was difficult to think about leaving the next day, but the smell of pancakes, maple syrup and hot coffee assisted with the wake-up call. We hope our young people enjoyed this camping trip as much as the "old-timers" did. It seems they just might have, if their smiling faces are any indication.

Wilma Lambert

Columbus Honors Senior Citizens

On the Sabbath of June 5, the Columbus, Ohio, congregation enjoyed a lovely dinner honoring the group's senior citizens. The meal had a comfort foods theme—just like Mom used to make.

Afterward the assembly viewed childhood photos of the seniors displayed on a large screen. As each photo was shown, a child from the congregation read clues as to the person's identity and members tried to guess which senior it was. Prizes were awarded to the members with the most correct guesses as well as special gifts for the eldest members in the group.

Beth Stewart

Redlands Finds Pennies Do Count

The Redlands, California, congregation has conducted a penny drive for the past two years. The pennies are collected in a large jar and saved to help brethren in other countries attend the Feast of Tabernacles. This project involves the congregation at all age levels. The little kids save their pennies, and the widows are diligent too.

We are not a large congregation, but we will probably have \$600 or more by the Feast this year. This year the money will be helping families in Peru. We learned that the Peruvian brethren work hard and earn very little. They diligently save their tithes. Many have just enough to pay for a bus that takes them to the Feast site. Once there they do not have funds for their lodging.

The American dollar goes a long way in Peru, so our penny drive will help two or three families and also permit the children to have a special treat during the Feast. Any congregation can start a penny drive. You can help children go to camp or help brethren in other countries.

Dianne Clark

Member Earns Master's

Wendy Styer Kovalchick received her master's in education (with a major in special education) at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, May 14, 2004. She graduated with a 3.9 grade



Graduate Wendy Styer with, from left, David, John and Daniel

point average. Wendy attends the Nashville congregation with her husband, John, and sons David (10) and Daniel (7).

Pine Car Derby Held at Columbus Picnic

The annual Columbus, Ohio, church picnic held on July 18, 2004, in Pickerington, Ohio, featured a Pine Car Derby.

The day was full of joy, laughter and fun for the nearly 100 in attendance. There was volleyball, horseshoes, games of catch, football, water balloons, great food and lively conversation on the perfect 76-degree summer day, but the main event was the Pine Car Derby.

The racecourse was a long, sloped five-lane track where nearly 40 handmade balsawood cars competed in numerous heats. The approximately 7-inch by 2-inch by 1½-inch cars sported biblical themes that demanded creativity and originality from the makers. The races were very exciting, because it was difficult to predict which car would win.

In the 17-years-of-age-and-under group, in the "lightweight car" category, the winner was 6-year-old Clayton Martin. In the "heavyweight car" category for this age group, the winner was 6-year-old Alan Waterhouse.

In the 18-years-of-age-and-older group, in the "lightweight car" category, the winner was Bev Galli's "Apples of



Freda Hill helps judge the Columbus Pine Car Derby (photo by Amy Gunn)

Gold" car. In the same age group, the "heavyweight car" winner was none other than our beloved pastor, Joe Horchak, with his "Pastor Dude" car. In the final race to determine the overall fastest car, the winner was Alan Waterhouse, narrowly defeating the "Pastor Dude."

Prizes were awarded to the winners in categories of creativity as well as speed.

The "best theme" of an adult car was "Jonah's Folly" by Connie Seifert. The "best kid's theme" car was Elizabeth White's car, "The Widow's Mite." The "most humorous theme" was "Bal-aam's." The "most colorful" car was Emily Gunn's "Noah's Ark." Mr. Horchak received a Bible as a special award for the "not-so-biblical" theme.

Bev Galli

Wal-Mart Helps Make Dells Fund-Raiser Successful

The Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, congregation held a fund-raiser for the Good Works program July 11 at the Lake Delton Wal-Mart. Brethren from the Dells and Beloit congregations donated clothing, furniture and other items for the sale.

Wal-Mart has a policy that allows

local nonprofit groups, such as churches, to conduct sales on their property. The manager even allowed us to set up our tables next to the front entrance of the store. Many customers visited our tables before going inside Wal-Mart.

In addition, Wal-Mart matches dollar for dollar the amount sold at the fund-raiser up to a limit of \$500. In our case, the brethren sold almost \$1,000 worth of clothes and other items and Wal-Mart donated a check for \$500 to United. Their only stipulation is that the \$500 they donated is to be used locally for



Joe and Lee Familietti hold a matching check from Wal-Mart for \$500 (photo by Ruth Familietti)

needy families or charities. So we have a choice of giving it to deserving local United members or to charities in the area. It's definitely a win-win situation for everyone. The Dells congregation sent a check to the home office for \$1,000 to be used for the United Good Works program, and Wal-Mart donated \$500 to the local congregation for local use. The brethren appreciated the opportunity to serve at one fund-raiser that benefited two very worthwhile causes.

Why not contact your local Wal-Mart and organize a Good Works program fund-raiser in your area?

Steve Nutzman

Chicago 50-Plus Group Is Active

June 13, 2004, was the first outing of the new Chicago 50-Plus group, which met at the senior living housing in Sonoma, Illinois, where Dorothy (84) and Harvey (92) Mall live. The Malls, longtime Church members, have not been able to attend for many years.

Fifteen 50-Plus members joined the Malls in the small conference room in the complex to enjoy a great potluck meal. Helen and Ben Kerr, who live the closest to them, helped coordinate the activity. They deliver sermon tapes to the Malls every week. The Malls were delighted to welcome the guests as they live some distance from other members.

Sunday, Aug. 8, 23 members of the 50-Plus group had their second outing, at the Bicentennial Park theater in Joliet, Illinois. There we were entertained by a three-hour production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Mary Bauer, a Joliet resident, obtained discounted tickets for the group. Afterward Berna and Jack Long hosted a potluck dinner at their home in Elwood, Illinois, a few miles south.

Betty L. Gregory

45 Years of Faithfulness

On the Sabbath of July 10, 2004, the Canton, Illinois, congregation surprised Lewis Kepler, 82, with a special Sabbath service in honor of the anniversary of his baptism on July 9, 1959. The brethren invited those close to Mr. Kepler from other areas to help honor him on that Sabbath. One couple drove over seven hours to be a part of the special day.

Sabbath services were moved to a hall within a block of the nursing home where Mr. Kepler resides. When he was brought in the door, he was surprised to see many dear friends. A biography of his life and calling was typed and placed on a display board, along with pictures from his life. The sermon, given by local pastor Ken Graham, was geared toward a subject dear to Mr. Kepler's heart—prophecy, and the hymns that were sung were some of his favorites.

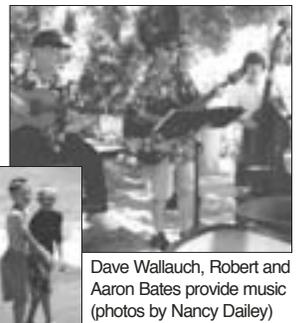
After services, the brethren served a wonderful potluck meal, with as many of Mr. Kepler's favorite foods as we could come up with. We had a beautiful cake with "Forty-Five Years of Faithfulness" on the top, but his favorite dessert of the day was the gooseberry pie, provided especially for him. Every family that attended was able to spend time visiting with Mr. Kepler.

Terri Corteloyo

300 Attend Southern California Reunion and Beach Party

Once again the Southern California Churches of God enjoyed a wonderful, relaxing and fun-filled regional barbecue and beach party July 18, 2004, at Doheny State Beach.

For the past few years the Garden Grove congregation has sponsored this



Dave Wallaugh, Robert and Aaron Bates provide music (photos by Nancy Dailey)

annual hamburger and fish barbecue with all the trimmings. Joining Garden Grove were the United Church of God congregations of Los Angeles, Redlands and San Diego and others from various fellowships of the Churches of God in the area who were specifically invited to join us and renew our friendships.

Under the direction of pastor Mario Seigle, and with the able assistance in

See "Local Updates," page 23

Announcements

Births

Sam and Shannon Sweat of Dallas, Texas, are very excited to announce the



Jaime Shannon Sweat

birth of their second daughter, Jaime Shannon. Jaime was born on May 7, 2004, and weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her big sister, Jordan, simply adores her!

Luis A. and Carrie Chavez of the Springfield/Nixa, Missouri, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Marcus Eugene Chavez. He was born Jan. 30, 2004, weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces and measured 22 inches long. The proud grandparents are



Marcus Eugene Chavez

Gene and Gayle Hogland also of the Springfield/Nixa congregation.

Richard and Rachel (Velting) Averett, of the Dallas, Texas, congregation, are thrilled to announce the birth of Caleb Richard Averett. Caleb was born on May 17, 2004, his great-grandmother's 80th birthday, weighing in at 8 pounds and



Caleb Richard Averett

measuring 19 inches long. He is the first of the Averett boys to be born with hair!

Big brothers Ethan James and Micah Allen are thrilled to have a baby brother!

They can't wait until he gets big enough to wrestle with them. Big sister, Hallie Elizabeth, left this world five months before Caleb was born. We know that Caleb looks forward to the day when he can meet his sister face to face. We can't wait for all of our family to be reunited in God's Kingdom! What a joyous day it will be!

Caleb's very proud and blessed grandparents are Richard and Nancy Velting of Dallas and Jim and Jannette Averett of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff of Cincinnati, Ohio, are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Anthony



Anthony David Royce Wasilkoff

David Royce Wasilkoff. Anthony was born on July 16 weighing 8 pounds 12 ounces and measuring 21½ inches long.

Kriphase Ongori and his wife, Naomi, of the Ogembo, Kenya, congregation are pleased to announce the birth



John Elliott Ongori

of their new baby boy, John Elliott Ongori. He was born on May 30, 2004, weighing 3.5 kilograms and was 21 inches in length. The grandparents are Francis and Tabitha Ongori.

Daniel and Tammy (Champagne)



Alayna Michelle Cunningham

Cunningham of the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Alayna Michelle. She was born on May 16, 2004 and weighed 8 pounds 4 ounces. She was welcomed by siblings Desiré, Joshua and Michelle. Maternal grandparents are Wilton and Lorraine Champagne of Ama, Louisiana. Paternal grandparents are the late Albert and Edith Cunningham of Houma, Louisiana.

David and Deborah (Graham) Rand of the Worcester, Massachusetts, congregation are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Sophia Marie Rand! Sophia was born



Sophia Marie Rand

on Jan. 13, 2004. She weighed 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 19½ inches long.

Dan and Renea (Hancock) Apartian of Pasadena, California, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child,



Andrew Robert Apartian

Andrew Robert Apartian. Drew was born on Sept. 23, 2003. He weighed 9 pounds 2 ounces. The proud grandparents are Robert and Barbara Hancock of the Fort Wayne, Indiana, congregation and Dibar and Shirley Apartian of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Bryan and Rhonda (Yost) Waddle are delighted to announce the birth of their twin sons, Harrison Drake and Jackson Sinclair. They were born April 14, 2004. Even though they were five weeks early, Harrison weighed 5 pounds 2 ounces and Jackson weighed 4 pounds 13 ounces.

Grandparents are Ron and Roxanna Yost of Joplin, Missouri, and Charles and Roberta Waddle of Somerset, Ken-



Harrison Drake and Jackson Sinclair Waddle

tucky. The family attends the Houston South, Texas, congregation.

Weddings

Bill and Jenny Bradford of Brisbane, Australia, are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Jenny, to Bradley Huthnance, son of Trevor and Lesby Huthnance of Melbourne. The ceremony was performed April 18, 2004, by the father of the bride. Jenny was attended by her sisters, Leanne Holladay and Jenean Rivers, and flower girl Courtney Holladay of Seattle, Washington. The best man was



Jenny and Bradley Huthnance

brother-in-law to the groom, Wray De Boo and groomsman, Jason Dangerfield. Jenny and Brad have made their home in Brisbane.

Anniversaries

John and Donna Sacoulas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 9, 2004. They live in Delray Beach, Florida, and the West Palm Beach congregation planned a sur-



John and Donna Sacoulas

prise celebration for them on the Sabbath of Jan. 10.

John and Donna also reside in

Georgetown, Pennsylvania, and attend the Youngstown, Ohio, congregation. They were given another surprise reception by the Youngstown congregation on the Sabbath of July 3. They have been members of God's Church since 1970. They have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all residing in Florida.

On Sabbath, June 19, 2004, the Bismarck, North Dakota, congregation celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary for Leven and Gladys Rieger. The couple was married in South Dakota on June 27, 1954. They have lived in Eureka,



Gladys and Leven Rieger

South Dakota, all of their married lives. However, their courtship took place in Lodi, California, when Leven was in the Marines. On weekends Leven would drive hundreds of miles to spend a few hours with his sweetheart!

Leven was baptized in 1977 and Gladys in 1982.

Church members all signed a card congratulating them on 50 years of wedded bliss. There was also a cake and appetizers for all as well as the Riegers' original wedding picture. There was a small presentation during which they were given a boutonniere and corsage and local deacon Ralph Redline made a brief speech.

Obituaries

Edward C. Dickinson, 66, of Big Sandy, Texas, died July 16, 2004, from complications of pulmonary fibrosis. He became interested in the Church as a teenager while listening to Herbert Armstrong's radio broadcasts and became a member in the early 1960s and remained faithfully so until his death. He was among those early dedicated members in the Big Sandy area who worked long hours on the Ambassador campus property. His quiet nature and kindness will be sorely missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Edwina in 1998. Mr. Dickinson is survived by daughters, Dianna Payne, Roxanna West, Charlene McCoy and Rolanda Fuller; a son, Charles; six grandsons; six granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

Herschel Dunham, 72, died July 30, 2004, at his home. One of the Church "patriarchs" in northeastern Ohio, he

was baptized in 1959 and was one of the original members of the Akron congregation when it was started that same year. He later became one of the original members of the Canton congregation at its inception in 1979. Still later, he was one of the pioneers of the UCG congregation in Canton, beginning in the summer of 1995.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Jean; three brothers; one sister; three



Herschel Dunham

sons; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted jointly on Aug. 3 by Doug Johnson, pastor of the Canton and Mansfield congregations; and Milan Chovan, Canton elder and long-time friend of the Dunhams.

Margaret VanderSloot, 88 years 8 months and 8 days old, of Cocolalla, Idaho, died Aug. 2, 2004, after falling and breaking her leg a few days earlier. Margaret was a longtime member of God's Church, being baptized in the early 1960s. She was able to attend church services quite regularly until the past couple of months. She attended the Spokane, Washington/Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, congregation.

She is survived by four children, 26



Margaret VanderSloot

grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Aug. 6, 2004, with pastor Mark Mickelson officiating.

Lorene Barrow Dreaden, 77, died July 13, 2004. She was born Feb. 21, 1927, in Crestview, Florida, where she lived all her life except for 12 years in Big Sandy, Texas. Mrs. Dreaden was preceded in death in 1995 by her husband of 49 years, chiropractor Dr. Everett Dreaden. She is survived by her sons, Larry and his wife, Pat; and Art and



Lorene Barrow Dreaden

his wife, Sandra Spieker Dreaden, all of Crestview; and daughter Cindy Murphy and her husband, Danny, of Newberry, South Carolina. She is also survived by eight grandchildren: Jonathan Dreaden and his wife, Sheila; Lindsey Dreaden; Zac, Tyler, Jesse and Cody Dreaden; and Taylor and Michael Murphy. She is also survived by five great-grandsons.

A true Proverbs 31 wife, mention of which embarrassed her, Maxine Lovett was born in Checotah, Oklahoma, on Oct. 23, 1925. She died peacefully in her sleep on Aug. 10, 2004.

She worked for 13 years in El Paso, Texas, for a contractor that built a sled track that was used to propel Air Force Colonel Jack Stapp faster than the speed of sound—a first for man!

In 1955 she met 6-foot-4 Bill, a divorced fellow, while square dancing at a USO club on Biggs Air Force Base in El Paso. Bill, who worked for the Corps of Engineers, had a pass to come on base. At 5-foot-11, she said she only wanted to date him once to see how it felt to look up to somebody. Three or four months later they were married.

In 1963 they were both called into the Church of God, and that togetherness ended because the understanding of the Bible at that time was that one was permitted only one mate for life, if both were in the faith. The promise of the Kingdom of God took precedence over this life. That was followed by a separation of over 11 years. She raised two daughters, Sylvia and Kathleen, who had come on the scene—both were still in diapers at the time.

The separation was rectified in 1974, after the Church came to further understand the biblical principles.

In 1974, she learned endpoint and created some truly beautiful works, which she was still doing until her death.

In 1979, they were able to go to Saudi Arabia for about three years, and in the interim, she was able to visit Europe, Scandinavia, Bangkok, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Jerusalem and



Maxine Lovett

Petra. She dipped her hands in two oceans and five seas and went around the world in the process. She also visited most of the lower 48 states and Canada.

For 40 years, she served the brethren in many capacities in Midland-Odessa, Texas; Tucson, Arizona; Garden Grove, California; and Phoenix East, Arizona; as well as various Feast sites. One thing she loved was making beautiful flower arrangements.

She loved to play card games, which she usually won, did her crossword puzzles in ink and was a wonderful cook, homemaker, commonsense person and help meet. She was never sick until the cancer took hold four years ago, and even then, had no sickness or pain from it. God did not choose to heal her, but He was merciful to her.

Maxine is remembered and honored as a beloved wife of 49 years to Bill and

loving mother of Sylvia Kennedy (of Phoenix) and Kathleen Roberts (of Yucaipa, California). Phoenix East pastor and friend, John Elliott, officiated a moving memorial service on Sunday, Aug. 13.

Ricardo Moreno Calderón, a 30-year member of the San Salvador, El Salvador, congregation, died of congestive heart failure on Aug. 19, 2004, at the age of 67. He died in peace, sitting in a chair in his home after being hospitalized twice over the prior four months for cardiac problems.

He was baptized in Lake Ilopango in 1974 as one of the first members of the Church in Central America, and remained an active and faithful member throughout his life. During his years in the Church, he served his country and fellow Salvadorans well, serving as vice minister of Housing and Development, as well as president of three government institutions: the Institute of Urban Housing, the Social Fund for Housing and the National Pension Institute. Among his other accomplishments, he served a term as mayor of the capital of El Salvador, San Salvador, and he was considered to be one of the greatest architects in the country.

He was buried on Aug. 20 in the cemetery "The Resurrection," a fitting name for his final resting place. He is survived by his wife, Margarita, and his four children, Ricardo José, Gerardo, Lourdes and Mónica, as well as four grandchildren, none of whom are members of the Church. He will be sadly missed by his congregation.

Clara M. Schwehofer, 65, died May 3, 2004, in a hospice in Bradenton, Florida, of cancer. She is survived by her sister Winifred Yoder, and other family members.

"Local Updates," continued from page 21

organization of Dave Marcum, Marcus Brown and crew, the picnic was a huge success with an attendance of over 300.

Doheny State Beach is an outstanding location for such an event. The beach is right there for all the beach lovers, and a short walk away is a wonderful private area we rented for the day, with a beautiful landscaped park area complete with trees, shade structures, picnic tables and cooking facilities.

Live music was provided by Robert and Aaron Bates, Dave Wallaugh and

other various pickers and singers, while others played board games and enjoyed peaceful conversations.

Food is always a big hit of the day. Once again, the legendary barbecue master, Preiss Movius, supervised the expert preparation of mouth-watering cheeseburgers, chicken and hotdogs. Heroic deep-sea fisherman Bob Carlisle of the Redlands congregation again provided his delicious barbecued tuna filets. Kevin and Sonali Fisk provided a shave-ice machine and flavors (nice on a hot summer afternoon) and encouraged the teens to be shave-ice servers.

The support staff also included Greg

Hilgen (setup), Rosalie Foat (food service) and Marcus Brown (cleanup). It was really wonderful to see so many brethren pitching in to help serve during this event. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

David Marcum and Jean Updegraff

Member Noted for Exemplary Service

Tony Dominguez, a member of the Denver, Colorado, congregation, received the Hertz Corporation's

highest award June 30, 2004.

"In recognition of your continued outstanding performance, as well as the many years you have served our company so well, it is my extreme pleasure to present you with our newest and highest award—the Exemplary Service Award," said a letter from Joseph R. Nothwang, executive vice president.

"Tony is one of our main song leaders at services, and his positive personality always contributes greatly to the atmosphere and mood," said Larry Neff, Denver pastor. "He and his wife, Sharon, have been very supportive and involved, as well as quite hospitable."



Emerald Noggle (above) from Little Rock, Arkansas, and Andrew Kenady from Bowling Green, Kentucky, were awarded the Spirit of Camp Tomahawk (see page 7, last issue).

"Fast," continued from page 18

others' filthy rags or do we practice the love that covers a multitude of sins? Are we helping others overcome? Do we pray for others' problems? Christ's last words concerning those who crucified him were, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34, KJV). He chose to cover the nakedness of those sins.

4. Hide not yourself from your own flesh. The final thing God speaks about as the fruit of a proper fast is a short summary of all the others, but it also acts as a catch-all for specific

items that were not mentioned above. As soon as you give humans a list of things to do, many will interpret it literally and sit back, relax and say to themselves, "I have done everything on the list, I am righteous." We find the Pharisees did that frequently. So God gives a catch-all final fruit.

Do we remain willfully ignorant of the needs of others? Have we avoided talking to someone on the Sabbath because the person is looking depressed and we say to ourselves, "I have had a tough week and Sally looks depressed. If I go talk to her, she will unload her problems on me and I real-

ly can't take that right now." This may all be true, and we do not expect to be perfect all the time, but the point is to examine ourselves and find where we can seek God's help to improve.

Do we hide from the needs of the people of God?

We have brethren in places in the world where the following are true. Forty years of Western aid have only allowed their own corrupt leaders to remain wealthy and served to rob the initiative from people. Half of the children die before they are 5. By the time a baby is 2, it has already been bitten over 200 times by malaria-infested

mosquitoes. The only reason he or she is not dead is that the babies have a condition that in other societies is called a disease, but that just happens to give protection against malaria.

The average annual income in some parts of Africa is \$350. What kind of Feast of Tabernacles could you have on \$35?

Of course the world is full of want and if everyone who reads this were to give everything, it would not solve the problems. The widow's mite didn't solve any problems either, but the Lord praised her for giving anyway.

There are many in the Church who

help out, who have taken the time to find out the needs of brethren around the world and around the corner and who do something about those needs. (See "The Story of Joseph," page 18.) Fasting is supposed to make us expose ourselves to those needs. What are you going to do about it before you break your next fast?

Fasting is supposed to work something in us. We are to love in word and in deed. We have this world's goods. More importantly, we have the next world's good—God's way of life. We should be sharing them. That's the fast that God is talking about. **UN**

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

GN Reader e-Letter from President Roy Holladay. In just 15 weeks we went from 582 subscribers to 10,264!

Samples of what our *Good News* readers have been getting can be seen at www.gnmagazine.org/gnupdate.

Michelle de Campos

WNP Seminar to Be Held in Beloit

A *World News and Prophecy* Seminar will be held on Oct. 30, 2004, in Beloit, Wisconsin. The sermons and seminar that day will be given by the managing editor of *WNP*, Darris McNeely, and senior editors Melvin Rhodes and Robin Webber. Specific subjects have not yet been selected, but the overall theme will focus on current world events and their prophetic implications.

More details can be found at www.ucg-beloit.org. Or call the Beloit pastor, Steve Nutzman, at (608) 758-9228 or e-mail him at steve_nutzman@ucg.org.

Kansas City to Host Young Adults Weekend

The Kansas City, Missouri, United Church of God is hosting its first young adults event. They invite young adults, married couples and singles ages 17 to 40 to join them in the beautiful "City of Fountains" for an inspiring and fun-filled event over the 2005 Memorial Day weekend, May 27 to 30.

The theme will be "*Extreme Makeover—Christian Edition: Raising the Standards for the Next Generation of the Church of God.*" Young adults and singles will hear seminars encouraging maximum Christian growth and development with an emphasis on sharpening their social skills and behavior with the opposite sex. Women's and men's only



What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

■ Compass Check

See video of home office weekly meeting.

www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice/compasscheck.htm

■ UCG Commentary on This Week's News

Weekly commentaries by UCG written on world news and trends, from a biblical perspective. Read these and more: "Why Is America So Politically Divided?" "Our Race Continues—Going for Gold" "Could Anti-Semitism Lead Europe to Another Tragic Defeat?" "Pink' Politicians Are 'In'"

www.ucg.org/commentary/

■ Current World News & Trends

Browse up-to-date world news events by subject categories!

www.ucg.org/worldnews/

■ E-mail Updates and UCG eNews

Receive e-mail updates relevant to UCG members and weekly HTML newsletters with ucg.org updates. Sign up today!

www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm

On vcmagazine.org

■ The September/October *Virtual Christian Magazine* includes "Everyone Will Have a Fair Chance," "Breaking Bad Habits," more.

vcmagazine.org

On verticalthought.org

■ "Help! I've Been Brainwashed," "Making the Jump to Spirit Speed" and more were added Sept. 1. Next issue: "Is the Spirit World Real?" verticalthought.org

Featured Links of the Month

■ Good News Web site.

www.gnmagazine.org

■ Anchor: A message

of hope for those struggling with homosexuality.

www.anchorhelp.com

If you have any questions or comments, please contact: webmaster@ucg.org



seminars will be given during the break-out session. Guests will have the opportunity to fill out survey questions before the event to provide invaluable research data for the speakers.

Other activities include an evening at Kansas City's breathtaking and historic Union Station. "BBQ Picnic at the Station" will highlight Saturday evening as



Kansas City's Union Station, site of young adults dinner and dance

we will dine and dance in a spacious outdoor facility. Sunday activities will include an optional day trip to "Worlds of Fun" amusement park. The evening will end with a bang and class as the Kansas City Symphony will dazzle the public with an outdoor patriotic concert climaxing with a fireworks display in front of the Liberty Memorial Tower.

The weekend will conclude Monday with a hearty brunch at the Cheesecake Factory at the world-famous Country Club Plaza. An afternoon activity will also be planned. The event will have a few surprising twists that will make it

even more memorable and exciting!

The registration fee is \$80, due on March 1, 2005. After that date the fee will be \$95. The fee covers the Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner and dance and the Sunday brunch.

Please visit <http://kcy2005.com/> for more photos and details about this event. You may also request a free brochure by writing to United Church of God—Kansas City, P.O. Box 11223, Kansas City, Missouri 64119 or e-mail eventcoordinator@kcy2005.com.

Ruben Gusman

Challenger II Rock Climbing Camp Applications Now Available

Applications for the Challenger II rock climbing program for young adults are now available on the Web at ucgyouth.org. The program is designed to be a spiritually and physically challenging leadership camp experience, and will be held Dec. 22 to 29 on the cliffs of Mt. Lemmon, just outside Tucson, Arizona. Check the Web site for details about the program or contact James Capo, program director, at james_capo@ucg.org.

The application deadline is Oct. 22, 2004, but we recommend getting your application in as soon as possible as the program is expected to fill early.

James Capo

ABC Mini-Samplers Set for Toronto and North Carolina

Two Ambassador Bible Center mini-samplers are scheduled for this fall. These mini-samplers give the brethren a taste of what ABC is like by presenting material from the classes.

Melvin Rhodes and Gary Antion will be in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to present their 10-hour mini-sampler Oct. 23 and 24). Please contact Anthony Wasilkoff at the Canadian National Office at e-mail address Anthony_Wasilkoff@ucg.org or phone (905) 876-9966 for further details.

David Mills and his congregations in North Carolina will be hosting a mini-sampler on Nov. 13 and 14. Don Ward and Gary Antion will bring the presentations. Please contact David Mills for further details about this event. His e-mail address is: Dave_Mills@ucg.org and his phone number is (336) 873-8988.

Gary E. Antion

Post-Feast Sabbath

If there is sufficient interest, we will hold Sabbath services at Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and Bend/Redmond, Oregon, on the Sabbath right after the Feast, Oct. 9. For Steamboat Springs, if interested, please e-mail Larry Neff at larry_neff@ucg.org or call (303) 470-3112. For Bend/Redmond, please e-mail Larry Walker at larry_walker@ucg.org or call (541) 536-5227.

Delta Flyers: Help the Church Earn Free Tickets

Are you flying Delta Airlines for the Feast? If so you can help the Church earn free tickets and not affect your personal frequent flyer miles. The process is simple. Locate your ticket number. It will begin with 006 and then a string of 10 or 11 other digits. Send that number to USFestival@ucg.org. This can be done even before the Feast.

In the last year, the United Church of God has received four free tickets due to members providing these numbers.

Charles Melear

Winter Camp 2004 Applications Being Accepted

It's not too early to begin thinking about Winter Camp 2004! The 10th annual Winter Camp will be held from Wednesday, Dec. 22 to Sunday, Dec. 26. Campers will learn about God's way of life in a positive and enjoyable environment. Possible activities include basketball, Christian Living Q&A, cross-country skiing, dance class, floor hockey, team challenge and tobogganing. There will be plenty of enjoyable group activities in the evenings as well.

Camper and staff application deadlines are Nov. 1. Youth ages 12 to 18 are welcome as campers. Camper tuition is \$185 and high school staff is \$95.

Free transportation will be provided from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, airport on Dec. 21

and back to the airport on Dec. 26, arriving at the airport at noon. Please plan arrivals and departures accordingly. There is an extra charge for room and meals for early arrivals. Please contact Director Steve Nutzman for any transportation needs at (608) 758-9228 or e-mail him at steve_nutzman@ucg.org.

Camper and staff applications are found at www.ucg.org/youthcamps. Camper applications are also found in the *United Youth Camps 2004 Magazine*. For the latest Winter Camp news, visit www.wintercamp.org.

Camper check-in is Wednesday morning, Dec. 22 and checkout is Sunday morning, Dec. 26. Staff orientation begins late afternoon on Dec. 21.

Steve Nutzman



United News
News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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at Milford, Ohio, and at
additional mailing offices