

The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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Pianist honored by chairman for youth-training projects

By David Hulme

Ambassador Foundation Chairman Joseph Tkach presented the fifth Ambassador Award for Excellence to pianist Ivo Pogorelich in Pasadena Jan. 7.

The award was established in 1989 to recognize excellence in humanitarian service, educational activities and the performing arts.

Evangelist David Hulme is vice president of the Ambassador Foundation.

Ivo Pogorelich is not only a gifted pianist with a distinguished reputation, he is also recognized

for his devotion and considerable energy in helping talented performers of all ages.

He is a spokesman for the musical arts and an advocate of education in general and the training of young people in particular—as evidenced by one of his numerous projects, the Young Musicians' Fellowship in his native Croatia.

During his award presentation to Maestro Pogorelich, Mr. Tkach commented on the importance of building a world of understanding between peoples, which is promoted by the humanitarian activities and cultural programs of

the Ambassador Foundation.

He reminded the audience that the founding fathers of the United States felt it important to achieve a higher understanding of the world through a greater understanding of the arts as a means of empathizing with the various cultures that surround us.

Mr. Tkach quoted President John Adams (1797-1801), who said: "I must study politics and war, so that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy, history, commerce and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, (See HONORED, page 2)



DISTINGUISHED—Joseph Tkach presents the Ambassador Award for Excellence to pianist Ivo Pogorelich to honor his humanitarian and educational service and performing arts role. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Tkach

Dear Brethren,

In light of the fact that a former minister has decided to start his own church, and has sent a letter to many members of the Worldwide Church of God, I thought it best to briefly restate the Church's position on the overall concepts this newly formed church is espousing.

The 'Global Church of God, founded by Roderick C. Meredith, has been formed on the premise that the Worldwide Church of God has no business changing or revising any teaching of Herbert W. Armstrong.

Dr. Meredith, choosing to ignore the great, fundamental issues of the New Testament, has focused his attention on every point on which he feels he can disagree with us. Basically, he disagrees with every change the Church has made since the death of Mr. Armstrong.

Dr. Meredith still argues with the biblical fact that the New

Testament phrase *born again* refers to conversion. Also, he cannot grasp the fact that God has called his people to be citizens of his kingdom now (Colossians 1:13).

Further, he deceives his readers by inaccurately representing what we teach about Jesus' victory over sin, about the Holy Spirit, about eternal life and about the gospel.

He misrepresents our teaching about divine healing. He misrepresents our teaching about the Ten Commandments and obedience to God.

In addition, Dr. Meredith clings to the false idea that human beings will someday be God in exactly the same way God himself is God, differing only in authority.

He also clings to the error that Ezekiel 33:1-7 is a commission to the Church, something taught neither by Jesus nor the apostles.

In late 1985, Mr. Armstrong told me that Dr. Meredith deeply desired to be pastor general, and warned me that just as Dr. Meredith had been a continual thorn in Mr. Armstrong's side,

(See PERSONAL, page 3)

Mideast brethren's dilemma

By Irene Wilson

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Paul Suckling, director of Ministerial Services for the British Office, visited members in Oman, Dubai, Egypt and Israel Dec. 9 to 25.

Mr. Suckling gave counsel and encouragement to the members there, who are isolated and often suffer persecution from religious factions.

All the brethren in the Middle East are expatriates (not living in their native country), and there are no Arab members. The death threat is applied to any Arab citizen deviating from Islam.

First, Mr. Suckling visited nine members and conducted services in Oman, where he baptized Ramon Amonico. Also attending services in Oman were three prospective members and three

children. It has been 20 months since a minister visited them, and Mr. Suckling was warmly welcomed.

His next stop was Dubai, where he baptized Juanito Malaga. He is married with three children. Mr. Suckling performed the blessing of the children in his hotel room.

In Egypt, Mr. Suckling learned that the most promising prospective member is considering emigrating to Canada because of persecution from fundamentalists. Two members previously living in Egypt have returned to Madagascar.

In Israel Mr. Suckling visited eight people. One couple, Mr. and Mrs. Silbiger, have been busy teaching languages to each other.

Although they both speak Hebrew, Mr. Silbiger (who is Austri-

an) also speaks English and German, and Mrs. Silbiger (Chilean by birth) speaks Spanish.

The greatest challenge brethren face in these countries is keeping the Sabbath.

"Muslims start preparation for their Sabbath on a Thursday lunchtime, and businesses do not reopen until Saturday morning, which is their first working day of the week," Mr. Suckling explained.

Those facing this dilemma can either try to reach an agreement with their employer and therefore stay there, or if no solution is



PAUL SUCKLING

found, they might return to their native country.

R.G. Cruz, a member in Oman and in whose home brethren meet once a month for a taped Sabbath service, found it necessary to give up his job because of pressure concerning the Sabbath.

The crime rate (apart from petty crime) in the Middle East is practically nonexistent because of harsh punishments. According to one newspaper, a man was given a "lenient" sentence of five years for having been alone with a young woman in compromising circumstances.

Socially, expatriates mix with their own ethnic groups, who also help one another in business. Our members keep in close contact with one another where possible, and some meet weekly.

The standard of living is good for expatriates in the Middle East, but these conditions are offset by the problems of observing the Sabbath in a non-Christian society.

"I hope another ministerial visit will take place to these areas in one year's time," Mr. Suckling said. "Please pray for brethren wherever they are. They merit a special place in our thoughts and prayers."

Tijuana brethren feel effects of flooding, heavy rains

TIJUANA, Mexico—Brethren here are safe and suffered no serious property damage after heavy rains Jan. 6 and 7 caused serious flooding.

Nevertheless, one member evacuated her home around 1 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 7, because of the risk of a landslide over the house. A week later she and her family were still living with her mother, waiting for the danger to end and to return to their home.

Another Church family moved from their house because of a clogged sewer system.

Few people in the area were able to work Wednesday or Thursday. Two members attempted to drive to work, and their cars were damaged by floodwaters.

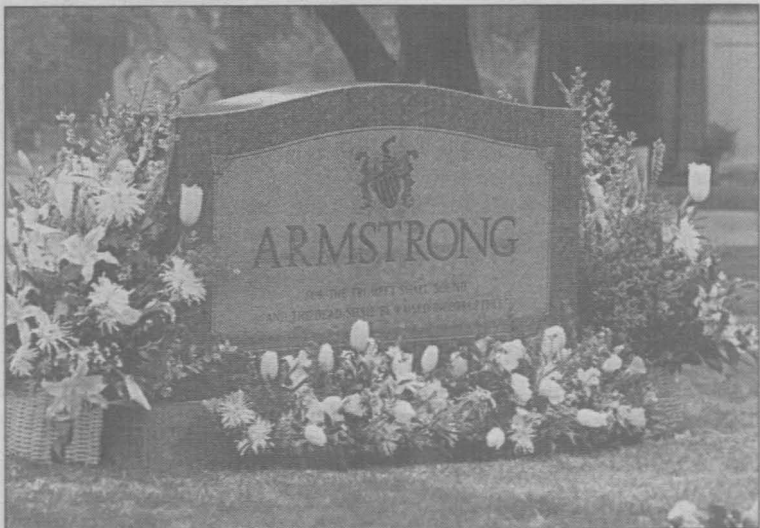
In the following days most people were unable to leave their homes because of mud and water on the sidewalks and streets. A moderate rain fell throughout the weekend.

"Not knowing what to expect on Saturday, I was thinking of canceling Sabbath services," said Francisco Hui, Tijuana pastor. "Saturday morning came out with no rain, so I decided to go ahead with the services. Only half of the congregation was able to attend."

Mr. Hui continued: "Many of the avenues and streets of Tijuana were inundated with water, in some areas water was more than a meter high. Buildings such as schools, churches, public gyms and others were turned into shelters to help the people who were affected the most. Schools have been closed until further notice."



FRANCISCO & GRACIELA HUI



RESPECTS—The Church marked the seventh year since the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, Jan. 16. Placed at the grave were flowers and two cards that read: "With all of our respect, Joseph W. Tkach and all of the Worldwide Church of God." [Photo by Barry Stahl]

Callous society accepts, redefines sin

I came across an interesting illustration while waiting in the lounge of a Mexican-style restaurant the other evening.

Adding to the theme of the establishment, the owners displayed the front page of the March 16, 1916, *San Francisco Chronicle*, describing the U.S. Army raid across the Mexican border to try to capture the bandit, Pancho Villa.

What really caught my attention, however, was an advertisement placed by the *Chronicle's* classified department titled, "Be Honest and Return It."

It read: "When you find an article, whether valuable or not, remember it is your duty to return it to its rightful owner. Don't quiet your conscience by saying that you could never find the owner even if you tried, for that is not true...."

"Watch in this column for the owner's appeal for his goods and then, if it does not appear today, be honest and run a Lost and Found Ad telling the owner that you have his property. Honesty always pays and the Lost and Found Column is a sure help to honesty."

This advertisement certainly would seem out of date in a newspaper today.

Lately, we have been reminded of the generational bridge, which has been crossed with the passing



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

of U.S. political power to the post-World War II baby-boom generation. More important are the changes in American society, particularly in the past three to four decades.

In this period, those old enough have experienced, and for the most part benefited from, a home and workplace transformed by computers and other electronic wizardry.

But, tragically, during this time morals have plummeted almost as rapidly and not just respect for the virtue of honesty.

"For 30 years," wrote political columnist Patrick J. Buchanan, "we have watched, one by one, as the conscience-forming and character-building institutions—family, home, school and church—collapsed."

If this were not the case, we would not see major schools' administrators make condoms available to high school students. Nor would we see public health

officials in one East Coast city, frustrated by the city's high teen pregnancy rate, offer to surgically implant birth control devices in girls at high school clinics.

Hardened to sin

Like the frog in a cooking pot that doesn't feel the heat increase until it's too late, the public generally takes these deleterious developments in calloused stride.

"We are getting used to a lot of behavior that is not very good for us," observes New York Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan. In other words, society becomes "hardened by sin's deceitfulness" (Hebrews 3:13).

A year ago *The Wall Street Journal* editorialized that sin, though "alien to contemporary culture ... at least offered a frame of reference for personal behavior. When the frame was dismantled, guilt wasn't the only thing that fell away; we also lost the guidewire of personal responsibility."

improving the quality of life for someone. ("To love another person is to see the face of God"—*Les Miserables*.)

One thing I appreciate about Mr. Tkach's message is the further focus on our mission as a Christian today. We are salt, we bring life into death-ridden lives. We are oil, we smooth out the friction between people. We are lights, we bring truth to people so they can begin to see there is a better way.

Your message was encouraging to many of us who are eager to share God's love with all we come in contact with.

Michael Dunlap
Everett, Washington

Thank you for another inspirational "Personal" in the Dec. 1 *WN*. It's a wonderful thing to meditate on, that we are already citizens of the kingdom.

Rereading the letters of Peter and Paul, I gain greater insight into this wonderful gift we've been granted. All trials are indeed nothing compared to the surpassing glory of Christ and our Father. You and your family are in my prayers daily.

Elizabeth Morrissey
North Providence, Rhode Island

"Into all the world..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column prospective members, co-workers, subscribers to the Work's publications and viewers of the *World Tomorrow* telecast express their views and opinions.

The deaf and lame need not worry

I was at the Sabbath service in Lagos, Nigeria. I enjoy your services. All people there are cheerful. If the whole world is cheerful with each other, a deaf person need not worry he is deaf, for he shall be made to understand what is going on, nor should a blind person worry for he shall conceive the picture of the surrounding.

A lame person need not worry either, for everyone shall be at his disposal. But thanks to the Almighty God, who said, when the whole world shall be converted toward his glory, the lame shall walk, the deaf shall hear, the dumb shall speak and the blind shall see. So I thank God for my present state and I pray that his work in me should go on to completion.

D.O. (a deaf student)
Ibadan, Nigeria

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Life now full of purpose

I have been incarcerated since December of 1983. While awaiting trial, I came across *The Plain Truth* and began to realize the need to repent. Coming to repentance was a difficult process but in

November of '86 I was baptized.

Living God's way of life has not always been easy, but life has been exciting and full of purpose. Where once there existed darkness and hopelessness, now exists light and a certainty of a wonderful future.

Each day has tremendous meaning as I focus on overcoming and serving others. I am asking God to bless your efforts and to use "Finding Freedom Behind Bars" [January *Plain Truth*] as a starting point for others in prison to find peace of mind and hope.

Macon, Georgia

☆☆☆

Christ's love in prison

I was so pleased to read your lead article to prisoners in the January *Plain Truth*. It is something that has been very close to my heart for some years now.

At this very moment, there are boys in prison, with no faith, no hope, nothing to look forward to. Looking for ways to end it all, they desperately need someone to talk to. They are alone and isolated within themselves. They need you.

There are people out there who haven't heard the good news, who are never likely to unless we take it to them, become as they are, feel what they feel. We may have to take off our smart clothes and clean shoes ... but love is all that matters, the very love of Jesus Christ.

Anonymous

The editors of the *Journal* concluded: "The United States has a drug problem and a high-school-sex problem and a welfare problem and an AIDS problem and a rape problem. None of this will go away until more people in positions of responsibility are willing to come forward and explain, in frankly moral terms, that some of the things that people do nowadays are wrong."

Only a remarkable change in public perception can accomplish this. In another editorial, the *Journal* noted how routinely publications report sensational crimes. For example, the story about a teacher shot on the way to class was headlined, "Year's First Shooting Inside a School."

There was a time, said the editorial, "when a shooting in a school would have been viewed as a uniquely horrifying event—not reported, in matter-of-fact terms, as though it were a part of the school year schedule. What we are talking about here is a society fast losing its capacity for outrage."

And, one might add, fast losing the ability to clearly see, and properly label, what is right and wrong.

As Sen. Moynihan and others comment, redefining moral laxity and other criminal and aberrant acts (some as illnesses, others as morally-neutral) normalizes behavior. Teens who have premarital sex, for example, are said to be sexually active, a nonjudgmental term for promiscuity.

Efforts to redefine family structure are also evident. Some high school and college textbooks, Sen. Moynihan said, say divorce is "part of the normal family life cycle."

Then, too, school districts in

New York City and elsewhere are trying to acquaint grade school students to the reality of "alternative families" by encouraging them to read supplemental textbooks such as *Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate*, about lesbian and gay family structures.

Another ad tells story

I began this column with a reference to a want ad from nearly 77 years ago.

Recently I was surprised to find that, twice a week, a major newspaper I normally read has been running, for some time now, a service called "Dateline."

This section provides assistance for people wanting to meet other people. The stunner came in two of the column headings: "Women Seeking Women," and "Men Seeking Men." The lustful desires were often spelled out in graphic terms.

What a difference a few decades can make in the moral fiber of a nation. Individually, we have to make sure we aren't swallowed up by sin. We must stay in constant contact with Jesus Christ and be a light to the world by showing people a better way.

As society becomes more godless, the need grows for us to "become blameless and pure, children of God" shining "like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life" (Philippians 2:15-16).

Columns will appear alternately

Beginning this issue, we are alternating the "Worldwatch" and "European Diary" columns to conserve space.

Letters to the Editor

Letters for this section should be addressed to "Letters to the Editor." The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity or space. We welcome your comments.

Concerted effort to help

The article in the Nov. 17 *WN*, about the member visiting program, focused in on the need to light the world and to reach out to the disadvantaged.

I fully agree. And the needs of those less fortunate, both in the Church and in the world, are increasing.

Among the high cost of housing, health care, food, clothing and education, and the lack of gainful employment nationwide, we must make a concerted effort to help in an organized way and as the need arises. Moral support is also something people are desperate for.

At the Feast in Lowell, Massachusetts, the townspeople were "turned on" by the Church's courtesy, appreciation and wholesomeness. We were front-page news in the local paper several days running.

Nancy Crusler
Toms River, New Jersey

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Lights to the world

I would like to thank Mr. Tkach for his "Personals" exhorting us to be lights. If we hate those in the world or hate those who leave us, we are not being Christians.

Yes, the law is important, the Sabbath, and the Holy Days, but keeping the Sabbath is not what it's all about; loving our brother is.

Hammond, Indiana

Thank you, Mr. Tkach, for your powerful "Personals" and for admonishing us that the Church has more to do than just trumpet warnings of a united Europe, tribulation and beast power.

With all the abuse, oppression and tragedy in the world today, most people probably feel they are already in tribulation or oppressed by beast powers. They need to see there's hope and salvation through Christ beyond this difficult, temporary existence.

During his ministry on earth, Christ spent more time teaching and healing than he did foretelling end-time events and his impending wrath upon the world.

Mary Struck
Cleveland, Wisconsin

Thank you so much for your tireless efforts with so many heartfelt words of love and admonition to bring us closer to a more mature outlook on our calling.

Honored

(Continued from page 1)

poetry, music and architecture."

The award ceremony and reception were preceded by the North American debut of the Russian National Orchestra, under the direction of Mikhail Pletnev, with guest soloist Ivo Pogorelich.

In spite of heavy rains, the ceremony was well attended by more than 200 guests, among them representatives of the consular corps and the business

and academic communities.

Coverage of the event appeared on *E!*—the Entertainment News Network—Jan. 12.

How a motor saved money

A \$10 motor found at an electronics surplus store by Al Allworth, lead maintenance engineer at Television Production, saved the Church thousands of dollars in replacement parts.

Extending the life of studio equipment while keeping costs down is one of the challenges facing Television's engineers.

To replace worn rotors in the motors of two of Television's video tape recorders (VTRs) would have cost more than \$800 each if purchased from the manufacturer.

Television has 10 VTRs, five of which have two motors and five of which have one motor.

Ten motors were purchased, saving the Church more than \$4,000.

The motors, which are new, are of comparable quality if not better quality than the originals, said Mr. Allworth. Also there are other motor parts that can be used, such as brushes, which alone would cost \$16.

Additionally, maintenance engineers have found parts for tape-evaluator machines, which check videotapes for damage or deterioration, as well as a vibration analyzer used to rebalance VTR motors, all of which save the Church money.

International solo piano competition scheduled in Pasadena

Another exciting opportunity has come to Ambassador Foundation with the announcement of the Ivo Pogorelich International Solo Piano Competition.

Presented under the auspices of the Foundation, the competition is scheduled for the Ambassador Auditorium in December.

Although the competition places high demands on participants, it has no upper age limit and allows substantial freedom in selection of repertoire.

About 40 pianists will be chosen to participate in the event, and a grand prize of \$100,000 will be awarded. Funds will be raised in benefit performances by Ivo Pogorelich.

Quad Graphics prints PT editions

New York printer chosen because of cost savings and its management credo

By Bernard Schnippert

In a move that will save more than \$280,000 a year the Church contracted with Quad Graphics in Saratoga Springs, New York, to print several international editions of *The Plain Truth*.

Evangelist Bernard Schnippert is director of Media Operations.

The switch began with a three-month test in which Quad Graphics printed the two Canadian editions (English and French), the Philippine (English) and the North and South American Spanish editions. This test concluded with the December issue.

Quad Graphics has since begun printing the European Spanish and the Caribbean French editions. They began printing the South African edition with the February issue and will begin printing the Caribbean English edition with the April issue.

In mid-December the Church, represented by Barry Gridley, manager of Publishing; Skip Dunn, print production manager; and me, signed a one-year contract with Quad Graphics. George Patrickson, administrative assistant to Frank Brown, Canadian regional director, also attended the meeting.

Criteria

We selected Quad Graphics out of 10 companies considered. Our

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choice came after we evaluated each printer according to 10 criteria: 1) press equipment and capacity, 2) bindery equipment and capacity, 3) platemaking capabilities, 4) technology level, 5) plant location and distribution abilities, 6) management style and philosophy, 7) materials printed for other clients, 8) product mix, 9) plant cleanliness and 10) environmental policies.

Some of these points may seem unrelated to our interests, but each is important. For example, the reason we are concerned about the types of materials printed for other clients is that accidents, though rare, result in pages from one client's product appearing in another client's product. So we will not do business with firms that print pornography on the same premises where they print our material.

We are concerned with the printer's product mix because the types of periodicals produced affect the state of mind in the plant. For instance, firms that print more advertising inserts, which are less expensive and have greater time constraints, tend to be less concerned with quality control.

On the other hand, printers whose product mix includes more

magazines are generally more concerned about quality. We prefer not to do business with companies with a product mix of less than 50 percent magazines.

After evaluating 10 printers based on these criteria, Quad Graphics emerged as the best candidate. Our three-month test confirmed our initial decision.

And sealing the matter was our experience with some officers of the corporation. Among those we met were Larry Quadracci, president and founder; Dick Marsel, plant manager in Saratoga Springs; Herb Siderman, our account executive; and Maureen Cogan, our customer service representative.

The Q theory

We explained the purpose of our magazines, speaking about the Church, Ambassador College and the Ambassador Foundation. Mr. Quadracci then told us a little about how he got started in business and provided more detail on his management philosophy, which he and his associates call Q theory.

He began his company in 1971, purchasing an abandoned factory in a cornfield in Illinois. At that time he had 11 employees and one press. Today, Quad Graphics

ranks second only to Donnelley among North American printers. (It is largest among privately held printers in North America.)

We were impressed with Q theory, which places heavy emphasis on the education and development of employees. The firm encourages its personnel to enroll in classes and pursue degrees.

But more than that, Quad Graphics uses a simple formula to

inspire the best job performance: learn, know, improve and teach. Employees are to learn all they can about their jobs, continue to know how to do those jobs thoroughly, consider ways to improve their jobs and then teach co-workers those improvements.

Needless to say, such a philosophy creates both a more skilled and a happier team. And that affects us, the client, in a positive way. I'm confident that our working relationship with Quad Graphics will be fruitful for the Church.

Deal made for film processor

By Bernard Schnippert

Since the film processor in the composing area of Publishing works only with the Bedford typesetting system, we needed a new processor for the Macintosh desktop system.

We budgeted \$18,000 for a new processor, and several employees, Troy Todd of Purchasing, and Robert Walker, Dale Machi, Marv Wegner and Keith Schroeder of Publishing, began searching for a good deal. They found that several companies supply free processors, but we didn't have the appropriate volume. We began negotiating with Fuji for a free processor.

We ended up getting a better-than-hoped-for processor (worth about \$25,000) free. We also received new contacting lights and new exposure time integrators. We agreed to buy Fuji film for the next three years, but it is a loose agreement that will incur no penalty if we need to get out of it.

Fuji agreed to limit film price increases to a regular inflationary percentage. Fuji air-freighted the processor to us, and it has been installed.

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

so he would be a continual problem to me. Mr. Armstrong had himself suspended Dr. Meredith from attending services for about eight months in 1979-80. We have worked patiently and respectfully with Dr. Meredith for the past three years with no positive response on his part.

Well, now Dr. Meredith has his wish. He has proclaimed himself pastor general of his own church.

We certainly do not bear any ill will toward Dr. Meredith, nor toward anyone else who starts a church.

We do, however, need to avoid being deceived by false teaching, and we should take care not to be led astray by emotional or sentimental arguments based on a false loyalty to past teachings.

Our loyalty is to God and his Word first and foremost. Tradition is valuable and important, but it must be shaped by the Bible, not vice versa.

We should pray that God would open Dr. Meredith's mind to the truth and lead him to repentance, so that he will someday be useful in the gospel.

We should also pray for those innocent ones who may be deceived by this tragic effort to turn people's hearts away from the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ask for understanding

Let's be clear about one thing: We will not change the course Jesus Christ has placed us on simply because some people refuse to read the Bible honestly, refuse to believe the truth and refuse to understand the gospel, which is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

It grieves me, though, that some few may be deceived by any person's clever arguments designed to get a following for himself.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, if you don't understand

something, please ask. If you are confused, I recommend that you study what we have actually written and preached, not what someone with his own agenda tells you we teach.

Again I state, as I have continually, that God leads us to be committed to teaching what the Bible teaches, regardless of tradition—our own or anyone else's.

God leads his Church through his Spirit. The Father draws us to himself through his Son (John 6:44, 14:6).

The closer we move toward Jesus Christ the better, because it is only through him that we can be reconciled to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Loyalty to traditions

Some people, sad to say, are more loyal to traditional teachings and explanations than they are to the Word of God.

In their deep longing for personal prestige and power, they are willing to prey on those God has been calling to freedom in his Son, wanting to take them back into the bondage of an impossible salvation by works.

While they falsely accuse us of teaching disobedience to God, they deny the grace of God by refusing to acknowledge the Bible truth: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

They try to convince those who follow them that their obedience will bring them God's salvation, falling into the trap Paul warns them against: boasting of their supposed spiritual superiority.

In their spiritual vanity, they fail to understand that God creates his people in Christ Jesus for good works, and that our good works belong to God and

bring glory to him and not to ourselves.

They fail to understand that God commands us to walk humbly before him (Micah 6:8) and that God gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5), to those who know their need for him (Luke 18:14).

These are people who set themselves up as the spiritual standard for others, yet cannot see that their own "righteousness" is as filthy rags before God. They believe they can somehow merit God's favor by their "goodness," while they discredit us for proclaiming that salvation is by God's grace toward us for the sake of his Son, whose blood covers our sins (1 Peter 1:18-19).

They believe they obtained the Holy Spirit by their obedience, when Paul condemned such empty, self-righteous reasoning (Galatians 3:2-5). They seek to establish their own righteousness by obedience to the law, making faith in the only One who can save them of no effect.

In so doing, these people miss the true righteousness in the Holy Spirit that comes through faith in Jesus Christ—God's own work in us of spiritual transformation of the inner person, cleansing the heart and mind of the corruption of sinfulness, and producing the fruit of the Spirit.

Instead, they settle for their own religiosity, their outward show of righteousness through their personal efforts at law-keeping, which results not in the deep recognition of their total dependence on the mercy of God, but rather in their feelings of spiritual superiority over all who do not agree with them and follow them.

God's calling is for eternity

We have a long way to go as we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In fact, we are called to a whole lifetime of total commitment to all the things of Christ.

God does not call his people

to just "hang on" for a few short years. Nor does he call us just to save us from whatever war, persecution or other tragedy the future might hold.

God has called us to be faithful until death, regardless of whether that comes in times of peace and plenty or in times of suffering and trial.

God's calling is to enter his kingdom for all eternity. The gospel he has given us is the gospel of eternal salvation in his eternal kingdom; it is not a gospel of saving our physical lives or of getting delivered from persecution.

God will choose to deliver from physical suffering whom he wills, according to his transcendent purpose in our lives—and he hears the cries of his saints.

He often delivers us out of our troubles, but in faith we know that he knows best, and, like Jesus, we want his will, not our own, to be done.

But the gospel has to do with our eternal inheritance, and that is something those who "loved not their lives unto death" will receive when Jesus returns (Revelation 12:11, King James Version).

The deliverance God gives us through faith in his Son is deliverance from the bondage of sin, and from sin's result: death. God will rescue those who are his at Jesus' return, changing their mortality into immortality, and they will live forever with him as his glorified children.

Dear brethren, God has blessed us beyond measure, showing us where we have gone off on tangents, where we put our priorities on physical things that took our minds off the great spiritual reality of salvation in his Son.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God has brought us back to his Word, and we should pray daily that we will never cease to follow his lead. Pray for one another, and pray for me, that God will guide me and give me courage in his Spirit. My prayers are continually with you.

Broadcasters beam Royals' play-by-play over airwaves

Students' stint of calling Ambassador College basketball games gets a thumbs-up from sports director of radio station in East Texas

BIG SANDY—The Ambassador Royals basketball team enjoyed a fast start this season, surging to early success with a No. 2 ranking in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II District 8 standings. At press time the Royals record was 12-7.

And apart from the coaches and players, no one has had a better view of the Royals' progress than Ambassador students Anthony Mullins and Todd Woods, the Royals' broadcast team.

Mullins, a junior, and Woods, a sophomore, were chosen in September as play-by-play announcer and analyst for Royals' broadcasts on KEES TalkRadio. The station, which broadcasts on 1430 AM in Longview and 1490 AM in Tyler, is carrying a full schedule of 29 Royals games this season.

The two were selected from a group of 22 students who auditioned for the positions in September.

"When we started the season we both were pretty nervous," said Woods. "As we got to know the players and each other better, it became easier to do the job."

Although Woods completed a two-year broadcasting program in Iowa and worked briefly for two radio stations there, this is his first experience in sports broadcasting. And for Mullins, handling the Royals' play-by-play is his first commercial broadcast experience.

"From their performance on the broadcasts, you'd think these guys were a couple of seasoned pros," said Adam Johnson, sports director at KEES. "It's a golden opportunity to broadcast college basketball games while you're

still a student, and Anthony and Todd are making the most of it. They really do sound good."

Tom Delamater, Ambassador's sports information director, agreed. "They've done a solid job, especially when you consider that we put them on the air with little or no background in live sports broadcasting," he said.

"As the season has progressed, they've learned to work off of each other's strengths and have developed a broadcast style of their own."

Perhaps the biggest surprise for the pair was the attention given to them because of the Royals' fast start. "You could tell the team would improve this year, but nobody expected such rapid progress," said Mullins.

"More media attention than ever before has been focused on the team, which means people will tune in to the broadcasts to see what it's all about. That motivates you even more to do a good job reporting the action."

According to Woods, the toughest challenge has been coping with the team's travel schedule. "It's tough when you travel to a city like Abilene [about 280 miles west of Big Sandy], get back to campus at four in the morning, and then have to go to classes a few hours later.

"But the trips have been beneficial, too. Riding with the team on the bus, you learn about the players, and about the coaches' strategy for each game. Those things help us offer more insight about the team during the broadcasts."

"All in all, it's been a great experience," said Mullins. "It's been fun to be a part of such a successful season. Todd and I are sure enjoying the ride."

This is the first year Ambassador games have been carried on KEES.

"Ambassador College has an outstanding athletic program, and we're happy to be associated with them," said Matthew Williams, president of KEES. "The Royals play an exciting brand of basketball and have attracted a loyal following. College basketball fans in East Texas will enjoy listening to their games."

"It has worked out better than we had hoped," said Delamater.

"Our desire was to increase the profile of the team and our entire athletic program through these broadcasts, and the rapid improvement of the team has drawn additional attention from East Texas media and fans. We're looking forward to an exciting second half of the season."

In their annual midyear trip to Pasadena, the Royals played three games in the former Ambassador College gym. They lost to Westmont College 91-82 Jan. 2; lost to Southern California College 101-87 Jan. 4; and lost to Biola 111-94 Jan. 7.



CARRYING THE BALL—Airing their knowledge at AC Royals basketball games are student announcers Anthony Mullins (left), a junior, and sophomore Todd Woods. [Photo by Elizabeth Miller]



Winter Graduation

By Julee Stanley

Nineteen Ambassador College students received degrees at the end of the first semester of the 1992-93 academic year. Fifteen students attended the winter graduation ceremony in Ambassador Hall to receive their degrees. Parents and friends watched as Ambassador College president Donald Ward along with academic dean Michael Germano, dean of student affairs Jeb Egbert and dean of faculty William Johnson awarded eight graduates with associate degrees and 11 graduates with their bachelor degrees. "If you want to sum up what AC is all about, it is to love God with heart, mind and soul," Dr. Ward reminded the graduates during the commencement address. "Go forth and accept the challenges thrown before you and reap rich dividends in life. We congratulate you."

Associate of arts recipients were Philip Scott Bacher, Patrick Bruce Bryant, Benjamin Rae Davis, Christine Anne Howard, Teri Michele Leffek and Eddie R. Self. Debra Jean Adair Gallagher and Keith James VanNurden did not attend the ceremony.

Bachelor of arts recipients were Cynthia Dianne Foote, Katrina Janet Philip, Julee Renee Stanley and Terry Wayne Swagerty. Brendan F. Gallagher did not attend the ceremony.

Bachelor of science recipients were John Heath Cardie, Brian Ray Foote, Nsama M. Kaoma, James L. King and Deborah Gayle Shuta. Christopher Shad Carnes did not attend the ceremony.

Rehors experience Estonia

By Jerry and Tami Rehor

TARTU, Estonia—Tami and I just returned from a visit to Estonia, where we visited members in Tartu.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union last August, the former republic of Estonia declared independence and has started

down the road toward capitalism.

The road has been rough, and the brethren there feel the strain of change as the country develops.

Inflation is about 2,000 percent. Tallinn, the capital and where we have one member, and Tartu,

where most of the brethren live, are both without hot water.

Jerry and Tami Rehor serve on the Petersburg Television and Radio Co. project.

Heating is also limited because of a lack of energy sources in Estonia. In the past their energy needs were met by Russia.

We left St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday night, Dec. 31, and arrived in Estonia the following morning. Member Leo Kaagjaerv met us at the train station.

Wade and Kay Fransson arrived in Tartu later that day. Mr. Fransson is the associate pastor of the Stuttgart, Germany, and Zurich and Basel, Switzerland, churches.

Mr. Fransson conducted Sabbath services at the Park Hotel in the center of Tartu. More than 15 people attended, including four prospective members.

After services we went to a

restaurant, a special event for most of the members and their families.

Six members live in Estonia, five of whom were baptized in the past year. Four of them were baptized at the Feast of Taberna-

cles in Rattvik, Sweden.

Estonian members' perseverance and resourcefulness pull them through the hard times. Visiting them was encouraging for us. We learned from their resourceful generosity.

Singles to meet in March

TALLAHASSEE, Florida—Singles are invited to a singles weekend here March 19 to 21.

Activities are a hospitality meeting followed by a Bible study Friday evening, March 19.

Saturday's activities are a singles Bible study and Sabbath services with evangelist Gerald Waterhouse as guest speaker.

That evening singles will attend a dinner theater to view the play *Queen Esther* and attend a dance. Desired dress is international or multicultural.

Cost for dinner ranges from \$15 to \$18.75 depending on choice of entree: chicken, roast beef or Delmar steak.

Sunday's activities are an a la

carte breakfast and roller skating. The cost for roller skating is \$5, nonskaters pay \$4.50. It is best to pay in advance because the cost at the door will be extra.

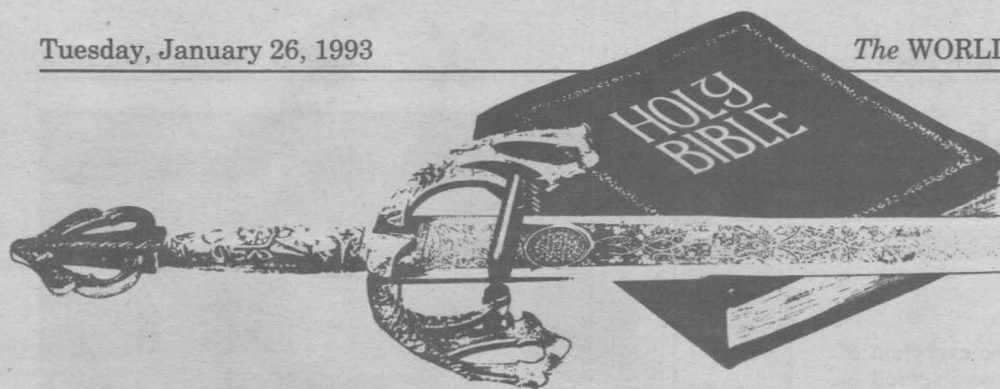
Discounted rooms are available at the Executive Suite Motel for \$43.60 for up to four people in each room.

For reservations and other information call Helen Jackson at 1-904-224-3430 (do not call the motel directly) or write to her at 1400 Jersey St., Tallahassee, Florida, 32304. Advance payment is needed to hold rooms.

March 5 is the last day for hotel, dinner and dance payment. Please make checks payable to Singles Activity Fund and send them to Helen Jackson.



TAMI AND JERRY REHOR



IRON SHARPENS IRON

If you do your job right, will your children stay in the Church?

Child rearing does not supersede God's calling in a child's life. Conversion is an intimate act of God.

By Alan Dean

My father died two years ago. He was not a Church member, yet his three sons officiated at his funeral.

One of my father's workmates attending the funeral said the service was unusual because it was intimate and more than one minister officiated.

He was surprised that my father, a nonreligious man, would have three sons who are ministers.

Alan Dean pastors the Toowoomba and Warwick, Australia, churches.

My father was a good man, a kind and good father. But his children did not follow his agnostic view of the world.

Before he died, we talked about parenting and the limitations of parental influence.

He said: "Son, you bring up your kids as best you can, but they grow up and make their own decisions. Some you may not agree with."

"For instance, if you boys had done my wishes, you would not be in the ministry but doing your previous training. But that is your choice. I may not agree with it, but that is your life."

My father could accept the reality found in Genesis 2:24, that a child grows up, leaves the home and makes his own way.

Some in the Church have strug-

gled with the limits of parenting. If a child makes a mistake or especially if he leaves the Church, they feel or are even made to feel they must have failed to bring him up properly.

If read a certain way, a scripture can seemingly lend support to that view. This scripture has caused stress, worry and maybe unrealistic expectations.

The scripture is Proverbs 22:6: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

To some this means that if you have done your job properly as a Christian parent, then your children will stay in the Church. Conversely, if they leave then you must have not have correctly taught God's ways to them.

What does this scripture really mean? And, more specifically, what is the responsibility we have toward our children?

Focus is preparation for life

The 60-year experience of the Church shows that children don't always do what their parents would like, and families can have one child do it the way the parents wish while another does it totally differently.

How do we explain this contradiction between children from the same family?

In explaining Proverbs 22:6 the Jewish community has emphasized the importance of parents preparing a child for successful adult life. This includes the need to develop their child's natural talents.

In their commentary, Keil and Delitzsch say the following about Proverbs 22:6:

"The instruction of youth, the education of youth, ought to be

conformed to the nature of youth; the matter of instruction, the manner of instruction, ought to regulate itself according to the stage of life, and its peculiarities; the method ought to be arranged according to the degree of development which the mental and bodily life of the youth has arrived at."

The emphasis is on education and preparation for one's occupation. Thus the scripture is emphasizing the need for preparation in the early years, because habits established in early life will influence him or her in later years (*The Soncino Commentary*).

Proverbs 22:6 shows us that children should be encouraged to develop their natural talents to the level of their maturity.

This scripture is not talking

specifically about moral issues or conversion, although the Bible emphasizes the teaching of moral values to our children in other scriptures.

Proverbs 22:6 deals with the role of parents in educating their children. Conversion is not the subject being dealt with.

While our children do have a special relationship with God (1 Corinthians 7:14), we have no guarantee of their conversion.

Child rearing does not supersede God's calling in a child's life. Conversion is an intimate act of God in a person's life, when God calls one to repentance and the individual responds to the hand of God by choice (John 6:44).

Nurturing, imparting God's way

What effect do we have on our children? After my father died, a woman told me: "Your father is not dead. He lives in you boys. You are his legacy."

She was right. Our father, along with our mother, brought us up with their understanding of val-

ues, experiences and disciplines that are with us today.

They nurtured us in love, so we as adults would reflect certain values, know how to earn a living, contribute to our communities and interact well with society.

My individuality, life experiences and circumstances would determine whether I would live by those values. Even so, some of those values are deeply embedded and unconsciously acted upon.

As parents we should desire to impart to our children the principles of God's way. We should be zealous in teaching them how to live and encouraging their education.

That is our responsibility as parents. What our children decide to do is their responsibility and concerns their personal relationship with God, over which we have only limited influence.

The message of Proverbs 22:6 is that parents should prepare their children for adult life by conveying true values that will mold character, develop skills and promote success in life.

Travel light, but not lightly

By Dexter H. Faulkner

I am writing this at the beginning of the calendar year—that time when journalists and writers tend to look back over the previous year—to assess its place in the scheme of the past and try to judge its overall value to the vast memories of humankind.

For my wife, Shirley, and me it's like the end of an era. By the time you read this article, we will be helping God's people in the Kansas City, Kansas, church. So we cannot but help take stock of our lives at this juncture—to reflect on our accomplishments together as well as to think on expectations that remain unachieved.

And not least to consider what one lesson I could pass on to you, a lesson

from our experiences in the Borehamwood Regional Office, our travels in Europe and our brief pastorate in Greece and Cyprus.

If I have one important point to make it would be that of "positive realism." In other words, we must learn from the past to guard ourselves from false hopes and expectations, while continuing to look to the future with optimism based on faith in God.

Many of us who have reached middle age have to come to terms with past and present. We learn to adjust some of the great expectations of our youth to the realities of what our lives have actually delivered.

Realistically, some of our secret hopes were always in the realm of fantasy. Others perhaps we might have achieved had circumstances been different.

The apostle Paul was an earnest advocate of positive realism. He knew he was not perfect and that he had a long way to go. In that, Paul was realistic, but he remained positive.

Different kind of optimism

Many people in this world lack positive realism. So often they appear overdosed with false hopes bordering on the fantastic.

Consider Eastern Europe. The collapse of communism has not evolved into overnight capitalistic material successes.

Many Eastern Europeans were positive about what change would bring but not realistic. Many thought wealthy Western life-styles would soon be theirs.

On the contrary, after a brief ecstasy emanating from quick revolutionary changes in government, came the cold light of day—economic life got

considerably worse. Forty or more years of economic stagnation could not be repaired in a year or two.

The Berlin Wall virtually came down in one day, but the knotty problems associated with German reunification can be solved only with the passing of who knows how many years.

Unrealistic optimism is not only a fault of nations. We as individuals also make this mistake.

But just because some of our grander notions of life—perhaps in terms of achieving great wealth, a glittering career or fame—may have been unrealistic is not a cause for despondency. What is most important in life does not let us down. We have to

ensure that (while we have a positive view of life) we are still realistic—acknowledging areas of life where we may have expected too much, but also showing appreciation for the parts of life where we have been given more than we could ever have hoped for.

Positive realism is essential in the way we view our Christian lives. It tells us that we are not perfect, that we need God's help. But we have made progress in some areas.

Acknowledging our successes

Positive realism is not just about recognizing our limitations, it is also about accepting our successes and gratefully acknowledging how far we have come in God's sight.

We focus far too much on the baggage of the past and forget the positive real changes wrought in our lives.

The apostle Paul took stock of himself from time to time—and did so publicly in his letters to Church members. One of his best examples is found in Philippians 3:11-14.

"If, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead, not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me" (New King James).

Yet, while acknowledging his imperfections, Paul remained positive.

"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind [Paul's personal emotional baggage from the past] and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Just one more thing

INS green card regulation could bar entrance into U.S.

To All Green Card Holders:

The Legal Department would like to give Church members who hold green cards a friendly warning and note of advice. The concern stems from the fact that an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulation provides for automatic termination of certain green cards unless they are renewed.

Does your green card fall into this category? Green cards that will automatically terminate, unless renewed, are those cards that were issued before January 1978. You can tell specifically if your green card will automatically expire by checking the back side of the card. If I-151 is noted in red on the back of the card in the lower left, the card will expire July 31, 1993, unless renewed.

If your green card expires, you will not be permitted to reenter the United States after traveling abroad. In most cases, such persons will have to return to their country of origin and apply for the new green card.

If you have a green card that will so terminate, you must apply for a new card between Aug. 1, 1992, and July 31, 1993. You need to apply for the new card on INS form I-90 at an appropriate location where you will have your fingerprints taken and identification verified and pay a fee of \$75 per person.

If you are one who must renew your green card, you are urged to apply for a new green card early in the program. Do not wait until the last minute and be caught in the rush to meet the deadline.

We sincerely hope that this information will be of aid to those to whom it is applicable.

Ralph K. Helge
Office of Legal Services

'But I was only following Adolf Hitler's orders!'

By Neil Earle

TORONTO, Ontario—*"Kto sie w opieke pada Panu swemu A, caly prawie sercem ufa Jemu."*

The words are Polish. They come from Psalm 91:1: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

Neil Earle is regional editor for The Plain Truth in Canada.

Zygmunt Pozniak, 76, who attends the Toronto West church, has been a believer in the message of Psalm 91 since he was a young boy in Poznan, Poland.

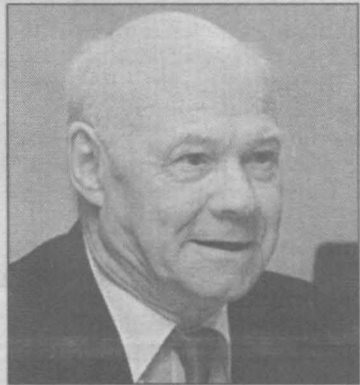
He remembers his father, an architect, being a regular reader of the Bible, even though such a practice was then discouraged in Poland. Yet, most Sundays in Poznan, Zygmunt would hear the lines of Psalm 91 as found in the *Psaltery Dawidow* by Jan Kochanowski.

Mr. Pozniak recalled this verse many times, especially during World War II when he was an inmate of the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. His story is a thrilling illustration of how God watches over those who trust in him. Set against unimaginable horrors, Mr. Pozniak's life was buffeted by war.

Zygmunt was born in Symbirsk, Russia, on the Volga River in

1916. His family moved to Poland in 1918 where young Zygmunt attended technical school. He has vivid memories of his father explaining portions of Scripture to his mother. That, as he says, is an experience that stays with a youth for a long time.

On Sept. 1, 1939, Nazi dictator



ZYGMUNT POZNIAK

Adolf Hitler's armies invaded Poland and the nation was soon under Nazi control. The Nazis conscripted youths for forced labor.

Mr. Pozniak escaped from the first batch conscripted, but one night in December 1939 came the dreaded midnight knock on the door. It was the SS (*Schutzstaffel*, elite guard), the most fanatical branch of the Nazi occupation. The SS shipped Mr. Pozniak and

his family (with the exception of his older brother who served in the resistance) to Nenisko, a village in eastern Poland, then near the Hungarian border.

The Pozniaks were assigned to a vacated Jewish house that had a *mezzuzah*, a metal replica of a scroll containing the Ten Commandments. Impulsively, young Zygmunt pocketed the *mezzuzah* and headed out for the Hungarian border to escape occupied Poland.

A border guard arrested him as a Jew since he was carrying this emblem, but Mr. Pozniak talked his way free and ended up with a Polish family helping detained people cross into Hungary. Unfortunately, they were all reported to the Nazi authorities.

Mr. Pozniak spent the next few months in various jails. In June 1940 he was shipped to Auschwitz, where he was assigned prisoner No. 931.

Once, when a bread truck pulled up into the camp, a fellow prisoner urged him to help steal food. Mr. Pozniak refused, but the other prisoner persisted and was executed.

A second incident occurred in 1942 when the prisoners were summoned outside in the middle of the night.

Although fearful and anxious, Mr. Pozniak found that the call was for healthy workers to transfer to Mauthausen camp in Austria. He was snatched from Auschwitz and learned years later that all prisoners with numbers below 2,000 or so at Auschwitz were executed.

At Mauthausen a scene occurred that most of us only read about or see in the movies. Mr. Pozniak, as a hospital orderly, rescued a patient from a guard's beating and for his troubles was summoned outside to be executed.

There, alongside a barbed wire fence, facing the camp commandant, guard dogs snarling, machine guns pointing at him, Mr. Pozniak found springing from his lips the words: "But I was only following Adolf Hitler's orders!"

Surprised, the commandant asked him what he meant.

"Hitler said that doctors must save lives."

As his life hung by a thread, Mr. Pozniak was relieved to see the commandant wave his hand and motion him back to the compound. That night Mr. Pozniak remembered the words of Psalm 91:2-4: "I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."

Mr. Pozniak emigrated to Canada in 1951. Now retired, with two daughters to visit and enjoy in



HANDMADE—Zygmunt Pozniak, whose life once hung by a thread in a Nazi death camp, has taken up woodworking as a hobby in Toronto, Ontario. [Photo by Wayne Laviere]

southern Ontario, Mr. Pozniak has made a lively addition to the Toronto West church since his baptism in 1987.

He is an enthusiastic member of the seniors group, and his hobbies in photography, music and

woodwork are on display to the many people he invites to his apartment.

"You have to trust," Mr. Pozniak said. "Whenever I was afraid I would repeat Psalm 91. The whole psalm is about trust in God."

1993 Festival Updates

Dunoon, Scotland

- Near Holy Loch in the western highlands of Scotland.

- Beautiful countryside with lochs (lakes), castles, mountains and forests.

- London Heathrow International airport 440 miles to the south, and Glasgow airport 15 miles south of the site.

- Trains and buses run from London to Glasgow on a regular basis. Train and ferry connections from Glasgow to Dunoon are available.

- Efficiencies with kitchen facilities are US\$360 to US\$442 a unit for two weeks. Hotels are from US\$22 to US\$93 a person for each night, including breakfast.

- Attendance is expected to be 1,000.

Rotorua, New Zealand

A suitable meeting site is available in Rotorua, therefore the Feast of Tabernacles will be conducted there instead of Napier.

Details are as follows:

- 145 miles (230 kilometers) south of Auckland.

- Popular tourist destination. Plenty of thermal activity including hot mineral pools (both natural and for bathing), geysers, bub-

bling mud and silica terraces.

Also features lakes, forests, an agrodome (with sheep shearing displays), gondola rides, public parks, gardens and live kiwi birds.

- Three-hour drive from Auckland international airport.

Direct air links available from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

- Taxis readily available. A rental car is recommended if your accommodation is not within walking distance of services.

- Average daily maximum temperature 18 degrees Celsius (65 degrees Fahrenheit). Some dry and some rainy days.

- Hotels and motels range from US\$20 to US\$130 single occupancy, US\$33 to US\$130 double occupancy. An extensive housing list is sent upon application and approval.

- Food costs average from US\$10 to US\$40 a day for each adult.

- One New Zealand dollar equals US\$.52, A\$.75

- Voltage is 230; 50 cycles.

- Expected attendance is 850, including 100 international transfers.

- Facilities for the hard-of-hearing.

For the record

In the Dec. 29 issue we incorrectly reported that Ambassador College only offers lower-division courses in psychology. However, seven of the eight psychology classes taught at the college are upper division. We also reported that with the addition of David Albert to the faculty that the college would be able to offer a major in psychology. At this time, there has been no official approval of such a major.

WCG Travel serves members' Festival needs

By Frank Fish

WCG Travel shares an array of benefits that accrue to members and the Church as a whole when we pool our buying power. We share profits with you through lower travel costs, rebates and by defraying the cost of corporate travel for God's Church.

Frank Fish is the manager of WCG Travel.

WCG Travel, a fully appointed agency, was incorporated in 1989 as a nonprofit organization to serve the needs of the Church, especially members traveling to the Feast. Consequently, while we can provide all the services offered by a travel agency, we choose to limit ourselves to those services that will be of the most benefit to members attending the Feast.

All of the staff are Church members and have experience in the travel industry. Plans are already being made for 1993 and 1994. Contracts are being signed, car rental agreements are being negotiated and research is being done to make your travel exciting and affordable.

We at WCG Travel look forward to renewing old acquaintances and making new friends serving you this year.

WCG Travel: 1993 Festival Travel Program for North Americans

For those attending in North America

The *Worldwide News* will feature details on how to take advantage of airfare and car rental discounts in the April 13 issue.

For those going international

If you complete the bottom portion of the Festival application, WCG Travel will send you information on the region to which you plan to travel.

Travel insurance

Some regional offices require you to purchase hotel and trip cancellation insurance. WCG Travel will provide an insurance application with the travel packet.

WCG Travel suggests that you call your credit card company to find out what coverage you have when renting a car. Many cards say they give you coverage, but you must pay an additional amount for these options before coverage begins. Also ask if the coverage you are given pays first or will pay only if there are no other coverages.

Some homeowner policies cover items stolen or lost on a trip. In either case, it would be good to have this in writing should you need to make a claim.

WCG Travel cautions you to be properly insured, but not over-insured.

WCG Travel Benefits to Members in 1992

- WCG Travel shared \$180,000 in airline commissions with members.
- WCG Travel, through negotiated contracts, saved the brethren an additional \$200,000 in domestically discounted fares.
- WCG Travel accrued \$96,500 in travel benefits for the Church.
- WCG Travel thanks you for making it happen.

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

UPDATE

Telecast goes off the air in Europe

Transmission of the *World Tomorrow* telecast in Europe has been canceled because of budget restraints and low response.

Last airing dates of the telecast are: Tele Campione (Italian), Feb. 7; Super Channel (Dutch and German), Feb. 14; and Sky Channel (Britain), Feb. 28.

Utrecht church celebrates 25th year

TIEL, Netherlands—Nearly 500 brethren attended the 25th anniversary of the Utrecht, Netherlands, church Dec. 26. Utrecht was the first congregation established in the Netherlands.

Speakers at Sabbath services were **Bram de Bree**, regional director for the Dutch-speaking areas, and **Johan Wilms**, a local elder and Dutch Office manager.

International award for telecast staff

Duane Abler, unit producer for *The World Tomorrow*, and **Mark**

Broadwater, cameraman, received awards for the telecast "Paul at Ephesus," which they submitted to the religion category of the Cindy Awards, an international competition for video production sponsored by the Association of Visual Communicators.

Mr. Abler received a bronze medal in the general religion category, and Mr. Broadwater received a silver medal for cinematography. The program, written and presented by evangelist **David Hulme**, was shot entirely on location in Turkey last May.

Family Bowl winners announced

The YOU Office announced the winners of Family Bowl '92, a bowling contest. In division I, gold level winners were (from the Waukesha, Wisconsin, church): **Terry, Cindy, Christine and Russell Finger**.

In division II, gold level winners were (from the Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Michigan, churches) **John, Matt and Greg Helmers**; and **Sue Kwitkowski**.

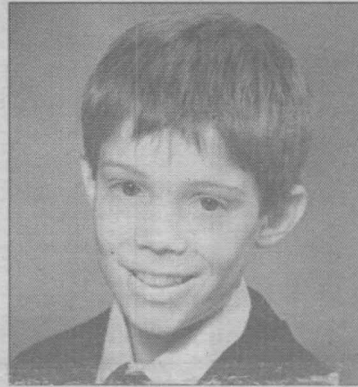
In division III, gold level win-

ners were (from the Portsmouth, Ohio, church): **Babe and Kara McElwee**; and **Gary and Erinn Smith**.

Young poet honored at Royal Festival Hall

NORTHAMPTON, England—The poetry of **James Mitchell II**, was featured in a concert at London's prestigious Royal Festival Hall Oct. 22.

The event, organized by booksellers W.H. Smith, was titled "The Brilliance of Youth" and



JAMES MITCHELL

featured outstanding young performers from throughout Great Britain.

James' poem, "Wind in the Trees," was chosen to open the evening. The poem was previously published in *Inky Foot*, an anthology of award-winning poetry and prose by young people.

James has had two other poems published with another to follow this spring.

He attends the Northampton church with his parents, **Graham and Margaret Mitchell**.

Lake Charles church to celebrate 25th anniversary

LAKE CHARLES, Louisiana—Brethren who have previously attended the Lake Charles church are invited to attend the 25th anniversary of the church here Feb. 27.

Sabbath services and all activities will take place at the Habibi Temple in Lake Charles. Services will be in the afternoon with a guest speaker. Highlights of 25 years of the Lake Charles church will be reviewed.

After services a Cajun-style dinner is planned. **Ross Jutsum** and the Young Ambassadors from Big Sandy will provide music and entertainment for a dance Saturday night.

For further information write **Wendell Miller** at 2008 22nd St., Lake Charles, Louisiana, 70601, or call him at 1-318-477-8843.

Springfield singles hosts for Moonlight and Roses dance

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri—The Springfield singles invite singles to their dance week-

end March 27 and 28.

The theme for the dance is Moonlight and Roses. Dress will be Sabbath wear or formal. Saturday's activities include Sabbath services, a dinner buffet and dance, and Sunday's activities begin with a continental breakfast followed by basketball, volleyball, swimming and games.

Cost for the entire weekend is \$20 a person and registration deadline is Feb. 27.

For further information and registration forms call **Larry G. Harmon** at 1-417-866-0919 weekdays after 5 p.m. Central time.

Southeast ministers attend conference

ATLANTA, Georgia—Ministers and wives from the Southeast region of the United States met for a conference here Jan. 19 to 21.

Speakers were **Joseph Tkach Jr.**, director of Church Administration; **Dean Blackwell** from Church Administration; **Victor Kubik**, an assistant director of Church Administration; **Bill Jacobs**, YOU coordinator; **Michael Feazell**, executive assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach; and **Ron Kelly**, manager of Editorial Services.

The group watched videos of Mr. Tkach's and Mr. Schnippert's presentations to the regional directors last summer.



Vietnamese in Canada tell their stories

By Neil Earle

TORONTO, Ontario—The word *Vietnam* conjures up vivid images, not all of them pleasant. Scenes of B-52 bombings and desperate diplomats evacuated from the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon flash to the minds of many.

Others have memories of boat people, who came to public attention in 1979.

Neil Earle is regional editor for The Plain Truth in Canada.

The Toronto West and Central churches have a little colony of former Vietnamese nationals. These are their stories.

Khanh My Nguyen Wong

Khanh My Nguyen Wong remembers a visit to Saigon in 1969 to visit her ailing grandmother who died a few days afterward.

"I remember that my mother cried so much. If so many tears should be shed for one dying person, then the Mekong River should have flooded its banks that day."

In the distance she thought she could hear the sound of booming firecrackers. Only later did she realize that bombs were exploding.

Still, her recollection of Vietnam is pleasant: "To me, Vietnam will always be street vendors going from house to house selling food early in the morning and eating delicious sugar cane and riding home after shopping at the outdoor market."

Khanh My (known as My Khanh) was only 5 when she left Vietnam. Her father, a medical doctor, received a scholarship to study in the United States in 1965.

While the family lived in Arlington, Virginia, Khanh My's mother-taught Vietnamese to diplomats and soldiers.

When the United States did not grant them immigrant status, the family moved to Canada in 1970 by way of Geneva, Switzerland.

Khanh My did graduate studies at the University of Calgary. In 1984 her younger brother picked up *The Plain Truth* from the newsstands. Two years later she began attending services in Brampton, Ontario, and was baptized in 1987.

When attending church in the

Toronto area Khanh My met Louis Wong, an immigrant from Mauritius. They were married in 1989.

They also met Church members **Nguyen Hoang Nam** and **Peter Nguyen Thinh**.

Peter Nguyen Thinh

Mr. Thinh left Vietnam for a United States government scholarship in 1962. Four years later he graduated from the University of California in San Diego with a degree in economics.

Instead of returning to Vietnam he moved to Paris to avoid the war. He worked first as a waiter and then as a cook.

One day he noticed an ad calling for immigrants to Canada: "Canada: A cold country but much warm love."

Arriving in Montreal, Quebec, in January 1969, he quickly found out that the first part of the ad was accurate. Eventually he ended up as an accountant at the University of Toronto Zoology Department. In the mid-'70s Peter met Lisa, whom he eventually married.

Lisa had left Vietnam to visit her brother in the United States when she got word of the North Vietnamese capture of Saigon in April 1975. Canada granted immigrant status to all Vietnamese and she was soon settled in Toronto.

Soon after, she met Peter and they were married in 1977.

Lisa's father, a sea captain and ship pilot, stayed behind in Vietnam. In 1978 the new rulers of Vietnam confiscated all of Peter's parents' property. They decided to leave Vietnam.

"They got stuck in a small boat crammed with 100 people," recounted Peter, "and they had to fight a storm at sea for three days."

In 1982 Peter was able to sponsor his parents and the family was reunited again in their new home of Canada.

In Toronto, while serving as a deacon in a congregation of Vietnamese evangelicals, Peter came across *The Plain Truth* at a newsstand. He was baptized in 1988.

The Thins now have two sons, Anthony and Jonathan, and a daughter, Michelle. Both boys love ice hockey, which they play on Saturday nights during the winter in the Toronto congregations' boys hockey league.

The Thins are happy to be Canadians and especially like "the different seasons and the tolerance toward ethnic groups."

Nguyen Hoang Nam

Nguyen Hoang Nam (known as Nam) has also adjusted to Canada. Nam was born in Tra Vinh in 1969, where his father served in the South Vietnamese army.

By the time he was 6 the war finally ended with the Communist government of Hanoi in firm control. His early memories of ambulance sirens and artillery shelling gave way to what he calls a care-free life in the early and mid-1970s in the countryside along the Mekong Delta.

"Every day we would swim in the river. We caught fish, went hunting, played marbles, flew kites. There never seemed to be a dull moment."

He remembers weeklong journeys when he and his father traveled to buy rice. "Our journeys by small vessels on the delta were dangerous because of storms and bandits."

We traveled hundreds of miles on a small vessel. My father had to paddle long hours. We fought the storms, the waves and the blazing sun. Somehow we survived all these ordeals."

On one of these trips Nam's father met a former schoolteacher of his who was planning to escape Vietnam. Nam, one of his younger brothers and his father stole away at dusk. They hoped to send for the rest of the family once they had been reestablished.

After several days at sea they were intercepted by pirates and a sea chase began.

"We were slower than the pirates' boat," said Nam, "so we decided to go in a circle. They could not catch us because their boat was larger and had to make a greater circumference."

Eventually, though, the little ship was forced to surrender. All the men were tied together and made to stand in single file—waiting.

By now the captives were fervently praying to God. The pirates searched for valuables. Then they smashed the ship's engine, towed the smaller craft for about half an hour, gave them water and set them adrift.

"I think," said Nam, "the reason they dragged our boat a certain distance was so we would be out of the area pirates most frequented. Truly, the pirates we encountered were no ordinary pirates." He is convinced God answered his prayers.

Somehow the engine was repaired, and, steering by the stars, the little band reached the island of Pulau Didong.

The Canadian government accepted Nam's family as immigrants. By 1985 they were all reunited in Toronto after a five-year separation.

By then Nam had seen the *World Tomorrow* telecast and had begun reading *The Plain Truth*. He is now a member in the Toronto Central church.

"I joyfully start out on another journey," concluded Nam, speaking for the whole group, "a journey that will take me from here through eternity!"



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VIETNAMESE—Toronto, Ontario, brethren from Vietnam are (from left) Anthony Thinh; Nguyen Hoang Nam; Louis and Khan My Wong; and Jonathan, Lisa, Michelle and Peter Thinh. [Photo by Wayne Laviere]

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