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The Worldwide NEWS



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Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Our work and our calling

God has called us into his Church to give us salvation, to teach us and help us grow, and to enlist us in the commission of continuing the work of Jesus Christ. In the Oct. 25 *Worldwide News*, I explained that God wants us to respond to him in love, with a love that permeates everything we do, everything we think, and everything we are. Our entire lives are dedicated to God so that he may use us as he knows is best.

Recently, God has been helping us learn more about what he is and what he is doing. We have learned more about Jesus Christ and the gospel message, and more about the Church and the mission that the Church has. As we have learned more about these topics, we sometimes learned that our former understanding was incomplete or inaccurate.

God has shown us some of our errors, our mistakes, and given us the courage through his Spirit to go to work on correcting them. For those who love Christ and respond to his correction, this has been good news indeed! For some who cannot accept the fact that the Church was wrong on any of these matters, it has been their spiritual undoing. They have chosen to justify errors instead of admit them and turn from them. God has been "sifting the wheat" in the Church, so to speak.

But we can all thank God and praise him that the broad majority of our fellowship are faithful sheep who do hear the voice of their Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and are drawing closer to him!

How sad that some among us were actually upset and angry to learn that there are true Christians in other churches besides ours. That in itself is an indicator of how far from Christ some of us have become—to the point that some of us actually find it *unpleasant* to know that God has called others besides us to salvation!

Think about that. The fact that God has called us to salvation in his Son, that he has given us a place in the body of Christ and a job to do, is not enough! We want even more! We want to be the *only* ones who can have the Holy Spirit. We want to be the *only* ones who will stand in the first resurrection. How sad that we could get to the point that the very thought that God has called others to faith in Christ would be upsetting and bewildering.

Isn't that selfish, arrogant attitude one that pervades Christian churches? *Many* churches believe that *they and they alone* are the truly faithful and obedient fellowship of believers. And just like so many of the others, we have been guilty of the same sin.

It is true that most people who call themselves Christian are not. Most have never repented and in faith given their lives completely over to Jesus as their Savior, Lord and Master. But that is certainly not true of everybody. There are lots of Christians, not in our fellowship, who are indeed truly converted, who possess the Holy Spirit and strive to obey Jesus in all he has given them to understand. There are Christian churches, congregations and Bible societies that are also, just as we are, doing God's work in this dark world.

That does not change our calling, relationship and responsibility to Christ one iota! We are called to repentance and faith and obedience to our Savior, and that is exactly what God expects of us! God has also given us understanding and respect for the seventh-day Sabbath and the annual Holy Days, something he has not given most other fellowships. But as I have explained often, salvation is not in Sabbath and Holy Day keeping; salvation comes only by the generous grace of God and only through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Sabbath and Holy Days point us to Christ and the plan of salvation in him—who he is, what he has done and what he offers—or we make them worthless. And that is why we keep them: to celebrate salvation in Jesus Christ, to fellowship with the Body of Christ and to worship and honor God—not to be the "only true Christians."

"Well, if that's the only reason we do these things, why bother?" someone (whose life does not revolve around Jesus Christ) might ask.

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Deacon from Swaziland addresses U.N. assembly

By Stephen P. Elliott

NEW YORK—Prince Mbilini J. Dlamini, prime minister of Swaziland, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations Oct. 7.

Mr. Dlamini was baptized in 1972, five years after his wife, Esther, showed him *The Plain Truth*. Mrs. Dlamini was baptized in 1974. Some years later Mr. Dlamini was ordained a deacon. Nov. 4, 1993, King Mswati III appointed Mr. Dlamini prime minister for a five-year term. Previously he was minister for Works and Construction.

In his speech, Prince Mbilini praised the people of South Africa for their largely peaceful transition of power. He encouraged the other troubled nations in the region to resolve their conflicts and seek a lasting peace.

Prince Mbilini brought assurances from King Mswati III that he "would be taking steps to decide how best the kingdom [of Swaziland] can make her modest contribution to peace-keeping operations."

He said that Swaziland aims to achieve sustainable, "human-centered" development through policies that address poverty, universal access to primary school and affordable primary health care.

Mr. Mbilini closed by saying: "On behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and

Indlovukazi, and the Swazi nation at large, once more I have the honor of reaffirming my kingdom's commitment to the guiding principles of the United Nations, as enshrined in our founding charter. May God the Almighty bless these deliberations."

Saturday, Oct. 8, the Dlaminis and Moses Mathendele Dlamini, the Swazi U.N. ambassador, attended



Esther and Mbilini J. Dlamini

services with the Queens, New York, church. Their party included other members of the Swazi delegation and about a dozen U.S. Secret Service personnel. Wednesday, Oct. 12, they attended Bible study in Manhattan.

There are 24 members in Swaziland, and about 40 people attend services once a month. Mr. and Mrs. Dlamini, who attended the Feast of Tabernacles in South Africa, visit congregations when they travel.

Stephen P. Elliott pastors the Queens and New York City Spanish churches.

College guide gives AU high marks

By Reginald V. Killingley

BIG SANDY—*U.S. News & World Report's* 1995 edition of its highly respected annual college guide, *America's Best Colleges*, ranks Ambassador University in the top half of regional liberal arts colleges in the western United States.

"We're thrilled and delighted," said AU President Donald Ward. "I'm sure that everyone affiliated with the university shares the excitement we feel over this recognition of the dramatic progress Ambassador has made—including accreditation and the change to university status—in fulfilling its traditional mission while meeting the challenges posed by the demands of an ever-changing world."

Each year, *U.S. News* publishes an assessment of the nation's colleges

and universities, using both objective data from a comprehensive survey filled out by each educational institution and a survey of academic reputation sent out to the presidents, deans and directors of admissions of 1,400 schools. The publication looks at several criteria including SAT scores and acceptance rates, faculty with Ph.D.s, financial resources and academic reputation, in compiling its rankings of the nation's best colleges and universities.

"Many students choose a college because of its reputation," said Michael Germano, AU's dean of Academic Affairs, "and our overall ranking certainly enhances our reputation academically."

The *U.S. News* ranking is commonly used as a recruitment aid by many schools. The guide helps prospective students to become familiar with the

See AU, page 4

New Caribbean church building shows the way

By Colin Adair

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—On July 2, 848 members from the two congregations in Trinidad met for the first time in their new church building in Arima, just outside Port of Spain, the nation's capital.

A number of guests from the construction company and area residents also attended.

Ground-breaking for the building took place in March 1993 when I turned over the first spade of soil.

The process was not without difficulty, as the Trinidad dollar was subsequently devalued and costs soared above estimates. We reduced costs by buying materials in nearby Venezuela rather than the United States.

Brethren pitch in

Brethren gave free labor especially in the early stages of the project. Almost every Sunday, brethren donated their time to dig foundations or cart away dirt as the outline of the building slowly took shape.

As construction proceeded funds quickly became depleted and even with the originally approved bank loan, we sought financial help from Pasadena to keep the project alive.

When the first service took place the building was not yet complete, and it will be some time before all the inside work is finished. Official inauguration has therefore been postponed, but the building is functional and the Trinidad church office

occupies the ground floor.

The Feast took place this year in the new building, which was built large enough both to accommodate the Feast and the Caribbean Summer Educational Program. Seating capacity is 1,400. Rooms can be used as dormitory space and classrooms. However, with the building still to be completed and money scarce, the Caribbean SEP has been put on hold for the foreseeable future (in the meantime local YOU or SEP camps will be conducted on other islands).

The congregations on the other islands hope eventually to have their own church buildings. Grenada has obtained a piece of land donated by former Prime Minister Eric Gary.

Sir Eric met Herbert W. Armstrong some years ago. Later he came into contact with a deacon in the Church. On hearing again about the Church, Sir Eric offered the land for the Church's use. Presently the Grenadian congregation is not in a position to finance a building, but we did accept the land after explaining our position to Sir Eric.

Bermuda also plans to have its own building in the future. The cost of pur-

chasing an existing building or erecting our own is extremely high, making it more difficult for the church there. Average church attendance in the Caribbean in any one week is 2,449. Some brethren who live far from the meeting hall find it economically difficult to attend every Sabbath.

Regional conference

A regional conference for full-time ministers and wives took place in Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 17 to 20.

Guest speakers were Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International; Greg Albrecht, *Plain Truth* editor; Charles Albrecht, international administrative coordinator; and Scott Toliver of the Mail Processing Center.

Mr. Dick spoke on the job of the Church in preaching the gospel and how to plan for growth. Greg Albrecht gave a lecture on hermeneutics, principles of Bible interpretation.

After I gave a regional update and an introduction to planning, the rest of the meetings focused on evangelism, YOU and YES, Festival, mail processing, accounting and business procedures, and cc:Mail, the electron-

ic mail system used by the Church.

Edward Straughan, pastor of the St. Lucia and Dominica churches, said he appreciated the workshop sessions and the chance for all to give their opinions and input freely.

Stats at a Glance:

Baptized members	1,799
(3 percent increase over 1993)	
Baptisms this year	42
(40 percent decrease from 1993)	
Average attendance	2,449
(4 percent down from 1993)	
New contacts	129
(37 percent increase over 1993)	
Full-time ministers	14
Local church elders	12
Deacons	37
Deaconesses	7
Churches	16
Outlying Bible studies	5

July 1994

Letters

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.

Salvation is the key

I have never felt so compelled to write any letter than I am about to write.

I have been a member since 1985. It is my hope to convey to anyone that salvation is the key to having a successful life no matter what struggle you are going through. Any trial can be brought to terms when you actively turn it over to our merciful Father, who wants us to excel and go forward. God never said the struggle would be easy, but we know that our Father is there at all times to see us through to the end.

I don't say these things in ignorance. I speak from the experiences, trials and successes God brings me through. When I came into the Church, I was a chemical drug user. I abused alcohol. I was raped three times and, of course, extremely angry at anyone who walked in my path. My son was born out of wedlock, and I think the most traumatic thing is that I am an incest survivor.

God has led me through a battle in my years in the Church to the victories of this present time. I am not perfect, but I am now able to push toward the mark of becoming like my brother, Jesus Christ. I have a reason to change and an example to look to in order to guide me, as long as I do my part. The purpose for this letter is to reach all the brethren, because collectively we have a work ahead of us to do, not just talk—of which I have been guilty.

If we unify we will fight the best fight ever fought. In strengthening each other we have more of an impact on our brothers and sisters in the world. It allows us to serve in a capacity which to me means: In order for us to learn, we have to teach. So, no matter who you are, if I only reach one person in the innermost of your being, then this letter is a success.

I have had a confrontation with my parents, one which allows total forgiveness and reconciliation. I now know how to love my mom and dad. What a wonderful feeling I've longed for all these years. Also, I've been in counseling about drugs and alcohol. I've worked through the many years of anger I had locked deep within myself and set myself free to love and serve others with a godly attitude.

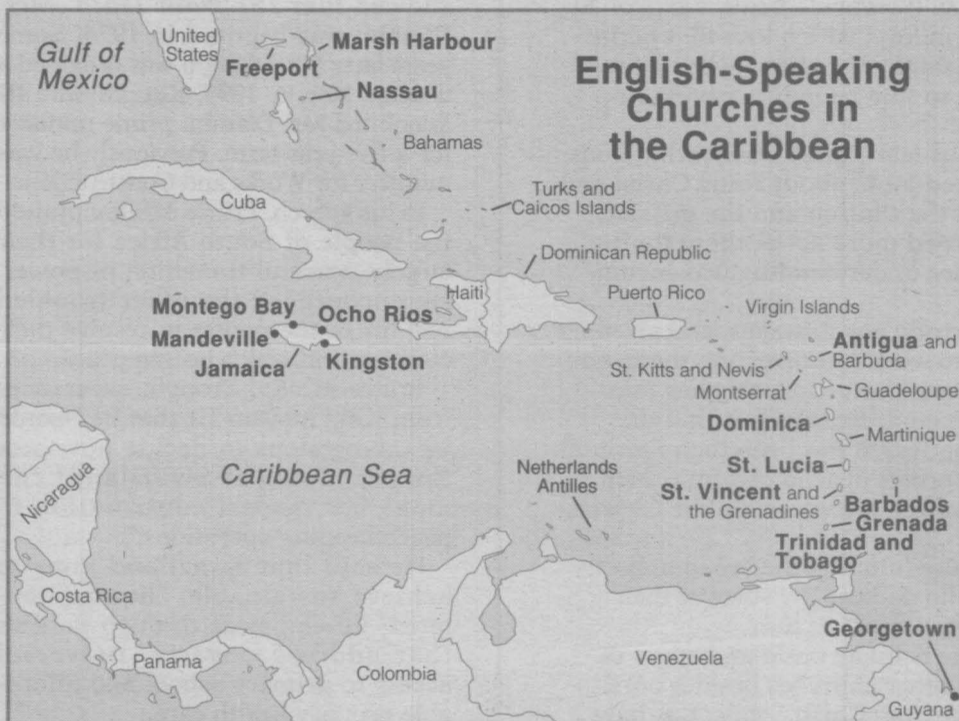
It is such an awesome feeling to know that I can finally be in control of my life with Christ as my Mentor, my Comforter and my Guide. He shed his blood, not only for one, but did it for all of us to gain true repentance and the ability to look far beyond ourselves to serve our brothers with all that is in us.

I find such gratification knowing I've been through it and can help someone else to obtain the goals. Please don't give up when Satan works at you. Our Father is far stronger.

We've all been through trials, but we can use every experience to the advantage of someone else. One way to thank someone who has helped you (other than thanking them) is to pass on what they've given you to someone else.

Someone else who is hurting can use it, exactly like you needed it. They need you to lean on until they are able to stand alone and pass on what you've given them.

Name withheld



ISLAND MEMBERS—Bold-faced locations show English-speaking church congregations in the Caribbean. [Map by Ron Grove]

Discover 'Exotic Africa' next Feast

We're looking for some adventurous people to keep the Feast in an especially meaningful and exciting way next year.

The Church is growing in Central and Southern Africa. God has called many faithful and loyal brethren to serve him in this fascinating but challenging continent. Would you like to meet some of them?

The idea is for members to travel together to an African hub city—probably Nairobi, Kenya. From there, the group will divide up, to join African members keeping the Feast at sites in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

You'll have the opportunity to travel to some sites where few visitors have gone before, and to meet some new friends you will never forget. Some of these sites offer reasonably deluxe facilities. Many, however, do not.

Remember, the purpose of Exotic Africa 95 is not luxury, but opportunity—and an adventure not to be missed.

We estimate the cost will be from \$2,600 to \$2,800 per person from the

east coast of the United States.

Cost for less developed sites will be, of course, less than those that cater to Western tourists. It will help if you have a few extra days before and after the Feast. Flexibility is essential for travel in Africa.

We will organize travel schedules. We will also provide you with pre-Feast information, to help you get the most from the experience.

Exotic Africa 1995 will be coordinated by John and Pat Halford, Fred and Maryann Stevens and Frank and Valerie Fish, who have worked together to organize Feast tours to China and Thailand.

We are looking for some people with good health, a sense of adventure (important), a sense of humor (even more important), and who would like to meet God's people in a fascinating new environment.

We need to know how many brethren are interested. Application forms have been sent to your pastor. Please get one from him, and return it as soon as possible—at least by Dec. 15.

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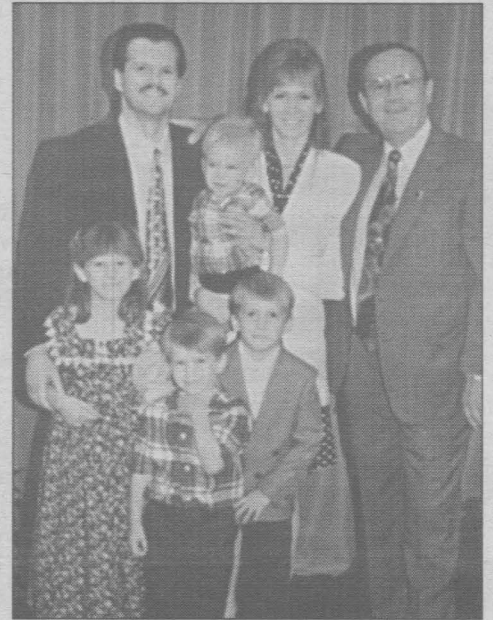
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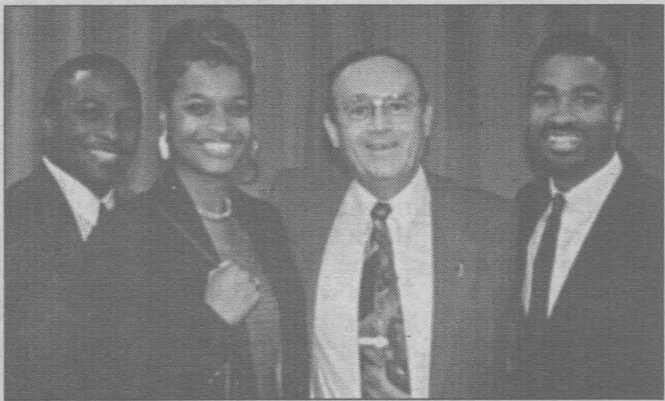
Pastor General visits...

RENO, NEVADA



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 261 brethren Sept. 3 from Reno and Battle Mountain, Nevada. Hosts for the visit were Hugh and Linda Wilson. [Photos by Charles Calloway]



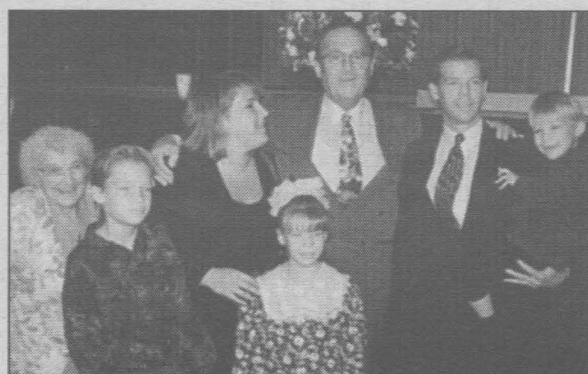
Pastor General visits...

DAYTON, OHIO



Trip Overview

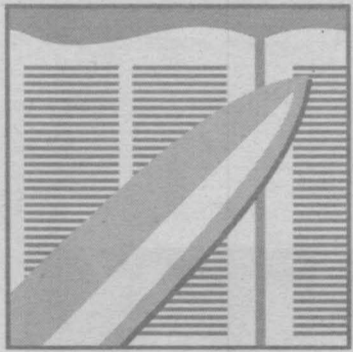
Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 575 brethren Oct. 1 from Dayton and Tipp City, Ohio. Hosts for the visit were Dale and Mona Schurter, Dayton and Tipp City; and Richard and Tracy Crow, Tipp City. [Photos by Norman Koon and Paul Farrier]



IRON SHARPENS IRON

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron,



AU recognized

Continued from page 1

best educational choices available.

"Anyone is free to apply to AU and to attend here if this is the education they want, provided that they meet the admissions requirements and are willing to commit to upholding the institution's standards," said Dr. Germano. "In fact, Ambassador has a long history of accepting students who are not initially affiliated with the Church but who do share our vision and our values," he said.

"At last, the quality of education that has taken place here for decades has been recognized nationally," summed up Dr. Ward. "It is quite a feat to be judged within the top half of schools in our category in our first year of accreditation and university status, and it just goes to show that there is nothing we can't accomplish if we don't resist God's working in our hearts and minds," he said.

Making connections: Why we need to know the Bible's background

By Neil Earle

He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10-12). The Hebrew ability to convey God's love, his tender nature, his benevolent protectiveness—as in the analogy of an eagle carrying its brood on its wings (Exodus 19:3-4)—is unsurpassed.

Earth-centered speech

"They were primarily an outdoor folk," Marvin Wilson says of his Hebrew ancestors. "For them truth was not so much an idea to be contemplated as an experience to be lived, a deed to be done."

This lively, concrete way of thinking and writing in the Old Testament is one reason the Bible has captured the imagination of so many people through the centuries. It is inspired Scripture and it is inspiring to read.

That is one reason why millions of people in big cities around the world can recite from memory a song composed almost 3,000 years ago in tiny Palestine: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).

The point of this article is that the forceful earth-centered speech of the Bible—especially in the Old Testament—can pose a subtle problem for modern readers.

The Church has seen the need to pay even more careful attention to the colorful vocabulary and word pictures used in Scripture. This more careful approach will help us in our future proclamation to the world. It will help us writers, preachers and personal evangelists to distinguish more clearly between what God is *like* and what God *is* in discussing Scripture.

The powerful and emotive revelation of what God is like—a loving shepherd (Isaiah 40:11), a concerned father (Isaiah 64:8)—is all too easily confused with what God is, his essence, that which defines him.

While ancient Israel's inspired writers superbly conveyed God's warm and tender attributes, their colorful figures of speech can sometimes be a stumbling block when it comes to more precisely formulating God's essential nature.

Many Hebrew expressions have become sparkling gems of world literature—"eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (Exodus 21:24), "the valley of the shadow of death" (Psalm 23:4), "the skin of my teeth" (Job 19:20). But this concrete and vivid way of expression can work against defining God in his essence.

A few years ago we were motivated to take a long, hard look at our teaching on God, vital for our public ministry to the world. We well knew what God was like. But what was he in his essence? Our new understanding has thus resulted in some major adjustments in our view of what God is, though it changes hardly anything about our understanding of what God is like.

But we now have the tools to understand more clearly why the Bible teaches that God is one and

why that same book describes him in terms of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20).

The Church, like any other living organism, grows, develops, changes; sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly.

Our discussions on the nature of God have helped us define our theology more precisely. This is crucial for those who are representing the Church through the spoken and written word. (Today's audiences can be unforgiving.)

A Hebrew-Greek document

We more fully understand the implications of the fact that God originally inspired his word to us first as a Hebrew and then as a Greek production.

The Bible was not originally written as an English, French, German or Spanish document. Not understanding this has led to problems. For example, until 1974 we did not understand the proper reading of the Hebrew word for *from* in Leviticus 23:15. It clarified the correct way to calculate the date of the Feast of Pentecost.

Thus, as we seek to understand more about the nature and essence of God, we must be patient with ourselves and with the process of doctrinal change.

The early Church too had to learn and grow. They misinterpreted the time of Christ's return. They were slow to understand the role of the gentiles, strange as that may seem to us today (Acts 11:1-3). But they did change. They knew that it is a Christian trait to be humble, to be teachable, to generously extend the benefit of the doubt.

It is helpful to remember in any in-depth study of doctrine that we are dealing with a book, the Holy Bible, that came down to us through the thought world of the Hebrews and the Greeks. In the future our literature will dwell more fully upon the fact that the Bible is irrefutably inspired, but a document deeply rooted in the ways and thought patterns of the ancient Near East.

The Old Testament in particular was phrased in terms that down-to-earth shepherds and tillers of the soil could understand. Many moderns have not always understood this. In Psalm 19:4-6, for example, the sun is described as an athlete running a race across the heavens. This is not an error. It is a figure of speech. We still use such nonscientific, earth-centered speech today when we speak and write about sunrise and sunset.

This earth-centered, human-oriented speech of the Hebrews is magnificent for showing us God's attributes, for revealing what God is like. "Hide me in the shadow of your wings," David begged God (Psalm 17:8). Yet we know that God is not really an eagle or a mother hen.

This is an excellent way to depict what God is like, but it takes another kind of language to tell us more definitely what God is.

Note, for example, the difference in tone and content between these two scriptures: "For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water" (Revelation 7:17). "For in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

Both statements are unquestionably and infallibly "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). The difference is that the first one borrows from a Hebrew thought form—the shepherd and the sheep.

The second is a quote cited from a Greek poet by Paul during a rigorous theological discussion in Athens on the nature of God (Acts 17:16-34).

The systematizing Greeks gave us such words as *atom* and *teleo* ("far off," "from a distance"—hence television, telephone, telegram). They were probing, analytical, carefully precise. There are, for example, 1,027 forms of the Greek verb "to write."

New Testament writers used this defining ability to write of a God "who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:6).

We have all read John 3:16, which is not unlike a formula or a theorem, outlining the essence of God's saving work with the greatest economy of speech.

The underlying essentials

In general, the Greek language was better suited to convey what we now know God is—one being in three hypostases.

The word *hypostasis* (literally, "that which stands under and supports") is mentioned twice in the Bible. It is found in Hebrews 1:3, where it is translated "being" in *The Interlinear Bible*, and again in Hebrews 11:1, where it is rendered "substance" in the King James Version.

The *American College Dictionary* defines hypostasis as "the underlying or essential part of anything as distinguished from attributes." Hypostasis admittedly has a technical and clinical ring to it. But it is a word used twice in the inspired Scriptures. It allows us to speak more precisely about the nature of God.

And our God, the God of the Bible, is undeniably personal, as both Old and New Testaments show. In this sense, then, it is not wrong to use the word *Person* when speaking of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as long as we are careful not to impose limitations as to bodily shape and form upon God (Isaiah 40:18, 25). Neither should we conclude that God needs to occupy time and space (2 Chronicles 6:18).

Further, the threeness of God does not lie in his being three separate individuals. This would compromise the oneness of God. Thus, when we use the word *Persons* in reference to God we do not mean persons like you and I are persons. There are not three Gods. There is one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is a difficult concept to grasp, but the only way the integrity of Scripture can be maintained. We use the word *Persons* in the sense of distinct hypostases, and not in any sense implying three separate beings.

This is how the Bible itself speaks, but we are learning the limitations of all language in conveying the greatness of our God. The Church is committed to "every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

The word *hypostasis* helps discipline us in a more accurate proclamation to the world. We now more clearly distinguish between what God is *like* and what God *is*.

Neil Earle is international editor for The Plain Truth.

Personal: New Testament sign of God's people

Continued from page 1

Anyone who loves God, and whose life is wholly devoted to Jesus Christ, *will not be absent* (except for the proverbial "ox in the ditch") when God's people gather to worship him, to fellowship in his name and to celebrate his great acts of love and salvation! *It is the person who is seeking to do the very least God absolutely requires of him or her who would ask such a question.* That is part of the difference between the old covenant and the new.

God has given us unique blessings, unique opportunities, and with them, unique responsibilities. The Sabbath and the Holy Days, rightly observed, help keep us mindful of certain things that should enable us to do a work that many churches are unable to do. We are able to bring together in fellowship people from all races, nationalities and economic and social backgrounds.

We should be able to exemplify the kingdom of God by extending the right hand of fellowship to believers who are different from ourselves. Rather than catering to only one class or color of people, our congregations should be able to reflect the diversity that God has placed in

humanity, and our worldwide fellowship reflects the fact that God calls people from all nations to the kingdom of his Son.

But, true to human nature, some of us have allowed these blessings to become a snare by becoming arrogant and self-righteous about them. That is not God's way. God's way is to use his blessings to glorify him and extend love to others. That kind of self-righteousness is one of the very things God has caused us to see in ourselves—so that we can repent and turn from it. And, I'm sorry to say, it is one of the very things some among us have chosen not to repent of.

The Feast of Tabernacles is, in part, a grand celebration of the tremendous variety of people God calls into the body of Christ and into the kingdom of God. The satellite transmission on the first Holy Day highlighted the joyous truth that we have brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world. The Oct. 25 *Worldwide News*, with photos from all regions, brought us face to face with the diversity in unity of the Church of God.

We must not neglect the calling and the gifts God has given us. At the same time we must not condemn and reject Christians God has called

into other fellowships and given other tasks. I have explained before that the Sabbath was given as a sign of the special covenant relationship between God and his people, Israel. But the sign of God's people in the New Testament is the Holy Spirit in

Let's pray that all those God calls to join with us in Christian fellowship will find us to be a Church that is truly alive with the love, joy and power of Christ.

them, expressing itself in love (John 13:35; Romans 8:9).

What other fellowships do is between them and God. But God has called us *here* to do the work he has given *us*—and every single member has a vital part to play in that work! It is easy to point at other churches and talk about their problems. Some churches have serious problems. Many are weak or dead, spiritually speaking. God will work with them

as he sees fit. But our job is to remain alive and alert ourselves, to remain diligent in hearing the voice of our Shepherd and responding to him.

Some among *us* have become spiritually weak, and for this reason we need to pray earnestly for one another. We need to lovingly exhort and encourage one another to take our calling and election *seriously*. We need to take upon ourselves the yoke of Christ and in faith work together to spread the gospel of eternal life.

Let's pray that all those God calls to join with us in faithful Christian fellowship and the work of the kingdom will find us to be a Church that is truly alive with the love, joy and power of Christ, and truly on fire with zeal for growing in his grace and in knowing him.

God has called every one of us into the work of his kingdom, and he has placed us in the body of Christ as it pleases him. Our job is to be about our Father's business, and I praise God that most of our brothers and sisters are doing exactly that!

Let me thank specially all those who sent such encouraging and inspiring cards and letters to me just before the Feast. I am grateful for your thoughtfulness and love, and especially for your love of our Savior!



Pastor General visits...

New Orleans, Louisiana



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 1,618 brethren Aug. 27 from New Orleans, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Lafayette, Lake Charles and Raceland, Louisiana; Meridian, Natchez, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Jackson, Greenwood and Picayune, Mississippi; Mobile, Monroeville and Montgomery, Alabama; Pensacola, Florida; and Beaumont, Texas.

Hosts for the visit were James and June Jenkins, Meridian; Harold and Lopee Rhodes, Pensacola and Mobile; Don and Alix Engle, Beaumont and Lake Charles; Daniel and Nancy Hall, Alexandria and Natchez; Mike and Pam Horchak, New Orleans and Raceland; Rand and Gloria Millich, Hattiesburg and Gulfport; Anthony and Karen Rice, Baton Rouge and Lafayette; Ken and Kathy Treybig, Hammond and Picayune; Ron and Rosemary Wallen, Jackson and Greenwood; Steve and Kathe Myers, New Orleans and Raceland; and John and Cathy Novick, Jackson and Greenwood. [Photos by S. Julien and Jose Lopez Sr.]



Kenavan, son of Barry and Sue Kenavan of Bundaberg, Australia, were united in marriage April 3. The ceremony was performed by Allan Dean, pastor of the Toowoomba, Australia, church. Marrietta Denny, sister of the bride, was head bridesmaid, and Ted Savidge was best man. The couple live in Brisbane, Australia.



JOE & MICHELLE VANEK

Michelle Ruth Petranek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Petranek of Dallas, Texas, and Joseph Timothy Vanek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vanek of Houston, Texas, were united in marriage May 22. The ceremony was performed by Stan Murphy, director of Residence Life at Ambassador University. Paula Jo Pierce was maid of honor, and Mark A. Rogers was best man. The couple live in Houston.



TIM & JENNIFER MIDDLETON

Jennifer A. Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott of Joplin, Missouri, and Timothy I. Middleton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Middleton of Miami, Oklahoma, were united in marriage April 16. The ceremony was performed by Karl Beyersdorfer, pastor of the Joplin, Missouri, church. Christina Scott, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Anthony Scott, brother of the bride, was best man. The couple live in Cartersville, Missouri.



TOBE & BARBARA JOHNSON

Barbara Hill, daughter of Archie and Joyce Hill of Manteno, Illinois, and Tobe Johnson, son of Jesse and Sue Johnson, of Drasco, Arkansas, were united in marriage June 26. The ceremony was performed by Roger Abels, pastor of the Fort Wayne, Indiana, church. Bekki Olmstead, was maid of honor, and Mark Geiser was best man. The couple live in Helena, Montana.



LAVERNE & TERI ROGERS

Teri Christine Mary Neufeld, daughter of James and Debi Neufeld, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and LaVerne Carlyle Rogers, son of Glen and Shirley Rogers of Neilburg, Saskatchewan, were united in marriage July 2. The ceremony was performed by Owen Murphy, pastor of the Langley, British Columbia, church. Shannon Neufeld, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Werner Bullerwell was best man. The couple live in St. Brieux, Saskatchewan.



LAARNI & ROSEMARY DAJAO

Rosemary Apolinario, daughter of Benjamin and Emerita Apolinario, and Laarni Dajao, son of Exequiel and Leonora Dajao, were united in marriage March 16. The ceremony was performed by Ricardo Deligero, pastor of the Zamboanga, Philippines, church. Arlene Apolinario was maid of honor, and Carlos Tan was best man. The couple live in Zamboanga.

Anniversaries



LYLE & MARGARET WELTY

Lyle and Margaret Welty celebrated

their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 17. They have one son, Douglas; and one daughter, Debby. Mr. Welty pastors the Cleveland, Ohio, East church and serves as a regional pastor.



PAUL & JENNIE LANG

Paul and Jennie Lang of Eugene, Oregon, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Aug. 28. They have three daughters, Debra Martens, Connie Sloan and Susan Williams, and 11 grandchildren.



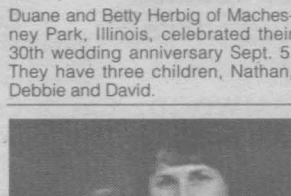
ALAN & JESSIE DRUCE

Alan and Jessie Druce of Ardlethan, Australia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary May 15. They have two daughters, Leonie and Julie; a son, Neil; two sons-in-law, Graeme and Graeme; a daughter-in-law, Coral; six granddaughters; and five grandsons.

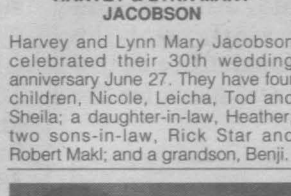


METRO & JOYCE KURULIAK

Metro and Joyce Kuruliak of Edmonton, Alberta, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Aug. 29. They have two children, Greg and Maria; a daughter-in-law, Jeannette; a son-in-law, Brian Logozar; and three grandchildren, Derek, Christopher and Cara. Dr. and Mrs. Kuruliak serve as deacon and deaconess in the Edmonton North church.

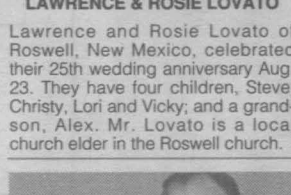


Duane and Betty Herbig of Machesney Park, Illinois, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Sept. 5. They have three children, Nathan, Debbie and David.



HARVEY & LYNN MARY JACOBSON

Harvey and Lynn Mary Jacobson celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary June 27. They have four children, Nicole, Leicha, Tod and Sheila; a daughter-in-law, Heather; two sons-in-law, Rick Star and Robert Makl; and a grandson, Benji.



LAWRENCE & ROSIE LOVATO

Lawrence and Rosie Lovato of Roswell, New Mexico, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 23. They have four children, Steve, Christy, Lori and Vicky; and a grandson, Alex. Mr. Lovato is a local church elder in the Roswell church.



DON & CAROLYN UNNEWEHR

Don and Carolyn Unnewehr of Harrisonville, Missouri, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sept. 6. They have one son, Cheston.



JAMES & VIVIAN HAMBLIN

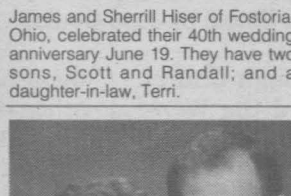
James and Vivian Hamblin of

Zephyrhills, Florida, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Oct. 12. She has three daughters, Patsy, Shirley and Nancy; three sons-in-law; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



DAN & DEBBIE ROBINSON

Dan and Debbie Robinson of Blue Springs, Missouri, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 23. They have three sons, David, Michael and Matthew.



James and Sherrill Hiser of Fostoria, Ohio, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary June 19. They have two sons, Scott and Randall; and a daughter-in-law, Terri.



MARVIN & MARYANNA ROOT

Marvin and Maryanna Root of St. Paul, Minnesota, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Sept. 5. They have two daughters, Maria Stahl and Laura Cooley; a son, Aaron; two sons-in-law, Barry Stahl and Vann Cooley; a daughter-in-law, Vania; and two grandchildren, Britta and Kieffer Stahl.



VIRGIL & BILLIE WALTER

Virgil and Billie Walter of Akron, Ohio, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Sept. 10. They have two sons, Jerry and Rich; a daughter, Terry; a son-in-law, Brett; and two grandchildren, Kimberly and Kyle.



WILLIAM & LOIS LANGENDERFER

William and Lois Langenderfer of Toledo, Ohio, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Sept. 12. They have three sons, Bill, Mike and Steve; three daughters, Annette Plunkett, Beth and Jeannie; two daughters-in-law, Shawn and Angela; and a son-in-law, Bob Plunkett.

Anniversaries Made of Gold

Harvey and Olive Payne of Fogo Island, Newfoundland, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Oct. 22. They have two sons, one daughter, 16 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Bud and Alma Venus of Perrysburg, Ohio, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Oct. 3. They had one daughter (deceased), four sons, 27 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.



Richard and Bertine Mertens of Algoma, Wisconsin, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 12. They have three children and eight grandchildren.



LOUIS & IRENE TOWNSLEY

Louis and Irene Townsley of Friendswood, Texas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 4. They have six children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



VENANCIO & MAXIMINA RAMISCAL

Venancio and Maximina Ramiscal of San Jose, Philippines, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 14. They have two sons, Edgardo and Virgilio; two daughters, Melanie and Emma; two sons-in-law, Ludovico Rasing and Ricardo Uy; and 11 grandchildren.



HALE & VERNA HARDING

Hale and Verna Harding of Harrison, Idaho, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 13. They have two sons, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Mr. Harding is a deacon in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, church.



ROLLIN & DOROTHY WATSON

Rollin and Dorothy Watson of Quinton, Oklahoma, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 4. They have two sons, Kendal and Gary; two daughters-in-law, Betty and Jo Ann; one grandchild; and one great-grandson.

Obituaries

JEFFERS, Myrtle M. 99, of Torrance, California, died July 30. She is survived by 10 children, 81 grandchildren, 169 great-grandchildren and 42 great-great-grandchildren.



ROSE HORAN

HORAN, Rose, 96, of Sylmar, California, died Sept. 6. She is survived by one son, Robert, and one daughter, Shirley Gilson.

McFARLANE, Maise I., 89, of Mount Lawley, Australia, died Oct. 2. She is survived by her children, John, Carole and David; her daughters-in-law, Robby and Kath; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Andrew Ogle and Roy McFarlane.



HELEN DIMICK

DIMICK, Helen, 85, of Fargo, North Dakota, died Oct. 6 of cancer. She is survived by a son, Erin; a grandson, Sean; a sister, Inez Baker; and a brother, Everette Baker Jr.

JOHNSON, Glenn C., 84, of Big Sandy, died July 29. He is survived by his wife, Emily Mae; two sons, Val and Lance; seven grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

MUSGRAVE, Walter E., 84, of Big Sandy, died Aug. 1. He is survived by his wife, Christina; two step-daughters, Margie Nelson and Ellen Edelbach; nine step-grandchildren; and 20 step-great-grandchildren.

HIDONDO, Edna, 82, of Carson City, Nevada, died Sept. 25. She is survived by one brother, two sisters and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Pete.

LAWRENCE, Margie, 81, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, died June 3 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Wilbur; one daughter; three

sons; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



ELLA WALKER

WALKER, Ella, 80, of Houston, Texas, died Aug. 3. She is survived by her husband, W.G.; a daughter, Ella Anderson; a grandson, Phillip; two granddaughters, Myra Anderson-Lester and Ellen Holton; and four great-grandchildren.

THOMAS, Herman C., 79, of Plymouth, Wisconsin, died July 23 of lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Leora; two sons, Gene and Daniel; a daughter and a son-in-law, Julie and Dave Molnar; two grandchildren, Marissa and David; three brothers; and two sisters.

LOVE, Nell M., 78, of Prescott, Arizona, died Sept. 4. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Linda S. and Gary F. DuBois; four grandchildren, Mark, Alan, Chris and Jessica; and two great-grandsons, Scot and Troy. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Cyrus E. Miller and Ralph E. Love; a son, Norman L. Miller; one brother; and three sisters.

BOGLE, Annabell, 77, of Yuma, Arizona, died Sept. 25. She is survived by her husband, Walton L.; a son, Warren C.; two daughters, Margaret Henthorn and Ruth Foster; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, James.

WALDEN, Robert S., 75, of Auburn, Washington, died Sept. 26. He is survived by his wife, Mildred; a son, Robert; a daughter, Brenda; three brothers, Samuel Jr., Earl and Looney; two sisters, Arzela Lorge and Christine Thomas; and two grandchildren.



EDWARD DENKLER

DENKLER, Edward Jr., 74, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, died Sept. 11 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen; and two sons, Edward III and John. Mr. Denkler was a local church elder.



RAYMOND SOOKUN

SOOKUN, Raymond, 74, of Plaisance Rose Hill, Mauritius, died Aug. 9. He is survived by his wife, Bernadette; and his son, Philippe.

ACKLEY, Betty Jean, 72, of Midway, Pennsylvania, died July 25. She is survived by her husband, Ray; a daughter, Susan Gunnoe; a son-in-law, Heardine Gunnoe; two sons, Ray Jr. and William; two grandchildren; four sisters; and one brother.

ERWIN, Juanita Sellers, 71, of Picayune, Mississippi, died July 24. She is survived by her husband, Lowell V.; two sons, Lowell G. and Bob; a daughter, Tanya Holmes; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Carol Dean Erwin.



WILL VANDERMOLLEN

VANDERMOLLEN, Will, 69, of Hickory Hills, Illinois, died Aug. 2 from injuries received in a car accident. He is survived by his mother, Katherine; five children, Tom, Sue,

Jenny, Amy and Paul; three sons-in-law, Mike, Mark and Stan; eight grandchildren, Leeah, Mike, Eric, Carlee, Mark, Ken, Jessica and Britney; and a great-grandchild, Taylor Rae.



BESSIE LENNON

LENNON, Bessie, 67, of Houston, Texas, died April 9. She is survived by three daughters and two sons.

KURTS, George T. Jr., 63, of Jackson, Mississippi, died July 3 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sue; two daughters, Marthae Peninger and Sharon Lee Cook; a brother, Paul Kurts, pastor of the Gadsden and Anniston, Alabama, churches; a sister, Pattie Kurts-McGee; and three grandchildren, William, Michael and Sarah.

TOMLIN, Jimmy, 62, of Lafayette, Alabama, died Sept. 15. He is survived by his mother, Mary Helen.

MARTIN, Edna, 61, of Norfolk, Virginia, died Aug. 14. She is survived by her husband, Alexander; four sons; five daughters; and 22 grandchildren.

KESLER, Mary Ann Chaffin, 59, of Oxford, Mississippi, died July 22 of liver cancer. She is survived by her husband, Stanley; five daughters, Suezanne Irby, Deborah Hargrove, Rebecca Allen, Julie Lewis and Gloria Sturdivant; her stepmother, Dorris Chaffin; two sisters; one brother; 11 grandchildren; three nieces; and three nephews.



JAMES BENNETT

BENNETT, James William "Jim," 53, of London, England, died of a coronary occlusion July 21. He is survived by his wife, Christine; a son, Mark; two brothers; and three sisters.

WELBORN, Gloria Ann, 50, of Lumberton, Mississippi, died Aug. 10 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Dawnye; five sons, Scott, Jeff, Dawnye Jr., Richard and Randy; two grandchildren; three sisters, Uldean Armstrong, Antoinette Nimmo and Jean Padgett; and a brother, Donnie E. Davis.

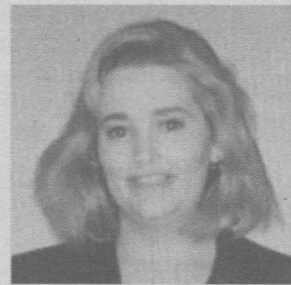
BONSEY, Carol, 49, of Middletown, Connecticut, died Aug. 23 after a three-year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Richard; a daughter, Kimberly; her parents, Henry and Gerda Blohm; and a brother, Erich Blohm.



SUZANNE EYESTONE

EYESTONE, Suzanne, 48, of Hart, Michigan, died Aug. 26 of heart failure caused by multiple physical problems. She is survived by her husband, Kelly; a son, Chris; a daughter, Shelly; and one sister.

WILLIAMS, Alexander George of Morwell, Australia, died Aug. 17, before birth. He is survived by his parents, Ross and Ann Williams; two brothers; and three sisters.



DALSEY JORDAN

JORDAN, Dalsey Dorraine, 20, of Tappahannock, Virginia, died Sept. 7 in a car accident. She is survived by her parents, James and Mary; a brother, Robert A.; a sister, Kelijio M.; a sister-in-law, Marianne; a nephew, Christopher; and her grandmothers, Doris V. Major and Jennie L. Jordan.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Lisbon church celebrates five years

LISBON, Portugal—The church here celebrated its five-year anniversary in August. In August 1989 nine people gathered in the home of **Carlos and Yvonne Tavares** for the first regularly scheduled Bible study. Mr. Tavares was ordained a local church elder in 1991.

In 1988 **Pedro Rufian**, pastor of the churches in Spain and Portugal, began visiting Portugal twice a year. Mr. Rufian sends the brethren encouraging letters,



FELLOW LABORERS—The Lisbon congregation, which celebrated five years as a church, together on the Feast of Trumpets. [Photo by Jose Couto]

taped sermons and telephoned them.

The first member baptized in Portugal was **Manuel Correia de Morais** in 1977. For many years Mr. Morais helped with the church accounts, collecting and sorting the mail from the *Pura Verdade* mail box in Porto, where he lives, and sending it to the Spanish Department.

In 1980 five members from Portugal attended the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time in Cullera, Spain. This year about 44 Portuguese brethren traveled to Talavera de la Reina, Spain. The Portuguese members are from Portugal, India, Mozambique, Angola, Canada and South Africa. They learned of

the Church through Church publications and the *World Tomorrow* broadcast in English, Spanish and French.

Thirty-two members meet twice a month in Lisbon and 10 meet once a month in Porto. After the Feast more than 16 have begun meeting in Leiria once a month.

Seventeen people in Portugal are associated with the Church and four are counseling for baptism. *Jose Couto and Daniel Fernandes.*

Couple lends hands and hearts to Romanian children

IPSWICH, England—In response to a newspaper advertisement, **Philip and Georgia Gibbons**, deacon and deaconess in the church here, did voluntary work at an orphanage in Pascani, Romania.

Mr. Gibbons did carpentry work, and Mrs. Gibbons worked as a cook. When they arrived they learned that the building had been destroyed by an earthquake. However, the Romanian authorities made a kindergarten avail-

able to them provided they convert it into a new home for the children.

"When we first arrived there we could not tell the difference between boys and girls, for they nearly all had very short hair and wore shorts and T-shirts," Mr. Gibbons said. "We had been advised not to touch the children without gloves or allow them to bite us, as some of them were HIV positive, and many of them had hepatitis as well as other diseases. However, we soon forgot about the precautions when we started playing with them after work each day. As soon as they saw us, they wanted to be picked up and cuddled."

The Gibbonses learned that most of the children were not orphans, but victims of a government policy before the revolution that banned contraceptives. Many parents were so poor they found it impossible to care for additional children, so in desperation they left them at one of the many orphanages across the country.

The Gibbonses were pleased that most of the children got regular visits from their parents.

U.S. editor updates English audiences on PT policy

BOREHAMWOOD, England—**Neil Earle**, *Plain Truth* international editor, gave three talks in England in September, explaining policy shifts and emphases in the magazine.

Sept. 14 Mr. Earle met with **John Ross Schroeder**, **Ruth Arnold**, **Julie Wilson** and other staffers of the British regional office to discuss policy and plans for the

1995 *Plain Truth*. "It always helps to sit down together and discuss these matters," said Mr. Earle. "It's hard to beat face to face contact, and everyone needs a chance to give feedback."

"It was encouraging to see the gospel being expressed in a culturally relevant way around the world," Mrs. Wilson said. "It is exciting that Christ's message can transcend barriers of language, race and culture by the efforts of our international editorial brothers and sisters."

On Sept. 15 (Day of Atonement) and the Sabbath of Sept. 17 Mr. Earle gave sermons illustrated with a slide show that helped outline policy shifts in *The Plain Truth*. He explained that the mass audience is suspicious of electronic evangelism but they will respond to groups that are open and above-board and reflect caring and concern.

Hence the "About This Issue" segment in the magazine and the "Who Are We?" series in the international areas, where each regional office was asked to introduce itself to the readership.

"In Canada, after more than 30 years of operation, we figured it was time to at least say hello," quipped Mr. Earle.

Singles event in Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee—East Tennessee singles invite other singles to Winter Weekend '94 Dec. 23 to 26 at Fall Creek Falls State Resort Park north of Chattanooga.

Activities include Sabbath services, a dance and access to the 16,000-acre park.

Cost is \$40 and includes all meals and three nights in the group lodge. A \$20 deposit payable to Knoxville singles should be sent by Dec. 9 to **Carolyn McElhaney**, 7552 Glastonbury Dr., Knoxville, Tennessee, 37931. For a flyer and more information call **Steve Isbill** at 1-615-983-2885.



Lighten your phone bills as you light up someone's day

The Church has made an agreement with PSI Network, Inc., to offer the UniDial Residential Long Distance Service to members. The Church will receive a 7 percent rebate. This long distance service includes:

- 12.9 cents per minute interstate with no restrictions
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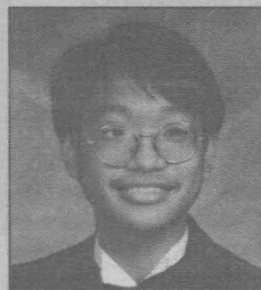
DEPT. No. 119 — (ask pastor for local church number)

To sign up call 1-800-UNIDIAL from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday Central Standard Time.

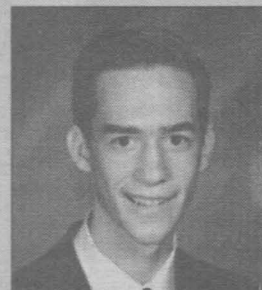
For further information contact your local telephone coordinator or your pastor.

High School Honorees

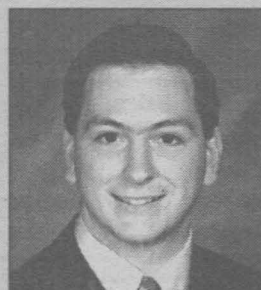
The Worldwide News congratulates the following youths who were valedictorians or salutatorians (or ranked first or second) in their graduating classes.



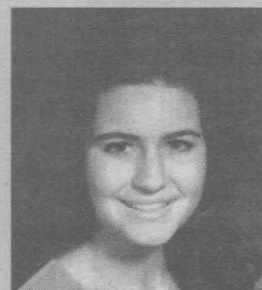
Ismael Belosoy Jr.
Valedictorian
Gateway High School
Orlando, Florida, church



Scott Nesmith
Salutatorian
Imperial High School
Elmira, New York, church



Donald H. Pinkston III
Valedictorian
Imperial High School
Pasadena A.M. church



Alicia Lynn Pujat
First in class
Clifton High School
Montvale, New Jersey, church

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