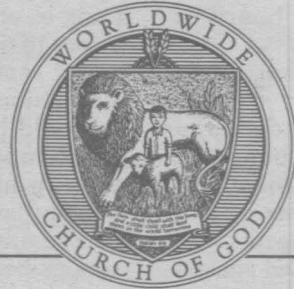


2 Court victory for Ambassador

4 Jesus and the two thieves: Learning about Christ

8 Hurricane hits Pensacola site, but Festival still to take place

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXIII, NO. 16
AUGUST 15, 1995

Feast fever: a time of joy and learning for all

By Mark McCulley

With less than two months until the Feast of Tabernacles, the excitement building up can almost be touched and felt, according to reports coming in to Festival Administration.

The theme of the Festival this year emphasizes the faith we have in Christ, resulting in salvation (see box, page 3). Besides setting that theme, Church Administration has given the Festival coordinators materials that will help speakers build on that theme and expound biblical truths at this important time in the Church's history.

Festival coordinators have conducted meetings with the ministers in their areas to discuss the coming Festival. These meetings have increased the spirit of teamwork among the field ministry and solidified a determination to make this year's Festival a time of joy and learning for all.

Ted Johnston, coordinator for the Vail site, said: "The ministry is really excited about the wonderful messages they are going to be bringing, following the lectionary outlines. These are meaty and timely subjects

Mark McCulley is Festival Administration manager.

that will help to give the Feast a strong spiritual focus."

A daily theme based around that day's sermon is another addition to this year's preparations.

"We're looking forward to having every day's special music, every hymn, every prayer and every message on the same subject," commented Mr. Johnston. "In that way, we will be focused in what we do, and our worship will become even more meaningful and purposeful."

At the Festival, we will set aside time for acts of service in the community. Festival coordinators describe some Church-organized projects that will give us all a chance to serve.

In Daytona Beach, Florida, for instance, "our members will be given opportunities to assist the Halifax Urban Ministries with donated food items and labor for the hungry and needy in the local communities," according to coordinator Steve Schantz.

In Sherbrooke, Quebec, projects are being planned "to leave the community with a positive impression of what it is to be part of a Christian community that believes in serving without ulterior motives," explained coordinator Rejean Vautour.

PT readers ask about Feast

An article in the August *Plain Truth* put the Feast of Tabernacles in

front of the magazine's readership, emphasizing the theme of faith.

"We have had well over 200 calls in response to the article and hope to see many of our readers at the Festival this fall," said Tobin Cookman, Telephone Response supervisor. "Most of the callers have also been given local church information, so we may get to meet them even sooner."

At several U.S. sites *Plain Truth* readers will be invited to attend services by means of ink-jetted messages on the back cover of the September-October issue.

Local members have been chosen in each of those sites to serve as con-
See Feast, page 3

Evangelist Ron Kelly to direct Family Ministry

By Paul Monteith

Evangelist Ronald Kelly will become director of Family Ministry, announced Bernard W. Schnippert, Media Operations director, at an Editorial Services employee meeting, July 14. Editorial Services supervisors will now report directly to Dr. Schnippert, instead of to him

through a department manager, as was previously the case.

Mr. Kelly has worked in Editorial Services for 13 years and has been department manager for the past 5½ years. Before becoming department manager he was a senior writer for *The Plain Truth* and editor of the



Ron and Norva Kelly

Church's booklets and brochures.

"Obviously it is with mixed emotions that a change comes," Mr. Kelly said. "Our dedicated Editorial staff has been a pleasure to work with and I will miss that day-to-day contact with them—especially the supervisors with whom I worked so closely."

"However, I have had to make changes in job-related experiences several times in the past and have always found that new areas of responsibility are rewarding, too."

Mr. Kelly and his wife, Norva, were considered for Family Ministry because they are recognized for their commitment to strong family relationships, said Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International.

"We want Family Ministry to continue to move away from an activity based program to an operation that identifies and releases competent people to serve the needs of the

Church's families," Mr. Dick said.

"That job needs someone who is mature, experienced and able to articulate well, both verbally and in writing. It requires someone who can identify with a diversity of personalities and cultures, and who can empower others in order to draw out their best for the benefit of the whole Church. Ron and Norva Kelly fill these requisites very well."

Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have devoted a lot of time to family in their personal lives—they have five children and six grandchildren. In the ministry they have focussed on family life as a special interest for the past 35 years. "We are thrilled to think of making a direct contribution as a full-time responsibility," Mr. Kelly commented.

Some of Family Ministry's goals, Mr. Kelly said, are to further develop the Sabbath School program for youths and the continuation of the YOU program for teens; to focus even more attention on the Church's premarital counseling program and the *Prepare and Enrich* tools presently available to the ministry; and to strengthen the marital relationship of all Church members with literature, counseling services, seminars and programs that will build and maintain strong marriages and families.

"We also hope to have a stronger cooperative effort with faculty members and ministers at Ambassador University who have degrees and specialized training in fields directly related to Family Ministry," Mr. Kelly added.

"Our goal is to form a team effort with the staff here in Pasadena and the university that extends to the worldwide ministry and members.

"We look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead and certainly solicit the prayers of our ministers and members that Christ will lead us in our service to build strong and stable families," he said.



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Responding to the dynamic leadership of Jesus Christ

It is painful to realize that so many of the ministers who have departed from us think they are being loyal and faithful to Mr. Armstrong's teachings, but the truth is, they have rejected Christ's teachings.

Mr. Armstrong taught the Church to put the Bible ahead of tradition and to let the Bible correct us. He taught that Jesus Christ is the living Head of the Church. And now that Jesus Christ, through the plain truth of Scripture, has corrected the Church, they have left to form their own churches, based on what they have decided is important. Just as Paul warned in Acts 20:28-30, they have sought to draw away disciples.

It hurts me to see that reaction to the truth. Mr. Armstrong was noted for saying, "It's harder to unlearn error than it is to learn the truth." How ironic that these former ministers are living out that maxim.

They have committed themselves to the details of what Mr. Armstrong taught about certain doctrines, instead of having listened to what he taught about how the Church ought to think about and respond to the Bible's authority and Christ's dynamic leadership of his own Body.

Brethren, thank you for your faithfulness to Christ! Thank you for
See Personal, page 6

Church attorney details failed lawsuit against AU

By Ralph K. Helge

Last issue we reported about the lawsuit that John Merritt filed against the Church, Russell Duke, Ambassador University and its board of regents.

This article offers background into his lawsuit.

Dr. Merritt is a medical doctor, a former member of the board of regents of Ambassador University and a former Church member.

When the Church changed some doctrines, Dr. Merritt decided against their correctness and, in our opinion, favored the United Church of God.

Dr. Merritt attempted to have two sections of Ambassador's by-laws repealed. These sections require that a member of the board of regents be a member in good standing of the Church and remain such during his or her tenure as a regent, or be disqualified without the need of further action. He failed to convince the board and then withdrew his motion because of a lack of support. He himself had voted to approve and adopt these very by-laws.

As a lawyer, and an almost 40-year member of the Church, what disturbed me about Dr. Merritt's lawsuit was the fact that it is through an independent board of regents, that mutually holds certain basic fundamental moral convictions, that the Church is assured that the students are going to receive a high moral and academic education.

Dr. Merritt's motion, if successful,

Ralph K. Helge is director of Legal Services.

would have materially impeded the relationship between the Church and the university.

In a separate matter, another member of the board of regents was disfellowshipped. Word was that he was going to attempt to compel the university to allow him to enter the university campus. He was advised that such action would be illegal and that he would be arrested for trespass if he attempted to do so. Dr. Merritt took up his cause, called me and argued that this former member had an absolute right to come on the campus because it was "public property."

I assured Dr. Merritt that this was not the case, that the university and its campus were private property and that the university had the right to keep anyone off the campus that it chose to, just as he could keep anyone out of his home that he chose to.

Dr. Merritt informed me that this former member had gone to see constitutional attorneys and that I would lose any such contest. In a later conversation, the former board member advised me that the lawyers he had seen assured him that a private university is not public property and he had no right to come on the university campus without its permission.

At this time the United Church of God was formed. Dr. Merritt was disfellowshipped from the Church, then provisionally reinstated and later again disfellowshipped. Dr. Merritt objected to the validity of his being disfellowshipped and called it unprecedented and referred to "two-bit" ministers. However, he never filed a formal appeal within the Church.

Because Dr. Merritt was disfellowshipped when the board held its June

16 meeting, its secretary did not send him notice of the meeting. It was at this meeting that the board accepted the resignation of Donald Ward as president of the university, and appointed Russell Duke as president pro tem.

Dr. Merritt then contacted a former Church member in Texas who is an attorney and together they filed a lawsuit in a court in Gilmer, Texas, 15 miles from the university.

Dr. Merritt filed two petitions with the court. The first he filed on July 5 requesting a temporary restraining order. He made different types of allegations in the petitions. The restraining order he obtained only restrained the persons sued from taking any action pursuant to that June 16 board meeting of which Dr. Merritt wasn't sent notice.

Further, the petition for restraining order did not mention that he was disfellowshipped from the Church or that under the by-laws he was disqualified from serving as a board member if disfellowshipped. When he went before the judge to obtain this restraining order, he never gave any of the defendants notice that they could appear and tell the judge about these important relevant facts.

So in effect, the restraining order was nothing more than an order that no action should take place on matters addressed in the June 16 board meeting until the judge could hear all the facts. Further, this was obtained without notice to the defendants so they could tell their side of the story, and it was based on a petition that omitted material facts.

The second petition was filed a few days later and in it he requested that the court decide that he was a mem-

ber in good standing in the Church and a member of the board of regents of Ambassador University.

Before the court hearing on the merits of the matter, the defendants served notice to Dr. Merritt to come to Texas, as they had a legal right to do, so they could take his deposition and question him to test his credibility and the truthfulness of his allegations and claims. However he claimed he was too busy and his attorney said he was "going on vacation."

When the day of the court hearing came in which the defendants were to have their opportunity to tell their side of the story, the case never got that far. The defendants didn't even have to put on any witnesses. In fact, the judge didn't even let Dr. Merritt's expert witnesses testify. The only one who testified for Dr. Merritt was Dr. Merritt. He then called Dr. Duke to the stand, but the judge only permitted Dr. Merritt's attorney to ask him a few questions.

When it was all over the judge gave Dr. Merritt and his attorney a lesson in common sense and constitutional law. The judge said that the court was prohibited by the Constitution from telling a church who its members were. The judge told Dr. Merritt that he should appeal any question regarding his disfellowshipment within the Church. Further, that Dr. Merritt's complaints on how the university was being run were for the board of regents, and "that the court was not going to micro-manage the university."

Two hours later, again without notice to the defendants, Dr. Merritt's attorney went back into court and dismissed their lawsuit altogether.

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.

How many of us truly kept the Sabbath?

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates" (Exodus 20:8-10).

There are people leaving the Church because they feel that this commandment must be kept. In retrospect, however, how many of us have actually kept the Sabbath according to the letter of the law?

How many of us, on a Saturday morning, discovered that we didn't have anything to wear to Church and had to wash or iron a dress or shirt?

If we examine the commandment further, we find that neither our man or maid servants should do any work either. While we don't have slaves anymore, a servant is someone who serves you, as in a grocery store or a restaurant. So if we eat in a restaurant on the Sabbath we have caused a servant to work for us, thereby breaking this commandment.

I have been told it's OK to go to a restaurant on the Sabbath but it is sinful to go to a grocery store. I have never understood this difference.

In Galatians 5:3, Paul tells us that if we are under the law, we are obligated to observe the whole law. The Old Testament law is a unit, submission to it cannot be selective.

In Jeremiah 17:21-22, the Bible tells us not to carry a heavy load on the Sabbath. I have carried loaded suitcases. Exodus 16:29 says: "Bear in mind that the Lord has given you

the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day. No one is to go out." Does this mean that we should not leave our houses, much less travel on the Sabbath?

To prepare for the Sabbath, Moses told the Israelites: "Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil" (Exodus 16:23). How many of us have cooked, boiled water or started a fire in the winter? One person told me to go around this law by buying a microwave.

"Six days you shall labor" (Exodus 20:9). Does this mean if we relax and do no work on Sunday that we are breaking this command by not working six days?

How many of us have truly, ever kept the Sabbath according to the law?

Another area that seems to bother some people is the fact that they believe the Holy Days are commanded to be kept forever. I have heard people say that the feasts are lasting ordinances and cannot be done away with. Doesn't the Passover of Exodus 12 command us to put blood over and on the sides of our door frames? "This is a day you

are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance" (verse 14).

Did we only keep the ordinances and Feast days that we chose? Why have we not kept the Year of Jubilee?

We can observe all of the Feast days and keep the Sabbath, but unless we have love for our neighbor we still won't be right with God. Some people don't consider the homeless, people with AIDS, mental conditions or other afflictions to be our neighbors.

They don't consider people of other denominations to be Christians. They seem to think that God isn't working with them because they don't go to church on Saturday. The fallacy of this judgmental attitude won't be corrected simply by going to church on Saturday or any other day.

We should be attending church to rejuvenate ourselves for another week, to encourage other people and not to make points with God.

In closing, it says in John 15:10, that if you obey my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commandments and remain in his love. Jesus doesn't command us to keep the Sabbath or any other Holy Day, he only instructs us on how to live our lives in a Christian manner.

Have any of us truly ever kept the Sabbath?
Charlie Crockett
Cedar Park, Texas

"Into All the World.."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column subscribers to the Work's publications express their views and opinions.

Answers to life questions

I've been receiving the *Plain Truth* magazine free of charge for many years. Each article in each issue provides answers to questions in human life and society. Your illustrations on how and why we should

sincerely and honestly communicate with the Creator and on how and why we should live by his words are simple but clear, enlightening and encouraging. It is for this reason that I want to renew my subscription.

I wish your staff more power for their unselfish effort to share God's Word to *Plain Truth* readers.

D.J.
Philippines

The Worldwide News



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FOCUS GROUP—Rick Shallenberger (left), *Youth 95* editor, listens to ideas from SEP campers. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

SEP Pasadena helps youths build bridges to the Church

Concern about operating summer camp yields some surprises.

By Curtis May

SEP Pasadena was a resounding success. We had 119 campers from the United States, Canada, England and Germany, and 25 Ambassador University student staff members. About 150 members volunteered to help in different capacities, including the kitchen.

Camp included sports, motivational sessions, speech clubs, choir, youth day services, Bible studies and trips to Disneyland and Manhattan Beach.

We inherited several thousand dollars of food, including more than 20 turkeys, from the former Food Service Department. This made it possible to follow Mr. Tkach's instructions to stay within budget and still serve quality meals. We served three meals a day

for an average of 230 people per meal for 18 days or about 4,140 meals.

With the cutbacks and layoffs, we were concerned about having enough staff members. As it turned out we had so much support that we ended up turning away volunteers. We were well-staffed with quality helpers.

Although we had some campers whose parents left the Church, we had a unified and smooth camp overall. Thirteen campers said that because of SEP they will continue to attend the Worldwide Church of God. One said he will be returning to the Church and two said that they would like to be baptized.

Thanks to Mr. Tkach for his courage, faith and deep love for those prospective members of the Church. My faith was definitely tested, stretched and strengthened through all of this, not knowing how it would all turn out.

We were able to take advantage of \$99 each way flights, especially for our Ambassador University staff. This helped save about \$2,000 to \$3,000 considering van rental costs. Additionally, we made about \$3,000 in food service and sales to employees, which helped our budget as well.

Curtis May directs the Pasadena Summer Educational Program.

Feast to offer spiritual enrichment

Continued from page 1

tact points for more information. Their names and telephone numbers will appear in the ink-jet message so readers can call them personally.

At those sites, some services will be conducted in the evening to allow those God is calling to the Church to attend more conveniently. A welcome table with Festival brochures and introductory Church literature will be provided for visitors.

Seminars on spiritual topics and workshops on various areas of Christian living will also be offered to Feastgoers. Topics such as effective Bible study, marriage relationships, youth ministry and personal finance are among those to be offered at various sites.

"We are delighted to offer such spiritual enrichment to the membership of the Church by adding these workshops to the Festival," explained Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration.

Finances are important

We hope everyone has saved sufficient funds to attend the Festival this

year. "We realize that a second tithe is not mandated for Christians, but we also see the tremendous opportunity this Festival is going to be for learning, encouragement and growth in our Christian walk," said Mr. Tkach Jr. "It would be a shame to miss it because of not having saved the funds to attend."

Festival fund contributions are still needed to pay for meeting halls, setup expenses and sending speakers to sites. Earlier this year, we suggested a donation of \$95 per family.

Of course, we know that some cannot afford to contribute at all without hurting their own ability to attend. However, we'd like to encourage any who can to give above that amount. Even though we are cutting expenses by looking for savings everywhere, the need for more income still exists.

The new approach to the Feast has created excitement in many areas. "The Festival of Tabernacles is growing along with the Church into a greater fullness of Christian maturity and effectiveness. I'm excited to see all the elements unfold as we make our plans," Mr. Johnston commented. See you soon at the Feast!

Festival Updates

Festival offers crowning knights, jousting, swordplay

Singles attending the Feast of Tabernacles in Fort Worth, Texas, have the opportunity to experience the charm and gallantry of medieval life, Oct. 10, at Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament in Dallas, Texas.

Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., and includes a meal of brochette appetizer, soup, a whole-roasted chicken (a vegetarian or fruit plate can be substituted), herb-basted potatoes, drinks and pastries.

Entertainment starts at 7:30 p.m. Guests will be ushered into the arena for a parade of pageantry and falconry, followed by games of skill and jousting. Spectators cheer for the knights of their color. The winning knight selects his princess from the spectators. The evening concludes with dancing.

Cost for the evening is \$26 a person and must be paid ahead of time.

If you would like to attend this gala event, please send a check or money order to Chris Beam, 4014 Broken Elm Dr., Spring, Texas, 77388, by Sept. 1. For more information call Mr. Beam at 1-713-353-6712.

AU alumni dinner in Fort Worth

Ambassador alumni attending the Feast in Fort Worth, Texas, are invited to attend a reunion luncheon Saturday, Oct. 14, at 12:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn across from the convention center.

The group will be addressed by an Ambassador faculty member. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the alumni booth in the convention center. For information contact Frank Parsons at Box 500146, San Antonio, Texas, 78280,

or call him at 1-210-521-6766.

Tour of AU available

A bus tour of the Ambassador University campus will be offered to Feastgoers in Fort Worth. The bus will leave Fort Worth at 10 a.m., Oct. 12, and return late in the afternoon. Big Sandy is about 125 miles from Fort Worth. The cost is \$15 per seat (not including food).

Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 15. Send checks payable to Local Church Activity Fund Beaumont to Hal Boardman, Box 8413, Lumberton, Texas, 77657, or telephone him at 1-409-755-4250. Tickets can be picked up at the Feast site.

New music director for Chattanooga

The Festival Office announced that the new music director for the Chattanooga, Tennessee, site is Gerald Bieritz. You may write to him at Ambassador University, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755. Or you can call him at 1-903-636-2170.

Myrtle Beach activities

Early reservations are needed for the following activities in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, because of competition from other tourists. Participation in special performances arranged by the Church allows for discounted prices.

Alabama Theatre—American Pride Show: special Tuesday matinee, Oct. 10 at 1:30 p.m., regular adult price \$20, normal group rate \$17, WCG rate \$13. Call 1-800-782-2262 by Aug. 31.

Singles activity—Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament: Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. After dinner and See Feast Updates, page 7

Questions and Answers about the Feast of Tabernacles

Please explain why the Feast of Tabernacles was called the Festival of Faith in the August Plain Truth when you mentioned in the June 6 Worldwide News that the name of the Feast of Tabernacles would not be changed.

The *Plain Truth* article explains that we are gathering to celebrate "the new life believers enjoy in Jesus Christ" as well as "the hope of all saints—the resurrection of the dead, and the second coming and glorious reign of Jesus Christ." It does not say the name has been changed.

The *Worldwide News* article explained: " 'Festival of Faith' is merely a theme statement. During the Festival we will rejoice in the salvation we have through faith in Jesus Christ, so the theme is one way of expressing it. Future years may have other themes."

Why should faith be a theme of the Feast of Tabernacles?

The term *tabernacle* refers to a dwelling place. God dwelled "among" his people Israel in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:8). Under the New Covenant, Christ dwells in us. That indwelling occurs through faith (1 John 4:13-15, John 14:23, Galatians 2:20).

It has been our tradition to have an annual convention in the fall. We have based this gathering on the biblical Feast of Tabernacles, formerly understanding it to be mandatory for Christians. While we now know that we aren't required to keep the Feast of Tabernacles for salvation, we use it as an opportunity to worship God. While we continue to use the biblical name, Feast of Tabernacles, our emphasis on this celebration must be on the salvation we have in Jesus Christ.

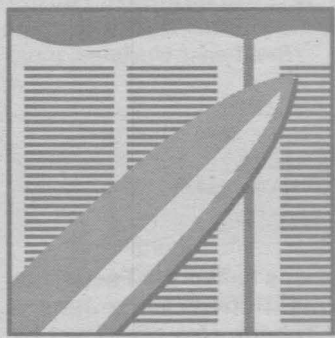
U.S. Holy Day Offering Envelopes

Holy Day offering envelopes for the fall Festival season have been mailed to U.S. members. If you have not received your supply by Sept. 13, please call the toll-free number (1-800-924-4644) no later than Sept. 15. This is the last date the Mail Processing Center (MPC) can mail personalized envelopes with the assurance that they will reach you by the Feast of Trumpets, Sept. 25.

These envelopes should be used only for Holy Day offerings. Please handle changes of address and literature requests through other correspondence.

Iron Sharpens Iron

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



Be filled with the Spirit

By Ted Johnston

Jesus promised the apostles he would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in them (John 14:12-18). This same wonderful promise is made to all those called of God, who repent and are baptized (Acts 2:38-39). But how is it that the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians—whether original apostles or those of us in the Church today?

John the Baptist, speaking of Christ, notes that “the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit” (John 3:34). This describes how Jesus experienced the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. But there is more.

In his Gospel, John shows that Jesus is indeed the Christ—greater than any man, even Moses and John the Baptist (1:17, 27). These two were great prophets of God and led by God’s Spirit. Yet John notes that Jesus had the Holy Spirit in a way that set him above even these. Jesus had the Spirit without limit.

In John’s statement some also see a contrast between Christ and Christians. They reason that, unlike Christ, perhaps Christians are given only a portion of the Holy Spirit at this time.

But notice an important point about our relationship with Christ: “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another” (John 1:16). This means that what Christ possesses, he shares with us to the full.

In the context of John 1, this statement contrasts what we as Christians receive with what Israel received under the administration of Moses (1:17) and, by extension, the other great prophets. Under these administrations, the Spirit was available in only a limited way—given to only a few as a special anointing to perform special jobs. But now, under the administration of Christ, what our Savior possesses, he generously sends to us. And the greatest blessing he sends is the Holy Spirit (16:7).

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

But in what way is the Spirit sent? Does Christ send us only a small amount? No, what Christ sends he sends to fill us (Ephesians 1:22-23) with “all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:19), and this clearly includes the Holy Spirit.

God does not give us the Spirit by measure. There is not just a portion of the Holy Spirit available to us. A clear understanding of this wonderful truth causes us to think of our relationship to the Holy Spirit in a new way.

For example, we realize that it is missing the point to pray, “God, give me more of your Spirit.” Rather, we come to realize that we don’t get more of the Holy Spirit—it gets more of us!

At conversion, Christ makes the fullness of the Spirit available to us because now we are his. But there is a problem: We don’t always use that fullness. We don’t always fully yield to the Holy Spirit. What we should pray is not, “God give me more of your Spirit,” but, “God help me to yield more of myself to your Spirit in me.”

There is an analogy for the Spirit that helps us to understand: “On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified” (John 7:37-39).

Here the Spirit is likened to water that flows. And until Christ returned to the Father, the Spirit was not yet given in this way. But Christ is at the Father’s right hand sending the Spirit to us in the full.

So if the fullness of the Spirit is not operating in us, the problem is not with God, it’s with us. We are the receptacles of that flowing water, and sometimes our actions and thoughts meter down the flow.

Think of it like a hose. A vast supply of water can flow into the hose, but the volume of flow through and out of the hose is constricted by the hose diameter. In this analogy, the Spirit is the water—available, in this

case, in unlimited supply. But we, like the hose, constrict the flow.

What is the answer to this dilemma? More of the Holy Spirit? No, God’s Spirit is already available to us fully. But we must remove the constrictions so the Spirit can flow in us and out of us to the full. Here are two effective ways to do that:

Follow where the Spirit leads. “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Romans 8:14, New King James Version). To be led by the Spirit means to be guided and trained by it. This is not a passive or detached leadership. It means coming under the Spirit’s direction and control.

It is in this sense that the Bible speaks of the Spirit filling us (Ephesians 5:18). At issue is not the quantity of the Spirit, but the degree of control. Allow the Spirit to lead you out of sin. Yield to its powerful inspiration as it leads you to openly express reverence to God and service to other human beings.

Make a home for the Spirit. Jesus tells us the Spirit dwells in us (John 14:17). Moreover, it is through the Spirit that he and the Father dwell in us. “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23).

Do we grasp the majesty and power of this statement? God wants to live in us. Our part is to make a home where God, through the Holy Spirit, is pleased to dwell.

But how do we do that? God tells us he is pleased to dwell in Christians who are experiencing and expressing a changed life (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), obedient devotion (1 John 3:24), love for others (1 John 4:12), faith (1 John 4:15) and humility (Isaiah 57:15).

Do our lives provide such a home for God to dwell in? Or do we grieve the Spirit? If we do, we constrict the flow and cut ourselves off from the fullness of God’s Spirit flowing in our lives.

How does the Spirit dwell in us? Not by God measuring it out. Christ is alive, and because of that the fullness of the Spirit is available to us. God wants to give us that fullness. Do we value it? Do we receive it? Do we yield to it? Be filled with the Spirit!

Jesus and the two thieves: coming to understand Christ’s character

How one thief learned from what Jesus Christ endured on the cross

By Douglas Johannsen

When reading over the details of the crucifixion, it is easy to overlook the lives of some of the other individuals living through this event. On either side of Jesus Christ, two men died, known only as two thieves. Did these two just happen to be chosen, or were they a part of a carefully controlled plan that was carried out to teach humanity some important lessons?

A number of people were in prison at that time. Mark 15:7 mentions a terrorist by the name of Barabbas who was in prison with others of similar nature. More than likely there were other prisoners too, being

held for a wide variety of crimes.

Was it just by accident that these two (Luke 23:32, New King James Version) were chosen to accompany him? To the Romans it made no difference, but it seems reasonable that God would choose carefully to make the best use of this once-in-an-eternity occasion.

As we have seen, there were a number of people in prison. Prisoners have time to talk. Most assuredly, they knew about Christ, knew that some were hoping he would restore a physical kingdom.

Since some of the prisoners participated in violent political acts, they were attuned to what other political groups might be doing.

Yes, they knew about Christ. Some of them may have actually seen and heard Jesus speak or have even been eyewitnesses and beneficiaries of the miracles he performed. As Paul would later say to Festus and King Agrippa, “This thing was not done in a corner” (Acts 26:26)

The prisoners knew something big was brewing. They may have been

able to hear the crowds, and when they learned that Barabbas was being released (Luke 23:25), perhaps they soon hoped to be free.

Imagine the shock the two thieves must have felt when they saw Jesus. What they saw was a horribly beaten man, being ridiculed and spit on by all those around.

Matthew 27:26-31 describes the treatment Christ received. Even more astounding, as they accompanied him on the way to Golgotha, they joined the crowd in verbally abusing him!

Matthew, Mark and John record that the criminals also reviled him. Luke, however, records that as they hung on their crosses, one thief had a change of heart.

What caused this change? Remember John 6:44? No one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him. God was beginning to draw him, one of the criminals. By having two men with different reactions to the crucifixion, God was showing us some important lessons.

Luke 23:32 mentions that they

were led with him. As both prisoners walked up the hill with Jesus, they no doubt noticed how different he was. They should have noticed, as was recorded in 1 Peter 2:23, that when reviled, he did not revile in return, and when threatened, he did not respond with bigger threats.

And shortly after they were hung on their crosses, they heard Christ say, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34, New King James Version). One man never got it. The second criminal started to see, started to understand.

Ever notice that a little lamb was never beaten before being sacrificed, yet Christ was. Why? If it was merely a matter of shedding blood, then why didn’t they hang him upside down and cut his throat? Why did they beat him?

A lamb is incapable of sin. When a lamb suffers an injustice, it does not hate, bear a grudge or plot revenge. People do.

Jesus suffered the beating, showing us how to react to an injustice. We

See Thieves, page 8

Douglas Johannsen pastors the Ada and Lawton, Oklahoma, churches.

Start early to arrange time off from school, work

By Ralph K. Helge

Every year during Feast time, there is a massive influx of requests for aid regarding schoolchildren and employees who are under threat of being disciplined in one fashion or another because they are observing the Church's Holy Days.

Therefore, we remind you that the schoolchildren and employees' requests for time off should be made a reasonable time in advance to give the school or employer an opportunity to prepare for the absences.

This is important from both a practical and legal standpoint. Pastors have a form on which a request for absence can be made.

If anything less than a favorable response is received, it is extremely important that the parent or employee contact our office immediately. We then send the parent or employee an information sheet eliciting more detailed information.

Further, the employee is given important information on how to ensure his claim is filed on time with the appropriate governmental agency.

Because the Legal Services office will be closed for the Feast break Oct. 4 through Oct. 22, please do not call during that time period. Instead, please write a letter setting forth the

details and wait until Oct. 23 to call.

Based on the information we receive, we will call or write a tactful and appropriate letter to the school or employer.

Often, however, it is neither practical nor tactically wise for us to contact the school or employer until after the Feast and the threatened penalty for being absent has been imposed. Members should be aware of this and prepared to leave for the Feast without necessarily having the problem resolved.

In handling these matters for more than 30 years, we have established an excellent track record in soliciting a favorable response from schools and employers, even in cases that seemed hopeless when the members involved left for the Feast.

It is important for members to remember, however, that our success in these cases, while clearly the result of God's intervention, is also based on certain laws guaranteeing religious freedom in the United States. There are limits to these freedoms that the members must be aware of and observe if we are to be able to help them.

Specifically, over the years it has not been uncommon for members to call us after the Feast and say that they attended some faraway location, stayed away numerous additional days before or after the Feast, sight-seeing or visiting family, and ask us to make the school give excused absences to their children

for all these additional days.

Members need to be aware that their children are normally legally entitled to excused absences for only the eight days of the Feast plus one travel day before and after.

Some schools will voluntarily grant permission for some additional days, but they are not legally required to do this. We do not feel it is appropriate for the Church's Legal Office to attempt to coerce schools to excuse extended absences.

If members wish to be away with their children extra days, it is advisable to seek school permission ahead of time for those additional days.

If it is not obtained, our recommendation is that parents consider whether to change their plans or to accept a reasonable academic penalty.

The same foregoing principles, although perhaps not in all the legal detail, would apply also to employees and to children who attend school overseas.

We need your Feast photos

The Worldwide News needs your best Feast photos for our Nov. 14 post-Feast issue. We are asking any members who want to submit photos for our post-Feast issue to get their film processed during the Feast, ask for double prints and send us as many as 10 of their favorite photos. Photos should be put in the mail no later than Oct. 15. Because of staff reductions we are not able to return photos, nor process any undeveloped film sent to us.

(Members in areas administered by the Australian, Canadian, Philippine and South African offices should send their photos to the regional offices. The regional offices will send a suitable selection on to Pasadena, and also keep a selection for their regional editions of *The Worldwide News*.)

The Feast coordinator may appoint an official photographer for whatever the coordinator needs, but this film should not be sent to us for processing.

Here are some subjects we are interested in: family day, family activities, brethren of different ages and races together, and an overall view of Church services in the Festival hall.

Please keep the following points in mind as you are photographing the Feast: (1) feature people, (2) include close-ups, (3) show a sense of place (include photographs that show something unique about the site or area).

For proper credit of your photographs, please write your name and the Feast site clearly on the back of any photos you submit. Please send your photos to *The Worldwide News*, Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91129. We look forward to seeing your photos and hope that your Feast is an inspiring one.

Ralph K. Helge is director of Legal Services for the Church.

Feast sites request volunteers

The following Feast sites request volunteers. If you would like to volunteer please fill out the form below and send to the contact person listed here.

Dayton, Ohio
Most departments
 John Karlson
 Box 685
 Grove City, Ohio, 43123-0685
 1-614-875-4855
 By Aug. 31

Fort Worth, Texas
Ushering, parking
 Kevin Welch
 1329 Redbud Lane
 Aledo, Texas, 76008-3877
 1-817-441-9465
 By Sept. 12

Hot Springs, Arkansas
Ushering (men and women)
 Pete Kendall
 1401 Dixie St.
 Mountain Home, Arkansas,
 72653
 1-501-424-7016
 As soon as possible

Security
 Nelson Haas
 Box 1521
 Russellville, Arkansas, 72811
 1-501-968-1198
 As soon as possible

Parking
 Ray Wawak
 28018 Nichols Loop Rd.
 Little Rock, Arkansas, 72211
 1-501-821-2163
 As soon as possible

Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri
Ushering, parking, security
 Ray A. Meyer
 Box 28183
 Kansas City, Missouri, 64188
 1-816-734-4025
 By Sept. 5

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Doctors, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, emergency medical technicians
 Dennis Diehl
 101 Leyswood Dr.
 Greenville, South Carolina,
 29615
 1-803-322-9004
 By Sept. 15

Ushering
 Kent Wrench
 Route 1 Box 239
 Godwin, North Carolina,
 28344-9642
 1-910-567-6296
 By Sept. 15

Parking
 Jim Haeffele
 Box 727
 Pleasant Garden,
 North Carolina, 27315
 1-910-674-6544
 By Sept. 15

Safety and communication
 Bob Cloninger
 2680 Greencrest Dr.
 Winston-Salem,
 North Carolina, 27106
 1-910-761-1531
 By Sept. 15

Palm Springs, California
Ushering, parking
 Richard Parker
 Box 205
 Los Alamitos, California,
 90720
 No phone calls please
 By Aug. 31

Pasadena, California
Most departments
 Guy Ames
 300 W. Green St.
 Pasadena, California, 91129
 No phone calls please
 As soon as possible

Pensacola, Florida
Parking
 Stephen Glover
 Box 250504
 Montgomery, Alabama,
 36125
 1-334-284-3300
 By Aug. 31

Ushering
 Paul Kurts
 204 Wellington Place
 Rainbow City, Alabama,
 35906
 1-205-442-6156
 By Aug. 31

Rapid City, South Dakota
Most departments
 Tracey Rogers
 Box 2811
 Rapid City, South Dakota
 57709
 1-605-399-2778
 by Sept. 5

Saratoga Springs, New York
Ushering, parents room, communications, parking
 Jim Rosenthal
 33 Whitney Rd.

Saratoga Springs, New York,
 12866
 1-518-581-1030
 by Sept. 5
Seaside, Oregon
Most departments
 Linda Pickthorne
 4204 NE Maywood Place
 Portland, Oregon, 97220
 1-503-256-9639
 By Sept. 7

Vail, Colorado
Ushers (male or female)
 Paul Price
 8721 W. 62nd Ave., No. 27
 Arvada, Colorado, 80004
 As soon as possible

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin
Most departments
 Walter Neufeld
 Box 522
 Cedarburg, Wisconsin, 53012

No phone calls please
 By Sept. 11

Canada
Edmonton, Alberta
Ushers
 Will Wooster
 Bag 777
 Sexsmith, Alberta
 Canada T0H 3C0
 1-403-568-4716
 By Sept. 15

Sherbrooke, Quebec
Auditorium staff:
cleaning, ushers,
hostesses; parking,
security
 Yvon Brochu
 16, rue de la Milice
 Lévis, Quebec
 Canada G6V 1V3
 1-506-837-8113
 By Sept. 15

Volunteer form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

I wish to volunteer for _____

Experience in this responsibility _____

Please list experience locally or at the Feast

Homecoming open to many graduating classes

Events to range from dinner, dancing and basketball to answering questions and catching up

It's time once again for Ambassador alumni—which includes anyone who has earned at least 24 credits from AU—to make plans to attend this year's homecoming.

Following tradition, Ambassador alumni from all three campuses are invited, especially those who graduated as members of the classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985 or 1990.

Early Thursday evening, Dec. 21, alumni will enjoy light refreshments during the class reunion hospitality hour at various faculty homes on campus.

Later that evening, they will step back in time and enjoy dinner in a

'50s diner. During the meal, Doc Ross (Jutsum), AU's own disc jockey, will spin his 45s of '50s favorites, while on the dance floor alumni will spin their partners.

After dinner, the Young Ambassadors will provide even more entertainment from that golden era.

Friday morning, members of the university administration will be speaking and answering questions about the latest developments and plans of AU.

Babysitting will be available during the Thursday evening and Friday morning events.

One alumnus who attended last year's homecoming wrote: "The opportunity to be with old friends and make a few new ones was truly appreciated. I enjoyed most of all the substantive information given in the Friday morning session. It's great to hear and talk about the work being done along with enjoy-

ing the fellowship and social occasions."

Friday afternoon, several campus locations will be hosts to an open house for visiting alumni.

The intercollegiate basketball game Saturday night will feature the Royals playing against Louisiana State University-Shreveport in the field house gym.

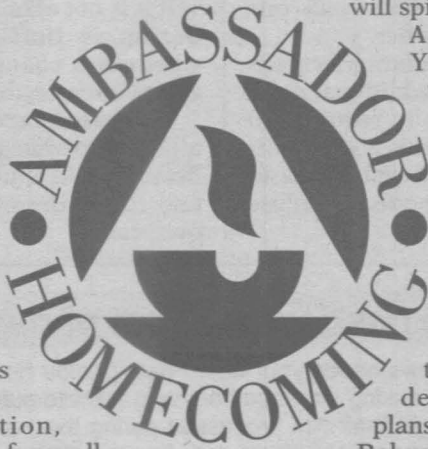
A family brunch Sunday morning will round out the weekend. Children are welcome to attend the brunch at a cost of \$7.50 per child 12 and older, \$5.50 per child ages 5 through 11 and free for children younger than 5.

Cost for the weekend's activities is

\$35 per person for members of the alumni association and \$45 per person for non-alumni spouses or alumni who have not joined the alumni association.

Reservations and payment must be received no later than Dec. 1. For reservations or more information or to request a homecoming brochure, please call the alumni association office at 1-903-636-2023. The fax number is 1-903-636-2365 and the Internet e-mail address is alumni-ambassador.edu.

For your convenience, you may pay using your Visa or MasterCard. We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 1995!



Ambassador University job openings

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

A senior accountant is needed immediately. The position requires a bachelor of science degree in accounting or a related field, certified public accountant (CPA) certification and a minimum of five years accounting experience in a corporate, university or accounting firm environment. Strong computer, analytical and organizational skills are necessary. Experience with AS/400 systems is a plus. Responsibilities include internal and external financial reporting, preparing budgets and forecasts, analyzing operational performances and variances, accounting projects, and supervising the maintenance of general accounting ledgers.

A network support specialist is needed immediately. The successful candidate will work as a team player in serving the university's computing community. Technical skills should include thorough background, knowledge and skills involving all aspects of networking, including file servers, Novell Netware, bridges, routers, gateways, fiber optics, Ethernet and Token-ring, and IBM AS/400 terminals. Novell CNE or equivalent experience is a plus. A bachelor's degree or three to five years experience is preferred. Responsibilities will include all aspects of network maintenance.

A diesel and tractor technician is needed immediately. Key duties include full range of truck, tractor and bus repair and service from tune-ups to engine overhauls, electrical and hydraulic repairs on diesel and gasoline vehicles, using oxyacetylene and arc-welding techniques to weld or fabricate as needed. Experience with John Deere, Kubota and GM diesels helpful. Must have a B-CDL license. Seven to 10 years current continuous experience as a truck, bus and tractor technician is required, as is the ability to diagnose complex vehicle problems.

Candidates must be baptized members of the Worldwide Church of God and be in agreement with the doctrines, practices and beliefs of the Church.

Applications must include the following: a letter of application, current resume and salary history and the names of three references with phone numbers. Applications must be submitted before Sept. 1 to Personnel Services, Ambassador University, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755, fax 1-903-636-4479.

Church announces list of disfellowshipped ministers

It is with deep and sincere regret that we find it necessary to inform you that the following named persons, former ministers of the Worldwide Church of God, have been disfellowshipped from the Worldwide Church of God, and their ministerial credentials have been revoked.

Such men have either been notified of this change in their status or are in the process of being notified.

To prevent further confusion among the congregation arising from the lack of knowledge regarding their status, we are advising you of their names at this time:

John Anderson, Steve Andrews, Rick Beam, Ted Budge, Bill Butler, John Cafourek, Todd Carey, Tom Damour, Al Dennis, Peter Eddington, Dave Evans, Doug Johnson, Greg Johnson, Robert Jones, Steve LeBlanc, Dick Rand, Melvin Rhodes, Rob Rodzaj, Gerald Seelig, Steve Shafer, Steve Sidars, Herb Teitgen, Ken Treybig, Donald Ward, Jack Williams and Bill Winner.

The Church does not, and you should not, bear any ill will toward these former ministers. Rather, you should pray that God will grant them repentance.

Personal: time to move ahead in Jesus Christ

Continued from page 1

putting him first and seeking his help to work through the emotional pain of making the changes that faithfulness to him requires. Thank you wives for helping your husbands through this difficult and challenging experience, and vice versa. The Holy Spirit is clearly at work throughout the Church, leading us into greater faith, into greater love for our Lord and Savior and into greater commitment to doing his work in the world.

As we reported last issue and in an article on page 2 of this issue some dissidents filed a lawsuit against Ambassador University. To me, it appears that they were attempting to exert control over Ambassador without regard to the damage that the lawsuit might cause the university. And I fear that they would rather see Ambassador close than to operate with the regents it now has. But the university has not been taken over, and it has not been destroyed.

Classes will begin this fall as

scheduled, with only a slightly smaller student body. Complaints have also been made to the South-

I ask all of our ministers and members to pray for the university, its administration, faculty, staff and student body. Ambassador has been a wonderful blessing for the young people of the Church and will continue to be in the future.

ern Association of Colleges and Schools. Despite these complaints, Ambassador remains accredited by SACS. The facts will be borne out

when a SACS team visits this fall.

Ambassador will open this fall with a positive, enthusiastic and Christ-centered faculty and student body! The young people of the Church will continue to receive an outstanding, high-quality Christian education. The board of regents and university administration are working together to make the '95-96 academic year the best in the history of Ambassador. The university administration will be updating the Church about new programs and opportunities for students in upcoming publications.

I ask all of our ministers and members to pray for the university, its administration, faculty, staff and student body. Ambassador has been a wonderful blessing for the young people of the Church and will continue to be in the future.

Thank you for your prayers for me. I have been sleeping better, experiencing less pain and gaining a little strength, though I have a long way yet to go. I have also been doing well with the chemotherapy, except for some mild nausea. I am so thankful

for God's love, for all of you, and especially that you are faithful and committed brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

We are called together to worship God, to feed the flock and to spread the good news. God has cleared away a lot of dust and debris from our understanding, and now it is time to roll up our sleeves, make our plans and move ahead in Christ. Many of you have been "turned on" to Christ as never before, and many of our congregations are bursting with enthusiasm to serve in all sorts of new and exciting ways that were not available before. I praise and thank God for what he has done among us and for what lies ahead!

Pray for one another. And I'm glad to hear that many congregations have been having inspiring prayer meetings and small group worship and Bible study. Keep up the good work, fellow servants! Share your ideas and successes with each other.

Thank you all dearly for your labors of love! My love and prayers are with you every day.

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

MEADOWS, Wade and Connie (Reed) of Fort Wayne, Indiana, girl, Jessica Lynne, May 17, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

MELVIN, James and Dorothy (Garey) of Seaford, Delaware, girl, Lisa Renee, July 5, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

MILLS, Jeff and Shari (Knapp) of Boise, Idaho, boy, Jared Russell, June 19, first child.

SPENNACCHI, Agostino and Janette (Glass) of Maidstone, England, girl, Sofia Alessandra Anna, July 3, now 3 boys, 1 girl.

STEVANOVIC, Vlado and Louise (Hunnisset) of Brisbane, Australia, girl, Natacha Maureen, June 11, first child.

STUART, Anthony and Nikki (Lillengreen) of Portland, Oregon, boy, Dakota Jacob, April 14, now 2 boys.

TRUMBLE, Brian and Leanne (Butt) of Cocoa, Florida, boy, David Brian, July 21, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

WALKER, Eric and Kim (Johnson) of Cadiz, Ohio, boy, Drake Jensen, May 20, first child.

WHITE, Rick and December (Fertig) of Laramie, Wyoming, boy, Bryan Allen, June 28, now 4 boys.

Engagements

Mike and Helen Hunicke are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Heather Irene to Patrick Michael Duyck. A fall wedding is planned.

The children of Muriel Amidon (Edith Lillard and Richard and George Amidon) are proud to announce the coming marriage of their mother to Horace Guy Houldridge Oct. 28 at Ambassador University.

Murray and Chris Morrison of Sydney, Australia, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Paula Clare to David William Edson, son of Peg and Bill (deceased) Edson of New Castle, Australia. A March wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Foster of Tucson, Arizona, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Dorraine to Sean Coulter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Craig Coulter of Denver, Colorado. A Sept. 22 wedding is planned in Tucson.

Weddings



ROBERT & STACEY MEADE

Stacey Ann Farrell, daughter of Isabel Farrell of Horseheads, New York, and Maurice Farrell of DuBois, Pennsylvania, and Robert Wayne Meade, son of Jim and Kim Meade of Avoca, Michigan, were united in marriage July 9. The ceremony was performed by Les Schmedes, pastor of the Pasadena P.M. church. The wedding party included Amy Lee, Jennifer Lucia, Amy Arner, Karen Geiser, Steven Meade, Kevin Rolfe, Christopher Rossi and David Presley. The couple live in Pasadena.



STEVEN & DANNIELLE SWIHART

Dannielle Olmstead, daughter of George and Carol Olmstead of Oswego, Illinois, and Steven Swihart, son of Charles and Victoria Swihart of Rochester, Indiana, were united in marriage May 21 in Hinsdale, Illinois. The ceremony was performed by Steve Gerrard, pastor of the Elkhart and Michigan City, Indiana, churches. Maids of honor were Kristina Hill and Kathryn Wright. Joel Borton and Nathan Rohrer were best men.



ROB & LORI LONG

Lori Schwartz and Rob Long were united in marriage April 16. The ceremony was performed by David Sheridan, pastor of the Calgary, Alberta, South church. Charmaine Botros, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Michael Botros was best man. The couple live in Calgary.



MIKE & SHERIE BENJEGERDES

Sherie Rhap and Mike Benjegerdes were married May 18. Silvia Mair was matron of honor, and Alois Mair was best man. The couple live in Bonn, Germany.



HOWARD & SHARON BLACK

Sharon Joanna Easterbrook, daughter of John and Glenda Easterbrook of Melbourne, Australia, and Howard James Black, son of William and Helen Black of Atlanta, Georgia, were united in marriage March 26. The couple live in Atlanta.

Anniversaries



PIERRE & KATHY NAGGIAR

Pierre and Kathy Naggiar of Kennewick, Washington, celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 1. They have one daughter, Katrina.



KEN & MAE ESTES

Ken and Mae Estes of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, celebrated their 45th anniversary July 2. They have four sons and daughters-in-law, Ken Jr. and Nancy, Dan and Anita, Jim and Carol and Jeff and Sandy; two daughters and sons-in-law, Beth and Jerry and Kim and Steve; and 14 grandchildren.



BILL & KATHY MILLER

Bill and Kathy Miller of Seattle, Washington, celebrated their 25th

anniversary Aug. 9. They have two daughters, Shari and Elizabeth. Mr. Miller pastors the Seattle, Bellevue and Everett, Washington, churches.



DAVID & SALLY BARNETT

David and Sally Barnett of Gladewater, Texas, celebrated their 30th anniversary June 13. They have two children, Cara and Chad. David is a deaf local elder who serves deaf members.



LLOYD & WANDA BURGESS

Lloyd and Wanda Burgess of Barberton, Ohio, celebrated their 40th anniversary Aug. 6. They have four children, Cheryl, David, Joanna and Melinda; three sons-in-law, Barry Allworth, Ken Mitchell and Steve Iiams; and seven grandchildren, Shaun, Chad, Jason, Bryan, Justin, Heather and Brandon. The Burgessses serve as deacon and deaconess in the Akron, Ohio, church.

Robert and Donna Morgan of Charleston, Missouri, celebrated their 40th anniversary May 27. They have two daughters and sons-in-law, Pam and Charles Butler, and Beverly and Michael Stash; a son, Bob; and three grandchildren. Mr. Morgan is a deacon in the Cape Girardeau, Missouri, church.

Zeke and Izabel Galo of Conroe, Texas, celebrated their 25th anniversary June 6. They have two children, Zeke and Sandra.

Anniversaries Made of Gold



IVAN & MACIE RENFRO

Ivan and Macie Renfro of Limestone, Tennessee, celebrated their 60th anniversary June 12. They have four sons, Verdan, Terry, Dean and Darrell; four daughters-in-law, Elizabeth, Pat, Freida and Theresa; 13 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Keith and Rebecca Vuncannon of Abingdon, Virginia, celebrated their 50th anniversary June 11. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Obituaries

MOFFAT, Hester Olive, 96, of Auckland, New Zealand, died July 16. She is survived by two sons, Colin

Birth Announcement

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

Our coupon baby this issue is Skylar Patrick Freeman, son of Stephen and Susan Freeman of Edmonton, Alberta.

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

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

Last name		Father's first name	
Mother's first name		Mother's maiden name	
Church area or city of residence/state/country			Baby's sex <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl
Baby's first and middle names		Date of birth Month: Day:	
Number of children you have* <small>*Including newborn</small>	Boys:	Girls:	<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if first child

8-95

and John, a daughter, Hester, seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Moffat, a pioneer member of the Church in New Zealand, was baptized on the first baptizing tour of New Zealand, in April 1962.

BAUGHMAN, Luella Mae, 91, of Topeka, Kansas, died July 6. She is survived by two daughters, Dorothy Florine Andersen and Donna Lee Andersen; 14 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.



FLORENCE HAAS

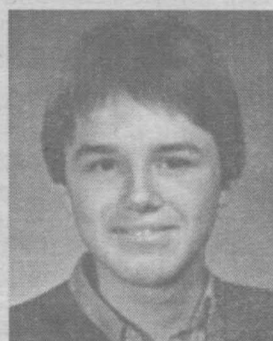
HAAS, Florence, 83, of Watsonville, California, died April 6. She is survived by her husband, Nelson S.; two sons, Nelson C. and Craig; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

LUCHT, Jonas, 80, of Watseka, Illinois, died July 3 after suffering a stroke. He is survived by his wife, Ann; three daughters and their husbands, Nancy and Arthur Norder, Peggy and Duane Baillie, and Janet and Darrell Keisel; three brothers; one sister; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

SAMS, Guy, 76, of Church Hill, Tennessee, died June 25 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and a daughter and son-in-law, Martha "Marty" and Fernie Saunders. Mr. Sams was a local church elder for more than 25 years serving the churches in Knoxville and Kingsport, Tennessee, and Norton, Virginia.

WAGERLE, Charles, 62, of Wichita, Kansas, died June 24 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Marcella; a son, Orrin Pankratz; four

daughters, Leslie Campbell, Renee VanScyoc, Joanna Austin and Carlene Tucker; and seven grandchildren.



MICHAEL CARNES

CARNES, Michael, 25, of Edgewood, Kentucky, died May 23 of complications from muscular dystrophy. He is survived by his parents, Michael and Jeannie; four brothers, Shad, Sandy, Greg and Ben; and a sister, Cortney.



RACHAEL KIERAN

KIERAN, Rachael, 24, died July 1. She is survived by her parents, John Sr. and Leslie Kieran; three sisters and their husbands, Sherry and Jerry Treiber, Pamela and George McBride, and April and Chris Lingle; two brothers and their wives, John and Charmon and Daniel and Rita; five nieces, Jessica and Tiffany Treiber, Jessica McBride and Tasha and Mikkita Kieran; three nephews, Ryan Treiber, Jonathan McBride and John-Michael Kieran; and many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Feast Updates

Continued from page 3

performance, dancing with disc jockey until midnight.

Regular price \$26.50, WCG rate \$22.50, children 2-12, \$14.65. Rates available to members throughout Feast. Call 1-800-436-4386 by Aug. 31.

Charity golf tournament, Burning Ridge golf course: Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 11, four person teams, captain's choice format, 1:30 p.m. shotgun start, \$40 entry fee with \$5 going toward a local charity. Call in as a team or individu-

ally to 1-800-833-6337 by Sept. 15. Golfers can also make personal tee times at WCG discount.

Fantasy Harbour: Ronnie Milsap or Magic on Ice: Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:30-10 p.m.

Ronnie Milsap—regular price \$21.95, WCG rate \$17.95. **Magic on Ice**—regular price \$17.95, WCG rate \$13.50, children 12 and under free. Call 1-800-681-5209 by Aug. 31.

Fantasy Harbour—Gatlin Brothers or Euro Circus: Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Gatlin Brothers—regular price \$21.95, WCG rate \$17.95. **Euro Circus**—regular price \$17.95, WCG rate \$13.50, chil-

dren 12 and under free. Call 1-800-681-5209 by Aug. 31.

Dixie Stampede dinner theater (Dollywood Productions): Saturday, Oct. 14, 7:15 to 10 p.m. Regular group rate \$24.10 available to members throughout the Feast. WCG special performance rate \$22.58, children \$14.65. Call 1-800-433-4401 by Sept. 15 and ask for Katie Harrington or Lisa Westcott.

Golf tournament, Buck Creek golf course: Sunday, Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m. Two person teams, captain's choice format, shotgun start, \$40 entry fee. Call 1-800-845-0833 by Sept. 15 and ask for golf director Steve Goldfinch.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Feast to take place in Pensacola despite hurricane damage

PENSACOLA, Florida—Hurricane Erin swept through Pensacola Aug. 3, leaving behind an estimated \$300 million in damages. Three fourths of the roof was torn off the Pensacola Civic Center, according to **Cyndee Pennington**, assistant director at the center.

Feast of Tabernacles services will take place in the civic center. "The staff was here all weekend assessing damages and moving the rainwater out of the building," said **Ms. Pennington**. "We have to sanitize the building to remove mold and mildew caused by the humidity, then start rebuilding, refurbishing and repainting to be ready for your Festival."

According to **Mark McCulley**, Festival Administration manager: "We are confident that the civic center staff and management will have the building together in time for the Festival. The management company has flown in

an expert in flood repair who worked on one of their buildings in Ames, Iowa, during the 1993 floods, and they are all working full speed to be ready for us."

The worst damage seems to have been in the beach-front areas, including condominiums and homes scheduled for use by Church members in October.

"We don't yet know how many lodgings have been damaged," explained **Mary Ellen Patterson**, wife of Festival coordinator **Jack Patterson**. "Realtors and management companies will call any who are affected by the damage and help them find replacement lodging. We ask members not to call for information at this point, as it will slow down the process for everyone."

Nurse receives two highest honors

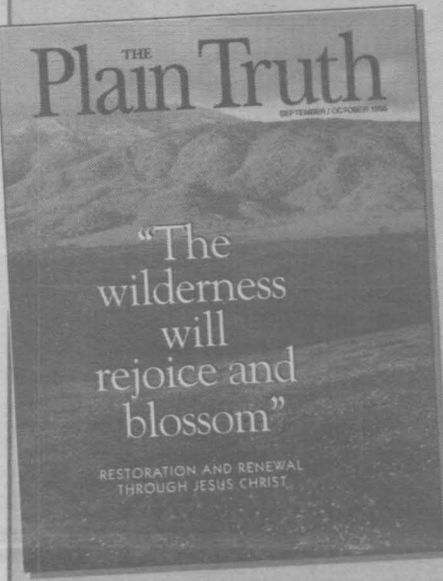
DIGBY, Nova Scotia—**Donna Dixon** of the Digby, Nova Scotia, church, was named valedictorian of her graduating nursing class. It



Donna Dixon

has been awhile since she attended school, three children to be exact (two of whom are married).

Mrs. Dixon has proven, however, that with perseverance and a lot of hard work, whatever you want to accomplish can be accomplished. She received the two



coming soon in *The Plain Truth*...

Our cover article for the September/October combined issue is "Times of Refreshing." Senior editor Norman Shoaf explains the prophecy of Isaiah that reminds us of the good news that

Jesus came to rescue, restore and redeem. He also inspires us with hope as we anticipate the second coming of Jesus Christ and universal renewal and restoration.

In "Festivals of Praise," Mr. Tkach explains: "The annual festivals provide Christians with an excellent annual framework for celebrating God's glorious work of salvation in Christ."

Also in the September issue:

Christ, Our Atonement—A reminder of Christ's sacrifice and that his atoning work on the cross paid the debt of sin once and for all.

Reverence for Life—An insight into the life and work of a respected, yet controversial, Christian humanitarian, Albert Schweitzer.

Christianity's New Frontier—A look at the challenges facing Christians as the 21st century draws near.

highest honors in her class: highest overall average, and best bedside nurse award.

Children help make wish come true

WICHITA, Kansas—Children in the Wichita South congregation sponsored a yearlong fund-raiser to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas.

This charity's mission is to grant the single favorite wish of Kansas children who suffer from terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

The children participated in the Pennies for Wishes fund-raiser. All the pennies collected for the year were

donated to the charity June 3. The donation totaled \$523.65 and was 2.6 percent of the program's goal of two million pennies (\$20,000).

Patricia F. Greenway, executive director of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas, sent a letter of thanks to the children for their fund-raising efforts and said their donation had been applied "toward the wish of ... an 8-year-old girl from Dodge City who has leukemia" who wished for a computer.

Colorado church shares in service

GRAND JUNCTION, Colorado—The congregation here

began a community service project called SHARE Colorado—part of the international SHARE program.

The congregation serves as one of several host sites for SHARE in this area, distributing SHARE food packages, which are sold for \$14 each plus two hours of community service.

The purpose of the program is to encourage people to get involved in community service while providing them with access to wholesome food at a reduced price (each box of food is worth about \$25 to \$30 retail).

We have one SHARE Sabbath each month (usually the last Saturday of the month) where we spend the morning in the food distribution process, followed by a potluck lunch, and then we have our worship service.

It's a great way for a small congregation (about 100 in attendance) to make a meaningful contribution to the community—food for the soul and the body. Our first D-day (distribution day) was July 29. **Ted Johnston**.

Plain Truth available on tape

A tape program for the blind has been started by the Jackson, Mississippi, church. The program offers *The Plain Truth* magazine on tape to blind members of the Worldwide Church of God. If you know of anyone who is in need of this service, please contact **Clint Brantley** at 1617 Tanglewood Dr., Clinton, Mississippi, 39056.



Children in the Wichita, Kansas, South congregation

Thieves: One learned from the injustice Christ experienced

Continued from page 4

must not revile but rather let God judge it (1 Peter 2:23). Some people can take punishment patiently when they deserve it, but to take it patiently when we don't deserve it, that's partaking of the divine nature of Jesus Christ!

The example of how to take suffering is reemphasized by the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:21. That does not mean we cannot ask authori-

ties to intervene and help us, but it does mean that we must never, no matter what the circumstances, attempt to lash back with a hate-filled approach to get even.

We no longer have to carry the heavy burdens of anger, bitterness and revenge. And because of this new way of thinking, our minds begin to be healed. That is, if we follow his example.

The beating Christ received was a gross injustice; they should have been thanking him for the sacrifice he

was about to perform. Yet they just didn't get it—they couldn't, their minds were devoid of the Spirit of God.

It's interesting that the second thief said some of the same things Peter would eventually write. Compare Luke 23:40-42 with 1 Peter 2:20-24.

Yes, he had watched Jesus Christ literally take the most horrible injustice ever, never cursing back but asking God to forgive their ignorant deeds.

It was then that one criminal began to understand,

while the other one could not.

As the three men hung there, some simple elementary facts of life were made plain: When God does open our understanding, a marvelous transformation takes place. We recognize our guilt, we quit blaming others, we stop being hostile, we ask for mercy and look to Jesus Christ for comfort, reassurance and salvation.

God help all of us to appreciate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and draw closer together in unity.

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