UNITED NEWS

NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, *AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION* · P.O.Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 (513) 576-9796

Vol. 17, No. 7 HTTP://MEMBERS.UCG.ORG AUGUST 2011

news AT A GLANCE

Sign up Now to Serve in Song at the Feast

If you're a musician, we need you to volunteer to help serve during the Feast. Special music praises and honors God and is a great spiritual and emotional boost for everyone.

The easiest way to volunteer is online at http://feast.ucg.org/music. On the site, you can tell us about your musical abilities, how you would like to contribute to Festival music and what site you will be attending.

If you can't go online and would like to volunteer to serve musically, contact the appropriate special music coordinator listed on page 15.

Once you have volunteered, either online or by contacting your special music coordinator, we'll take it from there. If singing in the Festival choir, you'll receive a packet containing music and a practice CD from the music coordinator for the site you plan to attend.

We encourage you not to wait until just before the Feast to volunteer, but to register online or contact your special music coordinator as soon as possible—doing so will greatly help in the preparation and planning process.

Parents of children age 5 through 12 will be happy to know that there will be a children's choir at each Feast site again this year. There is no need to sign up for the children's choir. Music and practice parts will be made available online and distributed through your local church in August.

We'd like you to be a part of what the apostle Paul describes in Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." As many

See "News at a Glance," page 15

Kingdom of God Seminars

A Whole Church Effort. What is Your Part?



by Howard Davis

Beginning on the Sabbath of September 10, the United Church of God will hold Kingdom of God Bible Seminars at more than 150 locations in North America, South America, Australia, Europe, New Zealand, the Philippines and Africa.

Since the Kingdom of God is what the Church is *all about*, participation from every member is absolutely critical. God wants every human to enter His family, and this is what these seminars will explain. These seminars are an extremely valuable part of our overall gospel-preaching efforts, standing beside *The Good News* and our other printed publications, *Beyond Today* television and our UCG.org website.

And all our members are in a unique position to be able to participate directly in a personal way with this set of seminars. Let's examine how individual members can most effectively participate, who our target audience is, why we are conducting these seminars and what the seminar content will be.

Believe, Pray and Support the Big Picture

We all have to believe in what we are doing. How? Believing prayer is the first and foremost duty of the members of the

See "Kingdom of God," page 4

Beyond Today Interviewed on Canadian Television

■ *Beyond Today* presenters Darris McNeely and Steve Myers were interviewed on nationwide Canadian television on Monday, July 18.

by Peter Eddington



Canada's largest provider of prime time Christian programming, Grace TV, interviewed Mr. McNeely and Mr. Myers in their St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, television studio. Gary Petty, our third *Beyond Today* presenter, was not there for this particular interview.

St. Catharines is a short 30-minute drive from Niagara Falls, New York. Our presenters flew into Buffalo, New York, and stopped to view the famous Niagara Falls on their way to the studio.

In St. Catharines, Mr. McNeely and Mr. Myers were guests on Grace TV's "Encounter with Peter Youngren." Mr. Youngren was out of town that day, and so Grace TV's Steve McLaughlin hosted

See "Grace TV," page 5

INSIDE UNITED NEWS

News From Around the World 2
Profile 3
Forward! 3
From the Council 6
College Graduates 7
Treasure Digest 8
From the Word 9
Camp Cotubic Report 10
Local Church Updates 12
Announcements 13
What's New in Media? 16

BY THE NUMBERS

33

Number of registered ABC students planning to attend this year.

news from AROUND THE WORLD

First UYC Camp in Colombia a Big Success

by Claudio Sierra

CHINAUTA, Colombia—This year, we were very blessed to successfully carry out the first UCG Youth Camp in Colombia. It was held from June 17-22 at the Vacation Center Shalom in Chinauta, Colombia, and the six days of camp were highlighted by fine Christian friendship, enthusiasm and fun.

The weather was very favorable in this semi-tropical mountainous region, and 15 youths from different areas of Colombia came together, along with the camp personnel, which included Claudio Sierra, Oscar Sierra, Jaime and Lyda Castro, Glenna Castro and Mario Seiglie, the camp director. The kids were very excited to get to know each other much better and to learn about being in "the Zone," a camp concept with seven key principles.



Mario Seiglie

The campers in Colombia with Mr. Seiglie.

In the six days, we enjoyed hikes and trips around this very lush area. One of the things that astonished us was the occasional visit by the beautiful Morpho butterfly, with its metallic blue wings. Scientists have marveled when they put the wings of this butterfly under the electron microscope and realized this stunning iridescent color does not come from ordinary pigment but from tiny lenses that act as mirrors refracting light at that precise metallic blue wavelength. It is one of the wonders of nature to behold its captivating beauty.

One day we went fishing in the fish pond a long way down a winding path that was one mile below the camp. The kids caught 24 fish, and they had these delicious fish served that evening. There was also a lively youth dance one evening and a bonfire on another evening. At the end of the singing and games at the bonfire, there was a beautiful starry sky, and Mr. Seiglie gave us an astronomy class, pointing out the different planets, stars and constellations.

The kids enjoyed playing water polo in one of the pools and then had games of soccer and basketball at the camp's outdoor court. Each day they had a Christian living class. Everybody particularly enjoyed the class titled, "Men and Women of Steel and Velvet," in which they had to describe the biblical figures that matched those characteristics. Mr. Seiglie brought some of his fossil trilobite collection and explained how these little creatures, at the bottom of the geologic fossil record, showed how they were exquisitely designed and yet had no previous ancestors!

As the camp wound down, there was a feeling of having accomplished a lot in these six days, and the campers all looked forward to camp next year where the Colombian youth can again be taught about God's wonderful way of life. **UN**

Expanding Our Reach

by Johnnie Lambert

Sacrifice is required in order to be a true Christian. Choosing between friendship and truth is necessary for many. Sacrificial choice is particularly required in most of Eastern Europe and Scandinavia, where there are only a few called and chosen at this time. That was my central thought as I sat down to write this article.

Arriving in Tartu, Estonia, on May 26, I knew there would be new challenges. There would be the usual 1,000 envelopes with booklets and *Bible Study Course* lessons to be mailed out to people in seven different countries. Since my wife, Hazel, would arrive five days later, I would have plenty of good help with the mailings. Also, senior pastor Victor Kubik had commissioned me to travel throughout a segment of Scandinavia, visiting scattered members and interested persons. That would be the "new challenge," and as with all new things, there would be a learning curve.

Ever helpful, Toomas Schvak had arranged for me to see Valdur Vesingi at the Tartu Prison on May 31. Toomas completed his research and began to write his Ph.D. thesis while we were here. Since Valdur may have only one visit per month, it was necessary to "shoehorn" the first visit into May if there would be two visits on this trip. In the 12 years Valdur has been in prison, Church members have been his only visitors. Many members have written to him also, so that is very helpful to him. Valdur chose truth; he has faithfully translated seven booklets into Estonian. Like Valdur, Toomas also spent a lot of lonely hours during the last 10 years contributing to the truth of God in Estonian, without remuneration. You will find his name (translator or editor) on every publication and *Good News* article that has been translated into Estonian. Sacrifice exemplified by both.

Tallinn member Artur Aleksandrov happily agreed to meet us on the Island of Saaremaa to visit Tiiu Polding, a prospective member. Artur took a day off from his job and traveled four hours each way on the bus in order to translate for us on June 6. It was not an easy day. On June 10, he came to Tartu, and the three of us went to Smiltene for the Pentecost weekend.

The church in Smiltene is the one place in this part of Eastern Europe where there is a support group. But in the three years since that church began departing from traditional Christianity, approximately half of the members have left the church. There is a support group, but sacrifice is still required there. The time spent with these Latvian Christians was pleasant, peaceful, joyful and spiritually profitable. The proper kind of sacrifice pays dividends.

Our editorial and publication group has a new volunteer, Irma Faulkner. Irma speaks Estonian. In addition to helping me with correspondence, she will do preliminary edits on new booklets. Since Imbi Kuusksalu has three booklets translated for publication, this will be very helpful. These ladies, Carolyn, Judy, Natasha and now Irma, are the horses pulling the wagon.

Natasha Weatherhead, who works at the home office in Cincinnati, has produced two new

See "Expanding Our Reach" page 5



Johnnie Lambert with his wife Hazel.

UNITED NEWS

August 2011 Vol. 17, No. 7

United News (ISSN 1088-8020) is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, *an International Association,* 555 Technecenter Dr., Milford, OH 45150. © 2011 United Church of God, *an International Association*. Printed in the U.S.A. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any form without written permission is prohibited. Periodicals Postage paid at Milford, Ohio 45150, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post publications mail agreement number 1487167.

UCG*IA* Council of Elders: Gary Antion, Scott Ashley, Robert Berendt, Bill Bradford, William Eddington, John Elliott, Roy Holladay, Darris McNeely, Melvin Rhodes, Mario Seiglie, Donald Ward, Robin Webber

President: Dennis Luker
Media and Communications Services manager: Peter Eddington
Associate Managing Editor: Mitchell Moss
Copy editor: Milan Bizic
Intern: Sabrina Clore

Doctrinal reviewers: Arthur Suckling, Chuck Zimmerman, Gerald Seelig
Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (© 1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.
Subscriptions: *United News* is sent automatically to members of the United Church of God and is free to all who request it. Your subscription is provided by the generous, voluntary contributions of members of the United Church of God, *an International Association,* and their coworkers. Donations are gratefully accepted and are tax-deductible. To request a subscription, write to *United News,* United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, or to one of the international addresses below.

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

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

International addresses:
AFRICA & ASIA (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
BENELUX countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg): P.O. Box 93, 2800 AB Gouda, The Netherlands.
BRITISH ISLES: United Church of God–British Isles, P.O. Box 705, Watford, Herts. WD19 6FZ England. Phone: 020 8386 8467 Fax: 020 8386 1999
CANADA: United Church of God–Canada, P.O. Box 144, Station D, Etobicoke, ON M9A 4X1, Canada. Phone: (905) 614-1234, (800) 338-7779 Fax: (905) 614-1749 E-mail: info@ucg.ca
CAMEROON: United Church of God Cameroon, BP 10322 Béssengue, Douala Cameroon.
OTHER FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS: Église de Dieu Unie–France, 127 rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France.
CARIBBEAN: United Church of God, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027, U.S.A. E-mail: info@ucg.org
EAST AFRICA (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda): United Church of God–East Africa, P.O. Box 75261, Nairobi 00200 Kenya. E-mail: kenya@ucg.org
GERMANY: Vereinte Kirche Gottes, Postfach 30 15 09, D-53195 Bonn, Germany. Phone: 0228-9454636 Fax: 0228-9454637 E-mail: info@gutenachrichten.org
ITALY: La Buona Notizia, Chiesa di Dio Unita, Casella Postale 187, 24121 Bergamo Centro, Italy. Phone/Fax: (+39) 035 4523573. E-mail: info@labuonanotizia.org
MALAWI: P.O. Box 32257, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi. Phone: 085 22717. E-mail: malawi@ucg.org
NEW ZEALAND: United Church of God, P.O. Box 22, Shortland St., Auckland 1140, New Zealand. Phone: 0508-463-763
NIGERIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 2265, Somolu, Lagos, Nigeria. Phone: 803-323-3193. E-mail: nigeria@ucg.org
PHILIPPINES: United Church of God, P.O. Box 81840, DCCPO, 8000 Davao City, Philippines. Phone: (+63) 82 224-4444 Cell/Text: (+63) 918-904-4444
SCANDINAVIA: Guds Enade Kyrka, P.O. Box 3535. 111 74, Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail: sverige@ucg.org.
SINGAPORE: United Church of God, P.O. Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia.
SOUTH AFRICA (and Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland only): United Church of God, Southern Africa, P.O. Box 36290, Menlo Park, 0102, Pretoria, South Africa. Phone: (+27) 12 751 4204 Fax: (+27) (0)86 572 7437. 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 518, Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
ALL OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONS NOT LISTED: United Church of God–Australia, GPO Box 535, Brisbane, Queensland, 4001, Australia
ZAMBIA: United Church of God, P.O. Box 23076, Kitwe, Zambia. Phone: (02) 226076. E-mail: zambia@ucg.org
ZIMBABWE: United Church of God, Zimbabwe, P.O. Box 928, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Phone: 011716273. E-mail: zimbabwe@ucg.org

Internet access on your computer:
The United Church of God, *an International Association,* has a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. The address **www.ucg.org** gives you access to general information and news about the Church, issues of *The Good News* and *United News,* as well as our booklets. The address **www.ucg.ca** accesses the Church's Canadian website, **www.ucg.org.au** the Australian website, **www.labuonanotizia.org** the Italian website, **www.goodnews.org.uk** the British Isles website, **www.ucg.org.ph** the Philippines website, **www.ucgeastafrica.org** the Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda site and **http://south-africa.ucg.org** the Southern Africa website.

Profile: Roc Corbett

The newly hired pastor for Salt Lake City, Utah, and Grand Junction, Colorado, Roc Corbett grew up in a military family, moving frequently to bases in the U.S., Japan and the Philippines until his dad retired to Texas as Roc came into his teen years. His family attended services in Texarkana, Texas, and in 1969 Roc went to Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, completing his studies in 1973.

At the Feast in 1973, he met Nancy Hampton from the Seattle, Washington, congregation. They married in 1975. They have one daughter, Angela Buchanan (married with two children), and a son, Jesse Corbett (married with three children). In 1981 the family moved to Montana, where they established an artistic lighting design company that grew into a thriving family business. Roc was ordained an elder on the Feast of Trumpets in 1996 and served as a non-salaried elder in Kalispell and Missoula, Montana, until January of 2011, when he was hired into the full-time ministry. He served on the Amendment Committee from 1999 to 2005.

Some of Roc's favorite Bible verses are Ephesians 1:15-21—a pastor's prayer for those he serves, for the enlightenment that allows us to know the hope of God's calling and the greatness of His power toward us who believe. He also loves Romans 11:29: "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable." This verse brings much encouragement of God's continuing help in the lives of those we love who are not now with us.

When asked what he has learned since becoming a pastor, Roc says, "God entrusts His flock—His family—to shepherds who are to serve them, to be fellow workers for their joy, to teach them and to be their examples and protectors. This is what I pray for when I think of the responsibility of pastoring." **UN**



FORWARD! Giving—Is It Just Money?



AARON DEAN
Financial Services Manager

Giving in today's materialistic society is often seen only in terms of cash. Great publicity and fanfare is given to those who give the big checks to a given cause. Yet Christ showed how the widow gave more with her two mites than the men who threw in much gold and silver. She had given out of her needs instead of her abundance.

Undoubtedly the widow's heart was right, and I am persuaded that she gave more in other ways that are hard to measure. Being a widow, she knew how to give comfort to others who had lost loved ones. She would understand their pain. She would know more of what to say and what not to say. She would understand the comfort of simply caring, holding someone's hand or giving a hug or shoulder to cry on.

The Scriptures don't say a whole lot about this widow. Jesus saw her as she really was: humble, yet rich in heart. She probably gave more time in prayer because of her needs and her loss. Scripture says God hears the prayers of the righteous. How much did she give making intercession to God for others? We really can't know. We do know Jesus made a point of her unselfish giving.

We have to learn to see as Christ sees; to judge as He judges. We must learn that God is not concerned with money as much as the heart. He is not a respecter of persons or wallets. He does want us to give. It may not be much in money, but it doesn't have to be something humans measure. It is about giving whatever it is we do have to give.

A cheerful smile, a kind word, a prayer for another person, all count in God's measure. We should be giving something to someone every day of our lives. That is one way we can fulfill the two great commands: Love God with your heart, mind and soul above all else, and love your neighbor as yourself. If you have love, you will give; just like Jesus Christ, who had perfect love, gave His life for us, paving the way for our eternal life to be with Him and His Father. **UN**



Continued from "Kingdom of God," Page 1

church for the success of the seminars. The believing prayers of congregations and the ministry are vital. Christ said we should pray, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). When we pray for the success of these seminars according to Scripture, asked in Christ's name, God will give what we request.

Since the Kingdom of God is what the Church is all about, *total church participation from every member is absolutely critical.*

When people attend the seminars, we as members are to be ready to talk to those who ask about the Kingdom of God. Financial services operations manager Aaron Dean said, "Each member should have faith to be ready to give an answer. Don't be afraid to meet those coming to the seminars and engage them in conversation. But also be willing to let them lead the conversation if they aren't ready to talk about certain subjects."

Target Audience

Those attending will be subscribers to *The Good News* and our other magazines, UCG.org website users, and/or watchers of *Beyond Today*. This is United's opportunity to give some of its most devoted mass media followers the message of the Kingdom of God. In doing research to prepare the seminar outlines, it became clear that the Christian world of 2.3 billion people knows little or nothing about the Kingdom of God the way Jesus Christ taught it.

According to Wikipedia's entry on the Kingdom of God, scholars now broadly conclude that the Kingdom of God was Jesus Christ's central message. But there are myriad false ideas of what that message is and means from the points of view of all types of scholars, philosophers and thinkers. In contrast, UCG has designed its seminars to proclaim and explain the true Kingdom of God message of Jesus Christ: that through God's calling, faith, obedience and true conversion to Christ, mankind has the opportunity to be part of the family of God.

Preaching the Gospel in Several Ways

By examining the history of religious thought throughout the world, it is apparent that in the centuries since the Gutenberg invention of printing in circa 1440 up until the 1930s, few if any other churches anywhere published or proclaimed this same purely biblical Kingdom of God message in its fullness. Further, we know that not since the time of the apostles has the specific content of this original biblical gospel been proclaimed globally.

However, Christ stressed how important proclaiming our specific message is to the history of the world. He said, "This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). This is part of UCG's work in fulfilling Jesus's words.

Seminar Content Formula

In Mark 1:14-15, we see the account of the major outline of topics that Christ proclaimed throughout His ministry: "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.'"

Those who have constructed the seminar content analyzed this message and designed four seminars using four main themes as a comprehensive formula to guide our content. Each seminar will contain two presentations. Seminar 1 will be held in September of this year. The remaining seminars will be held in the subsequent 12 months—one every four months. So seminar 2 will be held in January 2012, seminar 3 in May 2012, and seminar 4 in September 2012.

Seminar 1—*The Time Is Fulfilled.* When Christ said this 2,000 years ago, it was time in history for the first coming of Christ. In a world of suffering dominated by the oppressive Roman Empire, it was time for humanity to hear God's message of *good news* of the Kingdom of God, which will bring a perfect government to Israel and the world. It was time for a host of major prophecies of the first coming of the Word of God to be fulfilled.

Today, it is time for a host of prophecies about the second coming of Jesus Christ to be fulfilled—for Christ to return to save a world when civilization and the survival of the human race is at stake. It is time for man to understand the noble purpose of God in creating man to live forever in His divine family and how God, not man, will solve mankind's greatest problems when the Kingdom of God will rule the earth.

Seminar 2—*The Kingdom of God Is at Hand.* When Christ said this, He was immediately at hand representing the power, grace, mercy, laws and justice of the Kingdom of God. He counteracted the wrong ideas of the world at the time. He demonstrated what the Father and Son are personally like in their character of love, virtue and purpose.

The second seminar, scheduled to take place in January 2012, will demonstrate that these truths of the Kingdom of God represent the greatest opportunity for each person alive and for the entire human race. It will teach in greater depth about the specific nature of the Kingdom of God.

Seminar 3—*Repent!* Christ taught that everybody needs to rethink reality in light of the Kingdom of God and change so as to enter that Kingdom. Jesus taught God's law and magnified it. He said that His disciples must reconstruct their lives around God's truths—in the same way that little children respond to their parents—under God's direction through the Word of God.

The message of repentance today is the same as in Christ's time. This seminar will focus on what real repentance is, how to respond to God so as to come under His grace and how to be transformed now through true conversion to Christ .

Seminar 4—*Believe the Gospel!* Mankind needs meaning for everything in life and the Kingdom of God gives meaning to every element of existence if we believe it. Belief is a choice. It is not just a matter of knowing what the Bible says about the Kingdom of God. Jesus said that true disciples are to respond to His message of the Kingdom by building a life of believing faith. This seminar will make an appeal to people to build their lives on living faith in the reality of the Kingdom of God as outlined above.

Seminars Held On Sabbath

Some may wonder why the church is giving these seminars on the Sabbath.

It's simple—the Sabbath day is God's ordained day to teach and celebrate the Kingdom of God to humanity. Christ taught and healed the unconverted on the Sabbaths as well as at the annual Festivals. The apostles taught the unconverted on the Sabbath. As a church, every four months, we will follow in our spiritual Leader's footsteps in presenting the Kingdom of God, which the Sabbath celebrates!

Multiple Installments, Continuous Program

The reason they will be held every four months is because we continuously have new people watching our media on television, reading our literature and downloading and interacting with our expanding, global Web presence. When given a repeat offer, the number of people responding increases. You can view our Kingdom of God Bible Seminar website at www.kogbibleseminars.org.

Let's understand Christ's principle of the mustard seed. His work in planting the seed of His Kingdom starts very small, in the hearts of people individually around the world. It takes time to prepare those hearts, plant those seeds, water, fertilize and harvest the crop.

Also, most people who may have some interest will need to be invited multiple times before they will take action on an opportunity. In the pilot program, which was held in Columbus and Cambridge, Ohio, many people came to multiple seminars, but there was also a mix of new people each time. Eventually, one third of the attendees became regular Sabbath observers attending with us. But even if someone attends for the first time during the second or third seminar, the material covered will still sufficiently stand alone from the previous seminars for our attendees to receive a positive, cohesive message about God's Kingdom.

People will bring relatives, friends and members of other churches to these seminars. This program will grow. And we will grow as a loving family in the Church. After all, we know God, who is love, is the planter. God our Father and Christ are opening this great door of opportunity for us to serve Him in presenting His Kingdom through UCG's Kingdom of God Bible Seminar series. Let's be ready, willing and gracious instruments in His hand. For in this opportunity given to the world, the Kingdom of God is at hand! **UN**

How to represent the Kingdom of God

At the Kingdom of God Seminars "we *are* ambassadors for Christ…" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

1. **Be friendly, positive and welcoming.** Never underestimate the power of a positive first impression. Cheerfully greet the seminar attendees, and make them feel welcome. The atmosphere at such a gathering should be similar to the United Youth Camps "zone"—a safe place to come and learn.

2. **Connect on common ground.** Employ the "principle of relatedness" by being all things to all men (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Get acquainted with seminar attendees. Learn a little of the person's background, interests and particularly what interested them to attend the seminar. If you have something in common, mention it in conversation. Help them feel comfortable and among others who understand and appreciate them.

3. **Be quietly confident.** God has opened your mind to know and understand His truth, but the new person is just beginning his or her journey toward the Kingdom of God. Pray for the kind of confidence that comes from the qualities of faith and peace of mind (Philemon 6-7 and Hebrews 12:14). Strive to make others feel at ease at the seminar. Answer what questions you can and positively refer the person to one of the elders when you don't know the answer.

4. **Don't denounce or shock.** The Athenians worshiped all kinds of false gods, but Paul found a positive way to begin his talk to them, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD" (Acts 17:22-23). Granted, their religion was false, but at least they were religious—that's a start. As Christ works with people, they will come to understand how much their world is in error—just like we or our families did in our early days in the truth.

5. **Avoid church-speak.** Our Kingdom of God Seminar attendees will not readily understand "the Feast," or "first tithe," or any number of other words or phrases that serve as our internal, verbal shorthand. It takes some mental gear shifting to remember to speak in the basic terms used in the Bible or in popular language. Those who respond to God's calling will learn our church-speak soon enough.

6. **Be of good cheer.** Our purpose is to ultimately overcome the world with the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Jesus Christ has overcome the world just that way (John 16:33), and we must seek His help to do the same today. Good cheer is infectious and encouraging!

Continued from "Grace TV," Page 1

the hour-long program. It is now available online for you to view for several months on the Grace TV website at http://tinyurl.com/ucg-gracetv.

Topics included the purpose of the *Beyond Today* program, the gospel of the Kingdom of God, Bible prophecy, the news, upcoming U.S. elections, the flailing economy, God and finances and much more. Mr. McNeely and Mr. Myers take up most of the last half hour of the show.

Beyond Today has been on nationwide Canadian television for a number of years. Grace TV used to be called the Christian Channel. In 2009 it changed names to Grace TV. You can see the times and channels we air in eight Canadian provinces and territories on our *Beyond Today* website station listing at www.ucg.org/beyond-today/channels. The Canadian UCG office has been very pleased with viewer response from *Beyond Today* on Grace TV. Our Sunday airtimes are very favorable, too.

Grace TV is Canada's largest 24/7 total Christian television provider. It was launched in 2005 as Canada's first 24/7 national digital television network. It reaches more than 60 percent of Canadian households. It is also expanding internationally and hopes to also include the U.S. soon. It is able to air up to 65 percent foreign content, while other Canadian religious channels are restricted to 35 percent. This has been a great benefit because our *Beyond Today* program is obviously U.S.-produced.

Please pray for the ongoing success of our effort to preach the good news of God's Kingdom in the television medium.



Darris McNeely and Steve Myers on set at Grace TV with Steve McLaughlin.

We have been very pleased with our nationwide response in both Canada and the U.S.—particularly from our 8:30 a.m. EST Sunday morning airtime on *WGN America*. But, without God's blessing it will come to little. Please continue to pray for His guidance in all that we do in His Church. **UN**

Continued from "Expanding Our Reach," Page 2

booklets in Russian, and spent a week in New York learning to use Corel Publisher, the program for publishing our literature. As with Toomas, Natasha is the keystone for the Russian work. These people produce the tangible product which makes everyone else's efforts fruitful. Long hours into the night characterize this effort.

The new learning curve began after Hazel returned to New York on June 22. I left Tartu on a 2:50 a.m. bus for the Tallinn Airport. At 8:30 a.m., I was in Copenhagen. I visited an interesting lady there, Louise, for six hours beginning at 10 a.m. After two hours of Bible study, she took me to the center of Copenhagen for a visit to the botanical garden and the art gallery. At the botanical garden, Louise stood under a fig tree, which reminded me of Millennial prophecies.

After Copenhagen, the next stop was far to the north in Luleå, Sweden. In Luleå, at this time of the year, there is no night. I awakened at 1:30 a.m. to discover very bright daylight.

From Luleå, I went to Kemi, Finland. There, I spent a day at the apartment of Margaret and Klogay Doh, Burmese immigrants to Finland. Everyone will be happy to know we were able to work out arrangements for them to attend the Feast of Tabernacles at Saaremaa. We spent hours discussing Bible subjects. Their hospitality was excellent and really appreciated. One note: Please pray for Margaret. She has a broken arm which has not been healing. The doctors have told her that if it is not improved very soon, they must do surgery.

From Kemi, the next stop was Helsinki to visit a newly interested person, Jay Nanje and family. Due to faulty information and the non-functioning of my cell phone, we failed to connect. Since Helsinki is not too far from Estonia, we will try again in August.



Starting in Tartu, Estonia, Mr. Lambert traveled over 2,000 miles to visit various people in the Baltic region.

That was the learning curve. Now that I have my "feet wet" we will see what God has in store for the future. I come back to the beginning and central thought, "Sacrifice is required to be a true Christian." **UN**

Is the Council Planning to Change Doctrine? No.

Despite persistent rumors and insinuations to the contrary, UCG continues to strongly defend the doctrines we've always held.

by Scott Ashley

Just over a year ago I began hearing and seeing remarkable rumors that the United Church of God was going to be changing various doctrines.

One Internet message stated that the home office had *already* changed the Sabbath and Holy Days. Another stated that United was going to be adopting the Trinity doctrine. Various other rumors circulated stated that we are "watering down" our doctrines.

Most of these, in some form or another, accuse United's leadership of having a secret plan to change UCG doctrines. All of these rumors have two things in common. The first is that they are clearly designed to discredit and undermine duly chosen leadership—a pattern that is consistent throughout the Bible. The second is a complete lack of factual evidence to support the assertions.

There is a reason God's law requires at least two or three witnesses (Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:19). It is the same reason that "hearsay"—what one has heard rather than what one has personally witnessed—is not allowed in court. Both are because "by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established" (Deuteronomy 19:15). God's law explicitly forbids spreading unsubstantiated rumors to attack and condemn another, either in a legal setting as noted above or through one's personal actions (Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 6:16-19). Yet the Internet has been rife with this sort of unchristian behavior by people who justify their actions by saying they are simply warning others about what is "really going on"!

Is UCG adopting the Trinity belief?

A classic example of such baseless rumors is one that I first saw about a year ago, that UCG would soon be accepting the Trinity doctrine.

Another version, spread earlier this year by a former UCG minister who left to help form another group, was that the concept of servant leadership being emphasized in the United Church of God was "based in trinitarianism" and part of "a gradual movement that … moves toward liberalism" (his exact words).

The fact is, even as rumors were being circulated that the United Church of God would soon be accepting the Trinity doctrine, we had long been at work researching material to produce a booklet disproving the Trinity doctrine! (See "New UCG Booklet Addresses the Trinity," page 15.)

Writer John Ross Schroeder and I outlined such a booklet years ago, but due to additions to our workloads we didn't have time to finish it then. But as time permitted, I continued researching how the Trinity doctrine developed and was adopted. Only in recent months was I able to finish researching and writing the material, with additional help from UCG writer Tom Robinson.

The entire Council, along with members of the administration, was involved in the review process, with the result that more good material was added to the booklet showing the major flaws in the Trinity teaching. This is the most systematic, detailed treatment of the subject that has been produced for the general public by any major Church of God group.

No power or desire to change doctrine

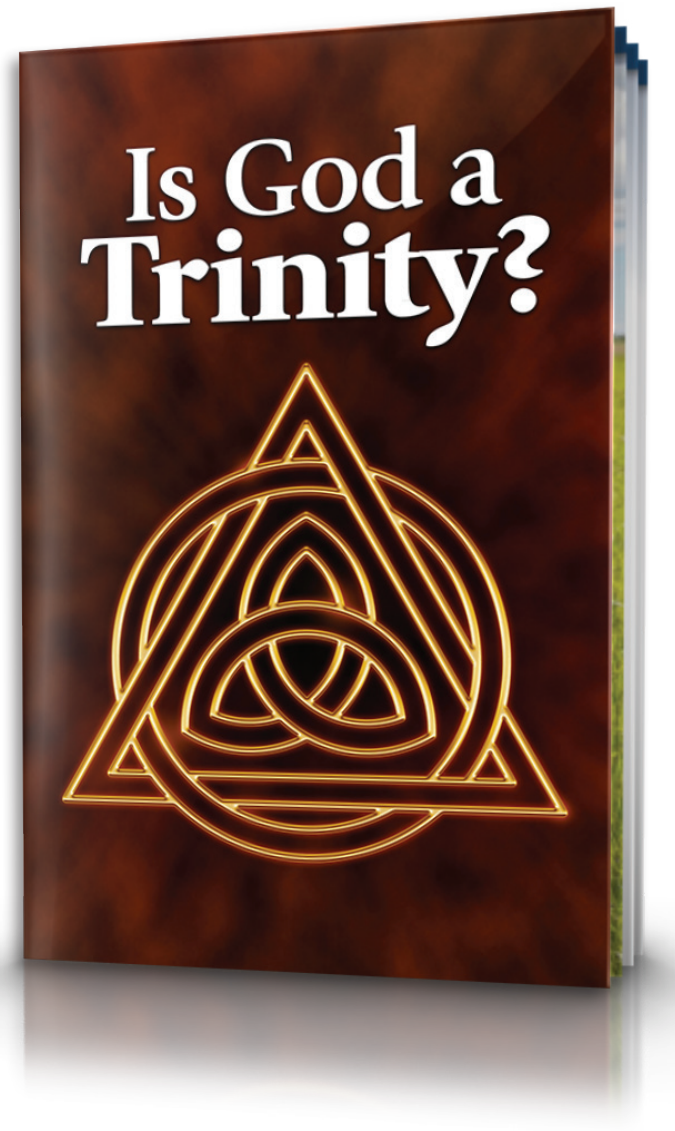
These rumors that United's leadership intends to change doctrine are self-contradictory, because if we truly held other beliefs or wanted to see doctrine changed, we could have easily stayed in our prior affiliation.

Like so many of you, every member of the Council and administration made major personal sacrifices of friends, family and/or jobs because of our commitment to the truths we have been given. We were forced to do so when confronted by those who told us to accept and teach their new doctrines or leave.

It was precisely because of our commitment to truth that in 1995 the ministry approved a constitution for the United Church of God that states that our fundamental beliefs can only be changed by a three-fourths majority of all the ministry of the United Church of God. As a further safeguard, each member of the Council of Elders signs a statement that affirms his commitment to our fundamental beliefs.

These safeguards mean that neither the Council nor administration have the power to change doctrine even if we wanted or intended to!

Yet some continue to spread these baseless rumors for which I have never seen any kind of remotely credible evidence. And regrettably, such rumors played a major part in the recent split in the United Church of God. Anonymous sources spread these fabrications and a lot of people believed them. One longtime friend who is now with another group said at the time that she left because "It *looks like* UCG will be changing doctrine."



The Trinity booklet UCG just produced is proof positive of the continued support of our long-held doctrines.

Even as rumors were being circulated that UCG would soon be accepting the Trinity doctrine, we had long been at work researching material to produce a booklet disproving the Trinity doctrine!

Here we are, a year after these falsehoods started circulating, and how many doctrines have changed? *None!* How many are we planning to change? *None!*

The fact is, during the more than two years that I have been on the Council, the Council of Elders has had exactly *zero* meetings, discussions or teleconferences of *any kind* about any doctrines—much less about changing any of them or changing how they are administered or taught.

Nor, for that matter, during the nearly 16 years that I've been working on *The Good News,* our *Bible Study Course* and our booklets, have I ever seen any intent or effort to change any of our major beliefs by anyone in UCG.

Such accusations have no truth to them. United continues to produce articles, booklets and television programs that reinforce our beliefs in the doctrines of the Sabbath, the God family, the Holy Days, etc. United ministers—including Council members—regularly give sermons every week that reinforce these beliefs, as you can see at the websites of the congregations they pastor.

Since the split of December of 2010, there have been no changes whatsoever in any of our doctrines, nor are any planned. Those behind such accusations are spreading them for reasons known only to God and themselves.

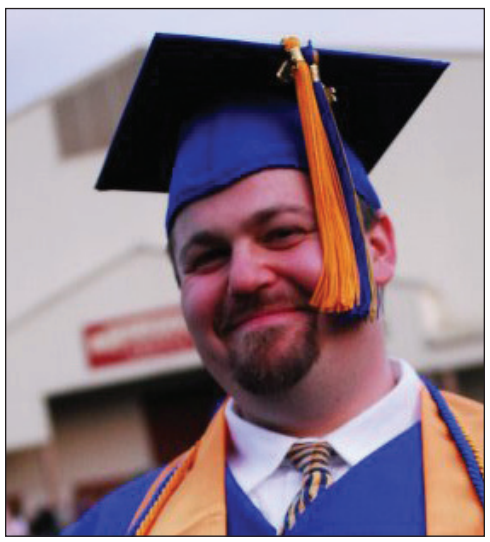
What about updating booklets?

Another rumor is that our several-year effort to update our booklets is simply a cover to water down or change our doctrines. This rumor would be laughable if it weren't so serious.

Anyone who has any of the original versions of our booklets can download or request the updated versions and compare

Continued on Page 11

Congratulations, College Class of 2011



Christopher Bartch

Christopher Nyal Bartch

Parents: David and Donna Foster (of the Spokane, Washington congregation)

Family: Diana (wife) and Sebastian (son) Bartch

Congregation: Salem, Oregon

College Accomplishments: He graduated from Linn-Benton Community College with an associates of applied science in crafting and engineering graphics and a certificate in civil engineering technology. Attaining a 3.96 GPA, he was also part of Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: He serves on sound and cybercast crew at church. His hobbies include spending time with his wife and son, friends, reading, camping and playing games.

Plans After Graduation: He is looking for work in the drafting and engineering field.

Favorite Scripture: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Advice: You are *never* too old to go back to college and pursue your dreams!

Kimberley Berendt

Parents: Rick and Heather Berendt

Congregation: Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

College Accomplishments: Kimberly obtained a bachelor of science degree in nutrition and food sciences.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: She rides horses competitively in the sport of dressage, currently training her own young horse.

Plans After Graduation: She is considering completing a master's degree in animal nutrition.

Favourite Quote: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go." – Dr. Seuss, *Oh! The Places You'll Go*



Jayne Corbin

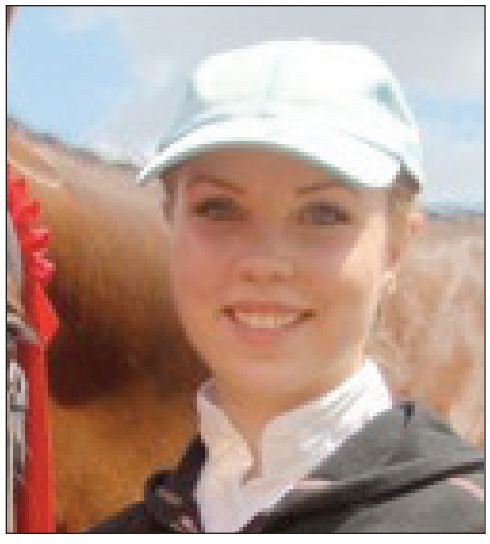
Jayne Corbin

Congregation: Murfreesboro, Tennessee

College Accomplishments: She graduated with a BBS in business management with an emphasis in human resources from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, helped mentor younger college students and graduated with a 3.3 GPA.

Plans After Graduation: She works for the Town of Smyrna in the Human Resource Department using her degree to become a better employee and possibly move into a management position.

Advice: You are never too old to go to college and to finish.



Kimberley Berendt



Jacqueline Ekama

Jacqueline Ekama

Parents: James and Nancy Capo

Congregation: Phoenix East, Arizona

College Accomplishments: Presidential Scholarship; National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Dean's List; graduated summa cum laude.

Plans After Graduation: She plans on working full time at Parker Madison, a dialog marketing studio.

Lauren Graham

Parents: Kenneth and Susan Graham

Congregation: Bloomington/Canton, Illinois



Lauren Graham

College Accomplishment: 3.5 GPA, Exceptional Merit in the Arts.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests/etc.: She enjoys singing for church, playing piano, making jewelry, writing and creating art in a multitude of ways.

Plans After Graduation: She said, "I'm going to let life happen. However, I have been seeking a creative job that I will love and that I will look forward to each day."

Motto: Tomorrow is promised to no one, so get out there, do the good thing, do the right thing, because if you don't, who will?

Angela Helseth

Parents: David and Rosetta Helseth

Congregation: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

College Accomplishments: She graduated from the Honors program cum laude, played saxophone in jazz band all four years, was an RA for two years, participated in the AWOL (Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning) program to Chicago and led trips to New York City and Belize.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: She is continually learning, living and sharing Truth. She enjoys speaking Spanish and learning languages and other cultures. She is interested in people (psychologically, socially, spiritually, emotionally), nature, healthy eating, living and being.

Plans After Graduation: Currently she is unsure of specifics, but would like to be involved in international travel/living, paying off loans, nannying, learning about and working with at-risk youth, and in the future, being a wife and mom.

Favorite Quote: "Every day is an opportunity to make a new happy ending. May you live all the days of your life." - Johnathan Swift



Angela Helseth

Favorite Scripture: Psalm 119

Motto: "Let us live the highest vision of what is possible." - Inga Grace

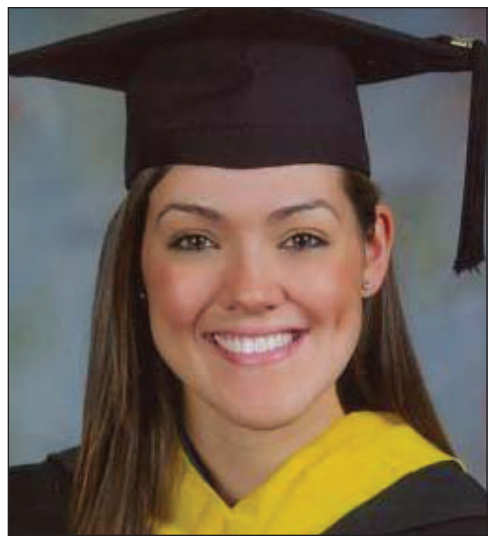
Elizabeth Michelle Kudirka

Parents: Joseph and Berta Kudirka

Congregation: New York City, New York

College Accomplishments: She obtained a marine biology and environmental policy bachelor of science degree from Monmouth University, graduated in May 2011 and was on the Dean's List for 2010-2011. She received the Basketball Coaches Award, was on Outdoors Club, Community Service Club and in the National Honor Society.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.:



Elizabeth Kudirka

She performed on piano for special music and has participated as a camper in UCG summer camp. She plays basketball, the piano and does physical training.

Plans After Graduation: She plans to attend graduate school and pursue a position to develop her knowledge of marine science and contribute to the conservation of wildlife.

Favorite Scripture: "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

Advice: Make the most of it, and keep a positive attitude.

Katherine Rowland

Family: Chris Rowland (husband) and Steven and Andrew (sons)

Congregation: Cincinnati East, Ohio

College Accomplishments: She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was on the Dean's List every semester.

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: Her associate's degree is as a library technical assistant. She loves reading, writing and storytelling! One of her favorite things to do is to travel with her husband and sons. She can talk for hours about the Dewey Decimal System and its use in public libraries.



Katherine Rowland

Plans After Graduation: Having recently relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio, from Indianapolis, Indiana, she will be attending ABC this fall and will probably be volunteering in the local public library as soon as she gets settled, with an eye towards looking for library work in the future.

Favorite Quote: "An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered." - G.K. Chesterton

Favorite Scriptures: "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6). "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself" (Proverbs 11:25).

Motto: Never give up!

Amber Jennie Teel

Parents: Ron Teel and San Hopper

Grandparents: Dwight and Dolores Teel

Congregation: Garden Grove, California

College Accomplishments: Graduated from University of California, Irvine, on June 11, 2011, with a bachelor's in psychology and social behavior and a minor in criminology, law and society. She was on the Dean's Honor List seven quarters in a row. She was awarded for and aided in providing mental health services as a peer educator for the UCI Counseling Center (2010-2011).

Church Activities/Hobbies/Interests, etc.: She loves participating in youth activities and playing intramural sports. She is an avid fiction reader and enjoys letting her imagination fly to distant lands full of adventure and love. She also greatly enjoys taking her little brothers out to dinner and a movie with her fiancé, Alex, and having movie nights with her best friends. At the moment, the happiest times center around planning her and Alex's wedding with each other and all their families (Church family included).

Plans After Graduation: She says, "I know that I want to learn and do something that will carry over into the Kingdom so I know that my calling and passion lies in helping others, especially the troubled population because so many give up on them, but I know that God does not and neither should His people." Now that she has graduated this year, she plans to acquire a position in the area of alternative corrections for youth or in the field of psychology, assisting with abused and battered women. Other than her professional ambitions, she has greater dreams that concern family. She looks forward to marrying her best friend on Aug. 3, 2012, and creating the godly foundation needed to build their family as they continue to carry out God's will with perseverance, hope, humility and love.

Favorite Quote: "When we come to the edge of the light we know and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, of this we can be sure…Either God will provide something solid to stand on or…We will be taught to fly." - Anonymous

Favorite Scripture: "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).



Amber Teel

Treasure DIGEST

What Logs Are Hiding in Your Eye?

A few years ago, an incident in our community stirred a debate in the local paper. A young farmer and his preschool age son were pulled over by the police for a minor violation, something along the lines of having a tail light out. When the man showed the officer his driver's license, the officer noticed that it had expired within the past week. The man hadn't renewed his license on time! So the officer informed him that he would not be allowed to drive home. His car was going to be towed away, and the policeman offered to call a taxi to take him and his child home. The man didn't want a taxi, but when he asked the officer to call his wife to come get them, the officer refused and left the man by the side of the road with his young child.

There was a week-long debate in the local paper with letters to the editor and an editorial about how the situation was handled, and that debate spilled over into our own family. My wife thought that the officer should have showed mercy instead of following policy to the letter of the law, and that he should have called the man's wife to come get them, rather than leaving someone with a young child stranded by the side of the road. But I was far less sympathetic—I felt that the entire situation could have been avoided if the man had simply renewed his license when he was supposed to.

My wife said that she could see something like that happening to me, since I have occasional absent-minded tendencies. I insisted, however, that the process was idiot proof, since a renewal notice is mailed out when your license is about to expire, thereby eliminating any excuse for him not to renew the license.

About a month later, our family flew back to Minnesota for a vacation. At the airport, we checked in at the rental car agency to pick up the car that we had reserved, and of course, I was asked for my driver's license. After looking at my license, the agent said, "I'm sorry sir, but we can't rent you the car unless you possess a valid driver's license, and this license expired five years ago!"

It was classic irony! Apparently the process wasn't totally idiot-proof! My wife wound up renting the car in her name and enjoyed a good chuckle about the situation. As soon as I got home I went down to the DMV, retook the test and got another license.

This experience illustrates how easy it can be to spot the faults and sins of others and be completely blind to our own sins, even when it is the same type of sin.

In 2 Samuel 12, King David was enraged by the prophet Nathan's story of the rich man who had many flocks and herds, yet stole and killed the only lamb of a poor man. Yet David couldn't see himself as being guilty of a similar, yet worse sin, when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed. The parallels between Nathan's story and David's actions seem obvious, but David didn't get it immediately.

When we become irritated by the faults we see in others, it might do us well to ask ourselves a couple of questions:

Could I, like David, have somehow committed a similar sin that I'm still blind to? Am I oblivious to something that I've done that I still need to make amends for?

Could I be vulnerable to committing a similar sin in the future?

In Matthew 23, Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees about hypocrisy. They had a tremendous ability to point out the sins of others, but tended to completely overlook faults in themselves.

An important Christian attribute is to examine ourselves and attempt to see ourselves as we really are; not self-righteously comparing ourselves to others, but striving to see ourselves as God sees us. When we see faults in others, let's examine ourselves, make corrections and do our part to achieve the great potential for good that God sees in all of us.

Bruce and Linda Hansen
Salem, Oregon, congregation

A Time to Mourn

In Ecclesiastes 3:4 it says that there is a time to mourn. We often think of that in terms of losing a loved one. However, in the Bible, mourning is encouraged at other times as well, such as when staring into the face of a looming disaster or realizing that we have strayed from our Eternal God. With so much trouble happening in our world, perhaps it is time we sincerely and deeply mourn!

On a recent Sabbath morning, I opened to 2 Chronicles 20 and began to read the prayer of Jehoshaphat. I didn't get far before tears began to stream down my face.

After months of growing sadness about the state of my country, the sorrow and dread I felt for my country came flowing out. There are times in our life when only God can spare us. I believe that we are at such a juncture now.

In the book of Esther, when the evil plot of Haman to exterminate the Jews of his day became known, Mordecai knew it was time to mourn before God. "When Mordecai learned all what had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly" (Esther 4:1).

Not only did Mordecai mourn, but the Jews in all the provinces where the king's decree arrived decided to neither eat nor drink for three days and beseech God that He might spare them! (Esther 4:3). Now our Father God, being the merciful God that He is, both heard and answered



Photos.com



Photos.com

them. The wicked Haman was hung on his own gallows, and the people of God dwelt safely for many years.

We must be wholehearted in our mourning for God to truly hear us. Notice that in Hosea 7:14, God tells us why He does not hear the cries of some: "They did not cry to me from their heart when they wail upon their beds." God wants sincerity and truth. In the call to repentance in Joel 2:12-13, the Lord declares, "Return to me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; so rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate." Yes, there are times when we simply must mourn and turn to God, even if our leadership does not. In Amos' day, God condemned the leadership for not mourning when they should have: "They have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph" (Amos 6:6). In Ezekiel 9:4, He instructs His obedient angels to put a mark on the foreheads of all those who "sigh and grieve over all the abominations which are being committed in the land."

In the New Testament, Jesus taught that "blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Mathew 5:4). Jesus Himself employed this when He overlooked Jerusalem and considering the trouble that was coming upon it, wept openly (Luke 19:41-44).

Yes, there is a time to deeply mourn and really turn towards God. We must remember to always have our hearts and minds turned toward God, but the modern-day nations of Israel have careened away from Him. Now is the time to mourn and turn our hearts, in humble prayer and fasting, towards our Creator God.

Luke Przeslawski
Twin Cities, Minnesota, congregation

From THE WORD

Come to Serve, Not to Be Served

■ Principles of effective Christ-like leadership can be gleaned from the relationship between a horse and its master.

by Angie Wilson

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb. The lion shall lie down with the young goat. The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6).

I'd read that verse numerous times before, but one day what really caught my attention was what it didn't say.

It didn't say the child would be dragging the reluctant animals along behind.

Why is that important? Because it can teach us a lot about God's perspective on leadership.

Over the years, I have seen many a frustrated person tug futilely on the lead rope of a 1,200-pound horse that preferred to contentedly munch grass rather than follow the person. I have also watched children saddle their horses for a riding lesson only to have at least one horse plant all four feet when a child tried to lead it to the arena.

On the other hand, I have watched internationally-known trainers such as Monty Roberts lead various horses onto trailers in minutes—a task that often took the horses' owners hours to accomplish. Whereas the owners had resorted to shoving the animal into the trailer or smacking it on the rump with a broom, Roberts would quietly stand inside the trailer while his assistant would lead the horse away. In each instance, the horse would immediately head toward the trailer when it was released and load itself of its own free will.

Why were the various horses willing to follow a stranger into a strange trailer, in front of an audience but their owners had fought to get them into a trailer?

The answer lies in the underlying spirit conveyed by the actions of the person in the leadership role.

Human Nature's Desire For Authority

The natural human mind seeks positions of authority to fulfill its personal desires and needs—me first, you second. That inward desire sometimes manifests itself as physically forcing someone or something to do what we want—such as trying to push or pull a 1,200-pound animal to do what we want. But oftentimes it is more subtle. For example, a child may whine when he doesn't get his way. The whining annoys the parent, and the parent gives in to the child's whining, thus empowering the child. An adult may complain about someone being inept in order to discredit that person, thereby gaining support for and empowering himself.

Even Christ's own disciples tended to see authority as a personal badge of prestige. One time when they were debating among themselves who would be greatest in God's Kingdom (Mark 9:34), Christ set a child before them and told them if they wanted to be great they needed to be humble and teachable like a child.

In Matthew 20:20-21, the mother of James and John asked Christ to show favor to her sons and to place one at His right hand and the other at His left in God's Kingdom. When the other 10 disciples heard James and John had requested the choicest positions of authority in God's Kingdom, they were upset (verse 24).



Photos.com

God's first two questions to Job were, "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?"

Christ told His disciples their idea of leadership was not the same as God's. In Matthew 20:25-27, He told them, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you."

Christ explained the godly perspective sees the leadership position as a means to serve others more effectively. He told His disciples in verses 27-28, "Whoever desires to be great among you, let him be your servant … just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

Why would Christ say that?

Christ's Example of Power and Authority

By John 1:1, 14 and Philippians 2:6-8, we know that Christ was a member of the God family known as the Word and that He had existed with God prior to the physical creation. We know through John 1:3 and Genesis 1:24-25, the Word was the One who performed the act of creating of the physical realm. Through these scriptures, we also know this same being was the One who willingly stepped aside from the power and glory He had possessed for all eternity to come to earth to be born a physical human being, live among His creation for 33 years and die a criminal's death in order to give His lawbreaking mortal creation a chance for eternal life.

What does that tell us about the way the One who actually does possess all power and authority views the leadership role?

Let's go back and consider the horse.

God brought the power and majesty of the horse to Job's attention in Job 39:19-25. His

Continued on page 11

Camp Cotubic Builds Relationships and Success "Away from the World"

by Linda Merrick

Tucked away from society lies Camp Cotubic. Here in a setting "away from it all," youth in the Church of God lived for a week from June 19-26 in an atmosphere resembling the Kingdom of God. This year's focus was "A World Away from the World," and this statement couldn't have been truer.

This new location welcomed 116 campers and 47 staff from all over the country, who came to live God's way of life and to establish better relationships with God and with each other. Formal instruction included a daily Christian living class focusing on the theme of "the Core of Character," as well as an additional Bible class about developing a personal relationship with God. Informal instruction took place literally throughout the day through spontaneous discussions.

Establishing God's way of life at camp could not happen without everyone working together to provide support and care for others. Encouragement was so important for many of the activities. One was the high-ropes course. Many campers overcame their fear of heights to walk across ropes 30 feet in the air. Campers below were able to cheer on their friends and provide tips for the next step.

The blob was another popular activity this year where campers were launched off a big balloon (and into the water!) by someone else jumping onto it. Camper Greg Pacleb explained this experience: "When you get launched into the air, it's kind of scary at first, but you feel like you're flying!"

Other activities included arts and crafts, media, basketball, flag football, the rock wall, horseback riding, giant swing and more. Each activity offered great opportunities for dorms to work together. Counselors accomplished the bigger task of providing a safe and supportive environment for campers. "Sometimes, to get someone to do something outside of their comfort zone, you need to be assertive and supportive at the same time. After they try it once in that environment, they'll be free of fear afterwards," said counselor Mark-Philip Pebworth.

The close relationships that campers developed were truly something special. Camper Nathan Creech said, "You can find many things in common with people you wouldn't expect." Nathan described that the best part of camp was the closeness of his dorm and the great conversations they had.

Staff members were also given opportunities to build bonds. Swim staff member Alyssa Diggins explained that the best part of camp was getting to know people better: "I hardly knew any of the campers and only a few staff. So this was definitely a great opportunity to meet and become friends with more people in God's Church." During the evenings, campers were able to choose from some of their favorite activities or just fellowship. A lively campfire concluded each day's activities. Camp finished with a peaceful and inspiring Sabbath, followed by the traditional banquet and dance. Camp Cotubic proved to be an edifying camp that allowed campers and staff alike to focus on their relationships with God and each other. Even though they had to leave "a World Away from the World," they went home strengthened for the challenges of the coming year. **UN**



Brian Scott riding on horseback.



The "blob."



Shaylee Thomas and Courtney Stith.



Dorm B4 in their media class.



Audra Bledsoe with her dorm, G4, at the archery class.

Is the Council Planning to Change Doctrine? No.

Continued from page 6

United continues to produce articles, booklets and television programs that reinforce our beliefs in the doctrines of the Sabbath, the God family, the Holy Days, etc.

them side-by-side for any changes. In nearly every case of the booklets we've updated, we've added *more* material explaining our beliefs.

As an example, when we updated our booklet *Fundamental Beliefs of the United Church of God* nearly two years ago, we added *over 60 percent more* text to better explain exactly what we believe.

As another example, when I last updated our Sabbath booklet just under two years ago, I included new sections showing that all major Protestant denominations admit that Saturday is the biblical Sabbath day and there is no biblical basis for the change to Sunday, and another section showing that the names for "Saturday" in many languages show a direct connection with the word "Sabbath." So why would anyone say we intend to change the Sabbath or water it down?

We continue to print and send out thousands of booklets each month on our basic beliefs, with thousands more downloaded from our website.

What about other Bible versions?

Another related rumor is that we are switching to more "liberal" Bible versions to push a secret agenda to change doctrines. As with these other rumors, there isn't a shred of truth to it, as anyone can easily verify.

For the record, the standard Bible version we use and always have used for all of our publications is the New King James Version. Our publications include standard wording that all scriptural references are from this version unless noted otherwise.

Why do we sometimes use other versions? Simple—*it's to make our beliefs more clear.* For example, I nearly always use the Revised English Bible when quoting Matthew 24:22 concerning the time of the end: "If that time of troubles were not cut short, no living thing could survive … " This is more strong and clear than the NKJV's "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved … "

If you ever have a question about our use of another Bible version, simply compare the version we've used with the New King James Version, and you'll see that the version we've used better supports our beliefs, makes the meaning more clear and understandable to the average reader or corrects a translation problem.

I hope this adequately addresses some of the baseless rumors some have been circulating. I've long considered it a privilege to be part of a group that so strongly values the precious truths God has revealed to us and to work with such dedicated staff, members, elders and other Council members who have dedicated their lives to these truths and this way of life! **UN**

Continued from page 9

first two questions to Job were, "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?"

The Creator God did indeed clothe the horse's neck with thunder. When getting to its feet after lying down, the horse must use the thrusting power of its neck muscles to propel its 1,000 plus pound body from a sitting position to a standing position. The horse also uses its powerful neck to balance itself in full stride around a racetrack or in mid-flight over a large obstacle in a jumping competition. The power from the horse's neck muscles alone can knock a person off his or her feet if the horse swings its head into the person.

Yet with all the physical power that the horse possesses, God created it to be a willing servant to man. He designed the horse to mirror His own approach to leadership—an approach based on using one's power to humbly serve others.

In the western riding style called reining, I have watched riders such as Stacy Westfall perform spins, sliding stops and other maneuvers without the aid of a bridle or a saddle. In the English riding style called dressage, I have watched international-level horses perform moves ranging from ground-covering extended trots to ballerina-like canter pirouettes. The horses appeared to be choreographing a dance of their own while their riders were merely passengers along for the ride.

In both cases, there was a harmonious partnership between the leader and the follower. There was no resistance, no strife, no conflict. The performances were powerful and graceful to behold.

Freedom to Choose

In 2 Corinthians 10:5, God admonishes us to bring "every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Why?

Godly leadership begins by first learning how to rule over one's own thoughts. Actions begin as thoughts and the mind is the nursery of future actions.



Photos.com

God did indeed clothe the horse's neck with thunder. Yet with all the physical power that the horse possesses, God created it to be a willing servant to man.

Going back to the earlier example of Monty Roberts, Roberts grew up in a family where the use of physical domination was the accepted way to raise children and to break horses to saddle.

As a youth, Roberts thought there must be a better way, and he would often ride into the high ranges of Nevada to study the way the wild mustangs interacted with each other. Eventually, he befriended one of the mustangs.

When Roberts rode the mustang back to his house to show his friends and family what he had accomplished, everyone thought it was a stunt. They claimed nobody could tame and ride a genuinely wild mustang in the wild. They believed wild horses had to be broken—bucked out—first. In their minds, an animal as powerful as the horse must likewise be dominated by power.

He named that mustang Shy Boy.

Roberts released Shy Boy back into his own herd a few months later. The herd accepted him as if he'd never been gone, but Shy Boy didn't stay. The next morning he returned to Roberts' campsite of his own free will, and Roberts took Shy Boy home with him to stay.

Micah 4:2 says, "Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His path." The previous verse says many peoples will flow to the mountain of the Lord.

Zechariah 8:21-22 also talks about the inhabitants of many cities seeking out the Lord. At that time, Christ will be the ruling King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but He won't be lording it over the people He rules. Instead, He says of Himself in Matthew 11:29-30, "I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Although Christ will have to put down a large-scale rebellion when He initially returns, these people ultimately will be drawn to Christ by what He has to offer them, just as the horses were drawn to what Roberts offered them.

God leads by giving us the freedom to choose whether or not we will follow Him. He says in John 16:13 the power of the Holy Spirit "will guide you into all truth." God won't use His power to drag anyone along unwillingly.

In Hebrews 8:10, God says He eventually will write His laws in the hearts and minds of mankind. It's the only way humans will ever be able to rule over their own spirit and use their authority to lead others in the same manner that God Himself does.

God ultimately wants His children to inherit the world with His Son. That's a lot of power. God's not going to give us that authority so we can bask in the glory of that power to fulfill our own desires. We won't be given power for sake of being given power. We'll have greater authority so we can serve and lead others in an even greater capacity, just as Christ and the Father have served and led us. **UN**

Angie Wilson is a member in the Athens, Ohio, congregation.

Local Church UPDATES

Eureka, California, congregation Welcomes New Member

In our small congregation in Eureka, California (with an attendance of low-mid 20s), Herb Vierra performed a recent baptism. On April 17, 2011, Nathan Flournoy, grandson of local members Stan and Anita Hamill, was baptized at the home of Mark and Linda Taylor. Following was food and joyful fellowship. Everyone present signed congratulations on Nathan's detachable pant legs with permanent markers as a souvenir of the joyous event. The last baptism in the Eureka congregation was in 2004.

Kandy Goodrich



New member Nathan Flournoy with grandfather Stan Hamill.

Los Angeles Women's Club Learns How to Make Jewelry!

On May 22, a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon, the Los Angeles Women's Club gathered together. Women ages 15 to, well, let's say over 70, learned how to make jewelry using a wire wrapping technique. Hosted by Sharon Roybal in her home, the afternoon began with a mini-feast of all kinds of appetizers prepared by the attendees. From chocolate covered strawberries to deviled eggs to crackers and chocolate tea, they ate very well. Then the lessons began.

Katelyn Roybal, who has her own jewelry business, was teacher for the afternoon, sharing her talent with the ladies. She has made some remarkably beautiful jewelry, and everyone was ready to learn. She had books of pictures of beautiful jewelry and samples of what she has made. Katelyn was very patient as the ladies learned how to operate the various tools involved. They all thoroughly enjoyed learning together, not only how to wire wrap, but a lot about patience as well. Club coordinator Patti Josifek said, "It is so good to see the ladies and girls have this kind of fellowship and bonding experience."

And the end result? Each went home with a brand new pair of earrings! It was enjoyable to walk around the room complimenting each other on the earrings, even though they all looked pretty much the same.

Laura Peabody



Katelyn Roybal teaches Marta Cedeño and Sue Black at the L.A. women's club meeting.

Garden Grove Hosts Successful 6th Annual O.C. Bash

More than 100 young adults ranging in age from 15 to 28 and representing 14 states and two countries attended the sixth annual O.C. Bash in Southern California on the weekend of July 15.

Thursday night, July 14, was an evening to meet and greet with others to make their acquaintance, have a snack and socialize.

Friday is when many travel into the area, so many of the local members had busy schedules picking up from the airport those who came in from out of town. Those who had already arrived had the entire day as free time. Some used the time to hike trails, others used it to see various sites in the region and most used it as time to hit the beach to swim in the Pacific, play beach volleyball and lounge in the sun.

Friday night was a cookout and beach bonfire on Huntington Beach. Everybody socialized, chatted, laughed and ate as the sun set over the Pacific Ocean.

On Sabbath morning, the Weis family of Huntington Beach opened their home (where many young adults stayed for the weekend on couches, floors and any other spot they could find to crash) to all the young adults for a Sabbath brunch in their back yard. Shortly after serving brunch, six young men gave short biblical presentations, each prepared specifically to be of interest to the uniquely youthful audience.

Mitchell Moss, associate managing editor of the *United News* and Ambassador Bible Center 2010 alumnus, was on hand to promote ABC at the brunch and represent the home office. "I met many new people and talked to several who plan to attend ABC at some point in the future, some of whom attend with other fellowships in the Church of God community, which I think is extremely positive," he said.

Most of the youth attended regular Sabbath services in the Garden Grove congregation Sabbath afternoon, where Aaron Weis gave an edifying sermonette and Jon Garnant likewise gave a thought-provoking sermon geared to the young audience. During snacks afterward, local members got to know all the young visitors. That evening, everyone ate pizza back at the Weis's place before heading to a local high school gym for an open gym night.



Lydia Reyes, Ruth Aguilar and Michael Barbeau at the O.C. Bash.

On Sunday, all the local congregations of the region were invited to join together with the young adults at Doheny Beach for a cookout and day at the beach. 300 members from five UCG congregations and three other Church of God groups came to enjoy a day filled with board games, swimming, beach volleyball, Frisbees and other fun activities.



Kamryn Weis and Anna Karlik at the beach bonfire at this year's O.C. Bash.

Sunday night was the conclusion of the weekend with the annual dance. At the end of the dance, a group picture was taken, and many stuck around for a while to mingle and to help clean up. Aaron Weis, coordinator for the weekend, commented, "We have seen this weekend grow year by year as more young people have a growing desire to meet others of like mind. I was able to identify at least 30 first-time participants. God definitely blessed it to make it the most successful O.C. Bash to date."



Michael Thomas and Shaylee Thomas at the O.C. Bash.

Joe Gannon from St. Louis, Missouri, attended for the first time and succinctly summed up the feelings of many about whether or not to attend in the future: "Just go."

Mitchell Moss

Lessons from a Healing

I felt blessed to be able to assist Dave Bradford in teaching and enjoying fishing with the campers and staff at Camp Hye Sierra for this summer's session.

About 12 years ago I developed a serious allergy to wasp and bee stings. I educated myself about what to do if stung and prepared by acquiring an EpiPen and always keeping it with me when outdoors.

During one session on the last day of fishing, I was on the dock of the lake when an insect crawled up my shorts and stung me. At first I was hoping it would not affect me as it had in years past, but I soon realized that I would need some attention. I went directly to Mr. Fred Crow (CPR/AED, FA), our lead lifeguard at camp, and told him I was allergic and had been stung. He immediately took charge.

After seeing Nurse Laura Roberts (RN), we administered the EpiPen, but shock was setting in, so my memory of the events is very hazy. I was told later that they had called an ambulance but discovered that the only helicopter in the Hye Sierra region just happened to be flying a 15-minute distance away. While waiting for the helicopter, Fred Crow and Ed Dowd anointed me. An SOS for prayer was also quickly sent out to the ministry. I deeply appreciated the fervency and faith of the prayers and it brought a great deal of comfort knowing that many others were praying for me as well.

There was an EMT manager at a nearby emergency service who had just happened to have left his office, telling his staff he just needed to go for a drive. He heard the dispatch for the emergency helicopter and came to aid. He administered fluids and

oxygen to me until the helicopter lifted me away to a Fresno hospital, where my wife Nancy and another staff member met me.

All the campers were told about the incident, and prayers were offered up in the dorms and dining hall. To God's glory, I was well enough to return to camp a few hours later to be with them again. When I returned, Mr. Dowd had organized a flashlight reception, with many of the campers and staff outside, waving their flashlights and welcoming us back with joy.

Brethren, thank you all for your prayers for me, my wife and especially for the campers! Please, let us pray as fervently for others as so many did for me in my need. Each one of us is as important to God and to the body of Christ as is every other member.

Roc Corbett

Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, Congregations Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Little Rock, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, United Church of God congregations celebrated their 50th anniversaries on July 9 and 10 in Arkansas.

There were 94 people in attendance for Sabbath services in Jacksonville, Arkansas, on July 9 to hear split-sermons by Fred Kellers and Melvin Rhodes. Mr. Kellers, pastor of the Little Rock church for nine years from 1977-1986, gave an updated version of a sermon he had given there 25 years ago and encouraged us to endure to the end. Mr. Rhodes, Chairman of the Council of Elders, spoke about where we are in prophecy. Both sermons were well-received, interesting and encouraging.

After services, we all enjoyed a beautifully presented and delicious buffet meal prepared by ladies of the Little Rock congregation. While we ate, we were treated to a memory-jogging video history with photos of many who have attended God's Church during the past 50 years in Little Rock or Memphis. Among those attending our 50th anniversary service were four people who attended the first Little Rock Church of God service.

In the photo they are, from the left: Lyndal Hayden, Deanna O'Dell, Helen Baugh and Bill Farnsworth. They are pictured with Mr. Kellers and his wife Lucretia (far right).

The following day, July 10, an estimated 85 people braved the 100 plus degree weather to attend a church picnic in Maumelle Park. The delicious meal included barbecued chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, various side dishes, desserts and soft drinks. Later, ice-cold Arkansas watermelons and homemade ice cream were served. A few participated in leisurely sports briefly, but mainly people just enjoyed visiting with old friends, some of whom they had not seen in years.

The Sabbath service and picnic were both outstanding occasions we will remember for years to come.

Barry and Jean Howdeshell



Little Rock members, including some who were there on the first Sabbath service in 1961, gather for a photo.

UCG President and His Wife Visit Canadian Office

The long-anticipated visit from UCG President Dennis Luker and his wife, LeeAnn, started with a tour of the national office on Friday morning, May 27. After meeting the staff and taking a quick tour of the entire facility, the Lukers sat down to a soup and sandwich working luncheon with the staff. Mr. Luker shared what it was like coordinating the church office in Australia many years ago, what it is like serving in the home office today and answered spontaneous questions from the UCG-Canada office staff.

The following day, the Kitchener and Hamilton congregations combined with UCG-Toronto for the Sabbath service. A delicious finger food potluck followed thereafter in the fellowship hall, which had been beautifully decorated in vibrant spring colors. A cake welcoming the Lukers (and congratulating them on their upcoming wedding anniversary) was accompanied by a multi-signed card and an authentic Canadian gift (a jug of maple syrup) produced by a local member's family business!



Mr. Luker brandishing the jar of maple syrup the congregation gave to him and his wife.

After time for eating and fellowshipping, Mr. Luker presided over a question and answer session for over an hour and half. Several individuals submitted many thought provoking questions ranging from, "Can you please highlight some of your high and low moments as president?" to, "What would it take for the Church of God groups to put aside their differences and work together to accomplish the work of God?"

Although the question and answer session ended at about 7:15 p.m., it was quite awhile before everyone was ready to leave. Throughout the day, most everyone who wanted to personally meet and talk with the Lukers were able to do so. The excitement of the day continued until the last person left the building that evening.

Our thanks go out to the Lukers for taking time out of their busy schedule to travel to Toronto to see the national office and meet with the southern Ontario brethren. The area members were delighted and grateful for the opportunity to host such a meaningful and memorable occasion.

Anthony Wasilkoff

Local Church Updates: If your congregation's news and events are rarely covered in *United News,* why not check with your pastor and write something for him to send in? We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photographs with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you would like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names and your phone number. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News.*

Announcements

Births

Logan and Michelle Smith are extremely pleased to announce the birth of their first born daughter, Clarissa Anne Smith. Clarissa had a beautiful birth at home on March 15, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 19 inches long. Clarissa is a beautiful, happy baby and is very loved and adored by her family. Logan, Michelle and Clarissa attend the Tacoma, Washington, congregation.



Clarissa Anne Smith

Weddings

On the afternoon of June 26, 2011, over 100 guests gathered to witness and celebrate the wedding of Lacey Darleen Buck, daughter of Ernest Wayne and Mary Kathleen Buck of Fortuna, California, and Shaun Austin Condon, son of Keith Gene Condon of Eureka, California, and Karen Gibson Condon. They were joined in a lifetime loving union as husband and wife in McKinleyville, California, with the ceremony performed by Herb Vierra.



Shaun and Lacey Condon

It was a very memorable ceremony, starting with the groom coming through the doors into the hall with bravado. The bride was glowing throughout the day, wearing a dress that she designed. Their very meaningful vows to each other were spoken with deep love and dedication. The maid of honor was long-time childhood friend of the bride, Violet McCrigler. The bridesmaid was friend of the bride, Jaime Rudd. The best man was long-time best friend of the groom, Tim Trutna. The groomsman, friend of the groom and twin brother of the best man, was Jesse Trutna. The quite handsome ring-bearer was nephew of the bride, Izaak Buck. The very beautiful flower girl was niece of the bride, Sarah Goodrich.

A very festive, well-spread medieval banquet and formal costume ball reception followed the wedding.

Lacey and Shaun live in Eureka, California. Lacey and her family are members of the Eureka, California, congregation.

Crystal Dean and Joseph Trone were united in marriage July 4, 2010, in Big Sandy, Texas. Their proud parents are Aaron and Michelle Dean of Batavia, Ohio, and Drew and Lydia Trone of Auburn, California. Aaron Dean, the father of the bride, performed the wedding ceremony. Joseph's brother, Jacob Trone of Batavia, Ohio, was the best man, and Crystal's sister-in-law, Meagan Dean of Big Sandy, Texas, was the matron of honor.



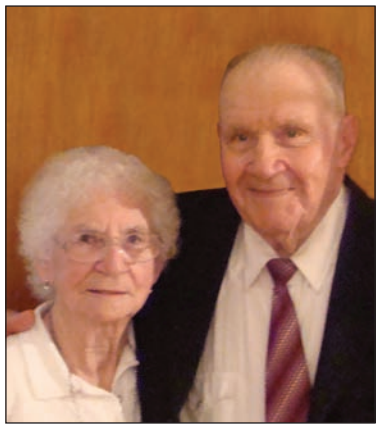
Joseph and Crystal Trone

After a honeymoon in Barbados, the happy couple settled in Roseville, California, and started their careers. Crystal is employed by Hallmark Rehabilitation, Inc., as a physical therapy assistant, and Joseph is an assurance associate for the Sacramento CPA firm Perry-Smith.

Anniversaries

May 4, 2011, was a landmark day for Royce and Evelyn Eslinger. It marked their 65th wedding anniversary. The Eslingers were baptized in 1954 (eight years after getting married) and currently attend the Springfield, Missouri, congregation. They have five children: Linda (Anthony) Wasilkoff; Ona (Raymond) Boyd; Evelina Hogue; Calvin (Kay) Eslinger; and Glenda Eslinger.

A small surprise party was held in their home on the Sunday following their anniversary with all five children along with a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren in attendance. Mr. Eslinger, with his dry sense



Royce and Evelyn Eslinger

of humor quipped, "Just think how many more gifts we would receive if only we had had more children!"

Obituaries

Mrs. Judy Thompson Bauman, 66, of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, died Friday, June 17, 2011, at Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care in Lenoir, North Carolina. She was born July 19, 1944.

She is survived by her husband, Harvey, and many other family members.

Alice Bone, 69, died March 7, 2011. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, Feb. 8, 1942. She was baptized into the Church of God in 1965 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She met her husband, Cal, at the eligible's picnic at the Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy in 1967, and they were married July 21, 1968, by Mr. Sherwin McMichael. Over the years, she served the brethren in a variety of ways: special music (solos, duets, quartet and choir), greeting with her husband, preparing and serving refreshments and helping the sick or injured. She attended services in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska; Columbus, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. She is survived by her husband of 42 years; son Michael and wife Victoria; son Robert (Joey) and wife Katy and nine grandchildren.



Robert Fiske

Robert Gordon Fiske was born on March 13, 1939, in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, and died in Huntington Beach, California, on April 3, 2011, at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife Madeleine; three children, Jonathan, Timothy and Kevin; eight grandchildren; his sister; two nieces and two nephews.

He graduated from Huntington Beach Union High School and attended Orange Coast College. Bob owned an auto repair shop in Santa Ana, California, and was a licensed commercial truck driver hauling aggregate, packaging materials and freight. He also drove and maintained commercial buses including being the lead bus driver at Ambassador College.

God called Bob in 1959 at which time he started attending in Pasadena, California. He married Madeleine Bansemer in June of 1967. During their married life they attended several congregations in Southern California, recently Garden Grove, as well as Oregon and Arizona. He was a faithful member until death.



Roberta Harrison

Roberta Lenora Harrison died May 4, 2001, in Hemet, California, at the age of 88. She was born Jan. 9, 1923, in Pennsylvania. She spent most of her adult life in Southern California. During World War II she worked as an aircraft welder while her husband, Jim, served in the Army.

Roberta was baptized in 1958 and attended her first Feast in 1960. She was ordained a deaconess in 1968 in the Anaheim congregation. Her non-member husband supported Roberta's years of service. Both of them loved travel, and they toured the United States and Canada extensively in their motor home.

Roberta was always a dedicated servant to God's people. She served in a variety of ways including cleaning houses for the sick and those in need. Many remember Roberta for her assistance in helping to deliver over 100 babies.

She was a student of God's Word, a great encourager, willing servant and a mentor to many young wives in the Church. In 1995 she was a member of the Redlands, California, congregation when the United Church of God was established. She was very active with the women's club and loved to open her home for Bible studies.

She was preceded in death by her husband James; a son, James



Bob Jorgenson

Jr.; and a daughter, Nancy Lyn Pott. She is survived by a daughter, Patty Lou Guss; a daughter-in-law, Joanne Harrison; nine grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Bob Jorgensen of Eagle, Idaho, died May 22, 2011, at home. He was 78.

Bob was born March 15, 1933, in Salinas, California, the only child of Otto and Doris Jorgensen. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1951, from Hartnell College (1951-53) and from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry (1953-55). He was drafted into the U.S. Navy in 1955; discharged honorably in 1957.

While attending San Jose State (1959-63), he met Susan Viergus in one of his classes. They were married in September 1961 in Bend, Oregon, and were married for 49 years at the time of his death. They were blessed with six children.

Bob attended the Boise, Idaho, congregation. He and Susan were baptized in August 1963 by Dennis Luker.

While at San Jose State, Bob majored in entomology and then changed to occupational therapy. He became a registered occupational therapist in 1964. Bob worked at Samuel Gompers Rehabilitation Center in Phoenix, Arizona (1964-1967), and Idaho Elks Rehabilitation (1967-1978).

His many interests included backpacking in God's beautiful country, woodworking (projects large and small), organic gardening, horticulture, entomology, trains (model railroading and the real thing) and reading. His interests were shared with his children and grandchildren. He was a giving person. His advice given many times: "Do the job right the first time."

Bob is survived by his wife, Susan, and children: Dan (Nancy); Sarah (Steve) Jackson; Tim; Jennifer (Michael) Johnson; Laurie (Edward) Johnson; Ben (Gina); and 12 grandchildren: Rachel; Jessica; James; Nathan; Hannah; Luke; Parker; Brandon; Anne; Caleb; Samuel and Matthew.

A graveside service conducted by Barry Dubkowski was held May 27 at the cemetery in Star, Idaho.

Delores Ann Kennard was born Jan. 5, 1944, in Dermott, Arkansas. She was the daughter of Virgil and Clauzell Seraette. She was the only girl of four children. Delores was the mother of three children: Mike Kennard, Tony Kennard and Cathy Kennard. Delores raised her three children alone.

She worked hard and went back to school, qualifying for a job with the Arkansas Department of Human Services. After 20 years of service, she recently retired. Delores was respected and loved by her fellow employees as was evidenced by the remarks made at her memorial service. She also volunteered at Margie's Haven House (for battered women) for several years. Many of the women she helped were present at the memorial service.

Delores was dedicated and faithful to God. She was baptized November 1981. She was a good light for those she worked with and those she helped. In the past year or so, even when her health was deteriorating, it was her desire to attend church services every Sabbath. Sometimes Delores just couldn't make it to church, but she always wanted to. She often brought her granddaughter with her. During the past year, she was able to attend with the help of her walker. Even though her local congregation was over an hour away, she didn't mind the drive, time or expense it took. She always looked forward to the Feast of Tabernacles in Branson, Missouri, with her Church family.



Delores Kennard

Delores passed away Friday, June 24, 2011. She is survived by her children and seven grandchildren. Despite her deteriorating health, she endured in the faith until the end of her physical life. The Bible says that if we endure to the end, we shall be saved. She did her part, and now God will do His. We look forward to seeing her in the Kingdom.

Robert (Bob) Schmid of the Garden Grove, California, congregation, died May 27, 2011, after a short illness. He was born in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1938 and immigrated to the United States in 1956. In 1975 Bob and his family began attending the Worldwide Church of God in Santa Ana, California. He served the Garden Grove congregation as an elder beginning in 1991. Bob worked in the aerospace industry as technical sales engineer for most of his working years.

Bob is survived by Erika, his wife of 51 years; daughter, Karen (Kelly) Dack; along with their granddaughter, Briana (Steve) Buck; great-granddaughter, Kinley Buck; and their son David (Sabrina) Schmid and grandson, Ethan Schmid. Bob is missed by his family and all who knew him.



Bob Schmid

Mary Younkins was born June 9, 1932, in Monarch, Wyoming. She and her twin sister Marge were the youngest in a large family. She loved to cook and bake and as a result had many parties at their home. They had the perfect home for entertaining and many loved being there—it was the families "go to" place. Mary loved to play cards at the senior center, the Moose and Elk lodges and very frequently in peoples' homes.

She lost her husband, Bob, in 2004 and has one remaining sibling, her twin sister Margaret. Mary is survived by two daughters, Carol (Al) Handy of the Yuma, Arizona, and Sedro Woolley, Washington, congregations and youngest daughter Karen Youkins. She has two great-granddaughters, Makayala (10) and Madison (4).

Mary was baptized in 1986 by Richard Duncan and always joked that he was the only person ever to dunk her head under water and get away with it!

Her family anxiously awaits her resurrection when they will be united once again.

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

news AT A GLANCE

Continued from Page 1

musicians as possible are needed to make this a successful musical Feast.

Take time now to volunteer to contribute to the overall success of the Feast of Tabernacles through music!

Special Music Coordinators

Bend, Oregon: Mary Jo Rydholm; mjrydmus@yahoo.com; 360-556-0819

Branson, Missouri: Ken Japhet; kjaphet@hotmail.com; 503-507-777

Escondido, California: Dan Salcedo; dan_salcedo@ucg.org; 714-637-4335

Galveston, Texas: Richard Kmodras; musictomyears@shaw.ca; 604-279-0717

Gatlinburg, Tennessee: Steve Myers; steve_myers@ucg.org; 507-634-6363

Jekyll Island, Georgia: John Barbush; johnbarbush@comcast.net; 708-705-1775

Maui, Hawaii: Fred Crow; fred_crow@ucg.org; 408-238-5324

Panama City Beach: Russ DeVilbiss; russ_devilbiss@ucg.org; 262-694-5044

Steamboat Springs: David Mirigian; dhmirigian@sbcglobal.net; 510-489-5243

Virginia Beach: Dennis Ulrey; drden52@aol.com; 574-834-7253

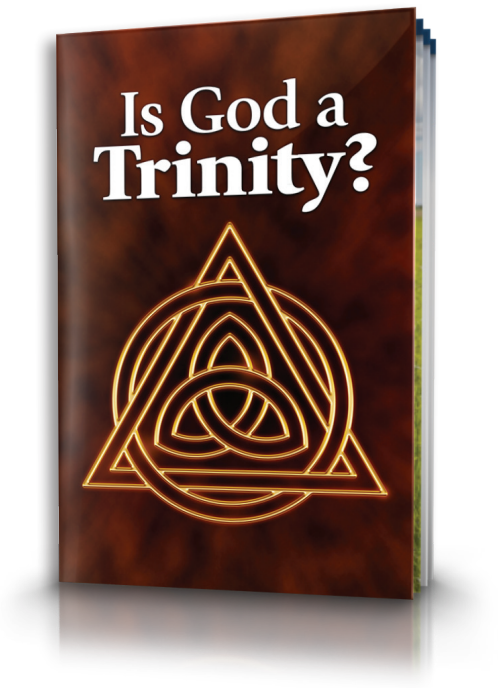
Wisconsin Dells: Randy Schmidt; rschmidt46@wi.rr.com; 414-327-0382

Canmore, AB, Canada: Don McClenegan; music@mcclenagan.net; 250-846-5077

Collingwood, ON, Canada: Kevin Ford; kevin_ford@ucg.ca; 905-614-1234

Prince Edward Island, Canada: Gary Lucas; glucas@rogers.com

Steve Myers



New UCG Booklet Addresses the Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of mainstream Christianity's most revered and widely-held doctrines. But is it true? The latest booklet published by the United Church of God—*Is God a Trinity?*—addresses that doctrine head on.

The booklet, the 34th produced by the United Church of God, examines this teaching that many churches admit is confusing and incomprehensible even as they make it a litmus test to define who is and isn't a Christian.

This 88-page booklet covers the long and involved story of how the Trinity doctrine came to be the accepted belief of the world's Christianity. As you'll see from numerous quotes in the booklet, many scholars, theologians and Bible resources openly admit that the Trinity doctrine isn't found in the Bible, acknowledging that it came along officially in several stages in the A.D. 300s—centuries after the last books of the Bible were written!

Chapter titles of the booklet include "Is the Trinity Biblical?" "The Surprising Origins of the Trinity Doctrine," "How Is God Revealed in the Bible?" "How Is God One?" "Is the Holy Spirit a Person?" "The Holy Spirit—God's Transforming Power" and "God's Purpose for You."

The booklet describes how the Trinity doctrine insidiously masks one of the Bible's greatest truths—that men and women, created in God's image, have the awesome destiny to eventually become part of the very family of God, and that God is a family, into which others will be born, rather than a closed Trinity.

The booklet will be printed and mailed in early August. UCG members do not need to request a copy; it will be mailed automatically to all member households on file.

Scott Ashley

ABC Admissions Accepts Thirty-Three Students

We have now accepted 33 students into the Class of 2012! The admission period concluded on July 23.

We are excited to have a multinational representation of students. There are students from the Netherlands, South Africa, Australia and Colombia scheduled to come this year.

The average age is 22, which is in line with every class since the beginning of Ambassador Bible Center. There are a few older students, a few younger ones and many are in their 20s. It will be a good mix as far as age is concerned.

This year we have more men than women—17 males and 16 females.

We are currently preparing the course outlines, orientation packets, procuring textbooks and planning the welcoming picnic so that we may be ready for the beginning of our 13th year of ABC.

Gary Antion

Education Travel Opportunity

We are pleased to announce a guided, organized visit to international sites with a specific focus on the biblical record and prophecy. This program will feature a 12-day itinerary beginning late December 2011, featuring the great cities of Paris and London with their extraordinary museums and histories. This program is scheduled to take advantage of winter break and is tailored for young adults 18 to 30 years of age, although other ages may participate.

In order to make these unique places and artifacts come to life in light of our scriptural understanding, we have asked students of history John Karlik and David Dobson to be the facilitators of this program.

In addition to on-site observations, they will provide suggestions for preparatory study, with specific site visits related to the educational objectives of the program followed by daily discussions. Desired outcomes include gaining new knowledge, deepening existing knowledge, increasing appreciation for the reality and veracity of scriptural accounts and building friendships.

We look forward to making this opportunity enlightening, exciting and fun.

The itinerary, application and cost can be found on the Web at www.travelgallery.com or obtained by mail by calling 1-626-577-9717.

John Karlik

Preparation for Kingdom of God Bible Seminars Continues

Presently, about 600 participants have registered online to attend our September launch of the Kingdom of God Bible seminars. We have 161 congregations hosting the live event. These are primarily in the United States, but also in countries around the world that include Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, New Zealand and the Philippines. You can view the list of cities at www.kogbibleseminars.org.

This number may not include those who decide to show up without registering and some registrations include more than one person. For example, one individual in New Orleans signed up to bring 8 people with him.

Most congregations are hosting on September 10, but a few are having theirs on September 17 or September 24. A couple of locations are a bit later than that.

With more than six weeks until the launch, we expect our attendee list to exceed 1,500. The seminars are being advertised in *The Good News* magazine, *World News and Prophecy* magazine, on our website, on *Beyond Today* television and in literature request mailings. Some areas are also planning to mail personal invitations to *Good News* magazine readers.

We need prayers from our brethren that God will guide those whom He wills to note what we are doing, register to attend and want to become more involved in the work.

The content of the lectures is continually being refined, and the newest outline has two 50- to 55-minute lectures with break in between. Victor Kubik, Ministerial and Members Services operations manager, has distributed the outline to the ministry.

Peter Eddington



Sign up to serve musically on the Feast website.

What's New In MEDIA?

■ UCG Web Presence Expands

On July 29, Internet manager Aaron Booth reported the following exciting stats for UCG Web activity:

37,273 total Facebook fans.
15,436 total Twitter followers.
636 videos posted on YouTube.
1,734,414 video views on YouTube.
205 Bible FAQs posted.
93,687 Bible FAQs views.
427 e-mail campaigns (This Is the Way, UCG Weekly Update, *GN* Newsletter, *WNP* E-news) sent.
599,671 clicks to our websites generated by e-mail campaigns.
76,566 booklet downloads from Apple's iBook Store.

■ Beyond Today Airing Schedule

August 7-13 "Dealing with Tragedy" with presenter Darris McNeely.
August 14-20 "The Church Jesus Built" with presenter Steve Myers.
August 21-27 "The Mercy Effect" with presenter Gary Petty.
August 28-September 3 "Spiritual Conspiracy" with presenter Steve Myers.

■ Writers: Send Us Your Bios!

Media and Communications Services has launched the new UCG.org site. On the new site we feature a bio page for each writer who has had an article printed in any of United's publications (excluding announcements or "Local Church Updates").

Here's what we need from all writers:

1. A short bio (two to three paragraphs, written in third person).

2. How you want your name displayed (e.g., Tom versus Thomas).

3. A high-quality photo that shows your face clearly. Please do not send a group shot. Photos must be sent in JPEG format.

4. (Optional) your e-mail address. This will allow our system to automatically contact you when someone comments on your article.

Send your information to bios@ucg.org. Thank you for helping make the new website a success!

Featured Links

■ Stones

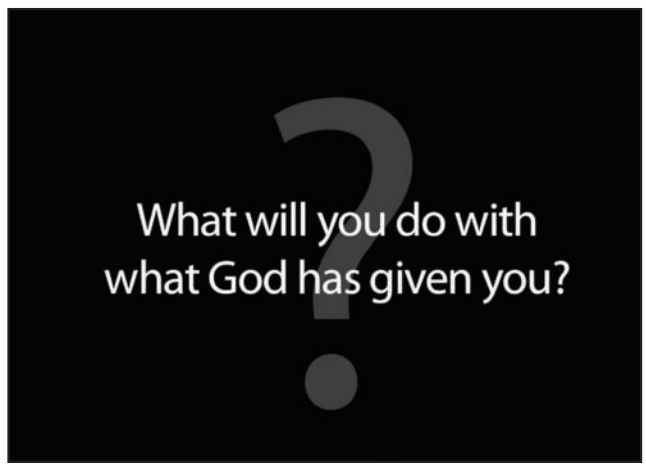
http://tinyurl.com/ucg-stones
The Bible gives us hope when those we love go the way of all flesh.

■ LifeNets Promo: You are rich

http://tinyurl.com/lifenets-rich
What will you do with what God has given you?



Stones



LifeNets Promo: You are rich

UNITED NEWS
NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, *AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION* · P.O.Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 (513) 576-9796

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices

Sign up to Serve in Song at the Feast

If you're a musician, we need you to volunteer to help serve during the Feast. Special music praises and honors God and is a great spiritual and emotional boost for everyone.

The easiest way to volunteer is online at http://feast.ucg.org/music. On the site, you can tell us about your musical abilities, how you would like to contribute to Festival music and what site you will be attending.

If you can't go online and would like to volunteer to serve musically, contact the appropriate special music coordinator listed on page 15.

Once you have volunteered, either online or by contacting your special music coordinator, we'll take it from there. If singing in the Festival choir, you'll receive a packet containing music and a practice CD from the music coordinator for the site you plan to attend.

We encourage you not to wait until just before the Feast to volunteer, but to register online or contact your special music coordinator as soon as possible—doing so will greatly help in the preparation and planning process.

Parents of children age 5 through 12 will be happy to know that there will be a children's choir at each Feast site again this year. There is no need to sign up for the children's choir. Music and practice parts will be made available online and distributed through your local church in August.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 14: ABC class of 2012 welcome picnic
August 15: ABC class of 2012 orientation
September 2-5: Leadership Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio
September 10, 17 or 24: Kingdom of God Bible Seminars
September 29: Feast of Trumpets
October 8: Day of Atonement
October 13-19: Feast of Tabernacles
October 20: Last Great Day
December 23-27: Winter Family Weekend, Cincinnati, Ohio

UNITED STATISTICS

