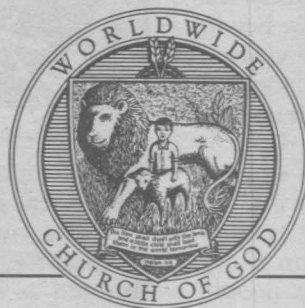


2 America: When knowledge of God fades from view

4 Money management: Be aware of what you lose by impulse buying

5 Community service: Members use their talents in many ways

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXII, NO. 2
JANUARY 18, 1994

New department to support local congregations

Our use of the term *evangelism* refers to the way people live. It is the Christian life-style.

Before the successful open house services began in November (WN, Jan. 4), Evangelism Support Services (ESS) in Pasadena helped train pastors and congregations, mailed invitations, coordinated advertising of church services on *The World Tomorrow* and prepared information packets about the Church for guests.

"Evangelism Support Services is here to train and assist pastors to equip and lead their congregations into evangelism," said Tom Lapacka, ESS manager.

"We want to help them see that God can use congregations in a personal evangelism effort to harvest those people God is calling in their areas."

Meaning of evangelism

Said evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, "We use the term *evangelism* in the sense that the word is used in the Old and New Testaments." In the Old it was used for any kind of good news, but in particular of God's kindness and especially of messianic blessings.

In the New Testament, it is the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.

"In that sense, we are all evangelists, or bringers of glad tidings, and being a disciple means more than just being a convert," Mr. Tkach Jr. said. "God wants to use us as lights and as salt to point people to the source of illumination and to the

place to have thirst quenched."

To help members, ESS is preparing a Christian Development Program to provide training in such areas as doctrine and practices, marriage and family relations, personal stewardship, community service, personal evangelism and serving the elderly.



PREPARING FOR GOOD WORKS—"It's our job to provide materials and training to help members become effective tools for bringing the unconverted to Christ," said Tom Lapacka (second from right), Evangelism Support Services manager. From left, Barbara Wertz, secretary; Steve Sidars, assistant manager; Mr. Lapacka; and Brian Kritzell, Church Ministries Development coordinator. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

Until now, the Church has evangelized from headquarters using the *World Tomorrow* program, the publications, and the activities of the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College.

"These are collective institutional efforts," said Mr. Lapacka. "But it is only part of the equation.

"At the congregational and personal level we need members active in their communities, and who can help bring the unconverted into a relationship with Christ.

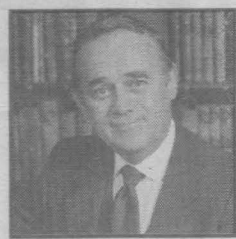
"We have always had some members allowing Christ to use them in this capacity, but we want to help more of our members to take a personal part in spreading the gospel message."

Building friendships, credibility

The great commission given in Matthew 28:19-20 tells us: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

For this reason ESS was formed: to help members fulfill their part in the great commission.

"Our desire is to help members serve as tools in God's hands to bring others to his son, Jesus Christ," said Mr. Lapacka.



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Centering life on Jesus

We are living in truly exciting times! The doors God is opening for his work to be done are great indeed. But for us to be successful in doing God's work in the way that pleases him, we need to be close to him.

It is *God's* work that we are called to do, not our own. God has commissioned us to lead people to *Jesus Christ*, not to ourselves. That is why we are placing special emphasis on prayer and fasting during this entire month.

As the Body of Christ, the Church of God, we have been called together to worship, follow and conform to the image of our Lord and Savior, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. We need faith in Jesus in order to follow him (John 14:12).

We need belief in Jesus to do the work of God (John 6:29). In order to have eternal life, we need to *know* God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent (John 17:3). These should be the goals of our prayer and fasting.

As we come to love God more fully, we will also come to love one another more fully. As we draw closer to God through prayer, our relationships with others improve also, because the more Jesus lives in us, the more we love his brothers and sisters. The more we believe and understand God's love for us in sending his Son that our sins can

See Personal, page 3

Toll-free number will boost response, while voice-mail reduces costs

By Paul Monteith

The World Tomorrow reinstated the toll-free number Jan. 15 for viewers to request literature offered on the program.

"With a telephone number viewers can react instantly," said Boyd Leeson, media promotion manager. "If they have to write a letter, something might distract them and the letter may never get written. Like the parable about the sower, before the seed has time to take root Satan snatches it away."

Another reason is that people in the 25 to 54 age group are more comfortable communicating by telephone than by letter.

"We have found that it is people 55 and older who are more likely to write in for literature. So by using an 800 number we motivate the younger segment of our audience to respond," Mr. Leeson said.

While the toll-free number will increase response, Mr. Leeson feels that the religious content of *The*

World Tomorrow will screen out people who have only a marginal interest in religious material.

To keep expenditures within budget, the Church is using the latest telephone voice-mail technology to handle incoming calls instead of using a large number of operators.

Voice-mail allows callers to leave a recorded message. In addition, the brief, simple and direct questions shorten the time a caller spends on the telephone line.

In Big Sandy, Telephone Response (a section of the Mail Processing Extension Center), has 24 telephone lines, all with voice-mail ports, in operation.

While Ambassador College students still staff the lines during Sunday broadcasts of *The World Tomorrow*, voice-mail can take calls when the office is closed, or, because it handles calls more quickly, can relieve operators during peak call-in times and when there is a large response to a literature offer.

In May, as a further cost-saving

See Number, page 3

When knowledge of God fades from view

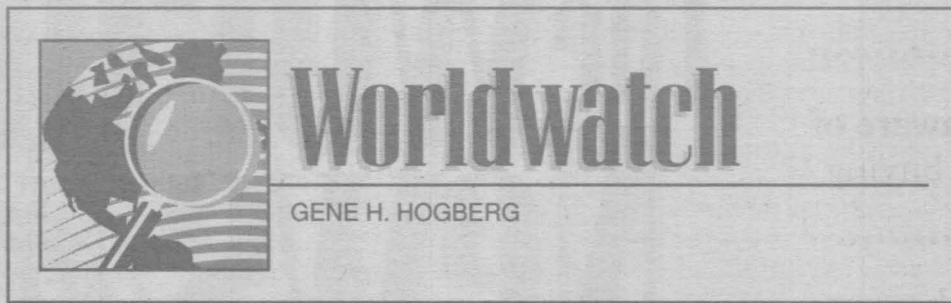
"What's happening to us as a nation? Why are there so many crazy people running around with guns? Can't anybody tell right from wrong any more?"

Questions such as these typify the way many Americans view in bewilderment the rising tide of violent crime and immorality in the land.

The violent twist to modern-day crime is, to many, the most disturbing trend. This point was driven home by dramatic events during the last month of 1993: A man opened fire in a commuter train on Long Island, New York, killing six people and wounding 20; an out-of-work computer engineer killed four people and then himself in an unemployment office in Oxnard, California; and police in Petaluma, California, found the body of 12-year-old Polly Klaas, who had been abducted two months earlier.

The brutality of today's crime scene even befuddles convicts. According to the Dec. 19 *Los Angeles Times*, former criminals can hardly believe the stories on television about robbers who shoot to death store owners even after they cooperate.

"What's wrong with these guys?" asked one inmate serving a long sentence for robbery and ransom. "In the old days ... if someone was unarmed and cooperated with us, we didn't just



shoot him down like a dog."

Americans are not alone in asking why the surge in compassionless criminality. The British public was stunned as the story of the kidnapping and brutal murder of a 2-year-old toddler, James Bulger, by two 10-year-old boys, unfolded in court.

Crown Court Judge Michael Moreland, who presided at the trial, described the two young murderers as "cunning and very wicked."

That such disorder plagues our society should come as no surprise. For the last three to four decades, we have witnessed the steady erosion of the major stabilizing factors of society—family, church, school and community.

Fundamental in this erosion is that an awareness of God, however incomplete in the minds of many, and a general familiarity with the lessons and admonitions of the Bible, have greatly diminished from public consciousness.

This great loss is felt most critically in public education, with God, in effect, expelled from school and replaced by theories of moral relativism and value-free education.

Today a child can't pray in school, but he can prey in school—as a hoodlum, on his classmates.

The prophet Hosea described what happens when the knowledge of God fades from view. "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed" (Hosea 4:1-2).

Without biblically based morality people cannot tell right from wrong, and the result is confusion.

"What Is Moral, and How Do We Know It?" ran a headline in *Commentary*. Philosopher Ernest van den Haag replied, several issues later: "How can anything be shown to be intrinsically evil?... Without

religion ... philosophers have not succeeded in answering this question satisfactorily."

Meanwhile, one secular solution after another is floated to deal with moral and religious issues, from illegitimacy to drug addiction to AIDS: Encourage citizens to swap guns for rock concert tickets; consider legalizing drugs; run racy government-sponsored television commercials encouraging youths to use condoms if they are sexually active.

Criticizing such approaches, the Dec. 29 *Wall Street Journal* editorialized: "Clearly some of us have a remarkably deep faith in wholly secular solutions, even in the face of relentless secular failure."

During this month of prayerful introspection and fasting we should be, as Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach told us in his letter of Dec. 27, "coming before God in reverent humility," aware that "in our secular world it is much too easy to drift away from God than it is to pursue his holiness."

We should be thankful our merciful heavenly Father has called us out of this world of moral darkness "into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9), so we may "purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

The Worldwide News

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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.

Just keeps on going

I can confidently say that all the brethren I've talked and fellowshiped with feel it's exciting as the Church grows in truth and knowledge! I know it keeps my zeal going! Hopefully we can all keep our eyes on the big picture and run the race with confidence.

My (and our) prayers are always with you. (I think you already know that, but it's good to be reminded.) Keep up the good work. It amazes me what all of you have accomplished at headquarters and throughout the world.

Kirk L. Thysell
Tucson, Arizona

Holding on to courage and faith

We would like to express our deep and lasting appreciation to you and those at headquarters who hold the courage and faith to "risk" rocking the boat to correct any doctrines or traditions that do not accurately reflect God's truth!

It is so sad to hear of those who jump overboard without really getting the facts. They not only get left behind, but become easy prey for the "sharks."

We feel that Satan is just spreading a smoke screen in a vain attempt to obscure all the exciting and important developments in God's Church, i.e., new truth and understanding; a much improved and more balanced youth program (with results we already enjoy in the San Jose and Aptos, California, YOU); new television format; new hymnal; and other things.

For all these things and those yet to come, we join with all those who trust God to lead and govern his Church through his appointed leader and shepherds, and say with gusto, Bravo!

Jim and Gai Quigley
Monterey, California

Driving the point home

While driving home from services this past week, I was mulling over the change on how we now view God. I can grasp even more now what Jeremiah meant when he said, "God fills heaven and earth [Jeremiah

23:24]." It makes God seem even more wonderful this way.

The combination of articles in *The Plain Truth* and *The Worldwide News* and sermons from our minister make the changes easier to digest and understand.

Cave Springs, Georgia

Tithe-of-the-tithe system works

Would you please convey my belated but sincere gratitude to the Worldwide Church of God membership for making it possible for me to attend another Feast of Tabernacles.

God in his wisdom has shown us that we are our brother's keeper and how we can help make life a little easier by showing our love through the tithe-of-the-tithe system

that helps many of us to attend the Feast.

It is with sincere praise to God, our most generous Father, and thanks to each person who has contributed to the fund that makes it possible for the poor and the widow to attend the Feast where we can feast at the table of God's truth.

Name withheld by request
Kamloops, British Columbia

Nothing escapes his eye

Words are so inadequate when I try to express how I feel toward our God and his way of life. What a privilege to be called. It is so exciting to learn of the new format of the telecast.

My prayers are constant for all of you day and night. I love you all so much and my brethren worldwide. Keep up the good work! God is watching all of us and nothing escapes his eye. We as his people should be most honored to know his truth. I love it!

Dorothy Owings
Childersburg, Alabama

"Into All the World..."

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

Words of gold

I received your welcome and much to my surprise, the thank you for my small contributions. If my contributions are a help and you wish me to be a co-worker, that would be something for me.

I had a wonderful wife four months less than 50 years when I lost her. That is when I wrote you for *The Plain Truth*.

I asked for a little help in reading, you sent me some very good reading material. From that time, I have read more of the Bible than all my past years. How much we can get from reading the Bible!

I thank you for taking the time to thank me for my little help. You have helped me with wonderful reading.

H.J.
Fort Myers, Florida

Magazine is colorful prison study

We would like to thank you for the *Plain Truth* magazine and any other books you can send us. I'm hispanic and my Christian brother is black, but we get along great because we both belong to Jesus.

I'm 24 years old and Anthony is 39. We have a little Bible study every other day, and *The Plain Truth* helps us with topics and ideas for our study. When we started, there were five of us. Now there are seven and growing.

We are in prison, and we watch your *World Tomorrow* show. We think there should be more shows like yours. We get a good understanding of the Scriptures and what they mean to us.

A.R.
Monroe, Louisiana

Plain-talking grandmother

I would appreciate it so very much if you would send the *Plain Truth* magazine to my grandson. I believe he needs to read about Jesus. I have read my latest magazine and will send it to him and I will tell him if he doesn't read it, there will be no gifts from me.

I suspect he is using me; he has a profession and is very intelligent. In today's world the more they have the more they want. To him being a Christian is only for grannies.

This granny does not like to be used. And I will set him straight on what my beliefs are, and he'd better read the magazine for his own good.

M.W.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Personal: Centering life on Jesus

Continued from page 1

be forgiven, the more forgiving we will be of one another (Ephesians 4:32).

As the world around the people of God becomes increasingly ungodly, it is no time for the Church to grow complacent and spiritually drowsy. God has called us as workers into his fields, which he sees as ready for harvest (John 4:35-36). Each one has his or her work to do. No member of the Body is unimportant in the task.

Paul explained to the Ephesians that each person is called and strengthened in Christ to do his or her work in building up the Body in love: "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16).

But, as we all know, the cares of this world subtly creep up on us, diverting our attention from the high call our Creator has given us in Christ. We grow lethargic and begin to neglect the salvation we have been given.

We spend more and more time away from the things of God, and less and less time worshiping, serving and communicating with him, less and less time serving others in his name. We gradually shift the central focus of our lives away from Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God.

Consequently, we find ourselves caught up in the stress, concerns, trials, pains, headaches and heartaches of life *alone*—without the power and courage that come from "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

We are admonished in Hebrews 12:1-3: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every-

thing that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Centering lives on Jesus

Our eyes are to remain fixed on Jesus. He is the author and the perfecter of our faith. Only as we center

God answers the earnest prayers of his people, and he gives us the good things we need to have. As we devote ourselves to praying according to his will, we will grow closer to him and to Jesus Christ.

our lives on him can we have the confidence that our sins are forgiven, the perseverance to do the work God has given us, and the strength not to grow weary and lose heart.

Notice carefully, in Acts 26:17-18, how the resurrected and glorified Jesus described the commission he gave to Paul (the same commission we have): "I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

As God's children, we have received forgiveness of sins, and we have been sanctified, by faith in Jesus. Our eyes have been opened by faith in Jesus. We have been turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, by faith in Jesus. And God, who has poured his grace so liberally on us, has commissioned us to proclaim to others how they can receive all this too—through faith in Jesus.

Jesus told the apostles in Luke 24:46-48: "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."

Let's pray for faith in Jesus Christ. Through that faith, we are saved. Through that faith, we worship God. Through that faith, we obey God, and through that faith, we proclaim the gospel. Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to wake us up, to stir us to action, to lead us and to help us "throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles."

Repentance and devotion

Again I remind us that we live in an increasingly godless society, and we tend to be easily led to neglect the things of God. We need a repentant heart and a devoted spirit, and God will grant these to his people.

I pray for all our brothers and sisters as Paul prayed for the Ephesians. He wrote in Ephesians 3:16-19: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and

high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Let's all pray this for one another. Each member of the Body of Christ needs that power. All of us need Jesus Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith. We need to truly *know* his love, and we need to be *filled* with God.

Paul also prayed that the Ephesians would know God more fully: "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" (Ephesians 1:17). Again, this is what I pray for all of us, and what I ask you to pray for one another.

God answers the earnest prayers of his people, and he gives us the good things we need to have. As we devote ourselves to praying according to his will, we will grow closer to him and to Jesus Christ.

We will grow bolder in faith and courage to do his work of worshiping him, loving one another and proclaiming the gospel and harvesting those he is calling. We will develop the peace of mind that comes from knowing God is with us—even while we are enduring trials and hardship.

Jesus Christ is our life. He is our strength, our safety, our salvation. Paul wrote, "In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" (Ephesians 3:12).

Let's make good use of the time. Let's spend this month together in prayer and fasting, centering our attention on the only One through whom our sins are forgiven, through whom eternal life is assured, and through whom we can understand and experience the glorious and joyous meaning and purpose for which we were created!

Togo brethren shaken but well after coup; members asked for prayers

LOME, Togo—Our 65 brethren in this West African nation are shaken but well, according to Mr. Akpotsui, a deacon, who telephoned pastor Bernard Andrist in Geneva, Switzerland.

Togo's armed forces at the main border crossing here were under fire Jan. 7 from the Ghanaian side of the frontier, according to a Reuter report.

Residents had heard heavy shoot-

ing from the Ghanaian side of the border since Thursday night, Jan. 6. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was in force, and parliamentary elections set for Jan. 23 have been postponed for two weeks.

On Wednesday night, the Togolese government announced that more than 100 armed men planning to assassinate the military president, Gnassingbe Eyadema, had crossed the border.

Defense Minister Inoussa Bouraina said 30 attackers, seven members of the security forces and three civilians were killed during and after those attacks.

City closed down

City businesses and shops were closed, and public transportation was not operating.

Four from Togo attended the Summer Educational Program (SEP) in Ghana when the latest round of violence flared. Tanti Yovo served on staff, and the other three, Magnim Malou, Leon Yovo and Matthew Yovo were campers.

Tanti and Matthew made it back over the border into Togo on Wednesday, Jan. 5. However, Magnim and Leon were not well enough to travel that day.

They left on Thursday, but that was the day the border was closed

and the Togo army killed some Ghanaians. Leon has an aunt on the border, but she had neither food nor room for them.

Rerouting trip plans

Magnim borrowed money for the journey back to Accra, Ghana, on Friday, leaving Leon at the border. Leon was able to return to Accra on Saturday.

Mr. Deku arranged with Mr. Ak-

potsui to meet him Jan. 11 at the border post just north of Ho, Honuta.

The children arrived home safely, according to David Bedford, Ghana pastor.

All has ended safely, although Magnim said it was dangerous at the border on Thursday, Mr. Bedford reported.

The brethren in Togo request prayers on their behalf.

Number to boost response

Continued from page 1

measure, MPEC, including Telephone Response, will be consolidated with the Mail Processing Center (MPC) in Pasadena.

"MPC will continue using voice-mail to handle *World Tomorrow* literature requests," said evangelist Richard Rice, MPC manager, "because it eliminates the need for an excessive number of operators without sacrificing efficiency."

Gala for African-Americans

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—The congregations here cordially invite you to attend our biennial, Midwest regional social July 2 and 3. Evangelist Stan Bass, an Ambassador College faculty member, will be the guest speaker. Special Sabbath music will be performed by a combined choir and soloist.

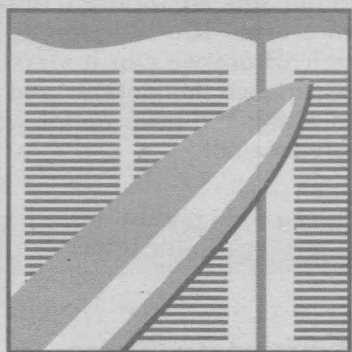
The dinner and dance will take place Sunday, July 3, at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, recognized as one of the most elegant ballrooms in the Midwest. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited to those 14 years and older. The cost per ticket is \$25. Please send all ticket requests no later than June 1, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

July Social
Box 441711
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46244

Make all checks payable to LCAF-Indy South. For housing and general information call Albert or Marilyn Talison at 1-317-351-0809 (daytime) or 1-317-546-1916 (evening). Information regarding Sabbath services will be provided with each ticket request.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.



The value of deferred gratification

By Doug Peitz

If it is good, why can't I have it now? Why should I have to wait? Sound familiar? Most of us have probably used this form of reasoning to get something we want. In this age of instant gratification, the answer to this question is becoming obscured. If something is good, why should we have to wait?

When we go into a store and see something we don't have money for, the question reverberates from the credit cards in our wallets: "Why can't I have it now?"

It is hard to see the value of postponing certain purchases in the short term. All one can see is an evening of elegant dining, a new videocassette recorder or the beautiful clothes that can be purchased with plastic.

There is no pain and no sacrifice—until the bills come due. Some couples become shackled to consumer credit card debts in the tens of thousands of dollars. Even relatively minor violations of this principle of deferred gratification have penalties.

We need to remind ourselves of the value in deferring gratifications. In particular we'll see how to overcome impulse buying by realizing some real benefits of postponing buying certain major items.

The table at right contrasts instant gratification with deferred gratification. It illustrates the long-term advantages of deferred gratification over instant gratification, even when the use of credit seems relatively minor.

Couple A and couple B are financially equal for this comparison. The only difference is how they handle \$50.80 of their income each month over a 20-year period. They will each use their \$50.80 a month to make a \$1,000 purchase every two years.

Couple A buy on impulse. They use their credit card, at 19.8 percent interest, and pay it back over

a two-year period. The payments on such a loan are \$50.80 a month, which is how we derived this figure.

Couple B defer gratification. They don't buy the item until they have saved the money. So they save \$50.80 a month until they have \$1,000. Then they continue to save \$50.80 a month for the remainder of the two-year period. We assume a savings interest rate of 3 percent.

At the end of the first two years, each couple makes another purchase of \$1,000. Both have the first item paid off and start over. The only difference now is that couple B have savings accumulated and can wait a shorter time to buy the next item.

The chart illustrates the benefits of deferred gratification over a 20-year period. Couple B have all the same things as couple A and only have to defer gratification the first four times, with the duration diminishing each time. And couple B have a net savings of \$2,778, whereas couple A have no savings—all because of how the two couples handled the same amount of money, \$50.80 a month.

But this does not tell the whole story. Deferring gratification brings other benefits. We tend to think more before we buy. Those who use credit cards buy on average about 30

percent more than cash customers, which indicates compulsive buying.

With cash in hand, one thinks twice about the wisdom of a purchase. Having already earned the money, one more fully appreciates the value of it.

Also, when paying with cash is an option, merchants will often give a cash discount. After all, credit card companies charge 3 to 5 percent to retailers just to process the charge.

Sometimes the store offering the lowest price does not even take credit cards. Finally, with cash, one also has the option of purchasing high-quality used items at greatly reduced prices.

Proverbs contains admonitions to practice deferred gratification. "Whoever loves pleasure will suffer want; whoever loves wine and oil will not be rich" (Proverbs 21:17, New Revised Standard Version). Proverbs 21:5 adds, "The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want."

Deferring gratification is only one facet of money management. Your circumstances may vary, but we hope you find the principles helpful.

The Value of Deferred Gratification

Item Purchased every two years.	Couple A Instant Gratification (pays \$50.80 per month)				Couple B Deferred Gratification (saves \$50.80 per month)			
	Years to save \$1,000 (\$50.80 a month)	Cost of the item	Savings at the end of two years	Amount paid out in interest	Years to save \$1,000 (\$50.80 a month)	Cost of the item	Savings at the end of two years	Amount paid out in interest
Stereo	0	\$1,000	0	\$ 219	1.6	\$1,000	\$ 245	0
TV	0	\$1,000	0	\$ 438	1.2	\$1,000	\$ 493	0
Sofa	0	\$1,000	0	\$ 657	0.8	\$1,000	\$ 744	0
Refrigerator	0	\$1,000	0	\$ 876	0.4	\$1,000	\$ 998	0
Washer & Dryer	0	\$1,000	0	\$1,095	0	\$1,000	\$1,254	0
Dining Room Set	0	\$1,000	0	\$1,314	0	\$1,000	\$1,524	0
Encyclopedias	0	\$1,000	0	\$1,533	0	\$1,000	\$1,810	0
Sewing Machine	0	\$1,000	0	\$1,752	0	\$1,000	\$2,114	0
Lawn Mower	0	\$1,000	0	\$1,971	0	\$1,000	\$2,436	0
Computer	0	\$1,000	0	\$2,190	0	\$1,000	\$2,778	0

Doug Peitz pastors the Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, church.

Because our lives are like a mist, we should make sure each day counts

Stop and ponder when hearing media reports about tragedy striking others, but don't lose hope of God's promises for the future.

By Ruth Arnold

One frosty morning in November, England awoke to the news of two tragedies.

The first was the media's announcement of a minibus crash on a motorway in which 10 schoolchildren and a schoolteacher were killed, and four seriously injured. The group was returning home from a concert in the Royal Albert Hall in London.

The headmaster of their Catholic school spoke on BBC (British

Broadcasting Corp.) radio, close to tears.

He told of the parents' night of fear. The loss of 10 of the nicest children in his school and a particularly dedicated teacher.

He was about to face the unenviable task of talking to all the other children in the school and parents who had gathered. Lost for words, he said, "It was just a tragedy."

The other tragic news item was that during a soccer match a man had been killed by a firework let off into the crowd. Someone had released a flare into the stands opposite, the man was hit in the face and died instantly. He was sitting next to his son.

Who can imagine the psychological impact on the loved ones in these situations?

The media regularly report incidents of war, violence and extreme hardship. Yet somehow we learn to protect ourselves emotionally.

But these were ordinary people, much like ourselves. A school trip and a soccer match are routine

occurrences in British life.

Fragile existence

Once again we are reminded that the cord of life is a fragile one, easily broken. Our lives are lived in the context of mortality. To paraphrase Christ's words in a different context, it is not given to us to know the day nor the hour.

That our lives do not go on forever has been said to be what makes them precious. Time should not be squandered when it is so limited.

This is a consciousness the apostle Paul reminded Christians in Rome about: "The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

Paul felt a need to use that most limited of resources—time, to good effect. "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (verse 12).

Again and again the different biblical writers urge us not to fall into a false sense of security about our own

control over life and its events.

Apply your heart to wisdom

James warns those who are foolishly certain of their plans: "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14).

This thought doesn't have to be a discouraging one. Christians have a hope that enables them to face with confidence even the loss of human consciousness. There is so much more waiting for us than merely this life only. Jesus promises the hope of a resurrection and the promise of a future free of death, free of sorrow and free of pain, as we share in his eternal glory. That's good news.

Remember the Psalmist's wise and beautiful prayer. "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, King James Version).

When we wake up to news of awful and unexplainable tragedies, can we do any less than apply our own hearts to that same wisdom?

Ruth Arnold is an editorial staff member in Britain.

Members serve, using talents in many ways

Member spearheads Lions Club in service efforts

GALIEN, Michigan—In Galien, population 700, members Rick and Adrienne Redding wanted to become more involved in community service projects, so they joined Lions Club International.

Lions Club International, with 1.4 million members, is dedicated to helping those in need and making a difference in communities.

In living up to its motto ("We serve"), Lions Clubs sponsor a variety of service projects. Lions Club International has more than 41,000 chapters in communities, large and small, in more than 170 countries around the world. The organization requires that 100 percent of all funds go directly to their intended recipients; that is, there are no administrative costs.

The Reddings were impressed with Lions Clubs' statement of objectives, which begins with "fostering a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world" and includes this goal: "To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward."

When Mr. Redding learned that many people in southern Florida were not receiving enough emergency relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, he thought the Lions Club should do something. He organized the Galien club to spearhead a challenge to all of the Lions Clubs in southwest Michigan. Through their efforts, more than \$18,000 was raised to provide food and shelter for disaster victims.

After their initial success, the club began other projects. The Galien club again challenged other Michigan

Lions Clubs to collect used eyeglasses to be sent to Central and South America. The used glasses are distributed to areas of extreme poverty where most people can't afford eyeglasses.

Dubbed "The Great Eyeglass Challenge," this project donated more than 6,500 pairs of eyeglasses to needy people.

Mr. Redding is now president of the Galien chapter.

Dare to Dream!

Becky Marsh, a member who attends the Penticton, British Columbia, church, is involved with the Wish Foundation, which helps dreams come true for terminally ill children.

Mrs. Marsh became interested in the foundation when her niece, Jasman, was diagnosed as having adult advanced leukemia. After much treatment and yearlong hospitalization, she made a remarkable recovery and is doing well.

"It is a way of getting away from always thinking about yourself," Mrs. Marsh said, "though you do have to be careful to keep the time you need for yourself and for your family." *Ross Larkin.*

'I just have to do more'

BRADENTON, Florida—Romonia Lewis, a member who attends the Sarasota, Florida, church, is involved in a number of projects to improve her community. She is determined to see her southeast Manatee County neighborhood become a better place to live.

When she moved to the area five years ago she was disappointed that some of the unoccupied houses in the neighborhood were not taken care of.

She and her sister, Dolores Cochran, would take their lawnmower on the weekends and cut the grass. They requested plants and shrubs from the county. In time the sisters joined Crimewatch, which informs the sheriff's office of illegal activity.

Mrs. Lewis said: "I have always believed that if there is a need it should be addressed. It took a number of years for me to realize that I have to do more than just speak out."

Fruits of giving

CINCINNATI, Ohio—The Cincinnati North church donated fruit and desserts, and YOU members and parents served them to about 140 homeless people Dec. 19 at the Drop Inn Center, a shelter for the homeless.

In addition to serving food, the youths and parents washed dishes, cleaned trays and swept floors.

"We all agreed that we left feeling more grateful to God for the things that we have," said Janet Treadway. "We felt good that in a small way we were able to make a difference for others."

The group appreciates that Mr. Tkach has encouraged members to get involved in their communities. "How else can you learn true godly love and compassion toward humanity without getting involved?" Mrs. Treadway said.

Service briefs

The Riverside, California, women's club sponsored a fund-raising luncheon and auction. Auction proceeds were donated to the Loma Linda, California, Ronald McDonald House, which provides nearby living quarters for parents of small children hospital-

ized for lengthy periods, so the parents can comfort the children during their waking hours, yet not have to sleep in the halls and waiting rooms. Tips on positive family living were given by speaker Ellen Kriedman, author of *Light His Fire* and *Light Her Fire*.

Youths and singles from the Baguio and Malolos, Philippines, churches participated in a tree planting project. In Baguio the trees help preserve watersheds and in Malolos the trees are along a newly constructed road.

Hollie Hendler, a teen in the Uvalde, Texas, church, assists the terminally ill at a hospice there.

"My parents taught my brothers and me that service to the less fortunate is very important," Hollie said. "We have traveled to Third World countries and seen people living in cardboard houses. In the Bahamas we loaded children in the Jeep and took them to Kentucky Fried Chicken. Trips are not just for getting away, they are for meeting and getting to know people of other cultures."

Limited space

The Worldwide News appreciates the many articles of all types sent to us by ministers and members. God's Church is filled with talented members doing good deeds and letting their lights shine in their communities. Unfortunately, because of limited space we are unable to print all the articles sent to us. We ask for your understanding and patience if your article is not published.

Mail Processing to close extension center in Big Sandy

By Bernard W. Schnippert

The Mail Processing Extension Center (MPEC) in Big Sandy will be closed, probably in mid-May, and consolidated with the Mail Processing Center in Pasadena.

We estimate that consolidation with MPC in Pasadena will save the Church more than \$300,000 a year. This figure, of course, depends on a number of factors, including such things as the response to the *World Tomorrow* telecast and the level of *Plain Truth* circulation.

As you know, Ambassador College may be close to accreditation. With accreditation, students will be eligible for a broader range of federal and state loans and grants.

In the past, nearly all students participated in a work-study program, of which MPEC was a major component, since on-campus jobs were essentially the only source of financial assistance.

In the future, however, the college will provide jobs primarily for students with a genuine need.

The consolidation of MPEC with MPC will also eliminate hours of interoffice communication between Big Sandy and Pasadena. Sending packages of mail back and forth between California and Texas has proven costly to the Church in terms of postage as well as time.

Also, in the past few years, increased automation has reduced

the need for student labor.

In many respects, MPEC was a smaller duplicate of MPC in Pasadena. We are happy with the work of MPEC, which handled between a fourth and a third of the Church's mail processing work.

Frank Parsons and our staff there provided excellent service and maintained the highest standard of quality in the work they performed. However, changing times and conditions require changing responses. For employees who are affected by this decision, I ask that you remember them in your prayers during this difficult time of transition.

Australian youth and Bahamian member take honors

ELANORA, Queensland—Timothy Matthews, 18, was one of eight students nationwide granted an inaugural Southern Cross scholarship at the official launch of the One Australia America's Cup Challenge Nov. 10, attended by Prime Minister Paul Keating.

The Southern Cross Foundation offers a \$40,000 four-year scholarship for study in engineering or science at any Australian university. It is based on academic excellence, sporting ability and community service.

Southern Cross scholarships are

intended to encourage technological ingenuity in Australia and leave a legacy of technological advancement long after the 1995 America's Cup yacht race in San Diego, California.

Tim plans to study civil engineering at Queensland University of Technology.

NASSAU, Bahamas—Naomi Lockhart, 77, was honored in the 1993 Queen's Birthday Honors issued by Queen Elizabeth II in September.

Mrs. Lockhart was awarded the Queen's Badge of Honor for merito-

rious service to her community. The award was presented on behalf of the queen by Sir Clifford Darling, governor-general of the Bahamas.

Mrs. Lockhart, a mother of 11 children, has taught primary school in the Bahamas for more than 36 years. She retired in June and still serves as one of the pianists in the congregation.

Said Mrs. Lockhart: "I love to be involved with molding children's lives. In fact, I go back now from time to time to help younger teachers with their classes. I simply love to serve in any way I can."

WCG travel

Dear Brethren,

The staff at WCG Travel would like to thank all who have been our customers the past three years. We appreciate you faithfully standing by us as we gained knowledge and expertise in the travel field.

We view the opportunity to serve you as a partnership in which both you and the Church are served financially. In 1993 the Church saved \$90,000 because Church members used the airlines designated for Festival and Summer Educational Program (SEP) travel. In addition, the savings provided directly to members was \$430,000.

Service to you is available year-round, though our greatest emphasis for members is Festival and SEP travel.

This year travel information for the Festival will be included in both the 1994 Festival Planning Guide and the Housing Guide. We hope this will give you the information you need to make your travel plans.

We appreciate the business you have given us and we look forward to serving you this year.

Warmest regards from all of us at WCG Travel.

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

Nov. 18, 4:59 p.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

McINTYRE, Fred and Sharon (Warkenthe) of Courtenay, British Columbia, boy, Frederick Connor, Oct. 25, 12 p.m., 10 pounds 3 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

McINTYRE, Patrick and Elizabeth (Baird) of Charlotte, North Carolina, girl, Bryn Elizabeth, Nov. 24, 6:46 p.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

NELSON, Arvin and Sandra (Guice) of Chicago, Illinois, girl, Samantha Michelle, Sept. 18, 7:38 a.m., 6 pounds 12 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

NEWTON, David and Sandra (Atkinson) of Brisbane, Australia, boy, Isaac Alexander, Dec. 1, 8 pounds, first child.

NICKEL, Robert and Nilda (Rios) of Montvale, New Jersey, girl, Kristina Marie, Oct. 27, 8 pounds 5 ounces, now 3 boys, 3 girls.

O'NEAL, Lee and Rebecca (Taylor) of Sherman, Texas, girl, Rianna Brooke, Dec. 7, 8:55 a.m., 8 pounds, now 3 girls.

PHELPS, Jason and Becky (Short) of Norton, Virginia, girl, Brittany Raschae, Sept. 19, 6 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

PRUSZINSKE, Mark and Deb (Moritz) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, boy, Bryce Alan, Nov. 12, 1:32 p.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, first child.

QUAINOO, Isaac and Naomi (Adinkra) of Accra, Ghana, girl, Ruth Kurama, Dec. 16, 2 a.m., 2.5 kilograms, first child.

REMPPEL, Dan and Barbara (Swanson) of Edmonton, Alberta, boy, Curtis Roy, Nov. 12, 4:15 p.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, first child.

RIBEIRO, Jose and Helena (Francisco) of Toronto, Ontario, girl, Sarah, Oct. 5, 7 pounds 13 ounces, now 2 girls.

ROBERTS, Randy and Connie (Deily) of Big Sandy, girl, Elizabeth Ellen, Dec. 12, 7:04 p.m., 5 pounds 11 ounces, first child.

ROCHA, Herminio and Juanita (Lopez) of San Antonio, Texas, girl, Olivia Rose, July 27, 7 pounds 8 ounces, now 5 boys, 6 girls.

STARNEs, Stan and Patti (Boyd) of Lafayette, Indiana, boy, Derek Taylor, Dec. 21, 7:21 p.m., 7 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

TANNEHILL, Tom and Laurie (Carson) of West Monroe, Louisiana, girl, Kaylen Elizabeth, Nov. 29, 9:27 p.m., 8 pounds 7 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

WASHINGTON, Ronald and Carolyn (Williams) of Detroit, Michigan, girl, Anastacia Marie, Aug. 3, 6:12 p.m., 5 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 girls.

ZIMMERMAN, Ronnie and Julie (Vielhaber) of Pendleton, Indiana, girl, Victoria Payge, Sept. 7, 2:38 p.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 2 girls.

Engagements

James and Ann Smithburger of Gibson Glade, Pennsylvania, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Christine Ann to Stephen Robert McCann, son of Robert and Lois McCann of Jefferson, Pennsylvania. A June 26 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Goldby of Poway, California, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Estelle "Stella" Joanna to James Orzech of Vista, California. A June 5 wedding in San Diego, California, is planned.

Joeko Kleinhuis of Lethbridge, Alberta, and Marilyn Watts of Ottawa, Ontario, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Pamela Dawn Merkley to David Michael Dransfield, son of the late Donald and Agnes Dransfield. A June 5 wedding in Ottawa is planned.

John and Frances Siebert of Salem, Oregon, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Shannon Renee to Edward Walter Oliver, son of Dan and Ruth Oliver of Salem. A July 31 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell West of Webberville, Michigan, are happy to announce the engagement of their oldest daughter, Keely Ann, to Michael Salisbury of De Witt, Michigan. A spring wedding in Lansing, Michigan, is planned.

Weddings

LIPPINCOTT, George and Carrie (Hense) of Bellevue, Washington, boy, Keith Douglas, Dec. 1, 7:21 p.m., 6 pounds 12 ounces, first child.

MARTIN, David and Nancy (Eaves) of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, boy, Aaron Zachary Thomas, Nov. 14, 10:13 a.m., 7 pounds 15 1/2 ounces, now 5 boys.

McCORMICK, Jonathan and Bethany (Baker) of Kenosha, Wisconsin, boy, Jonathan William Jr.

Irene King of Newcastle, Australia, and Ronald McGregor of Stawell, Australia, were united in marriage July 25. The ceremony was performed by Bruce Tyler, Canberra, Australia, pastor. The couple live in Canberra.



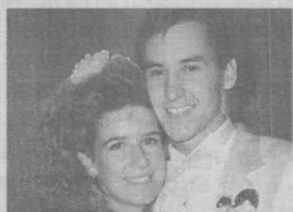
TIMOTHY & MELINDA TUCKER

Melinda Kay Kittel, daughter of Wayne and Ruth Kittel, and Timothy Raymond Tucker, son of Ray and Lois Tucker, were united in marriage Nov. 27. The ceremony was performed by Alan House, a minister in the Jefferson City, Missouri, church. Doreen Douglas was matron of honor, and the groom's father was best man. The couple live in Monrovia, California.



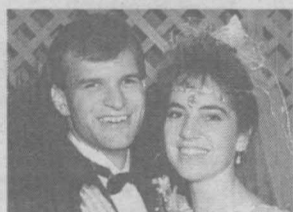
JOE & CHRISTINA VIERRA

Christina Lois Tisher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manning Tisher of Ellendale, Delaware, and Joseph Dann Vierra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Vierra of Pasadena, were united in marriage Sept. 15. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, a minister and manager of the Television Department. Karen Bishop, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Derek Klier was best man. The couple live in Georgetown, Delaware.



MARCUS & KAREN BURNHAM

Karen Lovelady, daughter of Larry and Mary Lovelady of Rogersville, Missouri, and Marcus Burnham, son of Lee and Eleanor Burnham of Denver, Colorado, were united in marriage Sept. 4. The ceremony was performed by Doug Horchak, Denver North pastor. Melody Lovelady, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Jeremy Coe was best man. The couple live in Pasadena.



DAVID & SHARON FITCH

Sharon Baker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bion Baker, and David Fitch, son of Reginald Fitch, were united in marriage Sept. 26. The ceremony was performed by Todd Carey, Indianapolis, Indiana, South assistant pastor. Keely West was maid of honor, Suzanne Wilborn was matron of honor and Ron Fitch was best man. The couple live in Lansing, Michigan.



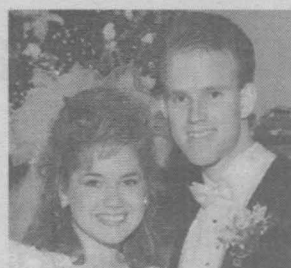
BRETT & JEANETTE OGILVIE

Jeanette Kathryn Murray and Brett Robin Ogilvie were united in marriage June 28. The ceremony was performed by Rodney King, Gold Coast, Australia, pastor. The couple live in Melbourne, Australia.



WILLIAM & REBECCA HIGGINS

Rebecca Johnston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Johnston of Bega, Australia, and William Higgins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Higgins of Canberra, Australia, were united in marriage Aug. 8. The ceremony was performed by Bruce Tyler, Canberra pastor. Tania Seitz was bridesmaid, and Aldo Antolli was best man. The couple live in Canberra.



JOHN & WENDY OVERTON

Wendy Pieper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Pieper of San Antonio, Texas, and John Overton, son of Dr. and Mrs. John Overton of Hammond, Louisiana, were united in marriage June 13. The ceremony was performed by Gary Richards, dean of students at Ambassador College. Tania Walshe was matron of honor, and Henry Overton, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in San Antonio.



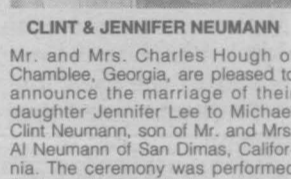
BRENT & JULIE KINWORTHY

Julie Schrock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schrock of Austell, Georgia, and Brent Kinworthy, son of Carolyn Kinworthy of Cullman, Alabama, and the late Joseph Kinworthy, were united in marriage July 25. The ceremony was performed by Bob Miller, Birmingham and Jasper, Alabama, associate pastor. Sharon Schrock, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Jason Carter was best man. The couple live in Smyrna, Georgia.



LYLE & FAYE CAMPBELL

Lyle and Faye Campbell of Wichita, Kansas, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 29. They have two sons, Ed and Gerry; two daughters, Judy and Janice; two daughters-in-law, Camille and Leslie; two sons-in-law, Jeff Whelchel and Larry Moya; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Campbell is a local church elder in the Wichita North church.



CLINT & JENNIFER NEUMANN

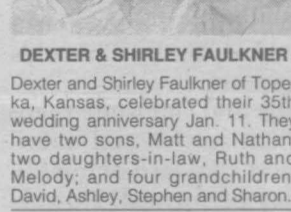
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hough of Chamblee, Georgia, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Jennifer Lee to Michael Clint Neumann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Neumann of San Dimas, California. The ceremony was performed Sept. 18 by Lynn Hebert, Atlanta Northwest and Rome, Georgia, assistant pastor. Melody Ellis was maid of honor, and Mark Neumann, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Chamblee.

Anniversaries



WILLARD & RUTH STREAPY

Willard and Ruth Streapy of Souderston, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Oct. 3. They have one son, Mark; one daughter-in-law, Julie; and one granddaughter, Sara Elizabeth.



JOHN & JOSIE WADDELL

John and Josie Waddell of San Antonio, Texas, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 16. They have two sons, Joe and George; three daughters, Kathy, Linda and Claire; and 11 grandchildren.



WAYNE & MARY JESSEN

Wayne and Mary Helen Jessen celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Jan. 3. They have three children and four grandchildren.

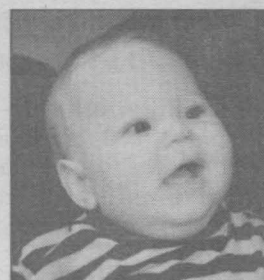


KEN & ROSEMARY JOHNSON

Ken and Rosemary Johnson of Calgary, Alberta, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Dec. 19. They have one daughter, Karen; one son, Kevin; one son-in-law, Darin Moore; one daughter-in-law, Pam; and two grandchildren, Kayla-Rose Moore and Daniel Wade Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson serve as deacon and deaconess in the Calgary North church.

Birth Announcement

We'd like to let readers know about your new baby as soon as it arrives. Just fill out this coupon and send it to the address given as soon as possible after the baby is born. Baby announcements should be no more than six months old.



Our coupon baby this issue is David William Holladay, son of David and Leanne Holladay of Livermore, California.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WORLDWIDE NEWS
BOX 111
PASADENA, CALIF., 91129, U.S.A.**

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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Last name		Father's first name	
Mother's first name		Mother's maiden name	
Church area or city of residence/state/country			Baby's sex <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl
Baby's first and middle names		Date of birth Month: Date:	
Time of day <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Weight	Number of children you have* Boys: Girls:	

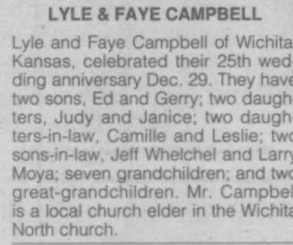
*Including newborn

1-94



MIKE & SANDY BAKER

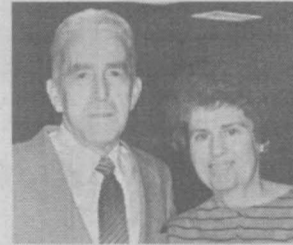
Mike and Sandy Baker of Halifax, Nova Scotia, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 24. They have one daughter, Nathania; and one son, Matthew.



**MATHEW & MARIAMMA
MATHEWS**

Mathew and Mariamma Mathews of Bombay, India, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 26. They have one daughter, Betty; and two sons, Benny and Bobby.

Anniversaries Made of Gold



LEE & RUBY MILLER

Lee and Ruby Miller of Columbus, Ohio, and Punta Gorda, Florida, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 21. They have two sons, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



JAY & MARGIE GOLDBY

Jay and Margie Goldby of Poway, California, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Nov. 17. They have five children, Stella, Jerry, Katie, Anna and William.

Obituaries

PETERSON, Rose Cormeny, 91, of Rocklin, California, died Aug. 12. She is survived by two daughters, Eleanor Dixon and Ruth Russell; one son, Loren Peterson; one sister, Agnes Harris; 15 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Her husband, Merle, preceded her in death.

BACKFISCH, Aloysius G., 63, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, died Dec. 10 of cancer. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Mary Joan; two sons, Gilbert and John; five daugh-

If you're submitting a photo...

The *Worldwide News* accepts photos with wedding, anniversary and obituary announcements. Color or black and white photographs are preferred over negatives and slides. If you would like your photo returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

ters, Patrice Cahill, Marie Dullum, Joan Tumbleson, Anita Estes and Rosie; five sisters; and 11 grandchildren. Two sons and four brothers preceded him in death. Mr. Backfish was a deacon in the Cape Girardeau church.



WALTER SETTLES

SETTLES, Walter R., 77, of Eldon, Missouri, died Dec. 10. He is survived by one son, Albert; one sister, Delphia Schupp; one brother, Ivan; and many nieces and nephews. His wife, Mary Elizabeth, one sister and one brother preceded him in death.

CLIFFORD, Ruth, 78, of Ossipee, New Hampshire, died Oct. 28 of heart failure. She is survived by one nephew and one niece.

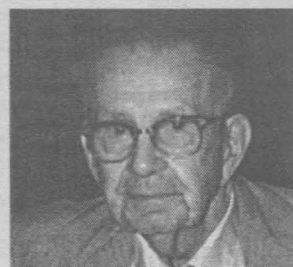
PHILLIPS, Gladys White, 87, of Lubbock, Texas, died Dec. 8. She is survived by her husband, Clarence; two daughters, Peggy Stevens and Anne Lyons; one sister, Albaree McKnight; six grandchildren; and

seven great-grandchildren.



BARBARA LANDWEHR

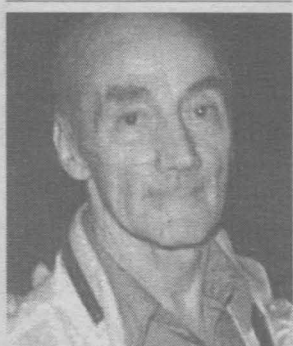
LANDWEHR, Barbara, 23 of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, died Sept. 7 of an asthma attack. She is survived by her father, Bill; her mother, Linda; one brother, Russell; one sister, Irene; her fiancé, Scott Boone; her two grandmothers; and one niece.



LEON HARTMAN

HARTMAN, Leon, 87, of Savanna,

Illinois, died Nov. 1. He is survived by one sister, Lucille McFadden; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. His wife, one son, two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death.



GERALD LeMAY

LeMAY, Gerald F., 83, of Cocheton, New York, died Dec. 11 from a fall down a flight of stairs. He is survived by his wife, Frances; four sons, Victor, Roland, Lucien and Normand; three daughters, Rachel LeVasseur, Laurel Martin and Marie Blavin; one brother, Leon; three sisters, Rita L'Esperance, Clair Richardson and Betty Hawkins; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

HETZEL, Beulah Mae, 69, of Clifton, Colorado, died Nov. 27. She is survived by her husband of

47 years, Virgil; one son, Roy; three daughters, Ann Pace, P. Jean Alderfer and Bonnie Miller; three brothers, Fred Kiefer, Chuck Kiefer and Ural "Doc" Kiefer; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. One son, Virgil Jr., one brother, two sisters and one grandchild preceded her in death.



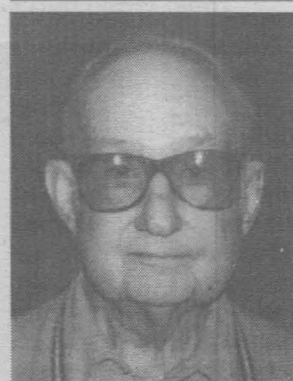
SHIRLENE THOMAS

THOMAS, Shirlene E., 58, of Canton, Ohio, died Sept. 27 after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband, George; four brothers, Salathiel Gillespie Jr., Lawrence Harvey, Lester Harvey and Norman Harvey; and one sister, Charlotte Gillespie.

ROSE, Dorothy N., 68, of Boston, Massachusetts, died Aug. 8 of heart failure. She is survived by three children, Brenda Channey,

Sharon and Frank; 22 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

CHAGNON, Linda Louise, 40, of Dracut, Massachusetts, died Aug. 29 after a lengthy battle with leukemia. She is survived by her husband, Roger; four children, Karri, Daniel, Victoria and Benjamin; her parents, Linwood and Louise Lipps; and three brothers, Steve, Jimmy and David.

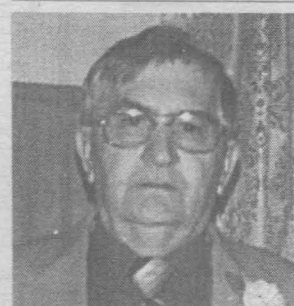


WILLIAM SEUSER

SEUSER, William, 76, of Great Bend, Kansas, died Oct. 1. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; one brother; two sisters; one son; and three grandchildren.

FRANKS, Maggie, 74, of Russellville,

Alabama, died Nov. 21.



FRANK GESCHWENTNER

GESCHWENTNER, Frank, 80, of Wakeeney, Kansas, died Oct. 5. He is survived by his wife, Anna; one sister; two sons; three daughters; 12 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. One daughter, Tillie Ann, two brothers, and two sisters preceded him in death.

SCHNEIDER, George L., 85, of Menard, Texas, died Sept. 17. He is survived by his wife, Consuelo; one son; one daughter; one stepdaughter; one brother; and several grandchildren.

LIU, Lynette, 52, of Sydney, Australia, died Oct. 12 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Brian; one son, Trevor; two daughters, Debbie and Sue; and one son-in-law, Jerry Loo.

Questions & Answers

FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Church literature occasionally quotes, in support of a biblical or theological point, books written by non-Christians. Can Scripture be understood without the Holy Spirit?

Part of the answer to this question can be seen in the fact that parents often look for easy-to-read religious books to give to their children. Christian parents believe that a child not only needs to understand important spiritual lessons from the Bible, but that the child's age is not a barrier to such an understanding.

The Scriptures repeatedly admonish parents to instruct their children in God's ways, and Christ thanked God for ensuring that certain truths that were beyond the understanding of the wise and prudent had been revealed to little children (Matthew 11:25).

At first sight, therefore, one cannot say that the Word of God is closed to those who do not yet have God's Holy Spirit. Paul implies the same when he writes to Timothy, "from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures" (2 Timothy 3:15).

In Ambassador College, all students are required to pass the same examinations in Bible classes, whether they are members or not. The premise that underlies this policy is that the Bible to a significant degree can be understood, both by converted and by unconverted people.

When one examines this issue still more closely, one will discover that the preaching of the gospel to the whole world suggests that the unconverted person must understand certain truths in order to repent, accept Jesus Christ, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Pentecost, the crowd, consisting of unconverted people, heard Peter's message and understood it. "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37). Peter's answer was that they should repent and be baptized, so as to receive the Holy Spirit (verse 38).

If no one can understand the

gospel without the Holy Spirit, Peter's request would be meaningless. The listeners would not understand the sacrifice of Christ, the nature of sin or God's forgiveness.

The notion that one cannot understand any of the Bible except through the Holy Spirit usually arises from the assumption that the natural human cannot know the things of the Spirit of God, because they are "spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14) and therefore the person needs the "mind of Christ" (verse 16).

On the surface, this passage could be taken to say that children cannot understand spiritual lessons and that unconverted college students should not be tested on the Bible; but, then, one could go all the way with this concept, to say, for the same reasons, that the gospel should not be preached to the world, because it cannot be understood by those who do not have God's Holy Spirit.

Nobody takes the question to that extreme. Instead, many people hold an inconsistent position—one that encourages children to hear sermons, study their Bibles, pray and try to understand spiritual matters, while maintaining that only those with the Holy Spirit can really come to terms or comprehend spiritual truths. The mistake lies in a confusion between knowledge and attitude.

Some specialists on biblical subjects profess to be atheists; others are agnostics. This does not necessarily detract from the value of what they write, and their books are on the bookshelves of many believers. To use such sources is to grant that their authors may, in fact, understand the particular verse, chapter or book in question.

It goes without saying that knowledge is but one of many facets of the Christian's life. There are areas in which the Holy Spirit is the only agent that can lead a Christian to spiritual growth. Human beings cannot truly love God on their own, no matter how much knowledge they have.

Similarly, no one can be at peace with God, except by the power of the Holy Spirit. Peace is a fruit of the

Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit is the Christian's *Paraclete*, Guide or Comforter.

Even in areas that a person believes he or she fully understands, the Holy Spirit can add depth, new truth and realizations that had not even crossed our minds. For example, Genesis 1:1 says that God created the heavens and the earth. That is readily understandable.

However, the believer may read that verse, one day, in a totally new light and may kneel in awe to praise God for his greatness, his power and his abundant mercy. Why? Because God called us to action. Simply put, there is a difference between knowledge and performance.

The Holy Spirit changed Peter and John completely, to the point of their having total assurance that God would heal the lame man who sat at the gate of the temple (Acts 3:1-10). In a similar way, Paul and the other apostles proclaimed the Christian message with conviction and boldness.

Indeed, the promise was that the Spirit would lead the Church into all truth; but this does not mean that the Bible is meaningless to those who do not have God's Holy Spirit.

Jesus prayed that his disciples "may be one as we are one" (John 17:11, 21). Does this mean that Christians, after the resurrection, will become one with God just as the Father and Son are one?

John 17 refers to the unity that Jesus, while a human, had with his heavenly Father. Jesus referred to a spiritual unity, not a unity of essence. These verses do not address the nature of the unity the glorified Son has with the Father now.

Jesus was not asking God to make the disciples divine beings. The con-

text of John 17 (for example, verses 11, 18) shows that Jesus was praying for the disciples *in this world*, not for their status in the next life. Jesus asked that his disciples *be* one in this life, not *become* one in a distant future.

Jesus used a present-tense verb, referring to a continuing state of unity, not a special event in the future. Jesus prayed while he was in this world so that his disciples would have "the full measure of my joy within them" even while the world hates them (verses 13-14).

Just as Jesus prayed that his followers would have complete joy in this world, he also prayed for "complete unity" (verse 23).

Unconverted humans are able to have some unity of heart and mind, but Jesus was asking that the disciples' unity transcend that level through the special unity the Holy Spirit makes possible.

The human Jesus was one with the Father not only in heart and mind, but also in spirit. Jesus wanted his disciples to be one in spirit, too, with a unity beyond that which is humanly possible. How would this be done? Believers are in God and he is in them—not only believers of the first century, but throughout the centuries. Jesus prayed for them all to be one—a spiritual unity that is not humanly possible.

God makes us one with him in this life by means of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:3-6). He is in us, and we are in him. He wants us to be in complete unity with him and with each other, a unity made possible only through the Holy Spirit.

This is what Jesus prayed for. This special unity should be evident among Jesus' disciples in this world so that the world might believe (verses 21, 23).

Getting Too Many Subscriptions?

Occasionally a household with several family members may ask for more than one copy of *The Plain Truth* or *Youth* magazine. Mail Processing will gladly fulfill such requests.

However, some households may receive more copies than they had originally planned. If you are receiving more subscriptions than you desire, please write Mail Processing or call 1-800-423-4444. Be sure to include the PIN from each subscription and any other information that would help us serve you. (Your Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the 11-digit number directly above your name. By using your PIN, you can help us give you prompt and accurate service.)

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

cessing Center and pastored churches in California and Colorado.

Dr. Zimmerman, a doctor of chiropractic, and his wife, "Bertie," moved to Sun City, Arizona. Their son, **Chuck**, pastors the Phoenix, Arizona, West church.



Clint and Bertie Zimmerman

Marriage seminar: 'Become a friend'

SANTA BARBARA, California—"Become that friend that sticks closer than a brother," said **Marc Courtenay**, pastor of the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara churches.

"Don't look for that friend, be that friend," was his challenge to 420 marrieds and singles who attended the seventh annual Marriage and Relationship Enrichment Seminar here Dec. 24 through Dec. 26.

Mr. Courtenay and his wife, **Lisa**, coordinated the seminar. Guest speaker **Gary Antion**, director of Counseling Services at Ambassador College, spoke on "Increasing Intimacy in Marriage and Relationships." Mr. Antion, here with his wife, **Barbara**, has a master's degree in counseling.

Other guest speakers were **Dennis Luker**, pastor of the Garden Grove, California, church, and his wife, **Lee-Ann**, a *Plain Truth* contributor. This husband-and-wife team shared a session contrasting their personal experiences and expectations with the realities of married life.

Sheila Graham, *Plain Truth* managing editor, attended the seminar as part of her research for an article on marriage. "My husband, **Ed**, and I enjoyed the seminar so much that we just may make it an annual event, whether I have an article scheduled or not," Mrs. Graham said. "It was like a mini-Feast."

Deaconess and elder honored for service

GENEVA, Alabama—**Mrs. Johnnie Stevens Wyatt**, a deaconess in the church here, was named to the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of

Fame Sept. 19. Mrs. Wyatt also received the Golden Eagle honorary award.

The Alabama legislature created the senior citizens hall of fame in 1983 to honor Alabamians who have made significant contributions toward enhancing the lives of Alabama's senior citizens.

Harold McKissic, a local church elder, was given the Secretary's Employee of the Month Award for the Atlanta, Georgia, region of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. McKissic serves as the voluntary liaison between the Social Security Administration and the AIDS Outreach Support Group. He is a claims representative in the Dothan, Alabama, Social Security office. *Terri P. Lancaster*.

Star-studded dance for Springfield singles

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri—Singles here would like to invite all singles to their second spring dance weekend March 11 to 13 at the Sheraton Inn.

Activities include a Friday night singles mingle, Sabbath services with guest speaker **Dexter Faulkner**, a buffet dinner and dance,

"Starry, Starry Night," and on Sunday, a continental breakfast and singles seminar with Mr. Faulkner.

Cost for the weekend is \$25 for each person (or \$30 after Feb. 27). Special rates are available at the Sheraton for \$50 (up to four people). Call the Sheraton for reservations at 1-417-883-6550 and mention that you are with the Worldwide Church of God. After Feb. 27 standard rates apply.

For more information contact **Larry Harmon**, 2329 W. Bodeb St., Springfield, Missouri, 65802, or telephone him at 1-417-866-0919.

Ohio nurse named woman of the year

BELLEVUE, Ohio—**Arlene Green**, a nurse in the Bellevue Health Department, was named Bellevue's woman of the year during a luncheon Oct. 20 played host to by the Business and Professional Women.

Mrs. Green was selected by the Bellevue BPW chapter for improvements she has brought in community health, including the establishment of numerous clinics and programs.

Mrs. Green attends the Cleveland, Ohio, West congregation.



FROM OUR

Brethren Worldwide

Sharing faith in Burkina Faso

By Randal Dick

I visited our brethren in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in French-speaking Africa, with their pastor, **Bernard Andrist**, and **Olivier Carion**, pastor of the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, and Lyon, France, churches.

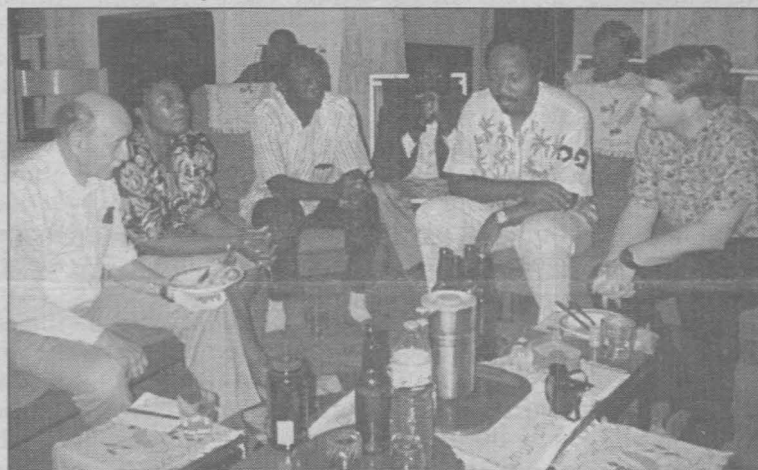
Mr. Andrist is the main person God used to raise up the congregations in French-speaking Africa.

We arrived Monday afternoon, Nov. 29, in Ouagadougou, home to three member families.

Most of the buildings were made of mud brick, with larger structures made of earth-tone concrete. Even the air had a brownish-red tinge from dust blown in from the Sahara to the north.

Burkina Faso is a tough place to live, but our members there are doing well and are fully employed. We met with them every night we

Randal Dick is assistant director of Church Administration for international areas. Coverage of Mr. Dick's trip to French-speaking Africa will continue in future columns.



WITH LIKE MINDS—Attending a Bible study in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jukam in Burkina Faso are (from left, on couches): **Bernard Andrist**, pastor of French-speaking Africa; **Mrs. Jukam**; **Mr. Kibore**; **Mr. Jukam**; and **Olivier Carion**, Geneva, Switzerland, and Lyon, France, pastor. [Photo by Randal Dick]

were there and shared two Bible studies—one of them for the young people, who greatly outnumber adults.

On Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Jukam drove us out of Ouagadougou into the countryside to a lake called the Place of the Sacred Crocodile.

We walked across an earthen dam to some dried mud flats on the far side of the lake. Children stood waist deep in the water and fished. In the distance women did laundry.

A man told us that more than 200 crocodiles lived in the lake. As we trudged back across the dam I asked him

why the children waded in the water and women do laundry. He assured me the crocodiles would not hurt them because they had made a covenant of peace with the crocodile spirits. Animistic religion is interwoven in the life of the average African.

The next day we were invited to pay respects to the emperor (Moro) of the Mosse tribe in a palace in the heart of Ouagadougou.

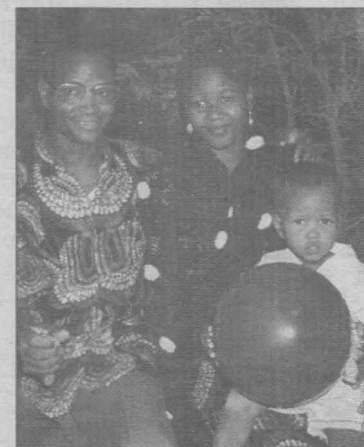
Two members who are Mosse tribesmen told me that the Moro rules over seven million people—4.5 million in Burkina Faso and 2.5 million in Ivory Coast.

When presidents of those two countries are elected, they curry the favor of the Moro because not only is he the hereditary king of the tribe, he is also the most powerful animistic influence among the tribe.

We were ushered to chairs that faced a thronelike chair flanked by two wooden lions. Then, a side door opened and the richly robed Moro came striding toward the throne.

After we exchanged words with the Moro, he exited to a side room. After a short wait we were ushered into the side room, where the Moro told us he wished to talk more informally than protocol allowed him to do from the throne.

So we pulled up chairs and



NEWEST MEMBER—Mrs. Bundeone, the newest member in Burkina Faso, was baptized in a shower. A makeshift dam was built in the shower entrance until the water was high enough to immerse her six-foot-tall frame. Left, Mr. Bundeone and their son. [Photo by Randal Dick]

had a beer and a pleasant discussion. He was familiar with the Church and *The Plain Truth*, as one of the members accompanying us was a schoolmate of his and they are on friendly terms.

He expressed his desire to see the World Cup soccer championships, and I assured him I would tape all the matches and send him videos. The Moro wished us his blessings for our work in Burkina Faso, and after a round of photographs we departed.

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