

# United News™

News of the UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, an International Association

Vol. 4, No. 7  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

## Recalling Your First Feast, and Reflecting on God's Plan Yet Ahead

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The next issue of *United News* is scheduled to be published on Monday, November 16, 1998, and will contain reports from our Feast of Tabernacles sites around the world.

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by Leslie L. McCullough

How often do you reflect upon your first Feast of Tabernacles? It might be an interesting experience to sit down and talk with your family about what they remember of their first Feast. Was it a good experience? Was it a trial of sorts? Was it what you expected?

Chances are your family may have vastly different recollections than you do. My oldest daughter was too young to remember her first Feast, but my wife and I remember it well.

I had quit smoking on the day of Atonement and that night we left to drive approximately 2,400 miles to the Feast. We borrowed a tent from friends and camped in 100 degree weather in Big Sandy, Texas.

No one could afford paper plates so we all had some type of crockery which had to be washed after each meal. The only water was a spring some distance from the camp and all water had to be carried. Yes, it was a trial of sorts. But

the "war stories" are fun to look back upon.

Forty-two years later things are rather different. Perhaps some of the initial excitement has subsided to be replaced by a far more complete knowledge of what it is all about. As we look back over past Feasts, we need to continue to look forward to future ones.

Imagine what the stories will be like 500 years from now. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18). It won't be a matter of comparing, but the reality of the differences will be understood—and the problems, trials and frustrations will seem as

though they could have never made any difference. No doubt the physical beings of that time will also have their frustrations, but we can be there to cheer them on and be spiritual witnesses of how the plan all works.

The plan will be witnessed by recipients of *eternal life!* That is what (See "GOD'S PLAN," page 14)

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*The plan will be  
witnessed by recipients  
of eternal life! That is  
what the plan is all  
about. It tells us that  
all humankind can one  
day be a part of the  
family of God.*

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# From the Ministry...

## Anticipate and Prepare For the Feast of 1998

by Cecil E. Maranhville

Picture these contrasting scenes:

- People as thin as scarecrows huddle with their dull-eyed children under sparse shade of wilted trees.
- People sit around food-laden tables with their round-faced children in air-conditioned restaurants.
- A father pulls his family under a sheet of cardboard in an alley in the midst of a downtown metropolis.
- A father inserts an electronic keyless entry card to usher his family through the door of their opulent suite in a resort hotel.
- A person sits by him/herself on the steps of an apartment building, staring into empty space.
- A person stands in the midst of a dozen animated, friendly people, chatting cheerfully with all.
- Tears fall from the eyes of a single mother as she sits with her two children at the kitchen table sorting through unpaid bills.
- Raucous cries of laughter erupt from children bouncing around their mother as she opens her purse to buy them tickets to Sea World.
- A group of university students in their dormitory room debate questions about how much longer the world can continue, whether there will be jobs for them in the unstable economy and doubting that there could be any real meaning to life.
- A group of men, women and children sit in an auditorium eagerly listening to messages filled with a sense of purpose for the present and are charged with a sense of hope for the future.

## A Profound Contrast to This Present World

In a few weeks we will have the opportunity to step for a brief time out of the world portrayed by these sad and somber scenes and into the pictures of a better world to come. I'm speaking of the Feast of Tabernacles when for eight days we will savor the taste of good food, friendship, entertainment, and comfortable housing centered around inspired sermonettes and sermons.

Presenting the Feast as I have above, it may seem at first blush to be rather self-indulgent. But think back to the time that God commanded the observance of the festivals to the nation of Israel. Famines, poverty, loneliness, malaise and discouragement have been a part of the human condition throughout time. Jesus said, "The poor you always have with you." And even within Israel when it was completely subject to God, there were laws about caring for the poor. Yet God instructed His people to celebrate this sumptuous Feast.

Why? No one would question God's concern for the needy. Why would He insist on what is in some ways an elaborate party when the cost of putting it on would be of great help to those in need if given to them instead? The needy were also included in the command. That is, they too, were expected to observe this lavish Feast. Why would God command them to do that, instead of them using money for better, more practical needs?

As a backdrop, we need to be reminded of Deuteronomy 14:22-26:

"And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, then you shall exchange it for money, take the

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money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.”

This reveals there was a spiritual element to the Feast; it was not just a blowout party. The result was to benefit the observers spiritually, and *in a lasting way*.

### Why So Extravagant?

At the same time, the Feast *is* extravagant the way God set it up— but I am not criticizing this. Knowing that the Feast spoken of here is an eight-day period, and that people were to consume one tenth of their yearly income during that time, we *know* it was extravagant!

Celebration in a high-handed way is also a festival theme. What made it so? Money! Even in ancient Israel, some dealt in money, and that money enabled the Feast-keepers to live like kings and queens.

But is it only money that makes the Feast so special? There are many people who have abundant money to spend on vacations, and many who have extravagant parties lasting for days at a time. Yet those good times are not the same as the Feast.

There is a family element to the Feast. “You and your household” reads the command. It certainly adds to the richness of the Feast to observe it as a family. Is that what makes it the Feast? Again, many families take wholesome vacation time together to travel to some of the same resorts at which we hold the Feast of Tabernacles. None of us think that a family vacation is the same as the Feast.

When God began to send prophets to the people of Israel, and later Judah, He stirred those holy men of old to write and speak repeatedly about a golden age to come. Isaiah 25:6 captures the essence of that oft-repeated theme: “And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees.” God promised a time of incompa-

rable prosperity to come for these peoples. The Feast of Tabernacles was an annual opportunity to dramatically step into that world to come. Year following year, it renewed the hope of the faithful that one day this world with its evils would be no more.

It is this broader vision of enacting a piece of the golden age to come that propelled the Feast of Tabernacles far beyond merely a party or a celebration. It was literally a grand spiritual exercise, one that could, as the initial command offered, help the participants learn to fear the Lord their God always.

Of course, this was not so clear to Israel as it is to the church of God today. Part of the prophets’ message was the pledge of leadership of a type that would see the world through to the declared noble goal. A great King was to come to make the world permanently as prosperous and as wealthy as the brief Feast of Tabernacles.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6). He was known by the Hebrew word meaning “anointed one”—the Messiah. The comparable word in the Greek language of the New Testament is more familiar—Christ.

### “You Are The Christ”— The Anointed One

The students of Christ realized as well that He was the Messiah, the one anointed to bring about the marvelous world pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:13). Of course, Christ continued preaching the theme of the Old Testament prophets, the good news that the kingdom of God was to be restored (Mark 1:14–15). Christianity usually fails to associate the message of the kingdom with the gospel and thereby misses the full impact and understanding.

To many who would say they believe the Bible, the Feast of Tabernacles seems foreign, even offensive. Yet “Christian” means a follower of “Christ,” who is the Messiah, the one anointed to bring about the golden age

that is dramatically portrayed in the Feast of Tabernacles. Through the early church leaders, Christ expanded and amplified the ancient promises to include all peoples, not just Israel.

Yet the New Testament makes clear the fact that God has not reneged on His promises of old. He has added to them! “For this is the covenant *that I will make* [yet future] with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (Hebrews 8:10). Speaking of individual spiritual conversion, herein is revealed a key factor not covered in detail by the prophets of old.

The ancient prophets’ message of hope for the golden age did not die when Christ came! To the contrary, Christ said it would continue to be preached until the kingdom actually comes (Matthew 24:14).

Christianity does not see Christ as Messiah, nor as associated with the promises to Israel to establish a golden age. The church of God does. It is perfectly logical to see the need to continue God’s command to observe the Feast of Tabernacles for eight days and to keep it in the sumptuous way God instructed.

We refocus away from the concerns that so easily distract us onto what is truly important. It is not a matter of gluttony or self-seeking while others are in dire need. It is an invitation to taste the world tomorrow, to lift the spirit, to bolster one’s courage, to renew one’s commitment to the gospel message! It is a reminder of the reality of the future, of the value of our work.

### Please Go To The Head of The Line!

For a moment, imagine the day-to-day challenges and miseries of this human life to be like waiting in a long line. At the head of the line is the end of life as we know it and the beginning of life the way it was promised from ancient times. A utopian existence; a world free of suffering; a world without evil. Attending the Feast of Tabernacles is like receiving an invitation to go to the head of the line to see what is in store for all!

(See “FEAST ’98,” page 7)

# Report From the Treasurer...

## United Church of God, an International Association (UCGIA) Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1998

Preliminary, Unaudited

	<u>3/31/98</u>	<u>3/31/97</u>
<b>Revenues, Gains and Other Support</b>		
General Contributions – Individuals	\$10,132,844	\$9,451,059
General Contributions – Local Churches	1,599,054	2,142,437
Holy Day Offerings	4,069,985	4,055,784
Estate/Property Donations	128,354	93,560
Dividend and Interest Income	22,302	30,448
Other Income	23,450	12,624
<b>Total Revenues, Gains, Other Support</b>	<b>\$15,975,989</b>	<b>\$15,785,912</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries and Related	\$7,613,908	\$7,818,247
Contracted Services	266,638	381,979
Broadcast Media and Advertising	-0-	145,477
Print Media and Advertising	565,655	417,732
Postage and Shipping	312,002	302,919
Building and Equipment Lease/Rental	255,846	237,612
Telephone and Utilities	231,642	229,780
Supplies	269,733	414,797
Travel and Lodging	1,487,963	1,807,705
Depreciation and Amortization	150,597	126,001
Grants and Charitable Support:		
International Support	1,957,216	2,055,497
Domestic Support		
Assistance to the Needy	834,067	751,337
Festival Assistance	100,714	119,183
Allocations to Local Congregations	940,014	843,591
Insurance and Health Care	835,538	868,916
Other	111,091	50,121
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$15,932,624)</b>	<b>(\$16,570,894)</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$43,365	(\$784,982)
Net Assets, Beginning of the Year	(730,678)	54,304
Net Assets, End of the Year	(\$687,313)	(\$730,678)

## Last Two Fiscal-Year Reports

The accompanying set of preliminary, unaudited financial statements represent the operation and financial positions of the Church at then end of each of the last two fiscal years.

They show that the Church experienced a significant negative change (\$784,982) in net assets for the year ending March 31, 1997, and a small positive change (\$43,365) in net assets for the year ending March 31, 1998. Net cash flow was negative \$652,011 for the year ending March 31, 1997 and positive \$29,845 for the year ending March 31, 1998. We are hoping that the March 31, 1999 corresponding financial statements to those included here will present an improved picture.

We believe that, with God's guidance and the combined support of all the members, recent actions and policy decisions in the current fiscal year will lead to that result. By March 31, 1999, we expect a significant reduction in the account "Accrued and Other Liabilities" by virtue of implementing a policy which will diminish greatly the amount of carryover of accrued vacation by the employees of the Church. Other recent decisions have been implemented which have served to reduce our expenses. The Council and management appreciate the support by the membership of these decisions, which were difficult but necessary ones.

The goal of the Council and administration has been to address the financial challenges of our young organization so that we can arrive at a more healthy and sustainable financial position. Then, we can, with God's help,

move ahead in a responsible manner. The support and patience of the brethren is greatly appreciated, as we all seek to fulfill the Church's mission within the context of financial responsibility. In the final analysis, this is, of course, a work of faith. We must trust God to give us the resources we need to do the work of the Church. Then, we must trust God for the wisdom to properly use those resources.

Thank you.

Tom Kirkpatrick

**United Church of God, an International Association (UCGIA)  
Balance Sheet  
March 31, 1998**

Preliminary, Unaudited

<u>Assets</u>	<u>3/31/98</u>	<u>3/31/97</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Cash Constructively Received	\$309,645	\$279,800
Accounts Receivable	25,013	7,909
Other Current Assets	36,938	23,790
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$371,596</b>	<b>\$311,499</b>
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>		
Equipment (net)	\$214,948	\$345,571
Other	12,300	12,300
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>\$227,248</b>	<b>\$357,871</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$598,844</b>	<b>\$669,370</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$381,221	\$278,791
Obligations Under Capital Lease	57,786	90,188
Accrued and Other Liabilities	847,150	1,031,069
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,286,157</b>	<b>\$1,400,048</b>
Net Assets (Fund Balance)	(\$687,313)	(\$730,678)

**United Church of God, an International Association (UCGIA)  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1998**

Preliminary, Unaudited

	<u>3/31/98</u>	<u>3/31/97</u>
<b>Operating Cash Flows</b>		
Change in Net Assets	\$43,365	(\$784,982)
Adjustments from Accrual Accounting:		
Depreciation Expense	150,597	126,001
Other Accrual-to-Cash-Flow Adjustments	(112,184)	229,242
Net Cash Flow from Operations	\$81,778	(\$429,739)
<b>Financing Cash Flows</b>	<u>74,559</u>	<u>(16,773)</u>
<b>Investing Cash Flows</b>	<u>(126,492)</u>	<u>(205,499)</u>
<b>Total Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>\$29,845</b>	<b>(\$652,011)</b>
Beginning Balance of Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Cash Constructively Received	279,800	931,811
Ending Balance of Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Cash Constructively Received	<u>\$309,645</u>	<u>\$279,800</u>

# Letters From Our Brethren...

## **World News and Prophecy**

"We want to thank you [Dr. Don Ward] and the staff for a wonderful new publication.

"After receiving the latest issue from the Web page, we found ourselves once again up until 4:30 a.m., studying and soaking up every word. We feel the excitement and urgency once again.

"We want to say *thank you* to you and the staff! Our prayers are with you."

Internet  
Pennsylvania

"Thank you for the very informative new publication *World News and Prophecy*. What a wonderful way to connect with what is going on around us. I was so intrigued with it that I had to read the whole thing in one sitting—which I rarely ever do with anything else.

"The scripture in Hosea 'Without vision My people perish,' comes to mind. This information is so vital, particularly at this critical time before the year 2000 when people are more focused on events leading up to the new Millennium.

"I hope we can make this magazine more accessible and in full color, even if we need to sacrifice other publishings for a while to do it. *World News and Prophecy* is sure to become our most read publication.

California

"I just wanted to express my appreciation and admiration for the new publication, *World News and Prophecy*!

"Congratulations on a job well done!"

Internet

## **The Truth**

"I have received and read the last two issues of *The Good News*. It is very encouraging to see the same teachings that Christ restored to His Church through Herbert W. Armstrong in your publications.

"I have read your statement of beliefs and see the same thing. Everything my family and I believe has come through careful study of God's Word. I would ask one question of you, Since you trace your origins back to the first century church of God, does that include Mr. Armstrong and what he taught?

"The history of the church is very inspiring. It is amazing to see Christ having a direct hand in continuing His church through the last 1,900-plus years.

Internet

## **More Good News**

"I received the July/August 1998 issue of the *Good News* magazine and thoroughly enjoyed it! The card for a subscription is enclosed.

"I have no idea who it was that asked you to send this magazine to me, but I would like to thank them for it!

"I am presently an inmate in a penal institution and have recently become *very involved* with the Word of God and I really want to know as much as possible about what the Bible says.

"Please send me the two booklets, *Is The Bible True?*, and *How to Understand the Bible*. Again, thank you for the subscription to *The Good News*. I look forward to reading more of it and the two booklets."

Texas

"While living in another building of the prison, I became acquainted with your magazine. One of the fellow inmates had a subscription. But after having been moved to another section of the prison, I find that no-one over here has even heard of your magazine. And it was only with a great deal of effort that I have been able to get your address.

"Missing out on the biblical thoughts that your provide has truly left a longing in my heart. Your archaeological studies give the truth and facts.

"Please send me a subscription—help me to be able to be equipped to spread the word of God.

"The season is upon us. I wish that I could build a booth. Please rejoice at the sound of the trumpet. My prayers go out to those who do the work that God has called us to do."

Texas

"I am sending you this short note to first say thanks for sending me your magazine, *The Good News*. I have read some of your articles which are currently addressing evolution. I am impressed with what I've read so far.

"The interview that you published with Phillip Johnson was a good shot in the arm, academically. I'm looking forward to reading more on this 'taken for granted' topic in further issues."

Internet

## **Video on the 'Net**

"Those RealMedia sermons on the Web site are great. I download all of them and am making a library for myself.

"Keep up the good work!"

Internet

"Please tell Ken Martin and the other ministers to keep on giving to the people strong messages like the one on the RealPlayer that I listened to this past week. Christ said to feed His sheep and how can that happen if the ministers do not give the people what they need. The people need to know how to overcome and what to do when they come to a place where they need to make wise decisions. That is where the ministry comes in.

"This is a critical time in God's plan. The remnant is being prepared for the coming of our Messiah. God willing the people will be prepared and the ministers will do their job.

Internet

## **UCGIA Web Site**

"Well done! A current Web site is a *very positive* step in representing a high standard to people searching for information on the *Truth*. Keep it up!"

Internet  
Australia

## **Camp Oakhurst Education Seminar**

"I would like to express the excitement and renewed enthusiasm I felt after attending the General Education Seminar at Oakhurst, California.

"Not only did we come away with material for much study on biblical subjects, we were given a more indepth look at things and were helped to build new relationships with those who attended.

"I'll be looking forward to the next one!"

Arizona

*Editor's Note:* The letters in this section may be edited for length and clarity.

# Local Church Updates...

## The Splendors of Versailles

Jackson, Mississippi  
August 16

King Louis XIV of France built an opulent palace at Versailles in the 1700s, moving the capital from Paris. This palace was the residence of French kings Louis XV and Louis XVI, and is surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens and fountains.

On August 16 a group of twenty-eight members of all age groups from New Orleans and Covington, Louisiana, and Brookhaven, Mississippi (areas that were all part of the land called Louisiana by the French), toured a special exhibit in Jackson, Mississippi, highlighting and displaying some of the treasures of the Palace at Versailles.

The Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange, Inc. made this exhibit available in only one city in the U.S. this summer—Jackson—between April 1 and August 31.

Eighty-year-old member, John H. Baggett, says of the excursion: "The Mississippi Arts Pavilion displayed many of the treasures created by artists and craftsmen of the period. All were 'picture perfect.' The chateau (castle) at Versailles was, during the reign of Louis XIV, and even now, considered to be one of the most impressive of its kind. Among the last, but certainly not the least of the works on display, was the huge sculpture of Louis XIV astride his horse. Very impressive!

"Having done some research on this time period and then being

able to see the beautiful treasures on display, has helped make this time in history come to life."

*Ken Treybig*

## Pensacola, Florida Beach Party

An estimated 140 to 150 young people and their families from all over the southeast part of the country gathered at Navarre Beach on Sunday, July 26, for the second annual Pensacola Beach Party for the Pensacola, Florida, region. The event was co-hosted by the New Orleans, Louisiana, and Pensacola church circuits, and it drew people from as far away as the Dallas, Texas, area. A family from New Orleans once again offered their Navarre Beach condominium as the central location for the meal, with the beach activities taking place on the public beach in front of the condo.

Regional pastor, Harold Rhodes, headed up the lunch, cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs on gas grills brought over for the party. The activities began at 10 a.m. with a high cloud cover that slowly broke up by noon, revealing beautiful blue skies and bright sunshine during the meal. Sand-volleyball and football were available as well as plenty of beautiful white, sandy beach to lie around on, and fellowship took place both in and out of the sparkling water.

Five ice-cold watermelons were used to cap off the event around 4 p.m., amid comments about plans to repeat the event again next summer.

*Ken Treybig*

"FEAST '98," (Continued from page 3)

Of course we will have to return to this miserable world once the Feast is over.

But we are invited to go to the head of the line to peek at what *will* be. More than peek into the future, we are bidden to taste of it. The experience is given us so that we will soldier on in this difficult life. It is a time out, a breather, a respite, a retreat, a time of refreshing. It is a way to stop the world for a little while.

This great Feast experience doesn't just happen. In some ways, *each of us* determine its success or failure. God provides the framework for us. Unless we resolve to harmonize with its spiritual element, the Feast may be just a party or a family outing.

Remember why the Feast is commanded. Decide to approach it in that spirit, seeking both to receive and to give a taste of the world tomorrow to others. Who are "others?" They are your spouse, children, extended family; your roommate; the church "family" of acquaintances you know well; the church family you do not know well; the non-church peoples with whom you will interact in the course of your travel to and from as well as your stay at the Feast. All of these are "others" with whom you will share the Feast experience.

This marvelous Feast, with its rich history and profound meaning, is coming in just days from now. You have been personally invited by our Heavenly Father to participate, both to receive and to give a taste of the golden age of the kingdom to come. *UN*

• *Cecil Maranville and his wife, Gale, live in Phoenix Arizona. He is an elder in the Phoenix Northwest congregation.*

# Feast of Tabernacles...



This year's logo for the Festival Preteen Education Program.

## Preteen Education Program

Nine different U.S. Feast sites will conduct an education program for youth ranging in age from five to eleven years. This will be a continuation of what was initiated at last year's Feast as a test.

The Feast sites are: Corpus Christi, the Poconos, Jekyll Island, Kelowna, Mont. Orford, Orlando, San Diego, Snowmass and Wisconsin Dells.

Two separate instruction sessions will be conducted during church services on two of the eight days of the Feast, excluding the weekly Sabbath or annual High days. The instruction theme will center on the Millennium and Christ's loving rule over the earth.

The program's purpose is to offer structured instruction for our younger children at the Feast—instruction that is geared specifically to their level. It is to help make the Feast special for them in an educational sense, and to reinforce their importance to the church.

The children participating in this program will get a "foretaste" of God's kingdom in a way that will be particularly memorable to them. Most lessons will be based on last year's outline.

As with all educational programs in the Church, participation is, of course, optional. We hope that all parents will see the value in developing this program

and will lend their positive support once again this year.

Those planning on participating in this program should bring the following school supplies to class: glue, scissors, crayons and markers.

If you'd like more information concerning this project you may refer to our article in the July 14, 1997, issue of *New Beginnings*, talk with the Festival youth education coordinator at the Feast, or contact Jim and Judy Servidio who are developing the program. The Servidios can be reached by e-mail at [jservidi@ucg.org](mailto:jservidi@ucg.org) or by phone at (612) 323-0257.

## Orlando, Florida Kennedy Space Center Trip

A special guided tour of the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, on Wednesday, October 7, is being offered to the first 80 people to respond to this announcement. The trip includes the following: bus transportation from the meeting hall, viewing of exhibits and rockets at the visitor's center, and touring by bus the Apollo/Saturn V Center, the Vehicle Assembly Building, the International Space Center, and the Launch Complex.

Also included is the IMAX movie, "The Dream is Alive." You will arrive back at the meeting hall at about 7:30 p.m. This event should be particularly appealing to our active seniors, although

it is open to anyone who would like to go.

If interested, please send a check for \$37.75 per person to: Johanna Japhet, 4167 Westgate Road, Orlando, FL 32808, no later than *September 25*. Make checks payable to: United Church of God, Orlando. Each person will have to bring a picnic-style lunch.

*Roy Demarest*

## What's New on the Web?

- Using RealMedia Player, listen to a sermon given by Robert Dick as he discusses "Asking the Questions of Our Heritage."

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

- A new booklet, *The Ten Commandments*, is now available for viewing in PDF format.

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

- The August and September issues of *World News and Prophecy* are now available in PDF or HTML format.

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

- A short biography of Aaron and Michelle Dean has been added to our Council of Elders biography page. Mr. Dean accepted a position on the Council in March of this year.

<http://www.ucg.org/articles/bios/bios.html>

- Council of Elders meeting reports for August

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

*If you have any questions or comments, please contact:*

**[webmaster@ucg.org](mailto:webmaster@ucg.org)**



# United Youth Camps...

## Teton Challenger Camp July 29–August 7, 1998

This was the third year for the Teton Challenge Camp—a camp specially designed for older (highschool-age) teens in God’s church. The mountains of the Grand Teton National Park set the stage for activities and camping in God’s majestic creation. Favorable weather was granted this year; the first several days saw rains in the afternoon or evening, but only during times that did not prevent an activity, and usually serving to bring everyone “closer” together under the canopy tents. We enjoyed dry weather the second week of camp, with clear days and cool nights. Dining and meetings were at picnic

members—including hiking, swimming in *cold* lakes, an overnight canoe trip, rock climbing and rappelling, white water rafting, and daily Bible discussions. Some of the wildlife seen in the mountains at various times during activities or driving included bear, moose, elk, deer, and eagles.

On the Sabbath, services and Bible studies were held outdoors. In fact, just about everything was done outdoors. “Base camp” was set up in a large camping village on Jackson Lake, known as Colter Bay. Sleeping was in tents, washing was from a cold water faucet, and “bathing” meant either dipping in Jackson Lake, or occasionally going to purchase a shower at

teenagers and well-qualified staff members come together and use this time as a real growth opportunity. We were also very thankful to have no injuries or illness to report. Much like the Feast of Tabernacles, we all anticipated this year’s Challenger Camp experience for a long time, and then while at camp the time just went by too quickly.

*Paul Luecke  
camp director*

## Camp Heritage August 16–23, 1998

An American journalist visited Russia shortly after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 to see firsthand how the Communist theory worked in practice. He later wrote, “I have seen the future and it works.” Time has proven him wrong—communism does not work. I have just spent a week with the youth of God’s church at Camp Heritage in Pennsylvania. I can say with a certainty rooted in the word of God that I have seen the future and it works.

The difference is that the camps of the United Church of God are run on the principles of God’s

way of life. What we try to create for a week is a place where campers and staff can come together in a secluded environment, and by talking about and living the way of God, create for a brief moment a place of peace and security. We call it

a public facility. The camp’s food services operated out of a truck, cooking on portable stoves under canopy tents—serving up the best camp cooking!

This truly was the best year yet for this camp, seeing a group of high-caliber



**Teton Challenger** (clockwise from top left): Red team starts a two-day canoe trip at Leigh Lake; Sabbath special music is given by Crista Bartholomew and Mindy Myers, with Scott Delamater accompanying on guitar; Famished campers enjoy spaghetti (Jonathan Beam, Mindy Myers, Jen Kelley, Crista Bartholomew and Dan Elliott); and Mike Andrews climbs the “Muster Buster” rock.

tables around a camp fire, which felt invigorating every morning and evening in the crisp mountain air.

The activities experienced by the 56 campers—who were served by 35 staff

“the zone.” It may sound trite, but it works.

Two-and-one-half years ago a group of United ministers met and crafted a camp philosophy that builds on the years of experience learned while working



**Camp Heritage** (clockwise from top left): Mr. David Myers discusses “the zone” under the trees; the boys of Attucks B take their turn at the archery range; and the girls of Hamilton B pose next to Lake Courage while taking a break during their nature hike.

with young people in the church youth programs. Two thoughts crystallized in those meetings that formed our approach to camp. One, was that the adults of the church believed fervently in the reality of the coming kingdom of God and the Millennium. This vision was central to our faith. Secondly, we wanted to pass this life shaping vision onto the next generation. We saw the summer camps as an excellent vehicle to accomplish this goal.

This summer at Heritage, 139 campers and 60 staff enjoyed the 1,500-acre facility which is owned and maintained by the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Riflery, archery, softball, tennis, basketball, and water sports were among the activities utilized to meet the camp goals. A highlight this year was a pentathlon event that used five separate activities to create an inner-camp competition. Christian living classes were held each morning and counselors held evening fire-side chats with campers prior to lights out.

Heritage welcomed seven campers and one staff member from Ontario, Canada. Campers from other Church of God fellowships were in attendance. Everyone worked together and saw that

the things which divide can disappear under the right conditions. It is anticipated that next year will see other church of God groups represented.

At camp we not only have the privilege of working with the next generation of God’s church, but we can implement a way of life that is the future for the whole world. A foretaste of the future can be experienced at camp. A comment from one staff member testifies to that fact: “In today’s fast paced world not many kids get to see God’s way work. At camp...for a magical moment in their life...they get to see and visualize that goal which is all of ours—the Millennium, and the beauty of that time. The week was pure and undefiled religion working and it must be continued at all costs.”

Camp Heritage offers the Church a place to grow its camp program well into the future. Upon departing from camp this year, the director of camping for Heritage expressed the wish that the relationship developed between the Boy Scouts and the United Church of God will continue for many years to come. Next year’s camp will start on August 15.

*Darris McNeely*  
camp director

## Camp McKenzie July 12–19, 1998

United’s camp in the Northwest had a new location this year—Camp McKenzie. Located about 45 miles east of Eugene, along the rushing McKenzie River, this new facility sits nestled in the beautiful forests of the Cascade mountain range. One hundred and fifty campers, together with 65 staff members, enjoyed first-class accommodations and average weather of 90 degrees Fahrenheit every day. Even better was the strong teamwork and the friendships which developed throughout the entire week.

Activities began every day with Bible class. This year’s theme was “God Cares for Us, So We Should Care for

Others.” Each day a different aspect of the life, message and ministry of Jesus Christ was discussed. The week began by studying His childhood and ended by learning about His work today. The classes also challenged the listeners to “go and do likewise”—both at camp and back at home.

Classes at camp kept everyone very busy. Each dorm had six activities per day. Instruction was given in archery, arts and crafts, astronomy, basketball, etiquette, flag football, jazz dance, riflery, ropes, and volleyball. Even though facilities were readily available for most activities, we also had to “make lemonade out of lemons.” The pool was not completed as planned, so water-ballon capture-the-flag made for a refreshing substitute. Also, the softball field was not quite done, so everyone became educated in the game of horseshoes!

The wonderful weather and scenery provided a splendid setting for our two main activities. The hike (a day-hike for the younger teens, an overnight hike for the older teens) took campers back into the beautiful wilderness area near the camp. Many of the hikers were able to

finish in time to take a refreshing dip into a nearby lake. The older teens were also able to enjoy a day-long white-water trip down the McKenzie River. The river was not too rough though, so campers were able to have some relaxing moments along the way—as well as plenty of opportunities for a little dunking!

At noon and during the evenings campers were able to enjoy some free time to participate in their favorite activities, to fellowship, or to simply rest a bit. Each day finished with a lively campfire featuring fun games and lessons from the day. Afterwards each dorm had a “bed-side chat” with their dorm parents before heading off to bed.

The Sabbath and the Saturday evening banquet and dance provided a great finish to the week. Sabbath services were conducted outdoors and featured three messages about lessons learned during the week. There was then plenty of time for fellowship or sleeping before each dorm gathered together for question and answer sessions with the dorm parents. Saturday evening featured a special banquet. Each guy escorted a girl from his sister dorm. The tables were specially decorated, and the staff served as the hosts and waiters for the evening. Camp concluded with a rousing dance on the outdoor basketball courts.

This year’s camp provided more opportunities than in past

## Announcing Youth Winter Camp '98

The increasingly popular youth Winter Camp will be held this year from December 27 to December 31, on the beautiful shores of Lake Geneva in southern Wisconsin.

Winter Camp attracts youth and volunteers from all over the country. Plan to enjoy activities like volleyball, snow football, dance class and a dance, downhill tubing, camp Internet Web page/newsletter class, outdoor survival, Christian living, basketball, cross-country skiing, and more. Visit last year’s Winter Camp Web Page at <http://www.ucg-beloit.org/wintercamp> to get a taste of camp and keep up with breaking news.

Campers and volunteer staff should send for an application today. Tuition is \$150 per camper (\$50 for staff volunteers) which includes lodging, food and activities. Campers should be between 10 and 19 years old and staff should be over 16. Please send your application request to:

Steve Nutzman  
 520 Wexford Rd  
 Janesville, WI, 53546  
 phone: (608) 758-9228; fax: (608) 758-8885  
 e-mail: [snutzman@ucg.org](mailto:snutzman@ucg.org)

years to show who we are by example. Camp McKenzie welcomed a number of

campers who were not affiliated with United, some of which had never even heard of the Church of God. Also, since this was our first year in a new, state-of-the-art facility, we were certainly being observed carefully to see how we treated the equipment and worked with the local staff. The campers and staff came through with flying colors. The owners were especially impressed with our kitchen crew (all United vol-



### Camp McKenzie:

Archery, riflery and tie-dyed tee-shirts were among the activities at this Oregon camp.

unteers). Most of the time they insist on bringing in their own professional staff, which would have been too costly for us. From many viewpoints then, we can certainly say that this camp was the best we ever had in the Northwest. God-willing, we are looking forward to many fantastic camps in the future.

*Matthew Fenchel*  
camp director

## Camp Oakhurst June 28–July 5, 1998

A successful and rewarding camp for over 100 campers was again held in central California in the scenic Sierra Nevada Mountains. New activities added this year were water skiing and flag football. One of the main features of the camp again was the high ropes course and the climbing wall. These activities challenge campers to achieve on a level that gives them greater confidence to achieve in other areas of their life. Next year we will expand our water skiing activity where campers and staff will get more water skiing time. Another development for next year will be the “giant swing,” a new addition to the high ropes course. The most popular activity was, as it is every year, “getting together with the other kids.” Our campers exhibited high morale and built strong and lasting friendship with other campers from many parts of the country.

This year we were able to conduct an Adult Education Seminar for fifty adults. This section of the camp ran concurrently with our youth camp. This seminar featured Dr. Don Ward giving classes on the Nature of God and Principles of Prophecy, and Gary Antion gave classes on General Epistles, and Marriage and Family Relationships. Bill Bradford and Clyde Kilough

gave classes on the Dynamics of Spiritual Growth and Dave Register conducted a marriage personality profile. We hope to offer a similar seminar next year.

Our services on the Sabbath, conducted in an outdoor amphitheatre, were attended by a local bear. Fortunately, he was just passing by and didn't seem interested in Gary Antion's sermon. After the bear's visit, neither were we, but we will never forget his sermon, whatever it was about.

*Bill Bradford*  
camp director

## Pinecrest, Missouri June 10–11, 1998

One hundred and twenty six campers and fifty six staff workers spent an eventful week in the beautiful hardwood forest of southeastern Missouri June 10–18, 1998. Although the weather forecast was not promising and the surrounding weather was often quite violent, the UCGIA summer camp program was blessed with great weather and plenty of camaraderie.

## Education Seminar Camp Oakhurst, California

by Barbara Sackett

On June 28, 1998, 28 adults from as far away as Florida gathered together at Camp Oakhurst in Oakhurst, California, for a week of ministerial-led classes at a United Youth Camp. Continual fellowship, camp food, mosquitoes, strange beds and a trip to nearby Yosemite Park, all added to the summer camp experience.

Class topics ranged from Principles of Prophecy, General Epistles, Nature of God, and Dynamics of Spiritual Growth, to Marriage and Family Relations, Building and Maintaining Friendships, and Marriage Personality Profiles. These college-level classes were taught by (in alphabetical order) Mr. Gary Antion, Mr. Bill Bradford, Mr. David Register, Mr. Clyde Kilough and Dr. Donald Ward. Added to that, we also learned how out of shape we were by how hard we were puffing by the time we walked up the hill to the classroom several times each day!

By the end of the week we had scribbled many pages of notes, acquired new friends and reignited a fire in our bellies as we participated in a life-changing experience we will never forget.

Everyone I talked with on that sad Sunday morning when it was time to leave, agreed the atmosphere was similar to the Feast. Some camp participants expressed strong interest in attending an adult camp run like Oakhurst for an upcoming Feast. Truly the experience was that awesome! *UV*



Teens from over twenty states were in attendance at the beautiful Pinecrest campus, making this the third successive year we have used this facility.

Activities included an etiquette class. Utilizing the skills learned, the young men escorted their sister dorm to Sabbath brunch and had a chance to practice the fine points of good manners and proper decorum. Other classes included the exciting canoe trip down the lovely and often dangerous Black River, rappelling of rocks at the Silver Mines National Park, as well as archery, softball, speed-away (a soccer type game), swimming, sand volleyball, low ropes course, skeet shooting and 22-rifle target shooting, as well as Christian living. Teens stayed in air conditioned dorms and ate first-rate meals at the lovely dining hall. The theme of camp was living in the "zone," which is a type of the World Tomorrow in which people live together in peace and encourage each other to excel.

This year's camp was our best yet, with many commenting on the spirit of cooperation and teamwork. Mr. Fred Yates, manager of the Pinecrest facility, mentioned at the awards banquet that they have many groups that come to Pinecrest, "some good and some not so good, your group stands out as the *very best*."

This year we were blessed with eight salaried ministers and their wives in attendance. This added much depth and inspiration to our program. During the Sabbath we had a hymn-sing with teen song leaders and a question and answer session that went into overtime, with many fine questions asked about church doctrine, and prophecy. As the week came to a close there were lots of teary eyes as campers bade farewell to their new friends and a commitment to keep the *zone* alive.

Larry W. Greider  
camp director

## Victory Camp June 7-14, 1998

"Camp was wonderful," remarked 17-year-old Nathalie Vermeer from Maassluis, Zuid-Holland. "It was a tremendous experience for me to come

to the United States and serve as an assistant counselor this year. I really enjoyed working with the girls in the dorm."

Nathalie was one of the 21 volunteer staff members including 5 elders that worked at Victory Camp, June 7 through 14. But in coming from Europe, she definitely traveled the farthest to help 65 campers from Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Mississippi have a wonderful time at camp.

Victory Camp this year was much smaller than last year, when it had 167 campers and was the largest United summer camp. The smaller numbers this year allowed for more flexibility in programming and activities—something that was appreciated by campers and staff alike.

We were also blessed with good weather. The weekend that camp began, the area received its first good rain in a long time, which brought cooler temperatures than normal. During the rest of the week we had a continuous breeze and scattered clouds, that also kept the normally oppressive heat down just a little. On the last day of camp, the temperature went back up to near 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Camp began with an all-camp hamburger cookout and swim party at the pool on Sunday evening. Some campers swam while many just talked in groups around the pool. Monday morning the normal routine began with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Christian living at 8 a.m. and other activities starting at 9 a.m.

Program director, Frank McCrady, pointed out: "We learned a lot about the facilities last year and were able to make better use of what the camp had to offer this year. For example, we scheduled each dorm for a 2½-hour high ropes session one morning during camp and another 2 hour afternoon session. That allowed campers plenty of time to experience as much of the ropes challenge course as they wanted."

Activities included basketball, crafts, softball, volleyball, flag football, swimming, ropes, photography, and a computer class. For the computer class, nine computers were networked to the same color printer and campers were taught how to create a personalized

card on Microsoft Publisher 97. Since one of the goals of camp was to teach Christian values such as service, campers sent cards of encouragement to the elderly and shut-ins from all over the United States. The names and addresses of these members came through a request to church pastors via the Elder's Forum. Over the course of the week, over 150 personalized cards were created and mailed.

The resident staff members were very impressed with both our staff and our campers. Remembering how well things went last year, they urged their resident director to take his vacation during the time we were at their facility, assuring him that it was the best time for him to be gone since they were sure things would go smoothly when United was there. We received compliments all week long from the assistant director, the ropes course personnel, the food services director, and others, about being the best group they have at their facility.

This year's interactive Christian living classes focused on how to be like some of the men and women of the Bible who put God first in their lives. Lessons were based on Joseph, Esther, Solomon, Martha and Mary, and Paul. On Friday night, each of the dorms came up with their own skit portraying a biblical event. The whole camp watched and enjoyed some of the creative and entertaining presentations.

On Saturday night the dining hall was filled with cheering and laughter as all the dorms competed in Novelty Olympics. Proficiency Awards were given at the end of the evening. Three campers completed the mile swim and twenty-eight campers and staff were successful in conquering the pamper pole—a telephone pole one must climb and stand up on top of before turning around and jumping to a trapeze bar nearby.

Over the course of the week, new friendships were developed, and established friendships were strengthened. This made parting on Sunday morning a sorrowful event with many promises to keep in touch and get together again in the future.

Ken Treybig  
camp director

**“HOW TO HELP,”** *(Continued from page 17)*

success rate can be attributed to the fact that all twelve steps are in harmony with biblical principles. A handout documenting the twelve steps with scripture is available from the Focused Education team. The book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, available from AA, expounds the value of the step program to recovering alcoholics.

Treatment centers do not promise to “cure” alcoholism. They offer treatment and a program to follow to maintain sobriety. Gaining and maintaining sobriety is the personal responsibility of each patient. An ongoing “maintenance program” is usually discussed with the patient prior to discharge from inpatient treatment. This involves periodic followup group therapy sessions and selection of an AA group to attend at least once a week.

**What Is Alcoholics Anonymous?**

Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of recovering alcoholics who meet together to help each other maintain sobriety. The only requirement for joining or attending AA is a desire to stop drinking. There is no cost other than optional contributions for refreshments and cost of meeting facilities.

AA is not a religion. It is simply a support group devoted to helping people stop drinking. Similar support groups exist for many other causes, such as losing weight.

Belief that looking to “a Higher Power” is necessary for sobriety is a fundamental tenet of the twelve-step program. “God as you understood Him” is another term used in AA to accommodate people of all religious faiths. The more general “Higher Power” is designed for agnostics and atheists as a beginning point for seeking help beyond the individual sufferer. This should present no problems to God’s people. On the contrary, we can appreciate the twelve step program even more because of our understanding of God’s plan.

Two other common objections to AA are the foul language that seems to be common fare for many recovering alcoholics, and the fact that many recovering alcoholics smoke profusely at meetings. Neither of these problems are insurmountable. The key is finding the right AA group. The local AA office can steer you to a non-smoking AA group. An AA group that meets in a church is not as likely to have smoking or use of foul language, simply because of the location.

Meetings are chaired by AA member volunteers on a rotating basis. They lead an informal discussion geared toward maintaining sobriety. Discussions sometimes center on a theme, such as one of the twelve steps and how it applies.

Meetings end with reciting of “the Lord’s Prayer.” Some members feel uncomfortable with this, thinking of it as “vain repetition.” But the Bible does not prohibit reciting this or any other part of Scripture. Vain repetition is repetition that serves no worthwhile purpose. Repetition for emphasis and other valid reasons is supported by Scripture. Even though the “Lord’s Prayer” was given as a model, or outline for prayer, praying the exact words of Jesus Christ with heartfelt meaning can certainly be a profitable experience.

Alcoholics Anonymous has many booklets, for little or no cost, to help explain the organization in much greater detail than is possible within the scope of this article.

**Focused Education**

The Focused Education team is committed to doing what we can to help families suffering from alcoholism. As time and funds allow, we plan to hold training sessions for elders and congregational seminars and workshops. We are also assembling a lending library of relevant books.

We appreciate your continued prayers for this much needed program and for those among us who need hope, help and healing. *UN*

**“GOD’S PLAN,”** *(Continued from page 1)*

the plan is all about. It tells us that all humankind can one day be a part of the family of God. The plan as we practice it through the year is spelled out step by step and repeated each year so we don’t forget the incredible plan of God.

Perhaps some of the talk will center around “where do we go from here?” What does God’s plan hold beyond the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles? Imagine the speculation and what it would cover. We don’t know where we go from the completion of the Last

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*Whenever, wherever, or however, the plan of God is the most exciting and rewarding thing a person can imagine.*

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Great Day, but realize that if the incredible gift of eternal life is a part of the plan which we do know, how much more unbelievable the future work of the God family will be. Whenever, wherever, or however, the plan of God is the most exciting and rewarding thing a person can imagine.

Where do we go from here? Well, right after this issue of *United News*, we plan to go to the Feast of Tabernacles. The most important thing in our lives is the plan of God and eternal life. Always have it in the forefront of your mind.

Have a great Feast! I hope it abounds with good things in every way for you. We won’t see all of you, but we will observe the plan with each of you.

Have the best Feast you’ve had yet! *UN*

## Young Adults Leadership Weekend December 18–22, 1998

We are pleased to report that the time for making reservations for our upcoming young adults weekend at Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park, Colorado, has been extended until October 15. As of September 1, approximately 40 people have registered and sent in deposits for this event.

If you are a young adult (single or married) interested in a weekend filled with a mixture of educational seminars, fellowship and recreation, then don't miss this exciting weekend. Just fill out the following registration form and send it in with a \$30 deposit to secure your reservation.

**Date:** December 18–22, 1998

**Location:** *The YMCA of the Rockies, Snow Mountain Ranch*, 12 miles west of Winter Park, Colorado, on U.S. Highway 40. *Snow Mountain Ranch* is about 100 miles west of Denver.

**Transportation:** Those flying to Denver, will have access to a shuttle service to Winter Park for a cost of about \$70 round-trip. If you would like to take advantage of this service, please contact Larry Neff by e-mail at [lneff@ucg.org](mailto:lneff@ucg.org) or by phone at (303) 470-3112. Check with Denver International Airport for other shuttle service options if you wish. It would be advisable to check on airline flights and prices as soon as possible.

**Arrival and departure dates:** Check-in will be after 3 p.m. on Friday, December 18. Since dinner will be served at 6 p.m., please plan to arrive between 3 and 5 p.m. Departure/check-out date is Tuesday, December 22. Although many may choose to use that day for skiing or other interests before leaving Colorado, check-out will need to be completed before starting the day's activities.

**Housing and meals:** Housing will be in the Pinewood Lodge at *Snow Mountain Ranch*. Occupancy will be four people to a room with private bath. All room prices are based on four to a room. Married couples will need to split up to get this price. Meals (2 meals daily—breakfast and dinner) will be served in the beautiful new dining lodge and are all-you-can-eat buffets.

**Costs:** The cost for the entire weekend (housing, meals, and use of some recreational activities) will be \$185 per person. For those interested, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing are available with rentals from \$20 to \$45 per day. A free shuttle service to local ski areas is provided.

**Deposit and Reservations:** Space is limited to 140 young adults, aged 18 to 30-something, and is for married couples and singles. If you would like to attend, please send a non-refundable \$30 deposit along with the form at right by October 15. The balance of \$155 will be due upon arrival.

### Tentative Itinerary

**Friday** — arrival, dinner, orientation, Bible study/seminar, fellowship

**Sabbath** — brunch, seminar, snack, Sabbath services, fellowship, dinner, social

**Sunday** — breakfast, activity options all day, dinner, evening seminar and social

**Monday** — breakfast, morning activity options, afternoon seminar, dinner, concluding comments and social

**Tuesday** — breakfast, checkout, activity options all day

### Leadership Weekend — Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Married:                       Single:

College Student:                       Yes                       No

If yes, College or University you're attending:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form, plus a \$30 non-refundable registration fee (make checks payable to **United Church of God—Northern Colorado**) to:

**UCG Colorado YA Leadership Weekend**  
**230 13th St.**  
**Windsor, CO 80550-4609**

# Focused Education Material...

## How to Help An Alcoholic

by Larry J. Walker and Glen White

In the previous two installments of this series, we have identified and described the symptoms of alcoholism. Alcoholism is so widespread that most of us know someone afflicted with the problem.

What can you do to help someone who has a drinking problem?

### The Barrier of Denial

Unfortunately, a major roadblock stands in the way of help for most sufferers. It is called *denial*. The difficulty of admitting our problems is intrinsic to human nature (Proverbs 16:2; 21:2). The stigma connected with out-of-control drinking stands in the way for many. No one wants to admit to what he or she is ashamed of.

The dynamics of chemical addiction drive denial far beyond the normal degree of human nature. The desperate craving for alcohol leads the deceitful mind (Jeremiah 17:9) to employ a wide range of "defense mechanisms"—such as rationalization, justification, minimization, and blame shifting in order to continue drinking. Laying guilt trips, provoking incidents of anger to justify drinking, lying, and many other forms of improper behavior result. An alcoholic eventually develops a world of illusion that becomes a dangerous mirage of reality.

Somehow this nightmarish world of denial must be invaded and destroyed.

### Don't Be An Enabler

The difficulty is compounded by the fact that family members, especially the husband or wife of the alcoholic, often allow themselves to get hooked into the bizarre world of denial.

The alcoholic must be allowed to face the consequences of his inappropriate behavior. This may involve suffering and sacrifice for other family members. But as long as someone shields drinking behavior, the problems will continue and intensify.

Do not make calls to employers. Let the alcoholic call for himself. When he staggers home, vomits and passes out on the living room floor or front lawn, the natural tendency is to clean him up and put him to bed. And then let him have the full force of your anger and resentment in the morning, when his head is pounding with a hangover and he is already ashamed of his behavior the evening before—unless he was in a blackout, in which case he will remember nothing.

Either way, allowing him to wake up face down in the residue of the night before can provide a powerful dose of reality. Especially if he wakes up in full sight of his neighbors as they begin their day. An alcoholic needs this kind of tough love to help him face the consequences of his drinking problem. The morning after may also be the time to calmly and lovingly encourage him to consider getting help.

### Motivation For Seeking Treatment

But what if the alcoholic still refuses to acknowledge the need for help? For many years the belief persisted that an alcoholic has to "hit bottom" before seeking treatment. Sooner or later some crisis will force the alcoholic to face up to reality or suffer tragic consequences—loss of family, financial ruin, imprisonment, even death.

### DOS and DON'TS

#### Don't

1. threaten, bribe or preach
2. lose your temper
3. allow your anxiety lead you to do what the alcoholic should do for himself/herself
4. cover up, make excuses for or hide the alcoholic from consequences of his/her behavior
5. hide or throw away bottles of alcohol
6. argue or reason with anyone who is drunk
7. drink along with a problem drinker
8. ride with anyone who insists on driving while intoxicated
9. accept guilt for another's behavior
10. allow your spiritual life to suffer as result of alcoholism

#### Do

1. learn all you can about alcoholism
2. become familiar with treatment resources in your community
3. be honest with the alcoholic
4. keep your cool when talking with an alcoholic
5. counsel with your pastor and/or doctor about alcohol problems in the family
6. attend Alanon, Alateen or other groups that offer support and helpful information
7. teach your children about alcoholism
8. do all you can to maintain a healthy atmosphere at home
9. be patient; alcoholism can pose many challenges
10. maintain your faith in God

Making excuses for missed work becomes commonplace, spawned by fear of loss of job, desire to avoid rejection of friends and family, and misguided concern for the drinking family member. The mate prolongs the alcoholic's drinking behavior by becoming an "enabler."



Must family members sit by helplessly and wait for tragedy to strike? What if you or someone else in the family are at the end of the rope emotionally and feel you cannot take any more? What if you feel you cannot ride out this dizzying spiral to oblivion? Is a better alternative available?

### Dynamics of Intervention

Thankfully, yes. It's called intervention. Intervention is a carefully planned, frank but loving confrontation session by as many family and other meaningful persons as are willing and able to participate. Former U.S. President Gerald Ford's wife, Betty, is a well known example of successful intervention.

Each participant clearly states facts and feelings about how the drinking pattern has affected their life. This information is conveyed after sincerely affirming love and concern to the problem drinker. A combination of support and confrontation is important to let the person know that the others in the room love him or her but cannot and will not continue to tolerate the drinking problem. Alternatives and consequences should be spelled out. Everyone must be prepared to follow through on whatever actions they spell out. No bluffing, no threats. These only hurt credibility and prolong suffering of all concerned.

Before undertaking this course of action, be sure to seek professional help. It is advisable to have a trained facilitator lead and monitor the discussion.

The object of intervention is to secure the alcoholic's agreement to enter treatment at the conclusion of the session. Therefore, a plan of action should already be in place so treatment can begin immediately. Treatment should be considered with the same

sense of urgency and gravity as a medical emergency such as appendicitis or a heart attack.

### Where To Find Help

Where can you find help? What type of treatment is available? Of course this should be investigated long before the intervention is scheduled so you are ready to proceed quickly with your preconceived plan of action.

The yellow pages of your phone book is a good place to begin. Look

### THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

under "Alcoholism Information and Treatment" to find a list of treatment centers in your area. Some are privately operated. Some are non-profit, usually supported by government funds. If insurance coverage is available, private centers may be a better option. If not, treatment at a public facility is available on a "sliding scale" basis,

which means the cost is adjusted according to the family income. Doctors and governmental agencies (including emergency 911 service in the U.S.) can also provide referral information.

### Treatment Options

What happens in treatment? First an assessment interview is set up with the patient to determine the nature and duration of treatment. Detoxification is usually the next procedure, to help remove alcohol from the system and to treat side effects such as withdrawal symptoms. The patient then enters a period of inpatient or outpatient treatment.

Treatment modalities have been standardized in recent years by government regulations and insurance company requirements. Most programs consist of group therapy, individual counseling, lectures, and nutritional support.

Family involvement is also critically important, since alcoholism affects the entire family. Participation in treatment also reinforces their love for the alcoholic. Special family group sessions are planned to help families communicate facts and feelings openly and honestly with support from other patients and their families. People help people, and learn about themselves in the process.

### The Twelve-Step Program

The twelve-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is central to the recovery philosophy of treatment. It was developed years ago by recovering alcoholics who analyzed what they did to attain sobriety.

This program has a longstanding track record of success. So much so that adapted versions are used for many other forms of addictive behavior. The  
(See "HOW TO HELP," page 14)

# Announcements...

## Engagements

**Jerrit** and Kathleen Ekama of Paris, Ohio, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tanya Kini, to Christopher Lee Stark, son of Vicki and Jeff Mosely of Alliance, Ohio, and Bill Stark of Galveston, Texas.

A mid-summer wedding is being planned in 1999. Details are available via e-mail at [kamaii@juno.com](mailto:kamaii@juno.com) or [ekamas@sssnet.com](mailto:ekamas@sssnet.com) or by phone at (330) 862-3695.

**Mr.** and Mrs. Delaneo Dean Greer of Spokane, Washington, and Dr. and Mrs. John Lawrence Merritt of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, would like to announce the engagement of their children, Tammy Colleen and John Lawrence, II. The wedding is planned for Sunday, September 6, 1998, in Spokane, Washington.

## Anniversaries

**Charles** and Mary Amos of Wheeling, West Virginia, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22, 1998. Mrs. Amos is a long-time member of God's church. The Wheeling congregation honored the occasion with an outdoor potluck dinner at their home following Sabbath services on July 18. They were presented with an anniversary cake and a gift of lawn furniture.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos have three sons, Russell in California, Charles in Missouri, and Louis in Wheeling. They also have two daughters, Mrs. Alexa Parker in Ohio, and Mrs. Judy Sumner in Michigan. They have been blessed with five granddaughters and one grandson.

**Ed** and Dolores Bock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 8, 1998. A dinner party was given by their five children. Many friends, relatives and church members celebrated with them. The Bocks have nine grandchildren.



**Ed and Dolores Bock**

They were both baptized in 1970 and attend the Elmira, New York, congregation where Ed is a deacon.

**Howard** and Jeri Brennecke marked their 50th wedding anniversary March 11, 1998, with a family celebration and meal.

The Brenneckes have five grown children: Brenda Tinnon, Rhonda Hornbuckle, Greta Gillam, Anita Davis and Roger. They have eight grandchildren.



**Howard and Jeri Brennecke**

Howard and Jeri are long-time members of the church of God in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. They were both baptized July 24, 1963.

**Ray** and Glad Lehmann of Perth, Western Australia, celebrated their 57th

wedding anniversary on June 20, 1998. They were joined by their son, Rex, and daughter-in-law, Rosalyn, whose 29th anniversary was on June 22, 1998. All four enjoyed a special three days in Alice Springs, central Australia.



**Ray and Glad Lehmann**

The Lehmanns senior have three daughters and two sons; and two sons-in-law and two daughters-in-law. They also have 14 grandchildren and two great granddaughters. Ray has been a member for 16 years and Glad for 36. They attend the Perth congregation.

**Richard** and Judy Rand of Pompano Beach, Florida, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 13, 1998. They met at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, in 1965 and were married shortly after graduation.



**Richard and Judy Rand**



On July 4th, 1998, the Watertown, South Dakota, UCGIA congregation treated these couples for their anniversaries with cake, punch and some special gifts. From left to right, Dianne and Ken Skorseth, 25 years; Anne and Herb Teitgen, 30 years; and Marge and Dave Cook, 25 years.

They have a son and daughter-in-law, David and Deborah Rand, of Boston, Massachusetts; a daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Steven Kruger, of Dallas, Texas; a daughter, Carolyn, of Pompano Beach; and a son, Michael, of Midland, Texas. They also have a granddaughter, Savannah Kruger.

Bob and Louise Thompson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 21, 1998. They have three grown children: Robert, Gary and Janice (Adamick). They also have six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Thompsons have been attending the church of God for 30 years in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



Bob and Louise Thompson

Dan and Helen Verble celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary recently. They were married June 15, 1946. They have one daughter, Diann Bischof. They have been members of the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, congregation since 1962.

## Senior Milestones!

A celebration in honor of Seattle's two most senior members was held on Sunday, August 30. A total of 150 brethren and relatives from across the country came together to commemorate the 100th birthday of Ethel Kopp and the 90th birthday of Helen Margaret Hummels.

The ladies were presented with two gigantic, hand-made birthday cards along with many other cards and congratulatory messages received from around the country.

The celebration included a turkey dinner, a review of historic highlights of the past century, biographies about Mrs. Kopp and Miss Hummels, and a special musical tribute featuring songs representing milestones throughout their lives. The ladies were also given cards signed by the entire Council of Elders and beautiful coffee table books giving a pictorial history of the state of Washington. A toast to the two guests of honor and cake capped the occasion.

Mrs. Kopp was born Ethel Hartley in Locust Grove, New York, on September 1, 1898. She was the fourth child of a family of five sisters and five brothers.

She was originally educated as a school teacher. She discovered, though, that she actually enjoyed bookkeeping and obtained her Junior Accountant Certification.



Ethel Kopp

Mrs. Kopp was married twice during her life, although she never had children. She has lived in the states of New York, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Washington.

Her contact with God's church came through the radio in the early 1950s in Mt. Vernon, Washington. She then wrote for *The Plain Truth* magazine and in it there was an article about the Sabbath. She was baptized in August 1955 and then attended her first Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Texas.

Her ambition is to be an example for members of God's church and to help them with their faith. Her ultimate goal is to be in God's kingdom, keeping books for Joseph and feeding the world.

Miss Hummels was born on August 14, 1908. She was the fourth of nine children. Her early life was characterized by the joys of a close family, the trials of losing her father at age 10, and the Great Depression.

Miss Hummels' mother was her most profound influence. It was her inspiration that gave her the confidence to succeed at a variety of jobs—including twice starting her own business.

In 1960, after 13 years of contact with God's truth, Miss Hummels was

baptized and attended her first church service. Bible study and reading about prophecy have been favorite pursuits.



Helen Margaret Hummels

Miss Hummels' health began to fail at age 62. She could not regain her strength and had to retire at age 63. Retirement didn't stop her from continuing to learn and grow. She went on to earn her high school diploma at age 66!

Now at age 90 with a lifetime of experiences to look back on, she reflects, "God has been and continues to be with me with many continued miracles and answers to prayer."

## Obituaries

**Paul Eugene Griffiee**, 71, of LeRoy, Michigan, died at home on March 1, 1998, after a 2½-year battle with cancer. Paul had been a member of God's church for 33 years and was attending the Cadillac, Michigan, congregation.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; one daughter, Linda Lapp; three sons, Ray, Mark and Randy; seven grandchildren; three great grandchildren; three sisters; and over 70 nieces and nephews.

**Francis (Henry) Hendrickson** (80), died unexpectedly May 7, 1998. Henry was a member of God's church in San Diego for over 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Mickie, and two children.

**Gail Farrar Hughes**, 57, of Farmerville, Louisiana, died August 3, 1998, at her residence following several months of illness.

## United News

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

Gail and her husband, Ray, have been long-time members of God's church serving the brethren in Monroe, Louisiana. Services were held at Farrar Funeral Home Chapel in Farmerville, with Dr. Donald Ward officiating.

Gail is survived by her husband, Mitchell Ray Hughes; two daughters and sons-in-law, Terrill Bowen Coggins and husband Tim, Johna Bowen Kelly and husband Kenneth; one brother, Jerry Farrar; and three grandchildren, Khaki Coggins, Jordan Spells, and Connor Kelly.

**William Robert Movious**, M.D., 84, died May 25, 1998, after a 13-year battle with leukemia in La Jolla, California. He was a member of God's church for over 20 years in San Diego, California. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Whitney, two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by David Register, pastor of the San Diego and Redlands congregations.

**David Anthony Wakin**, 59, died May 30, 1998, of a cerebral aneurysm. The graveside service was held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 1998, in Winlock, Washington.

Mr. Wakin was born April 3, 1939, in Yakima, Washington, and grew up in Castle Rock, Washington. He was a salesperson and was baptized into the church of God March 4, 1973. On March 25, 1973, he married Michelle Clayton. They made their home in Richfield, Washington, until the time of his death.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle, son Paul, and sister Elizabeth Al-Jafary of Doha, Qatar. The family suggests remembrances be made to the Church youth pro-

gram. Arrangements were made by Cattermole Funeral Home in Winlock.

## Prayer Updates:

### Rod Rodrigues

**Mr. Rodrigues** continues in the same condition that he was in last year. He is absolutely paralyzed yet does enjoy some communication with friends and family. His main method of communication is through the sole use of his eyes: up for *yes* and shut or down for *no*. He is in fine spirits overall and was truly overwhelmed by the interest shown in him by so many members last year who sent cards at around Feast of Tabernacles time.

We held a service for Rod recently in the nursing home where he resides, and he was thrilled with the attendance and interest shown in him by the members. Any who can send him a card or greeting at this very special time of the year would be appreciated. His address is Rod Rodrigues, c/o Blaire House, 10 Ehrlin Crescent, Tewksbury, MA 01876.

*Paul Suckling*

### Russell Decker

**Russell Decker**, now moving into his late 80s, had a successful hip-replacement operation last year just near Feast time. He has almost fully recovered, has a lot less pain, and can move around a lot more easily than before. Although more mobile, he will not be able to attend the Feast this year.

Your prayers would be very much appreciated. Russell's address is 2 West Cobble Hill Rd. Apt 10, Barre, VT 05641.

*Paul Suckling*