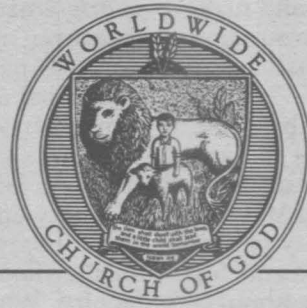


3 Mr. Tkach's last messages ask brethren to keep the faith and spread it

4 Your labor in the Lord is not in vain: when God doesn't seem to care

5 Russell K. Duke named AU president: Students respond with ovation

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXIII, NO. 19
OCTOBER 3, 1995

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach dies at 68

'There are so many memories. I'll be thinking about things we've said and done ... forever.'

By Jeff Zhorne

The gospel was more than words for Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, 68, who died Sept. 23 at 2:20 p.m. in Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena of complications from cancer. He loved the Lord with all his heart, all his soul and all his strength. He was a Christian first.

As mourners gathered at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena Sept. 26, pockets of conversation echoed short eulogies: "loving," "faithful," "committed," "determined," "a man of courage."

Last Auditorium addresses

The pastor general's health seemed to resurge when he addressed brethren in the Auditorium A.M. and P.M. congregations Sept. 9. In the morning and in the afternoon he entered

buoyant, and brethren rose clapping. It would be the last time most would see him alive.

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, a bout with nausea and headaches turned severe. Mr. Tkach was taken to the hospital, where doctors found a bruise on his brain. A hemorrhage kept expanding, causing pressure and at times excruciating pain.

His daughters, Tanya Horchak and Jennifer Butler, brought in his recliner and pictures to comfort him. "We took turns talking to him, talking in his ear," Jennifer said. "We did so much talking to him. 'Dad, you told me so many things,' I would say, and I have to believe he heard me."

Mr. Tkach Jr. said: "It was beautiful to have my mom, sisters and their husbands, and Tammy and I sitting around dad's bed. We all took turns whispering in his ear. My wife told him that his granddaughter, Stephanie, was at home and that she sang a hymn in his memory. A tear came out of the corner of my dad's eye."

After giving a progress report, Mr. Tkach's doctor said, "This is one beautiful man." Another doctor, after listening to Mr. Tkach's heart and sensing imminent death, put his hand on Mr. Tkach's forehead and said quietly, "Joe, I'll see you later."

Thursday evening, Sept. 21, Mr. Tkach's condition deteriorated rapidly. "Each hour he appeared 50 percent worse than he was the hour before," said Peter Lee, who assisted Mr. Tkach as a care giver.

Evangelist Dean Blackwell, a close friend of Mr. Tkach, talked to him about experiences they had shared over the years. "They say people in a coma can hear you, but it was frustrating not having him talk back because he was always the person I went to and talked to," Mr. Blackwell said.



ADDRESS OF COMMENDATION—Evangelist Herman L. Hoeh delivers the eulogy at Mr. Tkach's funeral Sept. 26 at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California. About 2,500 family, friends and other mourners attended. "I would like all of you to remember what Mr. Tkach did," said Dr. Hoeh. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

Friday afternoon it became apparent that nothing else could be done. At 4 a.m. Saturday he went into a neurological coma and died at 2:20 p.m. Mr. Tkach's wife, Elaine, was

holding his hand when he died.

Covering Mr. Tkach in the hospital was a blanket displaying the U.S. flag. Wrapped around the flag were
See Mr. Tkach, page 6

Last issue before the Feast

This is our last issue before the Feast. *The Worldwide News* wishes everyone an inspiring and joyous Feast of Tabernacles. Our next issue, Nov. 14, will be our annual post-Feast issue with photos and articles about sites around the world. A tribute issue to the late Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach is scheduled for Dec. 5.



DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY—Yeoman First Class Jeffery Gaines, representing the U.S. Navy, presents a U.S. flag to Elaine Tkach, wife of the late pastor general, as her son, Joseph Jr., and grandson Joseph III, daughter-in-law, Tammy, and granddaughter Stephanie, look on. Nurse Sherry Ellis, far right. [Photo by Barry Stahl]



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Start now to picture the kingdom of Jesus Christ

As I expressed in the August member and co-worker letter, I have never been more thrilled about the state of the church! Our Lord and Savior has opened the doors of heaven to us, blessing us with untold spiritual blessings and bringing us closer to him as he prepares us for fruitful work in his gospel in ways we had never imagined.

The theme for the Feast of Tabernacles this year is a festival of faith—celebrating salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Nothing is more important, more timely, more relevant, more exciting or more motivating than that simple, yet profound truth. What God has so graciously given to us, he also stirs our hearts to share with others.

John wrote: "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" (John 7:37-39).

This is the New Testament "theme" for the Feast of Tabernacles.

See Personal, page 10

On the road with Leroy and Maxine Neff

By Thomas C. Hanson

"So far I have been busy writing, working with my notebook computer, puttering around the trailer and making short trips to see the surrounding countryside," said evangelist Leroy Neff, 71, who retired in May.

Since then Mr. Neff and his wife, Maxine, have been traveling to various parts of the country, and have spent most of the summer in Maine.

"We have less stress, plenty of rest and relaxation, good food, and for most days a brisk walk for about a half hour, or a hike in beautiful Acadia National Park. The result has been improved health."

In a letter to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, Mr. Neff gave the following reasons for requesting retirement: "1) My term as a board member of Ambassador University would end at the May meeting, unless it was extended for another term. This would be a convenient time to replace me as secretary/member. 2) The church home we had lived in for 13 years was being sold and we would have to move soon. 3) In a few months I would be 72 years old, and would have worked for the church and college for 40 years, and 4) My duties were now minimal."

Mr. Neff was born Nov. 20, 1923, in Medford, Oregon. He received his bachelor's degree from the Pasadena campus of Ambassador in 1959 and his master's degree in 1962. He married Maxine Bostwick Aug. 15, 1942. They have three children: Larry, Carol Hegar and Don, and seven grandchildren: William Lawrence, Deborah Lee and Melissa Ann Neff; Michael Kusheba and Jeffrey Kushe-

ba; Stephanie Hegar; and Justin Neff.

Varied responsibilities

Mr. Neff has served in various capacities in the church and Ambassador University. He was church treasurer, manager of flight operations, manager of mail receiving and a personal as well as a regional assistant to Mr. Armstrong.

He was controller and secretary-treasurer of the Big Sandy campus; secretary and member of the Ambassador board of regents; and served on the theology, history and speech faculty. When he retired he was an executive assistant to Mr. Tkach.

Donna Patillo, administrative sec-

retary to the dean of Academic Affairs at Ambassador University, who worked for Mr. Neff for 12½ years, said: "Mr. Neff is loyal and completely honest. He is also devoted to his wife. Mrs. Neff told me once that she just really enjoyed doing things for him. They set a great example, now having been married for 53 years."

Fred Stevens, internal auditor, said: "When I did well, Mr. Neff sought to be encouraging. When I had difficulties, he sought to be a friend. It was a privilege to work for him."

Ministerial service

Mr. Neff pastored churches in

Long Beach and Los Angeles, California; Big Sandy and Houston, Texas; and Shreveport, Louisiana, and was senior pastor for south Texas and southwestern Louisiana. He was ordained a local elder in 1958, a



Leroy and Maxine Neff



RETIREMENT HOME—Evangelist Leroy Neff and his wife, Maxine, travel to various parts of the country pulling their fifth-wheel trailer. The Neffs' trailer, slightly more than 30 feet long, has a slideout room extender of about three feet by 12 feet. Mr. Neff said that this adds considerably to the openness of the living room, dining and kitchen area. They plan to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in Norfolk, Virginia. [Photo by Anne-Marie Kennedy]

preaching elder in 1960, a pastor in 1964 and an evangelist in 1979.

"We do not know where we will settle, or what we will do yet," Mr. Neff said. "In the meantime we will be strangers and pilgrims on the earth with no certain dwelling place, following the example of Abraham."

Amy Pieper, executive secretary, said: "I wish them the best as they move into retirement, and am delighted that so many of the brethren will have an opportunity to meet them as they travel over the next few months."

Good News Grapevine: faith through tough times

I am a 13-year-old in the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, church. I have been greatly encouraged by the Good News Grapevine. Some of my friends and their families have left, but hearing other people's stories about what has happened to them has greatly helped me cope.

I like the new covenant teachings, and I am glad that many feel the way I do.

Your friend in Christ,
Alicia Christman
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

I think what you are doing in God's church and for his brethren is excellent. I am thankful that we have such a supportive minister. I understand most of the changes and I am listening to the sermons and sermonettes now. I have also been reading my Bible around the clock because it is the only book around our house I haven't read, and because I have been learning of Jesus Christ and examples in the New Testament.

On April 21, the last day of Unleavened Bread, when the worst crisis in our congregation happened, our pastor resigned and took many people with him. I have forgiven him for that, but it was truly hard. Many of the people who left I have known for a long time and they didn't even give the new understanding a chance. It's probably a trying time for you and the rest of God's loyal ministers to stick together and do what's right in God's eyes. I wanted to thank you for all you've done to help in this trying time.

Katy Bergstrom, 13
Tulsa, Oklahoma

A little more than two years ago I experienced a severe personal trial that would be my first experience in walking by faith. During the 23 years between my baptism and the onset of this trial, God had always allowed me to walk by sight. In his wisdom and perfect timing, he chose this moment in my life to escort me out of the wading pool and to plunge me into deep water.

I was acutely aware of God's perfect sense of justice, having been in this church since I was 9. I did not expect to be rescued at all, based on the nature and number of sins that I had committed in my lifetime. I was sure that I deserved to be punished and suffer

heavily through this ordeal—I braced myself for the worst.

My teenage years, as well as those at Ambassador, had been consumed by trying to win God's approval through good works. The formula seemed to work for quite a while—I felt fairly confident that I was accumulating enough "brownie" points in heaven to keep me on the "Shall-Inherit-Eternal-Life" roster.

Once I entered real life as a minister's wife and mother, those feelings began to fade. Like an addict, I needed a bigger fix to obtain the desired result. Being in the ministry provided endless opportunities to perform even better good works—serving the very people of God.

I never really felt his acceptance, even though these works should have provided larger doses of that "pleasing God" feeling. Just like an addict, the substance I craved and used to alleviate my bad feelings only served to eventually intensify them.

Gradually, a vague hopelessness set in. I despaired of ever being granted eternal life. My life was out of control—I had not overcome many character defects, my sins were myriad, my faith weak, my relationship with God remote. Life on the Hamster Wheel of legalism was proving to be incredibly exhausting (thanks to Greg Albrecht for a great analogy). In the privacy of my innermost thoughts, I had condemned myself to the second death, ironically by virtue of my human frailty and brokenness.

Our old theology had convinced me that I wouldn't make it because I wasn't becoming perfect in my thoughts and deeds—my spiritual growth simply didn't measure up. I couldn't shake feelings of worthlessness. It seemed as if I was missing some computer chip that everyone else had received.

I knew God couldn't really like me, even though he was bound by his commitment to love me. Surely he was repulsed by my spiritual birth defects.

However, being well-schooled, I knew how to keep up the facade. I wore the cloak of religiosity well, yet underneath was a spiritual anorexic. I was rather successful in suppressing the waves of hopeless and despairing thoughts and even managed to keep up a Happy Pastor's Wife image. (I think of these as the June Cleaver Years.)

During this period, my dreams (being beyond my power to control) were quite dark. My secrets were too shameful to share with anyone—I would certainly be met with shock, disbelief and no doubt, judgment. The isolation and alienation heightened my feelings of worthlessness. I was increasingly beset by anxiety because the negative feelings were becoming harder to squelch. I was in a gradual downward spiral.

When, during my recent trial, a loving Heavenly Father scooped up this crumpled and battered child, placing her in his personal care, I was gradually able to feel his unconditional love for me. I realized that he wasn't willing that I should drown, regardless of my past sins. Instead, I was being gently led through the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

God's love for me had always been there, but because of the experiences of my childhood, and having been reared in the repressive, disciplinary atmosphere of the Radio Church of God of the '60s, I could not receive it. My new experiences were creating overwhelmingly endearing feelings toward such a merciful, accepting and gracious Lord.

God was fully aware that it had been impossible for me, up until this time, to completely trust him with my life. And he was now showing me how to do just that. Experiencing this mercy and grace, rather than the punishment I thought I deserved, I began to build faith.

God had orchestrated, through a severe trial, an opening through which to give me bountiful gifts. It had never been necessary to try to amass credits in that Big Ledger Book—Jesus would impute his righteousness to me—ME!!

This may not sound like much of a revelation to you, but to one as emotionally damaged and afraid of God as I had been, it was everything. I began to dust off the pieces of my life and reconstruct them with the new mortar of Grace and Truth, growing in love, affection and humility toward my Father, and I also experienced more tolerance of others. But I began to feel angry about the wrong ideas I'd been given about God.

A Christian counselor, who was guiding me through my ordeal, inquired as to whether

See Good News Grapevine, page 4

The Worldwide News

Circulation 72,000

The Worldwide News is published biweekly, except during the Church's annual fall and spring festivals, by the Worldwide Church of God, A.R.B.N. 010019986. Copyright © 1995 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved.

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Art director: Ronald Grove.

Photography: Barry Stahl, Charles Buschmann, photo librarian: Susan Sanchez.

Print production manager: Skip Dunn; **printing coordinator:** Dave Bradford.

Notice: The Worldwide News cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs. **Subscriptions:** Subscriptions are sent automatically to the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Address all communications to The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91129. See The Plain Truth for additional mailing offices. Entered as second-class mail at the Manila, Philippines, Central Post Office, Feb. 10, 1984.

Address changes: U.S. changes of address are handled automatically with Plain Truth changes of address. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to The Worldwide News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

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Mr. Tkach cheerful, vigorous during final messages

Pastor general thanks members for prayers and love, asks them to keep the faith and spread it

By Paul Monteith

In what would prove to be his final messages, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to the Pasadena A.M. and P.M. congregations Sept. 9. In the morning, and again in the afternoon, he entered to standing ovations and was visibly cheerful.

Though he had lost weight, he spoke with the same vigor as always.

Mr. Tkach announced the appointment of his son, Joseph Tkach Jr., to the office of deputy pastor general. "I know that God would have me make appropriate provision for the future," he said.

In a more somber moment, he informed the congregations of a bone scan that had revealed some 50 cancerous spots in his body. This cancer is different from the colon cancer and would require radiation treatment.

"This treatment can greatly reduce my pain," he added, "but it would also immobilize me." In light of this, Mr. Tkach said he would forego full treatment at that time, put his life in God's hands and have only localized radiation treatment as and when it was needed. He was responding well to the chemothera-



UPBEAT—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach addresses Pasadena A.M. members and families at Sept. 9 Sabbath service. [Photo by Sheila Graham]

py for his colon cancer, however.

Mr. Tkach added that he was not going into retirement, but that he planned to be in his office working a few hours each day and had almost completed his message for the Festival satellite transmission.

He concluded with an expression of thanks for members around the world for their prayers and love, and

asked that we keep the faith and spread it.

Mark McCulley, Festival Administration manager, who attends the Pasadena A.M. congregation, wrote to the Good News Grapevine: "We all know how fragile our hold on life can be, and are praying for him constantly. Yet, at the same time, we at headquarters are united in our faith that,

no matter what, God will continue to guide his church since he is the ultimate head of it through Christ.

"Please pray for Mr. Tkach Jr. too. He is cheerful and full of faith, but needs our prayers and support more than ever. I'm sure he will be encouraged by what I feel will be a groundswell of support from the field."

Joseph Tkach Jr. assumes mantle of leadership

'I ask members for their prayers on my behalf, and for their continued support of the church as we stand together in Christ'

By Paul Monteith

"I am deeply humbled by the awesome responsibility that we have," said Joseph William Tkach Jr., 43, in reference to his appointment as pastor general of the church.

"Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continually blesses and empowers us for greater and greater service, but I did not have this in mind when my dad called together a meeting a little more than two weeks ago."

On Sept. 5, the late Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach laid his hands on his son, Mr. Tkach Jr., and asked that God set him apart for the office of deputy pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God and to bless him in that office and the office of pastor general after his death.

Also present were Gregory Albrecht, Dean Blackwell, Michael Feazell, Ralph Helge, Herman Hoeh, Ronald Kelly, Joseph Locke, Richard Rice, Bernard Schnippert, K.J. Stavrinides and Richard van Pelt.

"It's difficult right now to think about the appointment while my family and I are still in a period of grieving for my dad," he said. "But I will follow his example of following Christ, and of being true to God regardless of the cost."

Mr. Tkach Jr. served as director of Church Administration since July



FIRST FAMILY—Joseph Tkach Jr. with his wife, Tammy, son, Joe, 9, and daughter, Stephanie, 7. "I would like to thank our members for faithfully standing with my dad and helping him proclaim the gospel," said Mr. Tkach.

1992, and was assistant director since August 1986. He and his wife, Tammy, have a son, Joe, 9, and a daughter, Stephanie, 7.

Mr. Tkach Jr., the first of three children of Joseph and Elaine Tkach, was born in Chicago, Illinois, Dec. 23, 1951. He moved with the family from Chicago to Pasadena in 1966, and was enrolled in Imperial Schools. He graduated in 1969 and entered Ambassador College.

During his junior year at AC he served as a ministerial trainee in the nearby Glendale, California, church.

After graduation in 1973 he served as a ministerial trainee in the Fort Wayne and Elkhart, Indiana, congregations,

and in 1974 he served in the Detroit, Michigan, West church.

In June of that same year he was transferred to California where he served as assistant pastor of the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo churches. In February 1975 he was transferred again and served the Phoenix, Arizona, East church. He was ordained a local elder in 1976.

Budget cuts later that year led to Mr. Tkach's termination and consequent employment as a child-care worker at Arizona Boys Ranch, a facility for adjudicated delinquents. He also worked as a social service worker at the Arizona Department of Developmental Disabilities.

In 1976 he began working for the state government as a social service worker at an institution for the mentally retarded. He later transferred to the field to work as a community social service worker.

In 1979 he was promoted to evaluate child and adult day programs and residential programs in Arizona, where he was responsible for reviewing services contracted to nonprofit organizations.

During that time Mr. Tkach Jr. was trained as a consultant for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and traveled to facilities around the country evaluating their programs.

He received a master's degree in business administration from Western International University in Phoenix in 1984, and went to work for Intel Corp., where he developed and evaluated administrative training.

In 1986 his father, having been appointed by Herbert W. Armstrong as pastor general of the church, asked Mr. Tkach Jr. to come work for the church as assistant director of Church Administration. He was ordained a pastor in April of that year.

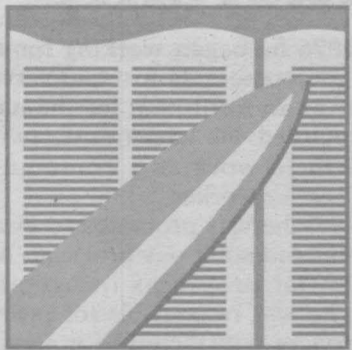
"There is nothing more satisfying than to serve our Lord," Mr. Tkach Jr. said. "I would like to thank our members for faithfully standing with my dad and helping him proclaim the gospel, and to thank them for their heartfelt prayers and outpouring of concern for him during his illness."

"Now I ask members for their prayers on my behalf, and for their continued support of the church as we stand together in Christ, united by the Holy Spirit. Let us go forward together and proclaim the gospel of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

IRON SHARPENS IRON

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron,



'Your labor in the Lord is not in vain': when God doesn't seem to care

By Neil Earle

Have you rejected Judah completely? Do you despise Zion? Why have you afflicted us so that we cannot be healed? We hoped for peace but no good has come, for a time of healing but there is only terror.... Think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.... Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?" (Jeremiah 14:19; 15:15-18).

These words are found in the Seven Petitions of Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet" (Jeremiah 1:6; 10:23-24; 11:18-12:6; 17:14-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-18).

Jeremiah knew what it was like to live in a time when God had seemed to turn against his people. In his day it was true. It was part of his prophetic task to preside over the tearing down of the centuries-old religious system of Judah and Jerusalem (Jeremiah 1:10).

Being a prophet didn't make the process any easier, though. Even though God was severely correcting his people, being a man of God didn't ease the pain. Jeremiah poured out, in vivid language, his disorientation and doubt, his feelings of fear and especially his sense of betrayal. Just how far was God going to go with chastising Judah? At one time he came close to calling God a liar (Jeremiah 15:18).

Jeremiah-like reactions

Some of us know how Jeremiah feels. We have faced dissension, doubt, disloyalty and the ongoing pressure of doctrinal change and renewal. Most of us can name names of friends or even close relatives who have turned aside from our fellowship for other groups or for none at all.

That is bound to produce a Jeremi-

Neil Earle is international editor of The Plain Truth.

ah-like reaction—that is, if we are human. Yet Jeremiah endured. So can you and I. Jeremiah's—and Judah's—labors for God were not in vain. Neither are yours and mine, now or in the past.

Like Judah in Jeremiah's day, we felt we enjoyed a specially favored relationship with God (Jeremiah 26:7-9). We felt we possessed inside knowledge. Like some in Jeremiah's day, we felt that God only worked here, in the Worldwide Church of God (7:1-4).

Of course, the parallels are by no means perfect. But they can instruct (Romans 15:4). We have been challenged to modify some of our views toward those not in our fellowship, to become more broadminded, more ecumenical in our thinking.

This has distressed many. "You're telling me that all those sacrifices I made to be part of this church were all in vain. That's monstrous. Don't you know what I've had to go through just to be a member of this church!"

So many of us in the Worldwide Church of God could say that. I could. We've all got our fascinating tales to tell about God working with us, about our own personal journeys of faith.

A biblical perspective can really help us here. One article can't answer every question, but it can help remind us of what we know to be true: that Jesus Christ notices our godly efforts on his behalf. Our service is not in vain.

Cups, mites and perfume

Sometimes the quiet corners of Scripture can speak with unusual power and force. They help answer the question: Does God see? Does God know? Are my labors in vain? Here are three points to keep in mind when we are tempted to despair.

• The gentle reminder: the cup of cold water principle.

Matthew 10:34-39 depicts the unpleasant stress and turbulence, the unexpected trauma that can come from those closest to us as we turn to God. Christ concluded this section with some encouraging words: "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42).

We should remember that our tithes and offerings can be thought of as many, many cups of cold water. Through our faithful financial support of God's Work, millions of people get to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised: You will not lose your reward.

• The encouraging example: the widow's mite.

In times of rapid transition and turmoil we can easily fall into the "I wonder what they're doing with my money" syndrome. Luke records an incident in the life of Jesus that shows how we are to monitor ourselves for this attitude: "As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.

"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:1-4).

This story teaches us that God looks on the heart.

The temple treasury at that time

was in the hands of the Sadducees. Their leaders were Annas and Caiaphas—corrupt temple officials.

Did Jesus reach into the box and hand the widow back her money? No. He saw that as far as she was concerned she was giving the money to God. She knew that God could protect any investment given to him.

What a lesson in living faith.

• "Fools for Christ": Mary of Bethany's extravagant sacrifice.

Extravagance, it has been said, is sometimes a hallmark of an enlarged spirit, a truly Christian temperament (Luke 19:8; Acts 4:36). An incident in the Gospels brings this home: "While Jesus was in Bethany ... a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

"When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. 'Why this waste?' they asked. 'This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor'" (Matthew 26:6-9).

Here is a typical human way to view sweeping and extravagant devotion. What Mary did made no sense—on the human level. Apparently the ointment was worth 10 months wages (*New Bible Commentary: Revised*, page 955).

"What a waste!" Has anyone ever said that to us about career opportunities or financial advantages we sacrificed because of our commitment to the Worldwide Church of God?

Some of us made major changes in our lives and careers to keep ordinances we once saw as mandatory. Is God unmindful of the suffering, the financial and familial cost we have had to pay for these labors of love?

Of course not (Hebrews 6:10). "I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age ... and in the age to come, eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30).

Many of you reading these words have done just that. You have given up houses, lands, careers and families for the gospel's sake. The Sabbath and the annual festivals—two prime distinctives of the Worldwide Church of God—have been adopted and embraced at cost. Sometimes at great cost.

The example of Mary of Bethany is a reminder of how God honors sincere, sacrificial acts of devotion. As Mary's example shows, the effort is well worth it: "I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her" (Matthew 26:13).

'Respect everyone'

Along with 1 Corinthians 15:58—"You know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"—we must always remember 1 Peter 2:17, "Show proper respect to everyone."

We are being tested now on our calling to show proper respect to everyone regardless of race, religion or creed. Like Jeremiah, we have to change and learn and grow.

He came to see that God's purposes in his life extended far beyond the confines of his own day (Jeremiah 30:18-24; 31:31-34). God was preparing him for even greater service and outreach (46:1-51:64).

He lived to fight another day. His labor was not in vain. Neither is ours.

Good News Grapevine

Continued from page 2

this anger was causing me to doubt my faith. I flatly assured him that it was not. I knew that the doctrines of my church were accurate and didn't need examining—it was just the application and administration of the doctrines that had distorted my perception of God and effectively blocked my intimacy with him.

Having received new life in Christ, I was motivated to understand and work through the anger. I saw that God was fulfilling Romans 8:28 in my life, and I was able to release the feelings of betrayal. (After all, I knew that what I really deserved was death for my sins.)

I began to forgive perceived injustices and abuses, realizing that they had not prevented God from fulfilling his purpose for me—he was presently doing just that, and at the time of his choosing. The ensuing peace was in stark contrast to the suffocating anxiety I had known only recently.

Yet, I was troubled by the notion that these same policies and teachings that had hurt me were extant in the church currently, and that others were still being hurt. Being convinced that God was leading the church, through Mr. Tkach, toward wholeness, I prayed for patience. I wanted the strength to hang in there long enough to enjoy the "New and Improved" Church. I believed it was only a matter of time.

rect as we understood them, I was confident that changing our administration of them would bring others the healing, joy and peace that I had experienced. I suspected that these changes would need to be fairly fundamental in nature and would have a sweeping effect on the climate of the church. I recall telling a friend that it might not even seem like the same church we were baptized into. Meanwhile, I put the matter on hold while I continued to concentrate on my own healing and restoration.

You can't begin to imagine the joy I felt as I read the new explanation of the new covenant! I was immediately grateful to God for answering my prayers. It was instantly clear, as I read Mr. Tkach's words, that it was indeed necessary to change doctrine in order to bring about the results I had hoped for. I never would have imagined it, but God knew.

Having already done the emotional work that so many others were now facing, I was uncomfortable not sharing my friends' current painful feelings of confusion and loss. But I was certain that once they worked through these emotions, they too would share my elation. The pages of the Good News Grapevine are full of references to others' increased joy and peace—confirming my expectation. I sing praises to a wonderful Father who has indeed given us life more abundantly.

I still have a lot more study of the Scrip-

See Good News Grapevine, page 10

maintaining that our doctrines were cor-

1995 Ministerial Transfers

	Transferred to
George and Jackie Affeldt	Sioux Falls and Watertown, South Dakota
Guy and Helen Ames	Pasadena AM and Spanish
Dan and Alice Bierer	Montvale, New Jersey; Middletown, New York
Jim and Pam Blackwell	Champaign, Springfield, Illinois (ast)
Lowell and Margaret Blackwell	Springfield, Rolla, Missouri
Lloyd and Marcia Briggie	St. Cloud, Brainerd, Minnesota
Steve and Mary Ann Brown	St. Petersburg, New Port Richey, Florida
Dave and Cynthia Carley	Lubbock, Midland, San Angelo, Abilene, Texas; Hobbs, New Mexico
David and Val Clark	Austin and Waco, Texas
David and Jennifer Covington	Roanoke, Lynchburg, Virginia
Marty and Yvonne Davey	Jacksonville, Florida
Rod and Judith Devries	Modesto, Stockton, California
Al and Cheryl Ebeling	Boston, Massachusetts
Jess and Paula Ernest	Dayton, Tipp City, Ohio
Kent and Alana Fentress	Louisville, Kentucky
Jay and Nancy Fields	Marion, Mansfield, Ohio
Mark and Miranda Flynn	Macon, Dublin, Georgia
Cecil and Ruth Green	Las Cruces, New Mexico; El Paso, Texas
Randy and Roberta Hall	Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson, North Dakota
Don and Anne Hildebrand	Minneapolis North, St. Paul, Minnesota
Ronald and Paulette Jameson	Rockford, Illinois; Janesville, Wisconsin
Doug and Betty Johannsen	Ada, Lawton, Oklahoma
Ben and Kathy Johnson	Huntingdon, Indiana, Pennsylvania
Ed and Michelle Kopec	Jonesboro, Arkansas, Poplar Bluff, Missouri
Jon and Ila Kurnik	Pittsburgh, Beaver Valley, Pennsylvania
Mike and Diane Kuykendall	Salt Lake City, Utah; Green River, Wyoming
Tom and Elizabeth Mahan	Tampa, Lakeland, Florida (ast)
Don and Beth Mears	Big Sandy A.M. & P.M. (regional pastor)
Paul and Mary Meyer	Fort Collins, Colorado
Frank and Jane Parsons	San Antonio, Uvalde, Texas
Steve and Terry Pelfrey	Pensacola, Florida; Mobile, Alabama
Raul and Sylvia Ramos	San Diego, California; Yuma, Arizona
Fran and Elfie Ricchi	Cleveland, Ohio, East (regional pastor)
Paul and Mary Seltzer	Duluth, Minnesota
Sio Oui and Christine Shia	Sarasota, Fort Myers, Florida
David and Rosaphine Stone	Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Mississippi
Robert and Jan Taylor	Nashville, Tennessee (ast)
Paul and Madilyn Troike	San Diego North County, California
Jim and Becky Valekis	Muncie, Richmond, Indiana
Abner and Sharon Washington	Indianapolis, Indiana, A.M. & P.M.
Glen and Connie Weber	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Clarkston, Spokane, Washington
Eric and Frankie Weinberger	Milwaukee West, Kenosha, Wisconsin (ast)
Scott and Jan Weiner	Glendora, California (ast)
Bill and Sheila Whitaker	Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia
Jeff and Abby Williams	Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Paducah, Kentucky
Gerald and Cherie Witte	Houston, Texas, South
Andre and Georgia Zick	Blackfoot, Twin Falls, Idaho; Kelly, Wyoming

All serve as pastor unless noted by asc (associate pastor) or ast (assistant pastor).

Russell K. Duke named Ambassador president

Students, faculty and staff greet announcement with prolonged standing ovation.

By Thomas Delamater

BIG SANDY—Russell K. Duke was named the sixth president of Ambassador University at a special meeting of the university's board of regents Sept. 22.

The selection was announced to the student body, faculty and staff at an assembly that afternoon by Herman L. Hoeh, vice chairman of the board of regents, who chaired the board meeting. The announcement was met with a prolonged, two-minute standing ovation from the audience.

Several individuals commented after the meeting that they had seldom seen such an overwhelmingly enthusiastic ovation.

Dr. Duke, who served as president pro tem since June 16, thanked the audience for their support during that time.

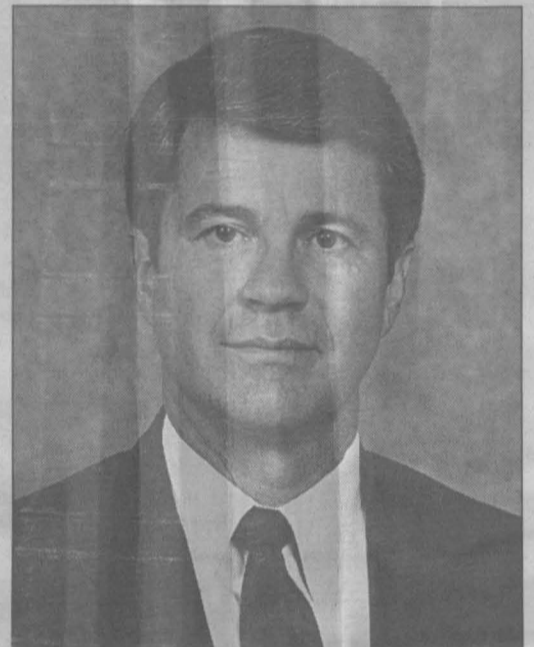
"You are the strength of this institution," he told the students. "I ask for your patience, and I look forward to working with the administration and staff to be able, with God's help, to lead Ambassador toward the year 2000."

The selection of Dr. Duke was the culmination of a three-month search process conducted by the board. "There were a number of qualified candidates," said J. Michael Fezell, board member and chair of the search committee.

"In the end, the board felt that Dr. Duke had exhibited outstanding leadership skills under a variety of circumstances. He has established won-

derful morale and vision among the students, faculty and staff during his service as president pro tem."

Dr. Duke has served on the Ambassador faculty since 1984 and as chair of the Theology Department since 1990. He earned a Ph.D. in practical theology from The Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, a master's degree from the University of Texas at Tyler, and master's and bachelor's degrees from Ambassador. Dr. Duke has served as a church pastor in Topeka,



Russell K. Duke

Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri.

"I am grateful for, and humbled by, this opportunity," said Dr. Duke. "Ambassador University has a rich tradition of providing an education based on the fundamental values of faith, service and scholarship. I am excited about the future of the institution and look forward to working with our regents, administration, faculty and staff to provide a world-class educational environment for our students."

Ambassador mourns loss of board of regents chairman

University building renamed the Joseph W. Tkach Hall of Administration.

By Russell K. Duke

BIG SANDY—The students, faculty and staff of Ambassador University are deeply saddened by the news of the death of Joseph W. Tkach, chairman of the university's board of regents.

Mr. Tkach's vision and leadership as chairman of the board of regents has helped take Ambassador to unprecedented heights in scholarship and service.

Mr. Tkach had a deep and abiding commitment to truth and to standing up for what he believed was right. His Christian example of faith and love will forever be remembered by those who walk this campus.

In one of his last public appearances, Mr. Tkach traveled to Big

Sandy to address the opening assembly of the new academic year at Ambassador, Aug. 18.

It was only this past Friday, Sept. 22, that the university's board of regents, in a special meeting here on campus, approved the establishment of a fund at the university to create the Joseph W. Tkach Endowed Chair in Theology. This endowed chair is a specially funded faculty position in the Theology Department to honor the life, legacy and ministry of Mr. Tkach.

In addition, by a decision of the board, the administration building of Ambassador University will henceforth be known as the Joseph W. Tkach Hall of Administration.

I announced the news of Mr. Tkach's death to students, faculty and staff at a special assembly on Saturday evening, Sept. 23, in the university's field house auditorium.

The university conducted a memorial chapel service for Mr. Tkach Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 1:30 p.m. in the field house auditorium on campus.

Our prayers are with his son, Joseph Tkach Jr., his entire family and the Worldwide Church of God at this sad and difficult time.

Russell K. Duke is president of Ambassador University.

Joseph W. Tkach gave our fellow

Continued from page 1

words from the Pledge of Allegiance. Directly across Mr. Tkach's chest, just under his chin, were the words "liberty and justice for all."

Mitchell Vasseur, who served as steward on the church's BAC 1-11 jet, left these words on a dry-erase board in Mr. Tkach's hospital room: "A warrior was here."

Evangelist Bernie Schnippert conveyed the news of Mr. Tkach's death to brethren gathered for the afternoon service Sept. 23. After announcing Mr. Tkach's death, he asked brethren to join him in prayer.

"Death is terrifyingly real when it occurs," he said. "We were attached to his warm smile and effervescence. We search for words that seem to be inexpressible."

Services on the Festival of Trumpets were somber yet hopeful. In the afternoon J. Michael Fezell, executive assistant to Mr. Tkach since 1979, said: "In all the years he worked for the church, Mr. Tkach never missed a day of work until his gall bladder surgery last May. Nor did he ever take a vacation.

"His heart was in the work of God, and his labor in the Lord was not in vain," he added, visibly fighting back tears. "Mr. Tkach joins the ranks of those who have died in Christ. His vision was for a church that works, in which every member uses his or her God-given spiritual gifts for the upbuilding of the whole body and for the work of the gospel.

"Mr. Tkach constantly talked about the salt and light passages in Matthew 5, and the importance of letting the world see what faith in Jesus Christ does in the lives of his people."

After services brethren could view Mr. Tkach's body in the drawing room chapel at Mountain View Cemetery from 5 to 9 p.m. "So many people at the viewing said how thankful they were to the family for making it possible to see Mr. Tkach one last time," said executive assistant Ellen Escat. "Many couldn't get off work to attend the funeral the next day."

'A man for the times'

About 2,500 friends, family and well-wishers gathered at the southeast corner of Mountain View Cemetery for final rites Sept. 26. At 10:05



MOVING FORWARD—A black-plumed horse draws a hearse bearing the body of Joseph W. Tkach. Honorary pallbearers (from left) are Mathew Morgan, Charles Albrecht, Mark Stapleton, Michael Rasmussen, Peter Lee and Mitchell Vasseur. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

a.m. a kilt-clad Scotsman playing "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes led a processional across the lawn to the grave site. A black horse-drawn hearse was flanked by honorary pallbearers: Charles Albrecht, Peter Lee, Mathew Morgan, Michael Rasmussen, Mark Stapleton and Mitchell Vasseur.

The casket was carried by pallbearers Paul Butler and Douglas Horchak (Mr. Tkach's sons-in-law), Greg Albrecht, Dean Blackwell, Ralph Helge, Joseph Locke, David Ogwyn, Bernie Schnippert and Rick van Pelt.

After a chorus led by Dennis Pelley sang "Amazing Grace," Mr. Fezell gave an opening prayer. "We honor Joseph Tkach with our presence today. We thank you that he was a servant of Jesus Christ, a husband, a brother, a father, a grandfather, a disciple, a minister of Jesus Christ, a friend.

"We thank you for this man who yielded to you and who was empowered by the Holy Spirit," Mr. Fezell continued. "He did not flinch in the face of adversity. He did not compromise but followed his Commander in Chief. We thank you for this man who served and loved his country. Above all, we

praise you for the life of this Christian soldier, a man who courageously followed Jesus, no matter the cost. He had a kindly heart and a love for people."

Mr. Pelley led the audience in singing the pastor general's favorite hymn, "Glorious Things of Thee Are

Dr. Hoeh continued: "James wrote one of the shorter letters preserved in the New Testament, which I would regard as the finest epitaph, to be limited to one, for Joseph Tkach. 'Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.'"

The chorus then sang "God Bless America," and director Ella Marie Schatz turned to the audience and beckoned all to join in. Dr. Hoeh returned to the lectern, reading from Mr. Tkach's last letter (Sept. 22) about the appointment of his son.

"The responsibility of leadership under Christ in the Worldwide Church of God is in the hands of Joseph Tkach Jr. at age 43. I would like all of you to remember what Mr. Tkach Sr. did, not only for those you know, but for the many you may not know, and ask that his son may be able with our help to continue the duty of a wise steward."

Dr. Hoeh then hugged Mr. Tkach Jr., and Mr. Albrecht began the interment prayer: "Our loving God, today we have been reminded of your amazing grace and that glorious things of you are spoken, two of Joseph W. Tkach's favorite hymns."

Mr. Albrecht continued: "He was a Christian servant who believed in pure religion, ministering to the



WORDS OF GLORY—Dennis Pelley leads the audience in "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," Mr. Tkach's favorite hymn. [Photo by Susan Sanchez]

Spoken." At 10:30 evangelist Herman Hoeh gave acknowledgements and the eulogy.

As Dr. Hoeh spoke, Mr. Tkach Jr.'s arm rested gently on the back of his mother. "There is an important lesson in acknowledging the life of Joseph Tkach: It is wise to extend a helping hand below and acknowledge the helping hands above—not climbing at the expense of others," said Dr. Hoeh.

He quoted U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909): "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes up short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumphs of achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

fatherless. He ministered to the weak and the infirm. He loved senior citizens, the poor, the crippled and the homeless.

"Let it be said and known that Joseph W. Tkach gave our fellowship, the Worldwide Church of God, a heart for those in need. He gave us a social conscience, insisting that Christians remember the teaching of Christ, that to help the disadvantaged and the needy is to minister to Jesus himself," Mr. Albrecht prayed.

"May that memory burn brightly in our minds and our memories. May that legacy never leave us. Thank you for giving us a man for the times we have experienced, a man who did not live in the past, a man who did not retreat, a man who refused to be held hostage by tradition. He was a man who came to Christ on the troubled and stormy waters of change and transformation."

Mr. Albrecht continued: "We pray today for those who survive him, for his wife, Elaine, this dear lady who carries her own burdens. We pray that you would grant her understanding and acceptance of her loss. Comfort her, bless her with healing and peace and the love of not only her immediate family but her spiritual brothers and sisters around this world. And as her extended family



TOWARD FINAL REST—Pallbearers (clockwise from left) are Douglas Horchak, Ralph Helge, Greg Albrecht, Bernie Schnippert, Joe Locke (hidden from view), escort from Mountain View Cemetery, Rick van Pelt, Dean Blackwell, David Ogwyn and Paul Butler. [Photo by Sheila Graham]

ship a heart for those in need

gathers here today, we pledge her our commitment to care for her needs."

Mr. Albrecht asked God to pour out his spirit of love, wisdom, compassion and grace upon Pastor General Tkach. "May you give him discernment, judgment, understanding and mercy. Bless Mrs. Tammy Tkach, give her a serving and caring heart, and keep her close to you as she assumes new duties and expectations. May Joseph Tkach Jr. continue to lift up Jesus as Lord. As you have blessed his father, may you richly bless him."

Mr. Albrecht prayed: "We will leave his body behind, but we will take his memory and his legacy with us. We will, in his words, not only keep the faith, we will share it and we will spread it. We will proclaim Jesus Christ and the gospel of salvation, the good news that we have in Christ, the new life we have in him, the rest we have in him."

On behalf of the President of the United States and the United States Navy, Yeoman First Class Jeffery Gaines presented a flag to Mrs. Tkach, then held a salute while member Jerry Thornton played taps on the trumpet. Many of the family and those standing in the audience wept.

Dr. Hoeh concluded by asking the audience not to form a receiving line but to "move about freely and express your appreciation both now and later." The bagpiper then played another piece.

'He was my friend'

"He was more than my boss, he was my friend," said Peter Lee. "The only other time I felt such loss and pain was when my own father died. While Mr. Tkach's death was an awful experience, it was a tremendous blessing because much was learned. There are memories that can never be forgotten—precious, tender and lasting."

"I not only lost my boss but I also lost one of my best friends," said Mr. Locke, one of Mr. Tkach's executive assistants. "About 90 percent of the time when he traveled, I traveled."

"We walked together for the past 15 years. I was a sounding board for him. Most of it was listening to him talk. Once in a while he would ask my opinion, which I would give, but mostly it was listening, as a friend."

"My father died a number of years ago, and Mr. Tkach was like a father to me," Mr. Locke continued. "We have a lot of shared history. A comment his wife made, the day before he died, was, 'Let's start thinking of all the positive things and the pleasant memories we've had with him,' and she's right. We had some rough times and good times, but God has given us a human mind to retain the pleasant memories."

"He touched the lives of a lot of people in a positive way. I have Proverbs 3:27 on the wall of my office, not to withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Mr. Tkach lived by that too, doing good to all people."

Mr. Blackwell commented: "Mr. Tkach was a man of courage who loved the truth. He wasn't afraid to change. My past 15 years have revolved around him. He would have me go to Detroit or Montana or Kansas or wherever. Before a trip, I talked to him about it, and afterward told him how it went."

"All of a sudden he's gone. I just feel a big emptiness and loss. I'll have to go on doing the same things, and I'll continue doing it because he encouraged me to do it. But he was my best friend for all these years," he said.

"When I first met him, he was 31. I baptized him and his mom and his dad and his wife, all on the same day. Then I baptized his sister and her brother, and I did his dad's funeral in 1963. I stayed with him when we'd come out on ministerial conferences. Sometimes I saw him more than I saw my wife."

History of the pastor general

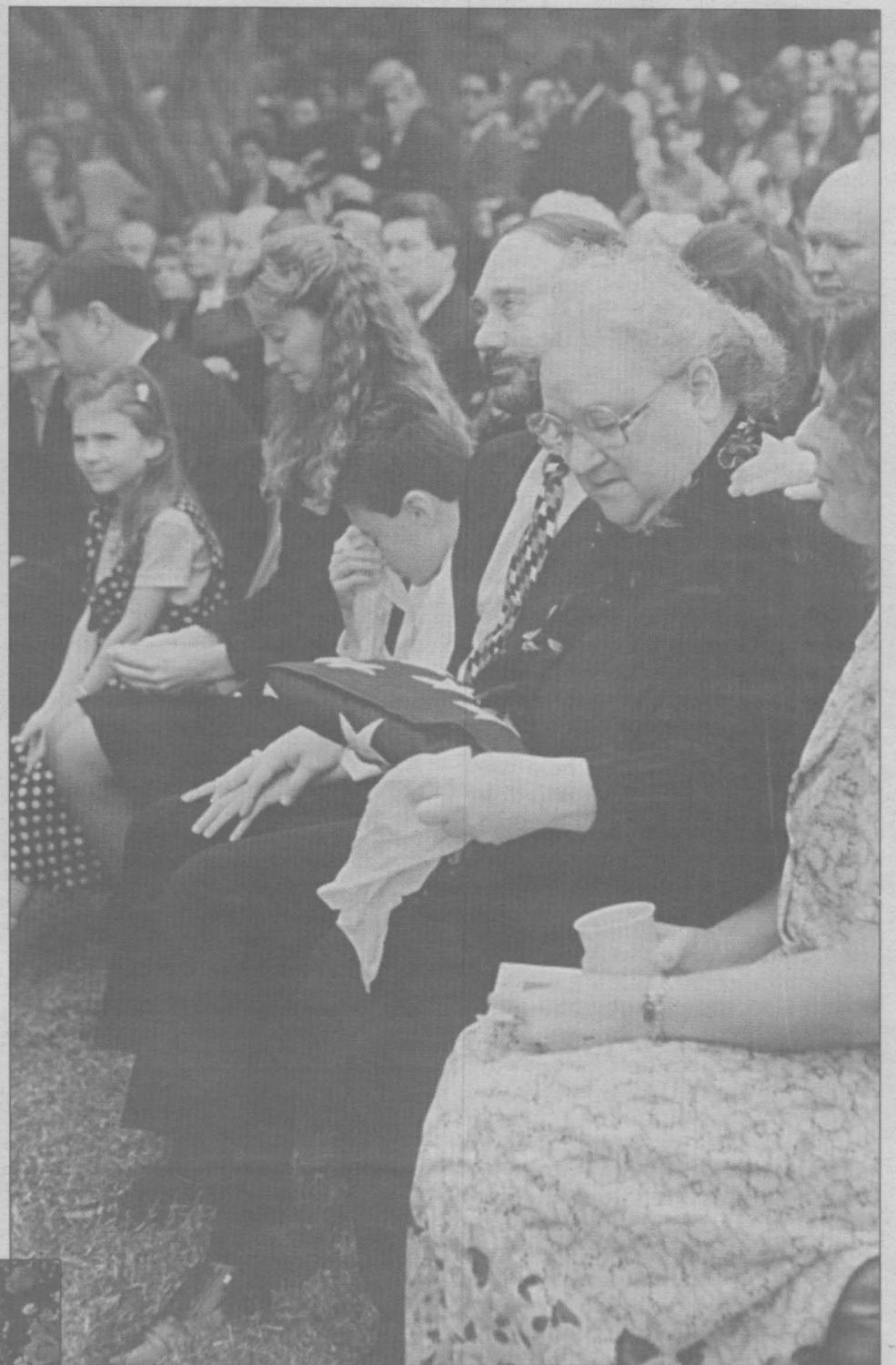
Mr. Tkach was born March 16, 1927, and served in the Navy during World War II. He attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois, and worked for Hupp Aviation in Chicago from 1950 to 1963.

He married Elaine Apostolou March 31, 1951, and was baptized March 1, 1957. He was ordained a deacon in 1961 and a local elder in 1963. Mr. Tkach assisted with Chicago-area churches and helped establish several churches in the Midwest until 1966, when he left Chicago to attend Ambassador College in Pasadena.

He served in the Los Angeles, San Marino and San Gabriel Valley, California, congregations and started working in Ministerial Services in 1970. He was ordained a preaching elder in 1974 and assisted Dr. Hoeh in the Auditorium A.M. congregation from 1976 to 1979, and was ordained an evangelist by Mr. Armstrong in 1979.

He directed Ministerial Services from 1979 until Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, at which time he became pastor general.

Mr. Tkach met a wide variety of dignitaries, civic leaders and performing artists. His friends included Gen. Jimmy Doolittle, Gen. Curtis LeMay, Pasadena resident Arthur Neff and Kitty Bradley, wife



EMOTIONAL CAPSTONE—Tammy Tkach (center left) would say later that the presentation of the flag to Elaine Tkach and the playing of "Taps" was Tammy's toughest moment. [Photo by Susan Sanchez]



OPENING PRAYER—J. Michael Feazell begins the funeral service by thanking God for Joseph Tkach, a man who did not flinch in the face of adversity. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

of the late Gen. Omar Bradley.

Mr. Tkach is survived by his wife, Elaine; three children, Joseph Jr., Tanya Horchak and Jennifer Butler; and nine grandchildren: Joe, 9, and Stephanie, 7, Tkach; Christine, 18, Gregory, 15, and Rebecca, 7, Horchak; and Janelle, 16, Joseph, 14, Jonathan, 5, and Jessica, 3, Butler.

'Where you go, I go'

Eva Clemons, a deaconess in Pasadena, worked for Mr. Tkach for 12 years until her stroke in 1986. "I was his legs because he'd send me to the widows and orphans to care for them. 'Where you go, I go,' he would say."

Mrs. Clemons said: "I took care of Mr. Tkach's sister and his mother before they died. We feel very much a part of his life."

Retired evangelist Leroy Neff said: "I'm shocked. A year ago I thought he would outlive me by 10 or 20 years. He was wiry and didn't have to sleep very much. Now he's dead and I'm still alive, and none of us know how long we have. It was very encouraging to see so many people there today."

Beside the casket, Ellen Escat and administrative assistant Michael Rasmussen spoke fondly about their boss. "I've been so blessed that if I'm never able to do anything or have another

opportunity, I can honestly say I've had enough for a lifetime, serving him, going into church areas and seeing the excitement in the brethren and in him," Mike said. "There are so many memories. I'll be thinking about things we've said and done ... forever."

"He always stayed small in his own eyes," Ellen said. "It wasn't even in him to be conceited, arrogant or superior. His focus was always on someone else, not himself."

She continued: "Before he went into the hospital, we were all on shifts caring for him. We couldn't have done everything without the two nurses, Bob Harrington and Sherry

Ellis," church members whose expertise and training proved to be essential.

"Sometimes he'd see our construction workers, Neil Kubon, Bob Dolan or Dean Hagelie, and say, 'Let's get the guys a drink.' Or he'd see David Slack and say, 'Take him out a soda.'"

As a care giver, Julie Stocker, an administrative assistant who often flew with Mr. Tkach and whom he had known from Chicago, sat with Mr. Tkach on a bench on the south side of the library beneath a tree. "He reflected on his boyhood days and told stories about dogs he had had," while Holly, his West Highland terrier, played close by.

"His life wasn't always easy, and he had trials and things to face, but he always kept going, looked ahead and didn't wallow," Julie said. "That's one thing I learned from him—no matter how bad it is, no matter the pain, keep looking ahead. Mr. Tkach didn't complain about the past."

Ellen added: "From all the backgrounds we come from, from our different families, I thought our staff all worked well together. I doubt if I'll ever experience it again and I'm glad I experienced it with him. He taught me what it was to be a real team and to work together in unity. Our staff really loved each other. We worked for one purpose: to serve him and the brethren."

Mike concluded: "He was easy to love."

See Mr. Tkach, page 8

'He was easy to love'

Continued from page 7

Mel Olinger chauffeured Mr. Armstrong for 17 years and served nine years on Mr. Tkach's staff. He called the pastor general "a very loving, generous and compassionate boss to work for. I feel those three things signify his character so much.

"And he had a sense of humor. The last time he was in the office he looked at the obituary section in the paper and said, 'I guess I'm not dead yet because I'm not in the obituaries!'"

Mr. Olinger added: "It's been a very eventful and even rewarding time, even though there have been hard times. I've seen God's hand moving and after a while you get stable and established in the faith. Not that you could ever second guess what could happen, but you realize God has brought you through this much and will be with you the rest of the time."

Mat Morgan, who works in the Executive Office, commented: "Mr. Tkach taught me how to be a warrior for God because when he believed in something, nothing could stand in his way, regardless of how the wind blew. A gentle warrior sums him up."

"It was clear to me that any person who came in contact with Mr. Tkach took a little of Mr. Tkach away with them," said Charles Albrecht, international operations manager in Church Administration. "He always gave to others and I truly believe that whatever he gave included a piece of the gospel. After just a short time on his office staff, Mr. Tkach let me know that I was not just an employee but part of the family."

Mark Stapleton, an executive aide to Mr. Tkach and a flight attendant since March 1994, observed that Mr. Tkach was centered on other people. "He liked watching TV news and when he saw the sufferings and injustices in the world, he commented how much the world needed Christ, his love now and especially his speedy return."

"He gave himself to God and for God," said Mark's brother, Matthew, who works in Church Administration. "Mr. Tkach ably accepted the baton from Herbert Armstrong and carried it with the heart of a champion."

Love and patience

Around their dining room table, Jim and Margie Friddle, longtime servants in the church, spoke of Mr. Tkach's valor and charity. "We're



HELPING HANDS—Joseph Tkach Jr. and Tanya Horchak help their mother, Elaine, across the lawn to the grave site. Tammy Tkach, far right. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

not apprehensive. We're going to grow spiritually as well as numerically. I feel that to the bottom of my being," said Mr. Friddle.

Mrs. Friddle noted Mr. Tkach's



KINDLING FRIENDSHIP—A meaningful moment between Joseph Tkach Jr. and Hank Hanegraaff, president of the Christian Research Institute. [Photo by Susan Sanchez]



MOURNFUL—Family members are (from left): Jennifer and Paul Butler and their children, Jessica and Jonathan; Tanya and Douglas Horchak; Tammy and Joseph Tkach Jr. and their children, Joe and Stephanie; and Elaine Tkach. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

genuine spirit. "What he did, what he said, what he felt, what he believed—that's what he was. He was a generous man who helped people."

Mr. Friddle said: "I was extremely sad to lose Mr. Tkach, he was like a father. But God knows what he's doing. It's called faith. Our job is to walk in faith and trust Jesus. Mr. Tkach had courage. He was a virtuous man with moral excellence and bravery, commitment and determination—courage and determination to conduct himself morally right toward God and man in the face of adversity, no matter what. I think that says it all."

Ralph Helge, the church's legal counsel and a close friend of Mr. Tkach, said Mr. Tkach exercised a military fortitude right to the time of his death. "He was a strong soldier committed to duty and had a willingness to stand up against those who would attack the church. Joseph Tkach was someone with grit and not willing to buckle at the first sound of threat."

Ron Kelly, director of Family Ministry, said: "I'm sure one of my most memorable moments, not only in my association with Mr. Tkach but in my living memory, will be his final meeting with the council of elders on Sept. 5."

"Mr. Tkach shared his deepest personal feelings and highlighted the blessings he had enjoyed in his nearly 40 years as a member of God's church, a deacon, elder, minister and pastor general.

"He said, 'I have no regrets. I remember the good times. I have been privileged to see the beginning of a golden age for the Worldwide Church of God.' Then he looked around the table to the 10 or 12 of us who were there that day and said: 'Most of all, I appreciate knowing and working with each one of you. You have been an inspiration to me personally and I consider it one of my life's greatest privileges to have worked along side all of you.'

"Those words will ring in my ears and motivate me the remaining days of my life," Mr. Kelly said.

Mr. Friddle added: "What we need more than anything else is vision, to know that God is going to bring about growth and love. We're just beginning. I know Mr. Tkach Jr. is up to it. He has already proven he's up to it. He has more patience and more love than any man I know."

Vince Szymkowiak, pastor of the Fort Worth, Texas, East and West churches, said: "Mr. Tkach Jr. has a brilliant mind and always treated me with kindness, patience, mercy and generosity. He has always been so very encouraging to me and my family. We love him deeply. I realize there rests upon his shoulders an awesome responsibility as our pastor general. But I am convinced God Almighty will supply all he needs to accomplish God's great work."

Service in Big Sandy

Big Sandy brethren gathered for a



FINAL RITE—In his committal prayer, Greg Albrecht implores God to pour out his spirit of love, wisdom and grace. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

memorial service in the field house auditorium Sept. 26. Pastor Don Mears gave a sermon, and evangelist David Albert gave the eulogy. Edward Mauzey, dean of student affairs at Ambassador University, offered reflections, and David Wainwright, professor of French at AU, gave the prayer.

"He made a lot of big changes and a lot of small ones," said Dr. Albert. "One of the small changes was applause if you felt moved, so let's do that." Those in the audience stood, "and the clapping went on and on and on," said Greg Smith, director of Academic Publications for AU.

There is no way to tell it all. The story continues, the legacy never ends. In one sense, Mr. Tkach's life isn't over.



GIFT OF LOVE—Nicki Hackman lays a rose to rest. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

Ukraine volunteers: 'Not American, just brothers'

By Craig Shrum

May 24 five Ambassador students and graduates arrived in the Transcarpathian region of western Ukraine. They were Kathi Nomm, Brenda Plonis, Sarah van Lanen, Sonia Magega and me.

Our invitation came from Victor Pavliy and Mission Nazareth, a charitable organization staffed mostly by Sabbatharians. As mission director, Victor arranged housing and other details for our seven-week stay.

Although no official Ambassador Foundation program was planned this summer, the students still wanted to maintain the relationship we had established. Thus, the students used their own funds, with a small grant from Church Administration International, to continue last year's goal: building friendships with the Sabbatharians and others in the community.

We taught English to about 80 teens and adults, a fraction of those who were interested. Even with classes halfway finished, parents begged us to teach their children. We simply did not have space for everyone.

Our students were of many faiths, not just the Sabbatharian congregations. The classes were featured on television and in the newspaper.

We weren't fluent in Ukrainian or Russian. However, Katerina Seibert,

an English teacher, became a valuable translator and friend. So did Sergei Lyubikh, a Sabbatharian missionary who spoke some English. As Sergei told us, "You do not understand all that I say, but you understand my heart."

Sergei invited us to evangelize with his missionary group. They preach, sing and distribute used clothing in rural areas. On Pentecost we accompanied them to two poor villages. The villagers looked hungry—and not just for physical food.

Afterward they handed out copies of the New Testament in Russian. However, the supply was limited. When others saw the Bibles, a fight broke out among them. We left quickly to avoid further trouble.

We spent weekends with Sabbatharians in several towns. Their worship consists of a two-hour service Friday night and two services of two hours each on Saturday.

At one service we announced that Mr. Tkach was ill. The pastor called on everyone to pray. The congregation of 120 people knelt down and prayed—some out loud, a few even crying—that God would heal Mr. Tkach.

At first we were concerned about how the church's doctrinal changes would affect our relationship with them. Though there are differences in belief, they are all conservative in their observance of the Sabbath and

dietary regulations. Most, however, do not observe the annual festivals.

One evening Victor asked: "Which are you for—the Worldwide Church of God, or one of the factions?"

I replied, "I'm for Christ." It was exactly what Victor wanted to hear. He gave me a hug, and I felt relieved to have this question out in the open.

We differ from the Sabbatharians on many doctrines. They do not wear jewelry or make-up. Dancing and drinking alcohol are forbidden. They observe the Sabbath more strictly than most of us ever did. They do not drive, bathe or cook on the Sabbath. And they are well aware of our different beliefs on these issues. Yet they continue their relationship with us. Why?

To me, the most powerful answer to this question came on my last evening in Ukraine. Vasyl Mondich and Victor Pavliy came to our house to say good-bye.

When they left, Victor told me, "You have come back to Transcarpathia this summer, and now you have really become one of us."

"Yes," I replied. "You are my Ukrainian brothers."

"No," Victor said. "Not Ukrainian, not American, just brothers."

By Brenda Plonis

Leaving America for western

Ukraine, I didn't know what to expect. I knew my summer there would teach me countless lessons. What I didn't know was that in those seven weeks, the people I'd meet in Ukraine would become like family to me.

During our third week in Ukraine, four of us became ill from a stomach virus. As soon as our friends and students found this out, they overwhelmed us with offers of help.

The people we came to help often ended up helping us. Their concern was even more evident after Craig Shrum left in June to take up a teaching post in Japan. Many times visitors dropped by to be sure Kathi, Sarah, Sonia and I had what we needed.

Our last Sabbath was especially moving. At services the congregation sang hymns for us. The pastor called us to the front to pray for us. They asked me to say a few words, as I served as project director after Craig's departure.

I told them we could never forget their generosity and that they were like family to us. After services they repeatedly asked us to return next summer.

As we prepared to leave, many came to see us off. Alla, one of the Sabbatharians, hugged and kissed me, then she looked up to the sky and motioned that she would be praying for us. At that moment, we didn't need English, Russian or Ukrainian—we understood each other's hearts.



Dateline: Ambassador

AN UPDATE OF AMBASSADOR UNIVERSITY

Chapel services introduced

President **Russell Duke** spoke to students Aug. 19 in the opening chapel of the school year. Before Dr. Duke's message on grace, **Gerald Bieritz**, associate professor of music, sang "Amazing Grace."

Ross Jutsum, chair of the Music Department, introduced the Tuesday chapel format at chapel services Aug. 22. Dr. Jutsum emphasized the power of worship through music.

C.W. Davis, newly appointed AU chaplain, introduced himself at chapel services Aug. 29. As chaplain, Mr. Davis will serve as pastor to the students. After relating anecdotes from his youth, Mr. Davis spoke about the strength Jesus Christ lends to everyone who seeks a closer relationship with him.

The main message was preceded and followed by music and hymns sung to the accompaniment of a worship team made up of Dr. Jutsum, other musicians and singers.

Administrative, faculty appointments announced

Neil Matkin, chair of the

Computer Information Systems department, is now also director of Information Systems and Services (ISS). As the director of ISS, Mr. Matkin is responsible for all data systems and personnel.

In addition, new faculty include: **C.W. Davis**, university chaplain and instructor in theology; **James L. Newsom**, lecturer in history; **JoAnn Rogers**, assistant director of institutional research and instructor in speech communication; **Tommy L. Seymour**, lecturer in biological sciences; **Thomas S. Upton**, instructor in computer information systems; and **Wesley L. Weatherman**, lecturer in computer information systems.

Radio tower complete

Construction of the transmission tower for KBAU-FM, Ambassador's new public radio station, was completed in August, according to **Dennis Robertson**, chair of the Communication Department and general manager of the station.

After equipment testing is completed, the station is scheduled to sign on the air later this fall. KBAU, which will broadcast at 90.7 on the

FM dial, will broadcast news and public affairs, AU sports and a mix of light jazz, acoustic and classical music.

Chamber music groups to perform, teach at AU

Two professional chamber music ensembles—the Quantum Brass quintet, from Madison, Wisconsin, and Duo Renard from Bruehl, Germany—gave a free concert Aug. 26 at the Ambassador University field house auditorium. The program included Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Suite" as well as works by Fuchs, Hoffmeister and Mozart.

The two groups will live, teach and perform in East Texas for the next nine months as part of the Chamber Music Rural Residencies Program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to enhance musical life in rural communities.

Ambassador University, Jarvis Christian College and the Hawkins and Gladewater Independent School Districts, will serve as host organizations for the groups, working closely with the musicians to develop and implement

educational programs in the schools.

Live performances and community updates about the program and activities of the ensembles will be aired on Ambassador's new public radio station, KBAU.

AU officials interviewed by CNN, area media

A news team from the Dallas bureau of Cable News Network (CNN) was in Big Sandy Sept. 1 to gather video footage and interviews about

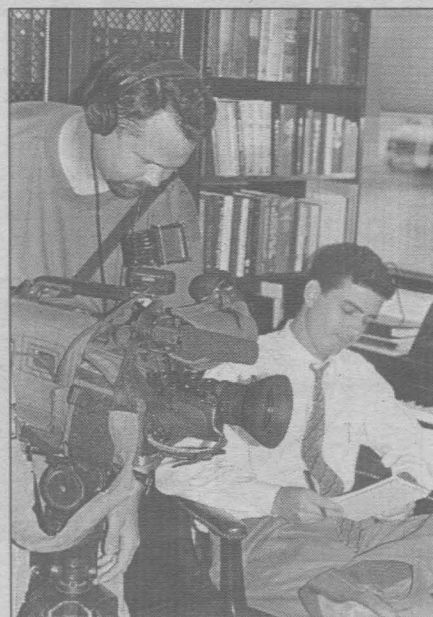
the involvement of Ambassador and other East Texas colleges and schools in the Rural Residencies Program.

Sarah Bilowus, KBAU promotion director, is a director of the Upshur County Arts Council, the funding agent for the residencies program. CNN interviewed Sarah about Ambassador's involvement in the program, which has brought two chamber music groups to East Texas to perform and teach. Also, television station KETK of Tyler did a story on the new radio station Aug. 30, interviewing **Dennis Robertson**, general manager, and students **Steve Redlinger** and **Deborah Browning**.

Portfolio offers subscriptions

AU's newspaper, *The Portfolio*, is offering subscriptions to anyone who would like to keep up with week-to-week happenings at the university. Those interested should send \$20 (checks only, please), and their name and address to Portfolio Subscriptions, Ambassador University, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755. Those with overseas addresses should add \$5.

Two-year subscriptions are \$35, and three-year subscriptions are \$50. Alumni who are members of the AU Alumni Association are eligible for discounts on subscriptions and may obtain additional information by calling 1-903-636-2023.



NEWS TEAM—Dallas CNN crew at AU. [Photo by Melissa Cherry]

Personal: Jesus' message about salvation

Continued from page 1

All who have spiritual need can come to Jesus Christ. All who have faith in him will, through the Holy Spirit, become sources of spiritual refreshment for others. The Holy Spirit will not only take care of the believers' spiritual thirst, the Spirit will also produce results in their lives like rivers of living waters pouring out to benefit others.

Jesus spoke these words at the climax of the Feast of Tabernacles. His theme was spiritual need, faith and spiritual filling. It was a message about salvation.

Important realities

Traditionally, we looked at the Feast as symbolizing something in the future. But important aspects of the future are already realities in the life of Christians. Let me give three examples:

1) Although the fullness of the kingdom is yet future, the kingdom exists even now for all who submit to the reign of the King. We have been brought into the kingdom (Colossians 1:13).

2) Although immortality is a future gift, we have already been given eternal life (John 3:36; 5:24).

3) Although we will be saved when Christ returns, we have already been saved now (Romans 8:24; Ephesians 2:8; 2 Timothy 2:9) and we are being saved (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15).

Jesus brought good news about the kingdom of God. He did not merely announce a future age of blessings—the Jews were already aware of the Old Testament prophecies. What Jesus announced was that people could enter that kingdom even in this age. They could begin to experience some of those supernatural blessings even now.

The best news about the kingdom is that it is "at hand." It is accessible, available. If we have spiritual thirst, we can come to Jesus Christ and drink. If we believe, not only will we receive living waters, we will be given so much that the waters will flow out from us. This was Jesus' message at the Feast of Tabernacles.

If we want to picture the kingdom of God, we need to start right now. We need to drink deeply of the living waters. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us so that all our actions and words are results of the new life in us.

Our festival celebrations should be models of Spirit-led Christianity—in attitudes of joy and thankfulness, of helpfulness and faith, of optimism and concern for others. The streams of living waters should be flowing from our hearts, replenished always by an ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

I'm definitely looking forward to our best Feast ever—a celebration in which we remember our spiritual need, in which we humbly acknowledge the abundant way in which our need is filled through faith in Christ and in which we let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts to produce streams of living waters. Let us rejoice and be glad, giving glory to our Lord and Savior!

Cancer now more prevalent

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, I must also let you know that recent medical tests have shown that my cancer is worse than we had previously known. A bone scan done with a radioactive isotope revealed some 50 spots on my bones. This is a different kind of cancer from the colon cancer and requires a different kind of treatment.

I am receiving chemotherapy for the colon cancer, but these spots on the bones will require radiation, and I will need to make a decision about the radiation in the next few days. This treatment can greatly reduce my pain, but it would also make me very weak. There is also the possibility that the radiation treatment can stop the cancer.

On the positive side, I have responded well to the chemotherapy for the colon cancer. The doctors tell me that my blood is in very good condition and that my liver is still cancer-free. But I want you to know the facts about my overall condition, and the news about the bones is indeed a setback.

Of course, we know that with God all things are possible. I belong to him, and if it is his will to heal me now, I praise his name. On the other hand, if it is his will to wait until the resurrection, I praise him for that, too. God has given me a rich and exciting life in his service, and whatever happens, I am at peace, knowing I am safe and secure in his hands.

God has blessed me to see the beginning of the golden age of the Worldwide Church of God. He has given me the overwhelming joy to witness his Holy Spirit at work in a miraculous way to lead us out of

entrenched doctrinal errors into the pure light of his glorious gospel!

At this time, I also believe it is prudent for the stability and continuity of the church that I officially appoint my son, Joseph Tkach Jr., as deputy pastor general, to become pastor general upon my death or inability to continue in my duties. I know that God would have me make appropriate provision for the future in this way. I ask you to give him the same prayerful support and encouragement you have always given me.

Thank you, brethren, for your dedication in times of great stress in the church. I know that Jesus Christ lives and works within you. He is the anchor for our souls, the Rock of our salvation, the source of stability we need.

Psalm 46 reassures us: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging...."

Good News Grapevine

Continued from page 4

tures on my agenda—it's needful for me to get my head knowledge in step with what my heart already knew—Truth. It is Jesus and him alone. Let's spread the Word!

Linda Dyer
Columbia, Missouri

Those I have spoken with are more excited now than we've been in years. It seems as if the church is coming back to life. There is more electricity, more of a desire to be with one another, more of a spirit that wants to be involved and share with others that which we've kept to ourselves.

Whether we understand everything is not the point. Jesus said to "prove them by their fruits" and we are seeing bumper crops in the faces, the smiles, the excitement of those who have remained open-minded and teachable.

Many have said that if they proved all these doctrines years ago, they cannot be disproved now—but that is not one of the principles we see in everyday life. The only constant is change. As we grow in knowledge and understanding about anything, we learn that those things that seemed so important at the beginning mean little or nothing later on.

I am a parent of six children and constantly hear the older ones say that the younger ones get away with things for which they would have been punished. Does that mean we loved the older ones more or less than the younger? No. What it means is that as parents we've

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress" (verses 1-7).

Again, thank you for your prayers for me, for our office employees and for your brethren around the world.

P.S. I held a meeting on Sept. 5 with Gregory Albrecht, Dean Blackwell, Michael Feazell, Ralph Helge, Herman Hoeh, Ronald Kelly, Joseph Locke, Richard Rice, Bernard Schnippert, K.J. Stavrinides, Joseph W. Tkach Jr. and Richard van Pelt and read the above letter to them.

I then laid hands on Joseph W. Tkach Jr. and asked God to set him apart for the office of deputy pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God and bless him in that office and the office of pastor general after my death.

come to understand that strict adherence to all the rules and regulations we put together as new parents, so we could have perfect children, weren't as important as showing love, spending time and sharing ideas with them.

Our local area has been hard hit and a majority of those who attended have left our fellowship. But, those who have remained are more committed, more helpful, more willing to serve, more loving than I have seen in 21 years.

I can only say that if this is going to be the fruit of change, keep the changes coming.

Mark Caggiano
Wheeling, West Virginia

Warm greetings from Cavite, Philippines! Thank you for the good job you have done in initiating the Good News Grapevine.

Because of my desire to keep the Sabbath, I had to give up my previous profession as a merchant marine officer. I also experienced many other hardships and sacrifices as a result. When our new understanding came that Sabbath keeping is not a requirement for salvation, I felt a great loss at first.

However, when I looked into the Scriptures, it confirmed our present understanding of the covenants that God has given us under the leadership of Mr. Tkach.

I rejoice that God has led us to a much deeper and fuller understanding of the truth. I pray that we all will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as God continues to lead us to more knowledge of his Son in the days ahead.

Jose S. Luzuriaga
Cavite, Philippines

High School Honors



Davida Gail Damron
Valedictorian
Atkins High School
Russellville, Arkansas, church



Jeffrey M. Dick
Valedictorian
Hammond High School
Hammond, Indiana, church



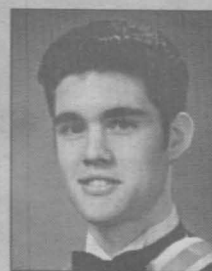
Jason Eric Evans
Salutatorian
Rossville High School
Lafayette, Indiana, church



Martha Rachel Johnson
Valedictorian
Concord High School
Batesville, Arkansas, church



Laura Kowalczyk
Salutatorian
Lackawanna High School
Buffalo, New York, South church



Ronald S. Kurnik
Salutatorian
Sudbury Secondary School
Sudbury, Ontario, church



Tammy Limanni
Salutatorian
Gifford High School
Concord, New Hampshire, church

Questions & Answers

FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Question: Millennial prophecies indicate that the Sabbath and annual festivals will be kept when Christ rules (e.g., Isaiah 66:23; Zechariah 14:16-19). Does this prove that the Sabbath and annual festivals must be kept by his people today?

Answer: The prophets described an ideal time in which all peoples worship God. To effectively convey this to old covenant peoples, the prophets described old covenant forms of worship, including new moon observances (Isaiah 66:23), sacrifices in the temple (Zechariah 14:20-21; Ezekiel 45:17) and physical circumcision (Ezekiel 44:9; Isaiah 52:1-2). But

neither physical circumcision nor animal sacrifices are religious requirements for Christians.

Will sacrifices be part of millennial worship? Opinions vary, but regardless, it is clear that millennial prophecies cannot be used to prove the validity of these forms of worship for those under the new covenant, who have accepted and believe in Jesus Christ. Millennial prophecies should be read for their purpose, but they should not be read as a source from which we can infer standards and requirements for Christians. Our doctrines must be based on scriptures that are applicable to this age, the age of the new covenant.

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

TANNER, Bernard and Megan (Ingham) of Sydney, Australia, girl, Abbey Raie, Feb. 25, first child.

WEIR, Bruce and Anita (Horner) of Brisbane, Australia, boy, Nathan Edward, June 1, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

WHITE, Michael and Tami (Vance) of Princeton, West Virginia, girl, Bethany Shayne, April 21, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

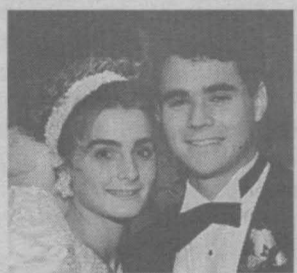
WIEBE, Mark and Susan (Buck) of Winnipeg, Manitoba, boy, Cody Mark, May 10, first child.

WILLIAMS, Adam L. and Dianna (Weizer) of Cleveland, Ohio, boy, Adam Jordan, July 25, first child.

Engagements

Julie Jacobs, daughter of Bill and Elaine Jacobs of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Michael Hellscher, son of Larry and Linda Hellscher of La Crescenta, California, are pleased to announce their engagement. A March wedding in Pasadena is planned.

Weddings



GREG & HEATHER VIGIL

John and Diana Cardie of Woodbury, New Jersey, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Heather Lee to Gregory James Vigil, son of Robert and Joan Vigil of Arvada, Colorado. Jill Crotti was maid of honor, and Chris Vigil was best man. The couple live in Arvada.



AUGUST & SERENE HUNICKE

August J. "Gus" Hunicke and Serene Angel Venable of Grants Pass, Oregon, were united in marriage May 20. The groom is son of Mike and Helen Hunicke, formerly of Alaska.



VINCENT JR. & VICTORIA BENSON

Victoria Diane Harnish of Federal Way, Washington, and Vincent Benson Jr. of Medford, Oregon, were united in marriage June 25. The ceremony was performed by Tom Tullis, pastor of the Olympia and Federal Way, Washington, churches. Diane Genson, daughter of the bride, was maid of honor, and Ken Graham was best man. The couple live in Medford.



SAMUEL & SHANNON LANTZ

Shannon Johnson, daughter of Roland and Paula Phillips of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Samuel Lantz, son of Jim and Alla Mae Lantz, also of Jonesboro, were united in marriage July 14. The ceremony was performed by Ed Kopec, Jonesboro pastor. The couple live in Jonesboro.



MARC & FELICITY DEAN

Felicity Lucretia Mansanarez, daughter of Boyd and Marie Mansanarez of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Marc Wayne Dean, son of Jackie and Jane Dean of Iuka, Mississippi, were united in marriage March 12 in Holly Springs,

Mississippi. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, pastor of the Tupelo church, Sandy Bradar was maid of honor, Diava Wilkins, sister of the groom, was matron of honor, and Kimberly Stewart was best person. Donnie Wilkins, brother-in-law of the groom, was groomsman. The couple live in Corinth, Mississippi.



LESZEK & RICCINNI BANHAM

Riccinni Mauree Abiera Beloso, daughter of Ismael and Sally Beloso of Kissimmee, Florida, and Leszek Banham, son of Roderick and Sofie Banham of Melbourne, Australia, were united in marriage May 13. The ceremony was performed by Stan Murphy, a local church elder in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Iris Beloso, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, Julie Dejarriette was matron of honor, and Justin Banham, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Kissimmee.



RAYMOND & JEANNETTE SWARTZLANDER

Jeannette Lynne Shelby, daughter of James and Donna Shelby of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Raymond Dale Swartzlander, son of Ray and Edith Swartzlander of Ravenden, Arkansas, were united in marriage March 25. The ceremony was performed by Bill Thompson, a minister in the Jonesboro church.



HARRI & JODI KOIVU

Jodi Michele Guterman, daughter of Henry and Joyce Guterman of Bloomfield, Connecticut, and Harri Antero Koivu, son of Timo and Ella Koivu of Pietarsaari, Finland, were united in marriage June 25. The ceremony was performed by Michael Anderson, a minister in the Hartford, Connecticut, church. Rebecca Lioi was matron of honor, and Peter Candela was best man. The couple live in Delaware.



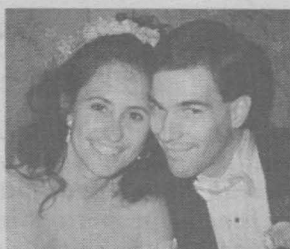
KELLY & CANDICE SMITH

Candice Guth, daughter of David and Dawn Guth of Eagan, Minnesota, and Kelly Smith, son of Robert and Goldie Smith of Borup, Minnesota, were united in marriage Aug. 6. The ceremony was performed by Charles Holladay, pastor of the Minneapolis South and Mankato, Minnesota, churches. Heather Guth was maid of honor, and John Smith was best man. The couple live in Big Lake, Minnesota.



JOHN & KRISTEN FARRINGTON

Kristen Simmons, daughter of Pat and Doug Simmons of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and John Farrington, son of Francis Farrington of Long Beach, Island, New Jersey, were united in marriage April 2 in Surf City, New Jersey. The ceremony was performed by Ben Johnson, pastor of the Altoona, Pennsylvania, church. Shannon Lefkosi, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Fran Farrington was best man. The couple live in Manahawkin, New Jersey.



KEITH & TANIA RICHLEY

Tania Jonker, daughter of Brian and Tersia Jonker of Cape Town, South Africa, and Keith Richley, son of William and Jeannette Richley, of Kankakee, Illinois, were united in marriage July 1. The ceremony was performed by Stan Murphy, a local church elder in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Elizabeth Neumann was maid of honor, and Gary Armfield was best man. The couple live in Madison, Wisconsin.



JAMES & MARJORIE FRIDDLE

James and Marjorie Friddle celebrated their 40th anniversary July 24. This is also their 40th year serving in the ministry. They have four children, Becky Hackman, Stephen, Nathan and Philip; a daughter-in-law, Sharron; and six grandchildren.



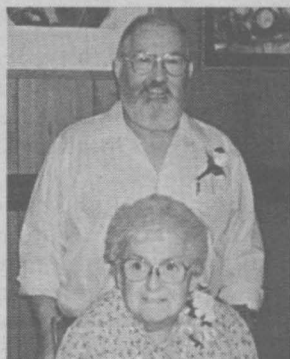
JIM & HAZEL ROBERTS

Jim and Hazel Roberts of Dayton, Ohio, celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 2. They have one daughter, Rose. Mr. Roberts is associate pastor of the Dayton, Tipp City and Chillicothe, Ohio, churches.



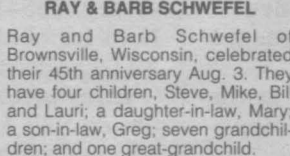
AL & SUE PAINE

Al and Sue Paine of Bangor, Maine, celebrated their 40th anniversary June 18. They have four children, Catherine Walters, Charles, John and Susan Wright, and four grandchildren. Al and Sue serve as deacon and deaconess in the Bangor church.



EDWARD & SHIRLEY COLLINS

Edward and Shirley Collins of Bulger, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 35th anniversary July 16. They have three children, Roy, Lori and Loretta; and one son-in-law, Nathan Zirkle.



RAY & BARB SCHWEFEL

Ray and Barb Schwefel of Brownsville, Wisconsin, celebrated their 45th anniversary Aug. 3. They have four children, Steve, Mike, Bill and Lauri; a daughter-in-law, Mary; a son-in-law, Greg; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

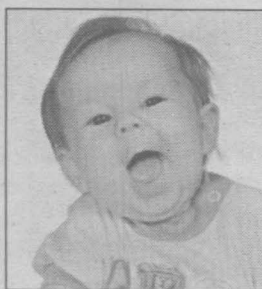


NORMAN & MARILYN WALKER

Norman and Marilyn Walker of Holland, Michigan, celebrated their 40th anniversary Aug. 18. They have four children, Peggy Day, Rick, Dorothy Grotenhuis and Mary Campbell; and 11 grandchildren.

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 William Nicholas Campbell, son of Brad and Patricia Campbell of Huntsville, Alabama.

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

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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

9-95



BRIAN & CONNIE FINNIGAN

Brian and Connie Finnigan of Blackfoot, Idaho, celebrated their 35th anniversary Sept. 1. They have five children, Laurie, Kevin, Sean, Brenda and Brian; four children-in-law, Ed, Dru, Julie and Joe; and six grandchildren, Brianna, Justine, Heather, Troy, Katie and Mickenzie.



ERNIE & DONNA KLASSEK

Ernie and Donna Klassek of Perth, Australia, celebrated their 36th anniversary Nov. 4. They have two sons, three daughters, one son-in-law, two daughters-in-law and 10 grandchildren.



EDWARD & SHIRLEY COLLINS

Edward and Shirley Collins of Bulger, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 35th anniversary July 16. They have three children, Roy, Lori and Loretta; and one son-in-law, Nathan Zirkle.

Anniversaries Made of Gold



BILL & DORIS FECHTER

William and Doris Fechter of Center Moriches, New York, celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 12. They have four sons and 16 grandchildren.

Obituaries

KIENTOFF, Robert Julius, 103, of Mankato, Minnesota, died Aug. 21. He is survived by four cousins. He was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

HILL, Mary Christine, 96, of Pasadena, died June 14. She is survived by three sons, Donald, Glenn and Douglas; a daughter-in-law, nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



RUTH NEHK

NEHK, Ruth, 89, of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, died Aug. 6. She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, William and Donna; seven grandchildren, Kirby; Jerry and his wife, Ann; Kevin and his wife, Sandra; Donald and his wife, Gloria; Michael; Joseph; and Sheryl and her husband, Lynn Hebert; 15 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



IRJA RUFFNER

RUFFNER, Irja Helena Forsman, 76, of Brighton, Pennsylvania, died Feb. 23. She is survived by her husband, George; three daughters and sons-in-law, Irja and Frank Coles, Kaarina and Anthony Bedich, and Theres and Matthew Nichols; two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Bernice, and Joseph and Juanita; 17 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a brother, Allen Forsman; and three sisters, Hilda Schrunck, Edith Burgess and Gertrude Palmer. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Donald and Paul Forsman; and an infant daughter.

FIELDS, Eula C., 75, of Johnson City, Tennessee, died June 13. She is survived by five sons, James, Walter, Paul, Joe and Carl; two daughters, Ruth Mabe and Mary Horchata; a stepson, Roosevelt; a stepdaughter, Beulah Sword; two brothers, Paul and Arthur Chapman; a sister, Mattie Lee Mitchell; 26 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

ELLETT, O. Briscoe, 74, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, died Aug. 21. He is survived by his wife, Vernelle; three sons, Briscoe II, Patrick and Michael; a daughter, Donna; two grandsons, Briscoe III and Eric; and a stepgrandson, Kurt.

SMITH, Edmund C., 66, of Big Sandy, died Aug. 11. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; a son, James; a daughter, Susan Clopton; his mother, Lucille Collins; a sister, Sandy Cowan; and four grandchildren.

RANGE, Park, 82, of Gray, Tennessee, died Aug. 27. He is survived by his wife, Lois; four sons, Darrell, Hal, Park Jr. and Gary; a daughter, Karen Stirling; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Births

BLEVINS, Denzil and Angela (Rawlings) of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, boy, Wesley David, Aug. 14, now 2 boys.

CHANDLER, Johnny and Bridget (Davis) of Jackson, Tennessee, girl, Jessica Beth, May 20, first child.

DAVIS, Douglas and Rebecca (Dayhoff) of Chicago, Illinois, girl, Sarah Elizabeth, July 30, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

FAKHOURY, Gary and Barbara (Simeroth) of Boston, Massachusetts, boy, Kyle Louis, Aug. 14, now 2 boys, 1 girl (deceased).

GERMANO, Vernon and Danielle (Brooks) of Bowling Green, Kentucky, boy, Devon Michael, Aug. 5, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

GONTHIER, Aaron and Angelea (Meahl) of Windsor, Vermont, boy, Aaron Louis Jr., June 8, first child.

HAMMER, Mike and Shelley (Cross) of Longview, Texas, boy, Ryan Michael, Aug. 19, first child.

HOFER, Richard and Edna (Hofer) of Winnipeg, Manitoba, girl, Chelsea Brienne, July 25, now 3 girls.

KING, Grant and Louise (Slattery) of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, boy, Samuel David, Aug. 27, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

KREUSCHER, Larry and Stacey (Rendall) of Kenosha, Wisconsin, boy, Daniel James, Aug. 27, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

LAIL, Rodd and Rinda (Coffman) of Newton, North Carolina, girl, Merinda Danielle, Feb. 14, first child.

LOCKLING, Mark and Carmen (Farmer) of El Dorado, Arkansas, boy, John-Mark Norman, July 24, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

McCARTNEY, Samuel and Michelle (Teel) of Fredericksburg, Virginia, girl, Megan Leslie, July 27, first child.

ROGERS, Matt and Debra (Johnson) of Fort Collins, Colorado, girl, Megan Kelsey, Aug. 22, first child.

ROWELL, Todd and Lois (Hirschler) of Big Sandy, boy, Colton Buick, Aug. 23, first child.

SCHILLER, Daniel and Laura (Anderson) of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, girl, Kaila Anne-Elizabeth, May 3, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Canadian conference; South American Trip

The final round of Canadian ministerial conferences took place in Ottawa Aug. 25 to 30. Local church elders from eastern Canada met the weekend of Aug. 25 to 27.

That portion of the conference was opened by regional director **Frank Brown**. During the weekend, presentations were given by **George Patrickson** of the Canadian Office and **Randal Dick**, assistant director of Church Administration International.

The conference for full-time ministers from eastern Canada began Aug. 28. In addition to the presenters mentioned above, Deputy Pastor General **Joseph Tkach Jr.** and **Michael Fezell**, executive assistant to Pastor General **Joseph W. Tkach**, made presentations and were hosts for a question and answer session for the ministry.

"We found the atmosphere to be overwhelmingly positive, in fact we went away inspired by the commitment we found," Mr. Dick commented.

From Ottawa, Mr. Dick and his wife, **Susan**, went on to southern South America, for meetings with the ministry there. Present at the meetings, conducted in Buenos Aires, Argentina, were **Al and Faith Sousa**, Buenos Aires; **Mike and Adriana Medina**, from Montevideo, Uruguay; **Carlos and Telma Espinosa**, from Buenos Aires, and **Louis and Lusby Chavez**, of Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

During these discussions, one area of focus was Brazil. For years small groups of members have met occasionally and listened to tapes.

"We talked at length with several longtime members of the church in Brazil," Mr. Dick said, "to receive insights about how to reach the Brazilian people. Plans are under way to begin evangelistic activities in Brazil in the near future. Your prayers for wisdom and insight would be appreciated."

Outstanding graduates

SAN JOSE, California—**Jesse Alvarez** received the Outstanding Graduating Senior Award at San Jose State University in May. He majored in mechanical engineering and plans to continue his studies at Stanford University.

CHICAGO, Illinois—**La Tanya Parker** and **Charles Lewis Rygula II** of the Chicago North church, received their bachelor of science degrees in electronic engineering June 16.

LaTanya graduated from Northwestern University and has accepted a position as an engineer at Underwriter's Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois.

Charles graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology as summa cum laude and plans to continue his education at DePaul University for a master's degree.

Brethren OK after quake hits Mexico City

MEXICO CITY—No members here were injured or suffered damage to their properties in the 7.3 earthquake that struck the city Sept. 14. *Salvador Barragan*.

Flautist wins award

Sarah Low, 11, won first prize in a school arts festival in July. Her rendering on the flute of the classical English composition "Greensleeves" was judged to be "the most



Sarah Low

outstanding performance," a performance for which she also earned first prize in her age group. Sarah attends the Cambridge, England, congregation with her parents.

Singles dinner and dance in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Georgia—Singles in the Atlanta Northwest church are sponsoring a dance Nov. 18 at the Doubletree Hotel at Concourse in North Atlanta.

The dance will start at 7 p.m. Attire will be formal or semiformal. Disc jockey **Dwight Allen** will play a mix of pop, country, Latin and Rhythm and Blues. Admission is \$30, which

includes dance and dinner.

The Sabbath service Nov. 18 begins at 2:30 p.m. in Nash Middle School in Smyrna.

Shuttle service from the airport to the Doubletree is available from several vendors, including the Airport Connection, 1-404-457-5757. Discounted rooms are available at the Doubletree for \$79 (single or double), or \$89 (triple or quadruple), not including taxes.

At your request we will

mail you a discount card so you can make your own room reservations.

Make checks or money orders payable to Atlanta NW Church Activity Fund and mail with a return address to **Michael Roman**, 1292 Ridge Crest Lane, Smyrna, Georgia, 30080. The postmarked deadline is Nov. 11. If you have any questions please call **Michael Roman** at 1-770-438-0549; or **Mark Tabladillo** at 1-770-951-2910.

Israeli archaeologist dies

Benjamin Mazar, 89, professor and former president and rector of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died Sept. 9. Professor Mazar was a prolific writer and respected Israeli archaeologist.

According to Michael Germano, dean of Academic Affairs at Ambassador University, extensive excavations under the direction of Professor Mazar were carried out from 1969 through 1975 in Jerusalem.

The excavations were completed by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society together with Ambassador University. Professor Mazar was assisted by scores of students and faculty from Ambassador University.

The excavation revealed the ritual purification baths, or *mikvaot*, at the base of the south wall of the Temple Mount adjacent to the remnants of the staircase of the teachers. These *mikvaot* permitted visitors to the Temple Mount to ritually purify themselves before ascending to the Temple precincts. According to Dr. Germano,

these *mikvaot* likely served as the location for the 3,000 baptisms on the day of Pentecost as reported by Luke in Acts 2:41.

With the completion of the excavation at the south Temple Mount, Ambassador Uni-



Benjamin Mazar

versity continued its program in Israel with the excavation of the ancient remains on the hill of the City of David in Jerusalem.

Ambassador University currently collaborates with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Complutense University of Madrid in excavating the ancient biblical city of Hazor in northern Galilee.

"Professor Mazar was instrumental in AU's involvement and will be missed," said Dr. Germano.

Ambassador University applications available

Application packets for admission to Ambassador University for the spring and fall of 1996 are now available. Applicants are encouraged to request their application packets and submit applications early.

The priority date for submitting applications for the spring 1996 semester is Nov. 1, and for the fall 1996 semester it is March 1, 1996. Applications received by the Admissions Office in Big Sandy by those dates are given priority.

U.S. applicants may obtain application packets by writing to the Admissions Office, Ambassador University, Box 111, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755, by calling 1-903-636-2190 or by using the following electronic mail address, admissions@ambassador.edu. Applicants should not use the church's toll free number.

International applicants (except from Canada and the Netherlands) may contact their regional offices with application requests. The requests will be forwarded by electronic mail to the Admissions Office.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) I test dates: The College Board ATP has released test dates for U.S. and international administration of the SAT I. (SAT I scores are required of prospective students with less than 30 semester hours of college-level course work.)

The following dates are Saturday tests. All Sunday SATs are administered the day after these dates: Oct. 14—(Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Mary-

land, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia), Nov. 4, Dec. 2 and Jan. 27. Other test dates (but considered too late for fall 1996 admission) are scheduled for March 23, May 4 and June 1.

High school juniors and international applicants planning to apply to Ambassador University for the fall 1997 semester may take the SAT I in the spring of 1996.

Registration information and forms for the above test dates are available from high school counselor offices or by writing the College Board ATP, Box 6200, Princeton, New Jersey, 08541-6200; or by calling 1-609-771-7600. Instructions for obtaining a Sunday administration are given in the SAT I registration brochure.

International applicants (except from Canada) may obtain SAT I registration information and forms from their regional offices.

The Ambassador University Admissions Committee strongly recommends that Ambassador applicants take the SAT I at the earliest possible date. The College Board requires six weeks to process SAT I registration for U.S. applicants and longer for international students.

We know many of you are thinking of furthering your education. We hope that you will consider Ambassador University in your plans, and we look forward to receiving an application from you.

Nina Y. Rogers
Registrar, Director of
Admissions

Jnay B. Marlett
Associate Director of Admissions
and Financial Aid

Albert Bruhn
Assistant Director of Admissions
and Financial Aid

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