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Marriage workshops offer tools to fortify skills, solve conflicts

By Becky Sweat

Bill Battles sits at his home computer working feverishly on the family budget. He comes across a large, unexpected credit card receipt stuck in a pile of canceled checks.

"Betty!" he yells, as his face turns deep red. "Where did this bill for \$150 come from?"

Betty walks into the room where her husband is working. "I bought a new coat," she replies.

"Well, we don't have the money," Bill retorts angrily. Betty then accuses her husband of keeping the family finances a secret. Bill accuses Betty of having no regard for the budget, and soon sparks are flying.

Bill and Betty Battles are fictional characters in a new series of videos produced by the Church. The series, tentatively titled "Resolving Conflict," was created to help brethren learn to better talk out problems in marriage.

The Battleses, in various scenarios throughout the series, depict somewhat comically the wrong way to handle a conflict.

A second couple, Bob and Donna Peace, deal with misunderstandings constructively. Then the presenter, evangelist Ronald Kelly, analyzes what the Battleses did wrong and what the Peaces did right.

The videos are for use in three two-hour class sessions, to run one night a week for three consecutive weeks.

Brethren in the United States, Canada and other English-speaking congregations will have the opportunity to sign up for the program.

Each couple or single head of household attending the program will receive a copy of a workbook to accompany the course.

Pretesting of the program will be completed by the end of February in three Southern California churches: Pasadena West A.M., Pasadena East-P.M. and Los Angeles. The programs will also be field tested in Wichita, Kansas, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

After final modifications, program materials are to go to church areas in mid-April, and classes could start in early May, depending on pastors' schedules.

Improving working and listening skills

Classes will be small, averaging around 30 couples. Depending on the size of a congregation, the program may run two, three or more times, until everyone who wants to can sign up for the course.

After the last class, videos and a copy of the workbook will be kept in church libraries.

The program is primarily for married couples and marriage-age singles desiring to improve their communication skills.

The series is not meant to solve serious marital problems requiring ministerial counseling.

"We wanted to keep the program as simple as we could, concentrate on two or three communication skills and not get off on a lot of tangents. Because it's not a marriage seminar, it's a seminar on conflict resolution," said Terry Warren, writer of the video script and workbook and an employee in the Editorial Department.

"We focused on the skills of reflective listening, communicating your true feelings and accepting ownership of a problem rather than trying to blame your spouse."

Agendas for each night of the three-night program are as follows: On the first night, the group will learn about the three stages of conflict and how unintended problems can weaken personal relationships.

The second night they will learn practical skills of good communication, which the video calls the ABCs of Good Communication: A, approach the right person; B, be positive; C, concentrate on one issue; D, don't judge; E, express your true feelings; F, focus on the big picture; and G, the Golden Rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

On the third night the group will hear about "relying on God and the Holy Spirit to empower us with love, sensitivity and ability to forgive each other, so we don't go off as individuals trying to apply these principles on our own strengths and, in the process, wind up falling flat on our faces," Mr. Warren added.

In addition to the videos, each class night will have lectures by the church pastor, question-and-answer sessions and role playing.

In role playing, two or more people act out a situation to learn more effectively how to resolve a problem.

The pastor, as group leader, will present a couple with a real life problem, such as the wife being late getting ready for Sabbath services or the husband bringing unexpected guests home for dinner.

He'll ask them to talk out the conflict. When they are done, the pastor critiques how they handled it. (See WORKSHOPS, page 2)

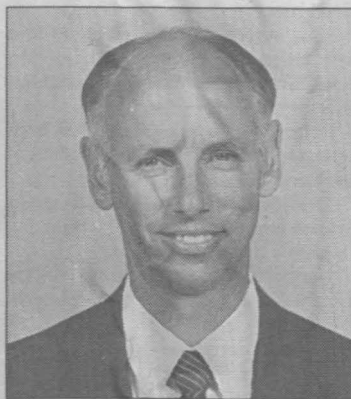


ROLE PLAYING—Pasadena West A.M. members Jim and Shirley Kale (left) and Ed and Nancy Stonick (right) act out a communication problem between husband and wife, as pastor Brian Orchard (center) appraises their handling of the situation. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

Minister visits the Solomons

Brethren recovering from Cyclone Nina, four people from island of Ranongga are baptized

By Aub Warren
BURLEIGH HEADS, Australia—"All of God's people are



CHRIS HUNTING

well in the Solomon Islands, except for the continual difficulty they face with malaria. This is a constant trial everyone must face."

So reported pastor Chris Hunting, who visited brethren there in mid-January, two weeks after Cyclone Nina hit Bellona and Rennell, two islands south of Honiara, capital of the Solomons.

"The cash crops, banana and coconut, and the forests were destroyed," said Mr. Hunting. "Farms and gardens were wasted. A few fortunate people were able to retrieve their canoes, but most of the canoes were swept out to sea along with fishing gear."

Planeloads of emergency relief were flown in from Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Hunting conducted Sabbath services Jan. 16 and 23. Having just returned from the Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena, Mr. Hunting gave a summary of the program.

Mr. Hunting met with a pro-

spective member from Rennell who traveled to Honiara to meet him.

The Church is providing a water tank and fishing net for the members' village of about 60. Mr. Hunting baptized four men from the island of Ranongga, Jan. 25.

Moses Pitakaka, a member from Honiara, translated the service into the Roviana language. Nine members now live on Ranongga.

The members feasted and sang island songs that evening, and many villagers joined the group.

During his 10-day visit Mr. Hunting met a former government minister who was familiar with *The Plain Truth*.

The man, a Seventh-day Adventist, asked Mr. Hunting about the Church, where we met and if he might attend services.

Mr. Hunting reported that the Seventh-day Adventists have a high profile in the Solomon Islands.

PERSONAL FROM Joseph W. Tkach

Dear Brethren,

The Church of God is called together out of this world and sent forth into the world with a mission—the mission of proclaiming in word and deed God's glorious message of his new world made possible through his Son.

Jesus told his disciples: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise

your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16).

The people of God constitute a lamp that is not hidden, one that gives light to everyone in the house. A lamp that cannot be seen is, of course, of no value.

But if the lamp is seen, if it is out in the open, it will fulfill its purpose—to illuminate, to reveal the truth, to show things as they really are.

Jesus also warned: "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:1).

We always need to keep in mind that there is a *right* reason and a *wrong* reason to do acts of righteousness.

The *wrong* reason for doing

acts of righteousness is that of trying to obtain recognition or honor from human beings. It is the error of seeking after the acclaim of being seen to do a good thing.

This kind of good work, regardless of how many people it may help, is rooted in selfishness and vainglory rather than in the love of God.

Therefore, despite the fact that others may benefit from it, it is worthless before God. God may use wrongly motivated actions as a method of bringing blessings to those he wishes to bless, but for the person doing them, they are mere hypocrisy.

The right reason for doing acts of righteousness, on the other hand, is that Jesus lives in us. When Jesus lives in us we cannot help but live as he lived—in active, meaningful love.

We will have the deep desire to participate in the commission to which he has called us—to declare the praises of God (1 Peter 2:9).

In Luke 9:23, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." That means that we must do what he did, and we must do it *in his name*—because we are his.

The cross of Christ is the foremost symbol of sacrificial service, of calling to a mission in the service of God—the mission of declaring the praises of God—not merely by what we say, but by what we *are* as proven by what we *do*.

Christ a man of action

Let's consider what Jesus did. He was not content to merely stay out of trouble. He was not satisfied with merely avoiding sin. He was a man of action. Because of who he was, the Son of God, he got involved in what he saw going on around him.

He saw people in need and he reached out to help them. And in everything he did, he pointed people to God, and to his role as

(See PERSONAL, page 3)

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Great problem, great solution . 5

Self-determination: principle gone awry

At the height of World War I, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson argued that self-determination for Europe's myriad minorities, once they were freed from the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, would provide for continental stability in the postwar era.

Mr. Wilson's secretary of state, Robert Lansing, did not share his superior's enthusiasm.

"Will it not breed discontent, disorder and rebellion? Mr. Lansing wrote. "The phrase is simply loaded with dynamite. ... It will, I fear, cost thousands of lives. What a calamity that the phrase was ever uttered! What misery it will cause!"

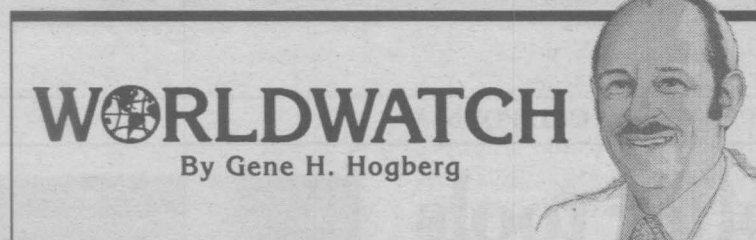
Twenty years later, Adolf Hitler justified the carving up of Czechoslovakia by demanding that its German-speaking Sudeten population should be allowed to exercise their self-determination to join the Reich.

But, by far, the biggest fulfillment of Secretary Lansing's fears is in our day.

Emergence

Back in the '60s, when the dissolution of the great European empires was in full swing, one nation after another sprang into independence. The results, of course, were often not as positive as anticipated.

Overall there was a certain logic to the fundamental substance and structure of the scores of emerging countries admitted to



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

the United Nations in the three decades or so after World War II.

All this was accomplished under the hallowed principle of national self-determination.

These strivings for independence, writes Amitai Etzioni, a professor at George Washington University, in the Winter 1992-93 issue of *Foreign Policy*, "functioned not only as a way to gain one's own flag, national hymn, and other symbols of selfhood, but, perhaps even more important, as a way to lay the foundations for a responsive government."

Ethnic self-determination

The process of self-determination, however, is taking an ugly and chaotic turn in the last decade of the 20th Century.

Some of the nations born in the post-colonial era, or in the earlier breakup of the old imperial regimes in Europe after World War I, are themselves being rent asunder in the latest wave of self-determination—the assertion of ethnicity.

Often this phenomenon solves nothing, since few nations are

ethnically homogeneous. "Many countries in the world continue to contain numerous ethnic enclaves," notes Mr. Etzioni. "Even within those enclaves, further ethnic splinters arise."

For example, the former Soviet Union, and now Russia itself, is rent with dozens of ethnic skirmishes and wars, especially in the Caucasus and in Muslim-populated Central Asia.

How much further can this fragmenting process extend? "If we don't find some way that the different ethnic groups can live together in a country," answered U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a Senate hearing, "we'll have 5,000 countries rather than the hundred plus we now have."

Mr. Etzioni adds that "it is impossible to sustain the notion that every ethnic group can find its expression in a full-blown nation-state, [and] fly its flag at the United Nations ... the process of ethnic separation and the breakdown of existing states will then never be exhausted."

For example, "the Sorbians in

eastern Germany," observes Professor Etzioni, "want to establish the state of Lusatia." (The Sorbians, who claim to be the world's smallest Slavonic people, are not to be confused with the Serbs.)

Alfred Symank, chief lobbyist for a group known as Sorbian Nationality for Autonomous Lusatia asserts: "If Lithuania succeeds, if Slovenia succeeds, why can't we?"

All this, continues Mr. Etzioni, "before the ink had even dried on German unification."

Division doesn't work

Humanity needs to learn to express the fullness of the second

great commandment, as taught by Jesus Christ in Matthew 22:39: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

God places great emphasis on the all-important attribute of love among his children in his worldwide body.

He is bringing us closer together, and closer to him, at the same time the world is flying apart in all directions.

Looking at the daily headlines, we can see how destructive are the "acts of the sinful nature," such as "hatred, discord ... dissensions [and] factions" (Galatians 5:19-20).

Yet, we can look forward to that time, depicted in the second chapter of Isaiah, when "all nations will stream" to "the mountain of the Lord's temple" to learn the way to peace.

Workshops hit specifics

(Continued from page 1) dled the problem, similar to a Spokesman Club evaluation.

Communication is No. 1 problem

Evangelist Joseph W. Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, chose the communication topic for the program, based on input from field ministers and members.

Other research underscores the importance of good communication skills in marriage.

According to one study, failure to communicate is the No. 1 cause of divorce in the United States. Most marital problems, including disagreements over finances, can be redefined as communication problems.

Larry Holm, an employee of the Television Department, did the background research for the project.

Other key players in producing the program were Mary Shaner, producer of the video; Bruce Hedges, the artist behind the workbook cartoons; Dene Diet-

rich, designer of the workbook and video packaging; and Susan Blumel, a member who attends the Salt Lake City, Utah, church, a consultant and Ph.D. candidate in family sciences at Brigham Young University.

Targeting members' needs

Mr. Warren said the team's goal was to produce a video and workbook targeted specifically to brethren.

"We reviewed many of the leading video and audio tapes on the market," he said. "Although a lot of excellent material is out there, no one really focuses on the spiritual dimension as we understand it, particularly the Holy Spirit being the dynamic force in our lives."

Mr. Warren continued: "We felt we could take some of the principles that others are using and add the spiritual dimension.

"While good listening and communication skills are important, it's letting God work through us that's most important."

New look for envelopes

By Darrell A. Hartsock

The Mail Processing Center (MPC) will soon be mailing Holy Day offering envelopes for the spring Festival season.

For the United States (and some international areas) the envelopes have been redesigned to allow the Work to use new technology to save time and money.

Darrell A. Hartsock works in Mail Administration.

Perhaps the most obvious change is the new paper color for preaddressed envelopes. It was changed to ivory to make it easier to separate the nonindexed envelopes handed out at services.

Ivory gives a better contrast for barcodes than some other colors such as blue, green and gold.

Finally, the instructions were updated and printed on the face of each envelope, eliminating the need for an instruction card.

Here are some additional ways you can help MPC save time and money while ensuring your records are properly updated:

● Use the barcoded envelopes for each Holy Day offering. Mr. Urwiller said if everyone uses the preaddressed, personalized envelopes this spring, the costs of processing the offerings will drop 30 percent.

● If you use a nonindexed envelope, write your PIN number along with your full name and address in the space provided.

● Use the Holy Day offering envelopes for Holy Day offerings only. Other donations should be sent separately.

● Do not fold cash. Folded or crumpled bills slow processing and require more time to straighten.

● Seal the envelope. Unsealed flaps can cause barcode equipment to jam.

● If you wish to include loose change with an offering, please place it in the basket instead of the envelope. Coins take much longer to count than bills or checks.

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.

Rosa makes a difference

I left St. Vincent last Aug. 3 for the Summer Educational Program camp in Tobago, a few sister isles away. We arrived at the campsite, and when I saw the staff at camp, I almost screamed, for I realized it's not what I thought.

But after settling down for two days, I met one of the kitchen staff who became my mom away from home. She had an outstanding personality and a wide smile, a person most kids liked.

She went out of her way to give us all the attention we needed. Both boys and girls shared her wholehearted love. Whenever anyone got hurt or thirsty she was a real mother to us.

I called her Mom, but once I asked her her name, only to learn that she is her name by her actions—a rose (for Rosa). Many of us will remember her soft words. She was really caring for us, and all of us appreciated her kindness.

So on behalf of all St. Vincent campers and also our counsellor, we want to tell you, Rosa, that we will always remember you. Your experience at camp was a great help to me, for I left camp a better child than I went.

St. Vincent, West Indies
★ ★ ★

We love your works, letters, sermons

We would like to thank and encourage you for all your work, Mr. Tkach. Despite the criticisms and negative words some people say about all you do, know that, here in France, we love your works, your letters, your sermons and all the changes you help us to understand and carry out.

You help and lead us under Christ to a better understanding of the truth. You help us to follow and to better live God's way of life.

Daniel and Christine Sebbah
Marseille, France
★ ★ ★

Right on the money

Thank you, Mr. Tkach, ever so much for the editorial that you wrote for the Jan. 12 *Worldwide News*. You are right on the money when you say that people need to know that Jesus loves them.

If we don't realize that, then we are

indeed "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked," and therefore in need of correction. I sit corrected, realizing how hopeless and helpless I would have felt many times in my life without having known both with the intellect and the emotions that he does indeed love me.

The attitude of which you spoke, the "what's-the-use-we-can't-do-any-good-anyhow" attitude, you might call it, was pervasive in the Church, but as you would not doubt confirm, such an attitude didn't emanate from Herbert W. Armstrong.

He emphasized to us that we should "let [our] light shine" and not hide it under a basket, adding that Jesus didn't say, "Let your trumpet blast" and cause people to be offended by your display of great knowledge. That's why I had to reread that "Personal" to see what you did say we should be doing. It read bet-

ter the second and third times through.

Theodore A Doman
Beatrice, Nebraska

★ ★ ★

Difference in children's lives

The added information about being born again and also our more charitable attitudes toward other people and their thinking have allowed my mind to know God better.

This, in turn, has allowed me to love and understand my wife and children better. So we thank you for your faithfulness toward God.

In the past 10 years, there has been continuous growth and understanding of and toward God.

I wish you could somehow see the difference in my life—hence my wife and children's lives.

The books on child rearing, *How to Really Love Your Child* and *How to Really Love Your Teenager* [by Ross Campbell] keep coming back to my memory (the principles they taught). They really helped.

Tennessee

"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.

We all need God

I am an inmate trustee at the Webb County Detention Center and I have been reading *The Plain Truth*. Every article has something informative to say about people and how we need God.

I am a single parent with a 14-year-old daughter living with my grandparents while I am waiting parole. I hear from my daughter sometimes once a month. I write her letting her know how much I love her and that her father is doing well.

Thanks to God that is true, and I tell her how our heavenly Father cares and watches over her and all of us and that we will be back together soon through our trust in him. Still, there are times I worry about her when she tells me that everything is going wrong, but she doesn't tell me specifically what is wrong.

I served in the military for 10 years, the second year I met and married her mother while stationed overseas in Korea. When I left the service, her mother left us and for the past six years, I have tried to raise my

daughter the best I could.

Then I became involved with drugs and depression. The drugs landed me in prison. I have learned to trust God with my life and believe that he had intervened in my life when I was destroying myself.

I have learned a lot in those articles and I want to say thanks for each and every issue that I have received. I would like to say to your readers believe in God and in yourselves. Let us put our lives in his hands. Believe and trust him. He knows us and what is best for us.

Laredo, Texas

★ ★ ★

Don't neglect relationships

As I read "Respectfully Yours" [December *Plain Truth*] it really tore into my heart. Sheila Graham wrote that nothing in our lives should be as important as our relationship with those whom we love. Certainly there should be no greater relationship than that with God.

She goes on to say that one of the closest relationships that we have is the one we most often neglect. I began to see just how true this is with my own self. Neglecting those whom you love can become more easy as a relationship continues. This article, as many more in *The Plain Truth*, has helped me to see myself as I am and cause me to look at myself as God wants me to be.

Carthage, Mississippi

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

the Savior, and the only Door and Way to the Father.

When Jesus departed, he promised *another* Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to lead his people into all truth (John 16:13). By the Holy Spirit, they would be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke

as he lived. Paul wrote that we are being "conformed to the likeness" of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29), along with all the saints.

It is essential to proclaiming the gospel that we actually *live* according to Jesus' example and instruction. The Word of God should be proclaimed not only in what we say, but in who and what we *are*.

meaning as he showed mercy in the name of God to those in need.

Likewise, as Christ's Body, God's called-and-sent-forth ones, his Church, we proclaim the glorious gospel through which humans may have their sins forgiven and become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Jesus continued: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (verse 40).

The Church belongs to God. It is called to God's service, to do his work in his name, to represent him in the world as a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices to him and declare his praises (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

Serving others should never be done as a mere "technique," with the ulterior motive of presenting the gospel to them. Serving others should be done because we are walking in the steps of Jesus Christ, because we are his servants, because like he did, we should genuinely want to help others in their needs.

At the same time, when the

participating directly, not just indirectly, in God's work of proclaiming the gospel.

It is vital and essential for us to focus on loving one another, serving one another and comforting and encouraging one another, because as we grow in love and unity, we become prepared and strengthened for the task God has given us as his royal priesthood.

Consequently, because the Church exists for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel of God in word and deed, the Body will be the strongest and healthiest when more of its parts have a direct part, each according to his or her gifts, in that work.

However, since we have never emphasized evangelism at the local level before, and since most of our pastors have never been asked to be concerned with such things, we will need to proceed carefully with much prayer for wisdom.

I am asking you to pray for me in casting the vision and

Christians live an active life, a full life, a life devoted to good works, to service, to help, to relief of suffering, to encouragement, to support, to active love in the name of Jesus Christ. And that active love is not limited to fellow Christians only—it also reaches out, like Jesus did.

24:49). Why? To empower and enable them to do the work Jesus gave them to do.

What was that work? It was to do what he had just described in verses 46-48: "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Our work is to be like Jesus, that is, to be Christlike, which means we must *enter into his work*, and he sends his Spirit to make that happen.

But we must enter into his work as *his people*, as people belonging to him, who not only speak his words but live

What we are should be a consistent testament, a true and faithful witness, to what we are proclaiming.

I don't mean we can be absolutely sinless. We are all sinners in need of the grace of God. But our conduct should be consistent with the *fact* that we are indeed the children of God. We belong to him. We are his purchased possession, washed in the blood of our Savior and regenerated and sanctified for his service by the Holy Spirit.

Works of service

With this in mind, let's again ask the question: Is spreading the gospel just for the headquarters of the Church to do? Is it *just* the work of the evangelists or the ministers or the Editorial and Television departments? Or is it something every local congregation and every individual Christian needs to be deeply involved in, too?

Paul said in Ephesians 4:11-13, "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, *to prepare God's people for works of service*, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (emphasis added).

What kind of "works of service" should we, as Christians, be involved in? Shouldn't we be involved in the same kinds of works of service that our Lord and Master Jesus Christ was? And what were those works? *Jesus proclaimed the gospel and demonstrated its*

And again, the authenticity of that gospel, its proof, the demonstration of its validity, is the active fruit of our changed lives—the reality of Jesus Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

The proof of the children of God, the proof of Christians, is in the *fruit*—the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,

Since we have never emphasized evangelism at the local level before, I am asking you to pray for me in casting the vision and establishing guidelines, and pray for all the Church as God leads us to draw closer to him in obedience and service. There is much work ahead, and as we submit to his will and guidance, God will bless and strengthen us.

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Let's understand. That fruit is not a list of what Christians *don't* do, it is the way that Christians *do* live.

It is an active life, a full life, a life *devoted* to good works, to service, to help, to relief of suffering, to encouragement, to support, to *active love in the name of Jesus Christ*.

And that active love is not limited to fellow Christians only—it also reaches out, like Jesus did, to those in darkness, who are yet *in need* of the light of the gospel.

Notice Jesus' words in Matthew 25:34-36: "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something

opportunity arises, we must "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have ... with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Service is a vital, necessary part of the witness that God has called us to be. That is why we are working hard to launch the public service program as one important aspect of reaching out as an active witness of the new life of the kingdom of God.

Congregations' active role

On a similar subject, it is time that our local congregations begin taking an active role in the spreading of the gospel in their local communities, supported by the collective work through headquarters.

We have too long seen evangelistic work as something that should primarily be done at headquarters by headquarters.

But God is showing me that headquarters needs to *not only* do a national and international work through mass media, but it also needs to empower and facilitate every local church for evangelizing in their own communities.

God has called his people to work together as the Body of Christ. Every part of the body needs to be involved in its work.

The public service program is a vital part of being a faithful witness, but it is not specifically evangelism, which is also a vital part of being a faithful witness.

God's people need to be

establishing guidelines, and pray for all the Church as God leads us to draw closer to him in obedience and service.

There is much work ahead, and as we submit to his will and guidance, God will bless and strengthen us.

I will have much more to say about these things in the months ahead. Let's all move forward continually in earnest prayer.

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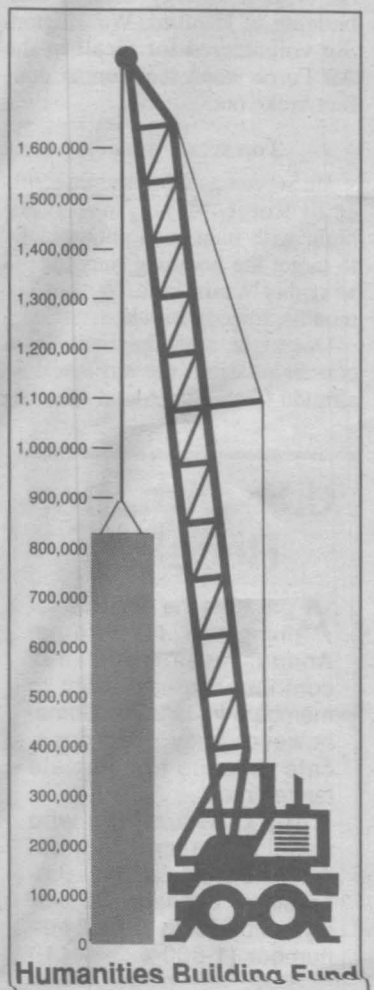
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How to Use Wills and Trusts to Give to the Church

Many members and co-workers have requested information on how best to make a gift to the Worldwide Church of God, either during their lifetime or upon death, through wills, trusts or other means.

If you desire to receive information regarding such gifts, the Legal Department of the Church is available to aid you in this regard without cost or obligation. Please write to Ralph K. Helge, Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91129.

The Legal Department regrets that, because of the variance in laws of other countries, such legal information is only applicable to residents of the United States and Canada. However, in regard to other countries it will furnish whatever limited information it may have available.



NEW HEIGHTS—As of Feb. 12, individuals and church areas have donated \$827,508.16 to the building fund.

Disasters haven't deterred Chico member from caring

By Ross Flynn

CHICO, California—When I first met Sig Erlandsen two years ago, I saw a stout man in his 60s in a wheelchair, with a big smile, a warm handshake and bright, blue Norwegian eyes.

Ross Flynn pastors the Chico, Eureka and Redding, California, churches.

It was also apparent this man had no legs and was missing much of his right hand. Since that time, I've come to know him more deeply and want to share with the Church a little glimpse of this man of courage and outgoing concern.

Being in a wheelchair is something new for Sig. All his life he was active and lively. Only six years ago he lost his legs and hand. And since that time, he continues to be an inspiration to many.

"I was 16 when I first left home (in Wisconsin) and joined the Army. That is, until they found out how old I really was!" he said. The Army sent him home.

At 18, when he was riding westbound at 55 miles per hour on the Burlington Railroad toward Omaha, Nebraska, an eastbound train suddenly headed toward them on a direct collision course.

Moments later, a head-on train wreck demolished both engines, buckling both trains and sending the train cars in every direction. Miraculously, Sig escaped with minor injuries.

The next year, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Sig rejoined the Army, only to have his appendix burst within a year. He transferred to the Air Force and served during World War II in France in communications.

After the war, he came back to the United States and worked on the Atomic Energy Commission building in Hanford, Washington. Sig volunteered for recall in the Air Force when the Korean conflict broke out.

Top secret mission

He served as a top secret courier in Korea—flying out every night with maps and photographs to target the bombing runs for the next day's missions. Within six months, tragedy struck.

One night, at the beginning of a courier mission, the airplane lost altitude (they later found the con-

trol cables had been sabotaged) and crashed into the ocean.

The impact was so powerful, 11 of the 18 men on board were killed. It was after midnight, and a harsh wind blew on crashing ocean waves.

Sig remembers hanging on to a floating mailbag, in spite of a broken shoulder, a broken ankle and a deep cut in his nose and sinuses.

Nearly on the verge of convulsions after an hour in the cold waters, an amphibious rescue vehicle made its way from the shore nearly a mile away.

He hung on to the mailbag until he was finally spotted and picked

up in a laundry room.

But Sig was to endure yet more challenging circumstances. In 1986 he survived a heart attack that required four-way bypass surgery.

After the surgery he reacted violently to the medication. Tragedy struck again, and Sig developed gangrene. He woke up one morning and realized both his legs had been amputated, and the fingers on his right hand were gone.

As he lay there on the hospital bed, Sig began wondering how he would handle his life when he got out of the hospital.

What was left of life? Why had God allowed him to continue to live through these many traumas? What was he going to do for the rest of his life? What was God's purpose for his life?

With God's help, he became convicted that he would do everything in his power to keep going, to keep positive, to do for himself what was humanly possible, and to live the rest of his life determined to serve others and fulfill the reason why God allowed him to continue to live.

When he got out of the hospital, he traded his pickup for a specially equipped van, which allowed him to do his own shopping and also drive 50 miles to the Chico congregation. He was baptized in 1989.

"I do my own cooking, laundry and most of my own housework." As determined as he is, he's still trying to figure out how he can go fishing.

He has learned to be positive and caring, even in difficult circumstances. Many people have been the beneficiaries of his generosity and kindness.

He says: "If you want to just sit around and make all your friends miserable by saying, 'Why did this have to happen to me?' and other depressing things, you had better plan on not being around."

"You'll drive all your friends away from you and make yourself even more miserable. The next thing will be giving up the will to live. I certainly do not intend to give an impression that things are



SIG ERLANDSEN

up. The waves were so high the amphibious rescue vehicle sank on its second attempt to find survivors.

Sig was shipped to the States, where he spent more than 2½ years in hospitals, in and out of surgery. By the time he got out, he was 31 years old.

He then spent 11 more years doing administrative work for the Air Force in Okinawa, the Tokyo Embassy and at the satellite test center in Sunnyvale, California.

He retired in 1966, after 22 years in the service. As a civilian, he worked with photographic firms for the next several years.

Life beyond tragedy

In 1983 Sig began reading a *Plain Truth* magazine he picked

Pasadena SEP camp to focus on careers

"This year's Summer Educational Program in Pasadena promises to be an exciting program," said Curtis May, pastor of the Los Angeles congregation, who will once again be the camp director.

"We have taken suggestions from surveys given to last year's participants and made them a part of this year's program," Mr. May said.

The camp program will continue to feature lectures from headquarters personnel, a beach party, dances and a trip to Disneyland. Comprising the sports program are basketball, volleyball, softball, water polo, tennis and racquetball.

This year more of the lectures will cover subjects such as career and academic planning.

The camp will also offer a one-

day career exploration fair for all camp participants. Church members employed in various trades and professions will provide advice and counseling in their particular job field.

Seminars will be offered on topics such as job interviewing, qualities employers look for in employees and resume writing.

"Last year's participants indicated they wanted to hear more about careers and academic planning, and we are molding our program to fit their requests," said Ted Budge, assistant camp director.

Youths who qualify to attend Pasadena summer camp and who have already applied for camp, but did not indicate a preference for Pasadena SEP and now wish to do so, should call the SEP Office at 1-818-304-6138.

easy, but I believe that a portion of any disability can be between the ears."

He continued: "I still manage to do things to help other people. That alone gives a person a feeling of accomplishment and the knowledge that you are still needed by others."

Thank God for people like Sig Erlandsen. Whenever I'm feeling down and discouraged, I think of Sig. When I visit with him, he

leaves me feeling stronger and more uplifted than when I arrived.

If you come to services in Chico, you'll probably find Sig in his electric wheelchair, inevitably surrounded by both children and adults.

The adults are busy conversing with him. The children alternate between conversation and pushing the horn button or even turning on his headlight. He's letting his light shine in more ways than one.

One Service on First Holy Day

We will have only one service on the first Holy Day during the Days of Unleavened Bread. As you know, a great deal of effort goes into the Night to Be Much Observed, and many members enjoy the opportunity for spiritual fellowship that often goes beyond usual bedtimes.

Many have expressed that they often don't get much out of the morning service because they are drained from the previous few days of activities. Having one service on the first Holy Day will allow families, especially those with small children, more time for morning preparations so that services will be spiritually more valuable. It will also allow time for adequate rest for everyone after the Night to Be Much Observed.

from the Pastor General's Report

By Joseph W. Tkach Jr.

As the Holy Days approach, it would be helpful to review an item that continually generates questions. We are asked every year if there is a size limit to the number of people that one hosts for the Night to Be Much Observed.

Evangelist Joseph W. Tkach Jr. is director of Church Administration.

The answer is that there is no size limit. Obviously, the host should not invite more people to his or her home than the size of the dwelling can comfortably accommodate.

Generally, the Night to Be Much Observed is a meal enjoyed by a few families in the home of one of the families who serves as host for the evening. Groups of two or three families should eat and fellowship together in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin that we as New Testament Christians experience.

This is generally the most economical way to observe the evening. However, it sometimes is the most demanding when families must complete the deleaving of the home, shop and prepare the extra trimmings for the special meal and then clean up after the whole evening is complete! And remember, too, that the next day there are services, which require getting the children ready for the drive to church.

The responsibility of preparing the home, the meal and cleaning up afterward is often shared among the families who are invited by the host family. It is also hoped that the husbands are helping in every way possible rather than allowing the total burden of these responsibilities to fall on the wives.

Through the years, many families have learned valuable lessons on how to properly host the Night to Be Much Observed in their home. To review some points: The host family should not invite more people to the home than space will allow. For example, while there is really no limit on the number of people one chooses to invite, common sense dictates that a family not invite more people than could comfortably be seated for a meal in the home.

Some individuals have greater skill for serving a large group than others. In some cases, a family can appropriately accommodate as

many as 30 people for the evening in their home; whereas it would simply be a physical impossibility for others because of the limitations of the size of the kitchen, number of bathrooms or the size of the home in general.

For this reason the Church suggests that it is generally best to invite two or three families, but this has never been a hard, fast rule.

We have mentioned before the difficulties that can arise in using restaurants for observing the Night to Be Much Observed. While it has not been encouraged, it certainly has not been forbidden. We have pointed out the many possibilities for things to go wrong that might spoil or put a damper on the evening.

Plans or reservations can be fouled up in many ways. There could be poor service, unexpected noise, music or other distractions and difficulties or sensitivities in computing each family's share of the bill, etc. These things have happened to various brethren.

On the other hand, some people have enjoyed memorable occasions when a meal was catered in a private room at a restaurant. There is nothing wrong with using a restaurant if one can secure a quiet and private setting for the participating families. In fact, this is often less of a burden on everyone, and eliminates the extra time spent in preparing and serving the meal as well as in cleaning up afterward.

The guidelines are simply to use common sense—which turns out to be "uncommon sense" more times than not. To make the best decision, we must review our resources in terms of time, space and finances. One year it may work out to host the evening in your own home, while the next year you may join several families for a catered meal at a restaurant.

Surely all of us will be eagerly anticipating the Holy Days. Prepare in advance for the Night to Be Much Observed so that all is done "decently and in order," whether it be a catered meal or prepared in the home. Remember that nonmember mates should be made to feel welcome to attend.

The host or someone he chooses should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion. Of course, we should maintain the dignity and spiritual fellowship of this special observance in both our conduct and conversation.

U.S. Donation Receipts

April 15 is the deadline for filing U.S. tax returns. Annual receipts for 1992 contributions were sent to members in January. Some, however, may need duplicate receipts to complete tax returns.

Any U.S. brethren who need a second annual receipt should call Mail Processing's donation file personnel by using the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444). MPC will then mail you a duplicate copy. Please allow at least 10 days for the replacement receipt to reach you.



IRON SHARPENS IRON

Justification through the gifts of righteousness, forgiveness

By Ted Johnston

The wages of sin is eternal death, says Romans 6:23. This is a great problem and stark reality, which could lead to discouragement—until we also consider what the Passover has to say about the wonderful solution. It is summed up in one meaningful word: *justification*.

Ted Johnston pastors the Grand Junction and Craig, Colorado, churches.

Paul says in Romans 3:23-24, "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [the problem]; they are now justified by his grace as a gift [the solution]" (New Revised Standard Version).

And what a fabulous gift justification is! It includes forgiveness, whereby God has "passed over the sins previously committed" (verse 25).

God did that "to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus" (verse 26).

We receive this gift because of what Christ has done as pictured by the Passover. Because of Christ's death "we have now been justified by his blood" (Romans 5:9).

Justification is a costly gift—the life of Christ. And it is a powerful gift, able to release us from the sin-equals-death equation that causes condemnation.

"The result of one trespass was condemnation for all men [the problem], so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification [the great solution] that brings life for all men" (verse 18).

As God's children we are not condemned—we are justified. And that means we are forgiven. But justification involves even more.

Forgiveness, gift of righteousness

"The judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace [forgiveness] and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:16-17, NRSV).

Here justification is described as having two aspects: forgiveness and also the "gift of righteousness." Justification involves both the wiping away of our past record of sin and the imputing of righteousness.

In Greek, the words for "righteous" and "justification" are similar. To be justified means to be made righteous in the sense of being declared "right" in God's sight—acceptable to him, in good standing before him.

Through justification God removes our guilt and the penalty incurred by that guilt, and then bestows on us a positive righteousness.

Now this righteousness imputed to us is not character. We are not "made righteous" in the sense of

being given fully developed, Christlike character.

Rather we are "reckoned righteous." God says of the justified person: "He or she is now right (righteous) in my sight." And what an indescribable blessing that is—one that David, King of Judah, experienced.

David didn't earn justification

You know David—the adulterer with Bathsheba, the murderer of Uriah. But after his repentance, David was justified and he rejoiced: "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered [the forgiveness aspect of justification]. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him [the gift of righteousness]" (Psalm 32:1-2).

David did not earn justification, but God gave it to him when he repented: "I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'—and you forgave the guilt of my sin" (verse 5).

David reminds us that when we are justified, God imputes no sin to us. But he shows that sin must be "uncovered" by us before it will be "covered" by God.

What God wants is a repentant, submissive attitude, a person "in whose spirit is no deceit" (verse 2). An attitude that is completely open and honest before him—freely and quickly admitting sin. To such a person God freely gives justification.

Recognizing how precious this gift is, David proclaimed: "Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!" (verse 11).

David rejoiced with great fervor because he realized his justification was a merciful gift, not something he had earned.

Paul recognized this important fact as well: "A man is not justified by observing the law [obedience does not earn us justification], but by faith in Jesus Christ" (Galatians 2:16).

Does this mean that obedience is not necessary? Let Paul answer: "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!" (verse 17).

Yes, justification is an unearned gift, but it comes with a great obligation: "He died for all so that those who live should cease to live for themselves, and should live for him who for their sake died and was raised to life. ... We make this appeal: you have received the grace of God [which includes justification]; do not let it come to nothing" (2 Corinthians 5:15, 6:1, Revised English Bible).

Our justification gives us entrance into a wonderful new life wherein sanctification—continual spiritual growth as God's children—is to continue.

And it will, as we respond in repentance when we sin and commit ourselves to obey. "For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified" (Romans

2:13, New King James Version).

Faith and newness of life

To receive justification and to enter into the new, sanctified life of living for Christ is a matter of faith (Galatians 2:16). It began with God's calling and continues as we respond in faith.

In faith we repented. Then we were baptized and in faith we knew we had received the gift of justifi-

cation—our sins were forgiven and we were right in God's sight.

Then, in newness of life, by the power of the Spirit, we walk in obedience to God, repenting in faith of the sins we commit. As we do, we continue in God's righteousness and our sins are not imputed to us—they are covered by Christ's blood.

"From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

At the Passover, as we confront the great problem and the great solution, we come to see more vividly that Christ's sacrifice has purchased our justification.

Our minds are focused with joy and thankfulness on our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. And we humbly rehearse our commitment to live in accordance with the covenant we made with God at baptism. These thoughts do not lead to self-condemnation and discouragement, rather they lead to rejoicing and great peace.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand [we stand forgiven and right in God's sight]. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1-2).

A job for all: Work at saying, 'You're worthwhile'

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Everywhere, people are suffering from the worldwide economic recession. Wages are being frozen. Companies are offering early retirement. School and university graduates find jobs hard to come by. And, unemployment is increasing.

Our society often estimates a person's worth based on his or her job or career. Perhaps we estimate our own worth by this standard. If we do and then find ourselves out of work because of sickness, unemployment or retirement, we may feel lost and undervalued.

Especially within the Church, we should not measure one another, or ourselves, in this way. God reveals to us in his inspired Word that our value to him is not dependent on such superficial things as which job we have or have lost.

God also understands our circumstances. Just because we are unemployed doesn't mean that we are no longer diligent in our efforts to

provide for our families and serve others.

Support needed

Church members who are unemployed often say they feel as though no one believes in them anymore. All the things they know how to do, the contributions they could make, are forgotten or ignored.

Christian love should mean we are sensitive to the situation of other members. If a brother or sister is unemployed, then he or she needs our support more than ever.

This support can come in many forms: encouragement, prayers on the individual's behalf, passing along information on job vacancies and helping out with practical needs as we can, such as clothes for the children.

Many Church members tell how the personal care of brethren, such as writing a letter of encouragement or offering help as skills permit, has helped them through tough times.

Just one more thing

A waste of time?

A big frustration of many unemployed people is that the feeling of time without work is wasted.

But for us, no trial need be a loss. With God's help we can use any situation to grow closer to him and to one another. This time can be an opportunity to exercise determination, resourcefulness and perseverance as we do what is necessary to change our circumstances.

Let's not forget Paul's statement in Romans 8:28, "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Through Paul, God tells us to hang in there! He's with us! He will sustain us and lead us through it all.

What are we worth if we lose our jobs? In God's eyes we are so valuable that the Author of Life faced death by crucifixion for us. If we seek first his kingdom, God promises to take care of our needs (Matthew 6:33).

Love God and trust him all the way, because he can take the bitter experiences of life and make them work for good.





Imperial essayists win trip to Singapore

SINGAPORE FIRST—Imperial Schools students (from left) David Beattie, Nikki Coté, Tania Dean and Scott Darden placed first in The Ambassadors to Singapore competition Feb. 10 sponsored by the Los Angeles *Times* and Singapore Airlines. They won an all-expense-paid, nine-day trip to Singapore, according to the team's coach, Jim Petty (center), an Imperial Schools instructor in world geography. The students and Mr. Petty will visit Singapore March 5 to 14.

More than 600 schools entered the competition, which was open to all high schools in Southern California. In the first round, students submitted a four-page essay about Maintaining National Unity While Sustaining Cultural Diversity, which concerned the United States and Singapore.

Ten schools, representing the 10 best essays, went on to the final round, an oral competition at the Los Angeles *Times* building. Students answered six rounds of questions about the countries of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. "Imperial was the only school to answer all questions correctly," said Mr. Petty.

After the oral competition, administrators, teachers and students attended a luncheon at which students received certificates and T-shirts. "It was an outstanding achievement and we're excited about the trip. Besides the itinerary planned for us we hope to spend the Sabbath with members in Singapore," said Mr. Petty.

Member wins governor's award

Micmac Indian fosters relations among provincial natives

SYDNEY, Nova Scotia—Dan Christmas, a member who attends the church here, was presented with the Governor General's Award Jan. 26 in recognition of significant contributions to Canada.

Governor General Ramon John

Hnatyshyn, Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Canada, granted these awards to selected individuals in conjunction with Canada's 125th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Christmas, a Micmac Indian, is the executive director of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, a body that represents all natives in the province.

His main work has been on behalf of the Micmac community, seeking to foster good relations between the Micmacs and Caucasians in the community.



DAN CHRISTMAS

Pasadena deacon dies at 73

Ken Clemons, 73, a much-loved and respected deacon in Pasadena, died Feb. 9 of a massive heart attack.

Baptized in 1958, Mr. Clemons and his wife, Eva, moved from Portland, Oregon, to Pasadena so they could serve the Church as opportunities arose.

"As much as we have an outreach program we have a definite inreach need within the congregation, and Ken and Eva were always there to help," said Robin Webber, pastor of the Pasadena East P.M. church.

"They were a very helpful husband and wife team. I always think of them working together behind the scenes," Mr. Webber added. "He had a servant's heart."

Mr. Clemons helped Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach tend widows' needs and assist senior

citizens, as well as serve his own congregation in the West P.M. church.

In his work as a painting contractor Mr. Clemons served the Church by helping maintain Church-owned buildings and



KEN CLEMONS

property on the former College campus in Pasadena.

John Kennedy, West P.M. associate pastor, said Mr. Clemons will be missed.

"When I arrived in Pasadena 19 years ago Mr. Clemons was among the first people I met, and he was working on a project with Mr. Tkach," Mr. Kennedy recalled.

"They had a close, personal relationship that goes back to the 1960s, and his death is a personal loss for Mr. Tkach."

Mr. Clemons is survived by his wife, Eva, his son, Kenneth Jr., and wife, Karen, daughters, Barbara Nelson and Joanne Clemons, eight grandchildren, a brother, Bill, and sister, Lillian.

James Stokes, assistant pastor of the West P.M. congregation, conducted the funeral Feb. 12.

1993 Festival Updates

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

This tourist resort will be host to 1,200 Feast attendees. Puerto Vallarta lies off the Pacific coast of Mexico, 340 kilometers (210 miles) west of Guadalajara.

Puerto Vallarta boasts warm beaches, beautiful landscapes, tropical vegetation and an average temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius).

Offering excellent restaurants, water sports, deep-sea fishing and shopping, Puerto Vallarta is serviced by its own international airport with direct flights from major U.S. and Canadian cities on a daily basis.

Housing will be in the five-star Krystal Hotel. The room cost will be \$60 for each night for a double room with two children under 12 free.

Junior and master suites are also available at rates of \$75 and \$150 for each night. Services in the Hotel Krystal will be conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English.

Restaurants offer meals in a wide range of prices.

Ensenada, Mexico

For the fourth consecutive year, Ensenada will be a Festival site. Services will be in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English.

Ensenada, on the Pacific coast of Baja California, is 125 kilometers (77 miles) south of Tijuana and the U.S. border.

Activities include shopping, a downtown winery tour, parks and museums, or taking advantage of the uncrowded beaches.

Housing cost will be \$38 for each night (tax included) for a room with two double beds. Maximum occupancy for each room is four people.

The average cost of breakfast is \$5, and the average cost of lunch or dinner begins in the \$6 to \$10 range.

Jamaica

The departure tax for Jamaica is 200 Jamaican dollars for each person rather than 100 Jamaican dollars as stated in the Planning Guide. One U.S. dollar is equal to 22.75 Jamaican dollars.

Wisconsin Dells site to be heated

Plans are being made for a heating system in the Festival building in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, before the Feast of Tabernacles this fall.

The Church had used a temporary gas-fired system in past years but because of local code restrictions was not able to make full use of it in 1992.

After the 1992 Festival, evangelist Joseph W. Tkach Jr. asked Rick van Pelt, director of Facilities Services, to look into a more effective system. Several options are being examined at this time, but one of them "will definitely be installed by Feast time," said Mr. van Pelt.

Ireland

We still plan to have a Feast site in Ireland and this will

almost definitely be in Kenmare. Once plans are finalized, details will be printed in *The Worldwide News*.

Average costs for a hotel will be 26 Irish punts for dinner, bed and breakfast per person per night (about \$38), though more economical guest houses and self-catering apartments are in the area.

New Zealand

The Feast will take place in Rotorua, New Zealand, not Napier, as indicated in the Feb. 9 *Worldwide News*.

Amman, Jordan

Please note the updated costs for the Feast in Jordan and extension trips to Aqaba, Israel and Egypt.

The basic package for the Jordan Feast (Sept. 27 to Oct. 8), exclusive of any extension, will cost \$1,795 for each adult, double occupancy (if departing from New York).

This includes round-trip airfare from New York, lodging at the Plaza Hotel in Amman, all meals, tours and tips.

If departing from Chicago, Illinois, the cost will be \$1,920 for each adult, double occupancy.

In addition to visiting the centers where Ambassador College students work, we plan to tour Petra, Jerash, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Hisban and a choice of Pella or the Dead Sea, among other sites in Amman.

Everyone must take at least the ground package to Jordan.

For those departing from Chicago and taking the basic tour package to Jordan only, a three-day extension trip to Aqaba is planned.

The U.S. return trip for this group will be Oct. 11. The cost for each adult (double occupancy) is \$215.

The adult rate (double occupancy) for those who do not require the transatlantic airfare is \$995.

Again, we plan to offer extensions to Israel and Egypt. Each will be seven days (Oct. 8 to 14). The Israel extension will cost \$795 for each adult (double occupancy).

It will include ground transportation, lodging, meals and tours of Jericho, Dead Sea, Qumran, Masada, Mount of Olives, Jerusalem (new and old city), Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Megiddo, Nazareth, Mount of Beatitudes and Capernaum.

We plan to offer two extension trips to Egypt. One will be after the Feast (Oct. 8 to 14), and the other after the Israel extension (Oct. 14 to 20).

Either extension will cost \$1,105 for each adult. Each includes tours of Cairo and Luxor, lodging, meals, tips and round-trip airfare from Amman to Cairo.

Sites to visit include the Egyptian Museum, Pyramids and the Sphinx, Mohammed Ali Mosque, Valleys of the Kings and Queens, Temples of Luxor and Karnak and Khan El-Khalili Bazaar. More details will follow upon acceptance to the Jordan site.

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

UPDATE

Youths hone skills at Nigerian camp

JOS, Nigeria—Ninety-six campers and 70 staff members attended SEP camp Dec. 18 to Jan. 2 at the Church's 100-acre property in the Jos Plateau Highland, 4,000 feet above sea level.

With a theme, "Go Team Excel," campers were encouraged, through goal setting, team work and perseverance, to improve on skills acquired in previous camps.

Camp activities included volleyball, soccer, leather working and wood carving, as well as classes in Christian living, computers, guitar and piano playing, dressmaking, wilderness skills and baking.

"In Nigeria, as in many other parts of the developing world, camp is more than just fun and games," said Josef Forson, camp director and pastor of the Jos, Lagos, Owerri, Benin City and Enugu, Nigeria, churches.

"It forms part of the educational, moral, social and cultural upbringing, complementing what is given in schools. So much is lacking in the raising of the African child because of the struggle to provide basic housing, food and clothing needs.

"Many parents are not able to give as much attention to other areas of their children's development as they would like to. Few grow up receiving any formal music training. Any social or work skills children learn are directed at making them contribute to the food on the family table."

He continued: "So when in camp we teach them to organize a banquet, set the table or entertain

a brother or sister dorm, it's an important thing for the young people. When it's all over, tears are shed as we go home to our various church areas, thousands of kilometers apart."

Kenyan member named employee of the year

NAIROBI, Kenya—Kobil Petroleum Ltd., Mobil's Kenyan operation, named member Charles Shiroko 1992 employee of the year in the Operations Department. Mr. Shiroko, an administration and analysis supervisor, was honored at the company's employee banquet Dec. 19 at Nairobi's Safari Park Hotel.

Mr. Shiroko attends the Nairobi church with his wife, Elianah, and three children, Caleb, Allen and Priscillah.

Sioux Falls church to celebrate 25th

SIOUX FALLS, South Dakota—Brethren who have previously attended the Sioux Falls church are invited to attend the 25th anniversary of the church here June 26.

Scheduled activities include a 3 p.m. Sabbath service with guest speakers, a dinner, a video highlighting 25 years of the Sioux Falls church and a dance. Saturday's activities will be at the Ramkota Inn Exhibit Hall in Sioux Falls. A potluck picnic at McHardy Park in Brandon is planned for Sunday.

The cost of the dinner, featuring smoked chicken, is \$10 a person. Children may select the taco buffet for \$7 a person. Please send

names and meal selections with a check payable to "Church Activity Fund—Sioux Falls" to Virginia Petersen at R.R. 1, 301 Sixth Ave., Brandon, South Dakota, 57005, by June 1.

A block of rooms is reserved at the Ramkota Inn. The cost is \$57 a night for two people. For reservations call the motel at 1-800-528-1234 before June 1.

For further information about activities or other area motels write Mrs. Petersen at the above address or call her at 1-605-582-6821.

If you plan to attend Sabbath services or the dance but not the dinner, please let Mrs. Petersen know for planning purposes.

Colin Wilkins named to new position in French Canada

MONTREAL, Quebec—Evangelist Frank Brown, Canadian regional director, appointed Colin Wilkins, Montreal pastor, as his assistant in overseeing the francophone (French-speaking) churches in Canada.

"Mr. Wilkins will act as sort of a 'roving ambassador' in the area, staying in touch with the local ministry, preaching in the churches



COLIN AND SYLVIA WILKINS

there and generally being a guide and counselor," Mr. Brown said.

"His wide international experience in the ministry and fluency in

World Tomorrow Program

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UPDATES

New Station

Station/Location	Air Time	Channel
WFMY Greensboro, N.C.	Sunday, 7 a.m.	2

Renewals

KTHV Little Rock, Ark.	Sunday 10 a.m.	11
WCCO Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	Sunday 7 a.m.	4
WCTV Tallahassee, Fla.	Sunday 8:30 a.m.	6
WDEF Chattanooga, Tenn.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	11
WKYC Cleveland, Ohio	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	3
WNEP Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	16
WBRC Birmingham, Ala.	Sunday 8 a.m.	6
WPBF West Palm Beach, Fla.	Sunday 10 a.m.	25
WHOI Peoria, Ill.	Sunday 10 a.m.	19
WTVF Nashville, Tenn.	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	5
KRRT San Antonio, Tex.	Sunday 6:30 a.m.	35

the French language make him ideally suited for this position."

For now, Mr. Wilkins will continue to oversee the three French and one English congregations in Montreal, although Eric Vautour, Ghislain Ringuette, Rejean Vautour and Kevin Armstrong will become pastors of those churches.

Youths invited to German SEP camp

VOEHL, Germany—Openings are available for 16 boys and 16 girls at the German Summer Educational Program (SEP) camp in Voehl, July 25 to Aug. 13.

Some experience in the German language is helpful, but not necessary. Those limited in German will stay in dorms with English-speaking counselors.

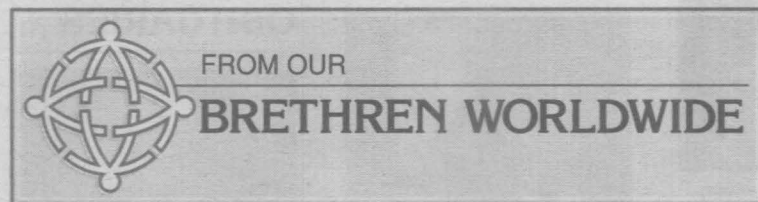
Most staff members are bilingual, and instruction in German

will be available for campers who speak only English. Activities at the camp include basketball, canoeing, journalism, pottery, soccer, swimming, volleyball and waterskiing.

The camp will cost about US\$400, depending on the exchange rate. Airport of arrival is Frankfurt, Germany.

The German Office is considering offering a one- to two-week tour of the German-speaking region before SEP. The additional cost would be US\$400 to US\$800, depending on the number of participants and duration of the tour.

For additional information and applications write to camp director Wade Fransson at Richard-Wagner Strasse 43, 7141 Schwieberdingen, Germany. For applications only, contact the SEP Office in Pasadena.



Close family ties in Italy bring mixed blessings

"In Italy everybody grows up Catholic. Catholicism is part of Italian culture, although that does not mean everyone is strongly religious," said Daniel Boesch, Milan and Vicenza, Italy, pastor.

Mr. Boesch and his wife, Colomba, visited Pasadena for the Feb. 3 to 10 Ministerial Refreshing Program.

For the 150 brethren in northern Italy, living as a non-Catholic is one of their greatest challenges.

"You're expected to be Catholic and it's not a natural thing to change religions," said Mr. Boesch.

"We don't have four, five or more branches of Christianity in Italy like you do in the United States."

Catholic traditions such as baptism, first communion, confirmation and Christmas are not just religious rituals, but a big part of an Italian's upbringing. These are major family events where all the relatives get together and celebrate.

"When a person steps out of Catholicism and into the Worldwide Church of God, the family will be concerned, but it's not that they're wor-

ried you won't be saved. The concern is that you will no longer be taking part in Catholic traditions, which puts the family in an awkward light," he explained.

"This can be a big problem when either a husband or wife is interested in the Church, but not both. The one who's not interested usually doesn't mind if the spouse studies the Bible, prays or fasts, but the other spouse may get upset when the spouse starts attending Sabbath services.

"We try to instill people in this situation with a lot of wisdom and tact, but it's never an easy thing to deal with."

Perhaps more than in other

Western cultures, Italians make good family relationships top priority. No one wants to do anything to hurt the family reputation or destroy peace among family members.

Sometimes family pressure makes it harder to come into the Church. But at the same time the family is also a big blessing.

"In Italy you have the emotional and financial support of extended family members, and children grow up close to their grandparents while learning to respect older people."

Bleak outlook for jobs

Like brethren elsewhere, members in northern Italy struggle with an economy in recession, a high cost of living, climbing inflation and joblessness.

"It used to be you could almost always find a job. But in the last couple years, it has become extremely difficult," Mr. Boesch related. "We have just two unemployed members, but many worry they could lose their jobs."

Primarily industrial northern Italy, which normally has had little or no unemployment, today battles with a 7 percent unemployment rate. Southern Italy, traditionally far less prosperous and more agricultural than the north, has 20 percent unemployment.

Most of the big factories, such as Fiat, are in the north, where many southerners have emigrated to find jobs. "But these days, the government is

introducing a lot of new taxes, and many businesses in the north are folding up."

When it comes to jobs, keeping the Sabbath adds to the challenge. "Many employers expect their employees to work on Saturdays, and when Church members ask to be an exception to the rule, this can cause a lot of problems," Mr. Boesch said.

Those with office jobs in private industry usually do not have a big problem with the Sabbath. But those who work for the government or factories often do.

"When new members come into the Church, they usually have to do a lot of negotiating with their bosses regarding the Sabbath," Mr. Boesch said. "Thankfully, most brethren have been able to work things out."

Obstacles for youths

Young people too face a challenge when it comes to the Sabbath. Schools in Italy run six days a week, Monday through Saturday, with only Sundays off.

Jews and the Seventh-day Adventists in Italy have a specific agreement with the Italian government to keep their children out of school on Saturdays, but the Worldwide Church of God doesn't have that agreement largely because the Church is not registered in Italy.

"With our children, exceptions have to be made on an individual basis, and sometimes that can be really tough to deal with."

"Each year the kids have to talk to their teachers to see if they will make special accommodations for them and get makeup homework on Sundays," Mr. Boesch continued.

"Most teachers are understanding, but a few of our young people have big problems with the Sab-



HOME IN MILAN—Daniel Boesch, pastor of the Milan and Vicenza, Italy, congregations, with his wife, Colomba, from Naples, Italy, and their son, Alessandro.

bath at school. The Feast is also difficult for the youths because they miss a whole week of classes, and it's hard for them to catch up when they get back."

He concluded: "Although we face our share of challenges, the brethren here are managing OK, but we do need your prayers. Please pray for children with the Sabbath situation in the schools and also that members here will not lose their jobs in the recession."



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