

ULLADULLA'S CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL

Meeting as part of the largest international religious gathering of its type, 750 people will convene in Ulladulla for the annual Festival of the Worldwide Church of God, October 8-15.

More than 140,000 members and families of the Worldwide Church of God will meet in 94 sites in 51 countries to attend the Church's annual Festival, of which Ulladulla is a part this year.

This is the third year the Church has selected Ulladulla as a Festival site.

Joseph W. Takach, pastor general of the Church, will address members at sites in Australia, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other countries through a sophisticated satellite transmission from the Church's international headquarters in Pasadena, California.

The Festival, which consists of eight days of worship services and family-orientated activities, biblically represents the 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ.

The Festival theme this year emphasises family unity.

A Christian organisation, the Worldwide Church of God

emphasises a literal understanding and application of biblical teachings.

It thus keeps a seventh-day Sabbath and the annual Holy Days, including the annual Feast of Tabernacles, as Jesus Himself did in the New Testament.

The Worldwide Church of God is not affiliated with any other religious organisations.

Following the biblical example, the Church does not actively seek new converts and never publicly appeals for contributions.

It sponsors The World Tomorrow television program, rated by Arbitron and Nielsen as the fourth most popular religious program in the United States.

Airing on over 380 stations worldwide, The World Tomorrow is presented locally on WIN4, Sundays at 7.30 a.m.

The Church also publishes The Plain Truth magazine, a

monthly four-colour publication with an international circulation of more than seven million subscribers and newsstand readers.

As part of its international commitment to service, the Church sponsors the Ambassador Foundation, a humanitarian, educational and cultural institution.

Through a variety of recognised projects, the Foundation promotes understanding between diverse cultures and nations and strives to improve the quality of life for peoples throughout the world.

THE FEAST

Following the example of Jesus Christ, members of the Worldwide Church of God observe the annual Feast of Tabernacles as described in the Old and New Testaments.

Members travel to designated areas where the Festival — the largest religious

convention of its type worldwide — is conducted for eight days.

More than 141,000 members and Church families meet at over 90 such sites in more than 50 countries worldwide.

The Festival spiritually reflects the soon-to-be-established 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ.

The Bible clearly states that when Jesus returns He will set up and lead a perfect world-ruling government referred to in the Bible as the Kingdom of God.

This 1,000-year period will be a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity.

Church members save a portion of their annual income for use at this Festival.

Meeting together in a family atmosphere, Church members attend daily morning Church services where ministers explain and review biblical teachings about this prophesied Kingdom of God.

Other sermons delivered during the Feast generally include information on how to improve personal relationships and married life, and other doctrinal and social topics.

Family activities and social events are arranged during the Feast so members and families can relax together. •

Many visit local sights and attractions with their families and friends.

The Feast season begins and ends with a day of special meetings and worship.

On those days, members attend both a morning and an afternoon service, where the biblical significance of these days are reviewed and explained.

Pastor General Joseph W. Takach addresses the majority of Church members on the first day of the Festival through an international satellite television link.

By this electronic conferencing, members participate worldwide in special Church services conducted in Pasadena, California, the headquarters city of the Church and Festival.

A videotaped message explaining the significance of the last Holy Day — which biblically represents a time when all humanity will have an opportunity to hear and adopt God's way of life — is presented in the afternoon of the last day of the Festival season.

The feast of Tabernacles is the capstone of the annual biblican seasons observed by the Worldwide Church of God.

The first event observed by the Church is Passover, which reviews and pictures the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Immediately following the symbolic observance of Christ's death — which opened the way for personal salvation and eternal life — the Church observes the Days of Unleavened Bread.

• Continued from page 7

Before this season — which lasts one week — members clean their homes of all leavened products which symbolise sin by the "puffing-up" capacity of yeast and leaven (I Corinthians 5:6-8).

This cleaning process physically pictures and reminds members of the casting out of sin from a Christian's life. The week of refraining from eating unleavened products symbolises how a Christian should strive to live apart from sin

and instead follow God's revealed way of life.

Seven weeks later, the Church observes the Feast of Pentecost, a one-day event that pictures the gift of God's Holy Spirit to His Church (Acts 2:1-21).

The Holy Spirit gives a Christian the capacity to fully obey God's law, revealed in summary form in the Ten Commandments.

According to the Bible, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is announced by a powerful blast from divine trumpet (I Thessalonians 4:16; I Corinthians 15:18; Revela-

tions 11:15-19).

The remaining Festivals thus begin with the observance of the Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25), a day which pictures Christ's Second Coming.

Ten days later, the Church observes the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32).

This day, marked by abstaining from food and water (fasting), represents the time when Satan will be bound at the beginning of Christ's 1,000-year rule (Revelation 20:1-3).

The Bible teaches that Satan will not be

allowed during that time to deceive and sway humanity from God's revealed way of life.

The Festival calendar is completed by the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

Detailed information about the prophesied Kingdom of God and the millennial rule of Jesus Christ is explained in the free book, The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like.

A copy, presented without cost or obligation, is available from the Public Affairs Department of the Worldwide Church of God.