Council Chooses New Treasurer

In a July 29 teleconference the Council of Elders chose Aaron Dean as its next treasurer and Financial Services operation manager. Mr. Dean, 38, will assume his new duties at the end of the Council of Elders meetings scheduled for Aug. 9-11.

Mr. Dean is well known to Church of God members from his long association with Herbert Armstrong, whom he served as executive assistant with Herbert Armstrong, marketing director for Agpro Systems of Big Sandy, Texas, and as internal vice president and chief financial officer of the Ambassador Foundation and on the boards of that foundation, the Worldwide Church of God, the King Leopold III Foundation, Imperial Medical Technologies and the Worldwide Church of God.

He has worked most recently as marketing director for Agpro Systems of Big Sandy, Texas, and as a business consultant.

Mr. Dean earned an MBA in management and finance from California State University, Los Angeles, in 1990 and began work on a doctoral degree in business administration at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.

From 1989-1997 he was associate business professor at Ambassador University.

Aaron Dean

UCY Kicks Off Summer Season

by Ken Treybig

United Youth Camps are off to a great start this year! So far, four camps have been completed. Two more summer camps will run in August, and Winter Camp will take place in late December.

One critical point identified in the United Youth Camps operating manual was that camp supports parents. The topic of family values is such a rich platform from which to teach godly principles that apply to both our physical and spiritual lives.

This year we focused on this message with the camp theme “In Loco Parentis: How Camp Supports Family.”

For one week in the year camp staff take up the parental duty of caring for the needs, safety and nurturing of campers both physically and spiritually. At camp we reinforce the key biblical understanding that God is a family and that He is adding to that family.

At the end of each camp week we survey campers, staff and parents to get their assessment of the year’s session. The final results will not be known until all the surveys are collected and analyzed, but preliminary reports indicate that the focused subject of family connected well with both campers and staff.

One 14-year-old wrote, “I love this camp! It’s like my second home.”

Some of my best friends I met are at camp! It’s like my second home.

The camp team deeply appreciates your support and prayers as we look forward to the completion of this year’s camp program.

Go to pages 4 and 5 to read UYC camp reports.

Free Bible Study Guides Grow Quickly in First Six Months

by Mike Bennett

Since our launch at the end of last year, the FreeBibleStudyGuides.org Web site has been growing rapidly. Nearly 40,000 unique visitors came to the site in the six months from January through June. Many people returned, with almost 20,000 repeat sessions for a total of 59,368 visits. The average visit was 5 minutes and 26 seconds. (We'd love to see all those numbers go up, so if you have found the site helpful, feel free to tell your friends!)

We have posted 45 lessons and more than 100 of the short studies we call “Bible Tips.” Another dozen lessons are in the editing and review stage, and dozens more are planned.

So far, we have received more than 250 comments and questions from readers, and we have responded to most of them.

Students come from 60 countries around the world, from Antigua and Barbuda to Zambia. The top 10 countries are:

- United States
- South Africa
- Canada
- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Singapore
- New Zealand
- Netherlands
- Italy
- Norway

More than 15,000 searches led people to the Free Bible Study Guides site. What were they searching for? Of the top 50 searches, 10 were for various combinations of the words “Free Bible Study Guides” and related terms. Another 27 of the top 50 were terms related to our armor of God series, totaling about 1,500 searches. We are hoping that other newer lessons will also be quickly indexed by the search engines and will bring in more searchers.

We are beginning to see that with the six new lessons posted at the end of June, The Free Bible Study Guides site came up on the first results page when we searched for the following phrases on Google on July 14:

- “Bible study substance abuse.”
- “Bible study eating disorders.”
- “Bible study self-injury.”

Our press releases, blog posts and Facebook posts also appear on the first page of results, as an indication of how we are trying to spread the word. Though these exact terms are not searched for a lot, we pray that the lessons will be found by those who need the help and hope these Bible studies give.

Beyond Today Reports Initial WGN Response

by Peter Eddington

Beyond Today has seen a steady increase in viewer response since its initial airing on WGN America on July 11, 2010. For that first program, “Getting Control of Your Money,” phone and Internet response from WGN, cable-access and Vision TV in Canada, totaled 569 responses.

Response to the next program, “The Rapture: Fact or Fiction,” totaled 724. Our third program, “Europe: A New Superpower on the Rise,” which aired Sunday, July 25, topped the phone response figures from the first two programs at 651 responses.

The Beyond Today Web site, www.BeyondToday.tv, has also seen a considerable increase in Web traffic as a result of the three programs airing on WGN. The Web site usually has between 400 and 700 daily visitors throughout the week, however, a total of 1,152 people visited the site on the day the program “Getting Control of Your Money” aired.

A Google Internet managing editor, reported that on the following two Sundays a total of 1,682 and 1,374 people, respectively, visited the Web site.

Upcoming programs in August include “Reincarnation: Will You Live Again?” “In Search of Angels and Demons,” “For Heaven’s Sake!” and “God’s Holy Day Plan: Blueprint for Salvation.” Beyond Today airs Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (Eastern Time) on WGN.

Thank you for your excellent ongoing support and encouragement. Your continued prayers for the success of all the Church’s media efforts are most needed and appreciated.
Profile: New President Dennis Luker

Dennis Luker was born in 1937 about 100 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee, near Union City. His parents moved north to find work and settled in Plymouth, Michigan, where most of Luker’s education was completed. After high school, he attended college at the University of Delaware and earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering. After graduating, he was offered a job by North American Aviation in the Los Angeles area. This is where Mr. Luker first came into contact with the Church.

While working for North American Aviation, he met another engineer who was a member of the Church. He introduced Mr. Luker to the Radio Church of God (as it was called then) and Ambassador College in Pasadena. He was intrigued and took a leave from his job to attend Ambassador College, expecting to return to engineering later. Mr. Luker was baptized in the spring of 1960, ordained a minister in graduation in 1963 and sent into the field to pastor three churches—but not alone.

Mr. Luker married his wife, LeeAnn (Livengood), after graduation, and they have been happily married for over 47 years. Mr. Luker says that her love and faithful service has positively impacted his life and ministry more than anyone apart from God Himself. They have two children, Steve and Leah, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Luker have served congregations in California, Minnesota, Washington, Arizona and Australia. They deeply love the brethren, God’s people, and want to do their best to encourage them in word and word. For example, Mr. Luker says, “There is no greater joy than helping them on their spiritual journey into the Kingdom of God and eternal life.”

As Mr. Luker looks to the future, he believes his greatest challenge as president will be to help keep everyone focused on Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and the mission He has given us to preach the gospel and prepare a people. Mr. Luker hopes to set an example of faith and trust in Jesus Christ as He leads and directs us in the fulfillment of His great work of proclaiming the coming Kingdom of God and His true plan of salvation for all mankind.

FORWARD! We Are His Witnesses

by Peter Eddington

In today’s world many claims have been converted, but the evidence for mature Church members in their daily lives is slim in society around us. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; but there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in faithful obedience. As members of God’s Church, what kind of an impact do we have on people in our day-to-day business? Are we being “witnesses” of the gospel—witnesses of Jesus Christ’s way in our daily dealings?

Are we helping the work of God move forward? Are we seen as faithful disciples, apprenticed to the Master?

The Early Church Example

The early Church saw a need to strive in completing the work begun by Jesus Christ to them. Of course, we have the same need as individual Christians and as a Church. We are to be witnesses of the way that Christ taught. How are we doing?

Notice how Jesus answered His disciples when they asked a pointed question about the timing of His Kingdom:

“Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:6-8).

The New Revised Standard Version puts it this way: “And you will be my witnesses.”

Our Example

This is a critical part of our calling—to represent our Father and Jesus Christ in the appropriate manner. We are witnesses to the world of God’s way of life—doing our personal part to show the family of God in action, showing where God is working.

Whether we realize it or not, each of us are very much on the front lines each day as we go to work, attend classes at school, interact with repairmen at our home, go shopping—and even as curious people ask questions about what we believe and why. We need to remember that we are representing Jesus Christ and our Father in many ways. We need to watch our step, our demeanor, our appearance and our conduct at all times.

We’re part of God’s family—working together to represent Him, the witness that He is God’s unique witness. We want to ensure that the witness we give to those around us is foundationally secure and helping God’s cause, not hindering it.

Now is when we have to be most vigilant in our duties. Now is when we must do the work given to us. We must be living righteously in preparation for the return of the Bridegroom for the wedding supper, truly showing God’s way in all that we do.

Peter Eddington is interim manager of Media and Communications Services.
Caribbean Youths Receive Scholastic Recognition

A number of youths in the Caribbean area excelled during their studies this year. Elijah Basant, who is 4½ years old, graduated from Happy Child Nursery School. His parents Steve and Marsha, of the Trinidad and Tobago congregation, are very thankful to their Heavenly Father that Elijah performed well at school and was chosen to be valedictorian.

For the ceremony, he delivered the opening prayer and valedictory speech. He was also awarded the best all-round student (male) and the best student in language (male) and received certificates for swimming and kang-fu.

Alyssa Turnquest, age 8, the daughter of Kevera and Janace Turnquest (members of the Freeport and Grand Bahama congregations) received honorable recognition at the end of this school year for showing an outstanding Christian attitude.

Alyssa is a gift to a child who not only shows a good Christian attitude, but exemplifies compassion and comfort to others. They also must be giving, have good manners, and possess a friendly attitude toward not only their teacher, but their peers also.

Jad William Alex Atkinson topped the Guyana National Grade 6 Examination for the Rupununi Region with 542 marks out of a possible 565. The top student of the country gained 555 marks. As a result, he has been granted a place at Guyana’s most prestigious secondary school, The Queen’s College. This result, automatically gives him the Hinterland Scholarship.

Jad has always been an avid reader and a diligent worker. Very attentive and blessed with a fantastic memory, he has always been expected to do well. He served for two consecutive years as president of the student governing body, declining a third term so as to concentrate on his exams. Jad is son of Gary and Claudine Atkinson, who attend the congregation in Rupununi.

UCG—British Isles Holds Annual Meeting

by David Fenny

The annual general meeting of United Church of God—British Isles was held on Sunday, July 25. During the business session of the meeting, the British Isles National Council reappointed Bryan Ellams and Brian Cook as well as Carl Torcetti as members of the Council. Barbara Fenney was also reappointed as treasurer. The budget for the financial year ending June 30, 2011, was ratified.

Chairman Bryan Ellams reported that the work of the Council and Church has continued throughout the year, including four quarterly meetings of the Council, the work of the Council’s committees and efforts to involve the Church’s young adults in the work of the Council. He finished by thanking the members and officers of the National Council for their efforts throughout the year.

During the treasurer’s report, copies of the independent examiner’s report for the financial year ending June 30, 2009, were made available. Provisional accounts for the financial year ending June 30, 2010, were also made available. Mrs. Fenny reported that with a number of invoices still to come in, it is anticipated that there will be a small surplus for the year. Some restructuring of the chart of accounts had taken place during the year.

The budget for the financial year ending June 30, 2011, was presented. Overall income and expenditures are projected to be a little less than in the previous year just ended due to the recession. Small small surpluses from previous years have been included to allow for more advertising. An amount already put aside for a print advertisement is also included.

Future Plans for the Year

After the treasurer’s report, Peter Hawkins said that a conservative budget has been proposed for this new financial year. The Council will have to consider a potential for changes in the needs of some congregations due to changing demographics and members relocating to other areas.

Another challenge is a possible decision to extend the office lease for 2013 onwards, including locating any new office facility and considering the needs of both current and future employees. The future of the Good News radio program needs to be adapted for use in Ireland.

Also, the British Isles Web site, http://ucg.org.uk, needs to be upgraded. In addition, a U.K. Internet domain name for the Church has been acquired but not yet developed, and e-mail correspondence with subscribers needs to be developed.

Ministerial Meeting

A ministerial meeting took place prior to the annual general meeting. A discussion took place regarding options for a print advertisement for The Good News and other Church literature. An ad will be targeted for around November 2010, with the subject matter to be coordinated with an article in the November-December issue of the British Isles Supplement to The Good News.

Additionally, future Feast site selections of Winchester, England, in 2011 and Llandudno, Wales, in 2012 were confirmed. The ministry then considered how to respond to growth in the Church, including the need to encourage new attendees to plan to attend the Feast.

Senior pastor Paul Suckling made reference to Dennis Luker’s recent letter to the ministry about the present challenges facing the Church, recommending that we should pray and fast about the situation. He then reviewed a PowerPoint presentation “Ministerial Calling: Maturing Relationships” from the GCE meeting in 2008.

His presentation highlighted the contrasting roles of pastors and elders within the framework of the United Church of God’s congregations.
Good Works: Organize a Fund-Raiser in Your Local Congregation

by Larry Greider

The Scriptures are clear about brethren helping brethren. We read in 1 John 3:17, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” The Good Works Program of the United Church of God currently has many urgent, need-based projects. Many approved projects are requesting tens of thousands of dollars.

While we are few in number and living in a difficult economic time, our influence in the lives of many people around the world is still considerable. Our Heavenly Father has all the resources and can provide for us. We are blessed and challenged to work together to accomplish vital goals, including bringing in additional funds to assist our brethren.

Local fund-raising can help generate attention to the needs of others as well as raise money to help our brethren and prepare our young adults and other potential leaders. If you want to help:

- Suggest a possible Good Works fund-raiser to your pastor.
- Pick from one of the current projects or send an e-mail to larry_greider@ucg.org for more ideas.

Help Nigerian Brethren Purchase a New Van

One current need is for a large van for our brethren in Nigeria. According to Oludare Akinbo, who is an elder in Nigeria, and Fred Kellers, who is the senior pastor for the region, the brethren in Nigeria are requesting assistance from the Good Works Program to purchase a new van. The van would be used to transport people and equipment to the Feast of Tabernacles, public Bible lectures, and other church activities. It would also be used to carry Youth Corps members and campers to the rock climbing venue and other camp activities.

The Previa van currently in use only carries seven people (although in Africa, it is surprising how many people can actually fit into a van!). It has served the brethren for many years, but has also been involved in an accident where it rolled over seven times.

A Hiace van can hold at least 15 passengers and will provide much greater service. The Lagos brethren would enjoy the use of this van to visit other members in Nigeria.

If you can help, please contact us and visit our new Good Works Web site, http://goodworks.ucg.org. We would love to add new content including news of your fund-raiser with pictures of participants, projects, etc.

You can also click on “Current Projects” and see what is being sponsored. www.Good Works has a number of projects listed at http://goodworks.ucg.org that need financial assistance. You can help by organizing a local fund-raiser!

Fund-Raising Ideas

Having trouble thinking of a fund-raiser your congregation could do? Here’s a list of possible fund-raising ideas you could try:

- White elephant/yard sale.
- Car wash.
- Dog wash.
- Cake walk/bake sale.
- Silent auction.
- Coin drop.
- Kids’ carnival.
- Gently used clothing resale.
- Refreshment stand at Church socials.
- Boxed lunch/dinner auction.
- Window washing.
- Race sponsorship (running, cycling, triathlon, etc. with proceeds going to Good Works).
- Teen service sale (rent a teen for a day to clean out a garage, do yard work, paint or complete other projects around the house).
- Work projects (painting houses, building fences, house repairs, etc. with proceeds going to Good Works).

Camper Go Gaga Over Camp Carter

by Andy Burnett

A total of 92 campers and 42 staff gathered to experience Camp Carter, located at the YMCA facility in Fort Worth, Texas, July 4 to 11. The majority of campers hailed from Texas, but we also hosted campers from as far away as Iowa, southern Florida, Ohio and western Canada.

Pastors Andy Burnett, Britt Taylor, Dave Treybig and Ken Treybig presented Compass Checks, Christian Living classes and Sabbath messages based on the “Camp Supports Family” theme and the importance of the family unit in God’s eyes. Campers learned about how God provides our physical, camp and church families to help us better grasp how He works with us in building His spiritual family.

Ambassador Bible Center Coordinator Gary Antion delivered the final Compass Check on Friday, citing the importance of our example and noting that others are looking at us as we represent God and His way of life.

Campers participated in a variety of activities (horseback riding, water-skiing and tubing, low and high ropes elements, rock wall climbing, skeet shooting, archery, dancing, crafts and a slew of other sports activities). We introduced a new activity this year called “gaga ball.” It’s a form of dodge ball, which originated in Israel and is becoming very popular at camp facilities across the nation.

Up to 30 players compete against one another in a small octagonal-walled court with one rubber kickball. Players attempt to strike or bat the ball with their hands at their opponents. Opponents are “out” only if the ball strikes them on or below the knee. The lone player left is the winner. The game is quite safe, fast-paced and a blast to play. Each game only takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete, and the campers loved it.

Campers also enjoyed two dances during camp. Dance instructor Jonathan Magee taught an original dance, “The Camp Line Dance”—coming soon to a church dance near you! Friday evening before sunset, campers were treated to sirloin steak and chicken from the grill with all the fixings. Other activities included open activities in the evenings, campfires, a fun show, camp poem dorm interpretations, Bible Q&A nights with ministerial and senior staff and a Bible dorm challenge after sunset on Friday night.

As campers said good-bye Sunday morning, many reflected most on the friendships they had made and strengthened the previous week, happy to have been with other youths who share similar beliefs and happy to have been part of the camp family. Hopefully, they will be able to make the correlation of how thankful they should be for their physical families—families that are part of a greater Church family that has Jesus Christ as its Brother and the Almighty God as its Father.

Go to http://www.ucg.org to find more information about United Youth Camps.
Camp Family Bonds Strengthened in the Zone at Hye Sierra

by Paul Carter

High in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada, Camp Hye Sierra began with great enthusiasm and excitement. As staff arrived for training on Friday, July 2, the Zone environment quickly began to formulate and the staff pulled together in a common spirit to carry that Zone throughout camp. Campers came from all four corners of the United States as well as from Canada and New Zealand. The diversity added to the unique blend of campers and staff. This year the camp was almost equally divided with 56 guys and 55 girls, for a total of 111 campers.

Campers and staff visited the Sequoia National Park to see the world’s largest living things—giant sequoias. Campers enjoyed hikes through the big trees and were able to enjoy a part of the country that is unforgettable. The views from Moro Rock were magnificent, as they overlook the valleys below. The rock climbing experience was just as rewarding.

The Christian Living and Compass Check messages this year followed the theme of “In Loco Parentis: How Camp Supports Family.” Three different types of family were discussed, the physical family, the Church family and the family of God. The unity and family environment that were created at camp were very apparent. It was very encouraging to see many campers and staff at campfire in the evening wanting to come forward and recognize others for their service, determination, successes and accomplishments.

Many first-time campers and staff expressed how they were overwhelmed by the environment of camp. They had heard others talk about camps and the Zone, and the camp video was excellent this year; but they agreed that until they experienced camp, it was hard to imagine. The staff encouraged the campers to take what they have learned at camp and apply it in their lives and in their local areas as we move closer toward the family of God.

Extended Session

After camp, a small group continued for three days on an extended session. Four guys, two girls and three staff members this year climbed high into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, hiking 6.2 miles the first day to camp at Pear Lake. The lake provided a beautiful setting for camping, stargazing and having our outdoor Christian Living classes.

After enjoying the lake in the morning, the group hiked the 6.2 miles down, drove to Boyden Caverns and explored the inside of the cave. After crawling through the cavern, everyone slept inside an open room in the cave. After eating breakfast by the Kings River the next morning, we traveled to Ten-Mile Creek, where we hiked and canyoneered our way back down to the Kings River. Rappelling waterfalls, maneuvering along rock walls and sliding down natural waterslides, we finished at the swift river and hiked our way back to the top.

Overall, the Hye Sierra and extended session experiences were once again fabulous and created memories and new friendships that will last for eternity.

Enthusiasm and Attitudes Highlight Camp Woodmen

by Bill Johnson

A total of 118 campers and 50 staff members spent another great week at Camp Woodmen June 27 to July 4. This was the 13th year of camp at Woodmen of the World in Blountville, Alabama.

The theme this year was “In Loco Parentis: How Camp Supports Family.” All of our Christian Living messages focused on building a spiritual family. Topics included the sanctity of family, laws and standards, teamwork and the importance of love in the family. Our camp scripture for the week was Psalm 127:1: “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain” (New International Version).

The activities provided opportunities for leadership, teamwork and, most of all, fun for all the campers. Dance class, brought back this year by popular demand, taught all the young men to step up to be leaders while also teaching the ladies to follow the lead the young men were setting. At softball

Many first-time campers and staff expressed how they were overwhelmed by the environment of camp. They had heard others talk about camps and the Zone, and the camp video was excellent this year; but they agreed that until they experienced camp, it was hard to imagine. The staff encouraged the campers to take what they have learned at camp and apply it in their lives and in their local areas as we move closer toward the family of God.

The highlight this year was the enthusiasm and attitudes of the campers. Whether it was in line for meals, at the activities or singing the closing song every night, the campers were bright lights and put their hearts into everything they did.

Camp Woodmen 2010 was a place where God created the Zone once again. It was easy to see the joy that exuded from all the memories and friendships that were strengthened or built. We already look forward to next year!
Darci Dianne Barney
Parents: J.R. Barney and Sharla (Shamblin) Turner
Congregation: Lubbock, Texas
Accomplishments: Darci graduated from Texas Tech University receiving her Bachelor of Science degree Summa Cum Laude in microbiology and mathematics. Darci achieved numerous awards in math and science throughout her high school years and was selected as a National Merit Scholarship finalist. Since Texas Tech University is located in her hometown, she chose to do her undergraduate work here, receiving a full scholarship in her chosen field of study. While attending TTU, Darci was a member of the American Chemical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. She also served as president of the Tri-Beta biology honor society. Darci has been working for the past year or so doing research in the cancer laboratory at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, studying the effects of new anticancer drugs on mouse models.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Darci enjoys serving her local congregations and participating in church activities whenever possible. A graduate of the ABC class of 2006, she especially enjoys visiting his former classmates and other friends in Cincinnati whenever possible.
Plans After Graduation: Post-graduation, Milan plans on starting a career, hopefully in the industry of higher education, in administration or student advising. He also plans on continuing his education with a graduate degree.
Favorite Scripture: “Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s” (Obadiah 1:21).

Chelsea Nicole Carmichael
Parents: Paul Carmichael and Sandra Loftis
Congregation: Los Angeles/Redlands, California
Accomplishments: Chelsea graduated with a bachelor’s degree in geology and a master’s degree in geology (June 2010). She received three grants for her research (one from Loma Linda University, one from the Tobacco Root Geological Society and one from the limnogeology section of the Geological Society of America), five awards and presented the results of her thesis research at the Geological Society of America conference in Anaheim, California, in May 2010.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Chelsea loves to be outdoors and active—camping, rafting, running and swimming. She is an artist and a scientist. She enjoys enlightening conversations with brethren, but appreciates unity more than making a point. A Texas girl originally, Chelsea lives in California and plans to live in Colorado some day. She likes to volunteer and travel, expanding her understanding of God’s creation and purpose for His children.
Plans After Graduation: Chelsea started her new career on June 7, working as a geologist at HydroGeoLogic, an environmental firm in Southern California.
Favorite Scripture: “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10)
Advice: “Don’t compromise yourself, you’re all you’ve got.”

Derek Bradley
Parents: Hank and Celia Bradley
Congregation: Seattle/ Bellevue, Washington
Accomplishments: Derek graduated from Cascadia Community College with an associate of arts in integrated studies.
Plans After Graduation: Derek will be attending ABC this year. He is interested in becoming a helicopter pilot. He has taken his first assisted flight and would like to pursue this after ABC.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Chelsea loves to be outdoors and active—camping, rafting, running and swimming. She is an artist and a scientist. She enjoys enlightening conversations with brethren, but appreciates unity more than making a point. A Texas girl originally, Chelsea lives in California and plans to live in Colorado some day. She likes to volunteer and travel, expanding her understanding of God’s creation and purpose for His children.
Plans After Graduation: Chelsea started her new career on June 7, working as a geologist at HydroGeoLogic, an environmental firm in Southern California.
Favorite Scripture: “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10)
Advice: “Don’t compromise yourself, you’re all you’ve got.”

Christina Davis
Parents: Howard and Patricia Davis
Congregation: Tacoma/Seattle, Washington
Accomplishments: Christina graduated from Seattle University magna cum laude after double majoring to receive B.A. degrees in economics and marketing. Her GPA was in the top 5 percent of the business school. She received the William Simon Fellow award, which gave her $20,000 to launch Africa Start-Up. She is the founder and CEO of Africa Start-Up, a business training course for entrepreneurs in Malawi, Africa, which will start September 2010. She interviewed Bill Gates Sr. and Jeff Raikes (CEO of Gates Foundation) as panelist of SU Albers Executive Speakers Series. She was a LifeNets intern with Seattle University International Development Internship Program in Malawi in 2009. In 2007, she raised $4,000 for cancer research to run the San Diego Rock ’n’ Roll Marathon. She was an analyst intern for Microsoft market research vendor,
Chelsea Alexandra Dawe
Parents: Catherine and Scott Dawe
Congregation: Buffalo, New York
Accomplishments: Chelsea earned her bachel- 
or of fine arts with a specialization in illustration from Daemen College. She made the dean’s list all eight semesters and graduated magna cum laude with a 3.62 GPA. During her sophomore year, she par- ticipated in the Daemen College peer mentor program. As a peer mentor, Chelsea was assigned to a class of freshmen college students to advise them in their transition to college life. She entered artwork in the undergraduate art show in her sophomore and junior years, winning honorable men- tion in her sophomore year.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Chelsea has long been the “water girl” in her con- gregation. She has helped with Sabbath school and Festival Youth Instruction classes. She was assistant counselor at Camp Buckeye in 2008 and at Heritage in 2008 and 2009. Chelsea enjoys singing in her congregation’s choir, and she has participated in her congregation’s annual variety show. She has taken dance lessons for the past 18 years in jazz, tap, ballet and lyrical. Chelsea loves to read, travel, make people laugh, daydream and try new things.
Plans After Graduation: Chelsea has been accepted to attend Ambassador Bible Center in August. After ABC, she would like to travel internationally, start her career as an illustrator and possibly continue her education.
Favorite Scripture: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowl- edge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Brett Edward Diggins
Parents: Steve and Rhonda Diggins
Congregation: Columbia, Maryland
Accomplishments: Brett graduated with a B.S. in architectural engineering and an M.S. in structural engineering with high honors after four years at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He planned activities for the Presidential Scholars and was involved in the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Brett’s graduation ceremony was scheduled to take place on the Sabbath, but the uni- versity made special arrangements to hold a private ceremony the preceding Thursday.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Brett was baptized in July of 2008. He enjoys music and serves by singing in the choir, performing special music and songlead- ing. He also has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America since age 9 and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2005. Brett served on staff at the Lewistown pre- teen camp and attended Camp Heritage for the past 11 years, during which he served on wilderness and counseling staff. He has attended the Tetons Challenger Camp, the Challenger II Wind Rivers Expedition and served on counseling staff at Camp Carter and Pinecrest. He gave two presentations on the Wind Rivers Wilderness Expedition and led a teen Bible study.
Plans After Graduation: Brett plans to attend ABC in August, after which he plans to pursue a career in structural system design for high-rise buildings.
Favorite Scripture: “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Tiffany Eddington
Parents: Rick and Debbie Zimmerman
Congregation: Indianapolis, Indiana
Accomplishments: Tiffany graduated with a bachelor of arts in business management from Anderson University where she attended the Falls School of Business and graduated early. Along the college path, she earned another prestigious degree, the M-R-S degree, and will celebrate a one- 
year anniversary in July. She currently works for Clarian Health Network in the Home Care department. Postgraduate she is also learning many life skills not taught in college—like how to extinguish kitchen fires!
Plans After Graduation: Tiffany’s future plans include graduate work in a health-care related field and retirement.
Favorite Quote: “To know all is to forgive all.”

Lauren Estes
Parents: Mike and Lynn Estes
Congregation: Atlanta, Georgia
Accomplishments: Lauren was a member of Phi Mu Fraternity for Women (Theta Beta Chapter), Phi Mu Public Relations Chair (2009-2010), Phi Mu External Public Rela- 
tions Chair (2008-2009), Georgia State University Honor Society and was on the dean’s list.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Lauren has always been very active with UCG summer camps and youth activities. She enjoys anything outdoors or on the lake. She is planning on doing some traveling in Europe in the next year.
Plans After Graduation: After graduation Lauren accepted a position assisting in event planning and public relations at Cus- cowilla Golf Resort on Lake Oconee. She is hoping to continue in event planning and one day have her own firm.
Favorite Scripture: “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not 
seen” (Hebrews 11:1).
Favorite Quote: “People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within” —Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.

Kyle Lee Hendershot
Parents: Leon Hendershot and Marie Miner
Congregation: Chattanooga, Tennessee
Accomplishments: Kyle graduated with an A.S. in accounting, was a member of Phi Beta Lambda and placed third in the Regional Competition of Accounting held in Atlanta in May. He will head to nationals in July in Nashville, Tennessee.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kyle is a member of the Chattanooga choir. He likes to garden, golf and go camping with friends and family.
Plans After Graduation: Kyle is hoping to secure employment in accounting while working towards a B.S. degree in the fall at Dalton State in Georgia.
Advice: “It is never too late to fulfill a dream. You are never too old to learn something new. I have owned a lawn and tree ser-
vice for 18 years, but as age creeps in, I find myself not as agile and energetic as I was in my 20s and 30s. I have always wanted to be an accountant, but with raising four beautiful daughters, time always eluded me. Now that the children are older and life has slowed down, I have found the time to devote to my studies and achieve the dream that I have been dreaming over the years.”
Favorite Scripture: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

David Peterson
Parents: Reggie and Ingrid Peterson
Congregation: Miami, Florida
Accomplishments: David attended Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He successfully completed the University Scholars Honors Program during his fresh- man and sophomore years. David gradu- ated in May 2010 with a bachelor of science degree magna cum laude with a major in computer science.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: David’s hobbies include hydroponic gardening, solar energy, video gaming and reading.
Plans After Graduation: David is pursuing an internship program in Web design during the summer and will begin his master’s degree in computer science this fall.
Favorite quote: “Never give up, never surrender!”—Galaxy Quest
Motto: “Be excellent to each other.”

Emily Quant
Parents: Michelle Quant
Congregation: Ft. Worth, Texas
Accomplishments: Emily graduated cum laude (GPA 3.8) with a bachelor of arts in speech communication in three years while work- ing as a Baylor athletic tutor.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Emily's hobbies include traveling around the globe, teaching English to refugees, collecting vinyl records, playing recreational racquetball with senior citizens, training for marathons and catching an occasional episode of The Golden Girls.

Plans After Graduation: Emily plans to become an ESL (English as a second language) teacher to elementary children.

Advice: The best advice I've received is from my awesome mom, who told me at the awkward young age of 12 that “people don’t pick on you if you’re different. They pick on you if you’re weak.”

Elizabeth Showers

Parents: Forrest and Linda Shoemaker
Congregation: Canton, Ohio
Accomplishments: Elizabeth graduated from Kent State University with an associate degree in early childhood education technology.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Elizabeth has been happily married for two years to her husband, Justin. She loves cooking, teaching children, spending time with Church family and making other people smile.

Plans After Graduation: Her plans are to teach preschool and/or be a nanny for families with small children and start a family of her own in the next couple of years.

Advice: “Everything that happens to us is a part of us, no matter how fundamental. Don’t cry at the end, rather smile because of the beginning.”

Victoria Sroka


Tiffany Danielle Stinnett

Parent: Jeanie Stinnett
Congregation: Chattanooga, Tennessee
Accomplishments: Tiffany received her associate degree of applied science in early childhood education.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Tiffany is a joyrider! She loves to go out and explore new places and “purposely” get lost and try to find her way back. Tiffany likes to write; she writes songs and short stories. She is also a movie buff! Swimming is also one of her favorite things to do.

Plans After Graduation: She graduated on May 8 with her degree and thought she was finished, but she has decided to go back next year and earn her degree in the business field. She is not sure how that is going to turn out, but it is in God’s hands. She is confident that He will direct her on the path she needs to follow.


Britton A. Taylor

Parents: Britton and Donna Taylor
Congregation: Ft. Worth, Texas
Accomplishments: Britton received a bachelor of science degree in anatomy and a bachelor of science degree in health and wellness. He will graduate from Parker College of Chiropractic in August where he will receive his doctor of chiropractic degree. Britton was selected by the Parker faculty as one of six student chiropractors to spend the summer and his last trimester of study in Bogotá, Colombia, where he will treat the Colombian Olympic team.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Britton has had a lot of time for hobbies the last 3½ years while at Parker; but he enjoys doing car restoration, exercise and spending time with friends.

Plans After Graduation: Britton will open his chiropractic practice in Grapevine, Texas, this fall. He also looks forward to restoring his two 1968 Dodge Chargers, a project he began before grad school.

Favorite Scriptures: “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Joshua 22:5).

Advice: “Set a worthy goal and diligently work toward its accomplishment.”

Lori Taylor

Parents: Lum and JoAnn Huffman
Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio
Accomplishments: This spring, at the age of 48, Lori received a bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Christian University, graduating cum laude. “I believe God gave this gift to me,” she says. “Each time I thought of giving up, He was there lifting me up to finish another class. Without Him, I would not be celebrating this accomplishment.”

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Lori grew up in God’s Church. She has been a baptized member 21 years. She enjoys singing. She especially feels blessed to have been a member of many Feast Choirs. Lori also enjoys gardening, scrapbooking and cooking. She is married to her best friend, John. God blessed Lori with two beautiful children: Zachary Carter and Chase Nathaniel-Curtis. She is nanny to two beautiful granddaughters: Nadia Grace and Maria Lynn.

Plans After Graduation: With her college degree, Lori received a promotion at her workplace.

Favorite Quote: “Faith is knowing that when you come to the end of all you know and you step out into the darkness, you will either find solid ground...or you will learn to fly”—Author unknown.

Sarah Thompson

Parents: Vincent and Laura Thompson
Congregation: San Antonio, Texas

Accomplishments: Sarah received a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She graduated cum laude with a 3.73 GPA. Before earning a bachelor degree, Sarah took a semester off to attend and graduate from Ambassador Bible Center in 2007. Upon returning to Texas from Cincinnati, she continued her studies along with serving in the San Antonio congregation—from helping with hymns to assistant teaching in Sabbath school.

Plans After Graduation: Since graduating on May 6, 2010, Sarah has relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, and has gotten engaged to her boyfriend of two years, Kevin Blackston. While staying busy with wedding planning and practicing various domestic skills, Sarah is hoping to begin work as a substitute teacher this fall.


Marian Candice Wood

Parents: Steve and Ramona (Karela) Wood
Congregation: Ruston, Louisiana
Accomplishments: Marian earned her applied associate of science as a physical therapist assistant. She was on the dean’s list and the president’s list 4.0 GPA. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the National Collegiate Honor Society. Marian was awarded “Outstanding PTA Graduate” as well as being recognized in “Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges & Universities.”

Plans After Graduation: Marian will be employed at the Physical Therapy Center of South Arkansas.

Favorite Scripture: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28, New International Version).

Advice: “Work hard and do your best, and you will have less to regret.”
Congratulations, High School Graduates!

CLASS OF 2010

Natalie Kareena Amore

Parents: Marlene Williams
Congregation: Miami, Florida
High School Accomplishments: Natalie graduated with a weighted GPA of 3.5 from McArthur High School. She was president of the Best Buddies program as well as being president mentor her senior year. She was also the president of Women of Tomorrow her senior year. Natalie was involved in student government and was senior class treasurer. She was the secretary of RHO Kappa

Kevin Carter

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kevin is currently enrolled in College of the Sequoias and will transfer to Fresno State in a couple of years. He plans on majoring in business or putting writing. He also plans on attending ABC.
Favorite Scripture: “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).
Favorite Quote: “Don’t let your dreams be dreams” —Jack Johnson.

Aimee Demers

Parents: Dale and Kelli Demers
Congregation: Northern Arizona
High School Accomplishments: Aimee received a gold seal on her diploma for recognition in completing Ed Professions, a program to prepare all students for high skill, high wage jobs. Her Ed Profession was in teaching kindergarteners. Aimee also was selected to sing a solo in her last school choir concert.

Kelly Evans

Parents: Daniel and Dawn Evans
Congregation: Portsmouth, Ohio
High School Accomplishments: Kelly was ranked 15 in her class of 106. She participated in volleyball and track for two years. She also attended college for two years and earned her associate of science degree while in high school.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Kelly enjoys video games, reading, horseback riding, four-wheeler riding (mudding), spending time with friends and family, listening to music, making people laugh and playing sports. Kelly attends Church camp, Winter Family Weekend and Church events that

David Matthew Foster II

Parents: David and Linda Foster
Congregation: Roanoke, Virginia
High School Accomplishments: Matthew received an advance diploma. Matthew has completed his first year of college while in high school at Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Virginia. He also played sports. He was the PTA Reflections winner in photography, music and film production and a regional science fair winner.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Matthew loves sports, fishing and the outdoors.

Nathaniel Grovak

Parents: Michael and Michelle Grovak and the late Tamara Grovak
Congregation: Lafayette, Indiana

High School Accomplishments: Nathaniel graduated from West Lafayette High School, which was named by Businessweek as the “Best Public High School in Indiana.” He played on the baseball team his junior and senior years. He had one “walk off” hit to win a ballgame his senior year.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Nathaniel has attended Camp Woodmen for six years. He enjoyed the friendship of the many dozens of people he met there. He also played on the Indianapolis, Indiana,
Codi Lyn Cole-La Ravia
Parents: Dave and Laura La Ravia and Ricki Cole
Congregation: Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Codi received the Prairie State Achievement Award in reading and science. He was an Illinois State Scholar for 2001 and 2002 and was a part of the Quill and Scroll Honor Society. He was the assistant copy editor and copy editor for The North View paper his junior and senior years. Codi was the recipient of the Belvidere Federated Women’s Club Scholarship. He excelled in honor society his senior year while being dual enrolled at Rock Valley College.
Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: Joshua answered the call of service in the Beloit congregation by volunteering in the kitchen.
Plans After Graduation: Joshua will graduate to complete his bachelor’s degree in history. and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, and then he plans to attend Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, to complete his bachelor’s degree in history.

Joshua J. Humphry
Parent: Mary Ann Humphry
Congregation: Beloit, Wisconsin
High School Accomplishments: Joshua received the governors’ award for community service in 2006 and 2007.

Ready to Answer

During the Feast of Tabernacles, a man in an elevator asks you which church denomination you belong to. His floor is coming up quickly, so there’s no time for a long-winded explanation—just enough for a simple explanation. What do you say?

My church, the United Church of God, is not affiliated with traditional Christian and/or Jewish organizations at all. We in UCG understand God’s plan for mankind, which is generally not understood.

We observe the seventh-day Sabbath, as well as other annual Holy Days, just as Jesus Christ, His apostles and the original Church did. We don’t follow changes made to that church by men afterwards, nor do we observe traditional holidays, which are of pagan origin. We believe it matters greatly to God that we worship Him the way He reveals, as clearly shown in the Bible. We believe in obedience to Him and His spiritual law.

We believe in resurrections, as revealed in the Bible, and that Jesus Christ will soon return to actually take over rule of the earth and banish Satan from the affairs of the world.

It’s a wonderful future we can all look forward to. I recommend visiting our Web site, if you have further interest.

—Roger Deaton
Lexington, Kentucky, congregation

Hmm, funny you should ask, but my affiliation is with the Church Jesus Christ Himself founded in the early first century. If you would be willing to take a closer look, you would quickly find out that keeping this Feast has nothing to do with being a Jew, but simply is a commandment to all those who claim to be a follower of Him. Have a fabulous day.

—Stu Braunmüller
Orlando, Florida, congregation

I am a member of the Church of God, which is not a denomination of any other religious body, Catholic or Protestant. As a Christian church, we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. That includes observing the festivals recorded in the Bible, including both Old Testament and New Testament scriptures.

If you want more information, I can give you a Web address where you can obtain more information, including access to our TV program, Beyond Today. Or if you prefer, I can give you a mailing address to which you can write. We have available many free booklets on a variety of subjects. They are available as downloads or as publications.

—Kenneth Fahnstock
York, Pennsylvania, congregation

Well, the name of my church is the United Church of God. We trace our beginning to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are all here practicing the biblical pattern of annual worship by keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, which focuses on the return of Jesus Christ to save all mankind and give us all an opportunity to be in the God family. Well, I see we have reached your floor. Have a wonderful day! Nice chatting with you, and perhaps we will meet again!

—Bruce Koester
Portland, Oregon, congregation
Playing the Fiddle

In the midst of a devastating event in the world, Roman Emperor Nero is credited with ignoring the reality of what was happening around him, choosing instead to “play the fiddle” as Rome burned to the ground. There is something sinister and evil in the concept of standing aside and letting horrible things take place while doing little or nothing to change the situation.

There is a spiritual “fiddle” that Satan wants us to play. It is the attitude of looking the other way while people are suffering around us. It is the act of distraction in the midst of ugly events. It is nonparticipation in the events of this world.

When I was a boy, we lived in a coal-mining town, and a man lived there whose name was Adolf. Adolf was a big man and always seemed to be unkempt and covered in coal dust. He was a miner and lived alone—but this unlikely man played the violin. Not only did he play the violin, but the sound that came from his violin could evoke a whole gamut of emotions.

He could make it sound as though the violin were weeping. He could make it sound joyful and exciting, and he could make it sound sad and somber. He provided a caliber of music that was unknown in the Coal Branch. It was obvious that Adolf had put many years of study into his music.

When his large, strong hands picked up that instrument, he became a different person to all who were listening. His music was a surprising dimension to the man. This kind of fiddling brought something positive into our lives and homes. It spoke of a higher value of things that we could strive for. It instilled the love of music in many.

How about us? How do we play the fiddle in our lives? Are we prone to ignore our responsibilities as Christians? Or do we realize how much other people depend on our responses to things in our lives and especially the things that impact others?

God teaches us that we are to be a light to those around us (Matthew 5:15). We cannot remain aloof from the trials and problems of this world. Peter wrote that we have a responsibility to God, each other and to the world. He wrote that we are to be holy as He is holy (1 Peter 1:15).

It is true that our citizenship is written in God’s book (Ephesians 2:19), but we are also instructed to follow the example of Jesus Christ who did not separate Himself from the people around Him. Jesus gave His life for others and set a pattern for people to live by. He never stood by, ignoring the suffering. When He came to Jerusalem and saw the city—knowing its future—He wept (Luke 19:41).

Followers of Jesus Christ can never play the fiddle of indifference that Nero played. Instead, they are to play fiddles that make beautiful music for the betterment of mankind. God’s children are expected to give something positive to this world.

Adolf did not take very good care of his personal appearance or health, but when he opened his violin case, it was obvious the instrument was given a great deal of care. He did not feel burdened by the need to practice and hone his skills. He rejoiced in the happiness he would bring to others as a result of his work. Play your fiddle in such a way that it brings joy to people.

Bob Berendt
Pastor of the Edmonton and Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, congregations

Turning the Hearts . . .
The Empty Nest

As my wife and I sat for brunch on Mother’s Day several years ago, tears welled up in her eyes. It was the first time neither of our daughters was present for Mother’s Day. We had just moved to Texas, but our daughters remained in California. We now were left to reconnect in our roles as husband and wife and not primarily as dad and mom.

With graduation from high school, your son or daughter may plan to go to college or move away from home to take a job in another city. Your children may get married and start new families. Perhaps they were the youngest and now your home (nest) is “empty.” A new set of challenges now begins.

When we were actively parenting our children, we often referred to each other as “Dad” or “Mom.” We put our marital relationship somewhat on the back burner. We didn’t neglect it, but merely subjugated it to what seemed to be the more important task of rearing our children. If that back burner is never turned on, however, couples may drift into being neglectful of their roles as spouses.

After the nest is empty, it is imperative that husbands and wives find ways to reconnect. Pray about your new situation. Ask God to help you both rekindle the love flames that you had for each other before children entered the picture. Plan fun things to do together. Go dancing, go for walks or take up bowling. Get together with friends for card games. Go out for dinner or coffee occasionally, and just talk and spend time together.

There is a scripture that begs us to remember how we loved each other at the beginning of our marriage. It goes like this: “Rejoice with the wife of your youth” (Proverbs 5:18). There are a few other scriptures that use this phrase as well. To me, this is cautioning us to remember how much we wanted to be with our spouses in the beginning of our relationships—how nothing was too much to do for that loved one.

So, while we see our homes emptying of our children because of college, jobs or marriage, remember to strengthen your relationship with your spouse by remembering the early years of your marriage and rekindling the togetherness, fun and love that you once had!

Gary Anton

A Message of Hope

I live in the lovely little town of Milford, Ohio, and every Wednesday I look forward to receiving the neighborhood paper for our community. The paper is filled with local happenings, events, awards and such, but close to the back of the paper it also lists court filings.

A few months ago I started reading those court filings. I was shocked at the number of foreclosures listed for just my county alone. One week I counted as many as 75 foreclosures; now the average is around 35 every week! The county has a population of nearly 200,000; and out of that population, Foreclosures.com lists a staggering 769 homes that are for sale due to foreclosures, tax lien, bankruptcy and other unfortunate situations. In April 2010 one in every 425 housing units received a foreclosure filing in the state of Ohio alone.

Every foreclosure mentioned in the paper has a sad story behind it. I recently heard a heartbreaking story of a real family in crisis. This family had to shut the doors to their dream business because of the economy. Sadly, they had to inform the employees that they no longer had jobs. They were also going to lose their home because it was connected to the family business. The husband could not take the pressure anymore, so he decided to leave his wife right in the middle of the crisis. He even fled the country, leaving his wife to deal with all of it alone. The same week that their bankruptcy was filed she also had to file for divorce papers.

Every foreclosure represents a family in crisis. Without hope, people make bad decisions to escape the crisis, which can take on many forms through drugs, alcohol, depression or just giving up. Some take a more drastic form of escape, leaving their family and even fleeing to another country. These families need a message of hope to direct them in the right way.

We have that message of hope that will lead them in the right way of life and will help them deal with their current trials. We have what the world is looking for! We as God’s people have a duty and obligation to send out a message of hope to a tragic world. We have a responsibility to do whatever we can to lend support with our tithes, offerings and prayers to do the work that God has called us to do.

God told His disciples in Luke 12:48, “Everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” Much has been given to us! Let’s become passionate about delivering that message of hope to a world that is in desperate need of it!

Cincinnati, Ohio, North congregation
Janet Treadway
Pastor of Cincinnati, Ohio, North congregation

Share Your Treasures!

Do you have any short items of biblical wisdom, humor or practical information that you would like to share? Please send them to your local pastor and ask him to forward them to United News at the home office. Guidelines are available on request (UN@ucg.org).

Have a clever caption for this cartoon?

Send it to your local pastor and ask him to forward it to United News. You can also e-mail it to UN@ucg.org. We may feature your caption in an upcoming United News!
The Point of No Return

Can people ignore the warning signs of a wrong way of life so long that suddenly it's too late? Can they reach a point of no return spiritually?

by Tim Rickard

On the upper Niagara River, on the border between Canada and the United States, there was a famous milestone: "the point of no return." Going beyond that point means most likely going over Niagara Falls.

In July of 1960 James Honeycutt took his 14-foot aluminum motorboat and his sister, Deanne, for a boat ride on the upper Niagara River. According to one account, he had gone past the point of no return. He tried to turn his boat around, but a shear-pin failure disabled the motor, leaving the boat and those in it at the mercy of the current.

The boat slowly flipped over, and its three former passengers were headed for the falls. Luckily Deanne floated close enough to Goat Island that some tourists were able to pull her to safety. Her brother Roger and James Honeycutt were not so fortunate and were swept over Horseshoe Falls, over which 3,000 tons of water crash every second. Miraculously, Roger survived. Sadly, James Honeycutt was battered and drowned.

Could we have avoided coming to this event that happened 50 years ago? Perhaps, like me, you felt relieved that Roger survived his trip over Horseshoe Falls. But what about James Honeycutt? Did he ignore the warning signs? Or maybe he saw them but thought he would be able to turn his boat around in time, not realizing that a failure of the boat’s engine would mean entrapment in the current of the Niagara River.

Ignoring the Warning Signs

Do we have family or friends who continue to steer their boats down society’s river of culture, ignoring the warning signs of where their way of life is taking them? What about you? An individual person might be able to turn his or her life around, but what about a society? Can people eventually work themselves into a predicament they cannot get out of? God shows us an example in the Bible of how this scenario once played out in the lives of a nation.

In Amos chapter 4, starting in verse 6, God speaks to a people who are perilously close to going past the point of no return—hence the recurring phrase, “Yet you have not returned to Me.” God was warning the children of Israel in the 8th century B.C. that they were reaching the point where they were no longer hearing His call, and would no longer be able to return.

In verse 6 He says, “Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities. And lack of bread in all your places; yet you have not returned to Me.”

God continues in verses 7 and 8, “I also withheld rain from you… I made it rain on one city, and I withheld rain from another city…” Yet you have not returned to Me.”

This refrain continues through verse 11, culminating in verses 12 and 13: “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” For behold, He who forms mountains, and He who creates the wind, who declares to man what his thought is, and who performs the counsel of all his hearts, having set aside the foundations, but that doesn’t mean mean entrapment in the current of the Niagara River.

Fighting the Current

The first question all of us must continually ask ourselves is what is the right thing to do? The first question every young man and woman in a relationship must ask themselves is what is the right thing to do? The first question a husband and wife whose relationship is on the brink of failure must ask themselves is what is the right thing to do? No matter who we are, and what circumstances we may find ourselves in, there’s a voice that continually cries out, “Are we doing what is good and right in the sight of the Lord our God?” (see Deuteronomy 12:28).

We must listen to God’s voice, telling us the way and warning us if we are heading down the wrong path. When we come to the sobering realization that God will bring us all into judgment—and I mean when we really believe it and want to do something about it—we stand before the narrow gate that Jesus Christ spoke of in Matthew chapter 7. At that moment, we have to choose to walk through it. On the other side lies the narrow path to eternal life. It’s not easy to stay on that path, and doing so requires navigating our lives upstream against the current of a wicked society that will take us over the falls if we let it.

We live in a society today similar to the one that received the message Amos delivered. His striking metaphors, wrapped around the themes of justice and righteousness, represent some of the best poetic literary skill of all the prophets. He warned the children of Israel that if they did not heed God’s call and return to a life of righteousness, their preoccupation with material things, their religious hypocrisy and their moral perversion would destroy the nation. In one of his most famous statements, he calls for an end to the noisiness of their ways and for the sound of purity in rushing water.

He writes, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24).

It’s obvious many in our society have forgotten how to do what is right. But what about us? Do we play fast and loose with God’s way of life, thinking we will someday be able to turn the proverbial boat around and everything will be okay?

Don’t Wait Until It’s Too Late

The Niagara Parks Web site contains a historical record documenting how the waters ceased to flow in 1848. Anyone who has ever seen Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side would think it impossible for there to exist any force strong enough to stop the gigantic rush of water, yet it happened once.

For 30 long, silent hours, the river ceased to flow. The falls dried up, and those who were brave enough walked or rode horses over the rock floor of the channel. In March of 1848, local inhabitants, accustomed to the sound of the river, were awakened by a strange, eerie silence. Niagara had stopped! Many rushed to churches to pray, and panic filled the air.

Late that evening, “with a roar that shook the foundations of the earth, a solid wall of water, cresting to a great height, curled down the channel, and crashed over the brink of the precipice. Niagara was back in business to the immense relief of everyone.”

“News traveled slowly in those days, but the excitement of the day only added fuel. High winds set the ice fields of Lake Erie in motion and millions of tons of ice became lodged at the falls, blocking the channel completely until finally a shift in the forces of nature released it and the pent up weight of water broke through” (www. niagarafallsmedia.niagara-falls-stopped.html).

God’s justice and righteousness may be held back for a time, but eventually, just like the mighty Niagara River with years ago, the forces of a realm that we only dimly see will shift, and the pent-up weight of justice will run down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream!

We can be thankful that God is not only a God of justice but also a God of mercy, and He knows how “to deliver the godly out of temptations” (2 Peter 2:9). There may come a time (if not already) when it will be too late to change the drift of a nation from its longitudinal moral foundations, but that doesn’t mean it’s too late for you.

If this message is resonating in your heart, then you haven’t crossed the point of no return.

The writings of God through Moses still ring out across the millennia, “Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 12:28).

© 2010 Jupiterimages Corporation
Your Word I Have Hidden in My Heart

Have you considered the many benefits—for all ages—of memorizing parts of the Bible?

by Robert Curry

In my youth I remember the feeling of accomplishment I had when I memorized Bible passages such as Psalm 23 and the Ten Commandments. I’m glad I learned them years ago and know them by heart. Timeless passages such as these can powerfully influence a child “in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6) and can be valuable practice for any child of God—of whatever age.

Etching Character

An article titled “In Defense of Memorization” from Education Reporter states that memorizing can “etch the ideals of their civilization on children’s minds and character.” It adds, “The Greeks discovered that words and sounds—and the rhythmic patterns by which they were bound together in poetry—awakened the mind and shaped character.” It adds, “The words of the Bible, which are in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. An effort then should we put into memorizing Deuteronomy 30:19 about choosing life, a scripture you thought you knew well after decades in the Church, you suddenly take note that the payoff is not just for you but also that “your descendants may live.” Perhaps this “ah-hah!” insight would compoun your desire to choose God’s way because your decision is bigger than yourself and will affect your kids and heirs to come!

Available When Needed

When Christ was tempted by Satan for 40 days and 40 nights, Satan tried to “cover Him” with deception. How was Christ able to answer each temptation with “It is written...”? Did He ever open E-sword on His laptop! Of course, Jesus was the Living Word, and He had inspired every word of the Bible. It was in His heart, and He lived every word of it! How much effort then should we put into internalizing the words of life?

Years ago in Speaker’s Club we made a concerted effort to memorize the key passages and subject areas of the Bible and would regularly drill each other to learn that Hebrews 11 was “the faith chapter,” the Ten Commandments were stated in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5, and so on. That effort helped immensely in “knowing our Bible” and being better prepared to “give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15, King James Version) if called upon.

A recent “Good Friday” my boss asked me if I would be working. When I said yes, he responded, “So, I guess they didn’t count that one right either.” While pausing to see if he really was looking for an answer, I was silently thanking God that we had long ago taken the time to memorize Matthew 12:40 as the location of Jesus’ statement about the only sign of His messiahship being Jonah in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Ready for the Famine of the Word

Memorizing key passages that inspire us and admonish us can be of tremendous help to us today. (See suggestions in sidebar.) But now is the time to prepare for what is prophesied for tomorrow. Amos 8:11 promises: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” For those who argue, “Why memorize when I can look it up so easily?” dire times are coming when we may not have computers or Bibles handy. Jesus warned, “They will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons” (Luke 21:12).

U.S. Senator John McCain spent 5½ years in captivity as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam after being shot down in his Skyhawk dive-bomber on Oct. 26, 1967. Of his wretched conditions, including solitary confinement for two years, he wrote in U.S. News and World Report (May 1973): “It’s vital to keep your mind occupied...I had a lot of history. I spent days on end going back over those history books in my mind...I thought a lot about the meaning of life...People have asked me how we could remember detailed things like the tap code, numbers, names, all sorts of things. The fact is, when you don’t have anything else to think about, no outside distractions, it’s easy.”

We’ve learned hymns that are based on the Bible, many paraphrased right out of the Psalms. Even when we don’t have a Bible handy, we are singing the Bible. For example, “Mine Eyes Upon the Lord Continually Are Set,” is based on Psalm 25, and singing it reminds us to do it.

For youths and adults alike, memorizing the Bible is a reasonable and rewarding challenge because it has so many benefits for today: stimulating the mind, shaping character, promoting meditation, writing the Word of God in our hearts, building confidence in God and preparing us for coming challenges. Challenge yourself and give memorizing some of God’s Word in your heart a try.

Robert Curry is a member in the Colorado Springs, Colorado, congregation.
Secret Pal Program Initiates New Friendships

In an effort to facilitate relationships between children and adults in the Munster, Indiana, congregation, over 30 people recently participated in the Secret Pal program. Each child was matched with an adult and the pair was assigned a number without being told who their “pal” was. For four Sabbaths, the pals wrote Sabbath notes with clues about themselves and gave small gifts to their secret pal.

On the fourth week, we had a potluck and revealed who the pals were. Only a few people had guessed correctly who their pal was. All the participants enjoyed giving and receiving a surprise each week and having a new friend at church. Many have requested receiving a surprise each week and having a secret pal.

All the participants enjoyed giving and having a new friend at church. Many have requested receiving a surprise each week and having a secret pal.

Columbia Hosts Picnic and Fishing Derby

The crowd began to arrive early on June 13 for the Columbia, Missouri, annual church picnic, and the first-time fishing derby was met with great enthusiasm. The weather was beautiful and the fish were biting. Cash prizes were awarded for the largest fish to Glenna Mongler and Emily Smith, for the smallest fish to Lorraine Barnett, for the most fish to Greg Swartz and for the least number of fish caught (zero) to Ginger Hicks.

Other activities included swimming, volleyball, croquet golf and a water-balloon toss (and fight). The potluck picnic was held at the home of Greg and Jan Swartz. The picnic was well attended, and everyone left tired but happy.

Fishing Derby Participants Present Their Catch (photo by Linda Morgan)

Ocala Moves to New Hall

The Ocala, Florida, congregation held its first service in that room on June 26, 2010, with 78 attending. Obviously, a larger hall was needed.

Navros Saju, the manager of the Howard Johnson Hotel, had been a wonderful landlord for the 14 years United had rented its room. Mr. Saju understood the need for a larger meeting hall; but to commemorate the great camaraderie he had enjoyed with United Church of God, he provided refreshments to be served after services on March 6.

In fact, Mr. Saju, who is a devotedly religious, non-Christian, said his business life had been in turmoil until he rented the meeting room to UCG. Once the lease became effective, he said things turned around for the entire establishment and had been on the upsweep ever since. He credited this improvement to his relationship with the Church.

Then the Ocala congregation presented a plaque to Mr. Saju that said, “Thanks to the management and staff of Howard Johnson-Ocala for fifteen years of friendliness, cooperation and service.” The new hall is far more roomy and comfortable for Sabbath services, but it is hoped the landlord-tenant relationship will be as compatible as the one we enjoyed at the Howard Johnson.

Fishing Derby Participants Present Their Catch (photo by Linda Morgan)

Families Enriched at Northern Indiana Family Camp

Several families from Indiana, Michigan and Illinois enjoyed a family campout in Valparaiso, Indiana, on June 4 to 7. Family Camp was developed to enrich and encourage family members together rather than perpetuate the trend of family members taking part in individual activities that separate them.

On the Sabbath, Brian Shaw gave a sermon on how to develop a stronger family identity, and the children later participated in a Bible treasure hunt. Each family helped prepare meals and clean up. Torrential rain and tornado sirens kept us up late on Saturday night, but we were able to sleep soundly in the lodge and awoke to better weather the next morning. Some of the weekend activities were Family Olympics, campfire chats, wall climbing, hiking and softball.

Nearly 200 glow sticks were used for ultimate Frisbee and glow-in-the-dark tag. All the participants appreciated the opportunity to deepen family relationships and to develop friendships with other families in the Church. We enjoyed our time together and look forward to Family Camp 2011!!

In an effort to facilitate relationships between children and adults in the Munster, Indiana, congregation, over 30 people recently participated in the Secret Pal program. Each child was matched with an adult, and the pair was assigned a number.
Announcements

Births

Sean and Kristin Yarbrough of the Tampa, Florida, congregation are happy to announce the birth of their son, Ryan James, on May 13, 2010. Ryan was born at 5:42 a.m., weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces and measuring 20½ inches long. Big sister Katie gave him an enthusiastic homecoming. He also was joyfully welcomed by two sets of grandparents—Eugene and Diane Webber of LaGrange, Ohio, and Jim and Pam Yarbrough of Hilliard, Ohio.

Joshua and Lizzy Creech of the Cincinnati, Ohio, East congregation would like to announce the birth and homecoming of their son, Liam Alan Creech. Liam was born on Jan. 26, 2010, at 2 pounds after 26 weeks of gestation. He stayed in the NICU at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati for 71 days. Liam came home on April 7, 2010, weighing 5.1 pounds. Joshua and Lizzy would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Liam during his painful time in the hospital before Liam’s birth but especially for their ardent prayers for Liam. He is now a happy and healthy 11-pound 6-month-old!

Engagements

Charlie and Lanae Waldrup of Denton, Texas, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Kristin to Seth Sanders, son of Wayne and Elsie Sanders of Slidell, Louisiana. The happy couple met at Pinecrest Camp five years ago and could write the book on long-distance relationships. Both have been pursuing college degrees and traveled a lot during breaks. Seth is currently working in St. Louis, Missouri, as a civil engineer, and Kristin is completing her master’s degree as a physician’s assistant in El Paso, Texas. A December 2010 wedding is being planned, and they will live in St. Louis.

Weddings

Yndira Judith Alvarado Velazco and Eric Vaughn Snow were joyfully joined together in marriage two times in two weeks in two countries. They were first united in a religious ceremony in Lima, Peru, on May 30, 2010. Afterwards, the guests from the local congregation and Yndira’s family enjoyed dancing and a buffet meal in Club Cuzco.

Two weeks later, Yndira and Eric exchanged vows in a combined religious and legal ceremony in Flint, Michigan, on June 13, 2010. Food and dancing were provided to the guests there also. Yndira’s sister, Carolina Clark, was the matron of honor at both weddings. The groom’s brother, Brian Snow, was the best man at the American wedding. The couple now resides in Redford, Michigan, near Detroit.

The Peruvian wedding was performed by Manuel Quijano, and the American wedding was performed by Randy D’Alessandro.

Anniversaries

Alice and Ed Heine of Hampshire, Illinois, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house gala on June 27, 2010. Ed and Alice were married on June 25, 1960. Sharing the day with the couple were family, friends and neighbors on a beautiful afternoon for an event with a special feel. The Heines have two children and nine grandchildren. Their son, Tim, is an elder in the Salt Lake City, Utah, congregation. Jill, their daughter, lives in Washington state. Alice is a member of the Beloit, Wisconsin, congregation and received a large bouquet of flowers, a gift and heartfelt congratulations from the congregation.

Harry and Barbara Holladay of the Raleigh, North Carolina, congregation were honored on June 5, 2010, for their 60th wedding anniversary. The Holladays were presented with gift cards for an evening out on the town, including dinner at Ruth’s Chris Steak House and a theatrical show or North Carolina Symphony. Cake and beverages were served. We congratulate Harry and Barbara! They are greatly loved!

Virgil and Kathy Priebe of the Phoenix East, Arizona, congregation celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 18. They were married at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Peoria, Illinois, in 1950. By 1988, they were living in Phoenix, Arizona. Virgil started attending the Church of God, and Kathy started a bit later in 1991. On June 19 the congregation celebrated their lives together with a cake and cards.

Obituaries

Dot Popik, a member of the Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation died June 18 at the age of 68. Dot was the fourth of six children born to Mark and Madie Mills of Wallace, North Carolina. She grew up on the family farm and learned the virtues of family closeness and hard work. She graduated from Wallace-Rose Hill High School in 1960 and from East Carolina University in 1964.

Soon after college Dot married and gave birth to three children, Kevin, Karyn and Kris. She developed successful landscaping businesses in Raleigh, North Carolina, and in Jackson, Tennessee. Tragedy struck Dot in 1989 with the sudden death of her youngest son, Kris; and in 1996 she lost her other son, Kevin, after a prolonged illness. It was about this time that she developed weight loss and health problems.

Dot became a student of the Bible, reading it through several times and studying it verse by verse. In July 2008, she and her husband, Matt, began attending the Charlotte congregation, and they were baptized in February 2010. It was shortly afterwards in March that Dot learned that she had lung cancer in an advanced stage. She fought it valiantly, but her condition continued to worsen until her death. She handled her illness with strength and with grace, never complaining though she was in constant pain. Her faith in God was her source of strength, and she never seemed depressed or afraid.

Dot is survived by her husband, Matt, and by one daughter, two step-daughters, seven grandchildren, one sister and four brothers. At the funeral service, tributes were made to Dot’s example of quiet courage, her outgoing concern for others and her strong inner faith. One of her gifts was to make everyone feel loved and special. She touched the lives of many with her love, compassion and gentleness. She will be remembered by her family and friends as a strong and beautiful woman.

Hubert Francis Stech, age 76, died peacefully on Feb. 16, 2010, at a nursing and rehab center in Blackfoot, Idaho. Francis, as most friends in the Church knew him, was born May 10, 1933, in Colonial Pacheco, Chihuahua, Mexico to Hubert Arnold and Myrtle Wells Stech. Before moving to Blackfoot in 1952, he lived in Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada. He graduated from Blackfoot High School.

On Nov. 10, 1953, he married Rosanne Nelson in Blackfoot, and they subsequently had seven beloved children—four sons and three daughters. Francis was baptized in 1979, served many years as a deacon and displayed a deep faith in God and appreciation for His truth.

Francis worked at Basic American Potato for 38 years as a machinist and forklift supervisor. Also an avid outdoorsman, he loved fishing, hunting, camping and riding snowmobiles.

He is survived by his wife, Rosanne; four sons, Duane (Doby), Jim, Steven and David (Rona); three daughters, Suzanne Hill, Sherradine (Caswell) Merrill and Yndira (Alvarado) snowcandles (Lindsey) Munson; 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and all his siblings.

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.
Youth Corps–Jordan Volunteers Ready to Go

The United Youth Corps project in Jordan is set to begin its fifth year. The four new volunteers, Amanda Hendee, Stella Helterbrand and Amber and Darren Henke, have been accepted, oriented and trained for this 12-month journey of service to the Middle East!

The new team began their preparation via group teleconference and Web-based conferencing in June and July. Their final orientation session takes place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from Aug. 6 to 8 at the home of Cory and Colene Erickson. The Ericksons managed the Ambassador Foundation project in Jordan during the 1990s and are our experts on the project and its history. The weekend with the Ericksons will help our new volunteers become better acquainted with Jordan, the cultural considerations for those visiting, building relationships and understanding the relationship our Church has had with the royal family in this kingdom for the past 20 years.

Our new Jordan team will board their flight to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on Aug. 18. They will be welcome 15 couples who will be attending this year’s Leadership Workshop.

All-day classes will include Leadership in the Church, Importance of Sound Doctrine, Heart of a Leader, Pride and Humility, Working With Your Pastor, History and Overview of Documents, Teaching as We Have Been Taught, Appreciating Differences, Relevancy in Speaking, Developing Split Sermons and Sermons, Teaching as We Have Been Taught, Appreciating Differences, Relevancy in Speaking, Developing Split Sermons and Sermons, Developing Wisdom and Judgment, Working With the Next Generation, and the Importance of Discernment.

Leadership Workshop Planned for Labor Day Weekend

On Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2 to 6, the home office plans to welcome 15 couples who will be attending this year’s Leadership Workshop. All-day classes will include Leadership in the Church, Importance of Sound Doctrine, Heart of a Leader, Pride and Humility, Working With Your Pastor, History and Overview of Documents, Teaching as We Have Been Taught, Appreciating Differences, Relevancy in Speaking, Developing Split Sermons and Sermons, Developing Wisdom and Judgment, Working With the Next Generation, and the Importance of Discernment.

Elizabeth Cannon

Volunteers Needed to Help Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Brethren at the Feast

Volunteers are needed at the Feast sites in Daytona Beach, Florida; Snowshoe, West Virginia; and Bushkill, Pennsylvania, for captioning services for our deaf and hard-of-hearing brethren. If you can serve in this capacity, please contact Mark Welch, coordinator of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services at mark.welch@ucg.org or (918) 247-4325.

We are also in need of experienced sign language interpreters. The need is especially strong this year in Snowshoe, but other Feast sites are in need as well. Please contact Mark Welch if you have these skills and are able to serve.

Mark Welch

Personal Correspondence Update

The Personal Correspondence area sent out 195 letters and e-mails in June. 79 were surface mail letters, 101 were e-mails and 15 were e-mails from Vertical Thought staff. The Church received a total of 801 e-mails to info@ucg.org in June.

A teenager with a school assignment to write an essay on abortion contacted us for help. The assignment included the odd requirement that it should “discuss values” without making any reference to God. Another questioner asked if abortion is permissible when the life of the mother is threatened.

A person wrote that he was born anatomically one sex, but struggles with strong feelings that he should be the opposite sex. He asked why he is in this situation and if it means that God is angry with him. A person deeply discouraged due to mental problems and the ridicule she suffers from others because of her condition wrote us for encouragement.

On the subject of conversion, a Muslim wrote a follow-up question on the procedure for converting to Christianity, explaining that his life would be in danger for doing so in the country in which he lives. A truck driver who wants to be baptized explained that he has a unique problem, because he is constantly on the road. He asked where he could park his truck and receive baptism counseling. We also received a visit request from an inmate who is on death row.

Cecil Maranville

Calendar of Events

Aug. 9-11: Council of Elders meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Aug. 10-17: Camp Pinecrest, Missouri.
Aug. 23: ABC classes start.
Sept. 2-6: Leadership Workshop, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Sept. 5: Houston Music Festival, Buchanan Environmental Incoming Mail@embarkmail.com.
Sept. 9: Feast of Trumpets.
Sept. 18: Day of Atonement.
Sept. 23-29: Feast of Tabernacles.
Sept. 30: Last Great Day.