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# United News™

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

Vol. 11, No. 8

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September/October 2005

## News At a Glance

### Three Future Feast Sites Being Considered

Three tentative Feast sites are being worked on. These are not finalized or official yet, but we wanted to keep members aware of possibilities for future planning.

#### Possible Turkey/Greece Tour 2006

A 2006 tour to Turkey and Greece is under consideration. If details and pricing work out, an announcement will be made after the Feast in *United News*. Some of the locations expected to be on the tour are four or five of the churches of Revelation, including the extensive ruins of Ephesus, Smyrna (Izmir), Pergamum and Laodicea (near Denizli). Also, Istanbul, and a possible tour of the island of Patmos are expected. Athens and Corinth will definitely be on the tour.

#### Lancaster 2006

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is a strong possibility for the Northeastern site in 2006. Contractual negotiations are continuing, so an announcement will be made after the Feast. Previously, Chesapeake, Virginia, was announced for 2006 and 2007. Unfortunately, unforeseen contract difficulties developed and Chesapeake will not work out.

#### Anchorage 2007

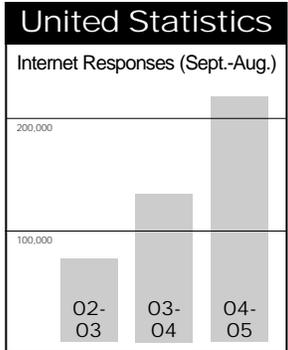
Currently, negotiations with the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska, are being worked on for 2007.

Charles Melear

### New Booklet Printing Increased

Rather than a print run of 100,000 as

See "News at a Glance," page 2



## Media Center: Video Production Moves to Next Level

At the Council of Elders meeting Aug. 26, Clyde Kilough reported on recent decisions and developments regarding the media center and the home office production of a television program.

Mr. Kilough outlined a timeline of Council decisions that led to the building of the media center. This included the August 2003 Council resolution approving the implementation of the "Broadcast Television Media Strategy" developed by Media and Communications Services, which included a plan for the building of a media center at the

home office and the production of a broadcast television program.

In June this year construction began on the media center. Taping of a television program is slated to begin in November.

#### Media Center Tour

After Mr. Kilough's review and introduction, Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services operation manager, led the Council on a tour.

Standing in the nearly completed studio, Mr. Eddington described the finished product. The studio will have a news-



Peter Eddington points out features of the media center set to the Council of Elders Aug. 26 (photo by Vic Kubik)

center appearance, with a desk large enough to seat three men for the pro-

gram's discussion format. In the background will be the image of a globe and the program logo against a skyline, along with six video monitors and a plasma monitor. At the left-front of the stage there will be a desk and a computer.

Thirty-nine lighting fixtures will hang above the set, casting various colors for emphasis. Three high-definition video cameras will be on the floor in front of the set and a fourth high-definition camera will be mounted on a boom for overhead shots.

See "Video," page 2

## ABC Holds Sixth Graduation



Award winners Emmanuel Gomez, Tonia Hamilton, Leigh Carlson and Matthew Bates; right, Stella Helderbrand, Donald Hurst and Aaron Cody Kitts during graduation recessional (photos by Janet Treadway)

The Ambassador Bible Center class of 2005 graduated on Aug. 14. The festivities began with a buffet brunch at a nearby restaurant that opened exclusively for the ABC group. Over 150 attended the brunch. Students then proceeded to the home office for graduation.

This was the sixth class to graduate, and the second largest, bringing the total who have attended and completed the program to 231.

Caleb Froedge delivered the student address and rehearsed the many activities that provide memories to the students. He encouraged them to continue to "live the truth," which was the motto for the class of 2005.

The ABC Chorale followed the student address. They sang two beautiful selections, "I Wish You Well, My

See "ABC," page 7

## Ministerial Services Moves Announced

At the Council meeting Aug. 25, President Clyde Kilough summarized some of the transfers and changes that were determined during recent meetings with Ministerial Services.

- Jim Franks will replace Richard Pinelli as director of Ministerial Services.

- Mr. Pinelli will direct leadership development programs for potential elders, elders and pastors.

- David Register will move to the home office and coordinate the education programs.

- David Johnson will move to the home office to assist Mr. Franks in Ministerial Services and teach at ABC.

- Lyle Welty will become the pastor of the Cincinnati East congregation, which has been designated as a center for development of ministers. Mr. Welty will provide one-on-one mentoring for elders who are being trained to serve in the field ministry.

These steps will help address leadership training needs in both the short and long terms.

Other moves announced in Mr. Kilough's Aug. 4 "President's Letter":

Taking the Registers' place as the regional pastor for the Southwest Region, and pastor of the Eagle Rock, Bakersfield and Fresno, California, congregations will be Larry and Bon-

See "Ministerial Services," page 13

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## Council of Elders Holds August Meetings

by Don Henson

The opening session of the Council of Elders for the 2005-2006 fiscal year was called to order by Chairman Robert Dick at 1 p.m. Aug. 25. Mr. Dick welcomed Larry Salyer, who is attending his first meeting as a newly elected Council member.

In his opening comments, Mr. Dick asked the Council to consider one of the great lessons in history—timing is critical. As Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose . . ."

Mr. Dick commented that it is now time to implement certain important changes in our processes. He said now is the time to move to a unified report from the home office, led by the president. Now is the time to engage the

administration in lively dialogue on important issues. And now is the time to begin work on a major restructuring of our operation planning system with an emphasis on presenting material in a way that allows us to accurately measure whether we have achieved our stated goals.

Mr. Dick announced that three committee chairmanships were determined during the day and a half of committee meetings that preceded the Council session. Aaron Dean will continue as chairman of the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee. Leon Walker will become chairman of the Doctrine Committee. And Joel Meeker assumes the chairmanship of the Ethics, Roles and Rules Committee.

As chairman of the Ethics, Roles and Rules Committee, Mr. Meeker fulfilled

the requirement established by resolution of the reading of the Council of Elders Code of Ethics at the first meeting of the fiscal year.

The balance of the afternoon included Mr. Kilough's report and an update from Church counsel Larry Darden on legal matters.

#### President's Report

Mr. Kilough commented that he has appreciated the welcome and the level of support he has received from home office employees since his arrival on July 1. He stated that his report to the Council would begin with a discussion of results from last fiscal year and then move on to plans for the future.

The three operation managers sub-

See "Council," page 15

## News At a Glance

Continued from page 1

reported earlier for the new booklet *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*, we've decided to expand the print run to 140,000.

This is by far our largest initial print run for a booklet. By way of comparison, as recently as a year ago our initial print run for a booklet was 80,000.

We expanded the print run to meet expected demand over the next few months. In addition to offering it prominently in the July-August *Good News*, we are offering it to 200,000 *Good News* subscribers in a letter mailed in August. We expect between 30,000 to 40,000 responses to the letter.

In addition to that, we will be offering the booklet in combination with a subscription to *The Good News* in ads reaching several hundred thousand people in the next few months.

We receive a large number of requests for material on marriage and parenting, so we expect this booklet to be one of our most popular ever. All members should receive their copy in the mail shortly.

Scott Ashley

## Landscaping Project Completed

Since the staff moved into the home office building in April 2002, the sur-



Dry creek bed behind the home office building (photo by Janet Treadway)

rounding barren ground has been transformed through a three-phase landscaping project.

The third phase was completed this summer with the addition of a dry creek bed. The dry creek bed project was designed to fix a soil erosion and drainage problem in the back of the home office, said Greg McCloud, building maintenance manager. A local landscaping designer was hired to draw up the plans and serve as a consultant for the project.

Home office staff members dug the channel to create the bed of the creek. John and Linda Sackrider donated all of the larger boulders for the project. The Sackriders delivered them to Cincinnati from their business in Wolverine, Michigan, when they came down for the GCE.

Smaller river rocks were placed in the middle of the creek bed, and several truckloads of topsoil were brought in to

See "News at a Glance," page 16

"Video," continued from page 1

Much of the equipment is already on hand. The rest will be ordered and delivered shortly. All of the construction and equipment purchases are within budget.

Mr. Eddington stated that initially the program will be produced in standard definition format due to broadcasting restrictions, with the capability of upgrading to high definition when that becomes feasible.

### Summary of Production Meetings

After the tour of the media center, Mr. Kilough continued his summary of the results of two days of meetings with those who will be directly involved in the production of the program. In addition to Mr. Kilough, those present at the Aug. 3 and 4 meetings included Mr. Eddington, Aaron Booth, Clay Thornton, Darris McNeely, Howard Davis, Steve Myers, Gary Petty and John LaBissoniere.

The meeting agenda was ambitious and each item on the agenda was completed. Items that were discussed:

- Proposal of a name for the program.
- Selection of the main presenters.
- Finalization of the program format.
- Selection of four main content categories for the first 12 months of programming.
- Establishment of the recording schedule for the next 12 months.
- Selection of specific subjects and guests for the programs.
- Discussion of the review process.
- Discussion of program success analysis and measurements.

Mr. Kilough and other participants described the meeting as very productive and encouraging. He emphasized the reality that we are "average Joes," but that with God's direction, we can do an above-average work. He used a baseball analogy, comparing our efforts to being in the minor leagues of media. But we are taking another step forward on the learning and developmental curve,

preparing us to move to a higher level as we have opportunity.

### Presenters and Format

The main program hosts will be Gary Petty, Steve Myers and Darris McNeely. All three have been involved for several years in the production of the *Good News* television production in Beloit, Wisconsin. In addition, 30 of our elders are scheduled to be guests on the program.

The program will consist of an introduction, followed by three eight-minute segments and finishing up with concluding comments. The presenter will make the introductory and concluding comments, and in each segment he will interview one or two guests on the program topic.

Howard Davis will produce advertisements to be shown between the seg-



Media center production meeting attendees: Howard Davis, John LaBissoniere, Gary Petty, Aaron Booth, Peter Eddington, Clay Thornton, Darris McNeely, Steve Myers and Clyde Kilough (photo by Janet Treadway)

ments. Each program will have one 60-second and two 30-second spot ads. We currently have 32 booklets in addition to *The Good News*, *Vertical Thought* and *World News and Prophecy* that can be advertised. In addition to being used on the program, the commercial spots will also be suitable for use on our Web sites. Specific program subjects will fall into four general content categories:

1. A vision of the Kingdom of God. These programs will present a true vision of the purpose of life and the Kingdom of God.
2. Understanding God's righteousness. These programs will focus on doctrinal teachings and how our under-

standing differs from mainstream Christianity. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of obedience, repentance and the need to be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.

3. World events and current trends. Programs in this category will explain end-time prophecy and give understanding of what is happening in our world. This is an urgent message that can lead to personal repentance.

4. Personal and collective growth. These programs will emphasize the practical application of God's way of life in our marriages, families and in every aspect of life. There will be a focus on the needs of young adults, older teens and Generation-X demographics.

The production plan calls for seven or eight two-day recording sessions with four programs to be recorded at each, for a total of 28 to 32 programs in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

About 40 specific subjects were suggested and presenters were assigned to each, aiming for a balanced approach within the four categories. Each program will strive to show relevance, illustrate how this information affects the viewers and appeal to them to take action.

There will be a doctrinal review team, consisting of the presenters and six pastors.

The finished program will be distributed on DVDs. The audio track will be recorded onto CDs for use for the radio program, so there will not be a need for an additional radio production effort. Video and audio clips from the programs will also be used on our Web sites.

The production staff will include Mr. Eddington as director and Mr. Thornton as producer/editor. Mr. LaBissoniere will be the program's time-buying agent. Volunteers will donate their time to work as cameramen, audio technician, lighting grip, makeup artist and set decorator.

The program will be aired on the 70 cable-access stations that currently carry the *Good News* and *Tomorrow* programs. We will pursue as many additional cable-access stations as possible, through the sponsorship of local members and pastors.

In the final portion of his presentation, Mr. Kilough explained in some detail how a proposed program name was chosen. He said that the discussion during the meetings started with a consideration of the four levels of contact that the Church has with the public.

1. The most impersonal and basic contact is informational—such as cardholders and Internet banners.
2. The next level is our contact through radio and television.
3. The first and second levels should lead people to our core printed material, such as *The Good News*, *Bible Study Course* and booklets.
4. Ultimately this progression leads to contact with a minister and hopefully with church attendance and becoming part of a congregation.

Mr. Kilough pointed out that we assume that the level two audience ranges from totally secular to deeply religious, but they have little or no understanding of the teachings of United. The television and radio programs are not designed to address the Church, but an audience that is increasingly biblically illiterate and confused. Since the content must reach the people where they are, the name must also do so.

Some 75 possible names for the program had been submitted by 30 people. The group focused on the concepts we are trying to convey based on the media philosophy and key scriptures.

The Council listened to the rationale for developing a program name, considered a proposed name and, after further discussion on Sunday, Aug. 28, asked for additional exploration into possible titles for the program. A teleconference will be set up to finalize the name.

In conclusion, Mr. Kilough emphasized that broadcast television is a big step for the Church internally—yet externally, producing a program for cable-access stations is a small step. We don't know where this will lead, but the experience of producing a television program will prepare us and increase our abilities to communicate the gospel when other doors are opened to us.

Don Henson

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**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Church of God is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God in all the world, make disciples in all nations and care for those disciples.

President: Clyde Kilough

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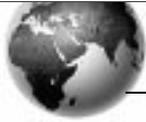
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# News From Around the World

## International Preteen Camp Held in Germany

by Paul Kieffer

Twenty children (ages 5 to 13) and nine adults from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland attended summer camp from Aug. 2 to 7 just east of Bielefeld, Germany, at the hostel Naturfreundehaus in Oerlinghausen.

Following a brief orientation meeting on the afternoon of the arrival day, campers participated in various team games and then enjoyed their first meal together. After dinner staff members Wim Dekker from the Netherlands and René Kasper from Belgium took the group into the nearby 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.

On Wednesday, Aug. 3, the first full day of camp, the boys enjoyed a spirited soccer game on the playing field near the hostel, while the girls learned how to fashion paper into various decorative shapes and designs. Unusually cool weather meant that the afternoon swimming activity was moved from a nearby outdoor swimming pool to a large indoor pool 12 miles away. Campers enjoyed a 100-foot long water slide and a current chute where swimmers could test their strength by attempting to swim upstream against the current generated at regular intervals.

On Thursday, Aug. 4, the group visited the nearby "Hollywood" amusement park with its wild animal zoo. Traveling in six cars, the campers and staff drove

through the zoo area only a few feet from lions, tigers, elephants and other exotic animals before arriving at the amusement park. Once inside the park, campers enjoyed a day of roller coaster rides and other attractions, including a "Wild West" show in the afternoon. Two brief rain showers did not dampen the enthusiasm. Instead, the rain kept the crowd smaller and the lines short at the various park attractions.

A special fun Olympics was held at the camp on Friday, Aug. 5. Campers were divided into four teams and had to practice teamwork and sportsmanship while participating in eight events like guessing the names of various objects and small tools in a display box, a long-distance bean-spitting contest, a balloon relay race where two campers had to carry a balloon between their noses and a race carrying a soccer ball on a tennis racket.

For the daily interactive Bible study, campers were divided into two groups based on age. The theme for this year's camp was the Kingdom of God. Using various puzzles and other craft materials, campers learned what the Kingdom of God will be like and how it will be different from today's world. Hermann Göhring and German pastor Paul Kieffer were the instructors for the two groups.

On Sabbath visitors from the local Bielefeld congregation joined the group for services. The campers performed special music and helped read all the scriptures that were used in the main sermon. After services each camper



Paul Kieffer and campers enjoy the "Hollywood" amusement park

received a certificate of participation that emphasized his or her contribution to the camp, and special awards were presented to those campers who displayed an exemplary attitude of service. Katharina Vogel and Jasmina Wilsberg were honored for having led their group in opening prayer for the daily Bible study. In the evening campers, staff and visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner.

Last year's director of the Naturfreundehaus Bielefeld, the venue for the camp, was so impressed by the group that he returned from retirement to spend the week during camp with the group.

A reporter from the local newspaper stopped by to view the fun Olympics, giving Jesmina Allaoua from Germany, who organized the camp, a chance to talk about the goals for camp and the positive effect of being in a secluded natural environment. The reporter was impressed by the international composition of the group and the multilingual ability of staff members. UN

## British Isles Holds Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the registered charity, United Church of God—British Isles, took place on Sunday, July 24.

During the first part of the meeting:
 

- The budget proposed for the 2005-2006 financial year was ratified.

• David Payne was reappointed as an executive member of the National Council.

• Brian Greaves was reappointed as a nonexecutive member of the Council.

• Brian Penheiro was appointed as a new nonexecutive member of the Council.

Also, as a result of prior discussion, the ministerial members of the Council announced that the U.K. ministry had reappointed David Fenney as a ministerial executive member of the Council.

The chief executive officer, Peter Hawkins, reporting on the year from July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2005, highlighted a year of great strides in fulfilling our mission as a registered charity. There are, however, significant challenges that continue to be faced. The work of the Church of God in Britain is limited in scope by the scattering of supporters into various groups. For UCG the primary

focus of the past year, as in previous years, has been on "seeding" the Word of God.

The Church is now beginning to experience significant numbers of interested readers contacting us for fellowship. At present much of this interest is in areas where the UCG is not represented. We also need trained manpower to visit and discuss matters of the Bible with them. Often we are not able to provide the fellowship and counsel that is needed by the new contacts. There were four baptisms during the year.

Treasurer Barbara Fenney provided copies of the audited accounts for the financial year ending June 30, 2004, a provisional financial report for the year ending June 30, 2005, and explained the proposed budget for 2005/2006.

Mr. Hawkins presented the Business Plan, touching on a number of issues:

- Emergency issues: Although no UCG members were directly affected during the recent attacks in London, there are no countrywide mechanisms for contacting members in emergencies.

- Health situations affecting the speaking schedule: This point touched on issues relating to the development of

local leadership within the Church and a potential change in emphasis from "sowing the seed" to "harvesting the crop."

- Needs of the Church's young people will continue to be a high priority.

- The Northwood office: The workload is now greater than the ability of the staff to fully cope. Also, the limited storage space and an upstairs location have necessitated a wide-ranging review of how all of the Church's mailing operations are conducted.

Currently, booklet mailings, renewal letters, the Festival Planner, National Announcements and other regular bulk letter mailings are mailed from Northwood. The *Bible Study Course* is sent from volunteers' homes in Warrington and Preston; *United News*, *World News and Prophecy* and *Vertical Thought* from Warrington. *The Good News*, including the *British and European Supplement*, is mailed commercially.

- There is a need to develop regular coworker letters. Tapes, DVDs and *United News* are currently offered to *Bible Study Course* graduates.

Excerpted from *UCG—British Isles National Announcements* Aug. 6, 2005.

## International News At a Glance

### British Isles Renews UN, WNP and VT Subscribers

UCG—British Isles sent out renewal letters with the July issues of *United News*, *World News and Prophecy* and *Vertical Thought* to a significant portion of current subscribers, reported the "UCG—British Isles National Announcements" the week of Aug. 6.

Readers of *The Good News* are regularly renewed, and students of the *Bible Study Course* are sent three lessons before renewing. This was, however, the first time readers of *UN*, *WNP* and *VT* have been renewed. Up to now subscribers requesting these publications have remained on the list unless they cancelled or moved without providing a forwarding address.

To those being renewed, the July issues were mailed out with a letter, a return envelope and the outside of the envelope was stamped "FREE RENEWAL OFFER INSIDE" in red ink.

The percentages of readers who received a renewal are:

- *United News*, 47 percent.
- *World News and Prophecy*, 63 percent.

- *Vertical Thought*, 86 percent.

As *Vertical Thought* is specifically produced for the 12 to 22 age group, the renewal invitation letter asked subscribers for their dates of birth.

Church members, coworkers, donors or others definitely known to be interested were not sent a renewal.

### Elders Renew Ties in Jordan

July 29 through Aug. 4 Victor Kubik and Cory Erickson visited Jordan to prepare for the Feast of Tabernacles in Jordan, where about 220 people will attend. They also met with key people with the YMWA and the Al Hussein Society, organizations that the now defunct Ambassador Foundation worked with for more than a dozen years. Earlier in March, Mr. Erickson and LifeNets did a fund-raiser in St. Paul, Minnesota, that raised \$11,207 for the YMWA.

They were invited to lunch by His Highness Prince Ra'ad (the Lord Chamberlain for King Abdullah) and his wife, Princess Majda. She is the royal patron of the Al Hussein Society. Prince Ra'ad is the late King Hussein's uncle and was his assistant for years. "They were most gracious and spent much of the afternoon with us," said Mr. Kubik. "They were both so down-to-earth and recounted our many years of working together."

The UCG elders visited the Young Muslim Women's Association Centre for Special Education. In the past, more than 150 Ambassador University students worked an entire school year at the center for the mentally challenged. Cory and Colene Erickson lived in Amman for five years managing the project. "I was amazed at how warmly Cory was treated by the people he had known and worked with. I was also impressed at Cory's knowledge of Arabic," said Mr. Kubik.

They visited the Al Hussein Society, too, and discussed possible ways to work together, including working with LifeNets and an agency in Indianapolis,



From left, Princess Majda al Ra'ad, her assistant Amira Juma, Victor Kubik, Prince Ra'ad bin Zeid (the lord chamberlain to the king of Jordan), Cory Erickson and Annie Medzhagopian Abu Hanna (executive director of the Al-Hussein Society)

Indiana, called Damar that provides residential, educational and support services for children with developmental disabilities and helps them gain independence.

"One item that was communicated by the Jordanians a number of times was their missing all the students who came to work as volunteers and interns," said Mr. Kubik. "That was the most valuable part of our former relationship, and they would like to see something restored along those lines."

They also went to Petra and Mount Nebo. "Those going for the Feast are going to have a real Feast of history and Jordanian hospitality," said Mr. Kubik.

### German Mail Statistics Announced

During the first seven months of 2005, the United Church of God—Germany mailed 17,789 envelopes, some containing more than one piece of literature. This included 17,040 copies of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine and 2,030 copies of the monthly publication *Intern* were sent to subscribers. The most requested booklets were *Das Geheimnis Ihrer Existenz (What Is Your Destiny?)* and *Die Kirche Jesu Christi (The Church Jesus Built)*.

In addition, 2,083 direct mail promotional letters were mailed to subscribers.

Excerpted from [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org).



## United Youth Camps

# Camp Davidson: "Sharpening Our Christian Tools"

One hundred twenty-one campers representing the United States, Canada, Mexico and Australia, along with 60 enthusiastic and dedicated staff members, enjoyed a sunny week of fun-filled activities on pristine Suttle Lake located about 20 miles northwest of Sisters, Oregon.

The staff appreciated the opportunity to undergo two days of training before the start of camp. Staff workshop training sessions and camp-oriented Bible studies were conducted by John Cafourek, David Goethals, Denny Laker and Rex Sexton.

During camper orientation on Sunday night, the theme for the week, "Sharpening Your Christian Tools," was introduced. Later that evening the dorms participated in a variety of zany dorm "team-building" games to help them get to know one another better.

Each morning began with a 45-minute Christian Living class focusing on topics that fell within our theme.

The classes included topics such as improving prayer life; enhancing Bible study using Bible helps; better understanding the path toward baptism; saving oneself for his/her future mate; developing a sense of vision; taking control of one's thoughts; understanding how and

when to defend one's religious beliefs at school and in the workplace; and how to become the ideal future husband or wife. Another session showed that, in order to build strong, lasting relationships with others, we must foster a strong, lasting relationship with God.

Many campers commented on their surveys how much they enjoyed and appreciated these and the "etiquette



classes" offered throughout the week with their brother/sister dorms.

The activity classes featured team sports—from flag football, basketball and volleyball to water polo. In addition to a rock wall, Davidson also operates

low and high ropes challenge courses (where several campers and staff were able to conquer their fear of heights).

Speaking of heights, this year campers went on a half-day hike with their brother/sister dorm that brought them to a breathtaking vista, where they could see all of the nearby mountain peaks, even Mt. Rainier in Washington.

day night. No campers complained about getting to have an extra dance!

Suttle Lake is a beautiful sight to behold in early August, especially when you're kayaking, skiing, wakeboarding and tubing on it, or mountain biking around it. This



Left, waterskiing on Suttle Lake. Above, waterskiing staff member Elgie Gibson helps G1 camper Cierra Novak. Upper right, playing flag football



the evenings, individual awards were presented for high achievement in archery, basketball and volleyball as well as dorm awards for etiquette, waterskiing, dorm inspections, dining hall service and unique dorm renditions of songs like "Tom the Toad" and "Land of the Silver Birches."

Our volunteer staff was especially inspired this year by the campers' dedication, cooperation and selflessness, as well as their insights into living God's way of life. At the conclusion of camp, we encouraged campers to take the Christian tools they had been given at camp and not only use them, but also sharpen them, allowing God to in turn build His house in them.

Andy Burnett

## Camp Carter—Cool and Wise in 2005

What an interesting session it was at Camp Carter this year! Not only did we have a large camp (111 campers and 42 staff members) from far and wide (from 15 states and three nations outside the United States), but we also had an unusual cool front that came at the middle of camp—making the second half much more comfortable.

Where does the "wise" part come in? Wisdom was the focus of our Compass Checks and Christian Living classes this year. The book of Proverbs is full of "jewels for life" and chapter 1 says the book is specifically for young people.

Friendships, both old and new, are always a big part of our United Youth Camps, and Camp Carter 2005 followed that tradition. Campers enjoyed numerous activities with a "brother" or "sister" dorm such as a half day at the lake (tubing, waterskiing, playing games in the swimming area or just "chilling"), dance classes, swim time at the pool or at some of the Christian Living classes.

Visiting with the whole camp took place at all meals, the two dances (Tuesday and Saturday nights), during snack time at the Camp Store each evening, and of course at Sabbath services. Additionally, campers could mix during the evening activity of their choice—either ropes, sports, dance or just visiting at the table games activity.

Having campers from 15 states (from California to Florida and from Wash-

ington to Ohio) allowed everyone the opportunity to make or enhance friendships from a wide geographical area within the United States. This year we even had a camper from Germany, one from Hong Kong and a staff member from Belgium—giving an even wider geographic variety for friendships.

We almost had a few campers from the French-speaking areas, but they were unable to make it. We hope they'll be able to work out the details next year so we can add yet another "cultural flavor" to the mix at Camp Carter. Of course, there was still plenty of "Texan" influence, with 67 campers calling Texas home.

### Wisdom Focus

Topics for the morning Compass Checks included an overview of how wisdom makes us skillful in life, the value of hard work, friendships, principles of business and communication tips—all drawn from gems of wisdom in the book of Proverbs.

During the week, each dorm also had two class sessions of Christian Living, in addition to the Q&A sessions each night. In the first class, Mr. Petty discussed the issue of emotional intelligence, explaining that all success requires understanding and control of emotions. It is the wise

person who realizes the importance of emotional control and works to attain it. In the second class he explained that all success requires preparation, a point wise young people will recognize and implement.

### The "Cool" Factor

The first two days of camp were clear and hot, with all activities going smoothly as planned. Then we had a new experience at Camp Carter—rain! A cold front, a rather unusual weather phenomenon in July, came through Fort Worth on Tuesday night, dropping

the temperature about 20 degrees. It was a welcome relief from the heat—even though the rain Wednesday morning, forced a



complete revision of the schedule.

Activities were the same as last year—basketball, Christian Living, crafts, dance, football, golf (for the oldest boys' dorm and oldest girls' dorm only), horseback riding, lakefront activity, newsletter, rappelling (for the oldest boys' dorm and oldest girls' dorm only), ropes, softball, skeet or archery, strength training, swimming and volleyball.

This year we eliminated horseback riding during the day for the oldest dorms but gave those who wanted to ride a chance to do so during open activities on Wednesday night. The change in the schedule allowed us to further improve the schedule by moving outdoor activi-



ties to the morning and giving dorms more time to enjoy an activity with a brother or sister dorm.

### Service Projects

In addition to all the friendships, skills sharpening and points of wisdom gained, we also "gave back" to the YMCA facility that we rent. They just finished a renovation of their office and added several conference rooms, so we donated a wireless router that will give Internet access to our office in the small conference room as well as any users of the large conference room.

We also cleaned grass out of the sand volleyball court we built for them several years ago (they tell us it gets constant use), donated 13 yards of new sand and rebuilt the bleachers at the football and sports area. The YMCA staff once again expressed deep appreciation for the attitudes and cooperation of our wonderful campers and staff and are anxious to have us back again next summer.

Ken Treybig



Camp Carter included activities such as horseback riding, volleyball, waterskiing and a service project to rebuild the bleachers at the football and sports area

# Camp Heritage Aims to "Seize the Vision"

The 2005 United Youth Camp summer season in the United States concluded Sunday, Aug. 21, at Camp Heritage, near Farmington, Pennsylvania.

This was our 10th year at 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 supplied 133 campers and 67 staff members for this year's program.

Connecting camper orientation (Sunday, Aug. 14) with this year's Camp Heritage Christian Living class theme, camp director Doug Johnson challenged the campers to "seize the camp vision" and look ahead 10 years and more. Beginning each day, the Christian Living instructors based their presentations on that theme, stirring campers to view their lives beyond the camp experience and tie what they learn at camp to God's overall plan for their lives.

Regular activities followed daily Christian Living classes and included archery, basketball, campus improvement, dance instruction (swing and line dances), life skills, riflery, softball, speedway, volleyball, water-

front (water polo and kayaking) and wilderness skills (featuring the popular "Amazing Heritage Race"). Adventure campers (ages 12 to 15) explored the Laurel Caverns, and Challenge campers (ages 16 to 18) spent a day white-water rafting on the



white-water rafting trip.

A ferocious thunder and lightning storm and power outage during the final

evening's dance was a call to consider the soul-searching sermon given by UCG president Clyde Kilough earlier on the Sabbath.

Recalling a deep-sea fishing trip from his youth, Mr. Kilough passed on the best advice he heard that day—"keep your eyes on the horizon." He urged the campers and staff to seize the vision of God's Kingdom and what His work is all about,

avoiding the spiritual nausea and unsettled condition caused by shortsighted worldly preoccupations.

The advice was timely, especially when a lightning strike during the storm hit a tall tree only 54 yards from the dining hall! For those who heeded Mr. Kilough's message, it was obvious that God was clearly in



accounted for in one location, not scattered throughout camp engaged in activities, as would have been true at almost any other time.

Power at the camp was restored in about one hour (though nearby residences were still "out" on Sunday morning), the dance resumed, and campers were able to spend the last evening in their campsites under more settled skies before departing in the morning.

With that send-off, we look forward to 2006!

Doug Johnson

## Youth Corps Volunteers Serve at Fourth Youth Camp in Ghana, West Africa

What do banku, kenke, jollof rice and red-red all have in common? They were the mainstay diet of Ghanaian food that Melvin Rhodes, three United Youth Corps workers and I had in common with 125 campers and staff at the fourth United Youth Camp in Ghana sponsored by the United Church of God in West Africa.

Mr. Rhodes (senior pastor for Ghana) along with Owen Martin, Scott McIntosh and Aaron Blue (United Youth Corps volunteers) served at the camp. Maxwell Coffie, a pastor in Ghana, assisted in organizing the five-day camp that was held on the campus of Prempeh College in Kumasi, Ghana.

Enthusiasm and appreciation expressed by 110 young people from Ghana, Togo and Nigeria highlighted the camp Aug. 17-22.

The 110 teens and young adults were organized into five teams of about 22 each. These groups were larger than the dorms or teams we typically have at camps in the United States, and were coed for all the program activities. Five of the Ghanaian pastors served as counselors for the teams (Ofuri Amafo, Augustus Eschan, Adonijah Blay, Ruel Dima and Clement Atta). While the vast majority of those attending were teens, a few young adults in their 20s were campers and assisted the counselors on each team.

Olidare Okinbo accompanied 10

young people from Nigeria to attend the camp in Ghana this year. The group from Nigeria traveled by road through the countries of Benin and Togo. We were also blessed this year to have four young people from the neighboring nation of Togo join us for camp. This was a first and made this a truly West African camp.

The five program activities offered to the campers were football (soccer), volleyball, team challenge, ultimate ball and Bible class (Christian Living). Three United Youth Corps volunteers

Aaron and Owen taught ultimate ball, which is based on an American recreational game. Scott McIntosh assisted Dare Okinbo from Nigeria with the team-building challenge class that focused on principles of trust, inclusion and teamwork. All three Youth Corps staff hosted the novelty Olympics that were held one evening during the camp.

Frank Arthur (Ghanaian pastor) and Patrick (from Nigeria) taught the football (soccer) class. Mr. Coffie and I taught the Bible classes each day.

Mr. Rhodes also assisted at the camp, and spoke on the weekly Sabbath.

Once again this year, the home office of the United Church of God subsidized the camp—without which a youth activity of this nature would simply not exist. The Ghanaian pastors gained valuable experience in planning for future camps in Ghana



five camper teams. The theme at the beginning of camp was "Being a Holy People unto God."

On the opening night of camp, I expressed the goals of building relationships and grasping the hopeful vision of God's Kingdom that they would experience at camp.

The campers were encouraged to see their role of training for the future to teach the world God's way of life.

As camp came to a close, these goals seemed to be successfully accomplished as campers and staff alike said their good-byes and voiced the strong desire to repeat this unifying experience with Ghanaian, Nigerian and Togolese teens in this West African nation again next year.

Doug Horchak



(Aaron Blue of Boise, Idaho; Owen Martin of Toronto, Ontario; and Scott McIntosh of Ft. Worth, Texas) attended the camp and served on the staff.

Above, the staff at the fourth United Youth Camp in Ghana. Above right, campers and (far right) the author



for the youth. In addition, members from the Dallas, Texas, congregation donated funds to purchase sports equipment for the camp. Great appreciation was expressed to the home office and U.S. brethren by the youth and staff for the generosity shown.

The final night of camp was highlighted by an energized talent show consisting of "skits with a moral" performed by different members of the

# First Eastern Canada Youth Summer Camp Held in July

Fifteen enthusiastic campers and staff from Ontario, Quebec and Kentucky kicked off the first Eastern Canada Youth Summer Camp that took place July 15 to 19 at Charleston Lake Provincial Park. The park, located about 300 kilometers (about 190 miles) northeast of Toronto, Ontario, proved to be an ideal place for the inaugural camp.

Charleston Lake Provincial Park, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is "situated on the unique Frontenac Axis—a southerly, fingerlike extension of the Canadian Shield—giv[ing] the park a more northern and rugged look and feel," according to the *Charleston Lake 2005 Information Guide*.

The area of the park where the camp was held had no cabins, electricity or "indoor plumbing." It was tents only. The rustic setting was in contrast to other areas of the park where showers, indoor plumbing and electricity were available.

The camp began with setup on Friday afternoon, followed by dinner and "campfire introductions" in the evening. Everyone introduced him or herself while sitting around the campfire roasting marshmallows. It was a warm but clear evening making the stars quite visible.

After a hearty breakfast Sabbath morning, a Christian Living Bible



study was conducted by the camp coordinator, Graemme Marshall. The campers and staff were grouped into seven teams and each team was given a question and scripture. Each team then explained the scripture they were given and gave practical lessons for today based on that scripture.

Later in the day everyone toured the park's Visitor Centre. There were many informative displays in the Centre that explained the history of the area and some of the many species of flora and fauna found in the park. It helped everyone to appreciate the diversity of God's creation.

Campers hike to scenic lookout after canoeing across Charleston Lake; horse riding lessons (photos by Marianne Connell and Graemme Marshall)

Although it rained Sabbath afternoon and night, as well as Sunday night, it failed to dampen the spirit of the camp. The rain did result in some wet tents and damp sleeping bags for some, though. There were no complaints in spite of the rain. The attitudes of everyone at the camp were exemplary. Everyone pitched in and helped out as needed.

Each day began with a Christian Liv-

ing class after breakfast. Other activities included hiking, canoeing and swimming. Monday's outing included all three on the same trip. One of the lessons learned was teamwork as the wind made the canoeing tough going at times, even for the most experienced canoeists. God's protection was evident as everyone made it back to camp

protection from the rain and served as the dining room, kitchen and classroom. Meals cooked on a camp stove and over a campfire always seem to taste better somehow, and this year's camp was no exception. Campers and staff appreciated the chefs who provided the delicious and nutritious meals during camp.

One of the highlights of canoeing was to see the variety of nature. Campers saw a snake swimming in the water and a loon fishing for a meal. Later a family of loons was seen swimming in the lake.

The call of the loon is one that is not soon forgotten.

All too soon, it was time to break camp. Many spiritual lessons were learned during the camp. Teamwork, protection, camaraderie, perseverance, looking out for one another, being good stewards and the diversity of God's wonderful creation were among those lessons.

By all accounts, the first Eastern Canada Youth Summer Camp was a resounding success. Many were already wondering about a camp next year.

Edwin van Pelt



safely, if a little stiff and sore from paddling. Food soon restored the strength and energy that was exerted on the trip.

A roofed picnic shelter provided

# 25 Campers and Staff From Five Countries Enjoy U.K. Camp

The seventh United Church of God—British Isles' Summer Camp for teens and young adults ran from Aug. 5 to 14.

A group of 18 or so teenagers and young adults, along with seven adult staff, formed the core group of campers who spent nine days at the Peak Centre in Edale, in the beautiful and peaceful Derbyshire Peak District. The weekends brought additional visitors, particularly for the Sabbath services. In total, 43 campers, staff, visitors to camp and Sabbath visitors were involved at some point with the camp.

Several young adults traveled from the United States, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. Sabbath visitors included the Htwe family who have recently relocated from Burma to Sheffield, about 20 miles from the camp location.

On both Sabbaths, messages were given by David Fenney (camp director), Bryan Ellams (chairman of the UCG-British Isles' National Council) and Peter Hawkins (CEO).

Activities included football, circus skills, an all-day hike, 10-pin bowling, swimming, archery, scaling the climbing wall, an underground boat trip in a

disused lead mine, a visit to the cinema and a shopping expedition in Sheffield.

A visitor from France, Raphael Bernal, led an art class in English and Bastiaan Arendsen from the Netherlands

baptism for second/third generation Christians and why God disapproves of sex before marriage. Several DVDs on the subject of creation versus evolution were also viewed and discussed.

The end-of-camp dinner was moved back one day to the last Friday evening and, as usual, under the guidance of Hannah Ellams, the tables were beautifully decorated with streamers, candles, dishes of sweets and hand-crafted representations of everyone (some of which

of the Opera, an alien's perspective on camp life and a journey down memory lane for those involved in camp for the past six years. Certificates were presented to all campers for their achievements during the nine days.



captained the victorious football team.

Campers found it interesting to have various nationalities present at camp. "We are so similar despite obvious [language] differences. As humans we all have the same desires and needs—and we all love to laugh!" said one young adult.

Topics for general discussion in forums or in break-out sessions were chosen by the young people and included tithing, the path to repentance and

resembled the intended recipient better than others!)

The traditional skits were performed after a barbecue at the end of the Sabbath. Skits included a review of camp using some of the tunes from *Phantom*



Activities at the seventh UCG—British Isles' Summer Camp include an underground boat trip, archery and an all-day hike (photos by Raphael Bernal and David Fenney)

Old friendships were reinforced and new friendships forged. Everyone agreed it was one of the best camps ever and that the dynamics of a group comprised of teenagers, young adults and older adult staff had strengthened and encouraged everyone who took part.

One camper said, "This camp enabled



me to live without struggling against others or other issues because of my beliefs. It was like an oasis; so now, hopefully, I can return to life in the

world more rested and strengthened spiritually."

Due to the changing demographics of the campers, this was probably the last camp in the current format.

Next year older members of the group hope to go to a combined European camp, with a smaller camp in Britain planned for the younger 8 to 15 age group.

It is hoped that a larger camp for both the youngsters and the young adults can take place in the United Kingdom in 2007.

David and Barbara Fenney

**"ABC," continued from page 1**

Friend" and "Great Is Your Name." They brought tears to the eyes of several in the audience of 287. Ken Shoemaker did a marvelous job as chorale director. He has dedicated himself to helping create beautiful musical presentations from the Chorale since the class of 2000, of which he was a member. Heather Beyer and Danielle Novak were the accompanists.

President Clyde Kilough delivered the main graduation address. He urged the students to keep on learning and practicing what they have learned. He used the example of helping a student at summer camp learn how to play softball, how it took patience and practice to become more proficient at the sport. We need to become more proficient in learning and practicing God's way of life.

**Awards, Diplomas and 1,000 Balloons**

The Ambassador Awards of Excellence were presented by President Kilough to Tonia Hamilton and Matthew Bates. Victor Kubik, a Council of Elders member, presented the two Council of Elders Service Awards to Leigh Carlson and Emmanuel Gomez.

The presentation of diplomas in Biblical Studies followed the awards' presentation. Thirty-eight students were present for the graduation ceremony. Three others received their diplomas early as they were unable to be present on graduation day.

The celebration followed with delicious, specially made and decorated cakes and beverages served by ABC alumni to the graduates and the audi-

ence. Terri Eddington and her staff made all of the arrangements for the refreshments. Cheryl Tootle, a 2004 ABC graduate, organized the servers. Mark Tannert and his ushering crew helped with the orderly flow and seating of the audience and graduates.

A spectacular release of 1,000 balloons added to the celebration. The eco-



friendly balloons disintegrate after they reach a certain height and later are absorbed into the ground. The graduates, families and friends were treated to this event after the refreshments were served. Peter Eddington and his helpers inflated and organized the purple and gold balloons for the celebration.

**Serious and Serving**

This year's class was more serious, but they also had their playful moments. They were quite serving in attitude and action. In addition to logging many hours serving at the home office in data input and literature stuffing, they did several charitable functions and raised more money for the developing nation's student scholarships than any previous class. They also purchased the U.S. flag now flying on the flagpole at the home office.

There were 20 different instructors at ABC this year, including several from the home office staff. The students maintained their interest well despite a very challenging program.

**Highlights of the Year**

Orientation, Jan. 9, was a highlight, with presentations by alumni members and the resident faculty.

Social functions add to the program as they bring a variety of experiences to the students. This year's officers did a fine job with Caleb Froedge as student body



A serving class: ABC Chorale; serving water at a charity run; inserting literature at the home office

president, Heather Beyer, secretary, and Jerry Stam, treasurer. Throughout the year various students had opportunities to organize events or aspects of different events.

Two field trips added to the students' experiences in the Cincinnati area. They visited the Air Force Museum in Dayton and attended a Cincinnati Reds baseball game. (The Reds won! They

defeated the St. Louis Cardinals to the chagrin of some Missouri students.)

The students sponsored a number of potlucks, inviting the home office staff to join them. They concluded the year's activities with one final potluck to thank the home office staff for their support for them being at ABC.

There were seven baptisms this year. The students showed much progress in handling the Bible and in being able to defend their faith with the Scriptures. They improved as a class by just over 11 percentage points in the post-test over the pre-test. We were pleased with that improvement.

**Evaluation**

Late in the school year, students were asked to complete an evaluation of their



ABC experience. The first question was, "Please rate your overall experience of ABC, with a number from 1 to 5, 5 being best." Of the 33 students completing the evaluation, 17 assigned a 5 to their overall experience, 12 gave a 4, and two gave a 3, with a couple of fractional responses. The average came out at 4.46, which we believe indicates a fairly high rate of satisfaction with the program.

Our second question was, "Please provide brief, written comments about your assessment of the program over-

all." Here are a few of the comments:

"I've learned so much, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. I'm very thankful I came. I don't know if I would change anything."

"This has been the best nine months of my life."

"The classes are extremely interesting and you can learn so much. There is just so much information that is here for us to learn. If I could, I would go again to get more information to apply to my life."

"The program overall is amazing. There are opportunities for one to grow in many different facets. The instructors always came across as 100 percent qualified and knowledgeable in their various subjects. The setting and environment is friendly, neat and beautiful. The program has given me an opportunity to take part in certain things that I would normally never get a chance to do."

"It's an excellent program. The amount of information we receive is almost overwhelming, but that only gives us lots to study more thoroughly over the future years. I have also enjoyed all the social activities."

"I feel the ABC program gives a good overview of the Bible. The guest speakers were also an added bonus, which was enjoyed very much."

"I have greatly enjoyed my experience at Ambassador Bible Center. The instructors do a terrific job of teaching and opening each individual book of the Bible. Thank you."

"I feel that coming to ABC has forever changed me. I really appreciate the structure and enthusiasm the instructors have to help us to have as well. Overall it was an amazing experience that I'm sad to see coming to a close."

Gary E. Antion and Ralph D. Levy

# Living the Truth: ABC Motto Is a Reminder to All

Ambassador Bible Center students have a great blessing of spending approximately seven months learning in-depth the Bible and its principles. This is a unique opportunity that many during the Middle Ages would have desired to have, but could not.

John Wycliffe in the 1380s produced the first handwritten English-language Bible manuscripts. The pope was so infuriated by his teachings and his translation of the Bible into English, that 44 years after Wycliffe's death, he ordered Wycliffe's bones be dug up, crushed and scattered in the river!

In 1415, John Hus was burnt at the stake because he promoted the idea that people should read the Bible in their own language and opposed the tyranny of the Roman church that threatened anyone possessing a non-Latin Bible with execution.

In the 1500s William Tyndale was forced to flee England because of his efforts to translate and print the New Testament into English.

**A Time to Learn . . .**

In complete contrast to the Middle Ages, today God has blessed us with the opportunity to be instructed about His Word, in peace and safety, with the clar-

ity that only His servants can have. Do we really appreciate this blessing, or do we take it for granted? Who knows if in just a few years people will again be prohibited from studying the Bible as we can do today?

It seems God inspired an educational program as early as the times of Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:15; 4:38). In this end-time, Elijah-type work (Malachi 4:5), God used Herbert W. Armstrong to institute Ambassador College, after which ABC is modeled today.

Those of us who have the opportunity to attend ABC are indeed blessed and wish that all in the Church would have such opportunity. For this purpose some of the classes are taped, and these tapes are sent to congregations and put on the Web site so that the brethren may benefit to a great degree from these classes.

**. . . and Apply . . .**

ABC has been based on the premise that "the Word of God is the foundation of knowledge." The motto of the 2005 ABC class is "Living the Truth," which brings to our minds the critical step in the process of actively applying the knowledge and truth learned in God's Church. Our growth in God's truth is progressive and directly related to how

we apply the knowledge we learn.

James, Jesus' half-brother, instructs us to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). We need to learn the truth with such a heart that we critically examine ourselves so that we apply it in our daily lives. This is part of the self-evaluation process and self-judgment that we all have to do (1 Corinthians 11:31).

We need to apply what we learn to ourselves, to be introspective and change ourselves accordingly, with God's help through His Spirit. As we live the truth, God produces another amazing miracle in our minds. He makes us understand other deeper truths about the very knowledge we have learned and are applying.

Part of the learning and application is the consciousness of *how* we come across. We clearly don't want to come across as "know it alls" or arrogant. As some have said, is not just "the what" but "the how." How we apply any principle is the crux of the matter.

This point is further illustrated by the common statement in society which states that "truth hurts." Yes indeed, at times the truth can hurt, particularly if some of us say, "Well, it's the truth, so I am going to tell him just as it is!"

Paul instructed us to speak "the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). That emphasizes "how" we apply the knowledge we have learned. We are blessed in God's Church today to have the knowledge we have. As we apply this knowledge—this truth, the "what"—we have to be conscious of the intent of the heart behind the application. For us to be pleasing to God, we need to apply it with a right intent from the heart. Then, and only then, can we live the truth in a genuine, outgoing and caring love and concern.

**. . . to Become Like Christ**

It is only when we apply and live the truth in love, in genuine sincerity, from the heart, that we begin to really grasp the mind and character of Christ. This is the character that we are to grow into. This is the goal that we are to strive for until we come to "the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

This mind-set of love, care and gentleness is what is meant by us becoming gracious like God is gracious toward us. This is an important aspect of what growing in grace is all about. It is what we must put on: "Above all these things put

on love, which is the bond of perfection" (Colossians 3:14). It is how we need to conduct ourselves toward one another. Paul and the apostles had a clear conscience that they had conducted themselves "in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you" (2 Corinthians 1:12).

Here is a question for all of us to stop and meditate about: Are we, as God's ambassadors in His Church, improving ourselves by "living the truth" with graciousness and love?

"Living the Truth" in love is the most excellent way to show appreciation to God for the opportunity we have at this end time to learn the truth, whether be it at ABC or in the Church. Because we believe the foundation of all knowledge—the Word of God—we live it in love with the help of God's Spirit.

The 2005 ABC motto, "Living the Truth," is but a gentle reminder to us all that we are not just to learn the truth, but that we are to live the truth in love, so that we "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18) till we come to the "measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"!

The author, Jorge de Campos, is a 2005 graduate of ABC.



## From the Word

# Warfare and the New Testament Christian

■ If the draft were to be reinstated in the United States, could you convince a draft board of the sincerity of your beliefs against military service and warfare?

by Robert Dick

How time flies! It has a way of dimming our view and dulling the senses.

It has been 32 years since the last American citizen was drafted. Since then, our wars have been fought by volunteer soldiers.

Do you grasp the full impact of that fact upon Church members? None of our American men under 50 years old have ever experienced standing before a draft board to plead their convictions.

Prior to 1973, every American young man in the Church of God had to be prepared, whether called upon or not, to stand before a local draft board and answer why he was opposed to military service and warfare.

The draft board listened and returned a judgment based upon one primary factor—whether they felt the young man was *sincere* in his convictions.

I still remember visiting a young draftee in federal prison just outside Tallahassee, Florida. He came from one of our congregations in eastern Tennessee. His inability to convince his local draft board of his sincerity led to an order to report for active duty. When he refused, action was taken and a judge sentenced him to federal prison where we met. In a sense, his "crime" was his inability to convince a draft board of the sincerity of his convictions.

Though the Selective Service stopped actively drafting young men in 1973 and suspended the draft in 1975, if it were to be reinstated the issue would be the same as it was then—could you convince a draft board of the sincerity of your beliefs against military service and warfare?

### Your Obligation; the Church's Obligation

The Church of God can never provide you with sincerity. How deeply you believe what you believe and how steadfastly you live it is something for which you and you alone are responsible. A draft board's task is to consider your sincerity of belief. In judging your sincerity, they can look not only at your explanation of scriptures, but whether your conduct supports your words. How well a person can talk is of little value if his actions contradict his words.

For young men, and possibly women, who plead opposition to military service and warfare based upon religious beliefs, it is the Church's responsibility to provide them instruction in doctrine. Our role as a church is to explain to our members *why*. Why we as Church mem-

bers do not become involved in warfare. Why we are opposed to military service.

It is also the Church's role to support its members with formal doctrinal teachings. When the Constitution of the United Church of God was formally ratified in December of 1995, it contained the fundamental beliefs statement of the Church. Among them is a statement of our belief regarding warfare and military service:

"We believe that Christians are forbidden by the commandments of God from taking human life, directly or indirectly, and that bearing arms is contrary to this fundamental belief. Therefore, we believe that Christians should not voluntarily become engaged in military service. If they are involuntarily engaged in military service, we believe they should refuse conscientiously to bear arms and, to the extent possible, to refuse to come under military authority" (Article 2.1.14 Constitution of the United Church of God).

Later in 1998 the Church published its *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet containing all of the fundamental beliefs of the Church with a brief commentary on each belief. An additional page of explanation with numerous scriptural references was added to the statement above.

In addition to these published doctrinal statements, the Church provides advice and counsel to all of its young men on registering with Selective Service as required by law, and how to have one's beliefs on record in the event the draft is reinstated.

### Giving an Answer

The United States' recognition of its citizens' right to be opposed to military service on the basis of religious conviction goes back to the time of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Since those days young men of several faiths have stood and answered for their beliefs.

For those old enough to remember standing before a local draft board, it involved more than just answering for your convictions and stating your religious beliefs. The members of the board were allowed to cross-examine and challenge your beliefs with scriptural views of their own.

These men were not biblical illiterates. They supported warfare and used the same Bible we do as their basis of belief. It was not uncommon for a young Church member's beliefs to be challenged, and he was expected to answer. It was soon obvious whether the young man had depth to his convictions.

If you are going to argue for your convictions, you surely need to understand the foundation of your convictions. It may be worth your time to also study why others hold a different view and how they support those views.

### Foundation of Our Beliefs

We are New Testament Christians.

I doubt that most grasp the import of these few words.

We are not contemporaries of Adam or Noah, we are not patriarchs or ancient Israelites, and (though we look forward to the day we will be) we are not yet resurrected sons of God—we are New Testament Christians. This is the context within which we live.

Our beliefs and practices are based upon the model of Jesus Christ and the apostles. While some of our beliefs and practices go back to ancient Israel and, in some cases, back to creation itself, all of our beliefs and practices conform to what was believed and practiced by Jesus and the apostles.

This is our foundation. It is the foundation of what we practice. It is the foundation of what we believe.

As a church, we are fully aware that some of the patriarchs fought, that ancient Israel and Judah had armies and that Christ will subdue the armies of this world when He returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. None of this has any bearing on us today. We are not under the Old Covenant and we are not yet immortal sons of God—we are New Testament Christians.

### New Testament Teaching

Every era has a point of origin and a foundation. Christ's formal teachings began with the Sermon on the Mount, and it serves as the foundation of the New Testament era. It was in this instruction that Jesus set the standards for His disciples and for the Church of God that was to come into existence a few years hence.

Immediately following the Beatitudes and the Similitudes, Christ addressed norms that He intended to change. He told His followers they had heard one set of standards, but He was giving them another. In Matthew 5 these are set apart by the term, "you have heard that it was said . . . but I say" (Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44). Christ was telling them He was magnifying the biblical standards and replacing the nonbiblical common ideas of His day.

In three of these "you have heard that it was said . . . but I say" situations Christ set standards that simply do not allow for involvement in military service or warfare by their very nature.

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:21-22).

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go

with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven . . . For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? . . . Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:38-48).

These standards are direct. All who profess Christianity squarely face a sobering fact—we all fall woefully short of measuring up to these statements. Does our weakness nullify them? No! If we feel a certain guilt because we fall short of doing what Christ commanded here, do we simply cut these words out of our Bibles? Again, no!

Christ gave focus to these new standards by His words in verse 45. Where is compliance to these teachings leading? We are to live by these standards, "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (verse 45).

At the end of chapter 5 it becomes obvious that all these teachings are benchmarks. In striving to reach them, we are striving to reach the goal of the last verse of this chapter, "Therefore you shall be perfect just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (verse 48).

Whether we can attain it or not, aiming below perfection is not acceptable.

### The Model of Jesus Christ

The greatest commentary on anyone's teachings is his or her conduct.

Men have written endless commentaries on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, yet the greatest commentary of all is His recorded example in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Did Christ practice what He preached? Yes, He did.

There is not a single account of Jesus ever striking another human being while on this earth. His teachings and practices were one and the same.

The only instance weakly used to support a contrary opinion is the account of Christ cleansing the temple in John 2. Yet there is no reference to striking any human being in this instance, and numerous commentators and translators make the point that the whip and its use was focused solely on the sheep and oxen. Among the commentators who make this point are Matthew Henry, Elliott, Cook and Vincent along with the RSV, NRSV, NIV, ASV, Darby and Weymouth, just to name some of the translations.

Christ's most telling comment on warfare and His servants' involvement in it was made in response to Pilate's questioning shortly before the crucifixion. When questioned by Pilate as to

whether He was a king, He made an instructive comment.

"Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew?' Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here'" (John 18:33-36, emphasis added).

In its own reverse manner, Christ's statement to Pilate was direct—My servants do not fight.

### The Model of the Apostles

After Christ ascended to heaven, how did the apostles conduct themselves?

The record of the apostles' lives is identical to that of Christ. While most of them disappear from the biblical record early in the book of Acts, their conduct is the same as Christ's.

While tradition has it that most of the apostles were violently killed, it contains no record of violence on their part.

Paul, called later than the other apostles, makes the most interesting study. By his own admission he was a violent man prior to conversion. His actions, authorized by the state, centered on persecution of the Church of God—torturing, maiming, imprisoning and even endorsing the execution of members.

This was the preconversion Paul. Conversion brought transformation.

The persecutor became the persecuted with a most notable change in approach—he didn't retaliate (2 Corinthians 11:23-25).

Paul, the Saul who stood and approved the stoning of Stephen, was transformed into a man who lived the teaching of Christ in the manner given in the Sermon on the Mount.

### Summary

The beauty of the New Testament and its teachings is that its words and its models are consistent. What Christ and the apostles taught regarding violence they lived. It wasn't dependent upon whether others lived it, or what society was doing around them.

If indeed you are a New Testament Christian, you, to borrow a phrase from the book of Hebrews, "are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses"—witnessed to by actions, not by words alone—the actions of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our salvation, the 12 apostles and by Paul, the apostle to the gentiles.

All these models moved so far away from aggression and violence toward fellowman, they left no room for justifying being involved directly or indirectly in the taking of life through warfare and military service. UN

# Last Great Day: This Day Is for Them Too

■ What state of mind will those in the second resurrection be in?

by Tim Groves

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God . . ." When we read this passage in Revelation 20:12, our thoughts immediately go to the time setting of the Last Great Day. When we consider this last part of God's master plan, we automatically think of the time when the vast majority of mankind will have their minds opened to God's truth. What state of mind will some be in when they are resurrected?

Speaking about those in the second resurrection, Ezekiel 37:11 says, "Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!" Why do they feel their "hope is lost"? What is this lost hope?

In the original Hebrew, the word *hope* can also be translated as "expectation" or "thing that I long for." The Hebrew word for "lost" is also translated elsewhere in the Bible as "perish." So who are these people who think the things they have longed for have perished? Who are these whose expectations and hopes are lost? After all, this day is for them too.

## A Day for the Brokenhearted

The first part of this year the news was filled with the trial surrounding the death of Laci Peterson and her unborn child. Not only was Laci excited about having this child, but so were her parents. They were looking forward to having a grandchild! The baby was only weeks away. Their expectations were great. Then their hopes were shattered. Indeed, the thing that Laci's parents longed for—their little girl becoming a mother, and the birth of their grandchild—had perished. Their hope was lost. That grief will follow them to their graves.

Just think about all the premature deaths of children. Unless one has experienced it, the pain is unimaginable. Every day children die from terrible diseases, drug and alcohol abuse, accidents,

abductions, etc. What can fill that void in the parents' hearts when their children are lost?

When one of my children was about a month old, a coworker had a baby boy a few months older who died of AIDS. I vividly remember seeing that infant lying in the coffin. I also remember going home and holding my baby for a long time. I could not relate directly to the grief she and her husband were going through, but as I held my child, I knew how much they wished they could hold their son. The thing that I longed for was still in my arms. The thing that they longed for was gone. They buried their son, but they could not bury their grief.

The Vietnam Memorial has some three million visitors every year. To many, the 58,000 names of fallen soldiers engraved on "The Wall" are statistics. But every name on that wall is a lost loved one. The names on the wall had hopes and dreams. These names had mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives and children.

That is one wall, one war. Think of all the fallen soldiers in all wars over time, and the holes they left in their loved ones' hearts.

The Last Great Day is for these family members left behind. Yes, their eyes will be opened to the truth. But also, the eyes of their dead loved ones will be opened so they can live again.

My coworker will see her son again. Parents who lost children to wars, accidents, abductions and diseases will see them again.

God promises the time is coming when premature deaths will be a thing of the past. "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days" (Isaiah 65:20). Can we imagine, and look forward to, the joy that will fill the parents' hearts when they see their children again? Their broken hearts will be mended. Yes, this day is for them too.

## A Day for the Discouraged and Disadvantaged

Each year thousands of people are born with mental handicaps. There are

adults with the minds of children. Throughout their lives they are dependent on others to care for them. Some have lost their mental capacities due to accidents, and there appears to be no real hope for their future.

Not only are there slain casualties of war, there are also living casualties. Many of us have seen veterans living on the streets. The wars they were in affected their minds. They are no longer the same person. For some, the only friends they have are the bottle of wine in their hand and the imaginary friends in their minds. All their hopes and dreams have long perished.

There are also those who have become demon-possessed. They have definitely lost control of their minds. These who have lost control of their minds have lost hope.

On this day God will give them back their minds, and they can be free at last. They will know God has done this (Ezekiel 37:13-14). Yes, this day is for them too.

Depression is an increasing problem in the world. The future looks so bleak to some that the only escape they see is committing suicide. In the United States about 90 people take their own lives every day. These people surely have lost hope. They will have hope in the future, because this day is for them too.

## A Day for the Terror Stricken

Think of all the disasters that have occurred in the history of mankind. Some 1,500 people died when the *Titanic* sank in the North Atlantic. How many cried out for God as they slowly died in the frigid waters?

When the terrorists flew the planes into the World Trade Center, how many of those trapped in the buildings prayed for God to deliver them? Think about the ones who saw no escape from the flames and jumped to their deaths. Many of the victims' bodies were never found. In an instant, there were thousands of fatherless, motherless, childless, widows and widowers. Just as the towers were destroyed, so were their hopes.

Less than a year ago the Asian tsunami

claimed an estimated 225,000 lives and left millions homeless. Complete communities were totally destroyed. Parents had their children ripped from their arms by the raging waters. There was sudden terror, sudden destruction and sudden hopelessness. Have we forgotten the news clips of families desperately searching for their loved ones and their anguish when they found out their sons and daughters had perished? Let's not forget their plight, because this day is for them too.

## A Day of Hope

We could fill this entire publication writing about those who died without hope, but we have touched on just a few. You can think of many more. Most of the billions of people who have died without hope we have not even known. To us they are just numbers. But they are not mere numbers to God—they are His children. The Last Great Day shows that God has not forgotten them.

In Isaiah 49:14-15 we read, "But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me.' 'Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.'"

In Isaiah 54:7-8 God says, "'For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,' says the LORD, your Redeemer."

Yes, God offers hope to the hopeless. In Jeremiah 32:42 God promises, "For thus says the LORD: 'Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them.'"

God's greatness and compassion are mentioned in Psalm 147:3-5 where it says, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite."

We cannot fathom the number of people who have ever lived and died (some

estimate 20 billion or more!). But just as God calls all the stars by name, He also knows all people who have ever lived and died by name. And His will is that all would become a part of His family (2 Peter 3:9).

Let's not forget that we, too, were once hopeless. In Ephesians 2:12 Paul states we were once "without Christ . . . having no hope and without God in the world." As God extended mercy to us, He will extend mercy to all of mankind. King Solomon said in Proverbs 13:12, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life." God will offer the tree of life to those who have lost hope.

The things we see now should remind us of this great day. The next time you see a makeshift cross covered with flowers alongside the road, think about this day. Remember the grieving parents who lost their child at that spot. When you get a card in the mail with a picture of a missing child, think about this day. The next time you hear about a slain soldier in the news, think about this day.

The next time you hear about someone taking his own life, remember that God will restore his hope on this day. When disasters happen, remember that God will not forget the victims, because this day is for them too. And the next time you look at the endless night sky, remember that God has planned something better for all who have ever lived and died.

The time pictured by the Last Great Day will be a time of great hope and great rejoicing. The individuals in that resurrection will learn of God's great love for them individually. They will learn that Christ died for them too, and they can also have eternal life. They will have the opportunity to join us in God's great family.

Let's remember the encouraging words in 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."

May God speed that day! UN

# The Second Death: Why Bother?

■ Why a second death when the dead are already dead?

by David J. Sandland

Many have wondered why God would go to all the bother to resurrect those who have knowingly rejected Him—those who willingly turned their back on the opportunity for salvation—simply to then cast them into the lake of fire, effectively putting them to what the Bible calls "a second death."

To some that brief, and often misunderstood, part in the overall plan of God borders on the absurd and morbid—and totally unnecessary. They are dead. Why not simply leave them dead and buried?

After the Millennium and the second

resurrection, a third resurrection takes place, otherwise known as the "second death." This will be a resurrection for all those who knowingly and willingly reject the calling of God, who turn their backs on salvation and the opportunity of sonship in the very family of God. Relevant scriptures are Revelation 2:11; 20:14-15; 21:8; and Hebrews 10:26-27.

The stubbornly, knowingly rebellious will then face the final lake of fire and total, final and complete death.

But, again, why bother? Those being raised in this third and final resurrection are already dead. Why bring them back to life to almost immediately consign them to death?

Actually there are many reasons.

Consider the *dramatic impact of example*. Not on those being resurrected

to face their final death, but on those now resurrected into God's family. The Millennium is now passed. The Last Great Day is now history. The melting of all things physical is close to reality (2 Peter 3:10-12). The final closure on human life now approaches.

And the final lesson from human existence is now etched on the spiritual minds of God's children. It is the lesson that sin and rejection of God and His way of life and laws simply will not be tolerated. We will witness that final act—the second death—being sentenced on the incorrigibly wicked. It is a lesson that will last for all eternity.

It is comparable to the lesson of capital punishment in the Old Testament. How many such sentences would be needed, if people knew that swift, severe

and just punishment would be administered? Ecclesiastes 8:11 is an excellent scripture to consider. When judgment is known and witnessed, then obedience is reinforced.

As those in God's family leave behind all things physical, we will have burnt into our consciousness and memory the lesson that sin simply does not pay. It is truly an example that will never leave us.

A second principle is *responsibility and accountability*. Those being brought back to life in this third resurrection need to face the consequences of their choices to reject the God of creation and His offer of eternal life as a very son in His family.

Consider that many of the knowingly wicked prospered during their former physical lives. Compare Ecclesiastes

7:15; 8:14; Psalm 73:12; Job 21:7-15; and Jeremiah 12:1-2. Many prophets and saints of old wondered why the wicked prospered in spite of their rejection of God. Some blatantly, and knowingly, scorned and mocked God. And yet they still prospered.

A day *must* come when they learn that a penalty for rejection of God is very real—that a judgment awaits their choice.

There will be a final accounting of their decision to knowingly reject God.

An interesting comparison is the story, or parable, of Lazarus and the rich man found in Luke 16:19-26. We can assume that the rich man knowingly rejected God, in comparison to Lazarus' faith and trust in spite of his poverty and suffering.

In this story, the rich man now faces his final fate, when it will be too late for repentance.

Moving on to other considerations, Matthew 10:28 is indeed interesting. In that verse, we have a warning that God can destroy both "soul and body." In other words, all that is man.

Compare Psalm 109:14-15 and Isaiah 26:14. God will, one day, *cut off the very memory* of the incorrigibly wicked at the third resurrection, or in the second death.

The Hebrew word translated as memory is *zeker*, which alludes to the scent, or record of a person.

This is almost comparable to the double delete facility on many computer systems. This will be a final, total and complete wiping out of the very record, or scent, of a person. It is a final "blotting out" of that record from the very Book of Life. Compare Revelation 3:5; Exodus 32:33; and Deuteronomy 9:14.

And the word *blot* comes from the

Hebrew *machah*, to rub out, to erase, to utterly wipe out (see *Strong's Concordance* Hebrew #4229).

A fearful event takes place at the second death—the final erasure of a person's existence.

In closing, consider Galatians 6:4-8. God will not be mocked. An accounting will come for knowing and willing rebellion. "For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

That final reaping for the wicked will

take place in this final resurrection to condemnation and punishment, as explained in John 5:27-29 and even John 3:16.

In summary, this second death is a necessary, logical and sound end to the plan of God for mankind. It is:

A time to leave a vivid example of the result of rebellion and sin.

A time for accountability and responsibility.

A time for final judgment and condemnation.

A time for final erasure—blotting out—of the unrepentant.

A time for closure on all things physical.

A time, then, when the spiritual family of God can move forward, without any record, or "scent," of human existence, sin and rebellion.

For more on this subject see our booklets on *Fundamental Beliefs, God's Holy Day Plan, Heaven and Hell and What Happens After Death?* UN

## "Leaping Like Calves From the Stall": An Analogy for Today

■ This analogy can give us a special perspective on the Feast of Tabernacles we are soon to observe.

by David Johnson

The Bible uses a variety of literary devices to communicate God's message for man. Among the most common of those devices is the analogy. A biblical analogy uses something from everyday life—an event, a process, a common experience—to provide a parallel for a spiritual lesson. When we construct analogies today, we generally draw upon familiar aspects of our own experience—technology, education, travel, etc.

You may remember how Satan's subtle influence upon our moods and attitudes has been likened to a radio broadcast. This modern analogy—easily understood by most of us—would have been totally incomprehensible to a citizen of ancient Israel or to our brethren in the first-century Church.

Since the people of biblical times were closely connected to the earth and its seasons, many of the Bible's analogies spring from agriculture. However, most of us no longer have a close connection with the land, and important aspects of the agricultural analogies found in Scripture may escape our understanding. Let's take a moment to look at one of those analogies that can give us a special perspective on the Feast of Tabernacles we are soon to observe.

### Leaping Like Calves From the Stall

The prophecy given through Malachi is essentially a conversation between God and Israel, as God points out Israel's wrong attitudes and invites them to repent and turn to Him and receive His blessings.

In the final chapter of this short book, Malachi is shown what lies ahead for those who will repent and what will become of those who don't. In Malachi 4:2, God makes this promise: "But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall" (New Revised Standard Version).

What does that tell you? What does a calf leaping from a stall have to do with your future? Undoubtedly, there are several lessons that could be gleaned from this analogy, and an experience from this writer's

past can shed light on one of them.

It was that period between late winter and early spring in the Midwest, and we were keeping an eye on a Hereford cow that was due to drop her first calf any day. At this time of year, it can be warm and pleasant during the day, yet turn very cold during the night. We were concerned that she might give birth during the night when we couldn't watch her, and the calf would freeze before we discovered it in the morning. We brought her into the barn and put her in a stall where she would be protected from the elements.

When the veterinarian arrived to check on her, he discovered that the calf was in a breech position, and we would need to help her deliver it. After much effort, the new calf dropped to the floor of the stall, and the cow did instinctively what every cow has always done—she began to lick him to clean him up and get the blood circulating. After just a few minutes, the little fellow got up on shaky legs and wobbled instinctively to the same place every newborn calf has always gone—to get his first meal.

Mother and calf were doing fine, but because of the cold weather, we decided to leave them in the stall for a few more days.

Now, for those who are not familiar with farm animals, please don't be misled by the fact that cows are listed among the "clean" animals. That refers only to the fact that God permits us to eat the meat. It says nothing about the cow's habits of personal hygiene. Cows have no qualms about relieving themselves and then standing or lying down in the mess for days at a time. As the days passed, this stall became quite an unpleasant mess, but the cow and her calf didn't seem to notice.

### Leaving the Stall

Finally the day came when it was warm enough to let the cow and calf out of the stall and put them back in the pasture. When the stall was opened, the cow ambled out of the stall and then out the barn door into the pasture, where she immediately began to feast on the fresh green grass.

But the calf didn't know what to do. The stall had been his whole world, and he was terrified at the prospects of having to leave it. Even after we put a halter on him, he planted all four feet and fought with all his might to keep from being pulled from the stall. It took two grown men to finally drag him out of the stall and into the pasture. When the rope was removed, he dashed immediately to

his mother and stood underneath her, looking wide-eyed and frightened at all the strange things in the pasture.

As the moments passed and nothing bad happened to him, he grew more and more curious about all the new sights and sounds and smells of the pasture. He ventured a short distance from his mother and sniffed some of the grass and then dashed back under her for safety again. After a few more moments he ventured a bit further away, dashing back to safety each time.

Within a half hour, he was dashing and leaping from one end of the pasture to the other with an excitement and joy that is hard to describe. This new world was wonderful! It was filled with all sorts of interesting plants and animals—tastes and smells he had never imagined while living in his stall. For the first time in his short life, he was *living* instead of merely existing, and never again would he want the stench and dullness of the barn.

Why had he been so reluctant to leave his stall? Compared to the wonderful world outside, his stall was ugly and unpleasant. But to him, his stinking, fetid, waste-filled stall was "normal." It was his only idea of how life could be lived. It was all he had ever known, and as far as he knew, this is the way every calf lived.

To someone standing on the outside, someone who could see a different reality, the stall was a wretched place to be. But to that calf, it was "home," and he was comfortable there.

The power of what seems "normal" to a person is amazing. People who have grown up in abusive homes tend to view abuse as normal, and the cycle is repeated generation after generation. People who break free of abusive relationships because it seems "normal."

For most of us the examples may not be quite as extreme, but many of the things we do in our lives, our relationships, our actions, are the result of a negative, dysfunctional way of living that still seems "normal" to us.

In 1 Peter 1:18, Peter refers to the fact that "you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers" (New International Version). Most people don't consciously choose empty, worthless ways of living. They just live that way because it feels normal. Until people get a clear view of the way things should be—the way they can be—they will continue to feel most comfortable with this distorted view of "normal."

### Window Into Another Reality

You and I still live in this world too. Too often the evil, the perverse and the vile seem normal to us. We can hear and see violence, perversion, squalor and hatred, and then go our way as if nothing unusual has happened.

How can we keep from wallowing in the filth of Satan's world as the rest of mankind does? Thankfully, God has given us a window into another reality, another world in which righteousness, goodness, kindness, justice and abundance are normal. That window is called the Feast of Tabernacles.

Each year we assemble at the Feast of Tabernacles and have our minds filled with God's vision of what life will be when Jesus Christ returns and God's Kingdom is established on earth. As we



fully participate in the Feast—serving, learning, fellowshiping, participating in the activities—God shares with us a foretaste of a different reality—a world that doesn't exist yet, but is far more real than the one in which we now live.

Wouldn't it be a tragedy to attend the Feast and yet fail to capture the vision God sets before us? That stubborn and frightened calf could see a different world from the door of the barn, but he couldn't understand and appreciate it until he stepped into it. If a person goes to the Feast site, appears at services most of the time, and then spends the rest of the time doing things in this present world, how much will he or she really understand about the reality of God's new world?

In our world, it's "normal" for families to fragment, with each person doing "his own thing." It's "normal" for young people to go off into their own little world with headphones over their ears and their eyes glued to some mindless video game. It's "normal" to spend time with people and activities that make us comfortable and ignore those we don't already know or who might be less for-

tunate than we are. It's "normal" to seek the maximum in entertainment instead of the maximum in learning. It must be fine because it's "normal," isn't it?

Most of us are able to enjoy some measure of abundance at the Feast because God has instructed us to save and spend His Festival tithe in celebrating His Festival. Yet, in the midst of our feasting, we must remember Paul's words in Romans 14:17: "For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (NRSV).

That new reality God wants to share with all mankind includes abundance, but at its core are values that cannot be measured in physical terms. At each Festival site the Church tries to provide a variety of activities for everyone. Often, we choose to participate in the ones that seem familiar, comfortable, "normal," and skip the rest. Could it be that our greatest opportunity for learning may be in those activities that challenge and move us out of our "comfort zone"?

Regardless of how much money we may have to spend at the Feast, we all arrive with the same amount of a far more precious commodity—time. We all have eight days and nights to invest in capturing God's vision of the future of mankind. Just like money, that time must be budgeted and invested, or it will be wasted. Those who invest their time wisely will emerge from the Feast with a deeper appreciation for the wonderful world God has in store for His children. And at the same time, there will be a new awareness of what passes for "normal" in this world.

That calf never had to return to his repulsive stall. He lived the rest of his days enjoying the abundance and variety of the pastures before him. When God's Kingdom is established, no one will have the slightest desire to return to the ways of this world—to "get back to normal."

Yet we know that the Feast is only a foretaste of that world. We aren't there yet. We must leave the Feast and return to a world that neither knows nor cares about God's promises or God's values. Through the Feast, God shares with us His vision for our future. Jeremiah preserves God's encouraging promise, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).

The Feast assures us that the day will come when we, like that calf, will "go out leaping like calves from the stall." UN

# Treasure Digest

## It's the Thought That Counts

Have you ever been on a highway in the early morning hours and not seen anyone else around you? No cars moving, establishments with their lights off and no visible activity? Did life on earth cease, and no one told you? It only takes a couple of other drivers to bring you back to reality . . . but for just a few moments, might you feel a little bit lonely and abandoned?

Every year, before we attend the Feast of Tabernacles, many congregations distribute a list of those who will not be able to attend this highly anticipated annual observance. For whatever reason, their life circumstances—usually related to health—prevent them from being able to attend. Undoubtedly, they must feel “left behind” in some sense.

I imagine that it speaks volumes to each of them when someone takes the time to send a postcard and reach out with words of encouragement. It's even better if you can possibly place a phone call or return with a gift or souvenir from your trip. Many of these individuals have attended the Feast of Tabernacles for as long as they have known what it was—possibly before some of us even came into existence. It must seem like a little piece of life is missing when you can't physically partake in God's Holy Days as you once could.

I would think it also creates a greater longing for Christ's return. When God's Kingdom is established, we will be living life as God intended in a world where “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” (Revelation 21:4). I know we're all looking forward to that time.

The reason I chose to write about our shut-ins, is that I began to feel somewhat “left behind” myself at the Feast. I attended the Feast in Panama City Beach, Florida, with a 2-month-old. Life with a baby is challenging, especially when you have a 13-year-old ready to go and do! Fortunately, I have a husband who is golden and will help wherever necessary. Unfortunately, that meant he and my son were out on the beach, at the pool, hot tub and youth activities.

Life in the condo was not all it might seem. Cable TV and chocolate only go so far, and so I felt quite secluded. It made me think of the shut-ins. At least I had a nice beach view, church socialization and occasional dinners. What did they have? Were they listening to tapes and waiting for their loved ones to return, so they could listen to recounts of something they had once been able to experience for themselves?

Given too much time to think, I began to feel pretty sorry for myself. But then someone crashed my pity party. A young lady (one of our Houston teens) reached out with a kind expression that made my heart smile. One day, my husband returned from the beach and gave me a beautiful seashell. He explained that this particular young lady had waited for him to complete a beach volleyball game, so that she could give him this seashell to pass along to me. It meant so much—I really needed that! When I saw her the next day at services, I thanked her for the shell and asked her where she found it. She and her sister enthusiastically told me about their daily shell finding adventures. They even had the jellyfish stings to prove it.

Because she found me so grateful for her thoughtfulness, when we returned from the Feast, I received an entire bag of seashells. Although the shells were quite beautiful to look at, it was really the thought that meant so much to me. I kept these seashells in a glass container on my desk, so that each morning I can remember where they came from, when they came to me and how much they meant when I was feeling all but forgotten. It also serves as a daily reminder to take time for those who might be feeling “out of sight, out of mind.”

I gained a greater understanding of those who

might be feeling alone at a time when the rest of God's brethren are together rejoicing. Until we are all finally able to enter God's Kingdom as a family, let's continue to remember our shut-ins in heart, mind, prayers and deeds.



*Sharon VanSchuyver  
Houston, Texas, North  
congregation (previously  
appeared in the Houston  
North Quarterly)*

## So Your Pastor Is Transferring—Don't Switch That Dial!

There are three things in life that we can be sure of: death, taxes and change. And all three we fear.

I hate change! I should sail through change; after all, I have had plenty of training while I was a child going from foster home to foster home. Ten homes to be exact and, oh yes, let's add two children's homes on top of that. All of this change in a 10-year period. But when change comes rolling into my life, I fight it, I get angry, I get depressed over it and I fear it!

Recently a very small change made me think about bigger changes.

Every morning on the way to work I tune into my favorite radio station. This radio station plays the songs I love, and I had grown used to hearing the same voice each morning with his warm and witty comments, occasional humor, sharing his life with his listeners and giving us inspirational things to get us going each morning.

I could count on hearing that same familiar voice every morning. I was so moved by this disc jockey's contribution to the station that I e-mailed him to let him know how inspiring he was.

Then one Monday a new voice announced that this disc jockey was no longer working at their station. I miss this guy and his gentle voice. It was a little like losing a family member. I tried to listen to the new guy, but it was so different. Even the music format was changed. I finally got frustrated and changed the dial.

One of the hardest changes for members in God's Church is to adjust when their pastor is asked to transfer. For some this might be a welcome change; for others this could be like losing a family member or a very close friend. Especially if you have worked very closely with him and counseled with him about problems. Maybe he baptized you or married your children. He was there for you when you were going through your toughest times. So the adjustment period with a new pastor can be difficult.

I have gone through transfers, and my friends will tell you, I don't sail through them with ease. But I have learned some things recently that have helped.

1. Be kind to yourself if you are having a hard time adjusting. It takes time! Give yourself some time to grieve and talk to God a lot about it. Ask God to encourage you.

2. Realize your new pastor is adjusting too. You only have to get to know him; he has to get to know a whole church. Getting outside of your own feelings and reaching out to help the new pastor and his family adjust will help you heal more quickly.

3. Support him! The new pastor will come in with fresh ideas and different ways of doing things. Support him. Support the programs that he starts up. Support them with an attitude that you want them to succeed. Lack of support can cause a pastor to become discouraged. Put yourself in his shoes and ask yourself how you would feel if people did not support your ideas, talked behind your back and complained. Support him and God will bless you.

4. Don't compare your new pastor with your former minister. We can learn and grow from being exposed to a variety of personalities. I once had a minister who was into the finer things of life, like silver, china and ladies' teas. So I went out and bought a silver tea set. When my next minister came in, wow! What a difference. He was a camper and would never think of a ladies' tea. So I packed up the silver tea set, placed it in a closet, went out and bought a tent. I am so grateful for the difference because it enriched my life in many ways.

5. Be willing to decrease. Many times ministers come in and make changes. This may affect what you have been doing for years. This is your greatest opportunity to shine by getting behind him and supporting the change. God will see your humble heart and will bless you in ways you did not imagine. Always remember the expression, “when one door closes, another one opens.”

6. Pray. Pray for God's blessing on the new pastor and his family. Ask God to help him succeed.

7. Use this new opportunity to learn more and grow. Each pastor brings a new perspective and a new way of doing things.

Change can be a very positive experience for all of us and our new pastor if we make up our mind to do all we can to make it work. So don't switch that dial! Don't tune out! Give it time! Seize the opportunity that God has given you for greater growth and remember: “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” (Romans 8:28).

*Janet Treadway  
Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation*

## Martha Hands and a Mary Heart

Many are familiar with the story of the two sisters from Bethany, found in Luke 10:38-42. Martha, the practical sister, busied herself with caring for the physical needs of her important guests. Meanwhile, Mary was focused on increasing her own spiritual understanding by listening to what Christ was teaching.

What can we learn from the examples of both women?

At that moment, Mary had the right idea. After all, the “Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). He wasn't looking for someone to see to His physical needs just then. Mary correctly discerned that the most important thing she could be doing at that moment was listening to what her Creator had to say. She had the spiritual, rather than the physical, as her first priority.

But, in contrast, were Martha's actions completely off-base? Obviously, she was corrected for being “worried and troubled about many things” (Luke 10:41), but she also had the excellent motivation of trying to serve her guests.

Paul writes that “as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). Christ did not rebuke her diligence, but rather that she did not discern that at that time there was something of greater significance to focus on.

God does not ignore the need for physical work or service. In fact, He wants us to work hard in this life and do our best (Ecclesiastes 9:10). But we must also have our hearts attuned to what is necessary—to recognize what is crucial for our spiritual growth and that whatever that is should be our top priority.

Each of us needs to maintain the physical diligence of Martha, while having the spiritual discernment and focus of Mary. In short, it is wise to have Martha hands and a Mary heart.

*Debbie Werner  
Portland, Oregon, congregation*

## Turning the Hearts “Thank You, Please and I Love You . . .”

Manners and courtesy have never gone out of style. They have just been neglected.

While humans have devised certain rules of etiquette, the basic principle is found in Scripture: “Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them” (Matthew 7:12), also called the Golden Rule. Children learn courtesy and manners by the examples they see and by being taught.

Our daughters both loved a little Golden Book, *Raggedy Ann: A Thank You, Please, and I Love You Book*. It went out of print, but we managed to keep copies of it. Our daughters could finish the various rhymes about gratitude and courtesy to others. Here are a few of the rhymes:

“People are happy to hear Andy on the phone, because he always says hello in such a friendly tone.”

“Here in the sandbox our Andy and Ann share all of their playthings the best way they can.”

“Ann won't give Andy a piece of her candy—it's not that she's meaning to tease. He wants it so badly, she'd give him some gladly—but Andy forgot to say PLEASE.”

To teach children to say “thank you” when they receive something or have something done for them is to help them be grateful to others in life. Teaching them to share and wait their turn in line also teaches the principle of courtesy. Teaching them to respond with a “yes” or “no” (maybe even a “yes, Sir” or “no, Ma'am,” which might seem outdated, but is very respectful) instead of a “yeah” or “nah” or no response will help them show more respect and communicate more effectively.

Showing respect for the elderly by giving them more comfortable places to sit or letting them in line ahead of you also helps teach our children to show respect. This lesson will hold them in good stead when they meet their boss for the first time.

Teaching our children to be friendly and greet others is another way of helping them show love to others. In our families, we should expect our children to want to say good night to their parents with a hug or a kiss. Just disappearing into the bedroom at bedtime is not teaching them to show love.

Parents who teach courtesy, appreciation, love and respect to their children solidify their teaching if they practice showing courtesy, appreciation, love and respect. When our children see us practicing what we teach, they will more easily adopt the Golden Rule as their own.

As that favorite little book concludes, “I'll give you a bear hug,” says Andy to Ann, and he hugs her and hugs her as tight as he can. “I love you,” says Ann, getting up on her toes, and she gives him a kiss on the tip of his nose. They are fond of each other, it's easy to see, and the reason is simple as simple can be! They use their good manners wherever they go, and this makes them very nice people to know!”

*Gary Antion*





# Local Church Updates

## Columbus Runs Pine Car Derby and Church Picnic

The Columbus, Ohio, congregation held its annual church picnic and Pine Car Derby Sunday, July 10, in the Retreat at Turnberry on the city's east side. The air-conditioned facility on this hot sunny afternoon added greatly to the enjoyment of the food and fellowship.

Activities included horseshoes, volleyball and games for all ages, with prizes for the kids. The fun also included a water balloon toss that degraded into a full-fledged aquatic free-for-all that really helped beat the heat.

New this year was a book exchange, in which members brought in unused or unwanted volumes to trade with others.

After the traditional cookout/potluck meal (and an incredible array of desserts), Columbus held its second annual Pine Car Derby. The theme was



Spectators watch the Columbus Pine Car Derby (photo by Bryan Molnar)

"The Seven Days of Creation." Spectators lined the track as the different divisions lined up to race their cars.

Entering the winner's circle from the various divisions were: Youth Legal Weight (5 ounces and under)—Joseph Horchak; Youth Heavy Weight (above 5 ounces)—Tim Chatfield; Adult Legal Weight—Jim Orlemann; Adult Heavy Weight—Jim McCready; and Overall Fastest—Jim McCready.

Prizes were also awarded for the best adult and youth themes, most colorful, most humorous, a people's choice award for both youth and adult cars and the turtle award for the slowest car.

*Jim McCready*

## Central Pennsylvania Has Ninth Youth Camp

The Lewistown, Pennsylvania, congregation hosted the ninth annual children's Youth Camp this summer in the heart of central Pennsylvania. Children ages 3 to 12 and their families enjoyed three days of camping out and activities at Grubb's Grove in Mt. Pleasant Mills,

Pennsylvania, from Sunday evening, June 26, to Wednesday evening, June 29.

Each year, the camp focuses on a different biblical story. Previous years' themes included the creation, the Flood, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Joseph's coat of many colors, the Exodus and Moses, heroes of the Bible featuring Caleb and Joshua, and the story of Samson.

This year's theme focused on Ruth and Naomi. The youth learned the importance of faithfulness, loyalty, courage and character—all traits exhibited by Ruth, great-grandmother of King



Classes and dressing up for a play about biblical characters at the Lewistown Youth Camp

David and of Jesus Christ's lineage.

The young people enjoyed daily Bible study, arts, crafts, sports, fishing, hiking, an afternoon at the pool, a Field Day event, campfire chats with Dale Schurter, Bible games and the featured event—a play set to music. It was put on by all the campers and also centered around the story of Ruth and Naomi.

The Lewistown congregation and their families provided exemplary service in hosting this event. Many members donated their time and resources to prepare the meals and arrange for the activities.

*Brent Ebersole*

## Barbados Enjoys Beach Picnic and Barbecue

On Sunday, July 16, members of the Barbados congregation, with some of their relatives and friends, braved the hot



Enjoying the Barbados beach party. Above: Alison Holland (reclining), Mosi Daniel, Lila Salazar and Jennifer Daniel

and humid weather and journeyed to Maresol Beach Apartments located at Dover Beach for a picnic and barbecue. The total attendance was 35, and the participants were refreshed by the sea breezes and had much fun frolicking in

the warm water of the Caribbean Sea as well as fellowshipping.

The aroma of the various foods was so enticing that some workers on the top floors of a nearby building who got a waft of it promptly inquired if they could partake. The chief chef for the day, Steve Holland, readily complied.

Everyone who attended commented favorably on the activity, which was scheduled with a view to improve the unity of the brethren and our relationship with others outside the Church.

Mr. Holland, one of the principal coordinators, remarked that the activity could be termed a community project. His assistants were Carolyn Scantlebury, Katherine Scantlebury, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Holland and Allison Holland.

The United Church of God (Barbados) members expressed their appreciation to the management of Maresol Apartments for allowing them to use their bathroom facilities and other general amenities.

*Lila Salazar*

## Camp Tomahawk Cool, Inspiring

Leftover rains from Hurricane Dennis didn't dampen the spirits of the 57 campers and 48 staff members who enjoyed a cool, though inspiring, Camp Tomahawk July 10 to 14 in Eva, Tennessee.

Camp opened with a Christian Living discussion titled "Mr. Positive" given by Chuck Smith. This topic set the tone for the beginning of camp, demonstrating how campers can exhibit a positive attitude versus a negative attitude, discussing "the Zone" and explaining the sticker policy, where smiley stickers were given out at random to those "caught" being positive.

Following the opening class, a picnic-style cookout was served outside followed by hayrides and kickball games.

The rain swooped in early Monday morning, but adjustments were made and campers enjoyed indoor games, Christian Living classes, a reptile program, leatherworks and many other exciting activities on the hour, followed by a two-hour night swim in the evening. One area especially enjoyed by all was the lazy river ride around the large pool.

Tuesday brought clear, cool weather and campers enjoyed many activities, including daily Christian Living instruction, Frisbee golf, a treasure hunt, a creek walk, arts and crafts, an owl prowl and a movie night, just to name a few.

Wednesday included another swimming session, kickball, hiking and a trip to the Park Interpretive Center to learn about local wildlife.

The kitchen chefs turned out fabulous themed meals, including Italian Serenade night, Hawaiian Luau Night and Mexican Fiesta evening. On these nights, campers dressed up to compete for the best themed outfit award.

"Clean Bunk" awards were presented to each tribe daily. At the end of camp, special recognition was given to one member of each of the four tribes for the "Spirit of Camp Tomahawk." This



Camp Tomahawk campers enjoy a creek walk in the rain; Kelsi Druen on the lazy river ride

award recognizes the children for participation, positive attitude and willingness to help others. Winners of this award were Logan Corbin of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Cassidy Horvath of Brentwood, Tennessee; and a tie between Kathryn Graby of Lexington, Kentucky, and Kaylee Parent of Franklin, Tennessee.

An overall "Spirit of Camp Tomahawk" award was given to the camper who all the counselors felt exhibited the best overall positive influence in humility, participation and positive example. This award was a full scholarship to the United Youth Camp of his or her choice next year. Torri Johnson of Bloomington, Illinois, won this award.

Campers present represented 14 states in all. Most indicated they planned to return again next year!

*Shari Fooshe*

## Houston North Has Teen Sports Dinner

The Houston North Teen Sports Dinner April 2 began with a catered meal, which included barbecue with all the fixings. Following dinner, teen sports coordinator Karen Doig introduced the evening's purpose and offered a big "thank you" to the parents and volunteers for their willingness to help make each aspect of the season come together. In many cases, parents also served as concession help, referees, line judges, etc.

The coaches of each volleyball and basketball team took the opportunity to introduce each of their team members, and told a little about their seasonal high points. At the end of the introductions, there was a video highlighting different sporting activities and various teen events throughout the year. Each of the coaches was given a \$40 gift certificate to local restaurants, and thanked for his or her dedication to the teen season.

Houston North and South teens combined to make up six of the 12 volleyball teams that competed in Houston,

Dallas and San Antonio tournaments.

Houston North also had five teen basketball teams, as well as a cheer-leading squad. The teens had three basketball tournaments, which were held in East Texas, Houston and Fort Worth.

Apart from sporting events, recognition was given to the young ladies who represented Houston North in the Bible Bowl, which was held at the Fort Worth basketball tournament. Houston's members were Brittany Nickerson, Kelly Whitley, Joy Richardson, Gaby Gabrielides and Becca McNair. Their efforts paid off, giving the group a first place win among seven opposing teams.

*Sharon VanSchuyver*

## Deacon Ordained in South Africa

Frank Scheepers of the Cape Town, South Africa, UCG congregation was ordained a deacon on July 9, 2005. André van Belkum, chairman of the



Frank and Daphne Scheepers

UCG Southern Africa National Council, performed the ordination.

*Stan Botha*

## Lafayette Youth Give Sermonette and More

On Aug. 20, the Lafayette, Indiana, congregation hosted a youth day with young people carrying out everything from saying the opening prayer, to making snacks, to giving the sermonette. The special Sabbath service was meant to increase the young people's zeal for services and begin to prepare them as future leaders.

Jonathan McClure's sermonette focused on the importance of keeping a good name and reputation and passing that down to one's children.

For special music, the children's choir sang, accompanied on the drums by Dustin Howie. Steven Rowland sang with his mother, Katherine, and Ian Houglund played a guitar solo he had written.

Michael Grovak's sermon "Passing the Baton" provided a word picture of how God's way has been passed down to us from generation to generation starting with Jesus Christ. Like in a relay

race, Christians pass on the truth when it is time for others to continue the race. At



Ryan McClure leading songs on Youth Day in Lafayette, Indiana

the conclusion, parents presented relay batons to their children.

*Michelle Grovak*

## Toronto Seminars: "Taking Your Calling Seriously"

A small group of people from as far as California gathered in Toronto, Ontario, for seminars July 2 and 3. Four seminars were presented throughout the weekend, and they, along with the sermons, kept with the theme: "Taking Your Calling Seriously—Being Ready to Lead in God's Kingdom."

The weekend began with a welcome reception. The morning session got underway with an introduction by Anthony Wasilkoff, pastor of the Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario; and St. John's, Newfoundland, congregations, followed by two seminars. The first seminar—presented by Graemme Marshall, pastor of the Ottawa, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; and Sussex, New Brunswick; congregations—used the apostle Paul as a model for how we should conduct our lives today. The second seminar—presented by Garry Lucas, an elder in the Toronto congregation—admonished the group to follow Jesus' command to lead by serving.

The seminars were followed by lunch. The décor was designed with the theme in mind. Each table setting was arrayed with a golden crown and a scriptural placemat, which were designed to stimulate conversation.

Then the participants along with the rest of the Toronto congregation gathered for the regular Sabbath service. They were spiritually fed with two split sermons and inspired by special music performed by the Toronto chorale.

The first split sermon was given by Ralph Levy, an elder and instructor at the Ambassador Bible Center. He explained the importance of using spiritual vision when making decisions in our life. The second split sermon, given by Mr. Marshall, showed that the world

is teaching us by example what not to do and how we need character to be leaders.

A potluck buffet followed the service. After sunset participants regrouped in the Radisson hotel's lounge, this time in more casual wear, to continue socializing in a more relaxed atmosphere.

On Sunday morning the final two seminars were presented. The first one, given by Dr. Levy, told the story of Ruth, an example of commitment and faith. The second one was an interactive presentation directed by Dennis Horlick, a ministerial trainee in the Toronto congregation, which looked at practical ways to live our lives during the journey. The "meat" of the weekend ended with a question-and-answer session conducted by the seminar presenters and moderated by Mr. Wasilkoff.

Participants enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the UCG-Canada office. The remainder of the weekend took place in downtown Toronto where the group ate at a restaurant and then went on a walking tour of the trendy Yorkville area on down to Harbourfront.

An added blessing was the break in temperature God gave from the extreme heat that had been plaguing the city the previous week and which started up again after the weekend. This is no small blessing since part of the building where Sabbath activities took place is not air-conditioned and outdoor activities on Sunday would likely not have been feasible.

Many positive comments were heard during and after the weekend. Everyone, it seemed, went away with a renewed sense of vision and focus on the coming Kingdom of God.

*Denise Masse*

## Garden Grove Hosts Teen/Young Adult Weekend

On July 15 to 17, the Garden Grove, California, congregation was host to its first annual teen/young adult weekend in the Southern California area.

The weekend began Friday afternoon at the beach, with 85 teens and young adults enjoying volleyball and a barbecue. The Sabbath was welcomed in by fellowshiping around three bonfires.

Saturday's events began around 9:30 a.m. with a pancake brunch at the home



Teens and young adults gather in Garden Grove (photo by Garret Snyder)

of Mike and Sheryl Nakashima, followed by a Q&A Bible study given by Mario Seiglie (pastor of the Garden Grove and Hawaii congregations).

The teens met for youth day at Sabbath services in the afternoon, where they participated in leading the opening and closing prayers, leading hymns and providing special music. The sermonette was given by Kirt Talbott on "Building Relationships in the Body of Christ." The sermon by Mario Seiglie, "The Greatest Love Story on Earth," focused on the Song of Solomon.

The Sabbath was closed with a pizza party and open gym, which included volleyball, basketball, bingo and a dance.

The weekend ended with about 400 in attendance at the annual Southern California Churches of God Doheny Beach Party, where members of all ages enjoyed a barbecue, surfing, sunbathing and a lot of fellowship.

*DeAnn Weis*

## Houston Hosts Texas Preteen Camp

A record 51 campers attended the Texas Preteen Camp in the Houston, Texas, area June 5 to 8, but the horseflies



Scene from the Texas Preteen Camp (photo by Rhonda Whitley)

were at a record low! The kids, as well as the staff, had an amazing experience. Budding friendships that start at this age and last forever are wonderful to see. Every year the kids come back to camp and their friendships are again rekindled.

At preteen camp this year, the children participated in Christian Living classes every morning, music classes, art, recreation, wedgy time, swimming, fishing, canoeing, paddleboating and—everyone's favorite—snack time!

Ken Treybig had an exceptionally funny experience when Gary Petty and Ken Giese rounded up the campers and

told them to chase him around the field making monkey noises.

When it came to swimming, it turned out the campers had more fun jumping out of their paddleboats and canoes to swim than swimming in the pool!

*Rhonda Whitley*

## Cambridge Says Farewell to Pastor

The Cambridge, Ohio, congregation said a fond farewell to their pastor, Joe Horchak, and his wife and children on Aug. 16. They are being transferred to Sacramento, California, after serving Cambridge and Columbus for three years.

After services they were given a memories album and a glass lamp made and painted in Cambridge, then everyone enjoyed a bountiful supply of fellowship and finger foods.

The Horchaks will be greatly missed, but the congregation looks forward to the arrival of the new pastor, Randy Stiver, and his family.

*Doreen Rinehart*

## Members Help Rebuild Sri Lanka After the Tsunami

*Sonali Fiske, a native of Sri Lanka, and her husband, Kevin, a carpenter—*



Sonil and his family receive welding supplies to relaunch his business; above right, construction on one of the five homes funded by LifeNets

contractor, are members of the Garden Grove, California, congregation. With their 2-year-old son, Ethan, they traveled to Sri Lanka in March to facilitate LifeNets' tsunami reconstruction project. Here is a short report on their efforts. More details can be found at [www.lifeness.org/tsunami/blog.htm](http://www.lifeness.org/tsunami/blog.htm).

On Dec. 26, 2004, the island of Sri Lanka, endearingly called the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean," suffered an onslaught so severe that it has been termed the worst disaster the country has ever seen. The tsunami killed more

than 40,000 people in a single morning.

One million victims remain displaced, though 96 percent have been moved from tents and temporary refugee shelters to relief camps and transitional housing throughout the country. More than 100 organizations have contributed to this great achievement.

However, most victims have grown weary of the overcrowded and isolated relief camps over the past 10 months; many families are desperate for some semblance of normalcy in their lives. Construction has begun on over 5,500 permanent houses throughout the southeast coast.

The LifeNets charitable organization, under the leadership of Victor Kubik, is working to provide housing and in-kind assistance to over 45 tsunami victims located on the southern shores of Sri Lanka. Located within the idyllic beach village of Polhena, our housing reconstruction project will provide refuge for over 35 victims who remain homeless. Nearly 80 percent complete, five homes are scheduled to be finished toward mid-September.

In addition to providing housing, we have also launched several local micro-enterprise efforts by providing the necessary tools and/or facilities needed to enable self-sufficiency.

Sunil, a local welder, for instance, is finally able to get his head above water. The tsunami washed away his home, workshop and every tool he owned. To add to their suffering, Sunil's wife, Kusumali, lost her father and grandmother that fateful day. Amidst their grief, they are grateful that all four of their young children survived.

Sunil knew he had to start working again to provide rice and lentils for his family and send his kids to school. LifeNets purchased all the necessary supplies needed for Sunil to restart his welding business. We are happy to report that he is slowly reviving his work and assisting his community in the recovery process.

What's ahead for our little project in Sri Lanka? Toward late October we will commence phase two by constructing more homes to help so many of my people who continue to endure the aftereffects of the tsunami.

Once again, their hope will return, the chorus of children's laughter and giggles will return to the narrow little village roads, and my people will once again unreservedly offer up their humble greeting of *ayubowan*—"we wish you a long, prosperous and happy life."

*Sonali Fiske*

## "Ministerial Services," continued from page 1

nie Greider. They are currently pastoring the Collinsville, Illinois, congregation, and regional pastor for the

Central Region. Vince and Carol Szymkowiak will add Collinsville to the St. Louis and Rolla, Missouri, circuit.

Rick and Angela Beam will transfer from the Gadsden and Huntsville,

Alabama, congregations to replace the Johnsons in Cape Girardeau and Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Paducah, Kentucky. Bill and Carolyn Winner, who are now in the process of moving to Birmingham, Alabama, will add

Gadsden and Huntsville to their new duties.

Most of the pastoral moves will occur just before or after the Feast of Tabernacles, and some of the relocations to the home office will occur in

November or early December.

The pastor to replace the Franks in Houston North, Texas, and the new regional pastor for the Central Region had not been announced at press time.

*Don Henson*

# Announcements

## Births

Michael and Jennifer (Linton) DeSouto of the Colorado Springs, Colorado, congregation are happy to



Zoie Autumn DeSouto

announce the birth of their daughter, Zoie Autumn, on Oct. 18, 2004, weighing 9.3 pounds and 20.5 inches long. Now one boy, one girl.

Todd and Julie (Froedge) O'Brien of Cincinnati, Ohio, are extremely excited to announce the birth of their second daughter, Emma Grace O'Brien. She was born on July 14, 2005, and weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Emma's great-grandmothers are Mildred Stalions (Paducah, Kentucky) and Eva Ann Froedge (Bowling Green, Ken-



Emma Grace O'Brien

tucky). Her proud grandparents are Ron and Carol Froedge (Paducah, Kentucky) and Jim and Donna O'Brien (Cincinnati, Ohio). Big sister, Madison, couldn't be happier with having a little baby in the house. She loves to help and give lots of hugs and kisses.

Dave and Erin Werner of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation would like to announce the birth of their second child, Jenna Elizabeth, born on April 7, 2005. Jenna was 8 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Jenna is welcomed



Jenna Elizabeth Werner

by her big brother, Ethan, and both sets of grandparents who include Harvey and Teresa Werner of the Portland, Oregon, congregation and Kenneth and Darlene Shoemaker of the Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation. Everyone is very excited about the newest addition to the family!

Jim and Almeda (Bauman) Lucas of the Toronto, Ontario, congregation are



Evan James Lucas

thrilled with the birth of their first child. Evan James Lucas was born during the Feast of Tabernacles on Oct. 4, 2004, weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. The happy and proud grandparents are Garry and Emmie Lucas of Toronto, and Angus and Adeline Bauman of Kitchener, Ontario.

Mark and Jeannette (Hoffart) Freeman of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation are pleased to announce the



Audrey Ann Freeman

birth of their first child, Audrey Ann. Audrey was born Aug. 3, weighing 6 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 19 inches.

Audrey's grandparents are Bob and Pat Freeman of the Columbia, Missouri, congregation and Dave and Kathy Hoffart of the St. Paul, Minnesota, congregation.

Mother and baby are home and doing well. Father is surviving the experience.

Craig and Cindy (Read) Pifer of Salem, Oregon, are excited to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Amber Christine. Amber was born June 28, 2005, weighed in at 9 pounds ¼ ounce and measured 21 inches in length.

Amber is the eighth grandchild for



Amber Christine Pifer

Garry and Connie Pifer of Edmonton, Kentucky, and the second grandchild for Stephen and Gladys Read of Westminster, California.

## Weddings

Alisha Ann Ehrlich (daughter of Willy Ehrlich and Rochelle Rodger of Hays, Kansas) and Shane Andrew Edinborough (son of Dean Edinborough of Perry, Iowa, and Lynda Lynes of Salina, Kansas) were united in marriage Jan. 1, 2005. The wedding was performed in Salina by Thomas Clark, pastor of the Salina, Wichita and Liberal, Kansas, congregations. The best man was Brandon Zollner and the maid of honor was Crystal Schumacher.

The couple live in Salina where Andy is attending Kansas State University—Salina studying engineering, and



Andy and Alisha Edinborough

Alisha is attending Brown Mackie College studying nursing.

## Anniversaries

The United Church of God Cumberland, Maryland, congregation, family and friends celebrated the 55th wedding anniversary of Charles and Jessie Hoppert. Charles Hoppert and Jessie Wigfield were married on April 19, 1950, in Baltimore, Maryland.

During their early years, Charles Hoppert worked for Baltimore Park Police and eventually the Baltimore Fire Department, until retirement. Jessie Hoppert entered nursing—working for Memorial Hospital, Cumberland, Maryland—while both raised their family.

The Hopperts have two children, Robert Hoppert and Mary Dawson. They also have three grandchildren—Ben, Andy and Ryan—as well as a larger extended family.

The Hopperts were baptized in 1972 and were later ordained as deacon and deaconess. Mr. and Mrs. Hoppert now maintain and reside on their Cumber-



Charles and Jessie Hoppert

land, Maryland, farm. They continue to serve the local congregation of Cumberland, Maryland.

On July 9, 2005, the Garden Grove, California, congregation helped Stan and Verna Norton celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with a special presentation, cake and refreshments.

Stan and Verna have been members of God's Church for 51 years, and together they have served God and His people in many capacities during those years. Stan has been a deacon for 33 years.

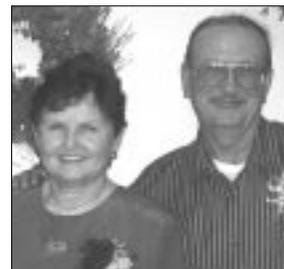
They have three children, nine grand-



Stan and Verna Norton

children and two great-grandchildren.

Ralph and Joyce Mayer of Ottertail, Minnesota, celebrated their 40th anniversary on June 5, 2005. Shortly after, they were honored by friends and family with a surprise reception in celebration of their life together. The Mayers were married in New York Mills, Minnesota, in 1965 and were both baptized together in February 1970. Ralph



Joyce and Ralph Mayer

was ordained a deacon in 1996 and they presently attend and serve in the Brainerd and Little Falls, Minnesota, congregations.

The Mayers have three daughters:

Julie and Jorge Diaz de Leon of McKinney, Texas; Melanie and Robert Koltes of Clitherall, Minnesota; and Angela and Robert Swagerty of Allen, Texas. They also have five grandchildren: David and Jessica Diaz de Leon, Spencer and Leah Koltes, and Madison Swagerty (with a little brother on the way)! Ralph and Joyce's main hobbies are traveling and spending time with their grandchildren.

Dean and Wanda Jo Klepfer, longtime Church of God members and residents of Big Sandy, Texas, celebrated 50 years of marriage June 25, 2005. A reception in their honor was held after services the same day.

UCG East Texas pastor Ken Treybig read a tribute to Dean and Wanda Jo during services. Afterward, relatives and



Dean and Wanda Jo Klepfer

friends celebrated with the Klepfers and enjoyed, cake, punch and snacks.

Dean and Wanda Jo have been blessed with five children: Ronald, Robert, Randal, Brenda and Sherman. They have nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Their family hosted a surprise reception for them a week before their anniversary on Saturday night, June 18, and many family members and friends attended the occasion.

## Obituaries

Agnes K. Anderson, 97, died July 19, 2005, in the Golden Age Nursing Home in Cheney, Kansas, after several years of declining health. Mrs. Anderson was born Jan. 15, 1908, and her family moved to Kansas in 1910. Mrs. Anderson has been in the Church of God since the 1960s. She was ordained as a deaconess in 1969, and was known all around as a very giving and loving lady.

In her working life she was an RN, serving as both a surgical nurse and an X-ray technician. She used her skills to help many Church families through the years as they struggled with health problems. There are also many people today in their 20s and 30s who spent their first night of life with Mrs. Anderson, as she cared for them and their mothers at the time of birth.

Mrs. Anderson was preceded in death by her husband, Walter. She leaves three children, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

The funeral was July 26, 2005, and was conducted by her pastor, Tom Clark.

Edward George Brunick of the Water-

town, South Dakota, congregation died June 5, 2005, from a heart attack at the age of 57. Ed was born Dec. 23, 1947, in Brookings, South Dakota, to James B. Brunick and Carrol E. (Storno) Brunick. He attended Hazel Elementary School and graduated from Astoria High School in Astoria, South Dakota. He attended Lake Area Tech in Watertown, Pierce Junior College in California and University of Nebraska at Omaha. He served proudly in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam era.

Following his military service, he was employed as a journeyman apprentice machinist at the *Omaha World Herald*. On June 18, 1972, he married Claudia Harris in Onawa, Iowa. To this union were born seven sons and one daughter. To provide for his family and make it possible for his wife to stay home with the children, Ed was employed by numerous businesses: Hamlin County Co-op, South Dakota Highway Department, Struckman Refrigeration, Hazel School Attendance Center, 212 Dairy, Marshall Dawson Clock Repair, Young's Refrigeration, JH Larson, Dakota Welding and Schwieger's of Watertown. In 1990 he and his wife pur-

chased Hindman Auto Electric in Watertown, which he operated with his sons until the time of his death.

Ed and Claudia became baptized members of the Church of God in the late '70s and joined the United Church of God in 1997. Ed faithfully served the Watertown and Sioux Falls congregations by assisting with the sound system, the video and tape library, set-up and clean-up duties, as well as joining his



Edward George Brunick

family in providing special music. His sons have followed their father's fine example by serving in their local congregations; Joel and his family in Sioux Falls; Jason and his family in Collinsville, Illinois; and Jon, Joshua, Jerod and Justin in Watertown and at Winter Camp.

Ed's first love was God and studying His Word. Next came love and devotion to his wife and family, followed by helping and serving others any way he could. The last of his "most important loves" was appreciation for being able to live in a land so blessed. His legacy includes a love for and service to God, family and others and his amazing perseverance in completing any project or problem he attacked. Ed will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

As usual, Dolores Dennis was planning to keep the Passover this year, and on April 21 the Los Angeles, California, congregation was planning a celebration for her 102nd year. These plans, however, were not fulfilled. March 25, 2005, she died at age 101.

Dolores Dennis lived through three very different phases of life since her birth in 1903. Yet who she was throughout the years remained constant.

For 33 years she was a rancher's wife, living and working in a small ranching community outside of Austin, Texas, with her husband, Thomas. Even during the Great Depression of the 1930s, she made the most of what she had and her

optimistic outlook radiated out of everything she did.

Music was always a part of her life.



Dolores Dennis on 100th birthday in 2003

She was the accompanist and her husband was the song leader in the Baptist church. She wrote music and some was published. Later the Ambassador Chorale would sing her music at the Feast and other special occasions.

She came into contact with the Church of God in 1947 when someone left a mimeographed *Plain Truth* maga-

zine in her mailbox. She found the greatest love of her life—the Church and God's people.

The second phase of her life began in 1957 when her husband passed away. She moved to Pasadena, California, and worked at Ambassador College in housekeeping for Mayfair, the women's dormitory. As always, her joyful spirit shone through.

The third phase of her life began when she "retired" in 1965, but she didn't really retire. Instead, at age 65 she took classes at Pasadena City College and learned how to paint. Eventually her home became filled with hundreds of beautiful paintings. She also continued to write music and poetry.

Right before she passed away, although she could not remember a great many things, she never forgot that she loved her family.

Her husband and a son, Alvin Ray Dennis, preceded her in death. She is survived by her children, Anita Dennis of Pasadena; Marjorie Friddle and husband Jim of Concord, North Carolina; Norma Kelly of Arcadia, California; and 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

#### "Council," continued from page 1

mitted year-end reports to the Council two weeks ago to allow them time to analyze the results and prepare any questions. All three areas reported accomplishing their proposed tasks in nearly all areas of the operation plan. The floor was opened for Council questions or concerns.

In regard to Treasurer Tom Kirkpatrick's report on finances for fiscal year 2004-2005, Les McCullough pointed out that while overall the budget was balanced, some areas were over budget. Dr. Kirkpatrick stated that the administration has and needs some budgetary flexibility as income trends develop and that the Church has done well by staying within the overall budget.

Dr. Kirkpatrick explained, as an example, that a portion of the media budget was expanded in the second half of the fiscal year because additional money became available due to strong income trends.

In discussing the Media and Communications Services portion of the report, Mr. Dick asked operation manager Peter Eddington what the leading indicators of organizational progress or growth that measure the effectiveness of media efforts are. Mr. Eddington cited a number of indicators:

- Number of coworkers and donors, which currently stand at about 3,800 and 6,500 respectively. The number of donors and coworkers has grown at a steady pace every year since 2000.
- Number of U.S. households receiving *The Good News*, which increased from 293,000 in 2004 to more than 340,000 in 2005.
- Donation mail (envelopes containing donations), which, at approximately 5,000 pieces per month, is slightly off the pace of 2003 and 2004. (Note: with the August figures, it is up slightly over last year.)

Moving on to a discussion about the Ambassador Bible Center, Mr. Kilough

explained that organizationally, ABC will now be under the direction of the education coordinator within the function of Ministerial Services. He summarized that there are now 231 ABC graduates, and the seventh class is now being selected. Some 40 students have already been accepted for the 2006 class. Interest seems to be heightened this year, probably due to the ABC video that was sent to the congregations this year.

Mr. Darden gave the Council a brief overview of some of the legal matters he is dealing with on behalf of the Church and members, including:

- Estate settlements of properties donated to the Church.
- Copyright issues.
- Residency requirements of U.S. citizens serving the Church internationally.
- Contracts for Feast sites and youth camp facilities.
- Sabbath and Holy Day discrimination matters involving members.
- Jury duty exemption requests from members.
- Selective service information.
- Immunization exemption requests.

#### Plans for the Immediate Future

After reviewing the results of last fiscal year, Mr. Kilough led the Council in a discussion of current developments and plans for the future. He commented that the two most significant events in the last two months were the conferences with the Ministerial Services team (see article, page 1) and with the media center planning committee (presented to the Council Aug. 26; see article, page 1).

Mr. Kilough also described a meeting that will be held Sept. 6 and 7 involving U.S. church pastors who are also senior pastors serving congregations in Africa (more on this is planned for next issue).

In the final portion of his presentation, Mr. Kilough emphasized the need for the home office administration to take a fresh approach to developing the Church's Strategic and Operation Plans.

He said the current Strategic and Operation Plans do a good job of describing what we ought to do, but they also need to provide a way to measure how successful we are—which is much more difficult.

Mr. Kilough will work with the Media and Communications Services, Ministerial Services and Financial Services operations in an effort to set goals by mission, rather than by department. He emphasized that the effort to fulfill the mission of the Church weaves together all three of these functional areas of the home office.

At the end of the day Thursday, by unanimous resolution, the Council selected Ken Giese to be chairman of the GCE Planning Task Force, replacing David Register, who is stepping down from that responsibility.

On Friday, in addition to the report on the media center, the Council also amended the Media Philosophy statement (see the Aug. 26 Council report for the full text of the revision, [www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm](http://www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm)) and spent time in executive session.

Mr. Dick called the Council to order at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, and introduced Jim Franks, who has served as chairman of the Doctrine Committee. The Council spent the afternoon in executive session.

#### Doctrine Committee

Mr. Franks started the Doctrine Committee report by providing an overview of four study papers currently in various stages of development:

- "The Nature of God and Christ," which was originally commissioned in 1996, is one of the original major projects undertaken by the Doctrine Committee. The first draft was submitted in December 2003. The paper is now complete, having been reviewed by the Doctrine Committee and having completed the mandated 30-day review by the General Conference of Elders (GCE).
- "Interracial Marriage" originated as

a Focused Education module in 1998. The first draft of this paper was written by a task force that was established within the education area and presented to the Doctrine Committee in the spring of 2004. After being edited and approved by the Doctrine Committee, the paper has completed its mandated 30-day review by the GCE.

- "The Role of Women in the Bible" was written by a task force formed by Ministerial Services in 2002 and was originally submitted to the Doctrine Committee in the summer of 2004. After edits by both the Doctrine Committee and the task force, the paper is now ready for the Council to approve its release for the mandated 30-day review by the GCE.

- "Alternative Explanation of Galatians" is a study paper provided to the Doctrine Committee for consideration. It will be on the agenda for Doctrine Committee discussion in December.

Mr. Franks conducted a final review of the "Nature of God and Jesus Christ" study paper. Since the Council had already approved the paper, Mr. Franks reviewed only the edits that were suggested by the GCE during the 30-day review period. Mr. Franks also led the Council through a thorough, page-by-page edit of the "Interracial Marriage" study paper.

The Council unanimously passed resolutions to adopt these study papers as edited. After proofreading, copies of the papers and cover memos from Mr. Dick will be mailed to the ministry, and then the papers will be converted to PDF format and posted on the Church's Web site.

The third study paper considered on Sunday morning was the "Role of Women in the Bible." The paper was edited by the Doctrine Committee and put forward to the Council, which unanimously approved the posting of the paper on the ministerial Web site for a mandated 30-day review.

The Council also unanimously

approved the addition of five men as alternates to the Advisory Committee for Doctrine, in the event that any of those currently on the committee choose to step down or need to be replaced. The Council also approved the addition of one elder to the Prophecy Advisory Committee.

#### Name for TV Program

Mr. Kilough revisited, in light of feedback gathered since Friday's presentation on the media center, the topic of the name for the developing television program, and said that the personnel involved would continue their brainstorming efforts. He acknowledged the importance of having a name that Council members agree on and that captures their interest, and he also emphasized that this is a decision that needs to be made as quickly as is reasonable.

The Council suggested that the help of outside consultants in addition to consideration of the names already suggested may help the home office team in their search. The Council agreed to further discussion by teleconference to expedite the process of name selection.

#### 2006 Feast of Tabernacles Video

Mr. Eddington requested that the Council indicate a preference for a geographical area of the Church to be featured in the Feast of Tabernacles sermon video for 2006. He indicated that deciding on a theme at this time will make it possible for the production staff to tape activities at this year's Feast for use in next year's video.

The Council agreed that the 2006 Feast video should focus on the work of the Church in Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Due to streamlining of Council business, for its August meetings the Council was able to cut 1½ days off its scheduled meeting time.

For complete Council reports, see [www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm](http://www.ucg.org/about/council/updates.htm).

## News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

create planting beds along the creek banks. Sarah Kirkpatrick and other volunteers completed the project by planting 150 perennials along each side of the creek bed.

Janet Treadway

## Elder Credentialed

Martin Fekete was credentialed as an elder at the August Council of Elders meetings. He and his wife, Denise, serve the Darmstadt, Germany, congregation.

## Winter Camp Extended to Five Days for 2005

The 11th annual Winter Camp has been extended to five action-packed days this year! Camp will run from Wednesday, Dec. 21, to Monday, Dec. 26. Campers will learn about God's way of life in a positive and enjoyable environment. Planned activities include volleyball, Christian Living Q&A, cross-country skiing, dance class, floor hockey, basketball, team challenge and tobogganing. Evening activities include a game night, Bible study Q&A, flex time and an end-of-camp dance.

Staff applications are due Nov. 1 and camper applications are due Nov. 15. Youth ages 12 to 18 are welcome as campers. Camper tuition is \$230 and high school staff is \$115.

Free transportation to camp will be provided from mid-afternoon to early evening from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, airport on Dec. 20. Transportation back to the airport will be provided 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 Steve Nutzman for any transportation needs at (608) 758-9228 or e-mail him at [steve\\_nutzman@ucg.org](mailto:steve_nutzman@ucg.org).

Camper and staff applications are found at [www.ucg.org/youthcamps](http://www.ucg.org/youthcamps).



## What's New on the Web?

On [www.ucg.org](http://www.ucg.org)

### ■ Compass Check

See video of home office weekly meeting. [www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice/compasscheck.htm](http://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: "Katrina—Worst National Disaster in U.S. History" "New Pope's 'Miraculous' Reception in Germany" "The Messiah of Joy" [www.ucg.org/commentary/](http://www.ucg.org/commentary/)

### ■ Current World News & Trends

Browse up-to-date world news events by subject categories! [www.ucg.org/worldnews/](http://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](http://ucg.org) updates. Sign up today! [www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm](http://www.ucg.org/contact/updates.htm)

On [vcmagazine.org](http://vcmagazine.org)

■ The September/October VCM has a fall Holy Day theme, with articles such as "War of the Worlds," "Real Life in the Millennium," etc. [vcmagazine.org](http://vcmagazine.org)

On [verticalthought.org](http://verticalthought.org)

■ New articles posted on the Web site for September include "The Attitude of Success" and "GIGO." [verticalthought.org](http://verticalthought.org)

Featured Links of the Month

■ **World News and Prophecy Online** with blogs on the days news, podcasts and more. [www.wnponline.org](http://www.wnponline.org)

■ **UCG News pages** with Council meeting reports, letters, Home Office Updates, etc.

[www.ucg.org/about/council](http://www.ucg.org/about/council)

[www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice](http://www.ucg.org/about/homeoffice)

If you have questions, contact: [webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)

Camper applications are also found in the *United Youth Camps 2005 Magazine*. For the latest Winter Camp news, see [www.wintercamp.org](http://www.wintercamp.org).

Camper check-in is 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, and checkout is 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 26. Staff orientation begins late afternoon Dec. 20.

Steve Nutzman, Winter Camp director

## Colorado Preparing Game Cookbook

The Loveland, Colorado, congregation announced that it is planning to publish a cookbook focusing on wild game or exotic meats. Members who have a favorite recipe for deer, elk, antelope, salmon, trout, ocean fish, pheasant, dove, quail or any other (clean) exotic game meat can send them to [pearcet@heska.com](mailto:pearcet@heska.com) or by regular post to Dr. Tammie Pearce, 617 N. First St., Johnstown, CO 80534.

Include your name and congregation for inclusion in the cookbook. All recipes, simple or complex, will be considered.

The deadline for submissions will be Dec. 15, with publication to be in the spring or summer of 2006.

If you would like to receive information about how to order the cook-

book, please write to the same e-mail address. The profits will be used as a fund-raiser for a charitable cause.

Larry Neff

## Steamboat Springs Dinner and Fun Show Correction

The address for sending checks to pay for the Western dinner Oct. 23 at the Feast in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, was incorrect in the *Festival Site Activity Announcements* brochure.

The correct address is: UCG-SLC, P.O. Box 933, Sandy, UT 84091. (Only the city was incorrect. All other information, including the Oct. 1 deadline, is correct.)

Larry Salyer

## Malaysia Feast Update

The Malaysian Feast of Tabernacles site has been moved to the modern, newly renovated City Bayview Hotel in central Malacca (also spelled Melaka). About 40 brethren from Australia, England, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States are already

planning to attend in Malacca this year.

The City Bayview Hotel is within walking distance or short taxi ride of many cultural, historic and family attractions. Photos of the hotel and other information about the site can be found at [www.ucg.org.au/FOT/2005mm.asp/](http://www.ucg.org.au/FOT/2005mm.asp/). Superior rooms with single or double occupancy are US\$37 per night, including buffet breakfast. Other room types are available at discounted rates. If you would like further information, contact Jeff Caudle at [jeff\\_caudle@ucg.org](mailto:jeff_caudle@ucg.org) or phone +64-9-8175496 (New Zealand).

Jeff Caudle

## Hawaii Feast Update

There is a change in the time of services for Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, on Monday, Oct. 24. Instead of evening services, there will be early morning services at 9 a.m. and the Family Day snorkeling party will start at noon at Kapalua Bay beach.

Mario Seiglie

## Teachers Needed in Hawaii

Teachers are needed for the Festival Youth Instruction program in Lahaina,

Maui, Hawaii. Those interested should contact Suzanne Miller (619) 461-3525 or at [william\\_miller@ucg.org](mailto:william_miller@ucg.org).

Mario Seiglie

## Are You Flying Delta for the Feast?

If you fly Delta Airlines anytime of the year or during the Feast, your ticket is probably eligible to help the Church earn free tickets. It doesn't affect your personal frequent flyer miles either.

If your Delta ticket number starts with 006 followed by 10 digits, it will work. For example: 006 3476332984. Send those numbers to [USFestival@ucg.org](mailto:USFestival@ucg.org). You will receive a reply confirming we have received your e-mail.

Charles Melear

## Calendar of Events

Sept. 17-18: ABC mini-samplers in Nashville, Tennessee, and Akron, Ohio.

Nov. 19-20: ABC mini-sampler in Los Angeles, California.

Dec. 9-14: Council meetings.

Dec. 21-26: Winter Camp, Wisconsin.

Dec. 23 (evening)-27 (late): Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, Kentucky.

## Good Works "Katrina Disaster Relief" Fund

In a special "President's Letter" Sept. 1, Clyde Kilough wrote: "I know you and all the members around the world have been deeply concerned about the unfortunate people who were in the path of Hurricane Katrina . . .

"Information has slowly been trickling in from several elders along the Gulf Coast, and we are relieved that at this point we have heard no reports of harm coming to any of our own Church members. However, due to the state of poor communications, not all of the affected members have been contacted, so we cannot make any kind of summary statement. Nor do we have more than sketchy reports about what kind of property damage they may have sustained.

"Naturally, many members are inquiring as to what they can do to help . . .

"Our advice at this time from the home office is that members who want to 'do good to all' should contribute to the organizations that are best equipped and experienced to provide the food, clothing, shelter and medical attention needed. We recommend reputable groups the government is endorsing, such as the Red Cross."

The Church also announced a new Good Works Program project—the "Katrina Disaster Relief Project"—to help with the many needs of members of the United Church of God who were impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

In addition to special fund-raising projects (the usual means of funding the Good Works Program), the magnitude of the damage is so great that the Church is opening up this project to cash donations (see [www.ucg.org/good-works](http://www.ucg.org/good-works) for important details).



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