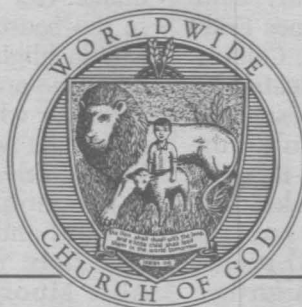


2 Members at epicenter of 6.6 quake survive with few injuries

4 The creation-evolution debate: What it means and doesn't mean

5 How you can help raise funds for new men's residences at college

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXII, NO. 3
FEBRUARY 1, 1994

Plain Truth magazine celebrates 60th anniversary—what's ahead

The Plain Truth has grown over the years to become an international magazine written in seven languages

By Sheila Graham

With the publication of the February 1994 edition, *The Plain Truth* marks its 60th year of production.

Founder Herbert W. Armstrong and his wife, Loma, cranked out the first edition in 1934 on a used Neostyle, a predecessor to the mimeograph machine. From those initial 250 copies, *The Plain Truth* grew from an eight-pager to a 32-page magazine.

International editions

In 1961 the first international language edition of the magazine was published, when the German edition (now titled *Klar & Wahr*) was launched.

Then came the French *La Pure Verite* (1963), Spanish *La Pura Verdad* (1968), Dutch *De Echte Waarheid* (1968) and Italian *La Pura Verita* (1982) editions. A Norwegian edition titled *Den Enkle Sannhet*, now produced in black-and-white, was added in 1984.

The magazine has also undergone various physical changes in its 60-year history. From 1934 to 1957, *The*

Plain Truth remained a black-and-white publication with the number of pages increasing from eight to 24.

In February 1965, a color cover was added to the 32-page magazine. In February 1966, *The Plain Truth* became a full-color magazine.

After various other modifications, including several graphic design revisions, in July 1992, prepress production of the magazine changed from a mainframe computer typesetting system to a desktop publishing system. Now editors, designers and prepress personnel produce the magazine on the computer screen, in full color.

As the staff may be working on up to four issues at one time, planning is essential to keep on top of the various stages of production.

Editors are responsible to see that *The Plain Truth* is interesting, readable, balanced, inoffensive to its international readership, accurate in doctrine and logic, and clearly reflects the gospel of Jesus Christ. Copy is also sent to verifiers to check facts, figures and spellings.

Coordination between the international editors and translators and headquarters *Plain Truth* editors is also a vital function.

Walking the walk

Greg Albrecht, editor of *The Plain Truth*
See *Plain Truth*, page 8

Christ's message preached in French-speaking Africa

By Randal Dick

COTONOU, Benin—Friday, Dec. 3, Bernard Andrist, Olivier Carion and I were interviewed on national television here. Mr. Andrist is pastor of French-speaking Africa; and Mr. Carion is pastor of the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, and Lyon, France, churches.

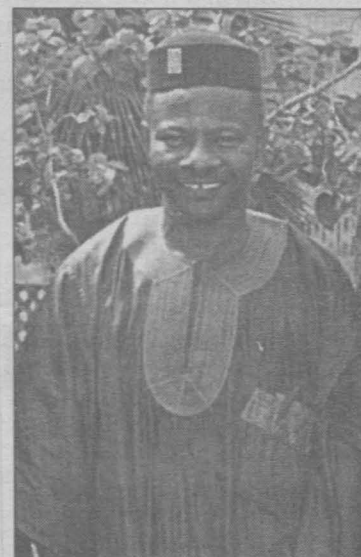
During the interview, we publicly thanked the president and government of Benin for granting recognition to the Church. The newscaster said he would be happy to mention the time and location of the public Bible lecture scheduled for the next Sunday. The interview aired in prime time Saturday night.

On the Sabbath, Dec. 4, we conducted a service for brethren from Benin and the neighboring country of Togo. Sunday morning we viewed some land the government has made available at an attractive price. Funds permitting, we hope to provide a plot of land where the Benin brethren can build a simple meeting place. They have already outgrown the home of Felix Zankpo, and it looks like the congregation may soon double in size.

Later we had a public Bible lecture with 55 members and 110 visitors in attendance. Rather than having just the minister speak, we started the lecture with Atsu Dravie, president of the association (the Church in Benin) introducing himself and giving a brief welcome.

See Christ's message, page 5

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 issues.



BENIN LEADER—Felix Zankpo is a deacon in Cotonou, Benin. [Photo by Randal Dick]



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

We have true life in Jesus Christ

We are deeply grateful for your heartfelt prayers about the Jan. 17 earthquake in Southern California! As the days pass since the earthquake, the extent of the damage becomes more apparent. Thousands of people are without homes, including several member families. Our local Los Angeles area pastors and congregations are working together among the wide array of relief agencies providing emergency needs for people affected by the disaster.

On the Church property, the main damage has been to the ceiling in the Mail Processing area, various parts of Ambassador Hall, the underground parking structure, serious roof damage on a few buildings and various minor damage in most buildings. At this point, our facilities director, Rick van Pelt, estimates repair costs at about \$200,000.

Considering the intensity of the quake and its aftershocks, we are thankful for how little damage the Church property sustained. This earthquake is another reminder of the foolishness of trusting in what this world offers, and our need to place our faith fully in the One in whom we have true life—Jesus Christ!

Thankyou also for your prayers about the disastrous fires that surrounded the Sydney, Australia, area earlier this month. Several church areas were involved, and, in each area, members were affected.

See *Personal*, page 6

Auditorium sways; quake damages grounds

By Paul Monteith

"The pillars of Ambassador Auditorium moved back and forth like snakes," said Barry Newsom, one of the Church's security guards on foot patrol when the 6.6 temblor shook Pasadena for 30 seconds at 4:31 a.m., Jan. 17. The epicenter of the earthquake was the city of Northridge about 20 miles west of Pasadena.

"The Auditorium looked like it was swaying about 18 inches in either direction. I thought the building was going to fall," he said. "The sheer power of the quake almost knocked me off my feet."

Working the same shift was security guard Joe Corbett. "My vehicle veered all over the road. I thought I had a flat tire. Then I saw the road rising and falling in front of me, it moved like a wave up the street. It was then I knew we were having an earthquake."

The Ambassador Auditorium suffered only minor damage during Monday's quake. "Some equipment was damaged," said Peter Eddington, Auditorium manager. "The elevator's

counter weights, which weigh about 2,000 pounds, came out of their guides, and dust and plaster fell from the ceiling onto the Auditorium's seating area."

Three columns in the underground parking lot, adjacent to the Auditorium, suffered severe damage. The lot has been closed temporarily while seismic upgrading takes place and is expected to reopen in three months after repairs. "We have put steel braces around those columns in the event that failure would occur during an aftershock," said Rick van Pelt, director of Facilities Services.

To accommodate people attending concerts at the Auditorium, surrounding businesses have made their parking lots available, and parking is available elsewhere on Church property.

Ambassador Hall, damaged in the June 1991 Sierra Madre earthquake, sustained further damage. A brace reinforcing the north side of the hall since the '91 quake held fast.

Roof tiles on Grove Villa East and West (former college dormitories) slipped, and some fell to the ground. Both roofs will be retiled. The
See *Earthquake*, page 3

6.6 quake awakens members; all safe, few injured

By Paul Monteith

"Our house was going up and down and sideways. We were thrown not from the bed but into the air," said Marjorie Friddle, wife of James Friddle, who pastors the Reseda, California, church. "There was a deafening roar, a cracking and a popping sound."

Mr. and Mrs. Friddle live in Northridge, less than a mile from the epicenter of the 6.6 earthquake that shook Southern California Jan. 17. The 30-second temblor left 57 people dead and 6,000 homeless. A further 3,000 people are living in tents and shelters, too afraid to return home.

"There were very few injuries and no deaths among the 200-plus members of the Reseda congregation, although many lost personal possessions," said Mr. Friddle.

Bruce Norton suffered cuts and his wife, Betty, was bruised by a television dislodged by the quake. Mrs. Norton also has head injuries from a falling jewelry box. "A bookshelf fell on their son, Brian, and their daughter, Andrea, hyperventilated," said Mr. Friddle.

Members David and Paula Hoover and their children Faith, Jacob and Harmony live in a house right over the epicenter. "Surprisingly their house is not condemned and they lost little, though water to their home was cut

off and Mr. Hoover has not been able to bathe for a week," Mr. Friddle said.

Member Shirley Fuson, paralyzed from the hips down, was sleeping in her recliner the morning of the quake. Her flashlight was on a table in the bedroom. The quake knocked the flashlight to the floor, turning it on in the process, and it rolled out to the chair where she was sitting. As a result she was able to get out of her home safely.

The mobile homes of members Richard and Marion Snyder, Robert and Judy Young, and Girvus and Allie Moore, who live in Canyon Country, were knocked from their foundations but are still livable. The Snyders' glass business also suffered extensive damage.

The foundation of member Susan McNally's house cracked and her chimney fell. Members Alan and Barbara Sanders and their three children moved into a motel, Margaret Donaldson moved in with her daughter, and Dee and Christine Bulante moved in with his mother after their apartment buildings were condemned.

30 seconds

Like many in Los Angeles, the Friddles woke up to a major disaster. The electrical power off, they searched for flashlights they kept by their bed and got dressed. From the bedroom across the hall they heard their granddaugh-

ters, Nicky, 11, Tiffany, 8, and Shannon, 6, crying. (The girls were there for the weekend.) "We knew they were safe because our son, Nathan (Tiffany and Shannon's father), was with them. But they were still terrified," said Mrs. Friddle.

The flashlight beam revealed chaos. Everything in the house had fallen over except a china cabinet and a bookcase facing the bed the granddaughters were sleeping in.

"It was a miracle the bookcase didn't fall on the girls," said Mrs. Friddle. "The closet doors in that bedroom had fallen off and everything in the adjoining room had fallen. Bookcases had overturned, a filing cabinet had toppled and a photocopier had been tossed around."

It took several minutes for the six of them to crawl over the fallen furniture and out of the house. Outside neighbors rushed to help people turn off their gas. Several townhouses were on fire.

30 minutes

Firemen arrived 30 minutes later, but the water hydrants were not working and they had to pump water out of a swimming pool. "People were packing belongings into their cars, ready to move out if the fire spread," said Mr. Friddle. The fire destroyed 17 homes.

"We stood there and cried," said

Mrs. Friddle. "My granddaughters were trembling. I put my arms around them and told them we were not hurt. God had taken care of us. My overwhelming desire was to let the rest of my family know we were OK, but the phones were out."

Unknown to Mrs. Friddle, a television news helicopter was already reporting on the fire and, 30 miles east in Altadena, her daughter, Rebecca Hackman, and son-in-law, Lloyd, the parents of Nicky, were watching the drama unfold on television.

The Hackmans recognized the townhouse complex and saw the swimming pool, which was to the rear of the Friddles' still-standing townhouse. It was then they knew their daughter and parents were safe.

What counts

The Friddles have moved into an apartment on Church property. "In a crisis like this you don't care about your house or belongings, you're just thankful to be alive," Mrs. Friddle said.

Pasadena area churches contributed food and other items to a food drive organized by the Church Jan. 23 and 24. Some 105 boxes of food were delivered to the Red Cross.

Five members from the Reseda church helped unload a semi-truck full of food, blankets and water donated by businesses in San Jose, California, for victims of the quake.

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.

The beauty of hope

Your Dec. 7 article titled "Ukraine Visit Builds on Common Spiritual Ground," by Victor Kubik, brought tears to my eyes to know the suffering they go through and the beauty of their hope and devotion.

We in America are so blessed. Why do we complain? God has blessed us so much. My prayers are with the people there. God is working in this world and I thank him for calling me into his work.

Every article in *The Worldwide News* and *The Plain Truth* touches our hearts and spurs us to action, to prayer.

We thank you for allowing God to work with you and for sending us the literature and letters.

Virginia Long
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

Not alone in marriage

My loving thanks for your wonderful article "Lonely in Love" in the February *Plain Truth*.

I've written this note of thanks with great care. I've been married for 21 years. My wife and I have shared wonderful times together and sometimes I've not been as understanding as I should have been.

I love my wife very much, and by reading this article, I've gone to God and apologized for my behavior and made a promise to him I would never do this again. I've hurt her feelings for the last time.

Thank you for showing me through your article the things we need to get back to doing.

You are right, we have to start to make the first change with our self first. I have been an accuser, I've not been a good listener, and I didn't understand a lot of things she tried to have me learn about her feelings and emotions.

These steps you have given me in your article will remain always printed in my heart and mind, as a reminder of how to keep our marriage on the right track and make my wife happier.

Then we can go through the rough times and hardships together, not alone in mar-

riage, but in a lot of love and regard for one another's feelings. I pray for all marriages. I pray that every married couple young and old will take the time out of their busy schedules and read this most important article.

Jack Leday Sr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Valiant faith in the Ukraine

Thanks for the very inspiring article on the Ukrainian brethren. It reveals the incredible faith of a people just emerging from their long history of persecution to now enjoy the sweet breath of religious freedom.

The valiant struggle and the tenacious faithfulness they express toward God leave me feeling like a spiritual Boy Scout. I think it has left a deep impression on all who have read it, and it has taught me a thing or two

about what hard-won faith is all about.

Sadly though, for many years I have seen some in the Church who have stubbornly resisted even the most insignificant nondoctrinal changes that really have benefitted the work in the long run. It is a stark contrast to those faithful few Ukrainians who are thirsting for the necessary changes to bring them even closer to God, his will and his way. What a magnificent example of simple, humble, believing faith:

J. Campbell
Allegan, Michigan

Singing praises

Thank you to all involved in our project with our Ukraine brethren, especially the Kubiks, Oleh Zajac and most of all our beloved Pastor General Joseph Tkach, who is leading us all into true Christianity.

Our heartfelt thanks also to the entire music department and all involved in giving us our wonderful, daily inspirational new hymnal. Our prayers are with you all.

Karen Gillies
Clearbrook, British Columbia

"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.

Deepening centuries-old beliefs

It is already one year since I started to enjoy *The Plain Truth*, and I would like to continue my subscription. Unfortunately, because of the blockade in which Armenia is put, I receive all issues with delays of three to six months.

Armenian people now experience severe conditions caused by the economic blockade and war. What can help the whole nation to survive? To survive during cold winters with outside temperatures of 10 to 15 degrees below zero, when you are without gas, electricity, without anything, with a daily bread norm of 250 grams?

The only thing that can help is belief. Armenian people had, have and will continue to have, strong belief. The will of the nation that carries its cross through centuries will never be broken.

I must confess that my belief and understanding are not as deep as I want them to be. The *Plain Truth* magazine helps to deepen them and to make my heart and soul open. I read it almost entirely and about 10 people read my copy, so it does a tenfold

work. I hope that *The Plain Truth* will exist as long as people need help in understanding.

A.K.
Yerevan, Armenia

Unafraid, because not alone

It was too late for my father to benefit from your magazine. (He died of cancer.) And it has been a tough time for me and my mother afterward, because of the transition period in East Germany. But we're surviving.

There will be problems in the future too, as my boss is going to lay off a number of employees after using up all possible development aid for the East.

Since I can no longer count on finding another job at my age (especially not in the East), the future is uncertain. And yet I am unafraid, because I know I won't be left alone and that there is someone who will help me in every difficult situation.

Your magazine is in a position to point unbelievers toward God's direction—a direction that helps people and makes life seem more worth living.

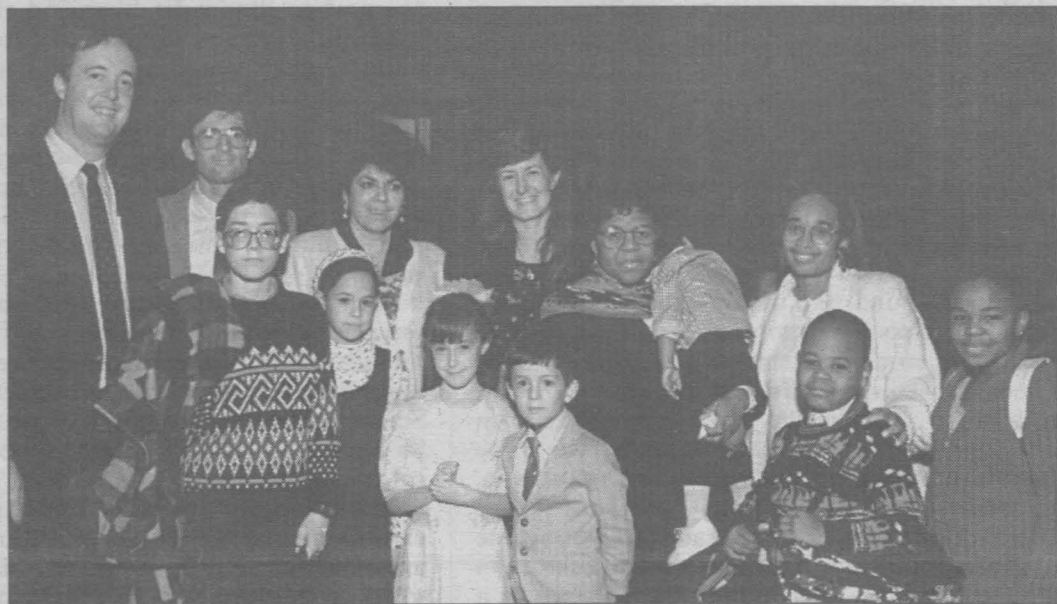
I hope you can continue in this work and show many people the way to God. I wish you great success and also hope you will be on television here again some day.

H.H.
Germany



Pastor General visits...

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 2,005 brethren Jan. 15 from the Oakland, Fairfield, Modesto, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Rosa and Stockton, California, churches.

Hosts for the visit were William and Jenny Bradford, San Francisco and Oakland; Ron and Joy Howe, San Francisco and Oakland; Art and Wendy Holladay, San Francisco and Oakland; Alton and Madeline Billingsley, Stockton and Modesto; Leroy and Jean Cole, Santa Rosa, Fairfield and Eureka; Mel and Barbara Dahlgren, San Jose and Aptos; Mike and Sandy Swagerty, Sacramento North and South; Marty and Cheryl Richey, San Jose and Aptos; Tony and Pam Bosserman, Sacramento North and South; and Bill and Bertha Bryce, Sacramento North and South. [Photos by Daniel Fontillas]



Earthquake damage on Church property

Continued from page 1

chimneys on both buildings were damaged; chimneys less damaged will



AMBASSADOR HALL—A quake-damaged chimney tilting 15 degrees was removed from roof. [Photo by Hal Finch]

be repaired, and others replaced with light-weight but identical chimneys.

Church property on the east side of the freeway suffered only minor damage such as broken windows, falling ceiling tiles and plaster, books thrown from shelves and a few fallen televisions and computer monitors.

In the Publishing building a water pipe broke, damaging carpeting in a

corridor and several offices. In the Mail Processing Center several of the ceiling's metal struts bent, causing some portions to sag. "The integrity of the ceiling was not compromised," said Mr. van Pelt. "The metal would have to break for a failure to occur and that possibility is remote. Replacement of the damaged struts began Sunday [Jan. 23], so there is no restriction on

employees working in the building."

In the past six years Church property has been readied to lessen an earthquake's effect: buildings have been braced to strengthen them, bookcases secured to walls, ceilings and light fixtures secured and windows are being replaced with tempered glass. "We are pleased with our preparation work. It minimized the damage," he said.

Spanish-speaking ministerial conference in Pasadena

By Thomas C. Hanson

Ministers and wives from Spanish-speaking areas met in Pasadena Jan. 11 to 25 for a regional ministerial conference. This was the first time they had met since the refreshing program in 1992.

"The Spanish-speaking ministers appreciate the opportunity to get together because many countries only have one minister," said evangelist Leon Walker, regional director.

Most church regions have ministe-

rial conferences in their home countries, but since the Spanish region is so scattered it was most economical to gather in Pasadena.

The ministers and wives heard from Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach; Michael Feazell, executive assistant to Mr. Tkach; Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration; Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration for international areas; Greg Albrecht, *Plain Truth* editor; Tom Lapacka, manager of Evangelism Support Services; and Kyriacos Stavrinides of Church Administration.

Mr. Walker dealt with issues specific to the region in one-on-one meetings with the ministers.

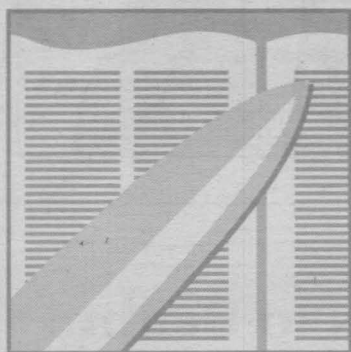
Said Mike Medina, pastor of the Montevideo and Salto, Uruguay, and La Paz, Bolivia, churches: "The conference went exceptionally well. We understand doctrinal changes more clearly."

According to Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago and Temuco, Chile, congregations: "The conference helps us greatly to prepare Church members so it will be easier for them to understand the Church's growth in understanding."

Iron Sharpens Iron

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron,



Eyeing the creation-evolution debate

By Neil Earle

In the early 1600s the Italian scientist Galileo invited professors from the University of Padua to look through his telescope at the wonders in the heavens. But one professor of philosophy refused. He believed to the end of his life that the earth was the center of the solar system.

We as ministers, editors and writers cannot close our eyes like the professor. In planning meetings for the publications and the telecast we wrestle with many complex issues. The question of origins is one of them.

The subject of life and its variety is endlessly fascinating. In this atmosphere is much potential to proclaim the greatness of our God.

The problem is in finding a proper perspective that will look scientists and our increasingly educated audiences in the eye. Our aim is to give them little choice but to accept the only real answer: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

We are firmly committed to Genesis 1:1. An article in the March *Plain Truth* will make this clear. We proclaim the greatness of God, the inspiration of Scripture and the need for our audiences to accept the existence of the Creator and all that that means.

We want to proclaim that science has discovered nothing that negates belief in a supreme Creator. But we want to avoid the stumbling blocks that religion and misguided defenders of the Bible have thrown in the way.

In fact, in preparing these articles we are almost more concerned about the reactions of sincere Bible-believers than the response from science.

The whole issue of science and creation has become so emotional and ensnared in controversy that it seems the truth has a hard time getting out. The creation-evolution debate has become part of society's ongoing culture war. Last August schools in Vista, California, were plunged into

Neil Earle is international editor of *The Plain Truth*.

controversy on this issue. Charges, countercharges and close-mindedness are the norm, it seems, whenever the subject of origins is raised.

As we will show in these articles, the Church is wise to disengage from both extremes in this debate.

As the May-June 1993 *Plain Truth* cover story illustrated, the time is ripe for a new theory of origins. Surprisingly, much of the momentum is coming from scientists. Scientists are in awe of the intricacy and beauty they discover, at the sheer scale and sweep of life's story on this planet.

Today there are physicists who sound like theologians. Many scientists are dumbfounded as they try to come to terms with the results of their new discoveries.

On the *World Tomorrow* program and in *The Plain Truth* we have reported their amazed reactions, their substantial agreement to the conclusion we want to announce loud and clear in the August 1994 *Plain Truth*, that Darwinism is a flawed mechanism for explaining the beauty and complexity of life.

Fundamentalists and monkey trials

The publication of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin in 1859 was an intellectual earthquake. By the 1880s the evolutionary model was seeming to undermine the authority of Scripture. From 1910 to 1915 a group of concerned Bible-believing Protestants coalesced around a set of beliefs called The Fundamentals. "Fundamentalism" met an embarrassing public relations defeat in the Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925.

In 1925 James T. Scopes, a teacher from Dayton, Tennessee, was fined for teaching evolution in his high school. During the trial, however, his attorney, Clarence Darrow, called the chief counsel for the prosecution, William Jennings Bryan, to the stand. Bryan was a prominent fundamentalist who had been a three-time candidate for the U.S. presidency.

Darrow questioned Bryan about the literalness of the creation account in Genesis 1. Did Bryan believe, for example, that light was created on the first day, when the sun

did not appear till the fourth day? Was Bryan aware that there was apparent evidence for some form of organized social life before the time of Adam and Eve?

Bryan's unsatisfactory answers seemed to discredit him and the Bible in the eyes of the educated public. Yet the issue was more complex than that. For one thing, Bryan was not the strict literalist some believed. He rightly feared the social and moral impact of such concepts as survival of the fittest. He worried that evolution would erode society's values.

In this Bryan was ahead of his time. Yet the fundamentalist belief in literalism at all costs, banished them to the intellectual margins of society. Science thus proceeded to construct its account of origins without a biblical framework.

In the wake of the knowledge explosion of the 1960s, scientific creationism arose. Like Bryan it aimed to combat rampant materialism and agnosticism. Some of America's well-known evangelists endorsed scientific creationism as an alternative to evolution. In the 1970s this debate entered the public schools and the media. It is not likely to end soon.

The issues are not as clear-cut as we might think. Many scientific creationists are not as concerned about Genesis 1 as they are about the Noachian Flood. They look to Genesis 7 as the one supreme catastrophe to explain the massive destructions called for in the fossil record. A textbook used in Ambassador College classes in the 1960s, *The Genesis Flood*, was a classic of that approach.

Steering a middle path

In recent years we have said little on the subject of origins beyond that we believe in God as Creator. This is perhaps one reason the May-June 1993 cover story aroused such response, not all of it favorable.

Yet that article represented a first attempt to construct an up-to-date framework that would not undermine our commitment to the inspiration of Scripture.

It makes sense that theological concepts used against evolution in the 1920s, 1930s and 1960s need to be updated and revised. This is especially true when scientists themselves are looking for a new model for origins. Some would like to bring a Divine Agent into the picture. But the creation-evolution debate muddies the water for them.

Rather than denigrating science and scientists, we hope to steer a middle path through the extremes. We seek to help students of the Bible as well as students of science search for a model to explain the wonders of life.

Please remember we write to a wide audience, almost 95 percent of whom are not Church members. Many look to us for help and understanding. We invite you to study and read this fresh perspective with an open and unprejudiced mind. No fundamental doctrine of the Church will be challenged or needs to be.

Remember, in the past, some of the Bible's defenders have been part of the problem. Therefore we do not approach these articles as creationists, fundamentalists or even anti-evolutionists, but as sincere seekers after truth as God now provides better tools to help us see the truth.

We hope you will enjoy the series. We ask for your prayers that it might help us as a Church proclaim more boldly: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

Sabbath: the days and nights of Genesis

By John Halford

As we run articles in *The Plain Truth* on the touchy subjects of creation, evolution and how to understand the Book of Genesis, some members have asked, "What is the Church's position on the literalness of the six days and six nights of creation week?"

This is a more complex question than it might seem. Why? Doesn't the Bible say clearly that God created the heavens and earth and all that is in them in six days and six nights? Yes, but what does this mean?

Hundreds of thousands of pages have been written about this topic. Educated people with a profound respect for the Bible disagree about what the beautiful, but rather enigmatic, opening chapters of Genesis reveal.

I have talked with scientists and

scholars with all shades of opinion—from those who believe everything was created about 6,000 years ago to those who believe Adam was made in God's image but had human (or humanoid) ancestors. I even know a German scientist (not a member) who believes in a creation but not in God.

The more you look into it with an objective mind, the more you can understand why points of view differ. Most arguments on all sides of this question have some merit.

This is not the time or place to go into the reasons why Genesis *might* not be referring to literal days and nights. We will explore it as time and space permits in *The Plain Truth*. (Understanding origins is fascinating but hardly essential for salvation.)

However, we should address a legitimate concern: If we accept the possibility that the days and nights of creation week are not literal, what does that do to the Sabbath?

The answer is, nothing! Why should it? In Genesis 2:2 God makes it clear that on the seventh day of

creation week he created the Sabbath, on which he rested. In Exodus 20:8 God re-disclosed the weekly Sabbath to the Israelites as one of the 10 points of his law. Leviticus 23:3 supports the Sabbath as the seventh day of a seven-day week.

Jesus was and is Lord of the Sabbath. He observed the Sabbath.

People have many fascinating questions about the origins of the universe and the development of life on earth. We who believe the Bible do not question that God created.

Asking how he did it is a source of ever-expanding wonder. Science is discovering ever more astounding things about the magnificence of our Creator's handiwork.

Even the keenest intellects, armed with the most sensitive of instruments, still view it "through a glass darkly." Each discovery seems to lead to new levels of intricacy and beauty.

Many issues are involved in understanding the literalness of the days of creation. But the validity of the Sabbath is not among them.

John Halford is a senior editor of *The Plain Truth*.

Church fund-raiser to launch building program

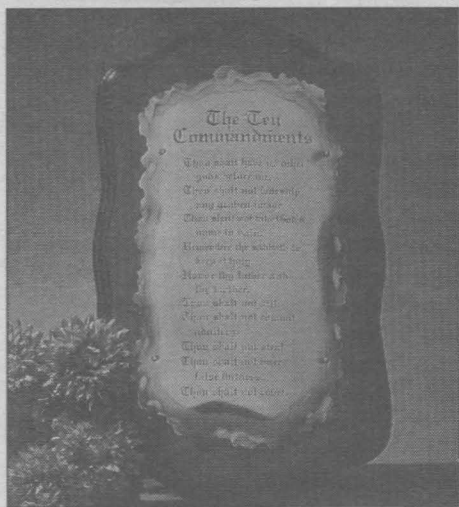
By Thomas R. Delamater

BIG SANDY—As the decision of the Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) approaches regarding Ambassador College's accreditation status, we at the college are gearing up for the prospect of continued growth.

A major part of that growth will be the construction of a new men's residential village to enable us to gradually phase out Booth City—a housing complex originally meant to be a temporary solution to Ambassador's housing needs in the 1960s.

The AC board of regents approved last spring the development of the residential village, which will comprise 30 individual residences and a multipurpose student lounge and recreational center.

Each residence, a spacious two-story structure housing 16 students,



Ten Commandments plaque

will contain eight bedrooms with adjoining study areas, four bathrooms, two central lounge areas and two full kitchens.

We hope to construct four buildings a year, beginning later this year. We will be able to build individual buildings as funds become available.

The estimate for each residence hall is \$250,000. Our goal for the first phase of the program is to raise \$1 million by July, which will enable us to complete site preparation and build the first three residence halls.

In an effort to raise these much-

needed funds without asking the brethren or the Church for additional money, we have developed a nationwide, centrally coordinated fund-raising program that will provide U.S. church congregations with the chance in March to help raise funds for the residential village, while also raising money for their own activity funds.

A Texas-based manufacturer of high-quality gift items has offered the college the chance to use one of its most popular items, which features the Ten Commandments inscribed on brass and mounted on an 18½-by-10½-inch wood plaque.

Many congregations are successful with direct sales programs using fruit, candy and other perishable food items that are often priced higher than their retail value.

The appeal of the Ten Commandments plaque is that it has lasting value—it's something people can display in their home or office—and it will be priced 20 percent below retail.

The retail value of the plaque is \$24.95. But because the manufacturer will provide the plaques at no profit to them, the plaque will sell at \$19.95.

The profit will be \$12.95 for each plaque. Because we have asked for the assistance of local congregations, the college designed the program so that each congregation will keep 30 percent of the profit, or \$3.90 per plaque. The remaining amount will be applied to the Residential Village Fund.

Bonus awards program

As an added incentive, corporate sponsors will furnish bonus awards for individuals who sell the most plaques in several categories: YES members, YOU members, seniors (55 and older), AC students, AC alumni and a general category for participants not in one of those groups.

Among the prizes will be color televisions, videocassette recorders, portable stereos, BMX bicycles and 21-speed mountain bikes, and, for AC students, a \$1,000 scholarship.

The individual who sells the most plaques will win a new car.

In addition, the college will offer a choice of selected AC merchandise to participants who sell a designated number of plaques. Those who sell at



NEW RESIDENCE—A sketch of one of the proposed men's dormitories for the Ambassador College campus. [Computer rendering by Matthew Faulkner]

least four plaques will be able to choose one of the following: an AC porcelain mug; a 32-oz. AC Royals sports bottle; or an AC can cooler. Those who sell at least 10 plaques will be able to select an additional gift, either an AC T-shirt or an AC cap.

The congregation that sells the most plaques per capita will receive \$2,000 for its local church activity fund.

Finally, the names of volunteers who sell at least one plaque will be entered into a random drawing for a free round-trip to Hawaii for the participant and his or her immediate family.

This bonus awards program is provided by the manufacturer to help us give something back to the brethren in appreciation for their hard work on behalf of the college.

Five-week sales effort

In mid-February U.S. pastors or their designated fund-raising coordinators will receive a kit containing sales sheets, brochures and other

information, along with a sample of the Ten Commandments plaque. Pastors or their coordinators will organize the sales effort at the local level.

The sales period will run five weeks, from Feb. 27 to April 1. After orders are received, plaques will be manufactured and shipped for delivery.

Our goal is to raise \$1 million net profit for the college by July 15 to begin construction. To do so we need to sell 125,000 plaques nationwide, which would also net the local churches an aggregate profit of \$487,500. Therefore, enthusiastic participation at the local level will be the key.

We appreciate the support that brethren show for the growth and development of the college. This fund-raiser is a golden opportunity for us to help provide students an appropriate setting for study during their college years.

We look forward to working with many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Christ's message goes to Benin

Continued from page 1

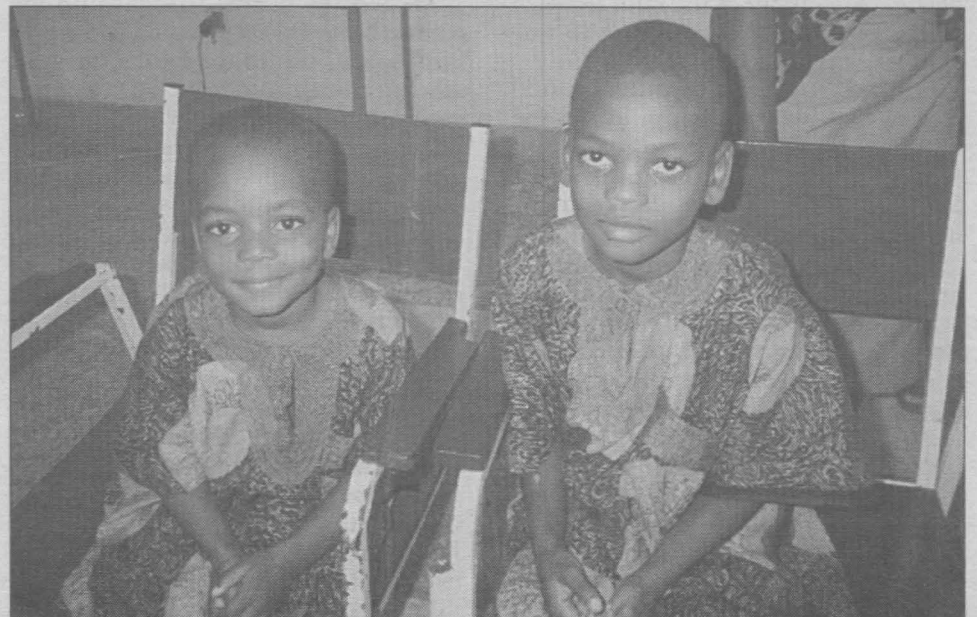
Mr. Dravie then introduced Mr. Andrist, who give a background of the Church in Benin and the scope of the churches in French-speaking Africa. He then introduced Mr. Carion and me.

We were just finishing the lecture when Benin television came through the door—this time to cover the conference. They asked if we would continue while they filmed, so we had a

captive audience as we continued for 15 to 20 minutes.

Instead of the usual closing, we let the people know we are a church in Benin with regular services and with people who can answer questions about the Bible. Mr. Carion introduced Mr. Zankpo and Kofi-Setriako Akpotsui.

We gave out the address of the church and telephone numbers of the principal men. Afterward, each of the men we introduced was surrounded by at least six people asking questions.



ONE FAMILY—Brothers at services in Cotonou. [Photo by Randal Dick]

Faculty Positions Fall 1994

Ambassador College invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the following vacancies:

Computer Information Systems/Management Information Systems:

A full-time faculty position at the assistant, associate or full professor level to teach undergraduate courses in computer information systems. Doctorate in computer information systems, information systems, management information systems or computer science required.

A full-time faculty position at the instructor level to teach undergraduate courses in computer information systems. Master's degree in computer information systems, information systems, management information systems or computer science required.

These positions require an earned doctorate or master's degree, respectively, from a regionally accredited institution, an exemplary record of teaching, evidence of scholarship and service, and effective relations skills.

Applications must include the following:

- A letter of application
- A current resume
- The names of three references with phone numbers

Applications, nominations and inquiries should be sent to

Academic Affairs Office
Ambassador College
Big Sandy, Texas, 75755

Personal: Life in Christ is a life of service

Continued from page 1

A number of members were involved in fighting the fires or assisting with other emergency work. Some were temporarily evacuated or prevented from returning home, but no members lost any property. We are thankful to be in the care and guidance of our merciful Father in heaven.

Our need for Jesus

This month of prayer and fasting has refocused our attention and affections on our need for Jesus, on the power and courage we can have in him, and on what it means to belong to him and to be included in his Body. As the Body of Christ, we are called together, unified in him, to do his work in the world.

Characteristics of the Body of Christ include humility, gentleness, patience and love (Ephesians 4:2). We are urged to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (verse 3). It is through one Spirit—the Holy Spirit—that we are one body, the Body of Christ, and each of us is called to be in that Body (verse 4). Our basis of unity is one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God, who is the Father of us all (verses 5-6). All real Christians share in these elements of unity.

But, Paul goes on to say, Christ also gives each of us grace, in the form of spiritual gifts, as he determines to apportion it (verse 7). These gracious gifts include various roles within the Church—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (verse 11).

And what are these leaders supposed to do? They are to “prepare God’s people for works of service” (verse 12). A more literal translation is “a work of ministry.” In other words, the leaders of the Church are to prepare the members for action in the work of the ministry of the gospel.

But not everyone has been given the gift of preaching, any more than all parts of a body are mouths. Acts 6:2-4 describes two overall types of ministry in the work of the gospel: the ministry of tables, and the ministry of the Word—giving physical nourishment through service and giving spiritual nourishment by preaching and teaching the gospel. Both kinds of ministry are essential to the Church.

Christ gives different gifts to different members of the Body. Our job is not to compare our gifts and abilities, nor to feel superior or inferior to other members of the Body, but to make use of our respective gifts to serve others. Our works of service are to be used for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

As we work together, each of us serving according to the gifts and opportunities Christ gives us, we will grow into “unity in the faith” (verse 13). Although there is only one faith (verse 5), God’s people reach unity of the faith through works of service, ministering to one another’s needs in Christ.

Further, it is only through mutual service that we all reach unity “in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God” (verse 13). Our faith is in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Part of knowing him is doing what he said.

Two of his most frequent commands are, first, that we believe on him and, second, that we love one another. Belief in Christ makes us Christian, and love for one another demonstrates the validity of our faith. Belief and love are hallmarks of our Christian identity. Indeed, mutual love is the primary means by which the public can know that we are his disciples (John 13:35). Love, of course, is not just a feeling—it is action. It results in works of service.

By living the way of love in Christ, by implementing mutual service in

him, the Church comes to maturity, “attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Through mutual love and service, we become mature in the faith, closer to what Christ wants us to be, closer to the example of service he set for us. With that maturity, Paul says, we will not be easily misled by erroneous teachings (verse 14). But by speaking the truth (in this context, true doctrines) in love, we will grow up—become mature—into Jesus Christ (verse 15). Jesus himself is the goal.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul tells us that Christ is the Christian goal. Paul had many things he could have boasted about, including an impeccable record of law-keeping, even by Pharisaic standards (Philippians 3:4-6). Yet he counted it all for loss, as rubbish, as spiritually valueless, “compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (verses 7-8).

Paul’s own law-keeping, even though it was excellent, could not give him salvation. It could not give him a right relationship with God. It could not earn him merit with God. It was spiritually of no value. Instead, Paul relied on faith in Christ as the key to God’s gift of righteousness (verse 9).

Only through faith in the Son of God can we have a right relationship with God. It is only through faith that we can enter the holy presence of God. It is only through faith that we can be declared righteous in the sight of God.

So what was Paul’s goal? “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (verse 10). To know Christ, to know his power, to share in his sufferings, to share in his death. These must also be our goals. “All of us who are mature should take such a view of things” (verse 15). Even the apostle Paul realized he did not have all this maturity, but he pressed forward toward that goal (verse 12).

In the same way, we must also realize that we fall far short. Yet, we must never cease to strive toward that all-encompassing goal of knowing Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. That is why we have been praying and fasting this month, to refocus and reorient our priorities and goals onto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our salvation, the Holy One who leads and empowers the work of the gospel.

Faith through service

Paul endured many self-sacrifices for the sake of the gospel, so he would not be disqualified, so he could share in the blessings promised in the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:23, 27). Knowing he was a slave of Jesus Christ, Paul made himself a slave to everyone (verse 19).

He expressed his faith in Christ in terms of service to others—in his case, with a ministry of the Word as he preached the gospel. He gave up his rights (verse 15) so he could serve others. Again, we share Paul’s, and all saints’, calling in Christ. Just as Paul ran with a clear vision of the true goal blazing before him, he encourages us also to “run in such a way as to get the prize” (verse 24).

Strain on! Press onward! Our goal is “the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). If we have faith in the excellency of his calling, in the supremacy of our heavenly citizenship, we will count our earthly things of little value in comparison to living for Jesus Christ and walking in his footsteps. How enthusiastic the people of God should be for growing up into Jesus Christ! Should it not be the primary zeal of our lives?

“Join with others in following my example,” Paul wrote, “and take note

of those who live according to the pattern we gave you” (verse 17). We can and should learn from one another, from those who are devoted to Christ, and who are living the way of love and service in him, and we should imitate their faithful conduct.

That is why we include inspirational stories of service and sacrifice in our publications and sermons, so we can imitate these good examples of Christ living in his people.

From Christ, the Church grows up “as each part does its work” (Ephesians 4:16). Jesus has given a variety of gifts to the members of the Body as it pleases him, so that each of us can use our respective gifts as a vital part of the Body—in service, in the work of the ministry, to help each other.

It is in this way that the Church “builds itself up in love” (same verse). In the Body of Christ, as in any healthy body, each part contributes in its appropriate way to the overall growth, development, maintenance, and work of the Body as a whole.

We find a similar emphasis on mutual service in 1 Corinthians 12, where Paul also discusses spiritual gifts. There is only one Spirit, Paul says, but there are different kinds of gifts (verse 4). There is only one Lord, but there are different kinds of service (verse 5). As members of the Body of Christ, we serve in different ways, each according to the gifts Christ has given us through the Spirit.

There is only one God, but he leads and equips each of us to do the kinds of work that please him (verse 6). These spiritual gifts are distributed “for the common good” (verse 7), in other words, for the overall healthy functioning of the Body.

If he had wanted to, God could have given each of us ability to do everything, but he did not. He distributes his gifts differently to each of us, and this means we have to work *together*.

Working together is, in a way, just as important as getting the job done—because working together in Christ is an expression of God’s love, which itself is part of the work of God. God is love, and he wants us to grow in love for one another. Some spiritual gifts are spectacular; others are not. That fact can lead to pride, or to feelings either of superiority or inferiority. But Paul’s point in this passage is that all gifts are *from God*, and he is the one who distributes them *as it pleases him, as he desires and determines best*.

Therefore, none of us has any reason to boast or to think our particular gift is more important than another, or to think our gift shows that we are more important than others. And, on the other side of the coin, no one has any reason to feel inferior, or to feel that his or her gift is not so important.

The truth is, Paul explains, each person has at least one gift or ability given by God, and each person has the responsibility to use it for the common good of the Body of Christ. I hope we can begin to see why mutual service, cooperation and love are so vital to the health and growth of the Church.

Just as a human body has to have a variety of parts, the Church of God must have a variety of members, each doing a variety of functions for the common good. Every member can have faith, but some have an unusual gift of faith (verse 9). Every member can be a personal witness to the life-transforming power of the gospel, but some have the gift of evangelizing unbelievers. Every member can teach others, but some have the gift of being an unusually effective teacher (verse 28). Every member can help others (same verse), but some have an unusual ability to help others.

Paul does not list every possible gift here. He could not, because they are

too numerous to mention. There could be as many gifts as there are people in the Church! God distributes them according to his own purpose and plan.

Seek the best gifts, Paul encourages us (verse 31), and then he shows us in the love chapter “the most excellent way.” Each member, no matter what gift he or she may have, should seek to express love for others—indeed, that is how each gift should be used—in loving service to others. Whatever God gives us, whether it is physical or spiritual, should be used for others’ benefit.

We are called to serve. We exist to serve. That is Christian maturity. And our works of service should point to Christ. They should give evidence that we are his disciples. They are done for his honor and glory, and in his name.

We do not deserve any of the credit ourselves. It is *his* work in us. It is Christ in us that identifies us as his own disciples. We are his slaves, with all being done in service to him in the work of his gospel.

As these fundamental scriptural truths become more and more a part of our understanding, it becomes clearer that we need to focus our attention on training and mobilizing our local congregations for the work of the gospel—evangelism.

Again, I’m not talking about preaching on street corners or confronting strangers and making the gospel obnoxious. I’m talking about developing positive godly relationships with others through Christian love and service, as individual Christians and as local congregations.

I’m talking about pure, holy living in Jesus Christ as his ambassadors. I’m talking about being ready, when asked, to give an answer about the hope that lies within us, and about living in such a way that we are bound to be asked. We should remember the first part of 1 Peter 3:15: “In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.”

I’m talking about the whole Body of Christ working together in unity, each one doing his or her part according to the gifts God has given, whether in ministries of physical service or of teaching the Word, supervised and led by the local pastor and supported by headquarters, all to the glory of God in the work of the gospel.

I’m talking about diligent, prayerful, focused effort, by one and all, in unified cooperation and mutual encouragement and strengthening in love, so that the light of Christ might shine in the darkness through us, as his faithful servants. Paul, speaking to the elders from Ephesus, said, “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24).

The same is true of God’s elect today. The Body of Christ lives to do the work of Christ, to proclaim and exemplify the gospel of the grace of God.

Decisions to be announced

Now that this month of prayer and fasting is over, I feel God has impressed on me the need for certain important decisions affecting our approach to spreading the gospel. I will announce these next time.

Please continue to pray earnestly that God will draw us closer to him, and that he will help us to *know* him and Jesus Christ more deeply and intimately. Pray that he will open our eyes of faith to the incomparable power and joy of the gospel, and that he will bring us to deeper unity and commitment in Christ. And pray that he will fill us with his immeasurable love and stir us with his zeal for the harvest work he has given us in his field!

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

Mark Edward, Nov. 17, 1:36 a.m., 8 pounds 6 1/8 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

MYHAND, Randel and Junie (Joachim) of Elmira, New York, girl, Judith Crystal, Nov. 25, 4:21 a.m., 6 pounds 11 1/2 ounces, first child.

OVERTON, Brian and Julie (Davidson) of Stockton, California, boy, Andrew Blake, Oct. 22, 6:50 p.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 boys.

REX, Raymond and Linda (Snuffer) of Bonaparte, Iowa, boy, Jordan Alan, Dec. 10, 5:11 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

RINGLE, Michael and Erin (York) of Lafayette, Indiana, girl, Danielle Renee, Nov. 2, 3:56 p.m., 7 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

SAW, Swee Tong and Susan (Tai) of Johore Bahru, Malaysia, boy, Tian Ming, Dec. 3, 11:40 a.m., 2.9 kilograms, first child.

STEVENS, G. Fred and Maryann (Pirog) of Pasadena, boy, William Alexander, Dec. 26, 12:16 a.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

TRIGLETH, Jessie and Jody (Hoppe) of Little Rock, Arkansas, girl, Jennifer Rae, Dec. 23, 5:24 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 girls.

TROCHIMIAK, William and Judi (Darling) of Boston, Massachusetts, girl, Andrea Michele, Oct. 25, 7 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, first child.

Weddings



DAVID & RACHEL JAY

Rachel Yvette Jones of Dixmoor, Illinois, and David Wayne Jay of Evergreen, Alabama, were united in marriage July 24. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, Mitchel Jay, a minister in the Monroeville, Alabama, church. Suzanne Spangler was matron of honor, and Steve Driver was best man. The couple live in Evergreen.



JEFFREY & TAMATHA SHINLIVER

Tamatha M. Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Royce Mitchell of Houston, Texas, and Jeffrey A. Shinliver, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Shinliver of Smyrna, Georgia, were united in marriage Aug. 14. The ceremony was performed by Lynn Hebert, Atlanta, Georgia, Northwest associate pastor. Susan Thompson was maid of honor, and the groom's father was best man. The couple live in Smyrna.



DAVE & JOSIE HAMMOND

Josie Payne of Houston, Texas, and Dave Hammond of Odessa, Texas, were united in marriage Sept. 5. The ceremony was performed by Gerald Witte, Houston East pastor. Rose Marie Randolph and Nanci Gail Davis, daughters of the bride, were matrons of honor, and Doug Harrison was best man. The couple live in Odessa.



MICHAEL & MICHELLE HOMSLEY

Michelle Center, daughter of Jerry Center, and Michael Homsley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Homsley, were united in marriage Aug. 1. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, a minister in the Reno, Nevada, church. Kim Broadwater and Audrey Harrison attended the bride, and Tony Homsley was best man. The couple live in Reno.



ROGER & NICOLE WORLEY

Nicole DeDreux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward DeDreux of Bricktown,

New Jersey, and Roger Worley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ferenchiak of Trinity, North Carolina, were united in marriage Aug. 15. The ceremony was performed by James Rosenthal, Trenton, New Jersey, pastor. Tracey Scrimenti, cousin of the bride, was maid of honor, and James Worley, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Thomasville, North Carolina.



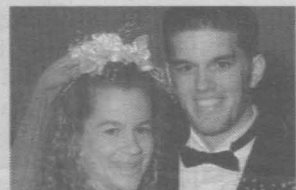
TED & SHANNON BURTON

Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Cook of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Shannon Leah to Theodore Bryce Burton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Burton of Lethbridge, Alberta. The ceremony was performed Sept. 5 by Ted Herlofson, Coeur d'Alene pastor. Amber McKenzie was maid of honor, and Tim Burton, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Coeur d'Alene.



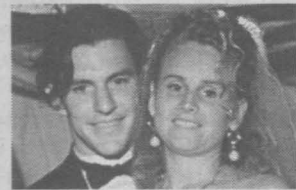
CALVARY & JODY TYSON

Jody Renee Horton, daughter of Joann Horton of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the late Ted Horton, and Calvary Steven Tyson, son of Julius and Marjorie Tyson of Greensboro, North Carolina, were united in marriage Sept. 26. The ceremony was performed by Robert Cloninger, Winston-Salem pastor. Pam Horton, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Nathan Williams was best man. The couple live in Winston-Salem.



NATHAN & CHERRIE FIEDLER

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Branam of Gladewater, Texas, are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter Cherrie Laura to Nathan Fiedler, son of David and Linda Fiedler of Waukesha, Wisconsin. The ceremony was performed Aug. 8 by the groom's father, Milwaukee West and Kenosha, Wisconsin, pastor. Robin Beem was matron of honor, and Nian Fiedler was best man. The couple live in Gladewater.



THOMAS & DEBORAH MORRIS

Dr. and Mrs. Harry Sneider of Arcadia, California, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Morris of Costa Mesa, California, are happy to announce the marriage of their children, Deborah Karen and Thomas Ray. The ceremony was performed Sept. 12 by Dennis Luker, Garden Grove, California, pastor. Heidi Meier, Julie Misner, Loma Norheim and Yolanda Santana were bridesmaids, and Danny Ma, Lance McDaniels, Karl Sneider and Rob Sneider were groomsmen. The couple live in Costa Mesa.



CHRISTOPHER & DEBBIE ASH

Debbie Nell Koester, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Koester of Houston, Texas, and Christopher Curtis Ash, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Ash of Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, were united in marriage Sept. 12. The ceremony was performed by Jim Franks, Houston North pastor. Karen Stegent, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Mark Sappington was best man. The couple live in Houston.



ERIC & KAREENA WILDING

Kareena Ruth Johnson, daughter of

Derwyn Johnson of Ottawa, Ontario, and Eric Tracy Wilding, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilding of Toronto, Ontario, were united in marriage Aug. 22. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, Toronto Central pastor. Katie Bridgewater was maid of honor, and Dean Adams was best man. The couple live in Ottawa.



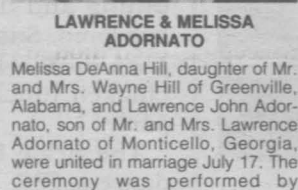
JAMES & LINDA BONDGREN

Linda Darlene Burnside and James Russell Bondgren were united in marriage April 10. The ceremony was performed by George Hart, Buffalo South and Olean, New York, pastor. The couple live in West Seneca, New York.



JOHN & BECKY FLORES

John and Becky Flores of Houston, Texas, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Nov. 30. Houston North brethren honored them with a plaque and cake Dec. 4. The Floreses have four children and five grandchildren.



LAWRENCE & MELISSA ADORNATO

Melissa DeAnna Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hill of Greenville, Alabama, and Lawrence John Adornato, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Adornato of Monticello, Georgia, were united in marriage July 17. The ceremony was performed by Stephen Glover, Montgomery and Monroeville, Alabama, pastor. Melanie Hill, Kristi Seale and Kristie Wood were bridesmaids, and Rocky Adornato, Tony Adornato and Jiles McCoy were groomsmen. The couple live in Auburn, Alabama.



ALEX & SUNNY JARDINE

Sunny Ainsworth and Alex Jardine were united in marriage Aug. 29. The ceremony was performed by Gavin Cullen, Perth, Australia, pastor. The couple live in Perth.



MARK & KAREN STOKES

Karen Hannold, daughter of Jake and Georgia Hannold of Rochester, New York, and Mark Stokes, son of Bruce Stokes of New Jersey and Julie Stokes of Watertown, New York, were united in marriage Aug. 22. The ceremony was performed by Ken Williams, Rochester, New York, pastor. Tasha Carstens was matron of honor, and Mike Stokes, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Rochester.

Anniversaries



STAN & JUDY ERICKSON

Stan and Judy Erickson of Pasadena celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Jan. 19. They have one daughter, Crystal; and one son, Scott. Mr. Erickson is a local elder in the Pasadena East P.M. church.



EARL & PEGGY PURSELL

Earl and Peggy Pursell of Sacramento, California, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Jan. 14. They have three daughters, Kitty Thrush, Sandra Watkins and Janet Hedges; and 11 grandchildren. Mr. Pursell is a deacon in the Sacramento North church.

C.L. and Juanita Davidson of Santa Rosa, California, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Oct. 5.

They have three sons, Tom, Colin and James; one daughter, Julie Overton; and three grandsons, Christopher, Aaron and Andrew.



GEORG & DAGNY SANDLAND

George and Dagny Sandland of Vancouver, British Columbia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Aug. 29. They have one son, Einar; three daughters, Liv, Bjorg and Anne Marie; and 11 grandchildren.



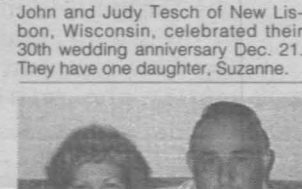
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MARTIN & PHYLLIS GERFEN

Martin and Phyllis Gerfen of Kansas City, Kansas, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Oct. 18. They have two daughters, Linda Ruder and Susan; and one son-in-law, Edward Ruder.



GLEN & MAE MEEKS

Glen and Mae Meeks of Roseburg, Oregon, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Oct. 23. They have one daughter, Sally Kemmerle; and three grandchildren, David, Daryl and Jerusha Kemmerle.



MALCOLM & JUDITH JENNINGS

Malcolm and Judith Jennings of Brisbane, Australia, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Jan. 11. They have four children, Scott, Larissa and twins, Adam and Kate; one daughter-in-law, Mandy; and one son-in-law, Chris.

Weddings Made of Gold



GEORGE & RUBY COLLIER

George and Ruby Collier of Fort Myers, Florida, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary Oct. 1. They have three children, Judy Creech, Lela Vandegrift and Rodney; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



JESS & BETTIE POWELL

Jess Jr. and Bettie Powell of San Antonio, Texas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 14. They have two sons, Jess III and Mark; one daughter, Suzanne; one daughter-in-law, Melba; and four grandchildren, Shawn, Julie, Matthew and Colin.

Obituaries

PERKINS, Leona, 100, of Manhattan, New York, died Dec. 4 of a stroke. She is survived by one daughter, Selina Cross; two sons, Cyril and Carlos; and two daughters-in-law, Novella and Ruth.

McDANIEL, Leona McIntyre, of Portland, Oregon, died Nov. 2 of breast cancer. She is survived by her second husband, Dale; four children, Sharlene Winslow, Duane McIntyre, Judy White and Alana Fentress; three sisters, Beulah England, Gladys Tennant and Ethel Burris; one brother, Ervin Joy; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Her first husband, Harold McIntyre, died in 1965.

VANDRAY, Marjorie, 93, of St. Hilaire, Quebec, died Nov. 3 of cancer. She is survived by two children, Wally and June; and 10 grandchildren.



LAURA ROSS

ROSS, Laura M., 88, of Kansas City, Kansas, died Dec. 16 of heart failure. She is survived by one sister, Gloria Elliot; and several nieces and nephews. Her husband, Augustus Ross, preceded her in death.

DANIELS, Sylvia, 60, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, died Nov. 18 after a lengthy bout with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Richard; four sons; three daughters; 12 grandchildren; one sister; two brothers; and several nieces and nephews.

FRANKS, Maggie B., 74, of Russellville, Alabama, died Nov. 21 of cancer. She is survived by two brothers and one nephew.



JO DONNA WEED

WEED, Jo Donna, 58, of Cottonwood, Arizona, died Dec. 17 after a 22-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Fred; her mother, Helen Berry; one brother, John Berry; and two sisters, Diana Laird and Ruth. One son, Michael, preceded her in death.



EUGENE REIS

REIS, Eugene R. "Gene," 74, of West Orange, New Jersey, died Nov. 7 of heart failure. He is survived by four children and four grandchildren. He was a deacon in the Union, New Jersey, North church.

STOUT, Florence, 66, of East Orange, New Jersey, died Aug. 15 of kidney failure after a long illness. She is survived by five children, 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



AMBROSE MKHWAMUBI

MKHWAMUBI, Ambrose, 63, of Natal Pongola, South Africa, died Nov. 1 after a long illness including arthritis. He is survived by his wife, Veronica; three sons, Wilfred, Samuel and Addison; three daughters, Venancia, Hazel and Equity; and two grandchildren, Eloquence and Engeline.

ELLIOTT, Arthur W., 64, of Phoenix, Arizona, died Nov. 10 of prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife, Cindy; four children, Kathy, Lori, Shari and Gary; two stepchildren, Louis and Christine; and eight grandchildren. Mr. Elliott was a local church elder in the Phoenix North church.

BORDEN, Marvin E. Jr., 52, of Omro, Wisconsin, died Dec. 12. He is survived by his wife, Alice; 10 children; 11 grandchildren; and his parents.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Response to telecast

BIG SANDY—A total of 5,314 people in the United States used the toll-free telephone number to request literature offered on the *World Tomorrow* program Jan. 15 and 16.

The toll-free number was reinstated to make it easier for viewers who are more comfortable using the telephone than communicating by letter. Twelve more calls were received from viewers using direct dial (the call is charged).

Member turns 100 in Tennessee

PARIS, Tennessee—**Clara**

Mobley, a member since 1972, turned 100 Jan. 8. Mrs. Mobley, the second child of **Dr. and Mrs. J.D. Winfield**, was born in 1894 in Mount Ida, Arkansas.

Her father, a country doctor, remarried after Clara's mother died when Clara was an infant, and had eight more children. All of the children worked on the various farms they owned.

Clara taught school in Arkansas and married **Emmett Mobley** when she was 27, when they attended col-



Clara Mobley

lege at Mississippi A&M (now Mississippi State) in Starkville. They had three sons. Her husband died in 1959. Mrs. Mobley has 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

One son said his mom was "the hardest-working woman in the world, and I never heard her complain once."

After she retired from

being a schoolteacher, Mrs. Mobley heard the *World Tomorrow* and began attending services in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was baptized in 1972.

Mrs. Mobley is now confined to a wheelchair and lives in a nursing home. *Paul Mobley*.

Singles events

ATLANTA, Georgia—Singles here are invited to a weekend of dining, dancing and fellowship here, Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29. Last year more than 500 attended the event.

Activities will begin with Sabbath services at 11 a.m. at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel.

That evening the Stouffer will be the show place for dining and dancing with a live band. Sunday's activities are a Bible study, a barbecue chicken lunch and a dance party.

The price for the dinner dance is \$30. The cost of the barbecue and the dance party is \$10. Deadline for ticket purchase is April 15. A special room rate of \$64 per night (maximum four guests in a room) is available at the Stouffer. Call 1-404-209-9999 for hotel reservations. Tell the clerk that you're with the Worldwide Church of God to receive the discounted rate.

Send ticket requests to

Frederick J. Moore, 3760 Willowmeade Dr. SW, Snellville, Georgia, 30278. Make checks payable to Atlanta East Activity Fund. For more information please call Mr. Moore at 1-404-985-9025. *Earl Williams*.

SAN FRANCISCO AND OAKLAND, California—Singles here invite other singles to their Northern California singles mingle Memorial Day weekend, May 28 to 30.

Friday evening's activities are a singles Bible study, orientation and a candlelight dinner. Saturday's activities are services and a formal dinner and dance at the Marriott Hotel on the Berkeley Marina. Music will be provided by a disc jockey. Cost of the dinner dance is \$35 per person.

Sunday's activities are a barbecue picnic and another dance at a cost of \$5.

Monday's activity will be a ferryboat ride across the bay to San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39.

Sleeping accommodations are available at a discount at the Downtown Park Oakland Hotel. Special room rates are \$74 a night (no more than four per room).

For hotel reservations call 1-510-451-4000. Limited housing and transportation are available.

Payment for the dinner dance and barbecue picnic must be received by April 25.

Make checks payable to Bay Area Activity Fund and send them to **Gwen Randel** at 2669 75th Ave., Oakland, California, 94605.

For further information call Gwen at 1-510-633-5341 (daytime) or 1-510-632-9543 (after 3:30 p.m.). *William Bradford*.

SALEM, Oregon—Singles and young married couples are invited to a dance here April 16.

Activities will include Sabbath services; a dinner featuring all-you-can-eat pizza, salad and drinks; and the dance.

The cost is \$8 for those who register early and \$10 at the door. Capacity is 350 people. Babysitting will be provided, and housing arrangements can be made.

For flyers and information call **Aaron Cermak** at 1-503-364-7212 or write to **Perry K. Sweet**, 3575 Silver Park Place NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305-2076.

Florida youth is musical chair honoree

ORLANDO, Florida—**Scott Devor**, 12, was honored with the 10th cello seat in the 75-member Florida Youth Symphony Orchestra, which conducts five concerts a year. Scott was named Outstanding Musician for 1993 at his school. *Nancy McCord*.

Plain Truth magazine: All offices have a vital part to play

Continued from page 1

Truth, said: "The gospel of Jesus Christ continually reminds us that we are not called merely to observe, we are called to do and to serve. We are working to be sure that the articles in *The Plain Truth* enrich the lives of our readers and inspire and encourage them to believe and have faith in Jesus Christ."

Mr. Albrecht continued,

"We are trying through the pages of the magazine to help people come to know the one true God, and to help them realize the need for a personal relationship with their Savior."

Ronald Kelly, Editorial director, has contributed articles to the magazine for many years.

Mr. Kelly wrote to subscribers in February's "About This Issue": "What a thrill it is to be part of the exciting growth and progress of an

internationally circulated Christian magazine printed in seven languages.

"Those of us who work on this publication consider it a privilege to write, edit and design a magazine that we hope you find interesting, thought-provoking and profitable to your Christian growth."

Almost every office of the Church, both in Pasadena and abroad, has some part in either the promotion, production or distribution of the *Plain Truth* magazine.

Intricate teamwork

This intricate teamwork enables the Church to produce a magazine of high

quality in seven languages for about two million readers around the world.

The Plain Truth is printed by the largest printing plant in the world, R.R. Donnelley & Sons, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois. In May of this year, Donnelley's will have been printing the magazine for 18 years.

100% recycled paper

Space available at German SEP

Space is available for 16 boys and 16 girls at the German Summer Educational Program (SEP) in Voehl, Germany, near Kassel.

Some experience in the German language is helpful, but not necessary. The camp has English and German-speaking dorms. Most staff members are bilingual, and instruction at the activities will be in English for the English-speaking dorms.

Activities include basketball, canoeing, dance, journalism, pottery, soccer, swimming, volleyball, water polo and waterskiing.

The camp will cost about US\$385—depending on the exchange rate. Arrival date is Sunday, July 24; departure is Friday, Aug. 12. Airport of arrival is Frankfurt, Germany. The \$385 includes travel from Frankfurt to SEP and back.

More information and applications can be obtained from SEP Administration in Pasadena. Please direct correspondence to Wade Fransson, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, California, 91123. Telephone 1-818-304-6000, ext. 5869

We would also like to offer a one-week to 10-day tour of the German-speaking region before SEP. The additional cost would be US\$500 to US\$700, depending on the number of participants and duration of tour.

Because of a stronger U.S. dollar, prices are less than previously announced.



MAGAZINE STAFF—The *Plain Truth* team of writers, editors, designers and staff members may be working on as many as four issues at a time. From left, George Hague, John Halford, Neil Earle, Susan Logan, Val Brown, Randy Cole, editor Greg Albrecht, Susan Stewart, Bill Palmer, Jennifer McGraw, Sheila Graham, Paul Kroll and Gene Hogberg. Not pictured: Wendy Kovalchick [Photo by Barry Stahl]

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