



## United Church of God *an International Association*

### eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 278

May 18, 2017

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#### Personal From the President...

Dear fellow servants of God,

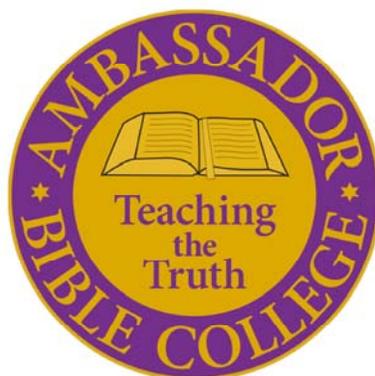
Ambassador Bible College is graduating its 18th class this coming Sunday afternoon. What a fine class it's been! It will be sad to see this class disperse and go their separate ways. But, it will also be most satisfying to know that they are leaving with purpose and will take their valuable training back to their congregations around the world.

For their annual class trip, the students visited Nashville, Tennessee, from Friday, May 12, through Monday, May 15. These trips are primarily done as a service to a congregation, but they are also a special treat for the students. On the Sabbath, they performed a special music program during the sermonette time, and ABC Coordinator Frank Dunkle gave the sermon. The Nashville congregation provided wonderful hospitality, including a Mexican potluck dinner. The Horvath family opened their home to house the students during their stay. Along with sight-seeing in Nashville, the trip included a tour of Mammoth Cave on the trip there, and a visit to Cummins Falls on the trip home. A highlight of the trip was having one student baptized at the base of the waterfall with his classmates present.

A few years ago the Mission Statement of ABC was updated to include an active assignment for those who have gone through ABC: "The Mission of Ambassador Bible College, sponsored by the United Church of God, *an International Association*, is to diligently uphold and faithfully teach the truths of God, as found in the Bible, to equip disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of faithfulness and godly service."

We indeed expect these men and women to be pillars and examples in their local congregations, having learned more about a godly way of life and to be prepared to help out in their local congregations. We expect our pastors to note their conversion, integrity, honesty, truthfulness, faithfulness and endurance when they return.

#### Teaching the Truth



The ABC seal at the entry to the lecture hall unashamedly states that we are "Teaching the Truth." What truth? "Your word is truth" (John 17:17). And, that is what Ambassador Bible College teaches. It teaches the Truth about:

- Who are God the Father and Jesus Christ? What is the Holy Spirit?
- What is man, who was created in the image of God?
- What is God doing with mankind? With you, personally?
- What is the Church?
- What is the truth about the future? About prophecy? About the return of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God?
- What is the truth about how to live our lives-Christian living?

The foundation of ABC's training is the Bible, and we live what Paul wrote to Timothy: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

We take a high view of the word of God in that it is indeed inspired, inerrant and what Christ defined: "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).

ABC has made and will continue to make disciples who will then go out and make more such disciples who have:

- Learned the Truth
- Faced the Truth
- Lived the Truth in morality and doctrine
- Have been transformed by the Truth
- Will be passing on and teaching the Truth

We have taught ABC students to be responsible for their lives. They are fully aware of what they take with them wherever they go: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

Our expectation for our graduates is that they have the "godly service" component of ABC's Mission Statement at the top of their minds. That means that they will make themselves useful in their congregations. They will apply what they have learned and make themselves available.

They will listen and take an interest in getting to know their brethren in the congregation. And, they will further earn their trust by being a light set upon a hill in conduct, word, humility, modesty and how they appear on social media. Others in the congregation should want to say, "I want to be like them!" and some may be inspired to go to ABC.

We expect our graduates to be honored with the same reputation as Caleb, as described in the New Century version: "But my servant Caleb *thinks differently* and *follows me completely*. So I will bring him into the land he has already seen, and his children will own that land (Numbers 14:24 emphasis ours).

### **Other news**

Ken and Dianne Skorseth from South Dakota are being assigned to help with pastoral work in New Zealand for three months. Our New Zealand pastor, Daniel Porteous, has had health matters that require him to step away from actively pastoring the congregations for a period of time. Ken will pastor the two congregations, visit the brethren and prospective members, as well as help with the office work. They will leave shortly after Pentecost and return sometime before the Feast of Trumpets. Ken and Dianne have traveled widely overseas and are the right fit for this temporary assignment.

### **Ministerial Education**

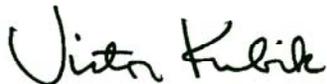
Our ongoing Pastoral Development Program will start this coming Tuesday at 7 p.m., Eastern Time. The purpose is to provide further ongoing training to our newer ministers and those who have attended the training sessions at the home office. Approximately 35 ministers and ministerial trainees will be connected by web conference to hear the Gary Petty's first session about reconciliation.

Our regular ministerial online training program has been continuous since September 2012. Various classes about pastoral care, fundamentals of theology, the Gospels, Acts, prophecy and more have been taught by a variety of instructors on a weekly or twice-weekly schedule. Currently 50 elders are online for our weekly Tuesday morning class studying the Pentateuch, taught by Dr. Frank Dunkle.

I ask for earnest prayers for those who are seriously ill that we read and hear of through various prayer request announcements. "...pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16).

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

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**Attention Graduating Seniors**

Are you a graduating senior? Do you know a senior who is? Send in a bio and photograph to be featured in *United News*.

We are going to feature the class of 2017 in the July-August *United News*. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and send a photograph by June 7. Please keep it to 250 words maximum! Also include your phone number or e-mail address to use to confirm spellings, etc. (contact information will not be printed). Please send with a recent photo (conforming with biblical standards of modesty) of the graduate by June 7. Digital photos should be at least 800 pixels in their smallest dimension to print sharply. Send by e-mail to [linda\\_merrick@ucg.org](mailto:linda_merrick@ucg.org), or send by mail to United News, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027. We may edit for clarity and/or length to meet the 250-word maximum length. Thanks and congratulations!

Here's what to include:

- Graduate's name
- Parents' names (if high school grad)
- Congregation
- School, work, internship, co-op or other accomplishments
- Interests, interesting facts about yourself, Church activities you're involved in, hobbies, unusual skills, etc.
- Plans after graduation
- Additional comments (favorite scripture, favorite quote, motto, advice, poetry, wisdom, etc.)

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## Braille Bibles Available

The home office has received a donation of several items in Braille that we can ship to members in need. Here is what is available:

- 2 Complete Bibles - numerous volumes in each set (Note: 1 Bible is missing the book of Mark)
- KJV Bible Concordance - 3 volume set
- Hebrew Self-Taught - 2 volume set
- Invitation to Archeology - 3 volume set
- Constitution of the United States

Please let Connie Seelig ([connie\\_seelig@ucg.org](mailto:connie_seelig@ucg.org)) know if these would be of help to a member in your area.

-- Peter Eddington, Media and Communications Services

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## Youth Instruction Update

Pastors and congregation leaders, we have uploaded two more Youth Instruction Family Study Guides. These can be found on the [UCG Family webpage](#) or in the UCG D-6 Family Guides Dropbox folder. That link is: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ro15p05te19sexo/AAAzs-xKiV-6y6ASumVjFCtAa?dl=0r:CE>

God's Fifth Commandment says in Exodus 20:12 to honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. This family study guide will help your children to understand how and why God expects us to follow His 5th Commandment. There are also suggested practical ways for children and parents to apply the 5th Commandment to our daily lives.

The Pentecost Family Guide discusses how the Bible reveals that God's annual festivals show the seven steps of His plan of salvation for all mankind. In this Study Guide we will study Pentecost, the third step of that Plan. This study guide will review what part Pentecost plays in God's plan of salvation. It also reviews the New Testament Pentecost and what changes were introduced for the church. The guide also suggests questions and activities to help your children understand why Pentecost is important to us today.

We will take a break over the summer. We will then have 6th Commandment and Fall Holy Day Family Guides out in late August or September.

We hope your parents are finding value in these Family Study Guides. Let us know if you have questions or suggestions.

-- Randy and Kay Schreiber

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### **Mid-Atlantic Women's Weekend**

The women of the Mid-Atlantic region congregations (Columbia, MD; Delmarva; Philadelphia, PA; Richmond, VA) welcome you to join us at our Women's Enrichment Weekend, June 9-11 in Baltimore, Maryland. We are looking forward to this opportunity to develop strong bonds of friendship and actively help one another grow to a greater spiritual maturity. Our theme this year is centered around 1 Peter 3:3-4.

Please join us at *The Pearlstone Center* for an uplifting weekend of learning, fellowship and growth. Guest speakers Randy and Kay Schreiber will be joining us and there is still time to register. Details can be found at: <http://women.ucg.org/enrichment-weekends/baltimore-maryland-2017>

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### **United Youth Camps Registration and Scholarships**

So far over 430 campers have registered at one of the five summer camps across the U.S. Campers, we are reserving a fun filled week for you at your favorite camp so register now at [uyc.ucg.org](http://uyc.ucg.org). Registration will be closing soon at several camps. Please note that camper scholarships are available. See your pastor today for details.

### **For Pastors/Elders: How The UYC Scholarship Process Works**

- The parent of a camper who is requesting a camper scholarship notifies their pastor and the specific Camp Director about the request (assistance is from 50% to 100% of the tuition). Pastors may also opt to give a local scholarship if the funds are available.
- The camp director begins the online process. A link for the scholarship form is sent to the parents.

- The pastor fills out his portion of the online scholarship form.
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