



United News™

News of the United Church of God, an International Association

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P.O. Box 541027,
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027
(513) 576-9796

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News At a Glance

Four New Stations Begin Airing GN Radio in Arizona

Four radio stations in Arizona are now airing the *Good News* radio program on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time. The stations are KAPR, 930 AM, in Douglas; KJAA, 1240 AM, in Globe; KNXN, 1470 AM, in Sierra Vista; and KGMS, 940 AM, in Tucson.

More stations will be added in this new fiscal year to bring the total to 14 or 15. A full schedule can be seen on the Web at www.ucg.org/radio.

Planning for 2003 GCE Underway

The Council of Elders appointed an advisory committee to help plan next year's General Conference of Elders annual meeting, which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 4 and 5, 2003. The committee members are Peter Eddington, Larry Greider, Anthony Wasilkoff, Robin Webber, Joe Horchak, Greg Thomas, Charles Melear, David Register and Diane Bailey.

The committee had its first teleconference June 11, and plans are underway for recommending a theme, speakers and format for the 2003 GCE.

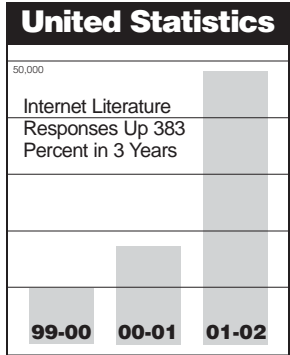
Suggestions are welcome and may be made to any committee member.

David Register

Print Promotion Statistics Improve

A look at print promotion statistics in June showed that since April, 3,715

See "News at a Glance," page 2



UCG Prints 2 Millionth Booklet

by Scott Ashley

It took more than four and a half years—from January 1996 until August of 2000—for the United Church of God to print its first million booklets. Now, in less than two years, it has printed its second million booklets.

More than a quarter of a million booklet reprints in June pushed the total number of English-language booklets printed and reprinted by the United Church of God in its seven-year history to 2,173,000.

Comparing the number of English-language booklets published in each year, the Church printed:

- 120,000 copies of five booklets in 1996.
- 50,000 copies of four booklets in 1997.
- 155,000 copies of seven booklets in 1998.
- 369,000 copies of 13 booklets in 1999.
- 511,000 copies of 16 booklets in 2000.
- 608,000 copies of 18 booklets in

2001. For the first half of 2002 the Church has printed 360,000 copies of 13 booklets.

In general, the most popular booklets are those on prophecy. All four of the Church's booklets on prophecy—*The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy*, *You Can Understand Bible Prophecy*, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled* and *Are We Living in the Time of the End?* are among the top seven booklets in numbers printed, with 100,000 to 130,000 of each produced to date.

The most-printed booklet is *What Is Your Destiny?* at 135,000 copies. The other booklets with more than 100,000 in print are *What Happens After Death?*, *Why Does God Allow Suffering?* and *The Ten Commandments*.

The United Church of God has produced 28 booklets in the English language so far, with more planned by the end of the year.

See page 2 for a chart showing how many of each booklet have been printed since United began. UN

Pinecrest Produces Heroes and "the Zone"



Pinecrest canoe staff was featured in the local newspaper after rescuing a family on the Black River (see article, page 12). From left, Jason Carter, Nathan Willoughby, Mike Blackwell (canoeing director), Clint Porter, Katie Decker and Jeannette Hoffart (photo by Naomi Shoemaker)

by Guy Burke

June 13, 111 campers and 54 staff members gathered at Camp Pinecrest near Fredericktown, Missouri, to set up "the Zone" 2002. Then followed seven days of fun-

filled challenges such as canoeing, archery, riflery, soft-ball, volleyball, speedaway, swimming, ropes course, climbing and rappelling, journalism, male-female semi-

See "Pinecrest," page 12

More Details of BSC Grad Program Released

by Scott Ashley and Peter Eddington

As announced last issue, some of our pastors are now beginning to receive personal requests for contact and requests for sermon tapes from our growing list of *Bible Study Course* graduates. These requests are specifically coming from readers who have gone through all 12 lessons of the *Bible Study Course* and have received an additional 12 months of our fundamental beliefs sermon tapes and *Good News* radio programs.

Those who have completed these first two phases are now being sent an offer of the following additional materials to help them in their study of the Bible. Hundreds of responses are now

starting to come into the home office requesting:

- 1) *World News and Prophecy* and/or
- 2) Regular sermon tapes from the congregation nearest them and/or
- 3) To have a pastor contact them and/or
- 4) The address of the UCG pastor and the address of the congregation nearest them.

Let us take a moment to clarify who these people requesting tapes and/or information about the local congregation are, and how they got to the point of this offer. There appears to be a misimpression that they have only received the *Bible Study Course*, and this is not the case. This offer is made only at the end of a process that takes at least two years. To reach the point of requesting

tapes from a local congregation, these people will have gone through the following steps in this order:

1. Subscribed to *The Good News* for at least two years, and possibly as many as six.
2. Specifically requested to receive the *Bible Study Course*.
3. Specifically renewed the *Bible Study Course* pathway through the lessons in order to continue.
4. Received all 12 lessons of the *Bible Study Course*. (They will have also been offered virtually every booklet we produce over the course of the 12 lessons, and likely requested many of them.)
5. Specifically requested to be put on

See "BSC," page 15

Eastern European Literature on the Web

by Victor Kubik

There are a number of local language choices for Eastern Europeans interested in the United Church of God. Since the collapse of communism 12 years ago, the proliferation of the Bible and the advance of the Internet, we have been responding to increasing requests for literature in native tongues.

We first translated into Russian nearly 20 *Good News* articles along with the booklets *Sunset to Sunset—God's Sabbath Rest* and *The Gospel of the Kingdom*. The booklets were printed in western Ukraine by Ivan Yurishko, a Transcarpathian Sabbatarian leader who owns a copier and printing business. The cost of having the printing done there is only a fraction of what it costs in the West. I currently send out this literature from requests received by the Church.

In the Baltic countries where we have a number of United Church of God members, we have been advertising *The Good News* on a Tartu, Estonia, radio station and will soon be advertising in the capital, Tallinn. Having visited the broadcast studios of Pere [meaning "family"] Raadio during the Feast in 2000, John Lambert, an elder from Elmira, New York, was able to meet with

See "Eastern European," page 3

Inside:

- 3 News From Around the World
- 8 From the Word
- 13 Local Church Updates
- 14 Announcements
- 15 Letters
- 16 What's New on the Web?

News At a Glance

Continued from page 1

new *Good News* subscribers were added as a result of residual cards coming in. Overall response has improved to 1.2 percent (from 1.1 percent) and overall cost per response has improved to \$4.15 (from \$4.35).

Our direct mail effort leads the list for highest response with an excellent 6.7 percent response rate. In our direct mail campaign, we targeted lists of people who showed "religious interest" and others who showed interest in book buying/reading. After three campaigns, these two categories seem to be our primary targets. Of course, list testing needs to continue in the future.

We have also included *GN* offers in various packages people receive. Four of the five package insert efforts that performed at 1 percent or better were sent to book buyers/readers. This result seems to confirm similar direct mail book buyer/reader results. Also, as we have previously witnessed, card packs directed toward gardeners and homeschoolers are among the top responders.

Our supermarket take-one program is also a good source for subscribers. Last year's effort (2000-2001) topped-out at 2.2 percent response. We are not too far behind in this year's effort, with new subscribers still trickling in.

John LaBissoniere

Australian Camp Set for Dec. 20-29

The United Youth Camp—Australia will once again take place at Camp Mac on the shores of Lake Macquarie, halfway between Sydney and Newcastle. Young people from 11 to 24 years of age are invited to attend. Arrival is planned for Friday afternoon, Dec. 20. Camp concludes on Sunday morning, Dec. 29.

Plans for camp are being announced early this year so that those planning to attend will have enough time to book economical fares. Please request an application form before arranging the air tickets. For more information, please contact the camp director, Bruce Dean, P.O. Box 3092, Kirrawee Delivery Centre, NSW 2232 Australia; or by e-mail through bruce_dean@ucg.org.

U.K. Feast Update

The U.K. Feast site planned for Grange-over-Sands in the beautiful South Lakeland area of northwest England is proving to be very popular. We would like to bring some things to your attention if you are planning to keep the Feast with us in the U.K.

First of all, please be sure to bring a hymn book with you. Next, please be sure to complete the Feast volunteer

See "News at a Glance," page 16

Sabbath School Lessons for Teachers Available on the Web

by Jim Servidio

This summer, 240 Sabbath school lessons for teachers have been posted on the UCG Youth Web site (www.ucgyouth.org). This Sabbath school project, designed to help instructors provide exciting, interactive classes, is the end result of many years of effort involving approximately 30 members and ministers.

Though many United congregations had functional Sabbath school programs underway when United began, there was a desire to produce a UCGIA-approved curriculum and lessons that would be made available to all congregations. Since my wife, Judy, had experience in working with children and had proposed this initiative, she and I were asked to coordinate this project under the direction of the Ministerial Services Youth Education Committee.

A Volunteer Team Effort

The emphasis in United is on collaboration and this undertaking provided a unique way to combine the talents of many individuals. Unlike having a few full-time employees producing the lessons, this project would involve more than 25 Church members and five pastors scattered across the country.

Since there was a desire to tap into the expertise and experience of the membership, the first step was to find out who was willing to work on the project. A survey was developed by the home office and was sent out to the membership in 1997. However, before the volunteers could begin working on the actual lessons, a curriculum had to first be developed.

The initial step in creating a curriculum was to collect and categorize all the programs that were being used in local congregations. A committee in Minneapolis, consisting of Jan Crede, Sue Ellison, Christy Hoaglund, Linda Knapp, Michelle Rageth and Judy Servidio, reviewed all the Sabbath school programs being used in the field in order to learn the commonality of what was being taught. This became the basis of the Sabbath school curriculum.

Once a preliminary curriculum was developed, it was sent to the volunteers for review and comment. After incorporating the suggestions and edits of the volunteers, the updated version was presented to the Council of Elders in November of 1998 and approved. The curriculum consisted of six levels (kindergarten through fifth grade) of which there are four lessons per month covering 10 months of the year. The second phase of the project, creating teacher's outlines for each of the 240 lessons, was then ready to begin.

Writing Teams

Writing teams were developed for each of the six grade levels based on volunteers' responses to the survey. Church pastors, consisting of Steve Myers, Greg Sargent, Jim Servidio, Gary Smith and Herb Teitgen, became team leaders of the various levels. Though an overall format and editing style was established, the various lessons reflect the individuality, experience and talents of each writer.

Once each lesson was written, it was reviewed by the Youth Education Committee for doctrinal accuracy and compatibility with the curriculum. Tony Kardell, a professional graphics designer from the Minneapolis congregation, created the layout and later reformatted the lessons in their present configuration. The lessons were ready for use by Sabbath school instructors in the fall of 2000.

Test Phase

It was determined that the 2000-2001 school year would be used as a testing period. As teachers used the lessons during that year, we asked for feedback so that we could do further refinement and editing. Becky Bennett of the Cincinnati East congregation provided the final editing and updating of the lessons based on the suggestions sent in by the teachers. These revised lessons were used this past year.

Now that the final edits have been made, we are making the lessons available on our Youth Education Web site with the help of Web master Andy

Lausted. We deeply appreciate the hundreds of hours that our volunteers gave to make this project a success. These lessons will greatly assist our teachers in illustrating and teaching the truth of God to our children.

Though we feel Sabbath school is very important, the time spent in class was never intended to take the place of parental instruction in the home. For this reason each lesson contains a Family Activity Sheet, which instructors can give to the children to take home. This sheet explains the fundamental purpose of the lesson and also suggests ways by which the parents can reinforce the biblical principles covered. Thus parents are kept apprised of what their children are learning and are also helped in their own teaching of their sons and daughters.

The following writers served as members on the various writing teams. Their

time and effort will produce much fruit in the lives of our children for years to come. Level K: Sue Allen, Dianne Clark, Barb Fouch, Corinne Morrison, Pete McNair and Judy Servidio. Level 1: Shannon Allwine, Amy Arner, Sue Blumel, Janice Creed, Kathe Myers, Donna Myers, Kim Petty, Connie Seifert and Marti Springer. Level 2: Sue Ellison, Maxine Mitchell, Phyllis Newton, Jeanne Patton, Ramona Wood and Janice Spieker. Level 3:

Debbie Call, Mike Bennett, Becky Bennett, Jane Havens, Tom Henager, Linda Hukle and Heather Martin. Level 4: Karen Allwine, Beverly Crystal, Pamela Decker, Dagmar Howe, Sue Jentzen, Brian Kelso, Matthew Kelso, Susan Krenz, Jessa Moser and Marian Sargent. Level 5: Raymond Blouin, Jim Burbeck, Marcus Brown, Roy Fouch, Skip Miller, Violet Sanders and Chris Westrick. **UW**

English-Language Booklets Printed 1996-2002

(Booklets are listed in the order in which they were produced.)

What Is Your Destiny?	135,000
The Road to Eternal Life	90,000
Sunset to Sunset: God's Sabbath Rest	75,000
The Gospel of the Kingdom	95,000
God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind	70,000
What Happens After Death?	105,000
How to Understand the Bible	50,000
Is the Bible True?	80,000
Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God	40,000
The Ten Commandments	100,000
The Church Jesus Built	50,000
Holidays or Holy Days: Does It Matter Which Days We Keep?	60,000
You Can Have Living Faith	60,000
Managing Your Finances	45,000
You Can Understand Bible Prophecy	110,000
Making Life Work	84,000
What Does the Bible Teach About Tithing?	55,000
Are We Living in the Time of the End?	100,000
Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?	80,000
Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?	80,000
The Book of Revelation Unveiled	101,000
Heaven & Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?	60,000
Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion	40,000
The United States and Britain in Bible Prophecy	130,000
What Does the Bible Teach About Clean and Unclean Meats?	54,000
Why Does God Allow Suffering?	104,000
Is There Really a Devil?	40,000
Who Is God?	80,000
Total:	2,173,000

John A. Jewell, Clyde Kilgough (chairman), Victor Kubik, Les McCullough, Mario Seigle, Richard Thompson, Leon Walker

President: Roy Holladay

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Editor: Peter W. Eddington Managing Editor: Mike Bennett Copy editor: Becky Bennett UCG/IA Council of Elders: Gary Antion, Aaron Dean, Robert Dick, Jim Franks, Doug Horchak,

Address changes: POSTMASTER—Send address changes to *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

International addresses:

AFRICA (except as listed below): United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org

AUSTRALIA: United Church of God—Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Qld. 4001, Australia. Phone: 0755 202-111 Fax: 0755 202-122

BAHAMAS: United Church of God, P.O. Box N8873, Nassau, Bahamas. Phone: (242) 324-3169 Fax: (242) 364-5566

BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God—British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020-8386-8467 Fax: 01257-453978

CANADA: United Church of God—Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 876-9966, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 876-0669

FUJI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 10-577, Nadi, Fiji. Phone: 723-678

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie—France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.

GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@guenachrichten.de

ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24100 Bergamo, Italy. Phone: (+39) 035-452-1626 Fax: (+39) 035-5821-40 E-mail: redazione@labuonanotizia.org

MALAWI: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitwe, Zambia. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org

MAURITIUS: P.O. Box 53, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius. E-mail: mauritius@ucg.org

THE NETHERLANDS: United Church of God Holland, P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.

NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Auckland, 1015, New Zealand. Phone: 0608-463-763

PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63-82) 241-0150

SCANDINAVIA: Guds Forenede Kirker, Mailbox 144, 111 73 Stockholm, Sweden.

SOUTH AFRICA: United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 2209, Beacon Bay, East London 5205, South Africa. Phone/Fax: 043 748-1694. E-mail: rsa@ucg.org

SPANISH-SPEAKING AREAS: Iglesia de Dios Unida, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. Phone: (513) 576-9796

TONGA: United Church of God—Tonga, P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitwe, Zambia. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org

ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 3393, Paulington, Mutare, Zimbabwe. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

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News From **Around the World**

Volunteers Load 20 Tons for Malawi

by Victor Kubik

On Friday, June 21, volunteers loaded and sent off LifeNet's third 40-foot container to Malawi since 1999. This 20-ton container has the most valuable shipment to date, consisting of six tons of badly needed food for malnourished Malawians, who are officially a nation in famine.

We received invaluable help from Jim O'Brien, pastor of the Cincinnati North, Ohio, and Lexington, Kentucky, congregations, plus four Ambassador Bible Center students who came to work eight hours nonstop to get the container loaded. They were Adam Boise, Reuben Boise, Dave Evans and Tim Johnson. Robert Teitgen also came and was an expert in piecing in all the boxes to maximize the container space.

In addition to food, the container was loaded with valuable medical equipment such as baby incubators and EKG machines. An entire blood analysis laboratory will be put to immediate use in the Chizeni Clinic in Balaka, one of two clinics that LifeNets has financed in the past two years.

A total of 580 items were loaded, including rice, flour, beans, cooking oil, dried milk, bicycles, furniture, paint, sewing machines and medical books. We shipped a number of items for the United congregations in Malawi, such as folding chairs, a TV/VCR, Bibles and Bible reference works and piano keyboards. An entire water purification system was included for Balaka that will be installed by Bill Jahns who,



Reuben Boise, Tim Johnson, Adam Boise, Dave Evans and Jim O'Brien

with his wife, is moving to serve in the ministry in southern Africa next month. The entire list of things sent is on the Web at www.lifeness.org/malawi/container2002/manifest.htm.

The shipping cost was totally underwritten by the U.S. Department of Defense. The container's route is through Norfolk, Virginia; Bremerhaven, Germany; Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; and finally Lilongwe, Malawi.

It was a tremendous shipment that will benefit so many. And it was made possible by the generous donations and support of so many around the country.

The person who did the most for this project and without whom it would not have happened is Beverly Kubik. She put countless hours into the organizing,

the score of telephone calls to the Defense Department and other agencies and the final packing that she directed.

Some of those who contributed are the Ambassador Bible Center and the congregations in Bethlehem, Harrisburg and Lewiston, Pennsylvania; Cincinnati East and Cincinnati North, Ohio; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Nashville, Tennessee; Tacoma, Washington; and Terre Haute, Indiana. For every dollar that members contributed, more than \$30 of direct aid has been sent.

We are praying that the container reaches Malawi by Feast time when all people will be together and when the food distribution can be done more easily. **UN**

Elder Describes Transportation Challenges in Zambia

Kambani Banda lives in the capital of Zambia, Lusaka, but is often called on to travel the rough track to visit the brethren in the remote Mumbwa area. In the following message to pastor André van Belkum he describes the vehicle troubles that led him to suggest renting a car for Mr. van Belkum's subsequent trip to the area (see page 6).

"I had one of my most difficult trips yet. The car was stalling all the way as the rings are now worn as it has been providing me with service since 1988, about 14 years! The car caught fire, but we managed to put it out and rectify the fuel leak which was the cause of the fire and we kept on.



Kambani Banda

and bolts refused to do the job.

"Next the rear left shaft together with the wheel came out of the differential. We managed to put back the bearing locker which for some reason was loose.

"Finally by then it was the following morning and for breakfast we had a tire puncture. Because of the poor performance of the engine, the fuel consumption was so bad that we ran out of petrol in the middle of nowhere. However we managed to buy some from the black market that sells anything anytime.

"I am sorry that I seem to bear only bad news, but I have some good news. The people in Mumbwa were in very high spirits in spite of the drought."



The old Peugeot that Kambani Banda drives to and from Mumbwa (photos by Victor Kubik)

"Then later the left rear wheel studs broke. Luckily Apren Moomba asked me to buy him ordinary 19 size nuts and bolts. These are the ones we used to tie the rim, but when back in Lusaka we had a puncture, these same nuts

Victor Kubik has posted this on the LifeNets Web site (www.lifeness.org/zambia/zambiadrought6-1-02.htm) and is raising funds to replace Mr. Banda's vehicle. **UN**

OGE Memorial Youth Fund to Help International Campers

Established in honor of the late Oswald G. Engelbart, the OGE Memorial Youth Fund is dedicated to enable teens from international areas to participate in a Christian camp experience in the United States.

Ozzie Engelbart, as he was more commonly known, was a minister of Jesus Christ for 32 years having pastored churches in Dallas, Texas; Poconos, Pennsylvania; Elmira and Binghamton, New York; Modesto and Stockton, California; and Fayetteville, Ft. Smith and Mena, Arkansas. From 1997 through 1999 he was also involved with the United Youth Camp at Pinecrest, Missouri.

Mr. Engelbart was a person who loved people, and he especially loved young people. As Tom Clark, a Pinecrest faculty member, wrote of him: "He had a radar that sought out those kids who were feeling blue or left out or homesick or whatever. Before long we would see him in the dining hall playing some silly game with them. But they were laughing and enjoying themselves, which was his purpose to begin with."

Mr. Engelbart died on March 31,

2000. In order to continue his lifework of helping young people have opportunities to learn proper spiritual values as taught by the Word of God, his wife, Tina Engelbart, and children, Samantha Engelbart Clark, Ted Engelbart and Natalie Engelbart, started the fund. In 2000 the fund collected around \$2,700, and last year was able to sponsor its first camper, Sabrina Kneipp of Monheim am Rhein, Germany.

The fund provides assistance in the form of airfare to the United States to attend a United Youth Camp. Applicants need to be in their teens, of a Christian background and have an ability to speak and understand basic English. Applicants must also be able to provide some of the money for the cost of the camp and expenses.

The OGE Memorial Youth Fund is under the auspices of LifeNets, a non-profit humanitarian relief organization founded by Victor Kubik in 1998. Applications and donations can be sent to: OGE Memorial Youth Fund, LifeNets, P.O. Box 88165, Indianapolis, IN 46208-0165. **UN**

Eastern European Languages on the Web

Continued from page 1

the station managers in Tartu, Estonia, in June 2001. During that meeting, Paavo and Mare Pihlak agreed in principle to air advertisements for the *Good News* magazine. Since only a very few Estonians speak English, it was understood these ads could only appeal to a limited number of listeners.

We prepared five written scripts for 60-second advertisements. John Lambert took them with him to the Feast last September and arranged for them to be translated into Estonian. By coincidence, these ads went on the air on the Last Great Day. In four months, these ads resulted in 30 new subscribers to the *GN*. Paavo relates that many more people called the station to ask if there is any information available in the Estonian language.

By the Days of Unleavened Bread 2002, eight people previously unknown to us had made personal contact with us and/or attended church services. A number of others also contacted us by mail for additional literature.

Presently, Toomas Schvach, a resident of the capital city of Tallinn, is arranging

to advertise the *GN* in that city on Radio 7. Based on the previous response



Lithuanian elder Henrikas Klovas and Victor Kubik formatting the Web pages of our Eastern European literature now available on-line at www.ucg.org/a/easterneurope

from the area of Tartu, we hope that we will have twice as many (60) new subscribers by the Feast this fall. Responding to the apparent interest for information written in the Estonian language, Toomas has edited and revised an earlier Estonian translation of our booklet on the Kingdom of God. At the Feast this year we are planning to offer this booklet and the *God's Sabbath Rest* booklets on both radio stations. Anticipating that effort, Scott Ashley is presently format-

ting the booklets for publication, and we have arranged to have 1,000 copies of each printed in Western Ukraine.

Lithuanian elder Henrikas Klovas who lives in Kaunas, Lithuania, is building our Internet presence for Eastern Europeans accessing our literature on-line. If Eastern Europeans can contact us via electronic mail, they most likely can download our literature in their language. On June 16 we launched all the current literature we have available in PDF format from the UCG Web site. It can be accessed from the Life and Resources section or from www.ucg.org/a/easterneurope.

Henrikas Klovas and his wife, Vijole, have been visiting the United States and stayed with us in mid-June. During his visit we did the final consolidation of all the Eastern European literature we have. Translation has been done by various people over the past few years, including Australian member Robyn Kleinbergs who translated the booklet on God's Holy Days into Latvian. Most of the literature we have available in Russian, Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian is currently on-line. We hope to add some articles in Serbian. **UN**

UCG–British Isles Discusses New Station, Swedish Lit, Growing Circulation

On June 11 John Jewell and David McDermott met with Paul Rusling, the chief executive officer and founder of a new radio station being planned in the Isle of Man. The station is expected to reach much, if not all, of the British Isles and thus it seems it would be a good place to air *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast produced by the Church in the British Isles. The meeting with Mr. Rusling was a “getting-to-know-you” exploratory discussion, and it went very well.

Financing of the station is coming from grants from the Isle of Man government and other sources. All the necessary approvals have been given. The contract for the construction of the offshore platform and structure for the antenna is in the process of being placed with British Aerospace. With the antenna structure, the effective height will be 150 feet. Then with the powerful 500 kilowatt transmitter, the signal, unimpeded by hills as it travels across the Irish

Sea, will sweep right through the Midlands and right into the southeast of England.

The station programming will be aimed at the 25- to 50-year-old age group. *The World Tomorrow*, Mr. Rusling said, will fit into the overall mix. It is a little premature to discuss cost, but he felt that this would be subject to discussion with a view to having our program rather than not having it. We will see! Certainly it seems to be a much more viable possibility than other “new” stations we have talked to have been.

Mr. Rusling is a man of considerable experience in radio and was actually a deejay on Radio Caroline when *The World Tomorrow* was being broadcast from it back in the 1960s.

We had had high hopes of the resurrection of Radio Luxembourg, but it now appears that that is not going to happen at this time. Manmusic 249 (the name of the new station) however, would seem to be on course for becoming

a reality. If God wills, and if we have the desire to be broadcasting a witness, then this will all become a reality.

We should understand that radio does not necessarily result in huge numbers being added to the mailing list. This is not happening in the United States and if we think of it in terms of “cost per response,” then we are measuring it the wrong way. Radio is also a witness, it is a public presence, a public statement working with other forms of advertising in synergy. Radio is the 21st century way that we speak in the marketplace, much as the apostle Paul did in the first century.

Two Booklets Translated Into Swedish!

Two booklets have been translated into the Swedish language by Kira Spenser and Solveig Hammar. These are *The Road to Eternal Life* and *Making Life Work*. We now have to work out an economical method of making these

available to the Swedish mailing list in printed form.

Kira and Solveig are now going to begin work on further translations. Swedish is understood throughout Scandinavia and these booklets will be an effective addition to our inventory.

Isle of Man Direct Mail Project

The Isle of Man direct mail project is producing some excellent fruit. May produced 19 responses and has taken the mailing list in the island to 113—probably the highest it has been in a long time. The direct mail is an ongoing effort by all of the members on the island working together and is proving to be the most productive of any of our previous media efforts and the most economical.

U.K. May Circulation Report

The Internet continues to be very productive, and May once again produced

40 requests for a subscription to *The Good News* from the U.K. and U.S. Web sites. All together we had 41 responses to the U.K. Web site with a further 80 to the U.S. Web site that were then directed to us.

The old faithful of *Reader's Digest* has given us another response both for the U.K. and the Swedish editions that we had ads in some two years ago.

May also saw 31 new requests for the *Bible Study Course*. We have over 230 currently taking the course.

The Swedish mailing list is now 164, the highest it has been since last June, and this is true of several of the 37 nations (including the United Kingdom) into which we mail the magazine.

The other publications are doing well, with over 200 on the mailing list for *United News* and over 250 for *World News and Prophecy*. **UN**

This material first appeared in the United Church of God—British Isles “National Announcements.”

Canadian Council Meets in Newfoundland

by Rainer Salomaa and Linda Wasilkoff

The second Canadian Council meeting of the year was held in St. John's, Newfoundland, June 6 to 9. All Council members were present and on Sunday four members of the local congregation were able to attend a meeting and give input.

On Thursday, minutes from the previous meeting were adopted. Daniel Berendt reported on his experiences and impressions of the General Conference of Elders meetings in Cincinnati. He encouraged the Council to schedule a National Council meeting in Cincinnati so that more members of the Council might attend the GCE.

Anthony Wasilkoff, Canadian operation manager, gave an update on what is being done in the Canadian National Office. Samples of an ad campaign were shown and a letter was read showing the importance of having church congregations that are warm and welcoming to new attendees.

Ed van Pelt distributed charts that show the growth of various areas of the Church.

Each pastor present gave a short update on how Pentecost went in his area. This was followed by a brainstorming session. Committee meetings followed.

The committee reports were given on Friday. The Strategic Planning Committee will check the feasibility of having a Council meeting in Cincinnati to coincide with the General Conference of Elders meeting. They are working on the Strategic Plan for 2003/2004 but do not anticipate any major changes.

The Pastoral Committee related a list of items they are working on, including guidelines for hall rentals for churches, policies for minister-

ial transfers and church buildings.

The Governance Committee had the task of follow-through with two proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Another technical amendment was approved to be sent to the Amendment Committee.

The yearly review of the operation manager was conducted during the afternoon.

On the Sabbath, most arrived at the Orangeman's Lodge (where the brethren normally meet for services) for snacks and refreshments before church. There were 32 in attendance for services, and another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robson, on-line since they were unable to make the eight-hour drive.

David Smith, pastor of the St. John's congregation, talked to the congregation about his mother's death. Her funeral had been conducted by Robert Berendt earlier that week. Then he introduced Glen White, who gave a split sermon on the “Mind of Christ.”

Fern Berendt sang special music. After that, Rainer Salomaa gave the second split sermon on “Vengeance.”

More snacks were served after services! Then the entire group met at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kelligrews where they all enjoyed a catered meal and had a chance for further fellowship.

Graemne Marshall gave a slide show presentation on burnout on Sunday morning. Mr. Marshall pointed out that it is the accumulated effect of stress that causes the problem. He then gave hints as to how to combat burnout. All recognized this as a very real problem and appreciated the information given. Members from the St. John's congregation related the stresses in their lives and expressed appreciation.

The Council enjoyed the opportunity of spending a few short days in Canada's most easterly province. They even had a chance to take a two-hour boat

cruise in the harbor to the accompaniment of lively folk music. Some even got up and jigged, after being coaxed by Blanche Smith. The Council members felt overwhelmed by the hospitality and friendliness of the brethren.

Mr. and Mrs. Mayo of Newfoundland commented that having everyone there made it seem like the Feast of Tabernacles. Someone else commented that it was good to have a face to go along with the name and voice they have heard on tapes. Mrs. Stanley's husband has been away teaching up north all winter. This last month has been very long for her. She said that the Council's visit helped her get through this last month before her husband returns.

The St. John's brethren were all very thrilled to have not just one visitor but the whole Council. They know they are not forgotten.

The Canadian National Council has been trying to meet in every area of Canada where there are congregations. “We still haven't met in Nanaimo, North Battleford, Regina, Ottawa or Sussex, but eventually we will,” said Rainer Salomaa, chairman of the Council.

Some Canadian Statistics

The attendance at the Feast of Pentecost set a new record for Canada. A reported 613 attended services that day, up from 589 the previous year. This represents a 4.1 percent increase over last year. The Holy Day offering brought in about 10 percent above the budget.

The number of pieces of mail received through the end of May was about 15 percent ahead of last year. The Canadian office received nearly 4,000 pieces of mail in the first five months of 2002, compared to just under 3,300 pieces during the same period last year. **UN**

Members Get Involved in Spreading the Gospel, Part 2

The April-June issue of *United News Australia* featured four stories of member involvement in spreading the gospel. We reprinted two in the June issue, and the other two are excerpted here:

Quit Stalling: Here's an Idea!

Jacqui Afionni, from New South Wales, reports:

The regular Hornsby Market where Eve Gray and I have been providing a United Church of God stall for the last two years was closing down at the end of December 2001. I had been enormously encouraged by the success of this venture and wondered if God wanted us to continue now the market was closing.

At the last stall in December I arrived early to find the stall spaces had already been almost fully taken. I found the organizer and asked where I could put the United Church of God stall today. She showed me a spot tucked away at the back of another religious stall. I was disappointed with the location because I had hoped that, since this was the last market, our stall could have had a good spot on the thoroughfare that a lot of people would visit.

So I went off to the car to load up the gear and all the way I was praying I would know how to ask the organizer to give me a better spot for the stall. I felt really rude asking for something better, since the space allotted to us was free because we were a Church, and all the other stalls had to pay. I knew God would bring everyone past the stall where it stood if needed, but if there was something I could do, then I needed to try.

I had just begun to look around for the organizer to make my request, when a young lad came up to me and told me our stall had been moved to another spot. I looked at him amazed and asked where we had been moved. He pointed to a space right at the center of the market

thoroughfare. I stared at him a little stunned and almost cried as I thanked him for letting me know and moved over to begin setting up in this wonderful spot.

To me this small encouraging development told me God wanted the stall there that day and I really felt His support of my efforts.

Now that the Hornsby Market is closed, I am looking for another location for our stall that will provide another community the opportunity of coming into contact with the truth of God.

Waiting Room Program

Lea Evans, from Tasmania, reports:

When Ruth Root asked if I would like to take part in the Waiting Room Program, my first reaction was, “I can't phone people—I have a fear of the phone!” I then remembered that days before I had asked God, if there was an area where I could serve more, to please help me to see it.

I had a gentle introduction to the phoning procedure. Sue Williams was a great teacher, and after sitting and observing how she handled the calls, I was ready to start this new challenge.

The most important lesson I have learned is to get God involved. Before I do any phoning, I go to God and remind Him that this is His work—I don't wish to do anything that will hinder it, or give the Church a bad reputation, so I need all the help I can get. The script is very short and to the point, so most calls only last 17 to 20 seconds. It doesn't take long to get into the rhythm and the cheery responses on the other end of the phone help make the job enjoyable.

I won't take this program for granted any more. I now know the dedication of a handful of ladies around Australia.

Last financial year the waiting room list increased 39.1 percent to 3,502 subscribers. Please pray for its success. **UN**

Baker Baptizes 11, Celebrates Pentecost in East Africa

by Dave Baker

During a two-week trip to East Africa in May, I had the wonderful opportunity to spend the Feast of Pentecost with some of our members in Kenya and Tanzania. The purpose of the trip was to visit our scattered brethren, counsel a number of prospective members for baptism and finalize a location for the Feast of Tabernacles.

I arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday evening, May 14, after a couple of long flights via Detroit and Amsterdam. The following day I had the opportunity to meet some of our members living in the Nairobi area. In the afternoon I was able to tour a facility and evaluate it as a possible Feast site. Monday evening I enjoyed a wonderful dinner and evening with Kurt and Jennifer Hoyer and their two sons. Kurt and Jennifer are on a two-year assignment with the U.S. State Department in Nairobi and they are greatly appreciated by the brethren.

Into the Rift Valley

On Wednesday, May 15, I departed Nairobi for the Rift Valley accompanied by David Gichuru, a member from Nairobi. David and I planned to visit the members living in the Rift Valley and visit one of the facilities of Egerton University in Njoro. As we traveled through the Rift Valley, we saw gazelles, zebras and baboons. We toured the Agricultural Resource Center at Egerton University. The center was constructed for use as a dormitory for visiting professors and researchers. The facility has a nice meeting hall and dining room and the university's swimming pool and sports facilities are located within easy walking distance. (At the end of my trip, it was decided that we will use this facility as the location for the Feast in Kenya this year.)

After touring the ARC facility, we traveled to Naisha-Njoro to visit the family of Joseph Kihara. Joseph, a long-time member of God's Church, died on April 29 from cancer. He was buried just outside his home. After expressing our condolences to his family, we visited with some of the prospective members in the area and discussed how best to serve them. During our meeting in a small teashop, many of the small children in the community gathered at the door and peered through the windows. Finally they were invited in and each child filed in and shook my hand. They had never shaken the hand of a *mwungu* (white man) and I was a bit of a curiosity.

On Thursday, May 16, we traveled through beautiful farmland to visit Egerton Castle, the once grand home of Lord Egerton. Lord Egerton established Egerton College in 1939 as an agricultural college. Although the home or castle is past its former glory, it commands a beautiful view of a very fertile portion of the Rift Valley.

In the afternoon we traveled to Elburgon to visit our members and hold a Bible study on the subject of Pentecost. During a Q&A session after the study, we discussed the subject of tithing, the future of the Church in their area and

some expressed interest in counseling for baptism.

In the late afternoon we departed for Kericho located in the western highlands. Kericho is surrounded by tea estates. It is in the heart of Kenya's tea plantation region. The area is lush and green with a cool climate. After checking into our hotel in the evening, we met with a couple who subscribes to *The Good News*. This was a very enjoyable reunion because during my first trip to Kenya I met this couple while trying to conduct a Q&A session on the veranda of a hotel during a violent thunderstorm. I had not heard from them since our initial visit. During our enjoyable visit in Kericho they asked some very good questions about the Sabbath and Holy Days.

On Friday, May 17, I said good-bye to David Gichuru, as he had to return to Nairobi for the Sabbath and Pentecost, and I continued on to Kerera to meet with a *Good News* subscriber. The young man asked many good questions concerning prophecy. Since our visit occurred near a pathway in a rural setting, many pedestrians stopped and listened to our impromptu Q&A. As I rested my Bible on the trunk of the automobile and turned to various scriptures answering his questions, some passersby leaned over the young man's shoulder and read the scriptures as we



Photo of the children who were blessed in Migori, Kenya

discussed them. After our meeting the young man accompanied us to the next town before parting ways.

From Kerera I journeyed to Rongu and was met by John Otieno, a member from Migori. John accompanied me throughout my travels in the Nyanza region and helped with the translation into the local language. From Rongu I continued on to Ndhiwa and visited with some of our members living in the area. I conducted a Bible study on the meaning of the Feast of Pentecost and a Q&A session.

Late in the afternoon, one of the prospective members from Ndhiwa accompanied me back to Rongu where I held a short Bible study and concluded a baptismal counseling session with some of the prospective members in the area. As the sun was setting and dark clouds were threatening a downpour, we departed to a nearby stream in order to

baptize three new members—one from Ndhiwa and two from Rongu. As we walked to the spot for the baptism, we had a beautiful backdrop of a perfectly brilliant rainbow.

On Sabbath, May 18, I met with the members in Rongu for another brief Q&A before departing to Migori. We had a wonderful Sabbath service in Migori in which I gave a brief update on the recently concluded annual General Conference and then spoke on the purpose of the Church. After the service we enjoyed a meal together and then I had the opportunity to bless five small children. (Many of the members in Kenya cannot afford to bring their entire family to the Feast, and we do not have a minister in the country on the second Sabbath after the Feast, so we bless the children as we have an opportunity.)

After the blessing of the little children ceremony, I was able to conclude the baptismal counseling for three prospective members. Some had begun counseling for baptism more than three years ago. Later in the afternoon I was able to baptize three new members in the Migori River. Since the spot for the baptism was near a public road where villagers wash their clothes, we had a large audience of unexpected guests. Shortly before sundown the town lost its power supply, and I enjoyed a mandatory candlelight dinner of roasted beef at my

also sick during my visit in January.

Monday, May 20, I traveled to Kisumu and met with some of our members in that area. I conducted a Bible study on the meaning of the Holy Days. After the study we had a Q&A

meets me in Kisumu had died the previous month of typhoid fever.

Thursday, May 23, I met with some *Good News* readers in Kisumu and conducted a very enjoyable Q&A session answering questions concerning the trin-



Caroline Akinyi, Mary Achieng, Lilian Aoko, Daniel Odhiambo and George Odhiambo were baptized in Got Kachola, Kenya, in Lake Victoria

session, and then I crossed the border back to Kenya.

Tuesday, May 21, I was very sick due to food poisoning. Thankfully God was very merciful to me and I improved as the day progressed. Since all my visits were previously arranged and communication in this area is challenging to say the least, I had to continue with the schedule. This was also the day of the roughest roads of the trip!

I traveled to Got Kachola, a small fishing village on the shores of Lake Victoria. The area had experienced recent flooding and some of the homes in low-lying areas had to be evacuated. Thankfully none of our members had been affected. In order to reach the village we drove across a bridge that was completely submerged in water!

I conducted a Bible study and Q&A on the meaning of the Feast of Pentecost. During the Q&A we discussed the subject of tithing and how the members could respond to emergencies within the congregation. One child had died since my last visit and I also anointed a member suffering from typhoid fever and amebic dysentery. I was also able to bless one child and conclude the baptismal counseling for five prospective members. I was able to baptize five new members in Lake Victoria. We left Got Kachola at 6 p.m. and arrived in Kisumu at 9:30 p.m. after driving through a very intense rainstorm.

Wednesday, May 22, I traveled north of the equator to Siaya to visit our members in that area. I held a Q&A with the members and then traveled to a small village near Kisumu and held a Bible study and Q&A with members and *Good News* readers from the surrounding area. Many good questions were asked during this session and perhaps the most interesting question was in regard to inheriting your brother's wife—a real issue that many face in this part of Africa. I also learned that one of the *Good News* readers who normally

the rapture and baptism. I departed Kisumu and traveled to Nyahururu, a town located near Thomson's Falls, at an elevation of over 7,000 feet above sea level. I enjoyed a lovely evening with a family that subscribes to *The Good News*. I was asked many questions about UCG concerning its formation and structure while enjoying tea and some traditional Kikuyu dishes.



Joseph Maroko, Moses Nyaira and Zablun Ngonda were baptized in the Migori River by Dave Baker

Sabbath, May 25, I joined the members in Nairobi for services and I spoke on the subject of the Holy Spirit. Afterward we discussed possible Feast sites as well as the goals and future needs for the work in East Africa. Then I was invited to the home of David Gichuru and his family and enjoyed their wonderful hospitality before leaving for the airport to return home.

Each time I travel to East Africa, I leave exhausted but enriched by the experiences shared with our brethren in Kenya and Tanzania. On this trip I was also reminded of the fragility of life in Africa. I would like to thank all of our members for their support and prayers for our brethren in East Africa. Your love and kindness is greatly appreciated! **UN**

South African National Council Meets June 8

by Peter Hawkins

All seven members of the national council in South Africa were present for the quarterly meeting at Johannesburg International Airport Conference Centre June 8. The four ministers, André van Belkum, Neil Becker, Peter Hawkins and Neville Smith, met for an hour to discuss ministerial issues prior to the council meeting. They were joined at 9:30 a.m. by Jorge de Campos



Dr. Sam Chilopora in front of Chizeni Clinic in Malawi. Above, Esther Chilopora helping blind girl

pos, Roy Demont and Robert Kading for the all-day meetings.

After the opening prayer, correspondence received and sent was discussed. This included a letter from the Council of Elders answering questions about the local application of tithing, forwarded by international representative on the Council, Leon Walker.

The national council has also been concerned about the need for literature on marriage and child training to be available for members and the public. This need was forwarded to Scott Ashley, managing editor of *The Good News* and booklets, and Victor Kubik, chairman of the Media and Communications Committee. It was later resolved to photocopy previous *Good News* articles and make them available in congregations' libraries, as well as a list of the articles for those who have the past magazines.

In matters arising from the last meeting:

Letters of appreciation to two previous council members will be posted shortly. Due to a change in our bylaws agreed to earlier this year, Stan Botha from Cape Town and Conrad Richter from East London, who had served for several years, made way for non-salaried elder Neville Smith from Durban. Gratitude for the December (summer) youth activity led by Grant and Kim Chick has also been expressed by the chairman, André van Belkum.

Good News circulation: Confirmation was received from the home office that we would be able to circulate 13,000 copies of each *Good News* issue. These are divided between a mailing list in South Africa, 9,500; waiting room copies, 700; and sample copy distribution through the Post Office, 2,800 per issue.

Winter Youth Camp: Preparation for our outdoor activity at Lalapala, which will serve 19 youth, is going well, Jorge de Campos reported. Joel Meeker

and his family will be visiting and helping with the counseling, along with two United Youth Corps staff members.

Clinic update/vehicle for Zambia: Mr. van Belkum reported that the Chizeni Clinic in Balaka, Malawi, was nearing completion. Cost for a replacement vehicle for Kambani Banda, elder in Zambia, is being raised through LifeNets.

Chairman's Report

In his chairman's report, André van Belkum gave a report on the May 2002 General Conference of Elders, where he was South Africa's representative. He also gave feedback on the new home office building and the sense of urgency he felt from the staff. He also discussed developments in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, where drought portends a future lack of staple food. There has been good growth there. Thankfully, brethren overseas are already planning to send basic supplies to help.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The secretary/treasurer's report given by Neil Becker noted that increases in donations from *Good News* readers and tithing income from members are ahead of what we had hoped for. Holy Day offerings in 2002 are up by 40 percent on the amount we hoped for. We are grateful for God's blessings. Mr. Becker also noted that the generosity of Conrad Richter has enabled a reduction in workload that the Becker family has been carrying. One of Mr. Richter's staff handles the insertion of Church literature requests and delivery of the mail to the Post Office, as well as the storage of literature. A letter of appreciation will be sent. Council members requested that some form of quality control for mailing of our publications be started.

Recent increases in literature requests prompted Roy Demont to ask that we monitor the need for additional office staff. New equipment purchases include two new computers for the UCG-SA office. Accessing the database of 13,000 names and addresses has been speeded up dramatically. Mr. Becker pointed out some good signs in the involvement of *GN* readers: 418 have received the first four *Bible Study Course* lessons, an increase of over 200 percent from six months ago. Almost 200 have completed all 12 lessons. The number of booklets, *GN* back copies and intro copies sent by the office has risen from an average of 471 per month in 2000, to 948 per month in 2001 and 1,954 per month in the first five months of 2002. The semi-annual letter offering *Who Is God?* has brought 755 requests from the 6,300 *GN* readers who received the offer (12 percent). Of these, 91 people donated a total of 5,370 rand.

Media Report

In his media report, Peter Hawkins reported on several ongoing projects.

Infomail: The Post Office distribution to post boxes brought 59 identifiable responses (2 percent). Since the coupon mentions our Web site and e-mail address, and there is a response card

in the magazine, the actual response may be higher.

Advertising: An insert card will be placed in the August issue of *Readers' Digest* in South Africa. The planned inclusion of advertisements in *Click's Club Card* magazine and *Woman's Value* magazine will be delayed to allow the mailing list to settle to a manageable level.

Waiting Room Program: After discussion, the council decided to continue with the program since member involvement was appreciated and the response rate was around 2 percent.

Project suggested by Durban member, Fred Liebenberg: A sample calendar was shown to the council. Consideration was given to whether this could be offered to *GN* readers or coworkers. Even if made half-size, it was decided not to go ahead with this project this year.

Option of printing in South Africa: Costs for printing a 16- and 32-page brochure as a sample *Good News* was given by Mills Litho. On a print run of 10,000 the cost per copy is 1.92 rand (16-page) and 3.83 rand (32-page).

Radio program: Investigation of possible airing of the U.K. or U.S. radio program is proceeding. Two samples of each program have been given to Radio Tygerberg for consideration. An update will be given at the next meeting.

At the GCE, the possibility of using the British *Good News* supplement was raised. After consideration of the general acceptance of the content of *The Good News* by the average South African reader, and the additional cost of sending a supplement to 9,500 *GN* readers, it was decided not to pursue this option.

Feast of Tabernacles 2002: Visiting ministers from the United States include Roy and Norma Holladay and Rick and

Deborah Shabi. The cost of transportation to areas outside South Africa is becoming prohibitive. The council decided to request assistance from the home office in the next subsidy period to make all needed visits to serve the growing number of members in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, instead of only what we can afford to pay for from South Africa.

New tax requirements require employees to pay 1 percent of salary into the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), with a further 1 percent contributed by UCG-SA. This will require an additional expenditure by the Church of several thousand rand per year.

Reaching other Church groups: A minister of a group of 2,000 has requested 70 copies of the *GN* each issue. He preaches from the magazine. There was discussion on whether each individual should request further copies. The chair-



Robert Kading, Roy Demont, Jorge de Campos, Stan Botha, Conrad Richter, André van Belkum, Neville Smith and Peter Hawkins. Mr. Botha and Mr. Richter are no longer on the council; not pictured, Neil Becker (the photographer)

man will see the leader of the church to determine the level of interest.

After receiving the letter from the Council of Elders on tithing, there was discussion on the need for Festival tithing contributions in the form of tithing of the tithing and excess Festival tithing. This year, of the 47,000 rand Festival expenses, only 12,000 rand will be covered by

these sources. The rest will come from operating funds (first tithe). A similar situation arises at present with third tithe assistance. UCG-SA contributes 75 percent from the operating funds to cover the shortfall. Those who are able to help can contribute regularly to the assistance fund, fulfilling the command to remember the poor (Galatians 2:10).

Selection of non-elder council members: Robert Kading introduced a suitable way of nominating non-elder council members for consideration. The council resolved that the nomination form should give the qualifications for service on the council (Bylaw 7.4) and the words, "I nominate . . . signed . . . [unsigned nominations cannot be considered]." Women may also be nominated and considered for the national council. The final selection is by the ministry.

Stan Botha, in a letter to the council, was concerned about the bylaw requiring that the majority of the number of ministers should be no more than one. Lay-member council members expressed the belief that having "one elder majority" was important for the protection of UCG-SA and did not prevent the council from being expanded to include new elders. Ministers are automatically nominated for vacant positions on the council, but are not automatically added to the council.

Budget preparation: Neil Becker requested council members to bring budget suggestions for the 2003/2004 budget for the next meeting, Sept. 1 in Johannesburg. This will aid in preparing a preliminary budget for the November meeting. **UN**

Encouraging Growth Seen in Zambia

by André van Belkum

June 10 to 16 I visited our people in Zambia, and was encouraged by the overall growth and development of the Church there. In Kitwe I stayed with Derrick and Cherry Pringle and spent virtually one day counseling with various people from the area. One person I visited with was Geoffrey Mumbwa who was baptized into the Church during the early part of the '60s. Accompanying him was Benson Chilima who was baptized in 1987. They both left when the doctrinal changes came about. Both now want to be part of United. There were also a number of other encouraging visits, with the result that we will now have a small group meeting together in the Copper Belt area.

Derrick and Cherry Pringle handle the literature requests for both Zambia and Malawi. They are posting about 600 *Good News* magazines per issue, plus the numerous requests for book-

The May/June *GN* was sent to 242 subscribers in Malawi and 220 in Zambia; 100 were sent to clinics and 20 to Kalalushi Hospital. Also 190 booklets were sent out in May.

After departing from Kitwe I visited our brethren in Mumbwa. One area of concern is the drought which is afflicting not only Zambia, but also other southern African regions. Our brethren in Mumbwa are farmers, and most of them harvested only about one fifth of their previous crop. It is evident that the people in these areas will face severe food shortages unless they are given food relief. Kambani Banda, our minister in Zambia, is monitoring the situation; and we will need to give some assistance to our brethren there.

We held two Bible studies in Mumbwa—one the afternoon of Thursday, June 13, and another the following day before we returned to Lusaka. These studies were mostly interactive, and we covered various subjects, such as Lazarus and the rich man, the place of safety, the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:19) and the significance of Christ

healing the blind man in John 9. Most of these subjects were questions from the members.

Overall, my impressions are that God is blessing the Church in these regions, as He is in other countries where the Church has a presence.

Attendance in Lusaka and Mumbwa are increasing. On the Sabbath there were 25 people gathered in the home of Festone and Gloria Kamaloni in Lusaka. This is a record for the Lusaka study, and there are a number of people indicating that they have a desire to start attending with United. This slow but steady increase in attendance is evident, not only in Zambia, but also Malawi.

There was one baptism. Ida Kalenga from Mumbwa traveled with us from Mumbwa to Lusaka to be baptized. Because of the drought there was not sufficient water available at Mumbwa. She was finally baptized in a bathtub on Sabbath morning at the Banda's home. There are about six other individuals in Mumbwa who are close to being ready for baptism. **UN**

A Reunion Across 5,000 Miles

by David Dobson

The train's windows framed some of the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. Rolling croplands adorned with the verdant green of spring growth gave way to pine forests. The forests gave way to a long and wide plain, and then the city of Ceske Budejovice came into view. This city in the southern part of the Czech Republic is the home of two members of UCGIA, Josef and Irene Vylupek. Let me tell you a little of their story, which hopefully will inspire you to remember some of the scattered, remote brethren of the Body of Christ.

After World War II the Soviet Union took control of Czechoslovakia, and the Czech people, including the Vylupeks, fell behind the "Iron Curtain." Josef



Irene and Josef Vylupek with David Dobson

worked during his early and mid-adult years as an electrical engineer and an instructor. Tight controls over society existed for more than two decades, but in the 1960s winds of change blew across the landscape, culminating in what was called the "Prague Spring" of 1968. Josef and his wife, Irene, anticipated the Soviet reaction to these developments and decided to leave their homeland while they were able—before Warsaw Pact tanks moved into Prague!

Josef and Irene made their way into Austria where they lived for one year,

and then relocated to Munich, Germany, where they lived for five years. In 1974 Josef accepted a position with Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

During the early 1980s, Josef began watching Herbert Armstrong's telecasts and he requested numerous Church publications. What he read and heard left him hungry to learn more. The calling of God led Josef to write and ask for a visit by a local pastor.

Our family moved to serve in Lubbock, Texas, in August of 1984.

A few weeks after our move, I received a new visit request card from the Church's headquarters. I was unsure how to pronounce the last name on the card, but I was about to learn. One day in early October, I went to the Vylupeks' house to answer questions about the Church and our doctrines. It quickly became clear that Josef had considerable knowledge and interest in the message of the Church. I encouraged him to attend services with our congregation. However, the very next Sabbath was an annual Sabbath, the Day of Atonement, so we had quite a conversation about fasting. I wanted to be sure he really knew what fasting was in a biblical sense, while he tried to make

me understand that he really did know.

Josef attended services on that Day of Atonement in 1984, and was baptized a few months later. Soon thereafter Irene began attending Sabbath services and was baptized later by Mark Mickelson.

In 1989 the "Iron Curtain" fell in Eastern Europe, followed in a few years by the peaceful separation of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Conditions made it possible for Josef and Irene to return to their home country in 1993. For a while the Vylupeks were able to attend Sabbath ser-

vices with brethren in Vienna, Austria. Subsequent events within the church led them to the United Church of God.

I had planned to visit the Vylupeks in the spring of 2002, made possible by a free airline ticket and other circumstances. But a few days before departing for Europe from my home in Tennessee, Irene called and informed me that Josef had suffered a stroke and was in the hospital. He wanted to know if I would come to the hospital and anoint him. Accompanied by a Church member who was in the Czech Republic on business, I boarded a train in Prague early on an April morning, and at noon arrived at the station in Ceske Budejovice. Irene greeted us with a big smile, and we made our way to the hospital to visit Josef. I presented him with a get-well card that had been signed by nearly 100 brethren from the congregations in London, Kentucky; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Kingsport, Tennessee. It had to be the longest anointing trip I had ever made!

Josef has been hospitalized since that time. He has a continued need for physical therapy to work his muscles and regain his ability to move around on his own. Irene has had difficulty hiring a physical therapist who will faithfully come by the hospital room and work with Josef's exercise needs.

Most of us attend weekly or biweekly services with from one dozen to a couple of hundred other brethren. The Vylupeks are the only members in their entire country, and receive most of their spiritual meat via sermon tapes from the home office. They have been able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in France or Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kieffer are able to travel from Germany a couple of times a year to visit them.

Josef and Irene Vylupek send their greetings to the brethren around the world. Let's keep them in our prayers. **UN**

The Last of the Rupununi Pioneers

John Alexis Atkinson was born on Jan. 24, 1922, in Moruca in the North West District of Guyana. His parents were Peter and Francesca (née Rodrigues) both a mixture of Spanish, Arawak Indian, Portuguese and Scottish descent. Spanish (Creole) was spoken at home.

He began his schooling at the Santa Rosa Primary School run by the Catholic missionaries. His great-grandfather, William Alexander Atkinson II, built the church building. He recalls that during his early years he was taught more Roman Catholic doctrine than the normal school subjects. However, at 14 years old he was again taken under special care by a new headmistress who began a more formal academic training.

He soon wrote the then British School Leaving Examination and along with two girls were the only successful ones. They were chosen to work as pupil teachers. However, their applications were tendered too late to the Department of Education and their disappointment was great.

As most young men did, and still do, he left for Georgetown, the capital city, to seek employment. After volunteering to join the R.A.F. during World War II and being told to wait, he got a job as a laborer on a naval base being constructed at Makouria on the Essequibo River. He remembers his wages—eleven cents an hour! In 1941 he contracted typhoid while working with a surveying team. His friend suggested that they volunteer for the R.A.F. again. Having done so, they waited until the news broke. The war was over.

In 1946 while in Georgetown he met his uncle, Salvador Atkinson. Uncle Sal had already started a school at Aishalton and told his nephew that the Roman Catholic bishop wanted to see young Alexis. The bishop asked him if he was willing to go to the Rupununi to start a

new school. A minute's thought and a positive answer sent young Alexis to the place where he now lives.

From June 21 to July 19 he and his Uncle Sal and cousins, Theresa and Lucy, braved the elements, numerous rapids, portages and whatever the mighty Essequibo River had in store for them. It was a journey up river done in large open canoes called "balahoos" powered by a diesel engine and assisted by all passengers with paddles when necessary. More often, he remembers, it was "all hands



John Alexis Atkinson

on deck." Arriving at "port" Wichabai, a balata outpost and ranch owned by John Melville, he received a message to head for Karaudama.

He arrived there on Aug. 20, at almost the end of the wet season. He remembers the loneliness he felt. He knew not a word of the Wapishiana dialect. He was rescued by a fellow Arawak who, longing for news of back home, chatted well into the wee hours of morning with "teacher." This connection proved useful in preparing for the new school.

On Sept. 2, 1946, the new school was opened. There were 25 pupils in attendance. Uncle Alex, as he is fondly referred to, remained here for almost 30 years. During this time he served as postal agent, malaria evaluator, first-aid attendant, counselor and served in hosts of other organizations. He also graduated from the Teacher's Training College. He got married to Bridget and fathered five children with her.

During his years as headmaster he groomed many young teachers. His knowledge and vocabulary were always sought after and admired by the youngsters who, when in doubt or completely stumped, often said, "Let's ask Uncle Alex." He served as consultant to all in the area, including village captains, other headmasters and even the priests.

So it was that in 1975 he was transferred to Aishalton Primary School. He spent the last two years of his teaching career here before returning in July 1977.

Amidst all the trials and tribulations, God opened the mind of Mr. Atkinson. He still holds Herbert W. Armstrong in high esteem. Because of his belief in these true teachings, Mr. Atkinson was baptized in February 2001. Now 80 years old, he still lives an active life near the school he started some 50 years ago. God willing, he hopes to celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, sons and daughters in January 2003.

May God guide, protect and bless him.

Gary Atkinson

George Done—South Africa's Oldest Member of United

by Peter and Sonja Hawkins

George Done arrived in South Africa in 1948 at the age of 36. At 91, he is the oldest member of United Church of God in South Africa, and although quite mobile, is only able to attend church monthly. He is a well-loved, cheerful person and a fine example of a positive and faithful attitude.

Something you quickly learn about Mr. Done is that he is not choosy. Asked about his health, he said, "If you want to stay healthy, eat what you're given!"

In England he completed four years as an apprentice in pharmacy. After this, sensing that war was a distinct possibility, George joined the nearest unit of the Territorial Army.

Later, with the situation in the Middle East worsening, the British Palestine Police Force had some appeal to him. Together with 96 other ex-army members, he left the United Kingdom in a convoy routed via South Africa. The ship docked in Durban, and as their ship was required for a regiment of the South African army to go north, the 97 found

themselves in an army transit camp in South Africa. An invitation to stay at a hotel in Maidstone was very welcome.

It was here that George and his future wife, Violet, met. Violet was the secretary to the chairman of the local sugar refining company. They were both invited to the same party, where they became acquainted. They wrote to each other, at intervals, throughout the war years.

From mid-1941 to mid-1948, Palestine was George's home. As police, they were poised delicately between Jews and Arabs to keep peace. Just like today, danger could occur from either side.

"One day, whilst on patrol on the Nablus-Jenin road, I and my partner saw on the hillside three young men all carrying pistols. We stopped, went up the

hillside to them, and demanded the pistols. They surrendered them without a fuss, together with 43 rounds of ammunition."

When the British mandate in Palestine ended, George chose to live in South Africa and bought a small farm and married his sweetheart. The farm was only about 150 acres, but had grazing rights to over 6,000 acres. After four years with little or no rain, the Dones decided to rent out the farm and move to Durban.

George took a position as a conductor in the Durban Corporation Transport Department. He found himself one of the first "one man operators," combining positions of driver and conductor. As time went on, his responsibilities increased, and he was eventually appointed the traffic manager of the Transport Department with a staff of about 1,200. It was from this position that he retired in 1975.

In 1962, when his wife mentioned she had two people coming to visit, George had no idea where it would lead. The vis-



George Done



From the Word

The Message to Philadelphia: Remain Faithful

■ Jesus Christ promises great rewards to those who faithfully persevere.

by David Treybig

Jesus Christ's words to the congregation at Philadelphia are an inspiring message of hope and encouragement. It is distinct from the other messages of Revelation 2 and 3 in that to them, Jesus offered no correction, only an admonition to continue what they were already doing. He was intimately aware of their circumstances and promised them great rewards for their faithful perseverance.

Jesus offers the same promises to us today if we also remain faithful until our deaths or His return. To more deeply appreciate this timeless instruction, let's once again begin with some historical background about this city.

Historical Background

Philadelphia sat in an important location. *Expositor's Bible Commentary* says, "About twenty-five miles southeast of Sardis, along the Hermus River valley, lay the important high plateau city of Philadelphia, modern Alasehir. A main highway that ran through the city connected Smyrna (about a hundred miles due west) to northwest Asia, Phrygia, and the east. Furthermore, the imperial post road of the first century A.D., which came from Rome via Troas, Adramyttium, Pergamum, and Sardis, passed through this valley and Philadelphia on the way to the east. So situated, Philadelphia became a strong fortress city. To the northeast was a great vine-growing district, which, along with textile and leather industries, contributed greatly to the city's prosperity."

The name Philadelphia came from the founder of the city, "Attalus II (159-138 B.C.), who had been given the epithet 'Philadelphus' (brother lover)" because of his love for his brother (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*). But this was not the city's only name.

"Still another name of the city was Decapolis, because it was considered as one of the ten cities of the plain. A third name which it bore during the 1st cent. AD was Neo-kaisaria; it appears upon the coins struck during that period. During the reign of Vespasian, it was called Flavia. Its modern name, Ala-shehir, is considered by some to be a corruption of the Turkish words Allah-shehir, 'the city of God,' but more likely it is a name given it from the reddish color of the soil.

"In addition to all of these names it sometimes bore the title of 'Little Athens' because of the magnificence of the temples and other public buildings which adorned it. Philadelphia quickly became an important and wealthy trade center, for as the coast cities declined, it grew in power, and retained its importance even until late Byzantine times"

(*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Electronic Database, 1996, article "Philadelphia").

"According to Strabo, the whole region was earthquake prone (Geography 12.579; 13.628). In A.D. 17 an earthquake that destroyed Sardis and ten other cities also destroyed Philadelphia. Consequently, many people preferred to live in the rural area surrounding the city. The fear of earthquakes caused those who continued to live in the city to leave it at the slightest sign of a tremor.

"After the devastating earthquake, Tiberius came to the peoples' aid and had the city rebuilt. In gratitude the citi-

Jesus was intimately aware of their circumstances and promised them great rewards for their faithful perseverance.

zens renamed it Neocaesarea ('New Caesar'). Later the name was changed to Flavia (A.D. 70-79), and this, along with Philadelphia, continued to be its name through the second and third centuries A.D..." (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*).

Christ's Message

Jesus' message to Philadelphia begins in Revelation 3:7 and continues through verse 13. In the same style as the previous messages, Jesus began by identifying Himself as the author of the message. This time He refers to Himself as "He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens'" (verse 7).

Just as we use keys and locks today to control access to secured places, keys were used in ancient times to control gates to cities and represented governmental control. The "key of David" is used in this sense in Isaiah 22:20-23 where Eliakim replaces the unfaithful Shebna as secretary of state in Judah. Speaking of this change to Shebna, God said, "I will commit your responsibility into his hand... The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open" (verses 21-22).

When Jesus described Himself as having this "key of David," He was saying that He was of David's lineage and that He controls access to the Kingdom of God. Other passages explain that God the Father has given Jesus all power in heaven and earth, including the judgment of mankind (Matthew 28:18; John 5:22, 27; 17:2).

Works and an "Open Door"

In Revelation 3:8, Jesus then explained to Philadelphia that He knew this congregation's works and that He had set before them "an open door." Jesus Christ, at the end of the first century A.D., almost 70 years after His death and inauguration of the New

Covenant, still expected His followers to be doing works (Revelation 2:5, 9, 13, 19, 23, 26; 3:1-2).

Many today, in opposition to Jesus' clear statements, mistakenly believe works are no longer important. While our works cannot save us, Jesus expects us to be doing works in conjunction with the grace He extends to us that makes salvation possible. Grace and works are not opposites; they are compatible concepts that God expects His followers to jointly embrace. In other words, it is *grace and works*, not *grace or works*.

The apostle Paul beautifully combined both concepts in Ephesians 2:8-

10 (NIV): "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." God's grace inspires His followers to actively practice His commands.

The "door" Jesus said He had opened for Philadelphia was an opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Linkage of the term "door" with preaching the gospel occurs in several other New Testament passages. In Colossians 4:3, Paul asked the brethren to pray "for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains." In 1 Corinthians 16:8-9, he explained that he would remain in Ephesus until Pentecost because "a great and effective door has opened to me." In Ephesus, Paul was able to spend three years preaching the gospel—one of the longest time periods he spent in any location (Acts 20:17-31). Similar usage of "door" is found in 2 Corinthians 2:12 and Acts 14:27.

The *Expositor's Bible Commentary* explains that in the first century, Philadelphia was designated "a mission city for disseminating Greco-Asiatic culture and language in the eastern part of Lydia and in Phrygia. Its success is attested by the fact that the Lydian language ceased to be spoken in Lydia by A.D. 19 and Greek took over (Ramsay, *Seven Churches*, p. 391)." Just as Philadelphia had successfully accomplished this secular mission, Jesus told the congregation that they now had an opportunity to disseminate the gospel.

Modern Doors

Today many opportunities or "doors" exist for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. These include printed materials, radio, television and the Internet. These are the modern avenues Christians can use to fulfill the commission to the Church to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of

the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus expects modern followers to preach the same gospel that He taught, the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15). Unfortunately, many today have mistakenly accepted an incomplete gospel—one that focuses upon the person of Christ but omits His teaching about the Kingdom. Our free booklet, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, provides a more complete explanation.

Jesus' praise of the Philadelphians, "you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name" (Revelation 3:8), indicates that they took advantage of the opportunities He made available for preaching the gospel. God's people today must do the same.

Protection

After explaining that religious pretenders, ones who often persecuted and tried to deceive Jesus' true followers (Acts 15:1; 20:30; Jude 4), would eventually be forced to recognize the believers who obeyed Him, Jesus continued: "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of tri-

al which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

When we understand that Revelation is a prophetic book with its setting being the second coming of Jesus Christ, we see the important magnitude of this wonderful promise for us today. Within it are two concepts worthy of special note. First, the promised protection comes because Jesus' followers have kept His "command to persevere." This phrase literally means "the word of my patience" and is so translated by the King James and American Standard versions. Revelation 14:12 explains what this entails: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." The recipients of Christ's protective grace will be believers who are obeying God's law.

A second concept deserving our attention is the fact that this "hour of trial," meaning a short period of time, will "come upon the whole world." No one escapes being tested. While Jesus' followers are tested through trials during their lifetimes (2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:12), those who have not known Him or obeyed Him will also face judgment at His return.

True Christians Versus Pretenders

In Revelation 3:9 Jesus explains that eventually He will make those who only claimed to be believers understand who His real followers really were. It is interesting to note that at the end of the first century, these pretenders claimed to be "Jews"—not Christians. While most of modern Christianity rejects this term and many teachings associated with it, such as the seventh-day Sabbath and annual Holy Days, this passage says the pretenders claimed to be "Jews" because they believed this was the correct name. Were these first century pretenders confused about this name?

The Bible shows that this Jewish name and the days of worship given in the Old Testament were not rejected by Christ or the first century Christians. These first century pretenders had the right name, but the wrong practices. Left one misunderstand, believers were also called "Christians" in the first century (Acts 11:26) and this name is also an appropriate designation for believers. The real key in identifying the people of God, however, lies in their conduct.

The apostle Paul clarified this Jewish link to Christians saying, "For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of

the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God" (Romans 2:28-29). In writing to the believers in Galatia, he described them as "the Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16).

Jesus had much to say throughout His earthly ministry about people who would appropriate His name, but not do what He said. In Matthew 5:17, He exclaimed, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law," but many people claiming to be Christian today mistakenly think that Jesus came to destroy the law and liberate people from it.

In Matthew 7:21-23 He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Similar passages are found in Mark 7:6-9 and Luke 6:46-49.

Jesus' instructions are the basis for Paul's admonition to "walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory" (1 Thessalonians 2:12). Jesus predicted long ago that people would claim to be His followers, but reject His commands. UN

How Can a Man Take YOUR Crown?

In encouraging another first century congregation that had experienced many trials, Paul expressed similar principles:

"We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:4-8).

Questions arise over how Christ will protect His believers during this time. We do know there is a clear reference to the gathering of many saints in one location ("her place," Revelation 12:14) and there is another possible reference to individuals being protected in their location (Psalm 91:7). Both are within His power to accomplish.

Reward for Holding Fast

Jesus concludes His instruction to Philadelphia with the warning that He is coming "quickly" and that the saints should "hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown" (Revelation 3:11). Next comes the reward for doing so: "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name" (verse 12).

In offering this reward, Jesus drew some interesting parallels to the events and customs in first century Philadelphia. This city was prone to earthquakes. Huge stone temple columns were often the only parts of the city left standing after a devastating quake. Instead of fleeing the city whenever there was the slightest indication of a tremor, Jesus explained that the reward of the faithful would be a secure, stable place within His spiritual temple—a place where they would never fall or topple. Similarly, faithful city leaders were sometimes honored by having their names inscribed on a special pillar. Christ's terminology reflected knowledge of these practices (*Expositor's Bible Commentary*).

Finally, Jesus promised His followers a "new name." While the city of Philadelphia has had many names over the years and apparently several at once during the first century, Jesus offered the saints here a new name that would apparently never change—"the name of My God" and "My new name."

Though customs have obviously changed over the centuries since Christ delivered this message, the rewards Jesus offers to those who have the patience of the saints (faith and obedience) remain the same. Jesus implores those who have spiritual discernment—"an ear to hear"—to pay attention to this message (verse 13). Don't forget His message to Philadelphia: keep His word, faithfully go through the doors He opens. **UN**

And how can you prevent that ultimate tragedy from happening?

by James D. Cannon

Over the centuries, since the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, an apparent cause of individuals leaving God's Church has been allowing the perceived wrong example of other people in the Body of Jesus Christ to influence a person to leave the Church.

Today, people influenced negatively by another person in a congregation often choose to go to another fellowship until an offense occurs there, and on and on it goes until the living room becomes the final place of refuge from another person's less-than-perfect example.

It is natural for people to want to follow the leader. We learn to do it from childhood in the game by the same name. However, once one becomes a member of the Body of Christ, the Leader and Example to follow must become Jesus Christ, not another human being.

Over the years, many have looked up to a particular minister, deacon or member as the standard to follow. We have heard accolades like: "Isn't he or she a great example?" "He is a strong minister [deacon, member], we ought to try to follow his example." "That person really demonstrates the way we ought to live." "Their marriage exemplifies what all of our marriages ought to be like." Only to be shocked when these same wonderful human examples leave the Church, get divorced or do something that is perceived as offensive.

When we allow ourselves to fall into this trap of placing human beings on a pedestal, we are setting ourselves up for a man to be able to take our crown.

We must always remember what Paul was inspired to exhort us in 2 Corinthians 10:12, "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

For those who have been truly called out by God the Father and have actually received God's Holy Spirit, there is a crown of righteousness set aside and held in the third heaven to be awarded at the second coming of Jesus Christ at the wedding supper of the Lamb (2 Timothy 4:8). However, this crown carries with it responsibilities now and in the world to come.

God's people are responsible now for several things. One is to live a life of enduring to the end of their physical life.

Enduring What?

Today religious persecution to the degree of past centuries is practically nonexistent. Then what do God's people have to endure today, especially in

the Western societies of this world?

Endurance is a requirement for all ages. "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us" (2 Timothy 2:11-12).

God's people have three very basic and very real forces in this life to endure and to overcome. These forces are their own human nature (Jeremiah 17:9), the downward pull of this present evil world (Galatians 1:3-5) and the influences and deceitfulness of Satan, the god of this present world (James 4:7).

These downward pulls have been influencing mankind negatively from the very beginning. These negative forces have caused mankind to progressively degenerate to the point that God had to erase most of mankind, with the exception of Noah and his immediate family, from off the earth by a global flood and begin again through Noah's family. Moreover, very shortly after the Flood, God had to slow the downward progress of mankind by confusing the languages at the Tower of Babel.

All this being said, mankind today is at the same point it found itself at the Tower of Babel. Today, man is overcoming the language barrier and progressing toward what many world leaders espouse—a one-world government. Furthermore, man has the capacity to wipe himself off the earth by nuclear weaponry or by germ warfare. The influence of mass media with all its wonders now enables practically anyone to access or be influenced by every form of sinfulness that has existed until recently in the back alleys and the brothels of the underworld.

Today, the challenge to resist the downward pulls and to endure to the end for those God chooses to call out has never been greater and more deceptive. The perilous times of the end spoken about by Paul in 2 Timothy 3:1-7 definitely describe this world, especially the so-called Western world.

The crown of righteousness that is laid up for God's people must be paramount in our minds. We have been called to overcome and endure the downward pulls that exist so God can give us a crown and the servant rulership that goes along with this crown. Once received, this crown is an eternal reward and office for those who receive it. But in this life, we are required to resist and endure those things that can cause us to lose our crown of life. We now must be "temperate in all things" in order to qualify to receive this "imperishable crown" as Paul instructs us in 1 Corinthians 9:25.

It's interesting to note that the Greek word translated "temperate" here is *enkrateuomai*, which means to exercise self-restraint or self-control. We no longer can allow ourselves to submit or bend to the negative pulls and standards of this world. We now



must be ever vigilant and constantly in tune and in touch with the high standards of God and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit in us. Our focus and actions must be based on God's Word. We must be yielded to God's power and authority in our lives through daily heartfelt prayer, Bible study, meditation and occasional fasting. All of these give us the constant right perspective necessary to receive the crown of righteous and prevent any man from taking our crown. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown" (Revelation 3:11).

How Can Someone Take the Crown?

When we fall into the trap of observing what others in the Church are doing with their lives, whether ministers, deacons or members, and find out that they are "less than righteous" in a given area, and then allow that example to cause us to leave the Church or go to a different fellowship until a bad example occurs there, ad infinitum, we are in the mode of setting ourselves up to let a man take our crown.

When we see others in the Church falter, get into a wrong attitude or do something not in keeping with God's Word, we must always remember this admonition from Paul in Galatians 6:1-5, "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load."

Furthermore, we must couple the following scripture with Galatians 6:1-5 to gain a deeper understanding of God's perspective on how to handle offenses in the Church. See Matthew 18:15-17 where Christ instructs us: "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if

he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

Additionally, in 1 Corinthians 13:5, Paul, in what is commonly referred to as the love chapter of the Bible, instructs that love "is not provoked." We must develop a certain amount of tolerance for the weaknesses of others. Not for blatant sins, but weaknesses, giving the benefit of the doubt that the person is working on overcoming sin. Likewise we must also understand that whether a person is ordained or not, everyone is growing at a different rate according to their ability and the revelation of their faults and shortcomings by God. It's a good thing that God does not pull up the shade all at once, and reveal all of our shortcomings at once to us, lest we all be discouraged and give up the fight for the crown of life.

In the final analysis, we are all individually responsible to God not to let any man take our crown. We must always look to the standard of Jesus Christ, not at the best man has to offer, and understand our personal responsibility to overcome and grow up to the stature of Jesus Christ.

As Jesus Himself instructs us in Matthew 7:3-5, "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Let's never allow a man to take the precious crown of life from us. Then we'll be able to fully participate in the future government of God and receive our individual reward from Christ. He reminds us in Revelation 22:12, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **UN**

James D. Cannon is a deacon in Youngstown, Ohio.

Unity of Convictions Among a Diversity of Cultures

■ How can we enhance our unity of faith while respecting the diversity of roles and cultures? A Council of Elders international representative addresses this issue.

by Mario Seiglie

Seeing the different cultures of people God has called into His Church, it brings home a biblical truth of great importance—God is the creator of unity of purpose while generating a diversity of forms. Just as He created the flowers with one basic structure yet with different forms and colors, so He has created human beings with one basic form but with different personalities and color tones.

This same principle of unity of substance and diversity of forms also applies to God's Church—the members around the world have a unity of beliefs and convictions, while at the same time they have a diversity of cultures and personalities.

Paul mentions this principle in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13: "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or

one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body" (1 Corinthians 12:14-20).

Paul is telling us we have an essential element among us—God's Spirit—that makes us members of the Body, and yet we recognize there is a diversity of roles, cultures and personalities. He mentions we should not discriminate against some because they are culturally or racially different than we are or because they may falsely regard themselves as having a lesser role to play in the Church, the Body of Christ.

He continues explaining this point, "And the eye [one of the most promi-

members individually]" (1 Corinthians 12:21-27).

We see here that the Body of Christ has a unity of Spirit, but a diversity of roles, cultures, personalities and languages. Each culture has its strengths and weaknesses and no one nation has all the virtues nor always has the right approach. It is important to appreciate the different cultures and realize they mutually excel each other in many points, while at the same time, recognizing all have different weaknesses.

These principles are very helpful in adapting to the diverse cultures, while keeping clear in mind what unites all of us in the Church—our common beliefs

start, United has striven to have this awareness. It has avoided endless problems with the readership in other countries apart from the United States.

A Difficult Balance

It is a difficult balance to achieve—to adapt to peoples of different cultures, nationalities and races according to their perspective and mentality while at the same time keeping in mind the goal of having a unity of faith and helping them develop spiritual character so they can work out their salvation with fear and trembling.

Paul explains this concept in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23: "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law [Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes]; to those who are without the law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are

important not to transmit a feeling of superiority toward another culture. The key concept Paul brings out is not to force people to adapt to our culture, but rather we should adapt to their culture.

It took a miracle from God for Peter, the once proud Jew, to learn this lesson. We read in Acts 10:28, "Then he said to them [to the Roman Cornelius and his kinsmen], 'You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.'"

Then Peter adds in verse 34, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."

The basic problem is that, due to our particular background, we all have hidden prejudices to get rid of if we want God to bless His work around the world. It is just a matter of recognizing it, limiting it and trying to fully eliminate it while learning to appreciate the beauty and worth of other cultures.

Look at the news of the present world. Isn't it sad to see so much killing and m a y h e m , many times due to prejudice, because at the bottom of their hearts, people can't appreciate and respect the cultures of their neighbors?



and the ultimate goal—to develop godly character.

Serving an International Work

After living 24 years abroad in different parts of Latin America, this has been a great lesson driven home to me. I have learned in our Church there is a unity of faith while having a diversity of cultures that should be appreciated and respected. I believe these two factors are essential to apply if we are to succeed in carrying the gospel in all the world and preparing a people for God's coming Kingdom.

During the international meetings we had May 1 before the recent General Conference of Elders, one question we discussed was, How can the cultures of the different nations be respected since the thrust of the work of God comes primarily from the United States?

A way to assure that the different cultures are being taken into account is the manner *The Good News* is now produced, which is the primary vehicle in all these countries. The editorial staffs in the different nations have a certain leeway to adapt the magazine to their culture. For instance, in Great Britain, a supplement is added with articles pertaining to local news that gives the magazine more of a British flavor. Germany edits the magazine to make it more acceptable to the German mentality. The same occurs in the Spanish and other editions. This perspective was not always so decades ago, but from the



These scenes from Feast 2001 illustrate the international nature of the Church: from left, Philippines, Guatemala, Jamaica and Kenya

without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak.

"I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you."

Avoiding Feelings of Superiority

When abroad and dealing with different cultures, Paul stresses it is so

True Christianity begins when we don't feel superior to others.

This is a great lesson I have tried to learn from others who gave me such a fine example, and have tried to apply wherever I have gone—to appreciate and respect the diversity of cultures, while at the same time, striving to teach the unity of doctrine and Spirit in the Church. It is a goal worthy for all of us to pursue. UN



Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

Here we see the principle of respecting the diversity of cultures, while keeping a unity of spiritual beliefs.

Members of the Same Body

Paul continues, "For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all

ment organs of the body] cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

"And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism [division or discrimination] in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and

From GN Radio: The Good News and the Bad News

■ South African photojournalist Kevin Carter snapped a picture of a small, starving Sudanese girl crawling towards a food shelter. A vulture, poised a few feet away, was awaiting the inevitable. Few who saw the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo weren't haunted by the scene. With so much bad news, what a blessing to know the good news of the resurrections revealed through the Holy Days!

by Gary Petty

How can a loving God allow the suffering we see around us every day? According to common Christian teaching, the ultimate end of all this suffering is for people to die and arrive in either a place called heaven or a place of eternal torment called hell. It is thought that most end up in hell. How could God condemn the majority of mankind who aren't Christians to everlasting punishment in hell?

Many have agonized over a relative or friend who died an agnostic. Is that person forever damned to indescribable torment? What about children who die from malnutrition, war and disease in remote areas of the world where they've never even heard of Jesus Christ? Are they forever trapped in Satanic inflicted torture?

One of the most quoted verses in the Bible is John 3:16, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." But isn't God being unfair to untold billions of people who never heard of Jesus Christ? Yet, the Bible claims that "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

In the Middle Ages Christian zeal to save lost souls launched the Crusades and the use of torture and killing in order to force Muslims and Jews to accept Jesus. Over the centuries, missionaries suffered and died to bring the message of Christ to primitive tribes. But the harsh reality is that in spite of all efforts, the majority of mankind is non-Christian.

The question remains: What about the billions of people who throughout history have never heard of Jesus Christ? Couldn't Jesus miraculously appear to people in China, Japan and Africa and convert hundreds of millions? If God and Satan are in a war over the souls of men it seems God is losing.

The Biblical Reward of the Saved

This begs another question: What is the reward of the true followers of Jesus Christ? The most common teaching is that the saved go to heaven upon death.

But this isn't what Jesus taught. He proclaimed, as recorded in John 6:40: "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Wait a minute! Jesus Christ says that the reward of His followers is a resurrection from the dead "at the last day," not going to heaven immediately after death.

The apostle John was inspired to write about this resurrection in Revelation 20:1-6: "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while."

"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ,

we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good and bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . ."

If the resurrection of the saints is called the first resurrection, what is the second resurrection?

The Hope for Mankind

John reveals in Revelation that the Father will send Jesus Christ back to this earth to establish His Kingdom and reign for a thousand years. After the thousand years there will be a *second* resurrection called the Great White Throne Judgment.

Let's return to Revelation 20:11. "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the

Some may ask, "If the majority of mankind is going to receive an opportunity for salvation in the future, then why should the Church work at preaching the gospel to the world now?" The real question should be, if we understand this great message of hope, how can we not preach it with every fiber of our being?

earth and heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

The Bible clearly reveals a second resurrection in addition to the resurrection of the saints at Christ's second coming. Unlike the first resurrection,

are the Scriptures, God's Holy Bible, the instruction book for mankind. God will reveal Himself to all peoples who never knew Him.

Here is an incredible truth that most Christians don't understand! Paul teaches that where there is no knowledge of sin, there is no "imputing" or putting to one's account (Romans 5:12-15). Although each person suffers the immediate consequences of sin, including physical death, God is not yet passing eternal judgment on the majority of mankind! All who ever lived without a chance of salvation will be resurrected and given an opportunity to choose the real God. This is the second resurrection.

Jesus warned religious leaders of His day that they would be resurrected along with those God destroyed in

Sodom (Matthew 11:20-24). He told the Pharisees that the people of Nineveh from Jonah's time and the queen of the South from the time of Solomon "will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it" (Matthew 12:38-42). These people will be resurrected together at the second resurrection.

This doesn't mean that everyone gets a "second chance." Those called by God in this age, who have received the Holy Spirit, are now under judgment. The second resurrection is for all those who never had a chance for salvation in this world dominated by Satan.

God's Judgment

What, then, is to be the final judgment for the incorrigibly wicked? Let's go back and pick up Revelation 20:13-15: "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

This "second death" is complete annihilation of life. This is what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 10:28-31, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

The fact that God punishes the wicked means that there must be personal responsibility in responding to God's grace. A gospel message without a call to repentance and declaration of Christ's coming judgment becomes a message based on an unbiblical assumption that accepting the name of Jesus is all God requires.

The encouraging news is that God doesn't call anyone to fail. True Christianity is a relationship with God as His

sons and daughters. Judgment is now upon the house of God, but members of His family have direct access to the Father, the leadership of Jesus Christ, and the power of the indwelling Spirit to insure victory. The only way true followers can lose salvation is to willingly return to the previous unconverted state (Hebrews 12:12-24).

Christians need to be mindful of the grace God offers through His Son. We celebrate the fact that our sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit is made available so that God's righteousness is developed in us. Christians can take a positive view of the judgment by looking forward to the first resurrection.

Proclaiming the Gospel

Some may ask, "If the majority of mankind is going to receive an opportunity for salvation in the future, then why should the Church work at preaching the gospel to the world now?" The real question should be, if we understand this great message of hope, how can we *not* preach it with every fiber of our being? Anyone who truly understands the gospel desires to share it with others.

It's easy for Christians to become so involved in daily troubles that we miss the grandeur of God's great plan of salvation that reaches across time to all humanity. Remember Peter's admonishment to the early Church, "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:7-9).

Kevin Carter, the photojournalist mentioned earlier, took many snapshots of humanities' evil. He was disturbed by what he said were "vivid memories of killings and corpses and anger and pain . . . of starving or wounded children, of trigger-happy madmen" (*Capture the Moment—The Pulitzer Prize Photographs*, 2001, edited by Cyma Rubin and Eric Newton). Kevin Carter was overwhelmed by the suffering he witnessed. He committed suicide at age 33.

There is hope for this sick and dying world. The majority of humanity who never had an opportunity to know the true Creator will have a chance to choose salvation through Christ in the Great White Throne Judgment. This seldom known truth is the great hope for billions of the living and the dead. **UN**

Good News Radio is heard on stations across the country. For an Internet listing of stations and times or to download radio programs, go to www.ucg.org/radio. While on line you can also order the booklet offered on this program, "Heaven and Hell: What Does the Bible Really Teach?"



Gary Petty recording a *Good News* radio program at the studio in the new home office building (photo by Peter Eddington)

and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Notice that the Bible reveals a resurrection of the saints at the return of Christ to the earth. The apostle John clearly calls this the *first* resurrection. The rest of the dead are not resurrected until the end of Christ's one thousand year reign on earth.

Paul warns Christians to take their great calling seriously so as not to jeopardize the grace God offers. He writes in 2 Corinthians 5:9-11: "Therefore, we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For

those in the second resurrection are restored to physical life.

The prophet Ezekiel was given a vision of a valley filled with dry bones in Ezekiel 37. God tells Ezekiel that these bones will come together, be covered with flesh and come back to life. The purpose is so that these people may know the real God (verse 13). God says to those whom He resurrects, "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live . . ." (verse 14).

Revelation 20:12 states the "books were opened" followed by the opening of the "Book of Life." The first "books"

Pinecrest Kicks Off the Summer Camp Season

Continued from page 1

nars, Christian living and "compass checks." Fifty-three "proficiency" ratings were awarded in numerous activities.

After an official welcome and orientation from Larry Greider (national

Richard Pinelli, Ministerial Services operation manager, and his wife, Mary, were on hand for the orientation.

Campers were there to demonstrate that God's way works. They learned to do that by setting up a "Zone" of safety, mutual support and encouragement embodied by our Code of Honor.



Archery was one of many activities campers could learn and become proficient in. Overall, 53 proficiencies were earned this year

coordinator of United Youth Camps), Gregory Sargent (camp coordinator) and Tom Clark (activity coordinator), the entire staff previewed their activities before the campers in novel ways.

According to surveys filled out by campers, Christian Living question-and-answer sessions in the evening and spiritual Compass Checks every morning were some of the most helpful peri-



Campers were carefully prepared for their canoe adventures on the Black River

ods of time the campers experienced.

Nationwide prayers had been requested for the rains to stop in order to tame the river for our canoe adventures. Not only did God answer this prayer, but He also gave us lower than usual temperatures, less humidity and fewer bugs. "This weather is a miracle," commented several of the local residents.

A dramatic river rescue highlighted the news. The day before camp began, while completing their safety checks on

a new section of river created by the high waters, our canoe staff of six volunteers pulled a family of 11 out of the Black River. One 15-year-old who was rescued, after watching our crew save her parents along with her 5-year-old, 3-year-old and 3-month-old siblings, said, "Mom, these people were a godsend."

This story was submitted to the local newspaper by the Pinecrest journalism class and it ran on the front page of the *Democrat News* on Wednesday, June 19, along with a picture of our six heroes. (See article, left.)



Local Paper Reports: Pinecrest Canoe Staff Rescues Family on Black River

by United Youth Camps
Pinecrest Journalism Class

Fredericktown, Missouri: Despite near tragedy, Thursday, June 13, was a day of blessings for an unidentified family of 11. Five members, ranging in age from 3 months to adult, were spilled from their canoe on treacherous river waters and pulled to safety by a nearby crew of six trained instructors.

The drama took place on the Black River near Lesterville, Missouri, downstream from the State Conservation Area. This is a freshly hewn section of the river because of recent heavy rains and runoff. Six other children were following the canoe in inner tubes. Only three of the 11 family members wore life jackets.

Fortunately for them, six volunteers from United Youth Camps were clearing overhangs and scouting potential trouble spots in the area in advance of several planned trips for 111 campers.

The mom and dad rounded a tricky bend in their canoe loaded with a 4-year-old, a 3-year-old and a 3-month-old baby.

"These people are in trouble," observed one of the UYC crew summoning his comrades upstream along the bank on foot. Thus the rescue

began even before the accident occurred.

As anticipated, the canoe struck an object and dumped all five occupants into the swiftly running river. Two of the three children floated downstream in life jackets and were immediately picked up by the crew.

Both adults with the infant draped themselves across the water laden canoe as it headed for another obstruction. Called a "strainer" by river professionals, this is one of the most dangerous conditions on fast-moving water. Stationary material from the bank such as trees and roots "strain" passing objects. Any upstream item caught between a floating canoe and such a strainer receives crushing pressure as the river rushes headlong into the immovable object.

Had the canoe reached this point, there could have been severe injury or possible loss of life. Instead, the parents were immediately pulled to safety.

"Our crew did exactly what they were trained to do in accordance with guidelines from the American Camping Association," remarked Mike Blackwell, canoe instructor for United Youth Camps in Pinecrest. "We saw the trouble coming and took action immediately. Everyone knew

precisely what to do. I'm extremely pleased with the performance of this group of young people. Something like this makes all the expense, hard work and preparation worthwhile." UYC recently sought and received accreditation for its camping program in Pinecrest which resulted in additional training and equipping for these canoe volunteers.

After getting escorted safely back to land from her own inner tube where she was able to watch the full drama, the oldest girl of 15 was heard to remark, "Mom, these people were a godsend."

In addition to Mr. Blackwell, the UYC canoe team included: Jason Carter, Katie Decker, Jeannette Hofart, Clint Porter and Nathan Willoughby. They assembled from five different states for a weeklong camp which ends June 20.

United Youth Camps are sponsored by the United Church of God, an International Association, headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio (www.ucg.org). Camp Pinecrest is owned and operated by the Church of the Nazarene and is managed by Fred Yates.

Editor's note: This article ran in the June 19 edition of the Democrat News, Fredericktown, Missouri.



Campers at Pinecrest enjoy the ropes course, softball games and exploring a cave along the route of the canoe trip

The Pinecrest site is owned and managed by the Church of the Nazarene. The camp manager, Fred Yates, commented to all the staff and campers at the start of camp that United Youth Camp is the premier camp attending this site. He has praised our group year

no doubt in their minds that God creates a dramatic Zone for the young people in His Church. **UN**



Local Church Updates

World News and Prophecy Seminar Held in Indianapolis

"God has a plan for Jerusalem. It is a focus for God's plan and a symbol of God's presence. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Along with a survey of the 20th century events that have unraveled major empires, this message was part of a day-long *World News and Prophecy* seminar held June 15 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes and Robin Webber, all regular contributors to this United Church of God publication, presented a series of sermons and talks aimed at focusing members and others on vital topics of Bible prophecy.

Hosted by the Indianapolis congregation, the seminar was also open to *Good News* subscribers. More than 1,500 *Good News* subscribers were invited to attend the seminar or request tapes of the sessions and to subscribe to *World News and Prophecy*. To date nearly 100 subscribers have returned the postage-paid cards with their requests.

Topics covered included, "Praying for the Peace of Jerusalem," "Joseph's Sad Decline" and "When the Other Shoe Drops." Tapes of the seminar are available free upon request. Requests can be made on the Web at www.ucgindy.org or by mail through United Church of God, 850 North Bluff Road, Greenwood, IN 46142.

Future seminars are planned with one scheduled in Los Angeles, California, in February 2003.

Darris McNeely

Women Gather in Northwest for Weekend

The Seattle, Washington, congregation held their fourth annual Ladies' Education Seminar Weekend from June 7 to 9 in nearby Auburn, Washington. With an attendance that has seen a 35 percent growth each year for the past two years, 119 women gathered for an enriching weekend of learning, fellowship, relaxation and laughter as they sought to learn how to better become women of strength and courage.

This year the weekend seminar not only attracted attendees from ages 16 to age 80, but also drew participants from various parts of the Northwest, California, Ohio, Georgia, Texas and Germany. Several commented that the weekend was so beneficial that until their own regions are able to organize a similar event, they would continue to make the effort to attend despite the distance they might have to travel.

The weekend began after dinner on

Friday with an interactive workshop designed to help the women get to know one another in a relaxed and enjoyable manner. Sabbath services were held Saturday morning, at which time the ladies were joined by song-leader Dennis Luker (pastor of the Seattle congregations) and John Cafourek (pastor of the Tacoma and Olympia, Washington, congregations), who gave a sermon titled "Courage Is a Three-Letter Word."

The theme for this year's seminar was "Women of Strength and Courage," and the presenters discussed various aspects of this topic. Bev Pronishan discussed some of the obstacles



Women from 16 to 80 attend the fourth annual Ladies' Education Seminar Weekend in Auburn, Washington, June 7 to 9

that prevent us from developing a closer personal relationship with God and how we can overcome those obstacles. Lisa Fenchel recounted her battle against cancer during the past year and talked about how and where she found strength and courage through the ordeal. In her presentation, Dyanne Dick shared biblical examples to encourage us to avoid the things that rob us of strength and courage. And LeeAnn Luker gave a seven-step plan that would help us develop strength and encouragement, using biblical examples of how God can take away our fear and give us strength and encouragement.

A new presentation this year was a



Lisa Fenchel, Bev Pronishan, LeeAnn Luker and Dyanne Dick gave presentations

panel of five women of different ages who discussed the challenges they each faced, and that many of us may face, throughout life. Panel members included Brigitte Sexton (age 16), Nicki Myers, Karen Walker, Anne Robinson

and Esther Peterson (age 80). The panel discussion that followed generated many comments and questions from the audience and turned out to be a highlight and bonding experience for all.

This year, the women were invited to bring the fruits of their talents and hobbies to share with everyone. On display were paintings, embroidery, crochet, gardening, patchwork, quilting, tatting and much more. Some very delicate beautiful crochet was done by Lucy Werst who lost her arm in a car accident. The crochet was done after she lost her arm.

Connie Seelig, a first-time attendee

is pleasing to God. We have to live with one another for all eternity, and it is good to start learning how to get along now. I met so many women I am looking forward to seeing again some day. The practical advice on getting to know God better and growing closer to Him is something I can implement daily."

Terri Eddington

Twin Cities Host Families for God Weekend

The fourth annual Families for God Weekend was held in South St. Paul, Minnesota, May 11 and 12. The weekend began with 261 brethren attending Sabbath services. Jim Servidio gave a report on the GCE meetings just complet-



The weekend concluded Sunday morning with a delicious Mother's Day brunch served by Amy and Steve Allwine (who organized the entire weekend) and Sharon and Brendan Babcock.

Linda Knapp

Servants Added

Two deacons and two deaconesses were ordained on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread in Boynton Beach, Florida. Before the three combined Southeast Florida congregations, Pastor Roy Demarest and Associate Pastor Richard Rand prayed for and laid hands on Carol Volkers of Miami, Richard



From left, Roy Demarest, David and Debbie Jenkins, Carol Volkers, Richard Scribner and Richard Rand

Scribner of West Palm Beach and David and Debbie Jenkins of Port St. Lucie.

Barbara Bendall



Philip Aust was ordained a deacon before the Bloomington-Normal, Illinois, congregation March 9. The ceremony was led by his father, Jerold Aust. Pictured: Jerold Aust, Philip Aust, Guy Burke and Gerald Knochel



Children enjoy a puppet show while parents attend presentations such as the one given by Steve Myers during the Families for God Weekend

ed and Michael Hanisko gave a sermon on the "Power of the Family Bond." After services snacks were served, giving the brethren opportunity for fellowship.

Four presentations followed: Cory Erickson on "Dating," Kathleen Hofart on "The Mideast and the Protocols of Zion," Mitchell Knapp on "How We Use Music" and Steve Myers on "The Fish Philosophy." Children enjoyed making art projects as well as an entertaining puppet show during the sessions, giving moms and dads the opportunity to attend the presentations.

A potluck provided by both the St. Paul and Minneapolis congregations was served after the sessions, followed by a game night. Many families enjoyed playing various games with prizes being awarded to the winners.

While the potluck was being served at the St. Paul church hall, 45 teens were partaking of a formal dinner served at Special Occasions Too in North St. Paul. Dinner was followed by a prom with music provided by a deejay. When the prom ended, the teens returned to South St. Paul for a lock-in at the local YMCA where they enjoyed



Teens enjoyed a formal dinner and prom May 11

swimming, sports, food and fellowship throughout the night.

Announcements

Births

The family of John and Janet Otieno of the Migori, Kenya, congregation are



Renea Awuor Otieno

happy to announce the birth of their second child, Renea Awuor. Renea was born on April 6, 2002, and she weighed 3.6 kilograms (7 pounds 15 ounces) and was 20 inches in length. Renea's brother, Larry, was very happy with the birth of his sister.

David and Lynn Sandland from Queensland, Australia, are delighted to announce the arrival of their fourth



Joel Adam Eksanow

grandson, Joel Adam Eksanow. Joel arrived safe and sound on May 27, 2002, and joins their three other grandchildren: Emma, Stephanie and Jacob. Joel and his parents, Laura and Adam, are soon to move to Kellyville in Sydney.

Brian and Tammy (Morgan) Holman are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Bethany Margaret. Bethany was born on Jan. 18, 2002. She weighed



Bethany Margaret Holman

5 pounds 11 ounces and was 19 and 1/2 inches long. The proud grandparents are Terry and Ginny Morgan of the

Collinsville, Illinois, congregation and Clay and Linda Holman of Ewing, Illinois.

Kelly and Aileen (Hastings) Walker of La Pine, Oregon, would like to announce the birth of their first child, Kyle Jonathan Kelly Walker. He was born on July 28, 2001, at 7:08 p.m. and



Kyle Walker

weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long. He has light brown hair and his daddy's feet and ears and a cute little dimple in his chin like his momma!

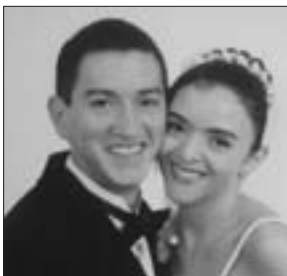
Grandparents are Larry and Karen Walker and Bill and Marsha Hastings.

Engagements

Jerry and Sharon Berg of Seattle, Washington, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Janette E. Berg, to Joseph J. Sequino, son of Frank and Annette Sequino of New York, New York. The wedding is planned for Oct. 13, 2002, in Carlisle, Massachusetts, near where they plan to live. Janette is the granddaughter of long-time member Mary Post, also of Seattle.

Weddings

Marcelo Medina and Geraldine Zagal were married May 26, 2002, in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The parents of the bride are



Marcelo Medina and Geraldine Zagal

Jaime Juan Zagal Chijoratic and Carmen M. de Zagal. The parents of the groom are Marcelo Medina Salinas and Lenny Bravo Chavez. Saul Langarica, pastor of the churches in Chile, Argentina and Bolivia, performed the ceremony.

Terry and Dixie Lewis of Coleman, Texas, and Mark and Judy Flavin of Fort



Kami and Eric Flavin

Worth, Texas, are pleased to announce the marriage of their children, Kami Ellen Lewis and Eric Mikhael Flavin, on Dec. 18, 2001. The grandfather of the bride, Clyde Hubbard, performed the wedding. The new couple attends the Fort Worth congregation. They make their home in Santos, Texas.

Raymond and Gail Gwin are happy to announce the marriage of their son, Andrew McCager Gwin to Heather Danielle Karr, daughter of Commander Mark Karr and Donna Karr. The wedding took place in Virginia Beach, Vir-



Andrew and Heather Gwin

ginia, on March 23, 2002, in a ceremony performed by Todd Carey, pastor of the Williamsburg/Delaware congregations. An evening reception followed at the Radisson in Norfolk, Virginia, where 130 guests enjoyed dinner and dancing. The couple resides in Virginia Beach.

Heather was attended by Ashley Karr (maid of honor), KellyJo Jordan, Cameron Mealy and Tina Dolenti (bridesmaids), Nikki Dolenti and Caroline Smith (junior bridesmaids), Courtney Gwin and Rainey Jordan (flower girls). Andrew was attended by Bruce Gwin (best man), Raymond Gwin, Derek Pennington and Richard Howard (groomsmen) and Johnny Bucci (ring bearer).

Anniversaries

Fort Wayne, Indiana, members Wilmer and Gerri Beyer celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary May 31, 2002. Having heard Herbert Armstrong's radio broadcasts in the late 1950s, the couple began attending in



Gerri and Wilmer Beyer

Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the early 1960s. The Beyers owned and operated a roller skating rink for many years, and as a young man Mr. Beyer ranked eighth in the world in speed skating.

Obituaries

Joseph Karuga Kihara, 60, died on April 29, 2002, at his home in Njoro, Kenya. Joseph began suffering from health problems in late 2001 and was diagnosed with cancer shortly before his death. He was released from the hospital on April 29, which allowed him to die at home surrounded by his family.

Joseph was born at Kamunyaka Village, Kiambu District of Kenya in 1942. He pursued his secondary school studies in Uganda where he sat for the East African Cambridge. In 1976, Joseph moved to Rare Location in Njoro Division of Kenya. He loved studying God's Word and began attending the Church in 1977 and was baptized in 1978. Joseph saved most of the literature and sermon tapes that he received from the Church, and his family and friends have used the literature to help establish the Joseph Kihara Memorial Library. The library will benefit the residents of his area wishing to study God's Word.

Many of Joseph's friends remarked of

the wonderful example that he set as a Christian. He was kind and loving to everyone that he met regardless of their age. Some of the medical staff commented on his bravery and confidence as he endured his suffering with his remarks of "it will be alright."

Joseph's funeral was held on May 7 and was largely attended. Eulogies were given by family members, neighbors and local administration officials. Church members David Gichuru, Anto-



Joseph Karuga Kihara

nio Ndungu and Kurt Hoyer also spoke. He was buried next to his home.

Mary Jane Erickson, 59, of Pulaski, Wisconsin, died May 24, 2002, following a long battle with cancer. She was a member of the Oshkosh congregation and was a faithful servant of God for many years. She enjoyed reading the Bible and going to Church activities. She enjoyed the outdoors and dancing, especially polka dancing on Sunday afternoons. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Haldor; her children, Tom and his wife, Carla, of Grand Forks, North Dakota; and Hal and his wife, Julie, of Green Bay, Wisconsin. She was preceded in death by a son, Eugene.

Floyd Wright, Jr., 70, of Lenoir, North Carolina, died May 17, 2002, after a year-long battle with cancer. He was a Marine veteran of the Korean War. He

Tribute: Sidney Smith

Sidney Earl Smith Sr., 76, of Geneva, Alabama, died on May 24, 2002, at home after an extended illness. He and his wife, Louise, were baptized in 1964. Mr. Smith was ordained a deacon in 1973, and his wife was ordained a deaconess. He was ordained an elder on Feb. 16, 1991.

Mr. Smith had a reputation as a master cabinetmaker, and was widely known for his professional work. He was also a veteran of WWII. He faithfully served the brethren for many years and had a love for them and God's Word that was extraordinary.

His dedicated and loving wife, Louise, was his caretaker for all the years of his illness and faithfully served by his side. Mr. Smith will be sorely missed by not only the Geneva congregation of the United Church of God, but also the many brothers and



Sidney Smith

sisters he became acquainted with over the years.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Louise Smith; one son, Sidney Earl Smith Jr. and wife, Gennia, of Geneva; one daughter, Rhonda Smith Beam and husband Gary of Red Bay, Alabama; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Harold Rhodes

was baptized in June of 1969 and had been a member in United the past seven years, attending in Hickory, North Carolina. He was known and respected by many in and out of the Church.

Floyd is survived by his wife, Justine; sons, David and Forrest; daughters, Patricia Honnicutt, Rose Harrington and Ruth Wright; and 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Jerry Dean Wright.

Graveside services were conducted on May 21 by James Haeffele.

Marcel Morreel, a long-time member, deacon and trustee of the United Church of God in New Zealand, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on May 8 at his home in Tauranga, New Zealand. New South Wales, Australia, regional pastor, Bruce Dean, who officiated at the funeral service on May 13, spoke of Mr. Morreel's faithfulness to his calling and his service to the Church over the years, referring to him as a man of faith. Mr. Morreel is mourned by his wife of many years, Dallas, five children, 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Tribute: Anne Teitgen

Anne was born in Tonasket, Washington, April 1, 1945, as the first of six children of Ivan and Edna Robinson while they lived in Oroville just south of the Canadian border.

She attended school in Oroville and was active in 4-H. Anne's mom taught her sewing and she added to her skills in 4-H. Anne perfected those skills and sewed most of her clothing during her married life.

She attended Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas, and graduated in 1967. She met her husband, Herb, at college and they were married there on June 30, 1968. Their son, Robert, was born Aug. 12, 1969, while they were serving in the ministry in California. They moved back to Texas in 1970 to work at the college. Their daughter, Carla, was born there June 29, 1971.

When Ambassador College closed temporarily in 1977, the Teitgens moved to northeast Washington state.

After working as an engineer for a year in Colville, Washington, her husband began a new career in land surveying. At that time they moved to a small house at Sherman Creek Orchard in Kettle Falls, Washington, owned by her parents and oldest brother. They moved to Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, in the summer of 1986 and then unforeseen circumstances resulted in a move to East Texas in January of 1987.

Herb entered the full-time ministry of the Church of God in August of 1987 and they moved again to serve churches in Baton Rouge and Lafayette, Louisiana. They then moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in January of 1990 where they have continued to live. They have served congregations of the Church of God in Sioux Falls, Watertown and Rapid City, South Dakota; Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Omaha and Grand Island, Nebraska, during the time they have lived in Sioux Falls.

Anne died just two days short of her 34th wedding anniversary on June 25 in intensive care at Sioux Valley Hospital after a short but intense battle with



Anne Teitgen

severe liver illness. She died faithfully trusting God, looking to the resurrection, surrounded by her loving family.

Anne was well known for her caring manner and concern for people. She was well read and conversant on any number of secular and biblical topics. Anne was a faithful helper to her husband in his ministry, a devoted wife and mother and a special friend to hundreds of brethren around the world. She was also skilled in all the homemaking arts.

Because of Anne's love for young people, a memorial fund has been established in her name that will help the youth of the Church attend summer and winter camps each year.

A memorial service was held in Brookings, South Dakota, on Friday, June 28, and was conducted by Jim Servidio. During the service elders Harlan Spieker and Ken Skorseth shared special memories of Anne's service and friendship. Her son, Robert; brother-in-law, Fred Teitgen; and son-in-law, Tom Erickson, also related how they admired and respected Anne as a Christian and family member. An especially touching moment during the service was when her husband, Herb, sang a song by Mark Graham entitled "A Song in the Night." Herb and Anne had worked on this song, but had never had the chance to perform it.

Anne is survived by her husband, Herb; daughter, Carla Erickson; son, Robert; parents, Ivan and Edna Robinson; brothers, Rich, Dave and Tom Robinson; and sisters, Gayle Swagerty and Sandy Flatt.

Letters

New Look

When picking up the May issue, the first thing I noticed was the new look. I think it is a big improvement and want you to know I appreciate your efforts.

I'm not done reading this issue, but anxious to. I have read the lead article, GCE meeting report and "News From Around the World." It is wonderful to see what God is doing around the world to call and bless His people and to feel a

part of it. These type of articles help so much to inspire and direct my prayers.

Pennsylvania

I'm not a UCG member—in fact, I'm currently a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. However, I get the *United News* and just finished the May issue, which arrived the other day. Bravo on a stellar job of layout. It's an excellent

product of which you should be proud. Internet

The new look on the *United News* is very striking and more readable. I like the density of the type settings, makes it easier to read. The page layouts seem more interesting but I haven't taken the time to evaluate why. Just want to pass on kudos to whomever is responsible. Minnesota

Retiring Elders' Addresses

Is there any way you could print the addresses of those elders who are retiring in *United News*? Many people would write them a note of thanks for their years of service if they had the addresses available.

Texas

Although we can't print individuals' home addresses, if you mail a card to the

person care of the United News address, we will pass them on. The names of those retiring were run in the May issue.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Comments and suggestions to improve *United News* are welcome. Mail to: *United News*, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or e-mail mike_bennett@ucg.org.

Bible Study Course Graduates: Regular Contact With Local Congregations

Continued from page 1

a year-long follow-up tape program (of tapes from the home office) after receiving the 12 *Bible Study Course* lessons.

6. Received a monthly tape package for 12 months that, over the course of a year, will have included 12 of the Fundamental Belief tapes and tapes of 22 *Good News* radio programs.

The Fundamental Belief tapes cover:

- God's Purpose for Humanity.
- God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
- Satan the Devil.
- The Sabbath Day.
- Jesus Christ's Return.
- The Church.
- Sin and God's Law.
- The Sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- Repentance.
- Water Baptism.
- The Passover.
- The Festivals of God.

Good News radio programs include:

- A Journey to Hell.
- Is the Bible Relevant?
- Future Shock.
- The Coming European Super-power.

- Would Jesus Be Elected President?
- Does God Exist?
- The Importance of Dad.
- Are You Missing Out on a Blessing From God? (the Sabbath).
- Are We Living in the End Time?
- What Happens After Death?
- The Future of Jerusalem.
- The Road to Eternal Life.
- The Spirit World.
- What's Wrong With Our Government?
- 4,000 Years of Christmas.
- Making Life Work.
- Will I Go to Heaven?
- Who Will Speak for the Children? (abortion).
- What Is Your Destiny?
- Can the Family Survive?
- Bunnies, Easter and Jesus Christ.
- Who Determines Right From Wrong?

7. At the end of this year of monthly tape packages that has included the above tapes, they then must have specifically requested to receive contact information for the pastor and/or congregation nearest them, or to have the closest pastor contact them, or to receive tapes from a congregation (or some combination of the three) for the

local pastor to receive their names from the home office.

At that point they are also encouraged to participate in the Bible Reading Program and are offered a subscription to *World News and Prophecy*, which more than 90 percent of respondents are requesting some already receive it by virtue of being a donor or coworker).

We think this information should alleviate concerns that these people are too new or not knowledgeable of what we teach. They have actually been through an extensive two-year program that has exposed them to virtually all of our doctrines, and they have had to respond to at least five separate offers from us to get to the point of requesting local tapes. Anyone who neglected to respond to even a single one of the five offers has been dropped from the process and never made it this far.

However, it is clear that the vast majority do not want to be contacted by a pastor at this point. Only a few (less than 5 percent of those responding) are requesting that the pastor contact them, indicating they appear not ready to take that step at this time.

In spite of this, quite a few of those responding are definitely interested in

some kind of local church contact. Almost a third have requested the address of the pastor and congregation nearest them, indicating they appear to want to contact the pastor or attend services in their own time frame when they are comfortable taking that step. Also, slightly more than half of those who respond are requesting tapes to be sent to them from the local congregation, so they definitely want to continue learning about our teachings. This step also provides a kind of "bridge" to helping them learn what our services are like and what they might expect when or if they do attend.

Pastors have been encouraged to consider sending them tapes for six months or so and then give them a call to see that they want to continue receiving them, ask if they have any questions and offer to visit them sometime. By that time they will probably be much more comfortable and open to a visit, having heard the pastor speak a number of times on various subjects.

We'd like to offer the perspective that these people are at this point very much "disciples" or "students" of our teachings. They will have already read explanations of most of our doctrines and

heard several dozen tapes explaining those teachings even further.

Pastors were encouraged to send at least two sermons or Bible studies a month to really give these prospective members some good, meaty material to chew on. The more they have to chew on, hopefully the more they will feel God's calling and the need to learn more and become a part of His Church.

At this point, the pastors and local congregation are their major link with the Church, so we wouldn't make this link half-hearted. They will still be receiving *The Good News*, but only every other month. They will still receive occasional letters or booklet offers from the home office several times a year, but that's about it. By virtue of the congregation providing a monthly tape package, they will now be hearing from the local church more than from the home office. We'd encourage making the most of that regular contact.

We hope this helps explain what we're trying to do with this program. We're trying to provide highly qualified, highly knowledgeable "leads" for our pastors and congregations. UN

News At a Glance

Continued from page 2

form if you are an elder, deacon or deaconess and/or you give sermons and sermons. Also, please complete the volunteer form if you are offering to help in any way and especially with the choir.

We would also encourage you to make your reservations for accommodation as soon as you can as it is disappearing fast! Please address your inquiries to the Tourist Information Centre at Grange-over-Sands. They would just need you to confirm your reservations with a credit card number.

Their telephone number is +44 (0) 15395 34026 and their e-mail address is: grangetic@southlakeland.gov.uk. Just mention you are with the United Church of God.

On Friday, Oct. 20, we are planning an hour get-together service starting at 8 p.m. and then on Saturday, Oct. 21, an optional Bible study at 10:30 a.m. with the main service at 2:30 p.m. All the meetings will in the Victoria Hall which is on the main street of Grange-over-Sands. The entrance to the hall is the same entrance as for the Tourist Information Centre.

John A. Jewell

Tasmania and Mexico Feast Typos

The phone number for the Pines Resort, site of the Feast of Tabernacles in Tasmania, Australia, was incorrect in the *Festival Planning Brochure*. The correct number is +61 3 6248 6222.

For Mexico, the phone numbers of the Hotel Real de Minas Guanajuato should be, for reservations: +52 (473) 732-1460 and +52 (473) 732-2510; fax: +52 (473) 732-1508. We regret the typos and the inconvenience they caused.

Feast Moved From Chile to Argentina

The Feast of Tabernacles will not be held in Chile this year, as previously



Hotel Ejercito de los Andes in Mendoza, Argentina

announced. Instead, we will be holding a combined Festival for Chile and Argentina in Mendoza, Argentina.

Initially we were looking for a site for the members in Argentina. Because of the difficult economic situation in Argentina the members there were



What's New on the Web?

On www.ucg.org

■ See new sermon transcripts: "Who Is God?" by Tom Kirkpatrick; "Nothing but Prayer and Fasting," by Matthew Fenchel; and "Fear and Terror," by Gary Antion.

<http://www.ucg.org/deafhh/transcripts.html>

■ See video and audio versions of "Sept. 11 in Perspective," by Melvin Rhodes.

<http://www.ucg.org/RealAud/>

■ See the Jan./Feb. and March/April issues of *La Buona Notizia* now available in PDF format on the Italian page.

<http://www.ucg.org/html/italiano.shtml>

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

■ The July *Virtual Christian Magazine* has articles on "Do You Have a Treasure?" "Who Me? I Have Nothing to Offer," "A Tale of Two Sisters" and "The Pain of Losing a Child."

<http://vcmagazine.org>

unable to come to Chile to keep the Feast as in previous years. At the same time, the economic situation has made it possible for the members in Chile to go to Argentina. The facilities that have been opened for us provide a better site at a lower cost than our previous site in Chile.

Mendoza is situated in the foothills of the Andes, in the western part of Argentina. It is actually closer to Santiago, Chile, than to Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is about 240 miles from Santiago and can be reached by plane either from Buenos Aires or from Santiago. For those who prefer to go by bus the trip from Santiago to Mendoza is about six hours, including the time needed for border crossing between Chile and Argentina. Americans do not need a visa for either Chile or Argentina, though they must have valid passports.

We will be renting buses in Chile to take the members to Mendoza. Visitors who wish to keep the Feast with us are welcome to join us. The cost will be approximately \$30 round trip from Santiago to Mendoza.

The members in Chile and Argentina will be housed in the Hotel Ejercito de los Andes, which will also be the location for services. Unfortunately, this hotel is not large enough to accommodate our visitors. However, we have located a four-star hotel nearby, the Hotel Ibis. The cost is \$20 per day for single occupancy, or \$10 per day per person for double occupancy. These prices include breakfast. There are also other hotels of the same or higher category in the vicinity.

It is important that the members who have previously applied to attend the Feast in Chile reconfirm their desire to attend the Feast in Mendoza, Argentina, since the Feast in Maitencillo, Chile, has been canceled. Those who would like to attend the Feast in Mendoza and have not applied as yet should do so immediately. We will help you as much as possible with your reservations. You do not need to send money for your reservations now, but please confirm your coming as soon as possible. You can e-mail us at www.unidachile.org or saul_langarica@ucg.org or write to us at Casilla 10384, Santiago, Chile.

Saul Langarica

Kenya Feast Details Announced

This year the Feast in Kenya will be located in Njoro. Njoro is a small town located on Kenya's Mau Escarp-

On youthmagazine.org

■ The latest issue of *Youth United* has articles on family, living with one parent, when parents and friends clash, getting along with brothers and sisters, managing money, questions and answers and more.

<http://youthmagazine.org>

Other Helpful Links

■ **Good News radio program site.**

Listen to Real Audio files of the program and see the radio log.

<http://www.ucg.org/radio>

■ **Youth and young adult site.**

<http://ucgyouth.org>

■ **Singles' Web site** dedicated to items of interest to singles in the Church.

<http://www.ucgsingles.org>

■ **UCG Race Relations Committee site.**

<http://www.ucgrace.org>

■ **Good News Bible Reading Program** PDFs and HTML with Bible readings and commentary.

<http://www.ucg.org/brp>

■ **Good News Web site.** Sign up for e-mail notification!

<http://gnmagazine.org>

■ **Local multimedia efforts** by United congregations: *Tomorrow* television by Portland, Oregon; *Good News* television by Beloit, Wisconsin; *World News and Prophecy* radio by Donald Ward; and *The World Tomorrow* on the Isle of Man.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/localc/multimedia.htm>

■ **News page** with Council of Elders meeting reports, President's Letters, Home Office Updates, etc.

<http://www.ucg.org/a/news/news.htm>

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

ment of the Great Rift Valley. Njoro is located approximately 103 miles (167 kilometers) by road (four hours drive) from Nairobi. It is less than one degree south of the equator so temperatures are largely constant through the year. Njoro is situated several thousand feet above sea level, which keeps temperatures pleasant.

All brethren attending the Feast will lodge and take their meals at the Agriculture Resource Center of Egerton University, which is also the site where services will be held. All Church services will be in English with translation into the Luo language.

Prices for food and lodging at the Feast will be approximately \$210 per person for the entire eight days. If you would like to obtain more information, please contact David Baker at dave_baker@ucg.org.

David Baker

New Site Planned for Esquipulas, Guatemala

The brethren of El Salvador and Guatemala warmly invite you to join them this year in Esquipulas, Guatemala, for the Feast. Lying on the Guatemala/El Salvador/Honduras border, Esquipulas is rarely visited by American tourists. The city is a commercial and tourist center, where tourists can find many

typical local crafts. It is called "The City of Peace."

Esquipulas is located about four hours from Guatemala City. Visitors flying to Guatemala City must take a bus to the Feast site. It is recommended, though, that visitors fly to San Salvador, El Salvador, and travel with the El Salvador brethren to Esquipulas.

Most of the activities, including services, will be held at the Hotel Posada del Cristo Negro. This hotel and two others will be available for guests. Transportation will be required from the other two hotels. All of the hotels have accommodations for large families, a swimming pool, satellite TV and one has hot water. Hotel rooms range in price from 120 to 130 quetzales (\$16 to \$17) per night. Please see the Web page for specific room availability and prices. All of the hotels offer a meal package, with a discounted price for three meals a day at the hotel restaurant.

English translation of services will be provided. You may bring your personal headphones to use with the receivers you will be given.

For more information, and to see pictures of the hotels in Esquipulas, please see the El Salvador congregation's Web site at: www.unidael Salvador.org. Visitors wishing to attend this site should contact Herbert Cisneros at: herbert_cisneros@ucg.org. You can also write to: Iglesia de Dios Unida El Salvador, Apartado Postal 2499, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Herbert Cisneros



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