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United News™

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

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News At a Glance

U.S. Attendance Reported

Figures from pastors' monthly reports indicate that average weekly U.S. attendance in March 2007 was 11,713. The highest weekly attendance (excluding combined services and other abnormally high attendances) was 13,279. The U.S. attendance was over 13,000 for three of the first six months of 2007 (using the highest attendance for the month).

There were 105 baptisms in the first six months of the year (compared to 171 for the entire year of 2005 and 181 in 2006).

United currently supports 216 U.S. congregations with 94 full-time pastors. Twenty-nine of the congregations have an average attendance each Sabbath of over 100, and 42 average under 20.

Feast Registration Shows 35 Percent Under Age 30

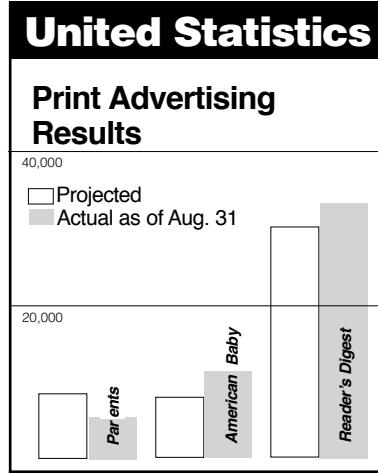
Clyde Kilough reviewed some encouraging Feast of Tabernacles registration statistics with the Council of Elders Aug. 5. He said that registration showed an increase of more than 400 over last year.

He also pointed out that 23 percent of those registered are preteens and teens, and another 12 percent are between the ages of 20 to 30. That means that approximately 35 percent of those attending the Feast will be 30 years of age and under. While we are an "aging church," we also see encouraging numbers of young people.

Home Office Relocation Update

Aug. 5, President Clyde Kilough

See "News at a Glance," page 2



Council Pursues Blueprint for the Future

■ A major focus of the Council's efforts in the coming year will be a full rewrite of the Strategic Plan.

by Robert Dick, chairman

Strategic planning was placed front and center at the Council of Elders August meeting. Nearly all of Monday (Aug. 6) and a significant part of Tuesday and Wednesday were spent mapping out how to perform a major rewrite of the Church's 10-year-old Strategic Plan. While all the Council members have been involved in the annual edit of the existing plan, it has been our desire to take a fresh look at the plan, the process for designing it and the best way to implement it.

For those not familiar with strategic planning, its purpose is to keep the organization sharply focused on its major goals. It is much more than a task list; it's a blueprint for the future. Strategic planning involves clarifying organizational vision, describing the critical issues we face and putting forward intelligent, creative approaches to accomplishing the Church's mission.

A useful, well-designed strategic plan leads an organization to create milestones—markers along the way to determine if we are accomplishing what we set out to do. Strategic planning is all about good stewardship—setting wise goals and holding ourselves accountable for achieving them.

Aug. 6 the Council of Elders entered a full discussion on strategic planning aided by a 35-slide PowerPoint presentation from BoardSource, the nation's leading adviser to nonprofit boards. The presentation was designed to walk a nonprofit board through every critical question that

must be addressed before committing to full organizational strategic planning. The previous Friday each member of the Council had been asked to fill out a survey questionnaire to assist in the discussion. Following the day's discussion, the Council expressed the desire to do a full rewrite of the plan and to begin the process immediately.

The Council felt that our best work can be done if we are assisted by a professional facilitator. One of the foremost qualifications for leading the process of strategic planning is neutrality and detachment from the issues making up the plan. A facilitator

must be able to ask the hard questions and require answers without getting involved in the issues themselves.

It was universally felt that all the Council members and home office staff are too passionately involved with the mission of the Church to provide that necessary neutrality. The search for a facilitator was authorized and Jason Lovelady, Dee Kilough and Linda Register, all of whom have professional experience with strategic planning as well as candidate interviewing and selection, were appointed as a search committee. Currently the search is underway with interviews of the final pool

of candidates to take place before the Feast of Tabernacles.

While at the August meeting, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee was appointed. The committee is made up of three Council members and three home office staff members whose first task will be to work with the facilitator on a "plan to plan"—a document that maps out the steps, the timetable and the people to be involved in the process. Serving on the committee are Dick Thompson, Vic Kubik, Roy Holladay, Jason Lovelady,

See "Strategic," page 9

49 Graduate From ABC



Ambassador Bible Center class of 2007 graduates (photo by Janet Treadway)

by Gary Antion

Graduation exercises were held on Sunday, Aug. 12, for the eighth graduating class of the Ambassador Bible Center (ABC). There were nearly 300 in attendance in the ABC lecture hall and conference room at the home office of the United Church of God, which sponsors ABC.

The format for graduation remained

unchanged, with students marching in to the music of "Pomp and Circumstance." David Register, director of Education Programs, welcomed the graduates, faculty and administration, family and friends. Jim Franks, operation manager for Ministerial Services, gave the blessing on the event.

Student body president Brandon

See "Graduation," page 8

Treasurer Reports

■ Income grew 7.45 percent, and Good Works projects were completed around the world.

by Tom Kirkpatrick

We will soon receive the report of our independent auditing firm, and it will be the subject of an article in the next issue of *United News*. For now, I will summarize some of the key financial results for the recently ended fiscal year.

We of course are grateful to God for providing for the financial needs of the Church, working through the faithfulness of the members and other contributors to its work. This enables that work to be carried out in accordance with the Church's biblically-mandated mission.

During the fiscal year that ended June 30, the Church's income grew by 7.45 percent. The previous year, it had grown 7.81 percent. During this past fiscal year, we were able to significantly add to the spending on preaching the gospel and completely pay off the mortgage loan on the home office, and still end the year with a small sur-

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Baptisms, Wedding Highlight Trip to Brazil

Saul Langarica is based in Chile, and pastors the members in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Brazil. These countries have a combined land area 40 percent larger than the United States. He usually is able to make just one trip a year to visit the scattered brethren in Brazil. Here is his report on his latest trip.

by Saul Langarica

I traveled from Santiago, Chile, Aug. 9 to the city of Santa Maria, in the south of Brazil. I spent three days with the five brethren in that area. Every day we had a Bible study and also spoke informally about the work of God. Because the brethren only receive a ministerial visit about once a year and during the Feast of Tabernacles, they had a lot of questions and comments to make. So this part of the visit



Wedding in Maloca de Moscou, Brazil

was very productive for both parties.

The second part of the trip began on Aug. 13 to Rio de Janeiro, where our four brethren in the area were also delighted with the visit and the profitable conversations we all had. There was a Bible study,

and the five of us spent one complete day together speaking informally about many things related to the work of the Church.

Maloca de Moscou

The third and longest part of the trip began Aug. 16. This was to Maloca de Moscou, in the northernmost part of the country. There we have 35 dedicated brethren—including children—who try to obey God with all of their effort, despite the many physical limitations they have.

Most of the brethren there actually came from Guyana some years ago when the government of Brazil offered them a piece of land. Little by little they all have been coming out of poverty because of their hard work and because of the blessings of God through rain and fertile land.

See "Brazil," page 3

News At a Glance

Continued from page 1

reported to the Council of Elders that due to potential environmental concerns, the pursuit of the property in Denton, Texas, has been dropped. Attention has now been turned to locating another property.

Before the Council meetings Mr. Kilough and Jason Lovelady traveled to the Dallas area, where Mr. Lovelady visited 75 properties across the northern tier of the Dallas area. Mr. Kilough also saw a number of those properties, and they narrowed the field to six to 10 prime prospects. A real estate agent is gathering the details of each.

Chairman Bob Dick reported that Mr. Kilough "reviewed a few of the most promising ones with the Council on Wednesday [Aug. 8] in executive session and as the search narrows will seek to have some of the properties viewed by Council members."

Women's Education Task Force Developing Surveys

The major work of the Women's Education Task Force since their inaugural meeting in late April has been to develop two surveys, which are near completion. The first will be for pastors, to try to assess all of the women's activities and programs that have been instituted in various congregations and regions. The aim is to compile a "best practices" clearinghouse for good ideas of programs specific to women's education.

The second survey, which will be administered after the results of the pastors' survey are compiled, is for the women in the Church to ascertain their needs.

Amendment Committee Members Chosen

The Council of Elders selected four elders to serve on the Amendment Committee Aug. 5. By unanimous resolution Rick Avent and Keith Wilson were selected to serve terms that will expire on June 30, 2009. In the same resolution John Miller and Mark Rorem were selected to serve terms that will expire on June 30, 2010. Ed Smith also currently serves as a committee member. Gerhard Marx is the alternate committee member.

GCE 2008 Plans Reviewed

Aug. 7 David Register, chairman of the GCE Planning Task Force, reviewed with the Council of Elders the task force's initial recommendations for next year's

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Member Profile: Paul and Kira Spenser

Paul and Kira Spenser are currently the only members of the United Church of God in Sweden. They listen to the live sermons Johnnie Lambert, an elder in New York, gives each Sabbath over the Internet to the brethren in Estonia, across the Baltic Sea from Sweden. They also receive sermons from the home office and from San Antonio, Texas.

"We try to keep in touch with friends in the Church via phone, e-mail, Skype and letters," they said in an interview with *United News Canada* (March-April 2007 issue). "It is hard sometimes to feel part of the 'big picture,' but every time we do meet Church brethren, it is a big treat to us."

Another Swedish member, Solveig Hammar, was at Ambassador Bible Center in Milford, Ohio, this year, but there aren't many members in the Scandinavian area. "There is a family in Finland who moved there recently from Thailand who is also in UCG," said Paul. "Being isolated is tough."

Kira is active in translating lit-

erature into Swedish, which is being posted to the Web site. The first Swedish booklet was printed earlier this year. The Spensers have also worked on advertising and brochure distribution.

"Last year we also organized an open house meeting here when Council of Elders member Victor Kubik visited the area with his wife, Beverly," said Paul. Mr. Kubik has since been named senior pastor for Eastern Europe and Scandinavia and has discussed plans with the Spensers to expand the preaching of the gospel in Sweden.

God's Calling

Paul was born in 1972 on the Isle of Man, an island between England and Ireland. "I heard the truth around 1991 through a friend who was also a *Plain Truth* magazine reader," Paul said. "He had many booklets, so I along with a best friend started to read and discuss the truth. We began attending church in '93 after open house meetings were conducted, and were baptized in '95

when we also attended our first Feast of Tabernacles."

The United Church of God in the Isle of Man formed on the day Paul was baptized, and eventually became a registered charity. Paul served on the board for eight years and also served as chairman.

Kira grew up as a Lutheran and worked in a cathedral as a caretaker and tour guide. "For years I had been unhappy with my former church and had studied religion at the university," Kira said. "While studying, I realized how pagan it all was and started to search for something else. So on the Web, I just put in different words like 'the Sabbath,' and UCG popped up."

Kira was baptized in 2000.

How They Met

"We first met in person in Manchester [England] where Paul picked me up to take me to the youth camp," said Kira. "But before that we had spoken on the phone. By using the YACOG Web site, I was looking for other Europeans who were going to keep



Kira and Paul Spenser's wedding

the Feast, and Paul offered, with some friends, that we could stay in a house they rented in York."

Paul and Kira were married in Sweden in February 2001 and moved to Sweden in 2004. Paul was able to attend Ambassador Bible Center for part of the year in 2004.

"Paul is a floor layer, and he is getting on very well with the Swedish language," Kira said.

May 1, 2005, Isak and Aaron were born, and Viktoria joined her twin brothers Jan. 24, 2007.

"Prayers for the work in Sweden would be greatly appreciated." UN

FORWARD! Feast Fever?

by Larry Salyer



Most of us are familiar with the term *Feast fever*. Members coined the expression decades ago in recognition of the flurry of activity and excitement that leads up to the Feast of Tabernacles. The dawning realization that we are about to temporarily escape

the mundane routine of daily life in our dark and decaying world and bask briefly in the light of God's Kingdom starts to build anticipation.

We develop a spiritual high long before we depart for the Feast site. Often, this fever strikes even before the Feast of Trumpets. My family has experienced this healthy fever for over 40 years.

I remember, though, another Feast fever that wasn't so pleasant and motivational. This fever accompanied a sudden bout of the flu or some other serious stomach ailment. My wife, Judy, and I will never forget the Feast in 1968.

It had never occurred to us that we might have to entirely miss attending the Feast. But, two days before the Feast, we were both too sick to function. We took turns caring for our two small children, but could hardly even cope with that. The worst came when we realized that all the brethren had departed for Big Sandy, Texas, and we were left behind.

Pleading with God, we began to recover, loaded the car and arrived at the site in time for the Holy Day. But almost missing that Feast has deepened our appreciation for the wonderful yearly opportunity.

The Fall Holy Day season is the highlight of the year for God's people. Most of us have made our

Feast preparations and our anticipation is building. We are anxious to gather with brethren to rejoice before God in His appointed Feast.

Keeping the Feast to the full doesn't necessarily require physical health for everyone—in fact the diligence of our disabled brethren is inspiring. Actually, we need to develop a fever. Rejoicing before God to foreshadow His soon-coming Kingdom depends on robust spiritual health, which in turn produces the symptomatic fever. The warmth springs from a fervent appreciation for God's plan and His mercy to His Church in revealing our destiny.

As the Holy Days approach, true Christians should start to feel a little unusual. How about you? Have you taken your spiritual temperature lately? Are you feeling a little feverish? Good! May this Feast of Tabernacles also give you chills! UN

Larry Salyer is Media and Communications Services operation manager.

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News From Around the World

Pray for Scattered Brethren in Brazil

"Brazil," continued from page 1

They raise maize, rice, bananas and chickens mainly for their own nourishment.

At this point the village does not have running water or electricity, but all of the brethren have water from wells and light through means other than electricity. They built their own houses when they moved there. They even built their own hall for services on the Sabbath and Holy Days.

The United Church of God was able to help them with a solar charger, a big car battery, an electricity transformer and the rest of the equipment so the brethren can view the DVD sermons sent from the home office in the United States.

By the way, most of these brethren speak three languages: English, Portuguese and a local dialect. So they are able to receive sermons in English and Portuguese

(recorded by Jorge de Campos, an elder in Cincinnati). In fact, for the Feast this year they will be viewing DVD sermons every day since they will unfortunately not have a minister with them this Feast.

Two men in the congregation, Robert Mathews and Geraldo de Souza, will be leading songs and giving the sermonettes every day of the Feast.

Wedding and Four Baptisms

The visit was very profitable. On Friday we had a wedding and spent most of the day speaking with the candidates for baptism. Four were baptized on Sabbath morning. It was very inspiring to see the Holy Spirit giving understanding of the great plan of God to brethren who live so far from other brethren! It took me five hours to fly from Rio de Janeiro to Boa Vista. And from Boa Vista to Maloca de

Moscou is still a 50-mile trip on dirt roads.

On the Sabbath we had a Bible study in the morning and formal services in the afternoon. They all—including the children—really came with their best clothing and their best attitude to worship God and enjoy what they consider a real event: a visit from a minister of the Church.

At the end of the visit the Church helped provide funds to rebuild the roof of the meeting hall, to buy a new battery and to completely rebuild the bathrooms for the meeting hall. This is expected to be finished before this coming Feast.

We have two other members living in Brasilia and three living in Minas Gerais, but unfortunately I was not able to visit them on this trip. Please keep your brethren in Brazil in your prayers. Please also pray for more laborers for the work of God in this part of the world. **UN**

Philippine Mall Exhibits Yield 3,372 Subscribers So Far

by Daniel Roy Macaraeg

During a mall exhibit conducted at SM City in Davao from May 29 to June 4, we added 679 new subscribers on the spot to the Philippine *Good News* mailing list. That's an average of 97 per day. There were 228 more who simply picked up a trifold brochure but did not subscribe on the spot. Taken together, that would be close to 1,000 new potential subscribers in just one week.

This successful test was followed by mall exhibits in three additional malls, with the following numbers of subscribers added:

SM Cagayan de Oro 408.
SM Bacolod 1,179.
SM Cebu 1,106.
This brings the total to 3,372 so far.

We are hoping to do the SM Megamall (in Metro Manila) and SM Baguio on the northern island of Luzon after the Feast of Tabernacles.

The four malls so far completed have already exceeded our target of obtaining at least 400 new subscribers from each of the malls, with a goal of at least 3,000 total subscribers. This should put our *GN* circulation over 10,000 by the end of this year.

Elements of the Exhibit

The form the subscribers filled out is a blue-and-yellow "Subscribe FREE" trifold brochure from the home office featuring "Bringing Up a Moral Child" on the cover. Those who decided to subscribe on the spot were offered one piece of literature from our eight featured booklet titles, along with certain available back issues of *The Good News* magazine.

Incidentally, in Davao we learned a lot about which titles were most popular. The eight booklet titles on display were: *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*, *Making Life Work*, *Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension*, *Creation or Evolution*, *Why Does God Allow Suffering? Are We Living in the Time of the End?*, *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy* and *The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*.

Marriage and Family: The Missing Dimension was the most popular booklet by far, followed by *The Book of Revelation Unveiled*. Many have also inquired about our articles and issues dealing with marriage, sex, family and parenting.

The *GN* display booth in Davao was located on the ground floor near the National Bookstore entrance. Apart from the machine-printed, full-color headers and skirting, we also selected 12 of the 30-

to 60-second video ads from the *Beyond Today* TV program and customized them with our Philippine cell phone number and Web site. Those 12 ads cycled overhead on two full-color LCD panel monitors positioned at opposite sides of the booth facing mall traffic.



New subscribers filling out forms at *GN* display booth at mall in Davao City

We are very thankful to God for the quality responses we got! The results are very good, and the cost per response is reasonable. It appears that mall advertising works well in the Philippines. The malls chosen are located in key cities in the Philippines (two in Mindanao, two in the Visayas and two in Luzon) where we either already have a presence or would like to have a greater presence. **UN**

Asian Leadership Conference Focuses on Doctrines

by David Baker

The third week of June we held an Asian Leadership Conference in Quezon City, the Philippines. A total of 25 attendees from the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao regions of the Philippines participated. We also had the privilege of having Jim Franks, director of Ministerial Services, conduct the conference. As we continue to develop our leadership in Asia, we felt it was very important to focus on the doctrines of the Church.

The conference began June 19 with an evening meal. The following day began with a presentation by Mr. Franks titled

"Introduction to Doctrine: Teaching as You Have Been Taught." After a short break I gave the second presentation on "The Miracle of God's Calling/Understanding Conversion." After lunch Mr. Franks presented a lecture on "The Nature of God/Divinity of Christ" followed by Florante Siopan's lecture on the fundamental belief of "The Sabbath." The last lecture of the first day was presented by Eriz Dizon on "The Resurrections." At the conclusion of the lectures, a general question-and-answer session was held.

On June 21 the conference continued with a presentation given by Mr. Franks on "Repentance and Baptism." The sec-

ond presentation of the day was given by Rey Evasco on the fundamental belief of "The Holy Days." After lunch, Ed Macaraeg presented a PowerPoint presentation on the fundamental belief "Three Days and Three Nights." The concluding lecture was given by Mr. Franks on "The Purpose for Humanity." The final portion of the conference was a 100-question quiz on the fundamental beliefs of the Church. Everyone who participated in the quiz really enjoyed the exercise.

As God continues to bless us with very good growth in *GN* subscribers and members, it is important that we focus on developing leaders to serve those being called. **UN**

International News At a Glance

German Web Site and Magazine Set New Records

In July the number of visitors on the *Gute Nachrichten* Web site exceeded 13,000 for the first time. The monthly total was 13,007 visitors, 8.6 percent more than July's record total and an increase of 275 percent in comparison to July 2006.

The July-August issue of the *Gute Nachrichten* magazine was again mailed to a record number of subscribers. The new issue has 4,715 readers in 20 European countries, a 14.5 percent increase over July 2006. This year's circulation goal of 5,000 subscribers by the end of 2007 is now within reach.

Ministers Visit With Church of God (Israel) in India

Jim Franks (Ministerial Services operation manager) and Dave Baker (senior pastor, Asia) traveled to India and the Philippines June 12 through 22. In India, they visited a group located in the northern state of Mizoram, called the Church of God (Israel), which has expressed interest in becoming part of United. This group first contacted United in 1998 and since then Mr. Baker has visited them on three occasions prior to this trip.

Since their inception in the early 1970s, the Church of God (Israel) has come to hold many beliefs in common with United. Since contacting United in 1998, they have been using our literature as the basis for their Sabbath services and teachings.

Mr. Franks reported that desire to become part of United seems to be sincere on the part of their elders and the 250 members, made up of three congregations. Mr. Franks and Mr. Baker discussed with church leaders doctrinal differences between the two groups.

Canada Reports on First Seven Months of Year

UCG-Canada reports that incoming mail from Jan. 1 to July 31 is running at a record pace. The total mail we received this year is close to what we received in all of calendar year 2005. That year we received an average of about 31 items of mail per day (including Internet and e-mail). This year, we're averaging close to 44 items per day. (We're running slightly ahead of last year's record pace.) Over 48 percent of this year's mail is via the Internet and e-mail.

With all the incoming mail, there is also a lot of outgoing mail. We are still sending out about 7,100 semiannual letters to readers of *The Good News* magazine. Even while the letters are still being mailed out, we're receiving responses to the letters already sent. In the first seven months of the year, we've distributed an average of 14,865 items per month. Last year's average was 14,360 items per month.

Our subscriber list to *The Good News* magazine is just over 13,000.

Responses to the *Beyond Today* television program are approaching the 2,100 mark. Some viewers of the program have now become donors.

Our income for July was short of our budget, but we're still ahead of budget for the fiscal year. The income for August is starting on a strong note.

The preparations for the upcoming advertisement in *Reader's Digest* are coming along. The recent ad in the U.S. edition of *Reader's Digest* is drawing better than expected responses. We pray that the same will hold true for Canada.

Edwin van Pelt

British Isles Reports Circulation

Highlights from the UCG-British Isles circulation report for June, which covers all literature distributed by the Church from Britain, include:

- 3,250 letters and other responses were received.
- 2,230 *Good News* requests were received; 1,853 of these were in response to the ad in the summer edition of the Consumer Information Brochure.
- 56 *Bible Study Course* requests were received.
- 2,521 envelopes containing 4,828 other items of literature were mailed out.
- As of June 30 there were:
 - 6,198 subscribers to *The Good News* in the British Isles.
 - 209 subscribers to *United News*.
 - 381 subscribers to *World News and Prophecy*.
 - 212 subscribers to *Vertical Thought*.
 - 283 students of the *Bible Study Course*.
- A total of 1,767 *Bible Study Course* students have been sent all 12 lessons; 304 of these have returned all 12 of the test cards provided by the British Isles office.

President Visits Congregations in Zambia and Malawi

During a 13-day tour in August, President Clyde Kilough visited seven congregations in Zambia and the two congregations in Malawi. Mr. Kilough had a chance to speak to 347 brethren in Zambia, 128 in Malawi, plus another 72 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A report and photos are planned for the next issue.

Campers in the Philippines “Remember True North”

“Remember True North” was chosen as the theme for this year’s United Youth Camp in the Philippines. Since we now live in a world that increasingly believes that there is no such thing as absolute truth, we wanted to stress that some things remain constant and never do change—God, His Word, His principles and His promises.

There were a total of 84 participants in the Philippine United Youth Camp this year. While last year we had 32 campers, this year two additional dorms of eight boy campers plus eight girl campers were added, bringing the total to 48 campers and 36 staff members (including 12 counselors).

For the sixth consecutive year, the camp was held at Eden Nature Park in Davao City, from May 13 to 20. However, members of the staff came a week earlier for camp setup and precamp training.

Upon arrival and registration, each boy camper was given two royal blue camp shirts and each girl camper was given two royal purple shirts. Each camper was also given a camp ID and assigned to one of six dorms—three boys’ dorms (1B, 2B and 3B) and three girls’ dorms (1G, 2G and 3G). Each dorm of eight campers (plus the counselor and the assistant counselor) stayed in tents and cooked their own food on two-burner gas stoves.

Each day began at 5 a.m. with quiet time (an hour of prayer and Bible study). Then at 6 a.m., the dorm would shower, get ready and cook their breakfast. During other meals, however, dorms would invite one another, help prepare the food and join hands in cleaning up afterward. Like a family, the campers and counselors in each dorm slept, ate, played, learned and worked together.

After breakfast, the first activity of the

day was Compass Check conducted by the camp director, Edmond Macaraeg. At the first Compass Check, Mr. Macaraeg asked each camper to put on a blindfold, stand up, turn and point to the north. Then he asked everyone to remove his or her blindfold and look around to see where everyone else was pointing. It was in every direction! He said this fact illustrates the confusion that exists in this present world because Satan has blinded the minds of people to the truth. He then gave each



Campers after taking off their blindfolds during first Compass Check at Philippine camp

camper a special souvenir—a carabiner key chain compass. On the back it read, “Remember True North—United Youth Camp 2007.”

But there were other lessons that morning. With compass in hand, he demonstrated that even the compass needle can point to the wrong direction because of the influence of nearby materials made of iron or steel that are among the most common metals on earth. This can represent the abundance of people in this world who, if we’re not careful or knowledgeable enough, can influence us in a wrong way.

Apart from that, he also demonstrated that even from some distance another strong magnet can change or even reverse the direction of a compass needle. He said this can represent the invisible but powerful influence of Satan and his demons upon humanity, to turn us away from God.

For five mornings, Mr. Macaraeg expanded on the theme and related it to the other major compass directions that many could follow and alter and affect one’s true direction or purpose in life.

These are: Careerism, Outside relationships, Media (music and movies, etc.), People (peers, popular ideas), Addictions, Sabbath compromise and Sexual immorality. Note that the beginning letters of each topic spell the word COMPASS, and all of them represent seven possible deviations—out of the eight major compass points. But there is only one true north.

After Compass Check, several activities were also lined up for the day: confidence course, dance, first aid, inline skating, orienteering, riflery, softball, soccer, swimming and wilderness skills. In the wilderness skills activity, each dorm hiked to the “wilderness” away from the camp and prepared their food without the regular conveniences and utensils. They cooked their rice using bamboo tubes and baked their bread without ovens. They had to build and maintain a fire to cook the barbecued chicken.

After the wilderness skills activity, each camper got to conquer his or her fears by overcoming several obstacles in the confidence course. First was the wall climb.

Each camper had to climb a 40-foot-high vertical wall. After that, campers had to descend by rappelling. Then they went through the monkey bridge, the 50-meter pulley slide and then finally the much-awaited mud tunnel. The last one seemed to be, by far, the most popular. It seemed that the quality of the mud tunnel experience depended on how muddy, slimy and dirty each camper got!

On the sixth day of camp, 14 workshops were offered to pass on a marketable or useful skill. Each camper could choose to attend up to two workshops: art illustration, basic carpentry, basic home painting, basic home plumbing, beading accessories, conversational English training, cooking and baking, envelope making, etiquette and grooming, journalism, LPG/home fire safety, PA system, public speaking and silk-screen printing.

For the other evenings we had orientation night, acquaintance night, fellowship time and a Bible study open forum.

On the fourth day of camp, we had a clear, moonless night, perfect for stargazing. All the campers and staff went to the top of the hill to look up at the sky. Aided by an astronomy program running on a laptop computer and projected onto a screen through a multimedia projector, and with a 2-million-candlepower spotlight, the campers and staff were shown the different visible stars, planets and constellations, including the location of the Big Dipper and the North Star.

The evening of the fifth day of camp was the perfect follow-up to the night before. A video by the Moody Institute of Science titled *The Milky Way and Beyond* was shown. In just 40 minutes, the video took the viewer through a spectacular trip

exploring galaxies and observing pulsars, quasars and mysterious black holes. It featured photography from the Hubble space telescope. It was very inspiring to see how majestic and limitless the universe really is. Both campers and staff had a greater appreciation for the incredible beauty and immensity of God’s creation, and the fact that in spite of our present nothingness, we have the promise of ruling over God’s creation and inheriting all things!

On the Sabbath, we had a challenging Bible bowl in the morning and Sabbath services in the afternoon. Florante Siopan, pastor of the Visayas congregations, gave a sermonette on “How to Handle Conflicts When They Arise,” while Mr. Macaraeg gave a sermon on “Seven Keys to Making Wise Decisions.”

For the final evening at camp, everyone was treated to a buffet dinner at the Lower Veranda of the Eden Nature Park. We had a formal dance and each dorm gave their best performances with cheers, yells and dorm songs. Some of the “braver” staff members even did a special dance number! This was capped by the awarding ceremonies. The camp was officially ended at midnight.

The next morning, everyone started packing. It was quite noticeable that many, if not most, of the campers had their key chain compasses hanging from their belt loops... This time, the theme wasn’t just an empty phrase or slogan written on the back of their compasses, but a living phrase written in their minds and hearts as well. We hope and pray that when life gets confusing and they don’t know which way to turn, they will recall United Youth Camp 2007 and “Remember True North.”

Daniel Roy Macaraeg

12 Children Enjoy Summer Camp in Germany

This year 12 children and five adults from four congregations in Germany attended summer camp from Aug. 1 to 5 just east of Bielefeld, Germany, at the hostel Naturfreundehaus in Oerlinghausen.

Following a brief orientation meeting Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 1, campers enjoyed various games as part of a fun Olympics on the grass playground. Before dinner several campers built a dam at a nearby play area called the Amazonas where a small creek has carved a deep gorge into the hillside.

In the evening campers began learning the hymn “Onward Christian Soldiers” by heart as their special music for Sabbath services. The hymn was requested by one of the campers. Prior to “lights out” for the night, staff members quizzed campers on the Gospel of Matthew, which was designated as the subject material for the Sabbath Bible quiz.

On Thursday, Aug. 2, campers visited a nearby museum featuring the life of brickmakers at the end of the 19th century. Because there were not enough job opportunities locally, one third of the men in the region around Oerlinghausen worked as traveling

brickmakers, journeying as far as the Netherlands to work in brickmaking kilns for seven or eight months of the year. After hearing an explanation of how brickmakers lived and worked, campers were divided into groups and given tasks to imitate the life of a brickmaker.

Friday’s main activity was a visit to the nearby Hollywood amusement park with its wild animal zoo. Traveling in four 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.

For the daily interactive Bible study, campers were divided into three groups based on age. The theme for this year’s camp was “God’s Way Works.” Instructors Jesmina Allaoua, Reinhard Habicht and Paul Kieffer discussed subjects with a practical application in Christian living.

On the Sabbath campers were divided into three teams for a Bible quiz competition conducted by Paul Kieffer. Questions for the quiz were

taken from Matthew and were divided into four categories by degree of difficulty. The boys won with a total of 185 points, and the two girls’ teams tied for second place with 80 points each.

In the afternoon, visitors from the local Bielefeld congregation joined the group for Sabbath services. Campers performed special music after Rolf Marx’s split sermon titled “You Can Do It!” highlighting the story of Canadian Terry Fox, who raised money for cancer research by running across Canada despite being an amputee. In his split sermon, Paul Kieffer emphasized the examples in the Bible showing how young people took a stand for God’s way of life.

After the church service, each camper received a certificate of participation that emphasized his or her contribution to the camp. David Leier was given special mention for having scored 80 points in the Bible quiz, including being able to name all 12 apostles. In the evening, campers, staff and visitors enjoyed a barbecue dinner.

After a Sunday morning breakfast, campers started their journey home. For some, summer vacation ended the next day.

a couple of weeks a year to provide oversight when groups use the venue. This year’s volunteer supervisor was the same one as for the previous



German preteens enjoy Hollywood amusement park and wild animal zoo; left, campers perform special music at Sabbath services



The Naturfreundehaus Bielefeld, the venue for the camp, uses volunteer supervisors during the year. Its members are expected to volunteer

campers. He again called us a “low maintenance” group and expressed a desire to serve again if the house is used as a venue for camp.

Paul Kieffer

Highlights of Nigeria Camp Made by Meeting Challenges

Rock climbing and rappelling, soccer, Compass Checks and Bible studies, team building activities, ballroom dancing, crafts, Bible bowl, computer training, etiquette, volleyball and rope-bridge building, along with much singing and friendship. That was youth camp, Nigeria-style, and the 27 campers, two mini-campers and 22 staff members would do it all over again.

Oludare Akinbo directed the camp, and Mark Mickelson attended with his family and Youth Corps participants Cody and Bobbi Kitts and Emily Sandilands.

The highlights of camp turned out to be times when everyone was definitely challenged. One day the road to Abeokuta was closed by flooding, and rock climbing had to be canceled. It was a great disappointment for the Red Team, but their positive spirit prevailed. They went on to win the rope-bridge building competition in difficult conditions later that same day.

As the activity started, it began to rain again and threatened to dampen everyone's enthusiasm. The team counselors

and staff stepped forward, though, and began to sing and call out to the campers, who responded immediately. They kept up the exchange throughout the entire activity and finished in a very positive way. The Red Team was able to go to rock climbing on another day.

Another example of commitment and enthusiasm was 12-year-old Sarah Vidal from Abuja. The minimum age for camp was 13, so Sarah was not chosen. Still, when the teens were ready to go, Sarah went to the bus and waited with them. She had packed her bags even though she was not accepted. When the time of departure came, two campers were late. One arrived in time but then the bus had to be on its way. Sarah was offered the last seat. At the end of camp she received the Best Camper Award for her team.

Camp finished with camaraderie and



Left, camper Umar Maiwada from Abuja on the rope bridge building activity. Above, Derek, Megan and Mark Mickelson (rock climbing staff), Cody and Bobbi Kitts and Emily Sandilands (Youth Corps) and the farmer and his family whose property they walked through to get to rock climbing. Right, staff member Dotun Ibirogba from Lagos



excitement but with some sadness as well. We were leaving with wonderful memories, but we were still going our separate ways.

We headed back to Lagos with Mr. Akinbo at the wheel. The roads were full. As we approached some buses (vans) and were slowing to get around, Mr. Akinbo

said, "Oh, no!" The brakes had failed. We were not going very fast, but it was enough to hit one bus and push it into another. The impact knocked the side door off and dented the bumper and back. The damage to



our own vehicle was surprisingly small. Most importantly, no one was injured. It could have been much worse. We thanked God for His merciful protection and care. The crowd that gathered was stilled by a local shopkeeper who made sure nothing got out of hand. We paid for the damage to the vehicles and then repaired our own. The shopkeeper stayed

until we were on our way.

We returned home very thankful and with great memories.

Mark Mickelson

After Wet Summer, Dry Week for British Summer Camp

After a very wet summer, God blessed us with a week of fine, dry weather for the British Isles Summer Camp 2007, which took place at Allyn's School Field Centre on the outskirts of the spa town of Buxton in Derbyshire, England.

Eleven campers and six staff members arrived for seven days of friendship, learning and fun. Although mostly resident in the British Isles, campers represented five different countries—Scotland, Switzerland, Malawi, Italy and Thailand. English was the common, though not necessarily the first, language for all.

Campers, staff and occasional visitors toured local attractions such as Poole's Cavern, a cave complex known since Roman times, and Buxton museum and outdoor market. They also participated in walking, swimming and racing go-karts. Football,

rounders and volleyball were played on the paddock next to the Field Centre; games, painting, crafts and initiative training took place indoors.

Yvonne Patterson, a member of the Sheffield congregation, visited to teach the group encaustic art (hot wax painting), with some very beautiful results. One evening camper Tinyade Chonde cooked a tasty pasta dinner for everyone.

Evenings ended with forums during which campers asked questions and talked about subjects that were on their minds. Elders David Fenney and David Payne led discussions on the positive and negative elements of music, what exactly is bad language and why is it wrong, why do we affirm and not swear "in God's name," how to love our enemies, the confusing difference between Scripture and what is taught



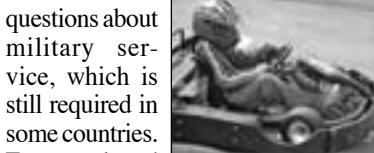
in school and how to handle

participants could leap off a 40-foot-high ledge, before swinging into a cargo net.



Campers in Britain enjoy encaustic art, go-karts and walking in the woods (photos by David Fenney, Cindy Harper and Wendy Culff)

Everyone was attached at all times to safety lines, and there were less challenging alternative routes through the course. The age-limit excluded the two youngest children from attempting the course; however staff member David Stebbins, at 70 years of age, is believed



questions about military service, which is still required in some countries. Forum closed with a prayer and a favorite hymn chosen by campers or staff.

A highlight of the week was the day almost everyone attempted "Go Ape"—a treetop course of ladders, rope and cable bridges, other obstacles, zip lines and a Tarzan swing, where the

to be the oldest person to have finished "Go Ape" at Buxton.

Peter Hawkins led hymns at the Sabbath service, and two split sermons by David Fenney and David Payne covered thanksgiving in prayer and a photographic tour of the Holy Land linked to accounts in the Bible.

The campers, none of whom had attended UCG summer camp before, all bonded well despite the language differences and were able to learn a lot from each other. End-of-camp comments reflected their enjoyment of the food, making new friends and fun activities.

On the final evening, after the Sabbath service and a special dinner, everyone participated in the entertainment—songs, skits, mimes and a percussion group. The evening was rounded off with a campfire under the stars.

Barbara Fenney and Cindy Harper

Ghana Camp Highlight of My Life

By Rob Oswald

Endurance and enjoying every moment. That's how I would describe my trip to Ghana as a United Youth Corps volunteer this August. I experienced an eager anticipation for what awaited us after a full 24 hours of tight spaces and little movement on the three flights that took us to Accra.

The very first day we were in Ghana, we attended church in Accra, the capital. The meeting hall is only a few yards from the coast, so we walked down to the ocean before services. It was beautiful, but I saw a little boy using a plastic bag as a toilet, then he tossed it over a cliff into the ocean below, where there were many more filled plastic bags. This was the most memorable disturbing incident of the trip,

and the smell will always stay with me!

Along with Melvin Rhodes, senior pastor for Ghana, and Tom Clark, associate senior pastor and camp director, four other Youth Corps volunteers from the United States and I were in Ghana for the annual Ghanaian summer camp. The other volunteers were Amber Epperson, Arielle Falardeau, Josh Lee and Corbin Rose.

Every year over 100 campers attend from all over Ghana. In previous years the camp has been held in Kumasi, the capital of the Ashanti Region, five hours inland. This year the camp was held at Adisadel College in Cape Coast, so many of the campers saw the ocean for the first time.

We traveled west down the coast to Elmina to begin camp. I felt one big "Wow!" as I looked out at the sun set-

ting over the ocean. We were standing on the balcony of the Elmina Beach Resort Hotel, in the small town of Elmina, where the slave trade used to go on. I could see Elmina Castle, where slaves were held before being shipped to the Americas. We toured it the next day. Earlier this year the castle was one of the places chosen for the celebrations of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade throughout the British Empire.

I had never seen anything so beautiful as that sunset. This was the vacation of a lifetime, the greatest and most meaningful trip of my life—and it had only just started!

In the same area of Ghana, which is a major tourist center, we were also able to visit Cape Coast Castle, Kakum Rain For-



Left: Rob Oswald with campers in Ghana; above, ministers with Youth Corps volunteers in a tree at Aburi Botanical Gardens. From left, Melvin Rhodes, Rob Oswald, Josh Lee, Arielle Falardeau, Amber Epperson, Tom Clark and Corbin Rose (photos by Corbin Rose)

est and a restaurant/hotel complex built on stilts with crocodiles in the water. The canopy walk at Kakum will stay in my memory the longest. This is made up of seven rope bridges that are over 125 feet above the floor of the rain forest. As you walk on the bridges, you can look down at the rain forest, the most gorgeous, calming and peaceful scenery imaginable. Sometimes clouds below block your view, but the whole atmosphere up there is just amazing. I was reminded of the Kingdom

of God and how nothing we see or imagine will come close to how wonderful God's Kingdom will be! Thanks to a fund-raiser

See "Ghana," page 9

Camp Woodmen Begins With a Bang!

by Eric Breedlove and Rhonda Whitley

It's funny how you can go to the same place and do similar things year after year and still love every second of it! That is exactly the case for Camp Woodmen in Alabama. Every year campers and staff travel long distances to make their way to rural Snead, Alabama, to experience a week full of fun, friendship and godly character. Camp Woodmen may not be the biggest camp offered by UCG, but it is definitely among the biggest in heart; everybody is so closely knit together!

This year camp started off with a bang (thunderous bang to be exact)! As usual, it began to rain, but that did not get us down. We simply had a great time inside! Despite the rain, everything got off to a great start. Campers arrived safely and were moved into their dorms to get ready for the evening meal and orientation.

Camp was filled with nothing but beautiful days after that opening night. Christian Living classes enjoyed the great mild weather almost every morning. Every day was perfect weather for many of Camp



Woodmen's activities like basketball, speedaway, volleyball, softball, swimming and our favorite unofficial Woodmen activity—cornhole! For those unfamiliar with this name, all you need to know is that it involves bags filled with dried corn that you try to throw into a hole on a wooden board. This game sounds ridiculous, but it could be quite arguably the most popular game at Woodmen!

Night activities were just as entertaining. The first night of activities started off with an icebreaker dance. Later in the week, campers and staff were given the opportunity to test their team skills and perhaps their leadership skills in our always enter-



taining and sometimes embarrassing novelty Olympics!

Dorms split up into teams for relay races against the other dorms and the staff. The campers gave the staff a run for their money this year!

Thursday night brought the most anticipated and fun-filled evening of entertainment for the entire week.

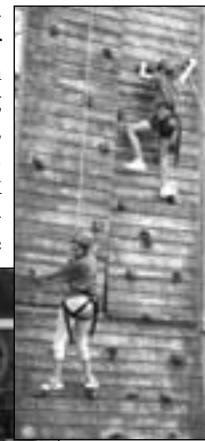
Camp Woodmen's Recycled Fashion Show made its comeback after a three-year hiatus. Every dorm and activity area was given a bag of material, such as trash bags, chip bags, tree bark, leaves, etc. Each group had the whole week to create outfits out of these materials and model them for the entire



Camp Woodmen activities included basketball, ropes course and the Recycled Fashion Show (above)

camp. We were not disappointed this year, and neither were the judges, who were the senior staff members and ministers.

After an incredible week of living God's way and enjoying activities with His people, it was time for some rest!



The incredible gift of God's Sabbath could not have been more apparent after such an awesome and exhausting week. Friday night there was a Bible trivia game. Dorms split up into groups and attempted to answer a number of challenging biblical questions as a group. Not surprisingly, everyone did quite well with all the questions.

The week ended with very inspiring messages at church by Ken Martin and Todd Carey, and also with a lovely Sabbath dinner that was much appreciated. Once the sun had set and campers were well rested, our final dance social began. Campers and staff danced and fellowshiped until midnight.

The next morning was filled with teary-eyed good-byes and campers getting as many phone numbers and e-mail addresses as they possibly could. It was another successful year at Woodmen. **UN**

Northwest Camp Lets Its Light Shine

One camper summed up the 13th annual Northwest Camp this way: "I understand how to become close to God." Another camper added, "It really makes you think how lucky you are to be called by God and have a chance to learn about Him."

Northwest Camp, which was conducted from July 29 to Aug. 5 at a camp facility about an hour east of Portland, Oregon, encouraged its 120 campers from 16 states and three Canadian provinces to learn more about God, to make friends and to enjoy a variety of activities.

"The campers had such positive attitudes and were a joy to be with, and I wish to thank the 60 staff members for their many hours of service and for their dedication. It was a trouble-free camp where all campers and staff were treated with respect and kindness," said the camp director, Steve Nutzman.

Camp was held at a different facility than in past years. Since there were no lakes close to the camp, campers were bused to off-site locations for waterskiing, kayaking and hiking. Three ski boats and 16 kayaks were used at these activities. Other activities included dance class, two camp dances, swimming, high challenge course and zip line, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, basketball, crafts, archery and a new class this year, golf.

Among the more popular classes

were the morning Christian class and the Excellence in Living classes. The theme of all Christian living classes was "Dive Into God's Word." One camper remarked, "I know more about the Bible, and I want to read it more."

The Excellence in Living class, taught by Denny and LeeAnn Luker, helped the campers learn about the four personality types, described as the lion, otter, golden retriever and beaver. Femininity and masculinity classes rounded out the Christian living classes. There was also a question-and-answer session, plus a Sabbath slideshow on Africa, followed by Sabbath services.

Two campers summed up their camp experiences this way: "It makes me

experienced and dedicated staff to serve the campers. One camper reflected this by adding: "The staff listens to any question or problem that you may be having. They also work very hard to give us a good learning experience, not to mention they take a week off work for us. Staff made us feel safe."

volleyball or other activity involving skill. Two open activity evenings added to the enjoyment of camp.

The campers and staff were truly blessed this year because they experienced an environment full of God's way of



Campers at Northwest Camp enjoy campfire (above) and the zip line (right). Waterskiing (left) and kayaking (above right) were popular off-site activities (photos by Michelle Pate)

The campfires after dinner were another highlight of camp. Dorms greet the camp

with their creative dorm cheers and original camp songs. The challenge portion is a big hit with campers and staff, in which a dorm or an individual can "challenge" others to a game of

life in action, which included cooperation, respect, unity and spiritual growth.

This light was shining to those outside the Church. The host camp director told us that in her 22 years of directing and hosting camps she had never



seen a better organized camp than ours. She added, "I wish we could have you train other camp groups how to run a camp."

Next year the camp location will move back to the popular Camp Davidson facility in the Cascade Mountains



of Oregon. The camp dates are July 6 to 13, 2008. We hope to see you there!

Steve Nutzman

Diving Into Camp Heritage, 2007

The United Youth Camp program at Heritage Reservation completed its 12th program on Sunday, Aug. 19, as 143 campers and 65 staff members bid good-bye for another year to their "home away from home" near Farmington, Pennsylvania.

We had another fine year weather-wise at the 2,000-acre property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, Greater Pittsburgh Council, with a brief thunderstorm early Thursday morning and a few showers that dampened the checkout procedures on departure day.

Campers built a "Kindness Tree" with direction from the annual Life Skills class and were challenged to "dive into God's Word" in the Christian Living classes, which once again began each day at camp.

A new element this year at Heritage was the media class, conducted by staffers Chris Moen (pastor in Canton and Mansfield, Ohio), Ashley Moen and Marianne Connell. The class recorded several 15-second spot

ads (a few of which were included in the annual slide show at the Saturday night dance) and wrote articles that were used to produce *The Heritage Herald*, the first camp newspaper for the Camp Heritage program. Campers and staff were able to take copies



Campers dove into the Zone and the activities at Camp Heritage, whether singing under the direction of Dave Myers, raising the flag or playing sports (photos by Virginia Finlay and Katondria Danley)

of the Laurel Highlands. The white-water trip is an annual "given" and the media class earned its spurs for a



home with them when they checked out Aug. 19.

Once again we were grateful for God's protection and guidance, especially for the Challenge campers and staff who took part in the whitewater rafting trip on Wednesday, Aug. 15. The trip takes place annually on

the Lower Youghiogheny River, and always has its share of "thrills and spills" for participants. The trip this year was challenging and exciting, but smooth and uneventful, which is just the way we like it!

Next year's program will most likely reintroduce the spelunk-

ing expedition for Adventure campers (ages 12 to 15) at the Laurel Caverns, where campers take guided tours 300-foot deep into the caves under the hills

return engagement in 2008.

We're already planning our 13th season at Camp Heritage, scheduled for Aug. 10 to 17, 2008. See you then!

Doug Johnson

Campers Practice God's Way at Carter

Camp Carter started this year with the baptism of a young adult staff member on Saturday evening at the start of staff training. After being a camper at Camp Carter for many years and a staff member last year, he came to the conclusion he needed to solidify his commitment to God's way of life—the way that offers promise both now and in the life to come. That got the staff training started on a high note!

This year over 120 campers and staff, including a camper from France, spent the week together enjoying cooler temperatures and successfully facing the unusual challenges of intermittent rain for the first half of the week in Fort Worth, Texas. They met those challenges with the godly characteristics of patience and cooperation—a good sign that living God's way is not just a lofty goal, but an attainable one with great benefits.

As one camper commented, "Camp shows us God's way can be fun and helps us grow and encourages us to come back next year for another dose of God's Word."

That comment displays an appreciation of the theme for Camp Carter this year. Campers were encouraged to build their relationship with God by focusing more on His Word. The Compass Checks were all taken from the points the apostle Paul mentioned

in 2 Timothy 3:14-16 as benefits of looking to the Bible for guidance in our everyday life.

This year Jim Franks, Ministerial Services operation manager, participated in camp for the first few days before having to head back for the Council meetings. He presented a Compass Check about doctrine, drawing on his experience observing the Sabbath even when his high school baseball team had a Friday night game as they headed to the state championship. He encouraged campers to stick with their convictions from the Bible even when it's tough.

Every evening in the cool of the air-conditioning after a day of varied activities, campers had the chance to ask and discuss biblical topics that were on their minds. Many of the ministers expressed satisfaction at the fact that the questions this year reflected a deeper level of thought about God's way—even among the younger dorms.

Activities ranged from sports activities—basketball, flag football, golf (for the oldest dorms), softball, strength training and volleyball—to indoor classes like Christian Living, crafts, dance, newsletter and a new class this year on nutrition. Many campers, including boys' dorms, commented on enjoying a class

they didn't think they would find of interest. Of course, offering fresh fruit smoothies at the end of class might have helped with that perception!

There were also specialty activities like horseback riding, archery or skeet shooting, both low and high ropes elements, rappelling from the 65-foot tower (for the oldest dorms) and the fun water events of an afternoon with a brother or sister dorm at the lake and time in the swimming

pool at camp.

This year a new option was added at the lakefront activity with tandem kayaks, so campers could choose to relax on the beach, swim, kayak, tube, ski or just ride



Focusing on God's Word was central to everything at Camp Carter. Campers also enjoyed football, basketball and tandem kayaks at the lakefront activity



in the boats as others skied or tubed. Completing the menu of fun were the impromptu skits brought on by the rain.

In addition, the whole camp enjoyed the fellowship times at meals, open activities in the evening and the snack time following open activities when they could mingle with campers and staff as they enjoyed a snack from the camp store.

To sum it up in the words of a camper from the oldest girls dorm, "This was a great year for camp!"

Ken Treybig

"Treasurer," continued from page 1

plus of income over expenses.

Good Works Program

We also were able to help out with special needs in many areas of the

world through fund-raising efforts of the brethren in support of the Good Works Program.

Among the projects that were funded in this past year through those fund-raising efforts were help for those affected by Katrina, brethren affected

by accidents and catastrophes in various nations, including El Salvador, Chile and Kenya, assistance with provision of meeting halls in Ivory Coast, Philippines and Kenya, and special assistance regarding the educational needs of brethren in various develop-

ing nations. On behalf of those who benefit from these Good Works fund-raising efforts, thank you.

Prayers Needed

As we move forward, we continue to look to God to provide the Church with

the "financial manna" that is needed to do the work. Your earnest prayers to God for His wisdom in using the resources He makes available are needed. He it is who can cause more and more individuals to respond to the truths taught by the Church by directly supporting its work. **UN**

ABC Students Sprint Through Spiritual Training Program

■ "Building Godly Character": ABC students strive to apply theme inside and outside of the classroom.

by Elizabeth Cannon

After seven months of biblical instruction, the Ambassador Bible Center class of 2007 said their final farewells to both students and instructors on Aug. 12. It was a date that marked the end of an intense immersion program and the beginning of a new and exciting future of growth and service in God's Church.

Early on in the year, the 2007 class was nicknamed the Beach Boys class on account of the group dynamic. Since two thirds of the class was female, in essence, there were "two girls for every boy" (thus the reference to a Beach Boys' song). The students, however, were quick to search for something else to be a hallmark for their class. The theme this year was "Building Godly Character," and it became evident that this would be a goal for each student to strive for during ABC.

Students hailed from all over the United States and the world. Solveig Hammar, originally from Stockholm, Sweden, was an active volunteer, donating many of her lunch hours and Sundays to help with the mailing department. Though only able to attend for six months due to issues with his visa, Helmut Reiche of Germany also lent an international flavor to the 2007 class. He served in the student council as the go-to technical guru behind the soundboard.

Something New

This year marked the beginning of several new additions to the ABC curriculum. Unlike previous years, each class included assessments in the form of tests, essays or journals, which offered a new challenge for students and aimed to promote a higher level of understanding.

A new class called Foundations of Faith was added. The class covered such topics as the proof of God's existence, the proofs of the Bible as God's Word and the basics of Christianity.

Also, a new speech class was instituted, in which students received instruc-

tion via lectures and speech labs. The voluntary class took place during the weeks when visiting instructors were not on the schedule to teach. Each student wrote and gave seven speeches, which focused on different aspects of public speaking such as inspiration, motivation, demonstration and adding color.

"The assessments and the two new classes will become a part of ABC's curriculum next year, as all these new additions were very helpful and furthered learning at ABC," said David Register, director of Education Programs in Ministerial Services.

Events and Service

In addition to eight-hour days of intensive learning, other top priorities for the class were service and social projects. The ABC Chorale dedicated many lunch hours and Friday afternoons to prepare a special music presentation that they performed in six congregations. Though a challenge,

with chili dogs, face painting, fellowship and, of course, football. But this event only kick-started an entire seven months of events.

Students passed out water to thirsty runners and walkers at the Mercy Heart Mini-Marathon, which raised money for the American Heart Association. Others set up a team to walk and jog

maze of aircraft displays from before World War I to the space age. Also, the home office was transformed into a '50s dance hall as students rocked around the clock at the ABC Sock Hop, sans shoes, of course.

Charity Auction

A highlight of the year was the Good

number of delicious baked goods, including Barbara Antion's coveted baklava, there were plenty of quality items on which to place a bid.

Brandon Zollner and Elizabeth Cannon hosted the event and ABC alumnus Mark Riley, who flew in from Kansas, conducted the live auction.

The success of the show and the evenings' activities were reflected in the teamwork and accomplishment of the ABC class in putting on a quality show and raising over \$2,000 for the camp.

The Real Application

As anyone who has completed a study abroad immersion program might agree, many of the lessons one learns occur in one's regular life, in the decisions one makes after leaving school. And that may be the remarkable thing about ABC. It may be



The Ambassador Bible Center class of 2007 studied, sang, served and socialized with enthusiasm. Above, the ABC Chorale performed at graduation and in six congregations. Right, serving at the ABC Art Gala. Below, helping with mailing in the home office

in the MS Walk, supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Two students even cycled 65 miles in the Ride Cincinnati bike-athon for breast cancer research at the Barrett Cancer Center in Cincinnati.

Not only did the ABC students serve in the community, they also made the home office the venue for a number of other service projects during the year. The Red Cross-Hoxworth Blood Drive succeeded in collecting 29 units of blood in a Blood Mobile stationed in the home office parking lot. The ABC Art Gala offered an elegant evening of student artwork, hors d'oeuvres and classical and contemporary music, which raised \$380. Many of the works of art on display were later auctioned off in the Charity Auction at the end of the year.

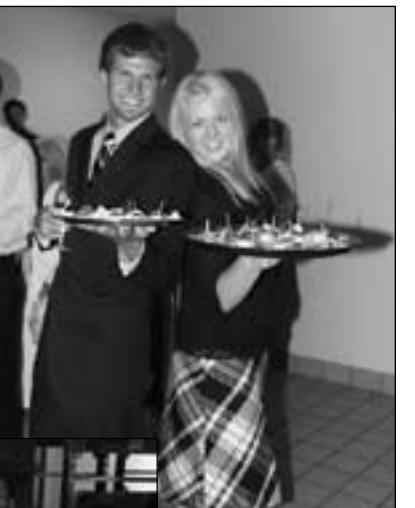
Besides service projects, many events at ABC were merely an excuse for students and instructors to have a bit of fun. Students enjoyed an evening at the theater to see the highly acclaimed Broadway production of *The Lion King*. At the USAF Museum in Dayton, Ohio, students explored a

Works Charity Auction on July 29. After weeks of meetings, preparation and skit rehearsals, the students were finally ready and committed to



raising money to set up and sponsor children in Africa at a United Youth Camp.

Some of the featured items in the silent auction were homemade quilts made by B.J. Thomas from the Cleveland congregation and ABC students Vanessa Grandy and Wilda Reynolds. Artwork created by ABC students Sarah Bates, Sarah Williams and James Osborne were also on display in the silent auction. With gift baskets, weekend retreat packages, raffle items and



argued that one learns more outside of the classroom than inside of it. Once the notes are taken and the questions are asked during school hours, the real application continues in everyday life, through interactions among room-

mates and fellow classmates, and in one's behavior in the community at large.

Those who attended ABC may feel like they have just sprinted through a spiritual training program, but the real race is just beginning as everyone returns to his or her congregation, ready to put the lessons learned into practice. **UN**

Elizabeth Cannon, from Jupiter, Florida, was editor of ABC Times and a music representative at ABC.

"Graduation," continued from page 1

Zollner gave the student discourse on the topic of giving back in the future to others what the students received at ABC.

The ABC Chorale brought two numbers as their last performance as the class of 2007. The first number, "River in Judea," was stirring. The second number—"So Long, Farewell" from *The Sound of Music*—left everyone tearfully happy.

President Clyde Kilough delivered the graduation address. He spoke about the need to keep opening our minds to God's Spirit, instead of closing our minds to God's influence. He reminded everyone to keep building godly character, which was the motto of this year's class.

Awards were presented by Mr. Kilough and Robert Dick, Council of Elders chairman. Mr. Kilough announced the recipients of the Amba-

sador Excellence Award. Sarah Denise Bates and Brandon Matthew Zollner were the students chosen for this award. The Council of Elders Service Award was presented by Mr. Dick to Ina Ruth McLeMore and Devin Winter Schulz. The students received a cash award and a clock with an engraved plaque on the side of it.

Diplomas were presented by Mr. Kilough, Mr. Register and Ralph Levy.

Then it was time for the celebration. The cakes and beverages were outstanding again this year. Terri Eddington and her staff did a superb job in the preparation and presentation of the food. Jessa Moser and her serving staff took care of the distribution of the cake and beverages. Dan Peabody ably handled the ushering along with former ABC students. The beautiful floral displays and the flowers and boutonnieres were put together by Kathy

de Campos and her staff of volunteers.

To cap the graduation celebration, there was a release of three pillars of biodegradable balloons—1,500 in all—as the graduates, family and friends watched and thought of the graduates going back to their various geographical locations to continue growing in their education and character. **UN**

Gary Antion is ABC Admissions and Student Affairs officer.

Media At a Glance

Radio Program Resumes Airing in Cincinnati

The *Beyond Today* program began airing Sunday, Aug. 12, on WKRC 550 AM, a news/talk format

radio station in Cincinnati, Ohio. (The station we were previously on in Cincinnati changed format and stopped airing the program.)

The program will air at 6 a.m. Sundays. We expect to move to a later airtime reasonably soon. The station features many locally based and nationally syndicated talk shows such as the Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity programs.

Established in 1922, "55 KRC—The Talk Station" has 5,000 watts of broadcast power and reaches over 100 counties in the tristate area of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. Geographical broadcast coverage includes all of metro-Cincinnati as well as Dayton, Ohio, and Lou-

isville and Lexington, Kentucky. The station ranks fifth in listenership out of 29 Cincinnati-based radio stations.

English Good News Print Run Nearing New High

The print order for the September-October 2007 English-language *Good News* is 522,049, a 3 percent increase over the July-August issue.

This is about 4,000 shy of the all-time high of 526,173 set with the September-October 2002 issue. (This previous high was set after the bump in circulation brought by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and before the process of renewing business and waiting room copies was implemented.)

The English-language version of the September/October issue will be printed in three locations on three continents:

Glasgow, Kentucky	439,519
Queensland, Australia	65,400
Cape Town, South Africa	17,130

Contributors: Peter Eddington, John LaBissoniere

More Baptism Stories: Members Tell About Their Calling

■ In response to requests in previous issues, members share the inspiring stories of their callings and baptisms.

"We Were Still There!"

In 1954 we were living in Pocatello, Idaho, and listening to Herbert Armstrong on XELO. *The Plain Truth* lead article in January of that year was about baptism—"Are You Baptized?" They wanted to know who might be interested, as they were sending out baptizing teams in the summer.

I wanted to send in my husband's and my names, but he was hesitant because we moved frequently, sometimes staying only a couple of weeks or a month in a location. His job kept us on the go, and we had a 25-foot trailer that made it easy to hook up and go. He didn't know where we might be by summer.

In July we received notice that Gerald Waterhouse and George Meeker would meet us in Pocatello, and we were still there! After counseling, we were baptized in the Snake River and we moved two weeks later—53 years ago.

*Frieda Iiams
Spokane, Washington/Coeur
d'Alene, Idaho, congregation*

"It Was Like a Light Went On"

It appears that our calling consists of a series of circumstances we have to go through to be ready for God. Otherwise, we may not be ready to answer that calling.

My husband was in the Air Force for a number of years. One of his assignments was Clark Air Base in the Philippines. It was during the Vietnam War in the early 1960s.

Our family was able to join him in

the Philippines in May 1963. While we were there, there were a lot of job opportunities for dependents of the airmen. I was able to get a good job working for the Safety Division of the Inspector General's office. Because I was in the Inspector General's office, I learned a lot of things I probably would not have known if I was not working.

There was a lot of unrest in the Philippines at that time. Politicians shot each other downtown every once in a while.

There were incidents on the base that affected our children, especially while at school. At one time a hand grenade was thrown over the fence and landed under a Quonset hut our son was attending class in! Thankfully it did not detonate. Another time, cobras were thrown into the schoolyard where the children were playing!

I had a very stressful job as our office had the responsibility of investigating all plane incidents all over the area where the war was going on. We had to keep a house girl in our home all the time as people were being robbed even on base continually.

After a couple of years with those circumstances, I found that I desperately needed God's help to survive. We did finally rotate back to the United States in December 1965. The first opportunity we had, we visited our parents whom we had not seen in over two and a half years.

My mother-in-law had been taking a correspondence course from Ambassador College. She asked me to look at a test she had there and asked if I could answer any of the biblical questions.

It was like a light went on. I knew immediately that the literature she had there was truth. I didn't know why or how, especially at the time, but I knew. I immediately started ordering all the booklets and material I could get from

the Church of God. I listened to Mr. Armstrong on the radio.

About a year and a half after we got back to the States, my husband got orders for an isolated tour of duty in Thailand. So we decided to move to Spokane while he was gone so the kids and I could be near our parents. We bought a house, and a friend of my brother learned about our interest in the Church.

I studied God's Word diligently, trying to prove [Herbert Armstrong] wrong. It only proved him right. I had not been keeping God's Sabbath, and neither had my preacher husband. When I showed him this, he was furious! He forbade me from listening any more.

We learned he was a member and that the Church met about five blocks from where we had purchased our home. It wasn't long before I started counseling and was baptized a few months later.

*Donna Kottke
Spokane, Washington/Coeur
d'Alene, Idaho, congregation*

The Preacher's Wife

Who would have suspected it? I, the preacher's wife—a sinner! Everyone could see the righteous deeds I was doing—teacher of the ladies' Sunday school class, active in missions, Vacation Bible School and most other church programs and playing organ at church.

But my sin was about to be exposed. A radio preacher, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, kept proclaiming loud and clear, "Six days shalt thou labour... but the seventh is the sabbath of the LORD" (Exodus 20:9-10).

I studied God's Word diligently, trying to prove him wrong. It only proved him right. I had not been keeping God's Sabbath, and neither had my preacher husband. When I showed him this, he was furious! He forbade me from listening any more. I listened when he was out

of the house by hiding behind the drapes to watch for his car to return.

One Saturday when I got into the car to drive to church, he threatened, "You're not driving this car one inch to that church!"

So, although I was a middle-aged woman and the road was steep and the day blazing hot, I hopped on our son's bike and took off. I returned perspiring

and breathless to discover my husband's church friends visiting.

"It sure is a hot day, isn't it?" one said.

"It sure is!" I panted without explaining why I wasn't allowed to use the car. Eventually, when friends came to take me to church, my husband dashed out to their car and announced, "My wife is not going. Don't ever come here again!"

The next Sabbath when I walked to a Laundromat to meet them, he followed me in his car.

Life at home was miserable. He would say, "You are a constant embarrassment to me."

I asked the minister about getting a divorce. He said, "Pray and be the best wife you can."

Then a strange thing happened.

After preaching at a revival, my usually robust husband returned with an attack of severe arthritis. He had to be carried into the house. He couldn't dress himself.

I lovingly cared for him for many days. One day when he was better, he brought me some beautiful red roses—his way of saying, "Thank you."

He never again complained about my religion.

A newcomer was heard to remark, "Isn't it amazing how well those two get along, when he is a minister, and she attends a very different kind of church!"

P.S. My husband is now deceased.

*Lois Gordon
Bentonville, Arkansas*

An Event at a Summer Camp Changed My Life

One beautiful summer day, we campers were seated in an outdoor amphitheater in the woods. A male youth leader took center stage, opened a Bible and read scriptures on being "called" by God. When finished, he simply closed the Bible and announced that we would all be going for a walk.

Walking quietly along, my mind was riveted on those scriptures. What does it mean to be called of God? And, if called, how would it affect my life? I tried to pray, uncertain of how, and uncertain of what, if anything, it meant personally.

Then, since nothing else unusual happened that day, I forgot about it for a while.

But about that time my dad heard a broadcast and started receiving literature from the Radio Church of God. After studying for years, he gently requested that I consider applying to Ambassador College. That approach was effective, and the AC prospectus was convincing, so I applied.

Events followed—our first ministerial visit, our first Sabbath service, my acceptance to AC, a trip to Pasadena, baptism counseling and baptism. It was the start of a new life—3½ years after hearing those scriptures at a summer camp, the scriptural calling of God was actually taking effect!

*Sandy (Thornton) Nelson
Cincinnati, Ohio, East congregation*

"Strategic," continued from page 1

Dave Register and Larry Salyer.

The Council agreed that it would be ideal to have the new plan ready for the 2008

General Conference of Elders meeting, but realistically that may not happen considering the lead time necessary for "Call and Notice." Everyone agreed that the quality of the plan takes precedence over

the speed with which it is produced, and therefore it cannot be driven by a precise timetable. It is understood that a full organizational strategic plan usually requires six to nine months to create. As the pro-

cess move forward it will lead, among the steps, to a full board/staff retreat to focus solely on the critical issues that will be part of the Strategic Plan.

While this is a major undertaking, it is

clear that there is full Council commitment to the task and a satisfaction that this issue is finally moving forward in a structured way. We anticipate valuable long-term benefits from this investment. **UN**

"Ghana," continued from page 1

in the Oakland, California, area churches, a few days later we were able to treat all the campers to Kakum, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of them, who live too far away or are too poor to visit this area of Ghana.

The crocodile farm enabled me and fellow volunteer Josh Lee to pet and play with these dangerous creatures, with the help of an extremely attentive guide! Thankfully, we lived to tell the tale!

The six days of camp Aug. 14 to 20 offered daily Christian Living classes with the theme "Heroes of the Bible." Physical

activities included volleyball, soccer, Frisbee, team challenge and, for the first time, softball. That was my contribution. We had to modify the games a little and have a lot of patience teaching campers who were totally unfamiliar with most of these sports. It also got a little crazy with the language difference—English is a second language

to the campers, so I found myself keeping what I said short and to the point.

We also battled with constant power outages, little hot water and we were truly thankful whenever we had anything resembling a toilet.

The friendliness of the people was so truly memorable. I learned that, wherever

you go, God's people are always welcoming. God's Spirit works with the Africans as it does with us in the United States. While they are way poorer when it comes to the physical things, spiritually we are all blessed to have God's presence in our lives. We are truly blessed with opportunities like the summer camp in Ghana. **UN**



From **the Word**

Preparing for the Feast: Will You Be a Happy Camper?

by **John Gould**

Are you a happy camper?

No one really seems to know where the term *happy camper* originated. Some have speculated that it may have begun when numerous summer camps sprang up along the eastern seaboard of the United States. As the cities grew, some parents decided that it might be nice to send their kids out of the city for a while every summer. Some kids had a great time—they were the happy campers. Today, we've modified the term to include anyone who is satisfied with life, especially if he or she sees things getting better.

But other kids developed homesickness. At some camps they faced unfriendly staff, bland food, flies, gnats, mosquitoes and other unseen terrors of the night. Sending young city kids into that kind of "wilderness" was a kind of cruel and unusual punishment if they weren't mentally prepared for it.

So there are happy campers and unhappy campers.

A series of misunderstood experiences in the early-to-middle years can spoil any person's outlook on life, producing unhappy campers. Come to think of it, that's part of Satan's strategy, isn't it?

In just a few weeks we'll be at the Feast of Tabernacles, or tents. In other words, we're going "camping" with God. So how can we be happy campers at the Feast?

One of Satan's strategies is to try to first spoil people by giving them some level of comfort. Then they have to leave their comfort zone to face the wilderness. And, voila! More unhappy campers! And when the bad experiences continue to occur (as they often do), these people often become "victims" in their own minds.

That's probably what the ancient Israelites felt after they left Egypt and began 40 years of wandering in the desert. What started out as a happy, joyful exit from slavery bogged down. Most of them became unhappy campers!

Moses began to realize the difficulties even before the first week had passed. He began to hear complaints that Pharaoh's chariots were chasing them, and they had nowhere to run! That probably started the unhappy camper experiences.

Cain and Abel

Consider some examples of happy and unhappy campers from Hebrews 11. "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain" (Hebrews 11:4).

It doesn't seem like Abel was doing anything to purposefully provoke Cain. Abel raised sheep and presented at least one of them as an offering. This might indicate he understood the symbolism of shed blood representing Jesus' later offering of Himself.

Cain's act of jealous murder shows that he was not happy. Happiness does not coexist with anger, jealousy and the desire for revenge. And looking beyond these two men, consider the anguish that Eve must have felt when one son was killed and her firstborn was driven into exile. Eve could also be called an unhappy camper.

In fact, most of the Bible record is filled with examples of unhappy campers.

Abraham and Sarah

Hebrews 11:9 says Abraham wandered in tents, not having a piece of property he could call his own.

Think about Sarah for a minute. She had to put up with living in a tent for over 70 years. Just imagine the dust, the sand and the cattle droppings scattered around.

We do know that Sarah was unhappy because she had not given Abraham a son and heir. We also know that she was subject to jealousy, because of the incident when Hagar became pregnant and acted

disrespectfully toward Sarah. Sarah lost her cool because of it.

Yet the writer of Hebrews says that Sarah was a person of faith, and Peter holds her up as an example for all women of the Church (1 Peter 3:6). So, even if she might have been an unhappy camper for a while, she is given great honor in God's family.

Heresy of Health and Wealth

There is a heresy that runs through modern church history, a heresy called the gospel of health and wealth. It essentially claims that everyone is entitled to be a happy camper in this life. It claims that by joining a church, you are guaranteed a better life now. Too many people have looked at the promises of God and taken a step based on greed rather than faith.

But Jesus, in His teaching, doesn't make this promise. Instead, He told people that anyone who wanted to follow Him would have a life of trials and challenges to overcome (Matthew 16:24; Acts 14:22).

Not everyone accepts the health and wealth gospel. Some go to the other extreme and strive to earn salvation by accepting the victim role in life. They consciously choose to be unhappy campers.

God does want His children to enjoy life! But He wants us to do it in the right

way. Ecclesiastes is a book that contrasts the reasons and attitudes of the happy and unhappy campers. It is a book that the observant Jews read during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The Feast is one opportunity we're given to become happy campers. But even more than just having a good time, God wants us to seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness. That process is a narrow path, which includes developing self-control and exercising self-denial at times. It excludes those things that could make us be unhappy campers. This is what God means when He tells us:

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

As we approach the Feast, let's spend some extra time in prayer, so that our attitudes will be in accordance with those God wants us to have, and that we will be ready to go up to the various Feast sites and rejoice before Him in the right way—the way that looks forward to everyone on earth becoming a happy camper! **UN**

The author is a member of the Kennewick, Washington, congregation.

Our Lives Today and the Last Great Day

■ Our examples today will have a big impact at the second resurrection.

by **Tim Groves**

Every year at the Feast of Tabernacles we make a big impact on the local communities. As we converge by the hundreds into the cities God has chosen to place His name, these communities can't help but notice our positive influence.

But this positive influence isn't limited to the festival seasons. As individuals we are to be positive examples to those we interact with—every day of every year. Our lights should not only shine at the Feast, but at all times. Even though they do not understand the light now, the day is coming when they will understand. And God will bring our examples to their minds.

Ambassadors for Christ

When God chose ancient Israel, He wanted them to be a positive example to the rest of the world. In the Millennium, physical Israel will be the model nation for the rest of the world. Today, God's Church is made up of what Paul describes as spiritual Jews and the Israel of God (Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 6:16). We are to be exemplifying God's way of life. Why?

As humans we don't want to just take someone's word—we want proof! God is using us as His proof. From Genesis to

Revelation, God has chosen tens of thousands of people to be His witnesses. You and I are among those God has chosen.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20 we read, "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us..." The original Greek word translated "pleading" means, "to invite, to exhort." Yes, God is calling people through our examples! He is using us to encourage others. Yet most will not recognize that invitation in this lifetime.

When Christ lived on the earth, most did not recognize who He was (John 1:5). And not only was Christ a light, He was a great light (Matthew 4:16)! So we should not be surprised when others mock us. They simply do not understand. But even though they are presently blinded, God still wants us to be powerful witnesses to them.

A People Full of Good Works

Christ tells us to let our light shine so people can see our good works (Matthew 5:16). As God's people we must have good works. That is part of our calling! People in the world need to see God's way of life in action. And one of the most powerful ways they will see this is through us. We have God's Holy Spirit, and when others interact with us, it may be the closest contact they will ever have with God in this lifetime. As ambassadors for Christ, we have huge responsibilities to properly represent God.

We shoulder the responsibility of being

model employees. As Good Samaritans, we are to help those in need when we have opportunity. We are to comfort others. Our lives should reflect God's way of give. We should be willing to share our possessions with others, especially when they are in need. God wants to see us taking care of others, just as He is taking care of us.

We are to be rich and zealous in good works (1 Timothy 6:18; Titus 2:14), show a pattern of good works (Titus 2:7) and show our faith by our good works (James 2:18).

When people in the world interact with us, are they glad when we arrive—or glad when we leave? Do we cheer people up or make them feel bad? Remember, we represent God, and they will remember us in the second resurrection. God wants our examples to encourage them, not discourage them.

A Transformed People

One of the most obvious things people will notice in us is our change of lifestyle. Many friends and relatives will see the results of God's Spirit in us. The changes will be unmistakable, and will be for the better. This will be a powerful witness when their eyes are opened to the truth.

We no longer talk like others, we have strong morals, and we have a strong sense of right and wrong. Our honesty and self-control will surprise people. Our humility and patience will be obvious. Our respect for God and authority will be noticed.

Of course, all of these desirable traits are

the result of God's Spirit in us. The world does not understand what is changing us, but they do see the change in us. Just as those who knew Paul marveled at the change in him (Acts 9:21), so do others marvel at the change in us. Ironically, they don't want our "crazy" religion, yet they like the good things they see in us. They can't put the two together—that this religion is what makes us the way we are!

Another powerful witness is that you and I—the weak of the world—have become the good examples we are. It is another miracle of God, that He can transform the weak to confound the mighty (1 Corinthians 1:26-29). Yes, God has called the weak now to help the strong later.

The Day of Visitation

God will make Himself known to every single individual who has ever lived. To most people that time will be at the second resurrection. But to a select few—people like you and me—God has made Himself known already. And whenever the spiritual veil is removed, people will understand and remember our good works.

Peter writes, "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12, emphasis added).

God has used some of us when He called others. And when these people learned the truth, they did glorify God in their day of visitation! These people saw

the positive examples, which helped them turn to God's ways.

Think of the thousands of people each of us interact with in our lifetime, then multiply that by the thousands of saints God has worked with over the past 6,000 years. The day is coming when God will visit these 20 to 60 billion people. When their eyes are opened, God will help them remember us (Ephesians 2:7). And then they will glorify God. By our examples, it will be easier for them to embrace God's way of life. Neither the weak nor the strong can say God's way is too hard, since God's Spirit helped the weak (you and me) overcome Satan and human nature.

These people will remember the good works the saints showed toward them. They will remember the transformation that "crazy" religion brought in the lives of God's people. They will learn that God's Spirit can change them too. We will be the proof that God's way works.

Just as we are presently surrounded by a cloud of witnesses of those who have gone before us (Hebrews 12:1), we will be part of the witnesses that surround those in the second resurrection.

Yes, God has called you and me to help others become sons of God. Our positive examples today are seeds that will take root and blossom at the Last Great Day. And on that day of visitation, many will understand the truth, remember us and glorify God. What a day it will be! **UN**

The author is a member of the Jefferson, Georgia, congregation.

Lessons From a Bridge: How to Stand and Never Fall

■ The bridge that collapsed in Minneapolis started me thinking about what makes us fall and what makes us stand firm spiritually. The Bible outlines a way to never fall.

by Gregory Dullum

It was about 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007. Everyone in the city, it seemed, was on the way home from work. Thuy T. Vo wasn't going home from the office; she was a stay-at-home mother. But on this evening she was caught in bumper-to-bumper traffic on an interstate bridge over the Mississippi River near downtown Minneapolis. She was halfway across the bridge when she heard a loud crack, and saw the bridge before her suddenly fall away.

"When I saw that the bridge before me was collapsing, I thought it was an illusion," she said. She watched as her Mazda van turned straight downward. Then it went over. "Then the cement hit the windshield and I thought I would die right there," she recalled.

As river water filled her van, Vo, who doesn't swim, rolled down a window and somehow paddled away. Her injuries were mostly scrapes.

The nightmare of that moment won't leave her. She had seen five or six cars drop off the bridge in front of her. The image of them plays over and over in her head, just a flash of a few seconds. She didn't know if anyone in those cars survived and added, "I am very lucky" (Monica Davey, "At Bridge Site, Search of River Moves Slowly," *The New York Times*, Aug. 3, 2007, p. 2).

The eight-lane bridge that collapsed carried an average of 140,000 vehicles a day. It was 1,000 feet long and when it fell, it collapsed in three sections. The center section fell 60 feet into the river. Some estimate that as many as 50 cars went into the river.

The cause of the collapse was unknown at the time of this writing. The bridge was deemed "structurally deficient" in 1990 in part because of some corroded bearings, but it was not scheduled to be replaced until 2020. A deficient designation does not mean a bridge needs to be immediately replaced. According to Dan Dorgan, a bridge engineer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, 77,000 bridges across the United States have a similar designation (Jon Elsen and Libby Sander, "Dozens Missing as Minneapolis Search Efforts Are Halted," *The New York Times*, Aug. 2, 2007, p. 1).

There was some construction work going on at the time of the collapse, but it was minor stuff—nothing to do with the structure. Repairs were being made to the bridge's concrete deck, guardrails and lights (Elsen and Sander, p. 4).

As bridges go, this bridge was not very old. It was built in 1967, just 40 years ago. I began coming to church

with my family in Minneapolis in 1966. I have been coming to church one year longer than this bridge existed.

Could We Suffer Spiritual Collapse?

Many of us in the Church of God have been coming to church a long time: years and years, decades and decades. Can we suffer a *spiritual* collapse just as this bridge had a physical collapse? I believe we can, if we don't take steps to prevent it. I believe there are spiritual lessons we can learn from this tragedy in Minneapolis.

Bridges are built to stand. The same is true with Christians. We are to stand firm in the faith. In 1 Corinthians 16:13, Paul tells us, "Watch, *stand fast* in the faith, be brave, be *strong*" (emphasis added throughout). We are supposed to stand.

Bridges are not supposed to fall. Neither are Christians. In 2 Peter 3:17, Peter tells us, "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also *fall from your steadfastness*, being led away with the error of the wicked." We are not supposed to fall.

What caused the bridge in Minneapolis to fall unexpectedly at 6 p.m. Aug. 1? At the time of this writing, it seems no one knows for sure. But I listened to an interview of a structural engineer who gave two possibilities. And I could see applications to our Christian living.

Two Dangers

Two things make bridges like this one fall.

1. Corrosion. In northern climates, salt is put on roads and bridges to melt snow and ice. Salt is corrosive. It eats away the concrete and rusts away the steel structure.

One thing about the bridge collapse in Minneapolis troubles me. The bridge was being worked on when it fell! ... But it was all surface work, while deep down, in the structural steel, it seems cracks were developing that would cause it to fall.

How does this apply to us? In Matthew 5:13 Jesus tells His true followers, "You are the salt of the earth." In the next verse He says His followers are the light of the world. But in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Paul warns that Satan transforms himself into an *angel of light*. His followers deceive people. If Satan and his followers represent a *bad light*, can they also represent *bad or harmful salt*?

God's truth is good, like table salt. It adds flavor to our life and preserves us. But Satan's deceptions corrode away our character like highway salt left too long on a bridge. False teachings eat away at our inner structure by which we stand firm in the faith. If we embrace false teachings and ideas, the problem starts small but gets worse and worse. We become spiritually weaker until one day we will unexpectedly fall away.

To prevent spiritual corrosion, we should go back to the Bible and to our

Church teachings and make sure our current beliefs match the truth we have been taught. Jude tells us to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered (verse 3). When we have been around the Church for 40 years, it's possible to have collected some corrosive salt and not even realize it.

Corrosion probably was not the problem with the bridge in Minneapolis. Corrosion is easy to spot during inspections. The second reason bridges fall is much more dangerous.

2. Fatigue cracking. Every vehicle that rolls over a bridge puts stress on the structure. When it passes, that stress is released. This is called "cyclic loading." Cyclic loading goes on hour after hour, day after day, year after year and can cause very minute cracks to develop slowly in the steel. This is fatigue cracking. The metal gets fatigued and begins to crack. These cracks are harder to spot than corrosion. Some cracks are so small they can't be seen. Engineers use sonar and ultrasound to find them. They pass sound through the steel. If the sound changes, that indicates a miniature crack is in the steel.

Our Christian lives are difficult. We have stress as we go through trial after trial. Christ warned us about this, saying, "In the world you will have tribulation" (John 16:33). Paul told Timothy, "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). In our years in the Church, we have had some major trials. But year in and year out we have experienced a lot of minor trials, like cars rolling over a bridge. Just standing firm against the pulls of this world can produce minor stress in our lives.

Are we, after years and years of being in God's Church, suffering from *spiritual* fatigue cracking? Do our problems seem too much to bear? Do

we feel like we're wearing out? Are we tired of standing strong for the truth? Paul told the Thessalonians, "But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good" (2 Thessalonians 3:13). He told the Galatians, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

How Can We Stand Strong?

How can we stand strong through trial after trial after trial? The answer is found in two scriptures. One tells us if we do some things, we *will stand*. The other says if we do some things, we *will never fall*. We don't want to be like that Minneapolis bridge that fell and took a lot of people down with it. We want to stand firm and never fall. So what must we do?

The first scripture is Ephesians 6:10-18. For this discussion on bridges, we don't need the imagery of a suit



Reuters/Eric Miller

An aerial view shows a school bus carrying 60 children, one of between 50 and 60 vehicles on a collapsed section of the Interstate 35W bridge that spans the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Aug. 1, 2007.

of armor, although most of this armor is made from steel and we could use the steel to brace up our structure. Instead of focusing on the armor analogy, let's ask ourselves, what is Paul really saying?

In verse 14, Paul says we should be "girded" with the truth. That means to be surrounded by the truth. Be grounded in the truth. Read our Bibles a lot! Read Church literature. Read truth. Study truth. Discuss truth. Love truth.

Also in verse 14, we are told to have "righteousness." What is righteousness? Keeping all of God's commandments (Psalm 119:172)! In other words, we need to know the truth and live the truth!

In verse 15 we are told to know the gospel and be prepared to preach it. We should have the right answer if people ask about the hope that lies within us (1 Peter 3:15).

In verse 16 we are told to strengthen our faith. Faith comes from hearing and reading God's Word (Romans 10:17).

Is it possible that the "helmet of salvation" in verse 17 refers to keeping salvation on our minds? Should we not keep our thoughts focused on the Kingdom and our future in God's family? And also in this verse we are told to *use* God's Spirit and God's Word, the Bible. We shouldn't just leave it on the coffee table or in our briefcase between Sabbaths.

In verse 18 we are reminded to *pray always* and *be watchful*. Don't let our prayer time slip. And what should we watch? Two things: world events and our spiritual condition.

What happens if we do all these things? Verse 13 tells us: We will stand.

What Can We Do to Never Fall?

Peter tells us: "Wherefore the rath-er, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall"

(2 Peter 1:10, King James Version). What things? "Make your calling and election sure." How?

Verses 5 through 7 give us the formula: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

One thing about the bridge collapse in Minneapolis troubles me. The bridge was *being worked on* when it fell! Work was being done to the road surface, guardrails and lights. Was that bad? No, there was nothing wrong with fixing those things. I'm sure this work needed to be done. But this was all *surface* work, while *deep down*, in the structural steel, it seems *cracks were developing* that would cause it to fall. They did the *light* repairs that looked good to others but left the *weightier* matters of structural repair undone.

Christ warned religious people of His day not to do this. The Pharisees were concerned about little things like tithing on mint, anise and cummin. Christ said *that was good*, but they were neglecting the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy and faith (Matthew 23:23).

I hope we don't fall into the same trap. I hope that spiritually we are doing more than just resurfacing our bridge and fixing guardrails and lights. We should not neglect the outward things that show our religion—but we also must look *deeper into our lives* and *our relationship with God* to see if we need some structural repairs to *keep us from falling*, to *keep us from becoming weary*.

Take time to go back over Ephesians 6 and 2 Peter 1. Study these verses. Meditate on them. Let's put them into practice in our lives.

If we do these things, God promises that *we will stand and never fall!* **UN**

The author is a member of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation.

Treasure Digest

“I Love You!”

I'm sitting on my couch, watching my baby daughter play with her toys. She is voraciously chewing on toy after toy, all of six months old. She notices my glance and flashes me a huge grin before grabbing a toy baby doll and staring at its face with delight.

As I listen to her squeals, I am sometimes overcome by what she means, what her presence tells me about God. She is here by His design. She is a tiny yet intensely moving message from Him. My husband and I have watched her transformation from a very tiny and very helpless newborn to a wiggly, squealing, giggle ball. She is just so much fun, and we are constantly overcome by her beauty.

What does she tell me about God? God loves to create beauty. He loves to give us good gifts. She is a gift from Him, practically wrapped up in a big bow, just waiting for us! When God gave her to us, He was saying, “I love you so much I want to give you something beautiful to care for and love.”

And isn't that what God is trying to show us in everything that He has made? The world in its expansive beauty. The warmth and life we can receive from healthy and pure relationships with our families and God's people. Mountains, trees, oceans and backyard gardens.

God is writing His love letters to us with everything that grows and everything that flows, astounds and towers over us in nature. He is, in essence, sending us flowers, chocolates and poetry



in the everyday pleasures of healthy family life: hugs, kisses and family devotion.

It seems to me that God is a romantic. What beautiful gifts He showers us with! Christ is to be our bridegroom, after all, our fiancé. It is only fitting that He should love us so and create a world of beauty for us to enjoy.

Our new baby is a pinnacle of the beauty I have been blessed to behold in my life. She has opened my heart to a new level of worship for our great beauty-bestowing God. God's message to us in the world He has made is so clear when we choose to listen: “I love you, I love you, I love you!”

*Joy Porter
Cincinnati East,
Ohio, congregation*

Serve and Have the Best Feast Ever!

The year was 1986. I was in the one place I had dreamed of visiting, if only once in my life, Africa! I had lots of excess tithes in my pocket, and I had met my future husband! How could my first Feast of Tabernacles ever be topped!

Well, it took 20 more Feasts, but my first dream Feast has been topped. You might ask, “How?” Well, it was topped by serving.

An announcement had been made that ushers were needed for the Jekyll Island, Georgia, Feast site, and since that's where we were headed and my husband and two sons were serving on the parking crew, I decided to offer my services as an usher. How hard could it be? At home on the Sabbath I helped with hymnals anyway. Sometimes I helped with the count.

My family and I arrived ahead of time for the scheduled parking and ushering meetings, which gave us an opportunity to meet the sound crew and Mike and Nancy Fike. While waiting for the meetings to begin, we assisted Mr. Fike with setting up the chairs. Then I helped count out the

Holy Day offering envelopes that the ushers would make available the next day. That's when it hit me. I was assisting with God's work! Wow!

While my husband and the boys attended the meeting for the parking crew, I attended the meeting for the ushers. We were given information packets to review, sections of the hall were allocated to each of us and after a few tips from the old-timers, we were told to report for duty that night one hour before services.

One hour before opening night services I had reported for duty. But I started worrying. What did you get yourself into, Faye! You are the biggest chicken you know, and you volunteered to do what? At home a good crowd might mean 80 or 90 people. The Feast? We're talking about over 1,000! Where's the nearest exit?

There was nothing I could do now. I couldn't back out of my duties, so I prayed. “God, give me the wisdom and courage I need to serve your people here at the Feast.”

And do you know what? God gave me the courage to do what I was there for—to be about my Father's business.

After the initial shock, I relaxed and did my job of ushering. I passed out hymnals and found seats. By the end of services, I knew I could handle the job and would enjoy it too! I met more people at this Feast than I had in the last 19 Feasts put together.

I made the first move to introduce myself and made new friends. It wasn't just “good morning” and move along. I stayed and we talked. I just plain had a blast!

Twenty years ago I asked the question, “How could my first Feast of Tabernacles ever be topped?” It was topped by serving.

Want to have the best Feast ever? Serve!

*Faye Mongbeh
Miami, Florida, congregation*

Pottery Class

I think that God, as Creator, gave us a need to create with our own hands. This can be expressed in many ways. Some paint or sculpt, some design (objects, buildings, clothing, etc.), some build and some make music.

I find this thought fascinating because God Himself works with His hands. In Genesis 2:7 we are told that God “formed man of the dust of the ground.” The Hebrew word for “formed” indicates something being molded.

A few months ago, my wife enrolled our twins in a pottery class in which they learn different techniques of working clay. Anson and Elysia have both enjoyed these classes very much, but I was told they wouldn't be bringing home their pieces until the end of the classes because the pieces would not be completely done until the last class.

God molded the first man in the Garden of Eden and has been seeking to mold men since. Each vessel is unique, shaped by God's hand, refined and put through the fire to make it more valuable and precious.

Isaiah 64:8 tells us, “But now, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.”

How well are we letting God shape us? Can we glimpse the future beauty we will have after the firing and glazing that takes place to give us our godly touches? I can hardly imagine what God, as the Master Potter, has in store for each and every one of us.

What an exciting time it will be when we all find out—when our class is done!

*Dan Dowd
Pastor of the Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, congregations*

Turning the Hearts . . . Hats Off to the Single Parent

Nearly 30 percent of children under age 18 live in a single-parent home—23 percent with their mothers and 5 percent with their fathers. Most single parents didn't choose to rear their children by themselves. Often divorce, death or premarital pregnancy causes a person to become a single parent.

Being a single parent is not an easy task. Having to bear the responsibility for providing food and shelter is difficult enough, but teaching and modeling proper behavior is an additional load for the single mom or dad to bear. Then there is the need to show love and give attention to the needs of each child without the aid of the other parent. For mothers with sons, this is particularly difficult. Male children need the example of a man. While moms can try to play ball or wrestle with their sons, there is still a need for masculine influence. Male family members such as an uncle or cousin or grandfather may be of assistance.

Daughters living with their dads may also need the additional influence of a female from the family to help them be adjusted. In my studies and observations of families, I see the need for daughters to have a mom as an example and a dad as a strength and support in their lives. I see sons needing the example and model of a dad in their lives, while a mom supplies the warmth and support.

God made children to need both. However, when that ideal is not reachable, many single parents do outstanding jobs making sure their loved children get the best they have to offer. Then they rely on support from family and friends to supply what the single parents may lack.

May single parents continue to rely on God to help them carry the responsibility meant for two that has been bestowed on them. God is the Father of the fatherless and will defend single moms (Psalm 68:5).

Please know that God will be there for the children as revealed in this reassuring passage in the Psalms. “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me” (Psalm 27:10).

May God continue to bless all of the single parents in handling the heritage that has been bestowed upon them (Psalm 127:3).



Gary E. Antion

Children's Corner Trumpets Scripture Scramble

Unscramble the puzzle below to read what happens when the seventh trumpet sounds, as pictured by the Feast of Trumpets. The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not necessarily in the order they appear. A black square means the end of a word. When you have placed all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read the scripture across the diagram from left to right. Note: Some words continue on the next line. The solution can be found in Revelation 11:15 (New King James Version). Have a great Feast!

O	H	E	N	L	I	N	E	O	O	M	S	O	O	C	C	T	R	G	S
T	W	O	K	K	N	E	H	A	F	N	D	I	L	V	C	O	M	E	I
H	R	A	R	E	N	G	G	O	A	S	A	L	F	F	O	U	H	I	L
T	F	O	R	D	D	D	R	D	S	E	H	B	S		E	R	R		N
				A	V	H			M	H			E		R				S

Upper photo courtesy Joy Porter; lower photo © 2007 Jupiterimages Corporation



Local Church Updates

Phoenix Preteens Perform Play on Miracles

On a hot and happy Sabbath June 16, the Phoenix, Arizona, Northwest congregation witnessed the reenactment of four amazing miracles! The congregation's preschoolers, Sabbath school group and teen helpers, a total of about 20 young people, performed a play titled "The Miracles of Christ," written and produced by Gale Maranville.



Phoenix Northwest preteens play the disciples giving loaves and fishes to the 5,000

The children, excited to show what they learned throughout the year about the life of Jesus Christ, performed four different acts depicting Christ's miracles of water into wine, loaves and fishes, the 10 lepers healed and Lazarus being raised from the dead.

Randy Schreiber, pastor of the congregation, felt the play was important for the children and adults alike. "We wanted to have the children close out the Sabbath school year by doing something to help them internalize the lessons through active participation and to show the congregation what they were learning," he said. "I believe that this type of activity brings the whole church together."

Parents and teachers of the Sabbath school children directed each act, and the play participants spent several months in preparation for the performance. Lissa Chambers created elaborate costumes for the event, while teens and parents created the sets, which gave a genuine feel to the performance.

Sydney Bose, a performer who played major roles of Mary and the disciple Andrew, said, "The costumes were my favorite part of the play because they were so cool looking." Several teens and young adults also participated in the performance, either in a narrating role or as backstage directors.

At the end of the four acts, several of the children recited a poem containing the New Testament books of the Bible. Cassie Chambers, who played Martha in one act and the disciple Philip in another, said, "The poem was my favorite part of the play because it was so fun." Her brother Coleton, who played various roles, commented that the poem was one of the main things he will remember from being in the play.

Both the play participants and the audience enjoyed the experience. Pat Paisley, a longtime member and great-grandmother of one of the performers, commented: "It's wonderful to see that the children are learning so much in Sabbath school, and that they are so excited to learn and know about God's ways and be a part of this Church. I really enjoyed it."

The children learned important lessons from enacting the stories. When asked what they learned, a few actors responded: "God can heal many people." "We should help people when they need something

questions from the workbook. Parents shared circumstances or events that illustrated how that lesson was put into practice and how their children responded.

After the review, a 45-minute DVD presentation expounded that evening's lesson. After the DVD lesson we took a 15-minute break. Often this meant dessert or at least a cup of coffee. Following the break was another discussion period giving the class an opportunity to reflect on the DVD. They could ask questions or share their experiences, either as a child years ago or as a parent now. We normally finished by 9 p.m. The 10 a.m. Sabbath morning class had the same format, only they enjoyed a lunch after class and prior to the start of church services.

Everyone felt the material and lessons were well worth the time and effort. Many wanted to go through the teen program next. Specific plans to offer the teen program or repeat this class have not been determined. But judging by the interest and the number of children being born, I think there will be parenting education scheduled periodically for years to come.

Jim Servidio

Louisville Makes New Home

The Louisville, Kentucky, congregation had an extra air of excitement the Sabbath of July 14, as it opened the doors of its newly remodeled church hall to both the local congregation and many visitors.

The project—transforming the home of a printing company into a church hall—spanned more than two months time and required hundreds of volunteer hours by local members. Major renovations included recarpeting, painting walls and floors, tiling bathroom floors, landscaping outside the hall, building a stage with a curtain backdrop and installing new toilets, sinks, mirrors, doors, light fixtures, cabinets, stoves, refrigerators and windows.

The Sabbath of the hall's debut was made even more special when Mark Winner, local pastor, ordained Helen Sutherland as a deaconess and thanked her for her many years of faithful service. High school graduates Anna Zimmerman and Gordon Pennington were also recognized for their accomplishments, receiving gifts from the congregation.

Hors d'oeuvres were served before and after the service, and members were able to walk around and enjoy the nearly-finished hall. Many members had volunteered at various stages of the remodeling, but for most, it was the first chance to view the nearly completed work.



New Louisville deaconess Helen Sutherland

because the project was one we all worked on together, and we now have a home we can live in together," said Jerry Rehor, a deacon who served in a role similar to a general contractor for the project. "A lot of people contributed, and I really feel God was involved because we had the right people with the right tools volunteering at the right times."

Melissa Fergen

Preteens From 14 States Gather at Camp Tomahawk

Camp Tomahawk 2007, in Eva, Tennessee, filled to maximum capacity this year with 64 smiling preteen campers and 62 enthusiastic staff members, representing 14 different states in all!

"Staying on the Narrow Path" was our Christian Living theme this year. Courses in masculine and feminine leadership were held for the older campers. Our younger girl campers enjoyed a presentation on Esther as it relates to their role as "future princesses," including a tea party just for them. The younger boys participated in an "Architects of the Future" geocaching expedition, where



Camp Tomahawk: Lauren Kellers at kickball; Colin Dolby holds a new friend with the help of Safari Greg and Kenny Griswold (photos by Megan Fooshe)



they used a GPS to uncover tools such as compasses and flashlights. These tools were then used to direct them to the ultimate handbook, a Bible for each of them.

In addition, many activities were offered, such as a visit from a local naturalist Safari Greg, who brought along several snakes and a giant monitor lizard.

Of course, all the old familiar favorites were available again this year, such as swimming, speedaway, Olympic challenge, arts and crafts classes, the owl prow, hayride, Bible baseball, inner tubing on the lazy river ride and slipping down the water slide.

Campers and staff agreed that each year just gets better and better, and we all left with exciting memories and new friendships made.

Shari Fooshe

95-Year-Young Member Polkas at Party



Family and friends gathered on July 22 at the River Rail Banquet Hall in Shiac-ton, Wisconsin, to celebrate Ed Jurek's 95th birthday. A family-style chicken dinner

Ed Jurek turns 95

was served to 180 guests followed by dancing to favorite polka music. Mr. Jurek was the first one on the dance floor with his charming partner showing their best polka steps with energy and enthusiasm!

Mr. Jurek is looking forward to his 100th birthday party! He attends the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, congregation.

Donna D. Myers

Young Houston Musician Honored

Michele Mitchell, 16, who attends the Houston, Texas, North congregation, was featured in an article in the Winter 2007 *Piano Guild Notes* magazine showcasing young musicians' achievements.

The article pointed out that Michele has been playing piano since she was 8 and is a "Five-Year National Winner in the Guild auditions held in Houston." It mentioned that "she has also had some vocal training and performs special music at her church." It reported on her sporting activities, her interest in arts and crafts and her community service projects such as helping the elderly at a nursing

home by sewing for them and entertaining them, and helping provide clothing so "the indigent could be buried with dignity." Her future plans are "to be an architect or interior designer."

Tacoma and Olympia Teens and Young Adults Camp Out

On July 14 and 15 the Tacoma and Olympia, Washington, congregations had a campout for teens and young adults. It was hosted on a 200-acre ranch

See "Local Church Updates," page 15

Announcements

Births

Proud parents Karim and Jennifer (McDuffie) and big sisters Kayla and Kelsey are overjoyed to announce the arrival of their first son (and brother) Alex Leon Lucus Toursar Kissian on Aug. 26, 2006, weighing in at 6 pounds 15 ounces and measuring 18¾ inches long. All of



Alex Leon Lucus Toursar Kissian

God's grace in one sweet little face! Alex is the seventh grandchild of Dunwoodie and Cheryl McDuffie of the New Orleans, Louisiana, congregation.

David and Lynn Sandland are delighted to announce the safe arrival of granddaugh-



Grace Elizabeth Eksanow

ter Grace Elizabeth Eksanow, the third child of their daughter Laura Eksanow, nee Sandland. Grace joins dad, Adam, and brothers, Joel and Sam, in Darwin, at the top end of Australia. Grace is their eighth grandchild, and she arrived on June 27, 2007. All are well and Grandma Lynn is very much looking forward to kidnapping Grace on her upcoming trip to Darwin.

Steven Lee and Stephanie Mechelle Woods of the Gadsden, Alabama, congregation are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Mechelle Woods, on June 22, 2007. Lauren weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and was 19½ inches long. Proud grandparents are Nelson and Mary Woods of Henagar, Alabama; Deanie and Danny



Lauren Mechelle Woods

Phillips of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee; and Steve and Gail McDermott of Cleveland, Tennessee.

Michael and Rachel Summy, of the Gadsden, Alabama, congregation, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Jane Summy. Caroline



Caroline Jane Summy

was born on March 29, 2007, weighing 9 pounds 2 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. The happy grandparents are Dan and Jeanne Summy (Pap and Grandma) of the Wheeling, West Virginia, congregation, and George and Rhonda Allen (Puddin' and Pie) of the Gadsden congregation.

Jason and Rebecca (Warren) Dupuis of the Greensboro, North Carolina, congregation are proud to announce the arrival of their second son, Adam Joseph Dupuis.



Adam Joseph Dupuis with big brother Jacob

He arrived on Nov. 10, 2006, weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 20½ inches long. Proud grandparents include Reginald and Sandra Warren of the Portsmouth, Ohio, congregation and Margaret Dupuis of the Greensboro congregation. The picture was taken with 3-year-old brother Jacob. He welcomes Adam with open arms and loves having a playmate.

Engagements

James and Jeanne Lawrie of Spencer, Wisconsin, and Rodney and Mary Repp of Endicott, Washington, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Lisa Lynn Lawrie and Richard Alex Repp.

Lisa graduated from North Idaho College in 1999 and Eastern Washington University in 2003, and is an admissions counselor for the Job Corps in Spokane, Washington. Rick graduated from Cornell University in 1992 and the University of Idaho School of Law in 2001. He is an attorney with Witherspoon, Kelley, Davenport & Toole, P.S. in Spokane.



Richard Alex Repp and Lisa Lynn Lawrie

The couple is planning a September wedding.

Weddings

The families of Wayne Ward and Catherine Berendt are pleased to announce their marriage on Sunday, July 22, 2007.

The wedding took place in Edmonton, Alberta. Robert Berendt (father of the bride) performed the ceremony. Cathy's



Cathy and Wayne Ward

two brothers, Richard and Daniel, walked her down the aisle. Carrie Cooper, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Dale Ward, brother of the groom, was the best man. Carolyn and Max Berendt, niece and nephew of the bride, were the flower girl and ring bearer. Stephanie Berendt, niece of the bride, sang a solo. Family attended from Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and California.

The couple will reside in Edmonton and are members of the Edmonton congregation.

Gladstone and Alice Chonde of Lilongwe, Malawi, are happy to



Meshack and Tione Chonde

announce that their son, Meshack Chonde, and Tione Nyirongo were united in marriage May 13, 2007. Gladstone Chonde, father of the groom, officiated at the ceremony.

Keith Boise and Chris Singleton and Lorenzo and Celina Calderon would like to announce the marriage of their children, Jason Boise and Griselda Calderon, on June 24, 2007. The wedding took place in Navojoa, Mexico, and was performed by Larry Roybal, pastor of the Monterrey, Mexico, con-



Jason and Griselda Boise

gregation. It was an evening ceremony, followed by a reception dinner, with a show of five different dances native to the area. The couple is now living in Salem, Oregon.

Anniversaries

The Houston, Texas, South brethren hosted a beautiful and very special reception in honor of Frank and Nelda Pierce's 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 11, 2007, following services. The guests enjoyed cake and punch. A video chronicle of the Pierces' married life was shown, and the couple was presented with two beautiful framed pictures of their entire family, which included their daughter, two sons, a daughter-in-law, son-in-law and six grandchildren.

Frank and Nelda met in high school and



Nelda and Frank Pierce

were married four years later, while Frank was attending LSU working on a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering. Upon the recommendation of a friend, they began reading *The Plain Truth* magazine in 1962 and were baptized together in Houston in June 1963. Frank was later ordained a local elder in 1974.

Obituaries

Bertha Buck, a member of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation, died May 25, 2007, after a long battle with cancer.

Bertha was born Feb. 1, 1935, in Williamsville, Missouri. She married Calvin



Bertha Buck

Gene Buck and together they raised four children, Charles Franklin Buck, Michael Jeffrey Buck, Petti Jean Buck and Benjamin Dominic Gene Buck. Two sons, Charles and Benjamin, predeceased Bertha.

Bertha and Gene have lived for the last 37 years in Braggadocio, Missouri, where, for the past 14 years, they have operated Bucks' Homecare Service.

Bertha was baptized June 1, 1974. She set a wonderful example of being a strong and faithful member of God's Church. Despite the pain of her cancer, she made the four-hour round-trip to services as long as she was able.

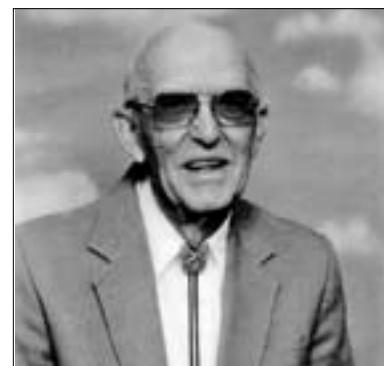
In her own right she was a Good Samaritan, opening her home and giving comfort and shelter to several who had been abused. If you had a problem, she made it her own. If you wanted someone to watch your back in a spiritual battle, Bertha was a good choice.

Bertha loved her family and her God. In fact, she just loved people. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The funeral was conducted by Rick Beam, pastor of the Cape Girardeau congregation.

Bill Steel was born July 10, 1917, and died March 3, 2007. He was 89 years of age. He was a member of the United Church of God.

Bill was a true example of God's love, and his faithfulness lasted until the end. He is survived by Bettie Steel; a son, Carl Steel of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; three daughters, Karen Spoor of Gladstone,



Bill Steel

Missouri; Lois Metz and husband Ralph of Dallas, Texas; and Donna Kay Steel of Lubbock, Texas; three grandchildren, Marissa Hallauer and husband Nick, Caitlyn and Austin Spoor; a brother, Robert L. Steel of Corpus Christi, Texas; eight stepchildren; and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

Gilbert Smith, 80, died peacefully in the Kalispell Regional Hospital on June 25, 2007, after an extended illness. He was born Oct. 4, 1926, in Livingston, Montana.



Gilbert Smith

Soon after he graduated from Livingston High School in 1944, he enlisted in the Navy for three years. He then returned to Bozeman, Montana, to attend college. Mr. Smith was appointed by Senator Mike Mansfield to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated in 1952. He served in the Navy for more than 20 years, traveling abroad to many different countries. He retired as a lieutenant commander.

In 1962 Gilbert married Winona Freitag. They were both baptized in the late 1960s. In 1987 they were ordained on the same day as deacon and deaconess. He and his wife moved from California to Whitefish, Montana, in 1990, and were two of the four founding members of the United Church of God in Montana in May of 1995. Mrs. Smith, though in declining health, still serves the congregation in Kalispell.

Mr. Smith set a sterling example of unselfish service, courageous faith and quiet generosity. Gil's love of the truth and ability to encourage others continued right up to the end. Like the apostle Paul, Gil could say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Dorothy Lathrop of Olney, Illinois, a longtime member and deaconess in God's Church, died June 14, 2007, from complications of a stroke. "Next to the definition



Dorothy Lathrop

of servant in the dictionary had to be a picture of Dorothy" was stated several times by those who knew and loved her. She faithfully cared for her 91-year-old sister Lucille until the time of her stroke.

Dorothy was a member of the Henderson, Kentucky, congregation at the time of her death. She began attending services in the early 1960s in St. Louis, Missouri; then attended in Harrisburg, Illinois; followed by Evansville, Indiana; and finally Mt. Vernon, Illinois, before becoming a part of the Henderson congregation.

Dorothy is survived by her sister, Lucille Lathrop; a sister-in-law; several nephews and nieces; along with many great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Bob Grove (a UCG deacon) stated, "I believe she had a positive influence on everybody she ever met. She will be greatly missed." A graveside service was held in Olney on June 18.

Robert Lee Gaugler, age 59, died unexpectedly on July 22, 2007, at his home in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He attended the Lewistown, Pennsylvania, congregation of UCG and was a former member of the WCG in Harrisburg and Selinsgrove. Robert will be remembered as one of the



Robert Lee Gaugler

kindest men in the world, an expert carpenter and avid gardener. He loved to surf the Internet, travel, study religion and history and make people feel important.

His father, Edwin C. Gaugler, died in April 2007. He is survived by his mother, Gladys (Reinard) Gaugler, and his wife of 28 years, Patty M. (Bogol) Gaugler, and five cats. He is also survived by his four sisters, Mary Wilhide, Rose Massie, Linda Zeigler and Kathy Charles, and 21 nieces and nephews.

Patti Kyle, 65, died peacefully on July 10, 2007, with her children at her bedside. She had been a faithful baptized member of God's Church since the early 1970s, attending in Youngstown, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Kyle Sr., in 2006.

As a homemaker, she enjoyed sewing, gardening, farming and entertaining Sabbath guests when her health was at its prime. She also accompanied hymns at church services for years. For many years prior to her husband's death, she was his main caregiver. After he died, she was again able to attend and enjoy Sabbath services to the fullest—always wanting to be there no matter how poorly she felt.

She is survived by her son, Bill Kyle, Jr, his wife, Jackie, and their three children, Elizabeth, Meghan and Matthew; and her daughter, Tina Rupp, her husband, Dan, and their two children, Ben and Amanda.

Tribute: Jo Anderson

Jo Anderson, wife of Seattle, Washington, elder Carl Anderson, died peacefully in her sleep July 8. She was 75 years old and suffered from cancer.

Joanne Golliet was born in Seattle Oct. 11, 1931, to Obed and Ethel Golliet. Jo's younger brother, Gene, resides in San Diego, California. She attended schools in Seattle and Elma, Washington, graduating from Elma High in 1949. Shortly after graduation Jo moved back to Seattle to live with a girlfriend and her parents and worked for Sears Roebuck in the shipping department.

In 1952 a coworker told Jo about her cousin, Carl Anderson, who was returning from overseas on a troop ship, and urged her to meet him. When he came to meet her, all they could do was gulp and say "Hi." When he returned to duty, they corresponded, and upon his discharge they were married on Oct. 17, 1953.

Mrs. Anderson continued to work for Sears until the birth of their daughter, Lynn, in 1958. She then became a stay-at-home mom. In 1960 their son, Bruce, was born. About this time her mother, who was very interested in the Radio Church of God, began sending provoking articles from *The Plain Truth*. Both Jo and Carl were baptized Aug. 12, 1961, by then pastor Jim Friddle and ministerial assistant Dean Wilson. Life was busy with being a wife and mother.

In 1971 the Anderson family moved to Pasadena, California, along with many other families from the Seattle area, to help with the building expansion of the Church headquarters. There was a financial slump in 1974, so Jo and Carl volunteered to return to Seattle.

The Seattle congregation in the 1960s and '70s offered many opportunities to serve. Both Jo and her husband became very active in serving the brethren, establishing "support groups" for those in need. Jo was ordained a deaconess in 1985, and Carl was ordained an elder in 1987.

Jo was very spiritually minded and had a very loving and accepting way of working with people. She was greatly loved by the many that she came in contact with over the years. In 2002, after returning from the Feast, she went into a deep clinical depression that she never recovered from. In April 2007 she was diagnosed with a very aggressive cancer. Cancer radiation treatment made her very sick, and so it was decided to bring her home to be comfortable with her family.

The effect of her illness caused her to sleep much of the time, but even then she would instinctively know when the Sabbath was about to begin and would inform her husband. Though no longer able to study, after the many faithful years, God's truth and Holy Spirit were solidly implanted in her mind and heart.

Seattle pastor Dennis Luker came to visit and talked to Jo about God's great love for her and His promises and the Kingdom of God. He thanked her for



Jo Anderson

the tremendous service and example she had been and of the great reward that lay in store for her. Her eyes were closed, her face serene and peaceful, and she squeezed his hand. Shortly after that she died peacefully in her sleep with her husband at her side.

Her husband said that "to say she was a Proverbs 31 wife would be a gross understatement—she was so much more. From the very beginning of her calling I honestly cannot think of a day that she missed her prayer and study time in the early morning hours. She had a deep passion for God and His people, and she served both faithfully and with a tenacious spirit. Those who knew her well lovingly referred to her as a prayer warrior."

She also enjoyed hiking, biking, being out of doors, beachcombing and square dancing.

A memorial service was held July 14 for the family and brethren in Seattle.

Funeral services were held on July 14 with David Myers officiating. Friends and family will be looking forward to the first resurrection and being reunited once again.

Taylor Henry Wilson, 5, of Killbuck, Ohio, died Aug. 8, 2007. Funeral services were held Aug. 12 in Millersburg, Ohio, with elder John Miller and pastor Chris Moen officiating. Burial was at the Union Grove Cemetery.

Taylor was born June 10, 2002, in Killbuck and was the son of Ted and Beth (Schwartzrock) Wilson who attend the Mansfield, Ohio, congregation.

Taylor will be forever remembered for his incredibly special smile and his unquenchable spirit. He left his mark of complete happiness on everyone he knew. To say our Taylor is missed by all his family and friends is an understatement. We miss our "Taylor Bug" more than words can express. We know "Tayls" made a



Taylor Henry Wilson

tremendous difference in our lives and pray he will continue to positively impact everyone by the memory of his five years God gave to us. We anxiously await the day we shall all meet again.

Taylor is survived by his parents, Ted

and Beth; his twin brothers, Samuel and Luke, 3; a sister, Lauryn, 1; paternal grandparents, Tom and Regina Wilson of Glenmont, Ohio; his aunt, Risa Wilson, and soon-to-be uncle, David Kennebeck; maternal grandparents, Gerald and Ardelle Schwartzrock of Hawley, Minnesota; his aunt, Dawn (Aaron) Booth; his uncles, Lee (Jane), Todd (Christine), Brent (Kathy), Shawn (Heather) and Sherwin (Leah) Schwartzrock; and his 12 cousins.

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

"Local Church Updates," continued from page 13

owned by members near Mt. Rainier, Washington. The setting was on a beautiful, wooded hillside overlooking Alder Lake. The weather was great, and there were 68 people in attendance.

On Sabbath morning we enjoyed a big community breakfast, including the now-famous cream of wheat dish, with chocolate and walnuts! Fred Reeves gave a Bible study, and Howard Davis gave the sermon. Dinner was another community affair, with barbecued salmon, baked potatoes and corn on the cob.

Sunday morning everyone headed up



Group photo at Tacoma and Olympia teen and young adult camp out (photo by Michelle Pate)

the hill for some skeet shooting and target practice. After lunch some went to Alder

Lake for waterskiing and swimming. Cheryl Reeves

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

conference. He indicated that the Holiday Inn Eastgate in Cincinnati, Ohio, which has been the site of the last several conferences, is not available in 2008. Meeting coordinator Charles Melear reported that venues in other cities in the general area are being investigated (including the greater-Cincinnati area; Columbus, Ohio; and Louisville, Kentucky).

The Council selected the general theme of "Increasing Spiritual Maturity and Wisdom." Jim Franks commented that the subject would complement the current series of regional conferences for elders. The task force will report back to the Council in the December meetings with more specifics.

Council Committee Members Announced

At the Council of Elders meeting Aug. 8, the members and chairmen of the four Council committees were finalized:

- Roles and Rules: Bob Berendt, Aaron Dean, Bill Eddington (chairman), Roy Holladay and Leon Walker.
- Doctrine: Bob Berendt, Jim Franks, Richard Pinelli, Larry Salyer, Richard Thompson and Leon Walker (chairman).
- Ethics: Aaron Dean, Clyde Kilough, Victor Kubik (chairman), Richard Pinelli and Richard Thompson.
- Strategic Planning and Finance: Bob Berendt, Aaron Dean, Bill Eddington, Jim Franks, Roy Holladay (chairman), Victor Kubik and Larry Salyer.

New Council Reporter Named

The Council of Elders approved a new Council reporter to replace Don Henson, who steps down after serving for nearly five years. John Foster will take over the responsibility starting with the December 2007 meetings. Mr. Foster is the pastor of the Princeton and Charleston, West Virgin-

ia, and Roanoke, Virginia, congregations and also serves on the Personal Correspondence team.

Elder Expulsion Appeal Committee Announced

The GCE was recently asked to select elders to serve on the Elder Expulsion Appeal Committee. Of 466 elders, 240 cast valid ballots. All members of the committee were replaced. As per bylaw instructions, Secretary Dave Johnson determined the length of the term for each member by a random drawing.

The elders elected to the committee and the length of their terms are as follows: Allan Hambleton (4 years), Vernon Hargrove (5), Darris McNeely (4), Ken Murray (5), Dan Salcedo (4), Arthur Suckling (4) and Robin Webber (5).

John Cafourek and Bill Winner were selected as alternates.

Fragrance-Free Seating Resolutions Pass

Aug. 5 Jim Franks led the Council of Elders through a discussion of the issue of providing fragrance-free seating when possible in local congregations and at Feast sites. Announcements are to be made prior to the Feast to inform members what steps can be taken at each individual site. Resolutions to provide fragrance-free seating when possible in local congregations and at the Feast both passed unanimously.

Winter Camp Coming in December

Winter Camp is just around the corner. Camp will be in Montello, Wisconsin, from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1. Activities include basketball, broom hockey, cross-country skiing, dance class, ice skating, indoor games, team challenge, tubing, volleyball and more. The evening activities will include Christian Living, game night and the end-of-camp dance.



What's New on the Web?

■ **UCG International Offices.** Learn more about the United Church of God in international areas by visiting the UCG international office Web sites at www.ucg.org/about/international.htm.

■ **Bible Study Course.** Access all 12 lessons of the

■ **UCG Weekly Commentary.** Access weekly commentaries on current world news and trends. Our archives section contains over 200 informative commentaries on various topics. Some recent ones include: "Earth, an Un-Peopled Planet?" "Financial Stability in Unstable Conditions" "Has Basic Morality Ceased to Be Important?"

■ **Bible Study Course.** Access all 12 lessons of the

Applications should be filled out online at www.ucg.org/youthcamps. Tuition is \$195. Please make a note of the details regarding airport transportation when searching for flights. If you have any questions, contact Gary Black at (651) 769-8802 or gary_black@ucg.org.

Gary Black

AC/AU/ABC Alumni Chorale Members Invited to Sing in Louisville

Former Ambassador College/University and ABC chorale members are invited to participate in the Winter Family Alumni Chorale. This year the chorale will be singing four or five selections for special music on the Sabbath, Dec. 22, in Louisville, Kentucky. If you would like to participate, please send your name and address along with the part you sing to Michelle de Campos at michelle_decampos@ucg.org. She will be assisting in getting everyone organized and the music sent out right after the Feast.

Kenneth Shoemaker

Salt Lake Announces Ski Weekend

Once again, the Salt Lake City, Utah,

Bible Study Course online at www.ucg.org/bsc/.

■ **UCG Weekly Commentary.** Access weekly commentaries on current world news and trends. Our archives section contains over 200 informative commentaries on various topics. Some recent ones include: "Earth, an Un-Peopled Planet?" "Financial Stability in Unstable Conditions" "Has Basic Morality Ceased to Be Important?"

"Minneapolis Bridge Collapse: Why God Allows Disasters!" www.ucg.org/commentary/

Featured Link

■ **Good News magazine** Web site. www.gnmagazine.org



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

es. Any offering given at an international Feast site will be kept locally and no donation receipt will be issued for those funds.

Tom Kirkpatrick

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 5: Joel Meeker leaves for Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon, Togo, Ivory Coast.
- Oct. 20-21: ABC continuing education classes in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Oct. 22-24: Camp directors' meeting.
- Oct. 25: Challenger II camp meeting.
- Oct. 27-28: ABC continuing education classes in Chicago, Illinois.
- Nov. 10-11: Twin Cities Women's Conference
- Nov. 11-13: Northwest Region ministerial conference, Portland, Oregon, area.
- Nov. 17-18: ABC continuing education classes in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- Nov. 17-18: ABC continuing education classes in Spokane, Washington.
- Dec. 1-2: ABC continuing education classes in Oakland, California.
- Dec. 11-13: Council of Elders meeting.
- Dec. 21-25: Winter Family Weekend, Louisville, Kentucky (Friday evening through Tuesday late night).
- Dec. 23-25: ABC continuing education classes in Portland, Oregon.
- Dec. 24-25: ABC continuing education classes in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Dec. 27-Jan. 1: Winter Camp, Montello, Wisconsin (gary_black@ucg.org).
- Jan. 13-15, 2008: Winter Ski Weekend, Park City, Utah (jon_pinelli@ucg.org).

Twin Cities Women's Conference Set for Nov. 11

The ladies of the Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, congregations invite their sisters to join them on Nov. 10 and 11 for the 2007 Twin Cities Women's Conference.

The theme this year is "Women in the Potter's Hand," based on the reference in Isaiah 64:8.

A special keynote address will be delivered by Dee Kilough. Workshops will be given by Gale Black, DeLee Hargrove, Jane McConnaughey and Karen Meeker.

Registration will be \$40 per person. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Marriott, which is easily accessible downtown and located in the historic Minneapolis Depot. The venue is also close to the Mill City Museum and Guthrie Theatre.

Special Sabbath evening activities include a potluck and service project, "Empty Bowls."

Plan now to attend this uplifting weekend! More details and online registration can be found at www.ucgstp.org/womensconference. Please contact Colene Erickson if you have questions. You can reach her by e-mail at ericksoncc@comcast.net or by telephone at (651) 714-4054.

Colene Erickson



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