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Remain steadfast in the faith, says Mr. Tkach in Jackson

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA—"The golden years of God's Church are now. We must have our hearts in God's Work and realize that the Work is accomplishing more than ever."

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach so addressed 1,504 brethren assembled in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 25.

They represented Jackson, Greenwood, Hattiesburg, Laurel, Meridian, Natchez, Picayune, Tupelo and Columbus, Miss.; Alexandria, Hammond and Monroe, La.; and Monroeville, Ala. Some traveled as far as 200 miles.

"Satan will try to divide God's true Church," Mr. Tkach said. "We must unite and band together, steadfast in the faith, to resist Satan and be of one mind."

Before Mr. Tkach's address a youth choir sang "Welcome to God's Family," after which the audience stood and was invited to join in singing "America the Beautiful" while scenic slides of America were projected in the background.

On behalf of brethren and ministers, Marc Segall, pastor of the Jackson and Greenwood churches, presented the pastor general with an executive version of the Geochron global time indicator.

Framed in mahogany, the gift is a combination world map and clock showing the date, time and seasons around the world, as well as sunrise and sunset locations anywhere on earth.

In November, 1985, U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave a similar Geochron gift to Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at their first summit meeting.

After he spoke, Mr. Tkach shook members' hands, posed for photographs and "warmly greeted brethren of all ages for an hour and a half," said Mr. Segall.

At a ministers meeting the pastor general discussed the growth and needs of God's Work and the impor-

tance of the Work moving forward in understanding and knowledge.

He was then host for more than 100 guests at a banquet for ministers, deacons, deaconesses and their spouses in the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

George Pinckney, Monroe, Alexandria and Natchez pastor, said Mr. Tkach "exudes such deep personal concern for the brethren and wants each person to feel like a beloved member of God's family."

"Mr. Tkach's enthusiasm for God's Work was contagious," said Kenneth Treybig, Hammond and Picayune pastor.

Other comments ranged from "Church visits are one of the most unifying things" and "I appreciate his concern for the income and employment needs of the brethren," to "He makes us feel like a team" and "He is encouraging to the women."

The next day, Feb. 26, Mr. Tkach and his traveling party visited the Vicksburg National Military Park and Museum for a 16-mile tour commemorating the battle and siege that marked the turning point in the U.S. Civil War in 1863.

To control the Mississippi River, the Union Army had to take and control Vicksburg, which President Abraham Lincoln called "the key to victory."

The group also saw an antebellum home (built about 1840) that survived the siege of Vicksburg.

"Mr. Tkach saw the bedroom and the actual bed where Gen. [Ulysses S.] Grant slept as a guest," said Mr. Segall. "The group of us were allowed to walk through every room on a spontaneous invitation of the home's staff," something not generally permitted.

"The trip to Vicksburg gave us a

little more time to spend with the elders," said John Halford, on-site director of the Church's television crew.

"By the end, I felt I had gotten to know several men I had only known as names before. Not all trips allow this because of scheduling considerations, but this time those few extra hours on Sunday were really enjoyable."

Mr. Halford quipped to ministers that Northerners and Southerners in the area who are still fighting the Civil War of 1861-65 "quickly arrange a cease-fire when an Englishman is put among them and pick up where they left off in 1812!"

Later in the afternoon the group left Jackson's Thompson Field in the British Aerospace Corp. (BAC) 111 jet.

Flying with Mr. Tkach were his assistant Joseph Locke, administrative assistant Ellen Escat, administrative projects coordinator Michael Rasmussen and Julie Stocker,



BECOMING FAMILY—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach warmly greets (from left) Jason Davis and Rebecca, James and Carolyn Osborne after his Sabbath address to 1,504 brethren in Jackson, Miss., Feb. 25. [Photo by Mike Osborne]

administrative assistant to evangelist David Hulme, director of Communications & Public Affairs.

Other members of the television crew were cameraman Gary Warnings and remote operations engineer Steve Bergstrom.

Serving as Mr. Tkach's BAC-111 crew were Captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich, a local elder in the Long Beach, Calif., West church, engineer Dean Mohr, steward Jay Brothers and chef Terence Wieclawski.

Mideast group 'making good progress'

Director visits Spanish areas

By Kerri Dowd

PASADENA—Evangelist Leon Walker and his wife, Reba, visited a group of Spanish-speaking Sabbath keepers in Elat, Israel, Jan. 28 and 29 on a five-week trip that took them to Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

"As far as I know we have just one member in Israel," said Mr. Walker, regional director for Spanish-speaking areas,

"She is originally from Chile and a former member of a Sabbath-keeping church that believed they should go to Zion to await the Second Coming of Christ.

"She was not able to be in Elat, but her grandson became interested in the Church along with a number of others, all members of the same Sabbath-keeping church, who requested a visit."

Trip begins

Mr. and Mrs. Walker left Pasadena Jan. 15 for Amman, Jordan. At the invitation of Joseph Locke, Ambassador Foundation vice president for international projects, they visited the foundation

The Walkers met with the group—seven adults and their children, talked with them and answered their questions.

"They are all sincerely interested and making good progress," Mr. Walker said.

Pedro Rufian, pastor of the Madrid, Spain, church, is slated to visit the group in March. "I will send him once or twice a year. He is the closest minister to that area," Mr. Walker said.

"It is interesting to note that the only member and prospective members in Israel are Spanish speaking."

One problem these prospective members have to face is military service. "All men are required to put in 60 days a year in active service until age 50," Mr. Walker said. "All men and women must enter the service. There are no exceptions except the orthodox Jews."

Jan. 30 the Walkers went on to Jerusalem. Mr. Walker said: "It was the first time in exactly 20 years that I'd been there."

In 1969 Mr. Walker delivered a Volkswagen van to Jerusalem for students to use on the archaeological dig.

To Europe

Feb. 2 the Walkers went on to Spain. While there they visited two potential Feast sites.

Segovia, about 45 minutes from Madrid, was chosen as the 1989 site. "It is in a central location," said Mr. Walker.

"The past Feast site has been too far away for many brethren. Segovia is an ancient city with an ancient Roman aqueduct, castles and historical places of interest such as the Walled City of Avila."

The site is open to Spanish-speaking transfers only.

South America

In Venezuela Feb. 8 to 13, the (See SPANISH, page 3)

PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Tkach

Dear brethren:

As we draw close to the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, I want to take time to rehearse the importance of our relationships with one another and with God.

When we partake of the symbols of Jesus' suffering and death at the Passover service, it should go without saying that we must take them in the attitude and frame of mind that God intends.

God, in His Word, teaches Christians that there are two ways of life. One way is the way apart from God. It is the way steeped in pride.

Those who live this way are primarily concerned with how much prestige, importance, personal gratification and possessions they can acquire for themselves. They are fundamentally selfish.

Their basic motivation is for their own physical self-fulfill-

ment, with little or no real regard for the welfare of others, especially others who may be in their way. Mr. Armstrong often characterized this as the way of get. This is the way in which the devil walks.

The other way is the way steeped in humility. Those who live this way are changing their basic motivation to one of concern for the good and welfare of others.

They are fundamentally committed to making life better for others. They are devoted to helping others wherever they can and to preserving and maintaining positive, right relationships with others.

Their basic motivation is to live according to the royal law of loving one's neighbor as oneself, and to submit to God in all things so they can be led in living that way of love by the Holy Spirit of God.

Mr. Armstrong often characterized this as the way of give. It is the way in which Jesus Christ (See PERSONAL, page 3)

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Japan-U.S. ties face uncertain future

PASADENA—An impressive gathering of world leaders assembled in Tokyo for the Feb. 24 funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito.

Over the last two thirds of his 62-year reign Emperor Hirohito presided over a remarkable national transformation.

By 1945 Japan had been rebuffed in its quest for big power status by means of military conquest. After suffering a devastating defeat, Japan switched course—almost as if on cue—in the direction of economic superpowerdom.

Because of the hard, almost obsessive, work of its talented and frugal people (who save more than 16 percent of their after-tax earnings vs. 3.3 percent for Americans), Japan has developed the world's most spectacular economy.

What will Japan do with its rapidly accumulating wealth?

It's doubtful whether the Japanese themselves know how to fully answer this question. No precedent exists for the type of nation Japan represents.

"Never in world history has a country acquired so much wealth without acquiring military and political power," observed a U.S. Congressional staff member.

As a one-dimensional economic superpower, Japan is vitally concerned with keeping markets open for the sales of its sophisticated products. And its No. 1 market remains the United States.

America, in turn, is dependent upon Japan's surplus trade earnings to finance a good portion of its federal debt and to furnish capital.

Thanks in part to a weak dollar, the Japanese have invested heavily in U.S. industry and real estate. Many Americans are understandably uneasy over this process under way—described in principle in Deuteronomy 28:43.

Japan's burgeoning economic clout is cautiously being translated into political power. When Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita visited the United States he called for closer cooperation with Washington on major international issues.

For the time being, Japan's leadership is content to prod the United States in getting its own economic house in order, for the good of the entire global economy.

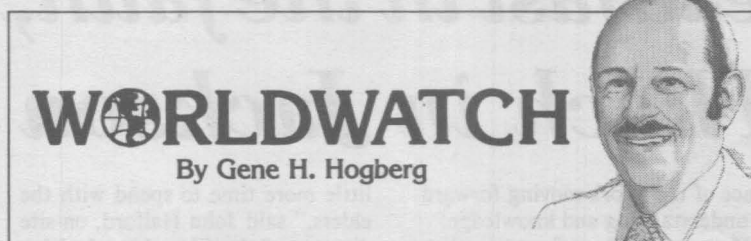
The Japanese prime minister told President George Bush that "no country can replace the role of the United States. We want America to be strong, to be an ally

we can trust most of all."

Japan, however, is not likely to play the role of a behind-the-scenes support player forever. In the Feb. 21 *Wall Street Journal*, Karen Elliott House wrote that "an America, hat in hand, seeking handouts from other nations is not an America that will long be able to lead."

which a cash-strapped Uncle Sam finds himself a rich Japanese wife and lives happily ever after on her dowry.

"The problem, of course, is that . . . the kimono-clad spouse who signs the checks almost certainly would expect to run the family."



Moreover, rumblings from Congress about aggressively prying open the Japanese market still further are straining what President Bush admits is "the world's most important bilateral relationship."

The United States is getting itself into an awkward and potentially dangerous relationship with its World War II adversary.

Added journalist House: "Some global thinkers are enamored of a concept called 'Amerippon,' by

Author House also questioned the wisdom of U.S. Congressional leaders pressuring the Japanese to increase their nation's military spending to reduce U.S. military costs in the Pacific.

America, she wrote, "may not wind up being happy with a future superpower that has military might backing up its economic ambitions. Japan has both the money and the know-how to transform itself quickly



Are you a Zax?

One day, making tracks

In the prairie of Prax,
Came a North-Going Zax
And a South-Going Zax.

And it happened that both of them
came to a place
Where they bumped. There they
stood.

Foot to foot. Face to face (The
Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr.
Seuss).

In Dr. Seuss' humorous story "The Zax," two unusual creatures, after bumping into each other, would not move aside so that the other could go on his way. Thus, neither could make any forward progress.

Do you have a problem?

Have you ever experienced such a problem? Have you had a misunderstanding with another member of God's Church? Has someone done something to offend you—or have you offended someone else, and neither of you will budge from your position?

Has a disagreement cooled, or even worse, cut off relations between you and a brother or sister in Christ?

This should not be in God's Church! None of us should be standing in the "prairie of Prax" because of a personal conflict with another member. This type of problem hinders and can in some cases totally halt the spiritual progress of both parties.

Like the Zax in Dr. Seuss' story, we in God's Church are a different kind of creature. James 1:18 tells us we are to be a "kind of firstfruits of his [God's!] creatures." We are to learn to express the kind of unconditional love and unity that God and Christ themselves express.

Colossians 3:12-13 tells us to "put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ for-

gave you, so also do ye."

Ephesians 4:31-32 commands: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

We ought to daily remember how God has forgiven our sins—because we ought to daily be confessing our sins before God and asking for the gift of His grace (I John 1:9).

If we ourselves "die daily," as Paul did (I Corinthians 15:31), how can we continue to hold a grudge toward another member of God's Church? How can we let resentment build up—sometimes for months or even longer?

How can some of us go for years without even speaking to certain others in the Church?

The Passover commemorates the sacrifice of Christ to pay for our sins. Have some of us made the mistake of coming before God and taking of the symbols of Christ's body and blood at this deadly serious Festival while we harbor in our hearts malice or hard feelings toward one or more of God's other children?

We need to beware of taking the Passover unworthily (I Corinthians 11:27-29). It is crucial that we discern the unity and love and warmth and spirit of forgiveness that God wants in His Body.

Every year Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach reminds us at the Passover in Pasadena that none should partake of the ceremony while holding a grudge against anyone else.

The way to heal offenses

Continually expressing a spirit of unity and forgiveness does not mean we must overlook every fault or offense that has been committed against us! We don't have to just "take it and shut up."

On the contrary, Christ gives us specific instructions about what we should do if we are offended:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Matthew 18:15).

Sad to say, this sometimes is one of the most ignored scriptures in the Bible! Someone has to make the first move. Being humble enough and concerned enough about unity and peace within God's Church to go to our brother is itself an act of outgoing love and concern.

But how many of us, instead of following this simple instruction, take out our anger by gossiping to others, by slandering the person who offended us or by bottling up the hurt inside and letting it eat at us?

Hebrews 12:15 warns us to beware "lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

We all need to be going to our brother in the spirit of Matthew 18:15 more quickly, more naturally, more faithfully. "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath," says Ephesians 4:26. Get the problem solved quickly!

And when someone comes to us because we have done something to offend him or her, let's receive that person in a spirit of meekness and do everything we can to work the problem out and restore a loving, warm, enjoyable relationship.

None of us can make much forward progress spiritually until we are committed to developing godly relationships in God's begotten Family. Oh, the Church as a whole won't stand still. It will move ahead, but we will be left standing where we are—like the Zax on the prairie of Prax!

Well . . .
Of course the world didn't stand still. The world grew.
In a couple of years, the new highway came through
And they built it right over those two stubborn Zax
And left them there, standing unbudged in their tracks.

Don't let this happen to you. Don't be stalled by offenses and misunderstandings, no matter how hurtful they may seem at the time, and by all means don't let such problems cool your commitment to God's Church and dim your vision of God's overall plan.

Grow spiritually along with God's Church by applying God's instructions about going to your brother and go on to develop more loving relationships with all of your brethren!

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



Ambassador to Britain: longtime prestige post

BOREHAMWOOD, England—The plum job on the American ambassadorial circuit is the London post in the Court of St. James's. It has been the prestige posting for 200 years.

The importance of this position is mirrored by the choice of consistently high-voltage personnel to occupy it. Four men who became Presidents represented Washington in London: John Adams, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams and Martin Van Buren.

John Quincy Adams was the only son to follow his father into the White House and the only son to follow his father into the Court of St. James's.

Three Adams family members have held the London post. Charles Francis Adams, who served 1861 to 1868, was the last. Robert Todd Lincoln, who served from 1889 to 1893, is the only other son of a President to be appointed to the Court of St. James's.

John Adams was the first vice president of the United States. Likewise he was the first ambassador posted to London.

But he was no stranger to international diplomacy. His first mission was to Paris, followed by a stint in Amsterdam. Probably Adams needed such rigorous preparation in the courts of Europe before his monumental task of sorting out Anglo-American relations after the Revolutionary War.

King George III listened to Adams' maiden speech. Jack Shepherd wrote in *The Adams Chronicles* that this first American ambassador to London spoke of "restoring an entire esteem, confidence and affection, or, in better words, the old good nature and the old good humor between people, who, though separated by an ocean and under different governments, have the same language, a similar religion, and kindred blood" (page 121).

The conclusion of the King's reply is worth noting. The sovereign

into a major military power."

And a potentially dangerous military power at that. This is because, unlike the West Germans, the Japanese have not come to grips with their nation's responsibility for events of the 1930s and 1940s.

No clearer example of this blind spot in history can be found than the Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, which I visited in 1986.

The museum contains heart-wrenching exhibits of the city's devastation. But there are no references to Japan's military escapades in Asia and at Pearl Harbor, which set in motion the events that led up to that fateful day in August, 1945.

The biggest question is what might happen if the Japanese perceive their empire—an economic empire this time—to be threatened once again by American actions.

Resentment over the atomic attack of nearly 44 years ago could surprisingly resurface.

In a 1987 comment to me, but intended for all Americans, European nationalist Jean Thiriart said: "Don't delude yourselves. The Japanese do not like you and they will not soon forget Hiroshima."

Like Germany, as described in Luigi Barzini's book, *The Europeans*, Japan too can be "particularly dangerous when it is unhappy."

said: "Let the circumstances of language, religion and blood have their natural and full effect" (page 122).

And so they have. Twice in the 20th century Great Britain and America have fought together as brothers to preserve the fragile freedoms of this world.

Nonetheless the early going was not easy for John Adams. America was an infant nation, and like all babies it was highly vulnerable.

Mr. Shepherd wrote: "For John Adams in London, therefore, the task was formidable. His country was weak, and the British were willing to delay working out points of contention in the hope that the new nation might founder" (page 125).

There was no minister during the War of 1812 between Britain and America (1812-1814).

But America survived and Great Britain eventually recognized its growth and independent nature.

Many other distinguished Americans have been sent to St. James's in 200 years of Anglo-American history. Joseph P. Kennedy, father of the late President John F. Kennedy, served there 1938 to 1941, a most critical time.

W. Averell Harriman served there just after World War II. Anne Armstrong, who served in 1975 and 1976, was the only American woman to grace St. James's.

Charles H. Price II, the present ambassador, has served since 1983. The new appointee, Henry Catto, will soon take office.

Where do Anglo-American relations go from here? Occasionally Britain and America find themselves isolated on the international scene.

Should Britain ever become isolated from Europe, this nation and the United States may once again be brothers under siege. Then the ambassador in the Court of St. James's will discover that his office may assume an importance equal to what it was in the days after the Revolutionary War.

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

walked as a human being, and the way God eternally lives.

As we approach the Passover, then, it behooves each of us, as God's people, to carefully evaluate our relationships with one another in light of God's law of love, and repent of any arrogant, superior, selfish, inconsiderate, spiteful or envious attitude we may hold toward another human being.

Jesus Christ was perfect and sinless. Yet He was willing to give Himself for us. He, who had lived eternally as God, was willing to come down to earth and live as a human being because He and the Father love us.

He was willing to be lied about, hated, despised, spat upon and tortured because He and the Father love us. He was willing to die because He and the Father love us.

He did all this, not in a spirit of superiority, though He was certainly superior, but in humility, because He loves us. He was willing to suffer even though we were still sinners.

Even though we were behaving selfishly, arrogantly, foolishly and hatefully, He was willing to suffer for us that we ultimately might be able to change. In so doing, He showed us how we are to think of others and live with others.

God has called us to a new and living way. The truth of His Word, which He has given us through His Spirit, is truth that must be put into practice. It is not knowledge alone, but applied knowledge.

It is one thing for us to know and understand the wonderful truth of God's Word. But God requires that we use that knowledge, that we live by it. And humility forms the basis for making that precious knowledge come to life.

We are told in James 4:6 that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. A prideful attitude actually prevents one from receiving the grace of God.

The reason is a simple one. A prideful attitude cannot be a re-

pentant one. A prideful attitude sees itself as already right, as having no special need for the mercy of God.

Because it sees itself as superior to others, it does not condescend to the humility necessary to admit error, or confess guilt; therefore it sees no need to change. It sees others as inferior, and therefore the needs of others as less important.

Consequently, it treats others with a certain degree of contempt. It sees no need to sacrifice its own desires or wants for the good of another.

The attitude that is able to receive the grace of God, on the other hand, is one of humility. The humble spirit is able to honestly see itself and recognize its need for the mercy of God. It does not view itself as superior to others, but rather is concerned with how it can help make the way easier for others.

People with this attitude, like Jesus, are not afraid to sacrifice their own desires for the ultimate good of another. And this attitude is willing to go before the throne of God to ask for the mercy and forgiveness it knows it needs.

As Passover approaches, we should look honestly at our own personal motivations in our relationships with others. Has pride played a part in damaging any of our personal relationships? If it has, we need to apply the remedy in James 4:8-10. That is, we need to repent.

If we hope to have the mercy of God extended to us, we need to remove all the arrogant, prideful, self-indulgent barricades we have erected between us and His throne of grace.

God does not force us to repent. Repentance must be com-

pletely voluntary. True repentance on our parts reflects a total submission to God and His will—an unconditional surrender.

Only in a frame of mind of repentance and faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ are we able to have access to His throne and receive His loving grace—which makes that justification possible.

So, what about it? Are any of us holding grudges? Are any of us talking against someone else? James 4:11-12 warns: "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" (New King James).

As James makes clear, speaking evil of one another is sin. But some don't see any great problem with it. They feel they can set aside God's law, which condemns such conduct, and pass judgment on others, thereby also usurping God's prerogatives.

God takes the matter of speaking against others most seriously! Take time to review such verses as Psalm 50:20, Psalm 101:5, Romans 1:30, II Corinthians 12:20 and I Peter 2:1, just to name a few.

As we examine ourselves before Passover, let's look deeply into what is motivating us in the way we conduct our relationships with others. And let's remember that God looks on the heart, not just on the outward appearance.

God stands constantly ready to forgive us and extend His mercy to us. But we must stand ready to walk in the humility necessary to come before Him. Such hu-

mility is essential to all right relationships—between each of us as human beings and between ourselves and God.

Let's be willing to look at ourselves honestly and take whatever steps are necessary, with God's help, to begin the process of binding up old wounds.

Let's stand ready to forgive one another. Let's be willing to forbear one another. Let's take the initiative, in true godly humility, to strengthen all our relationships, instead of weakening them.

God's Spirit in us leads us to be peacemakers, not just peace wishers. The fruit of growing in love toward one another in the bond of peace will stand as undeniable evidence of our belief and devotion to the Gospel of Christ with which God has so richly blessed us.

Let's stand strong in the faith and remember to pray for those who are suffering various illnesses. Please also pray for me, especially in the many decisions I must make daily about God's Work.

P.S. Beginning with the April co-worker letter, we will no longer be sending *News of the Work*, the co-worker newsletter, to members.

As you may recall, it was originally planned that the newsletter would go only to co-workers, since members have already seen the material it contains in *The Worldwide News*.

We did decide to send it to members though, because it seemed at the time there was virtually no additional cost when one considers the time spent in separating the mailing, and we knew that members might enjoy

seeing what is sent to the co-workers.

Beginning with the April letter, however, I have decided to separate the mailing. Members will receive their letters addressed directly to them ("Dear Brethren"), and co-workers will receive their letters addressed directly to them ("Dear Co-Workers").

In this way, I will be free to mention things occasionally in the members' letters that I may not wish to in the co-workers' letter. Also, the co-workers will be able to receive a monthly letter and newsletter designed especially for them.

Now that several months have passed, I'm sure most brethren have had a chance to become quite familiar with the newsletter. Even though you no longer will receive it, you will be able to pray for it effectively and, of course, you will still be able to read everything it contains in *The Worldwide News*.

Spanish

(Continued from page 1)

Walkers visited with brethren, and Mr. Walker conducted Sabbath services Feb. 11.

Reginald Killingley, pastor of the Caracas and Barquisimeto, Venezuela, churches, conducted two *Plain Truth* Bible lectures while the Walkers were there. Fifty-six new people attended the first evening, and 30 new people attended the second evening.

"We are certainly experiencing very good growth," Mr. Walker said. "Last year we had a record 255 baptisms. That is a 15.6 percent increase in Spanish-speaking members."

Mr. Walker also visited Santa Marta, Colombia, which will be the 1989 Feast site in Colombia. The beachfront site featuring a family atmosphere will be open to English-speaking transfers. Watch *The Worldwide News* for more information.

After a visit to Bogota, Colombia, the Walkers returned to Pasadena Feb. 19.

Coordinators fine tune Feast

By Kerri Dowd

PASADENA—A continuing goal for the Feast of Tabernacles is "to encourage unity and a sense of belonging," said Joseph Tkach Jr., associate director of Church Administration for the United States.

Mr. Tkach Jr. addressed Festival coordinators from the United States, Canada, West Germany, the Caribbean, South America, the United Kingdom and the Italian and French offices here Feb. 15 and 16.

"The Feast is not just a time ... to have a wonderful time, but to worship God by learning to serve," he said.

Mr. Tkach Jr. termed last Feast a "spiritual milestone" with fewer problems noted, fewer complaints, more positive comments and greater unity, cooperation and service. "We pray that this will continue."

What's new this year

Consideration is being given to those members who suffer from severe allergies or environmental poisoning. Where possible, separate rooms will be set up for these brethren, and a list of sites with these facilities will be listed in *The Worldwide News*.

No Festival entertainment film is planned this year, and no literature gift is scheduled to be offered.

Children's choirs will perform one or two songs selected by the Music Department here. This will help any child who would like to participate to learn the song before arriving at the Feast site.

A list of suitable selections for adult choirs will be distributed to Festival choir directors.

Mount Pocono, Pa., will not be a

1989 Feast site.

Conference addresses

Mr. Tkach Jr. led a discussion of ideas for solving the typical difficulties that occur at the Feast sites.

Michael Fezell, personal assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, gave guidelines for planning social activities.

James Peoples, director of Computer Information Systems, Purchasing and Travel, spoke on using personal computers to organize the Feast.

Evangelist Leroy Neff, Church treasurer, and Fred Stevens, director of the Accounting Department, discussed financial matters and budget planning.

Dennis Van Deventer, director of Security & Safety, spoke on handling disturbances at services.

Larry Omasta, producer of *The World Tomorrow*, and John Prohs, manager of Technical Operations & Engineering, covered audiovisual presentations and sound reinforcements.

Mark McCulley, Festival administration manager, discussed the format for coordinators reports, telephone and office systems and miscellaneous areas.

Evangelist David Hulme, director of Communications & Public Affairs, conducted a session on public relations at Feast sites.

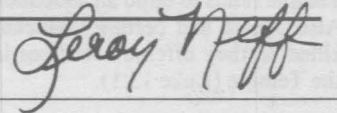
Five men received training in dealing with the press. "Others will be trained during other visits to Pasadena," said Mr. McCulley.

Mr. McCulley described the conference as "a roundtable of ideas." Many offered tips and suggestions from experiences at their Feast sites.

"There was a lot of information

sharing," Mr. McCulley said. "It added a little bit of fine tuning here and there to a very well-running piece of machinery."

Report from the Treasurer's Office



PASADENA—The disappointing negative income trend has continued through February. The month was 3.3 percent less than last February.

I reported a month ago that January ended with 9.4 percent less than January, 1988, so February has shown a slight improvement. The year-to-date income figure is now 6.7 percent less than last year.

The expense side of the ledger looks better than the income side. At present we are about \$300,000 under budget in expenses. However, the result of both income and expense figures is a negative cash flow. This means there has been a dramatic decrease in our comparatively modest financial reserves.

We believe a major factor is an increasing number of unemployed or underemployed people. We hope and pray that those who are employed will make up the difference by increased offerings. The Spring Holy Days are fast approaching. This will give all of us an opportunity in the Holy Day offering to express to God how much we believe He has blessed us.

On another subject, the 1988 audit by Arthur Andersen & Co. is under way. So far, most of the work has been preliminary. There is still much to do. We are hoping to complete the audit about the time of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

During February the annual Festival coordinators meeting took place in Pasadena. The business managers and assistants for all U.S. Feast sites and a few international sites were in attendance.

This gave the Financial Affairs & Planning area an opportunity to instruct and inform each person on how to conduct Feast business properly. Much work and attention to detail are necessary at each Festival location to properly record and document each transaction. After the Feast all of this information is added to the financial records in the main computer. As usual the meetings were very profitable for all of us in attendance.

From this brief report you should realize that our negative financial trend is serious, and requires our combined urgent prayers and concern.

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 65,500

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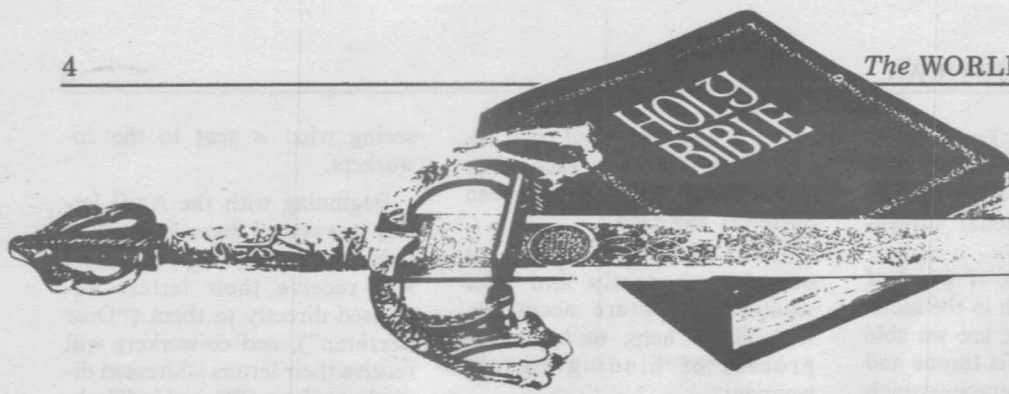
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IRON SHARPENS IRON

Spring Holy Days

Worst crime ever committed; how you and Pilate are alike

By Jerold W. Aust

The spring of A.D. 31 was a crucial time in man's history. The Jews were assembled in Jerusalem for the Passover season, and one among them, a man called Jesus, was about to be delivered to the Roman procurator under false charges.

Pontius Pilate was given charge of Judea by Emperor Tiberius in A.D. 26 and served until A.D. 36. Pilate's early background is unverifiable.

Jerold Aust is a Good News contributor and the associate pastor of the San Diego and Escondido, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., churches.

German legend indicates Pilate was an illegitimate son of Tyrus, king of Mayence (Mainz), who sent Pilate to Rome as a hostage. He allegedly committed a murder there and was sent to Pontus. There he subdued the barbarous tribes and was given the name of Pontius. Then he was sent to Judea.

Pilate offended the Jews more than once. According to Josephus, Pilate, upon his appointment, moved his army from Caesarea to Jerusalem. This was distasteful enough to the Jews.

But Pilate's soldiers took with them their standards, which bore the image of the emperor, into the holy city.

When the Jews saw these standards within sight of their Temple, they declared themselves ready for death rather than endure what they considered an idolatrous invasion. Pilate yielded and ordered the standards returned to Caesarea.

Pilate greatly offended the Jews when he hung golden shields bearing the names of his deities in his palace on Mount Zion. On another occasion he commandeered the Temple funds to build an aqueduct. Also, Pilate had certain Galileans killed as they offered sacrifices in the Temple (Luke 13:1).

Of course, to the Jews, no Roman ruler was acceptable.

Pilate's role in Jesus' death

The Jews had no civil authority to



kill Jesus. Nor did Pilate want to allow the Jews to manipulate him into

killing Jesus, especially after Pilate questioned Him. There were too many good reasons why he should not.

Pilate was impressed with Jesus' humble, wise and confident responses. These made him nervous, unsettled. In addition, Pilate's wife had a dream about Jesus and warned her husband not to be a part of this murderous scheme (Matthew 27:19).

But a bloodthirsty mob had brought Jesus to Pilate's palace, charging Jesus with blasphemy against their law. When he rejected this charge, they resorted to politics, accusing Jesus of assuming a royal title, perverting the nation and discouraging the payment of tribute to Rome (Luke 23:1-5).

If Pilate wouldn't accept their accusations according to their law, then perhaps a cause for condemna-

tion could be found in Roman law. Pilate was caught in a dilemma: He feared offending the Jews, but he was convinced Jesus was innocent. What to do?

Pilate questioned Jesus privately. When he found nothing for which Jesus could be condemned, he returned and declared this to the Jews (John 18:33-38). They claimed Jesus' teachings had stirred up trouble from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke 23:5).

Herod Antipas, the Galilean tetrarch, happened to be in town. Pilate decided to refer the case to him, but Herod and his troops only mocked Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate (Luke 23:6-11).

Pilate was compelled to come to a decision. After assembling the chief priests and people, he announced that Jesus had done nothing worthy of death. Then, to try to appease the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious leaders, Pilate offered to scourge Jesus before releasing Him.

This the Jews rejected. They demanded that Pilate honor their Passover by releasing a condemned criminal. Pilate therefore offered either a murderer by the name of

Barabbas or the prophet Jesus.

The mob demanded that Barabbas be released and that Jesus be executed (Luke 23:13-23).

They accused Pilate, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend" (John 19:12, New King James).

Wash away own guilt?

Now Pilate attempted to absolve himself from his part in the greatest crime this world has ever witnessed. He attempted to wash away his guilt in the unjust death of our Savior.

In a vain effort to dissuade the crazed mob, Pilate ceremonially washed his hands in water. "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person," Pilate declared. "You see to it" (Matthew 27:24, NKJ).

Pilate's political success was more important to him than the innocent life of Jesus, who could be sacrificed. Pilate delivered Jesus to an excruciating death.

The lesson for us

There's a lesson for us in Pilate's example.

Here was a man who worked hard (See **PILATE**, page 5)

Are you prepared to take the Passover?

By George M. Kackos

Soon you will be taking the Passover—the unleavened bread and wine symbolic of Jesus Christ's broken body and shed blood.

But how well prepared will you be? Will you really be ready?

George M. Kackos, pastor of the Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Mich., churches, is a regular contributor to The Good News.

If you're like most people, many different areas of life demand your time and attention. It is easy to have the Passover arrive before you are really ready for it. To avoid this, God says, "But let a man examine [prepare] himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup" (I Corinthians 11:28).

To help you prepare, here are

some things you can do to greatly increase the spiritual value of this important Festival, making it more personally meaningful than you may have thought possible:

● **Picture Jesus' sacrifice.** Have you deeply thought of what it was like for Jesus Christ to die? How did He feel when He was betrayed? Falsely accused? Spit upon? Ridiculed? Viciously beaten? Mercilessly nailed to a stake? Cut off from His Father?

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies about these events; the New Testament shows their fulfillment. By studying these scriptures you can recreate a vivid picture of Christ's sacrifice and relive the final events in His earthly life.

Think what it was like when Jesus kept His last Passover. Watch as He is condemned by the Pharisees and

priests. Agonize as He is spit upon, beaten, then nailed to a stake. Ponder His almost incomprehensible love as He cries out, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

When you picture Jesus' sacrifice this way, you will gain a greater appreciation of what it meant. This will help you give thanks for the Passover symbols (Luke 22:17,19).

● **Understand the symbols.** Jesus said, "Whosoever eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the



last day" (John 6:54). Both symbols—the bread, depicting Jesus' flesh, and wine, picturing His blood—pertain to eternal life (Matthew 26:26-29).

Through the shed blood of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). For it pleased the Father . . . having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him [Jesus Christ] to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:19-20).

Partaking of Christ's flesh, symbolized by His broken body, pictures Christ living His life over in us through the Holy Spirit (John 6:57, Romans 8:9-10). When Christ lives in us, we will follow Christ's example of suffering for righteousness (I Peter 2:21-22). We will do what is needed to prepare for life in God's Kingdom (Romans 8:17).

● **Inventory your life.** What is your life like in the light of Christ's sacrifice? Do you go to God daily for forgiveness? Are you letting Christ live His life over in you? Or do you callously ignore this greatest sacrifice in all history?

Now is the time to microscopically look at your life. Do you recognize ever-present sin in your life? Are you quick to repent of it? Do you confess each and every sin?

Are you trying hard to live a sinless life? Are you willing to suffer for righteousness?

● **Examine God's way of life.** Look into His law. Review the Ten Commandments. Go over the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:7-23). Analyze the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Are these areas where you need to repent and seek forgiveness?

● **Fast and pray.** These are powerful tools that can give you the right understanding and proper attitude to effectively take the Passover.

Pray in great detail with Passover preparation in mind. Ask for help to deeply understand and appreciate the sacrifice of Christ. Seek God's help to see your sins as they really are and not as you think they are.

Go beyond prayer by setting aside at least one day for fasting. If you are still ensnared by ongoing sin, you should commit to fasting even more. Focus your attention on Christ's sacrifice and your spiritual condition.

Look deeply into what He did—how He lived and how He died—and into what He is doing now and what God requires of you. Consider areas where your life needs to change.

● **Think about it.** Jesus Christ gave totally of Himself to make our Passover possible. He held nothing back. Are you holding back from overcoming? See Hebrews 10:38. With that in mind, let's sacrifice ourselves (Romans 12:1) in preparation for the Passover. Let's show God how much we appreciate the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, by taking thoughtful time to prepare for this sacred festival.

BE READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER

THE MIND OF CHRIST

The Bible is the Word of God in print (II Timothy 3:16). Christ is the Word of God in spirit and was the Word in the flesh (John 1:1).

- The Bible shows us what the mind of Christ is.
- We are to develop the mind of Christ (I Pet. 4:1, Phil. 2:5). To do this we must search the Bible to see how Christ thinks and begin to think and act like He does.
- We show love toward God by keeping His commandments (John 14:15).
- Mere obedience is not enough. God must be first in our lives (Mark 10:17-22).
- Obedience must be based on sincere love toward God (Mark 12:30, Rom. 12:9).
- We must commit our lives to God (Ps. 37:5).
- Through the Holy Spirit God gives us a new heart (Deut. 30:6, Heb. 8:10).
- God is love (I John 4:8).
- We must love one another (Mark 12:31, I John 4:7-8, 11).
- We must love ourselves (Matt. 22:39).
- We must love our enemies and not seek vengeance (Matt. 5:43-44, Rom. 12:17-21).
- God hates evil (Rom. 12:9), but loves the sinner (John 8:2-11, Luke 7:36-50).

- God doesn't deal with us according to our sins (Ps. 103:10).
- He forgives, holding no grudges against repentant sinners (Matt. 6:14-15, Rom. 8:1).
- He looks on the heart (I Sam. 16:7).
- Christ is:**
 - Our Creator (Col. 1:16).
 - The captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10).
 - Our Elder Brother (verse 11).
 - Our friend (John 15:15).
 - Our high priest (Heb. 4:15).
- A Christian:**
 - Has the spirit of power, love and a sound mind (I Tim. 2:7).
 - Desires righteousness (Matt. 5:6).
 - Does not condone sin (Num. 14:18).
 - Loves enough to rebuke (Lev. 19:17).
 - Does not gossip (verse 16).
 - Does not sow discord (Prov. 6:19).
 - Is a peacemaker (verse 9).
 - Is hospitable (Rom. 12:13).
 - Goes to his brother alone when wronged (Matt. 18:15-17).
 - Keeps commitments (Ps. 15:4).
 - Doesn't seek his own will (John 5:30).

Don't let housecleaning tasks overwhelm spiritual significance

By Clayton Steep

Once again the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread are approaching. Each year our attention turns to the biblical instructions concerning leaven.

Clayton Steep is a senior writer for The Plain Truth.

Exodus 13:7, for example, says: "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters" (New King James throughout).

That is what God's Word says. What we are to do is clear. How we are to do it, however, is not spelled out in detail in the Scriptures. We have to determine this by looking at the spiritual principles involved.

Exhausting task?

One person commented: "I really look forward to the Fall Holy Day season, but I must confess my enthusiasm for the Spring Holy Days is dampened by the prospect of the mammoth housecleaning job, looking for leaven. There is the house, the car, the garage. It is an exhausting task I have to begin weeks ahead of time!"

This person is like others who are dedicated to ridding their dwellings of leaven and leavened products. Each year some spend more hours looking for crumbs than they spend praying and studying in preparation for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Because of this, and because of physical preparations for the Night to Be Much Observed in addition, by the time Passover evening arrives they feel tired, perhaps even ill, mentally dull and spiritually unprepared to profit fully from the Passover service or the first Holy Day.

But as for their houses, they are "deleavened"!

This is one extreme. Surely it is not difficult to see that something is out of proportion here.

God certainly doesn't care more about minute physical crumbs in our houses than he does about our spiritual readiness to partake of the Passover and observe His Holy Days in close contact with Him.

To the other extreme are those who exert little if any real effort to clean the leaven out of their dwellings. They toss out the bread and the baking soda and that's about it.

Sad to say, they are missing out on impressing upon their character some valuable lessons and analogies about becoming free of sin.

Strive for balance

It is obvious that what we need to strive for here, as in so many other areas of life, is balance. How should we as Christians arrive at the right balance in this matter?

First, we have to realize something about the average dwelling. It is virtually impossible to perfectly rid the average dwelling of every microscopic trace of leavened products.

Maybe you are an extraordinary person. Maybe your dwelling place is new, you live alone and you don't allow guests to eat anything leavened on your property. Throughout the year you eat leavened products only in the kitchen.

In that case perhaps you can do a near-perfect job of deleavening your place. Perhaps. But how do you know that a worker didn't drop some of his sandwich under the carpet? Or a bird may have left a piece of crust on your roof. Or ants may have dragged crumbs inside your wall.

The more traffic in your house or apartment, the greater the chances are of traces of leavening or leavened products being scattered far and wide in the most unlikely places. Especially is this true where children are involved.

Thus, in spite of the most heroic measures—washing the walls, taking apart the toaster and the oven door, inserting the vacuum cleaner into every pocket of every piece of clothing, cleaning out the furnace vents and the sink drainage pipe, pulling the seats out of the car—the odds are stacked against you.

What the Bible says is, "No leavened bread shall be seen among you." "Bread" is just that. No one points to two tiny crumbs and exclaims, "Oh look, bread!" Those are crumbs, which the Bible nowhere specifically mentions in connection with the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Bread is a loaf or a recognizable piece of a loaf. This, plus any leavening agents, ought to be put out.

And, in keeping with the spirit and lesson of these days, when you find crumbs they too ought to be

cleaned up. Some effort should be put into this. A lack of effort symbolizes an indifferent attitude toward sin that can keep a person out of the Kingdom.

Spiritual preparation

But we need not spend hour after hour that should be devoted to spiritual preparation and renewing a right relationship with God, looking for every last microscopic crumb.

Let us note where God places the emphasis. He does not emphasize the days leading up to the Days of Unleavened Bread as much as he emphasizes the Days of Unleavened Bread themselves.

The most frequently given instruction in the Bible for how to observe these days does not concern a prolonged preliminary period of putting out leaven, though we should of course put it out, but rather: Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread (Exodus 13:6-7; 23:15; 34:18; Leviticus 23:6; Numbers 28:17; Deuteronomy 16:3).

In other words, when we eat bread during this period, it should

be unleavened. And we should eat it with understanding, because we have taken the time to study its symbolism.

We should by all means rid our dwellings of all obvious leaven and leavened products and those crumbs that are plainly visible. Then we should spend some time looking for hidden crumbs.

How much time? Enough to impress on our minds the lesson that sin is subtle and often hidden, that getting rid of it requires effort.

And after all our best effort, we still fall short. Only God can cleanse us completely of sin and make us perfect.

Exactly how far to go and how much time to spend searching for physical leaven must be an individual decision. Just remember that Jesus denounced on the one hand failure to obey instructions from God (Luke 6:46) and on the other, the attitude of making a fetish of physically cleansing certain objects, to the neglect of spiritual interests (Matthew 23:24-28, Mark 7:1-23).

It does not make sense to spend more time working on cleaning out physical crumbs than on cleaning spiritual leavening out of our lives. To the other extreme, we must not give too little attention to the beautiful and meaningful act of putting out physical leaven as a type of sin.

It should also be pointed out that

these are not the Days of Spring Housecleaning.

If you wish to do spring housecleaning at this time, that is up to you. However, be careful not to let an undertaking such as a major housecleaning job overwhelm and interfere with the spiritual lessons of putting out leaven and leavened products and getting ready for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

Nor should the deleavening process be left totally for the woman of the house to do. The husband and children should take part too so they can all impress on their minds the lesson of what is being done.

Helping others

Some have wondered if it is appropriate to let others help them deleaven their premises, especially if they are not physically able to do an adequate job.

The answer is yes, of course. We all have plenty of help from the ministry and the Church in putting sin out of our lives. Why not accept help putting out the leaven that at this season typifies sin?

The Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread are rich in profound meaning. We are privileged to understand their great spiritual significance. Let us profit fully from this knowledge.

Unleavened Bread pictures Christ's life

By Michael D. Morrison

The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures putting sin out of our lives, keeping God's commandments, living righteously. We hear sermons on this every year. The Church's booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* stresses this meaning.

But there is another aspect to this Feast—a sometimes overlooked aspect of putting sin out of our lives. This additional meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread gives a properly balanced perspective to putting sin out of our lives.

Michael D. Morrison is an associate editor for The Good News.

In the aforementioned booklet, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: "The seven days of Unleavened Bread . . . picture the life and work of the risen Christ—who ascended to the throne of God where He is now actively at work in our behalf as our High Priest, cleansing us of sin—delivering us completely from its power!" This Festival pictures the risen, resurrected Christ.

The firstfruits wave offering

The Feast of Unleavened Bread pictures the life and work of our resurrected Savior. How? Let's notice an Old Testament ceremony that was performed during this Feast.

In Leviticus 23:10-11, God commanded the ancient Israelites: "When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof [which they would do every spring], then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it."

Paul makes it clear who corresponds to this first-of-the-firstfruits wave offering: "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20).

True Christians are also firstfruits (James 1:18). Since they will be in the first resurrection, the results of God's first spiritual harvest, they are correctly termed *firstfruits*, and are pictured by the Feast of Firstfruits. Christ, resurrected more than 1,900 years before, was

the "first of the firstfruits."

In ancient Israel, the first of the firstfruits was waved to be accepted by God on the Sunday during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And when did Christ rise into heaven to be accepted by God? On the Sun-



day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, A.D. 31.

Early that Sunday morning, the resurrected Christ told Mary Magdalene, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my father" (John 20:17). But later that same Sunday, He did allow His disciples to touch Him (Matthew 28:9, John 20:19, 27).

Christ ascended to heaven and was accepted by His Father as a sinless sacrifice, the first of the spiritual firstfruits, on the same day the

Levitical priests made the first-of-the-firstfruits wave offering.

Christ, who was completely sinless, was resurrected into God's Family during the festival that pictures the absence of sin. Therefore the Feast of Unleavened Bread not only pictures putting sin out of our lives, but, through the symbolism of the first-of-the-firstfruits wave offerings, also pictures the living Christ.

Our living Savior

Christ's death does not save us—we must be saved by His life (Romans 5:10). It is through the living Christ that we can have contact with God the Father, and access to His Spirit and eternal life.

We are saved by Christ's life in two ways: (1) Our living Savior intercedes for us, allowing sins to be forgiven, and (2) He lives in us, strengthening and empowering us with God's Spirit, helping us overcome sin.

How can Christians be forgiven sins committed after baptism? John tells us: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness . . . we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 1:9,2:1).

Christ, our living High Priest, can empathize with our weaknesses because He, as the human Jesus,

was tempted just as we are. Through Him we can come boldly to God's throne and find grace, mercy, forgiveness and the help we need (Hebrews 4:14-16).

We can do all things—overcome all sin—through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). It is the living Christ who gives us the spiritual power we need to be able to overcome sin! Without Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). He must live in us (Galatians 2:20), giving us the faith, courage, love and self-control to put sin out of our lives.

We do not—cannot—put sin out of our lives by human power alone. It's not just us trying to keep God's commandments. It is the living Christ in us, keeping His Father's commandments, just as He kept them while He was a human more than 1,900 years ago.

We cannot boast about "our" righteousness—we have none. It is God's righteousness—Christ's righteousness—God's character. The credit goes to God. Our part is allowing Christ to do His job in us.

Let's allow Christ to put sin out of our lives. Let's remember our living Savior is cleansing us of sin and living in us. Let us strive to yield and be led by His Spirit into the unleavened attitudes and actions of true Christianity.

Pilate

(Continued from page 4)

to get ahead in the world. To survive politically in Jerusalem and Judea, the appointed governor had to be well versed in both Roman and Jewish law.

He was to be fair and win the populace over as well as he could. He was expected to keep the peace regardless of his personal prejudices. When an insurrection developed, he had to put it down, and he was given the power to do it.

But one thing could not be avoided, even in the face of the awesome power of the Roman Empire: Pilate was still a man and, as a man, he was given to the inherent weaknesses that make up human nature.

Pilate did not understand God's purpose for mankind. The blood of Jesus Christ had to be shed to pay

for the sins of humans.

Pilate did not perceive that he was part of the reason Jesus had to die. He was sinful, like everyone else (Romans 3:23). He had not yet repented of his sins. The penalty of eternal death was hanging over Pilate's head. Without the atoning sacrifice of Christ, that penalty would claim his life, forever (Romans 6:23).

Mankind is in the same state. Pilate tried to wash his hands of his responsibility and his guilt. Would you try to do the same?

What the world must learn

Pilate might have been respected by other Roman politicians and by his soldiers. But to God, Pilate was a man trapped in his own sins, condemned to death. He had to be rescued from his own sins, from the world and from Satan his jailer.

No amount of water or words

could deliver him. He needed to be reconciled to God in heaven.

Like you and me.

Pilate was not innocent of the blood of Jesus. He was guilty of it. And Pilate represents us. One day, when Christ Jesus resurrects Pontius Pilate from the dead, he will learn this.

But we can learn this today. If we repent of our sins, have faith toward God and are baptized, we can receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit—the power to change (Acts 2:38).

Then, through continual overcoming until the end of our physical lives, we can join Christ (Revelation 2:26) when He resurrects a guilty Pontius Pilate and the rest of the humans guilty of causing His blood to have to be shed.

At that time Christ will reveal to the rest of mankind the truth we are receiving now, and all of humanity can begin to fulfill its potential.

ANNIVERSARIES

(Continued from page 6)

Scott, Jill, Dawn and Leah; and nine grandchildren, Matthew, Katie, Sarah and Gracie Tracey, Michael and Scott McSparron and Leslie, Laura and Stacey Cyman. Mrs. Tracey was baptized in 1969, and Mr. Tracey in 1972. Scott, Dawn and Leah are also Church members. Mrs. Tracey's mother, Violet Houghton, and brother, Ken, also attend services.

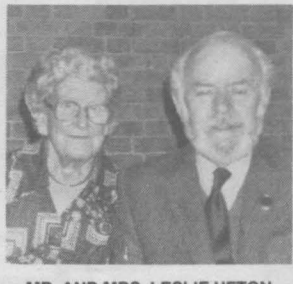


MR. AND MRS. DUANE ROGERS

Duane and Barbara Rogers of Tucson, Ariz., celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Sept. 12. The Rogers' three married children and their spouses are Diane

and Ken Hill, Rhonda and Vince Barnes, and Geri-lyn and Jim Jutson. They have two other children, Michael Duane and Joy, and two grandchildren, Brandon and Jaimie Hill, who attend services with their parents.

ANNIVERSARIES MADE OF GOLD



MR. AND MRS. LESLIE UFTON

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Ufton of Nottingham, England, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the Sabbath, Jan. 7. The Nottingham church organized a dance in their honor. Music was provided by Steel and

Velvet, a Church band. Mr. Ufton was baptized in 1985, and Mrs. Ufton attends services. The couple have four sons and six grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

HADDOCK, Hoyt S., 81, of Baltimore, Md., died Jan. 17 after a lengthy illness. Mr. Haddock, a Church member since November, 1985, is survived by a daughter and four sisters.

BEADLE, Andrew M., 1 month, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., died Nov. 8, 1988, of sudden infant death syndrome (crib death). He was born Oct. 7 and is survived by his parents, Richard and Diane Beadle, both Church members since 1983; two sisters, Nicole, 5, and Danielle, 3; and his maternal grandparents, Emile and Rita Grenier.

WARD, Edna Irene, 74, of Gloucester, England, died Jan. 7. Mrs. Ward, a Church member since 1971, is survived by her husband, Jack, five sons, one daughter and 13 grandchildren.

NEHK, Kerry Michael, 13, of Big Sandy died Feb. 6 after his appendix ruptured. Kerry is survived by his parents, Michael and Debbie; two sisters, Laurie and Kathryn; one brother, Jonathan; and other relatives.

GOODE, Flora Winifred, 86, of Birmingham, England, died Dec. 15, 1988, after a stroke

and several years of ill health. Mrs. Goode, a Church member since 1964, is survived by three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

BROWN, Carl Nelson, 73, of Shoemakersville, Pa., died Jan. 16 after a short illness. Mr. Brown, a Church member since 1985, is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

BILMER, Leonard, 76, of Cornwall, Ont., died Jan. 25 after a lengthy bout with emphysema. He is survived by his wife, Ethel; a sister-in-law, Vivian Gadbois; and two nephews, Tim and Don Gadbois; all Church members.

MONROE, George Harold, of Smyrna, Ga., died Aug. 25, 1988, three years after a paralyzing stroke. Mr. Monroe, a Church member since 1969, began a service that has produced more than 60,000 name badges for brethren around the world. He is survived by his wife, Leo, two daughters, one son and three grandchildren.

FOSS, M. Fern, 94, of Venice, Fla., died Jan. 7. Miss Foss has been a Church member since 1971.

HAY, Thora, 78, of Winnipeg, Man., died Jan. 28 of cancer. Mrs. Hay, a Church member since 1982, was predeceased by her husband and has no survivors.

LUECHTEFELD, Norbert E., 53, of Vienna, Mo., died Dec. 6, 1988, from complications of diabetes. Mr. Luechtefeld, a Church

member since 1968, is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a son, Ray; two daughters, Susan Luechtefeld and Joan Olson; a son-in-law, Nathan Olson; and his mother-in-law, Flora Humphrey; all of whom attend Sabbath services. Mr. Luechtefeld is also survived by four brothers and two sisters.

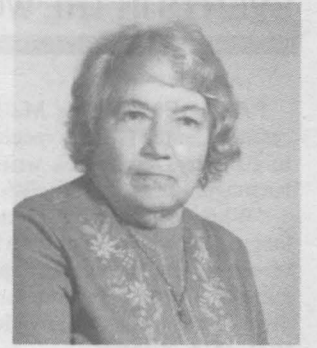


HENRIETTA LUCAS

LUCAS, Henrietta, 93, of Barrie, Ont., died Feb. 6 of congestive heart failure. Mrs. Lucas, a Church member since 1968, attended services although she did not understand English. She also received sermon tapes from the Netherlands. Mrs. Lucas is survived by two daughters, Jane Helmus and Jennie Houter; two sons, John and Garry, a local church elder; one son-in-law; one daughter-in-law; 17 grandchildren; 28

great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

JUDY, Harry T., 75, of Trout, W.Va., died Jan. 12 after a long illness. Mr. Judy, a Church member since 1983, is survived by his wife, June, four daughters, two sons, one sister, 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



MONICA WHITNEY

WHITNEY, Monica, 75, of Toronto, Ont., died Dec. 18, 1988, after a brief battle with cancer. Mrs. Whitney, a Church member since 1968, is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Judy Whitney.

Church News Clips

• Young adults from the Marseille, France, church participated in a historical outing to the papal palace in Avignon, France, Feb. 5. The medieval castle was the residence of Roman Catholic popes in the 1300s and of two French popes in the late 14th and early 15th centuries.

• Evangelist Larry Salyer was guest speaker at a winter camp for more than 100 Church youths Dec. 21 to 26 at Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park, Colo. The program, sponsored by the Denver and Colorado Springs, Colo., churches, included skiing and instruction.

• Three hundred forty-six singles from the United States and Canada attended the ninth annual *Gemuettlichkeit* weekend in Waukesha, Wis., Dec. 23 to 26. The theme of Bible studies and social activities was "Being Positive Christians."

• Nine men graduated from the Grafton, Australia, Spokesman Club Dec. 3. These graduates, the first in the history of the club, are Peter Weatherhead, Lloyd Ricketts, Alan Stokes, Philip and Bill Mawhinney, Howard Werry, Robert Reeves, Reg Brookhouse and Don Wall.

• Singles from northern West Germany met singles from East Germany in East Berlin Dec. 25 and 26. The group visited the television tower, viewed works of art and attended a performance at a theater.

• Forty-five people from the Indianapolis, Ind., church participated in a YOU trip to Washington, D.C., Dec. 25 to 30. They visited Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington; the White House; the Capitol; and several museums of the Smithsonian Institution. The youths prepared name tags for a Jan. 8 senior citizens tea while traveling to and from Washington.



PHILIPPINE CAMPERS—Serizalino Dizon, assistant pastor of the San Pedro and Imus, Philippines, churches, and his wife, Teresa; and YES-age children and toddlers pose for souvenir photographs during a church camp-out in Tagaytay, 60 miles south of Manila, Dec. 24 and 25. The campsite overlooks Taal Lake and a volcano. [Photos by Rafael Uy]

Children's Corner

Kathy's Surprises

By Vivian Pettijohn

"Oh Mommy," Kathy pleaded. "I don't want to miss third grade today. I don't feel very sick, so can't I go to school?"

"No," Mother answered, "when a person has anything contagious it isn't right to expose others to it. Now back to bed. I'll fix some fresh orange juice and bring it to you."

"With the boys at school and Daddy at work, it's quiet and you should get some extra sleep."

"But I don't want to sleep," Kathy complained. "I wanted to be there today when Miss Jones chooses her classroom helpers for next week."

"I'm sorry, honey, but you need to relax and rest."

As Mother left Kathy's bedroom she added, "I have a project to work on this morning, and if you'll rest quietly in bed until lunchtime, I'll have a surprise for you this afternoon."

Kathy climbed back into bed. What could the surprise be?

After a nap and lunch, Kathy fidgeted. "What is my surprise, Mommy? Is it a paint set I can play with at my desk?"

"How could you do anything at your desk?" Mother asked, laughing. "You haven't cleared it off for so long I hardly remember what color the desk top is. Why don't you clear it off now?"



Artwork to color by Ken Tunell

"But what about the surprise?" Kathy asked sadly. "I can clear off my desk later."

"Well," Mother said, "in the first place, your surprise won't fit on your desk until you've cleared it off, so you'll have to do that first."

Kathy trudged back to her bedroom. What was it that was so big it wouldn't fit on her desk? When she looked at the cluttered desk she understood. Hardly a toothpick would fit

on it now.

She started the task. Soon she found her blue sweater and some white socks and put them away. Then she stacked all of her art supplies neatly on the left side and her school papers and Youth Educational Services lessons on the right side.

She put a long-lost letter from her cousin Amy in Tennessee at the top of the desk. Kathy grinned as the color of her desk emerged. It was brown with a

white blotter on it.

"Mommy," Kathy called, "I've cleaned off my desk."

Virginia Winfield came in, carrying three empty cardboard boxes. "It looks wonderful honey," she said. "And to help you keep it that way, here is your surprise gift."

"Oh, Mommy, they're beautiful," Kathy said, hugging her mother. The boxes, covered with the same pink and white wallpaper as Kathy's bedroom, were labeled "Art Supplies," "School Papers and YES Lessons" and "Stationery and Mail."

"It will be fun to keep everything where it belongs," Kathy said.

When she put her papers and supplies into their new homes and lifted the filled boxes onto the shelf above her desk, the desk was empty.

Then Mother returned with still another surprise—a new jigsaw puzzle with a picture of three cute kittens. And Kathy had a nice, clean desk to put it on.

Just then the telephone rang. Mother rushed to answer it and then came back to Kathy's room. "That was your teacher. She said to tell you that everyone missed you and to hurry and get well. And she wants you to be a helper next week."

"Wow," said Kathy. "Being sick is no fun—but surprises are."

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

UPDATE

PASADENA—The Mail Processing Center (MPC) receives 10 to 20 letters each week written in languages other than English.

"When MPC receives a letter in a language in which we publish literature, it is forwarded to the appropriate office or department for handling," said evangelist **Richard Rice**, MPC director.

MPC relies on the language skills of Church employees and Ambassador College students for translating letters written in other languages. MPC has processed letters

in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Korean, Chinese, Polish, Russian, Thai and Ukrainian.

If no one can translate the letter, MPC notifies the writer (usually in English) and lists the languages in which *The Plain Truth* is published. Occasionally an intermediary language, such as French for former French colonies, is used.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—The Youth Opportunities United (YOU) office in Church Administration announced the results of the 1987-88 International Songwriting Contest.

Gold level awards went to **Mark Bastian** and **Andrew Bittner** of Trenton, N.J., for their song "To My Friend, Jay Elledge"; **Austin Deptula** of Lufkin, Tex., for "Flight"; and **Dan Schnee** of North Battleford, Sask., for "Escape" and "One Day."

Honorable mentions went to **Matthias Jahnke**, West Germany; **Friedel Tuerling**, Luegde, West Germany; **Joel Gehman**, Amarillo, Tex.; **Melanie Mayer**, St. Cloud, Minn.; **Marcy Litz**, St. Paul, Minn.; and **Jane Ozanne**, Ipswich, Australia.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—**Thomas Lapacka**, assistant director of media purchasing, attended the National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) convention in Houston, Tex., Jan. 23 and 24.

Each year the NATPE conducts

a national convention where television executives view new programming and review changes in the U.S. television market.

A main theme at the convention was 'trash television,' a term that describes certain American programs dealing exclusively with sensational issues.

The keynote speech, delivered by **Michael Eisner** of Walt Disney Productions, stressed the need for quality programming. Mr. Eisner commented that quality is that which endures the test of time. In the final analysis, he said, quality programming is what the public wants.

"The theme of the keynote address points up that *The World Tomorrow* is in an excellent position," said evangelist **David Hulme**, director of Communications & Public Affairs.

Mr. Lapacka and officials of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn (BBDO) talked "privately with several key television executives about *The World Tomorrow*," Mr. Hulme said.

"This type of contact enables us to closely monitor the overall media purchasing environment and helps prevent or resolve potential problems."

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—The Festival Office announced that the Feast site in Amman, Jordan, has reached capacity. No further transfer applications can be accepted.

★ ★ ★

BIG SANDY—The Chamber of Commerce here honored **Verna Parish**, **Ruth Walter** and **Wilmer E. Parrish**, three Ambassador College faculty members, at its Third Annual Awards Banquet Jan. 19.

Dr. Parish, professor of English, was recognized for 54 years of service in the field of education; Mrs.



AWARD WINNERS—From left: Wilmer Parrish, Verna Parish and Ruth Walter, Big Sandy Ambassador College faculty members, display awards they received at the Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce awards banquet Jan. 19. [Photo by Ian Bearman]

Walter, professor of music, received a plaque designating her as educator of the year; and Dr. Parrish, professor emeritus and medical consultant for the college, was recognized for 30 years of service in the field of medicine.

★ ★ ★

BOREHAMWOOD, England—The first of four newspaper advertisements for *The Plain Truth* in Ireland appeared in the *Evening Press* Feb. 1.

"This is the first time the British Office has tested four-color page advertising in a newspaper, so the response figures are awaited with even greater interest than usual," said evangelist **Frank Brown**, regional director.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA—U.S. residents

may substitute a personal check for \$25 to pay international Festival application fees for southern Africa, United Kingdom, Denmark, East and West Africa, Australia and Asia, according to the Festival Office here.

These personal checks would be in place of the international money order or bank draft suggested for these sites. They should be made payable to the Worldwide Church of God.

Applications to the above sites with fees sent in the form of a personal check will go through an extra stage of processing in Pasadena before the applications are sent on to the regional offices involved. Applications with an international draft will not be delayed by that extra stage of processing.

No application fee is required for the Feast site in Penang, Malaysia.

Unrest erupts in Venezuela

By Kerri Dowd

CARACAS, Venezuela—All members "seem to be fine" after riots broke out Feb. 27 over a 90 percent increase in gasoline prices, Reginald Killingley, pastor of the Caracas and Barquisimeto churches, told *The Worldwide News*.

At least 300 were killed in eight cities. "I can hear sporadic gunfire even from my apartment," Mr. Killingley said.

The riots prompted the government to suspend the rights of free speech and free assembly in Venezuela.

Because of the suspension of free assembly, Church members were unable to meet Feb. 28 to view a video of the *World Tomorrow* telecast. Sabbath services in both church areas were canceled March 4, Mr. Killingley said.

He said that most members are not in the areas where violence is occurring, and most of the members will stay at home until the riots cease.

A curfew was in force between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., until further notice. "Last week the president announced a whole new package of economic measures," he said. "Prices rose from about 18 cents a gallon for the highest octane gasoline to about 35 cents a gallon.

"That's cheap by world standards, but quite an adjustment for Venezuelans. They haven't suffered the economic problems that other countries have . . .

"It's a severe tightening of the belt . . . Prices went up nearly 100 percent almost overnight, and salaries will not go up anything like that percentage . . .

"Monday [Feb. 27] was the first day with the new prices. Bus fares were increased, but bus companies complained that the increase didn't cover their costs and began charging more.

"People began burning vehicles, throwing stones, breaking windows and looting stores. From what I've heard, there haven't been riots like these in 30 years."

Because of the curfew, businesses are operating with shortened hours. "There are long lines at the stores that were not looted," Mr. Killingley said. "Some are having to wait in line for three or four hours, and many of the shelves are empty. Food has had to be airlifted into the city because of the looting and the slowdown of transport. I feel there seems to be a lot of panic buying as well."

Mr. Killingley said March 2 that the situation was beginning to improve.

FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

"That also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

PASADENA—In the Philippines "the general stability during 1988 provided the background for another fruitful year for God's Work," reported Rodney Matthews, Philippine regional director.

"The 19-year-old communist insurgency continued, although the intensity of the fighting decreased somewhat as the government seemed to make progress in its effort to reduce the rebel threat," Mr. Matthews added.

"However, the end of 1988 saw renewed violence in Mindanao caused by restive elements."

Incoming mail set a yearly record with 381,902 pieces received, an 8.8 percent increase over 1987.

Mail in 1988 from new people totaled 47,315 letters, "providing a sizable base for future growth."

Almost a half million letters and booklets were mailed from the regional office last year, not including Church periodicals.

Response to *The World Tomorrow*, which is televised nationally on the GMA network, increased by 2.6 percent in 1988. The cost-per-response figure "continues to be very favorable," said Mr. Matthews.

Sabbath service attendance reached a record of 4,183 in May. Feast of Tabernacles attendance also set a record at 5,221.

Philippine year-end membership stood at 2,557, a 9.8 percent increase over the previous year. There are 52 congregations and 10 outlying Bible studies.

"God blessed His Work in the Philippines in 1988 with an overall 31.2 percent increase" in income,

said the regional director. Holy Day offerings rose 29.3 percent.

Full-time ministers and their wives met last March for a week-long conference in Tagaytay. It was the first time since the end of the Ministerial Education Program by evangelist Dean Blackwell in 1985 in Baguio that the ministers and their wives met in one location.

For the fourth time, a Summer Educational Program (SEP) took place in Baguio in May.

Mr. Matthews visited Japan three times in 1988. At year's end 12 members lived in Japan, along with two prospective members.

Lone members live on the islands of Yap, Guam and Saipan. A prospective member lives on Ponape in the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The highlight of the year was, undoubtedly, the visit of Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach to the region in mid-December," Mr. Matthews said.

South Africa

The Cape Town, South Africa, Office reported that incoming mail for 1988 topped the previous year by 47.2 percent.

"The large increase in incoming mail is partly explained by the responses to the 800,000 direct-mail letters sent out during the year," said evangelist Leslie McCullough, regional director.

The 10,000 copies of *The Plain Truth* printed in Harare, Zimbabwe, each month will be transferred to the South African print order at Cape and Transvaal Printers.

"It has become increasingly difficult for our Zimbabwean printers to secure stocks of suitable quality paper," said Mr. McCullough.

The year finished on "a very positive note" with income exceeding the 1987 figure by 17.6 percent, about "twice the budgeted increase," said the regional director.

Plain Truth lectures in Umtata, Transkei, were conducted Jan. 20 and 21 by Ronald Stoddart, pastor of the Port Elizabeth and East London, South Africa, churches.

Besides members, 18 new people attended the first lecture, and the next day 22 more came, representing a 6.5 percent response.

Among those attending were government and health officials, several nurses, teachers and a soldier.

Mr. Stoddart spoke on John the Baptist's commission and putting God's laws into practice.

"The Umtata area is growing well, and it is possible that regular services will need to be held there in the near future," said Mr. McCullough.

German Office

With the help of office employees and Church volunteers the mail processing, postal, accounting and computer services sections of the German Office were moved to a new location in January.

The new location is a 10-minute drive from the office on Poppelsdorfer Allee in Bonn, which continues to house the other departments.

The Church rents the entire second story of a five-story office building. A newly refurbished interior provides a modern, practical and pleasant environment, said John Karlson, regional director.

Martin Fekete, a local elder and assistant to Mr. Karlson, coordinated the project. Mr. Fekete was transferred to work full time in the Bonn-Duesseldorf, West Germany, church, after attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena in February.

An inaugural celebration for the new office was conducted Jan. 25. Mark Schnee, office supervisor, led a tour.

New trainee

Matthew and Lisa Fenchel, both 1988 Ambassador College graduates, set foot in their new homeland after landing in Frankfurt, West Germany, Jan. 12.

Mr. Fenchel will work as a ministerial trainee with Grant Spong, pastor of the Berlin, Hamburg and Hannover, West Germany, churches.

The couple spent 1½ weeks in Bonn getting to know the area, after which they left for Hannover to stay with the Spong family until they find their own housing.

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