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Christ's apostle 'deeply inspired' by trip to Jordan, Egypt, Israel

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA — Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach launched his first trip to the Middle East in Jordan, in the heart of the Mideast, Feb. 3.

Atop Mt. Nebo, Mr. Tkach and his traveling party saw "the same view Moses had as he gazed across the promised land, a remarkable panoramic view" of the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea to the Judean Hills, according to Richard Frankel, travel coordinator for the trip.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is known as an archaeologists' paradise, abounding in Byzantine mosaics, Crusader castles, Roman theaters, Umayyad palaces and the rose-red city of Petra.

The 17-day trip began Feb. 1, when Mr. Tkach and his group boarded the Church's Gulfstream III jet in Burbank, Calif., for the Luton, England, airport.

Accompanying the pastor general were Joseph Locke, Ambassador Foundation vice president for international projects; Michael Fezell, personal assistant to the pastor general; Joseph Tkach Jr., assistant director of Church Administration; Mr. Frankel, pastor of the Washington, D.C., and Front Royal, Va., churches and coordinator of the Feast of Tabernacles site in Amman, Jordan; Dean May, director of the Fleet & Transportation Department; Ellen Escat, the pastor general's administrative assistant; Julie Stocker, an executive secretary; and Mr. Tkach's G-III crew: Captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich and steward Jay Brothers.

Members of the Church's television crew (John Halford, on-location director, cameraman Gary Werings and engineer Steve Bergstrom) flew by commercial jet to London, where they rendezvoused with the group.

Feb. 3 the group left for Sahab, Jordan's, Marka international airport, where Mr. Tkach and his party

were greeted by Richard Weber, director of Ambassador Foundation's Sheltered Workshop project in Jordan; Mr. Weber's wife, Patricia; Cliff Parks, director of Ambassador College volunteers at centers for the physically and mentally handicapped and the Jordan Sports Federation; his wife, Cheryl; Nihad Safieh, owner and manager of Blue Bell Tours; Ghusoon Karah, principal of the Bunyat Center for Special Education; and Mrs. Kadijeh, secretary to Princess Sarvath.

Feb. 4 Mr. Tkach was driven in government vehicles to the Al Hussein Center for the Physically Handicapped for a tour conducted by Princess Majda, sponsor of the center.

"I was certainly impressed with the fine job our students are doing there," Mr. Tkach wrote in the Feb. 10 Pastor General's Report. "Our AC students are living examples here of God's way of life... ambassadors showing top levels of government what that way of life is all about."

After the tour Princess Majda was host to a tea for Mr. Tkach and his party. Said Mr. Frankel, "The princess was effusive in her praise of Ambassador College students."

At the Bunyat Center, operated by the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA), the group was met by Mrs. Kadijeh, Bunyat principal Karah and members of the YWMA board, who escorted

them through the facility.

Mr. Frankel said the group then visited the Sheltered Workshop, which is supervised by Mr. Weber. (Mr. Weber and his family are scheduled to return to the United States this summer.)

"The workshop is a project for children who graduate from the Bunyat Center," Mr. Frankel explained. "They learn a trade there so they can become gainfully employed in producing and selling furniture and electrical items."

At the Al Hussein Center, Ambassador students teach English, hydrotherapy and occupational and physical therapy. At the Bunyat Center, children learn art, music, physical education, woodworking and window washing.

Later that afternoon Mr. Tkach and his group toured sites in Amman, including the strategic Citadel, "which was an important fortress in early times that protected the city of Amman," said Mr. Frankel.

After a visit through the Amman Archaeological Museum, the group went to the Roman Amphitheater, built on a hillside and seating 5,000 spectators.

An early departure the next morning, Feb. 5, took Mr. Tkach, the group and 11 Ambassador students by bus to Petra, about 160 miles (256 kilometers) south.

Mr. Frankel said the group traveled on the Desert Highway, which



AUDIENCE WITH KING — Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach meets King Hussein of Jordan Feb. 7. Mr. Tkach said the king is "a very kind and gracious individual" and well pleased with Ambassador students and the Ambassador Foundation projects. [Photo by John Halford]

runs from Amman to Aqaba, through the ancient lands of Ammon, Moab and Edom.

Once there they walked through the Siq, a narrow, 1/4-mile passageway cut through a canyon more than 200 feet deep and once the only entrance to the ancient Nabataean city.

The group saw the limestone cliffs veined with red and purple iron oxide. For this reason Petra is called the rose-red city. Lost to the Western world for centuries, Petra was rediscovered in 1812 by the Swiss traveler John Burckhardt.

"Petra was certainly an impressive sight, with its many monuments carved in the colorful rock

walls," Mr. Tkach wrote. "We saw ruins of Roman-built paved streets, baths and fountains, as well as hundreds of the estimated 10,000 caves once used as dwellings."

Mr. Tkach, his party and the students took a footpath to the top of the monastery (or Deir), which was carved into the rock in the third century A.D.

That evening the group stayed at the Forum Hotel in Petra and shared dinner with the students, Mr. Frankel said. The next day, Feb. 6, they left for Amman up the King's Highway.

After crossing the Wadi Mujib, a gorge more than two miles wide and dropping about 3,600 feet, the group visited Dhiban, the ancient capital of Moab.

On the Sabbath, Feb. 7, as Mr. Tkach prepared for services in his hotel room, he received a call from the palace.

"It was Prince Ra'ad calling on behalf of King Hussein, inviting me to come to the palace and meet the king," Mr. Tkach told Pasadena brethren by telephone Feb. 7. "I was also informed that I could bring two other guests and also the TV crew."

Mr. Halford said: "Personally I was very impressed with how Mr. Tkach reacted — as if he had been meeting kings all his life. I mean that. And the visit went very, very well."

Mr. Tkach, Mr. Locke, Mr. Fezell and the television crew were greeted by the king, Prince Ra'ad and Adnan Abu Odeh, former Jordanian minister of information, who serves as a principal royal aide to King Hussein.

"We were very warmly greeted," Mr. Tkach said. "He is a very kind and gracious individual. I complimented him on his leadership and that his country was blessed as a result of it."

"For the next 10 or 15 minutes we discussed the Kingdom of Jordan, our students and the projects and the way that leads to peace," the pastor general continued. "The king was most appreciative of our help with the projects and well pleased with the progress the centers have made and the success they have achieved."

"We discussed how much could be accomplished if nations followed the way of give rather than the way of destruction and competition."

Mr. Tkach added: "We discussed with King Hussein the possibility of (See TRIP, page 3)

PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Tkach

Dear brethren,

Having returned from a wonderfully profitable visit with our Ambassador College students in Amman, Jordan, I am happy to report that they are doing a superb job!

Eleven Ambassador students serve as teachers and teaching assistants at the Bunyat Center for Special Education, the Al Hussein Center for the Physically Handicapped, the Jordan Sports Federation and the YWMA (Young Women's Muslim Association) Sheltered Workshop for the Handicapped.

At the Al Hussein school, our tour was led by the school's director, Princess Majda, wife of Prince Ra'ad, chief chamberlain of the royal court.

Our students have shown themselves to be living examples there of God's way of life. They are able to gain valuable experience as a part of their overall education, but more than that, they shine as lights exemplifying God's way of give.

In my various meetings with Jordanian officials, I heard comments more than once pointing

out appreciation that the Church of God actually *lives* what other religions only *talk about*.

One official told us, "When people here get to know your students, they ask, 'Can these be Americans?'" He went on to express his feeling that the Church of God is the embodiment of what the American founding fathers had in mind for a new and

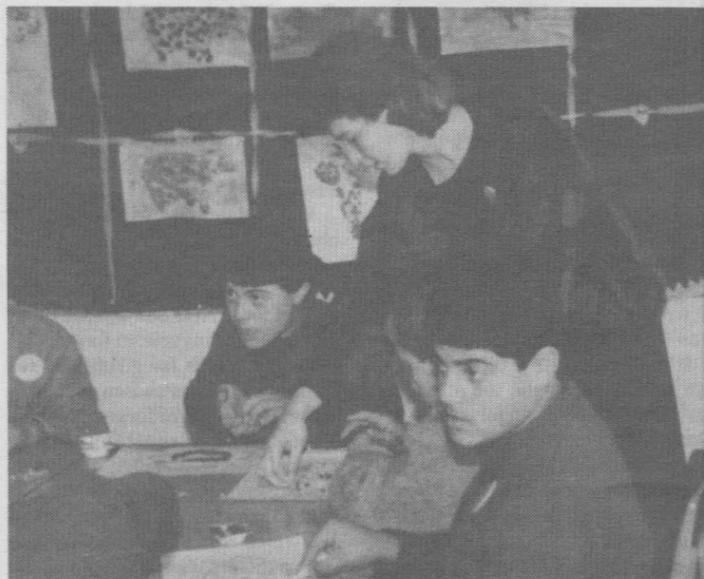
free nation under God.

The living *example* of each of God's people as they reflect the mind and life of Jesus Christ is a powerful testimony to His Gospel message.

I hope we can continue to make these opportunities available to the students. The most precious commodity we can offer is the way of life God has revealed and called us to follow.

Our students in Jordan have been true ambassadors showing top levels of government what that way of life is all about. Perhaps by next year I will be able

(See PERSONAL, page 8)

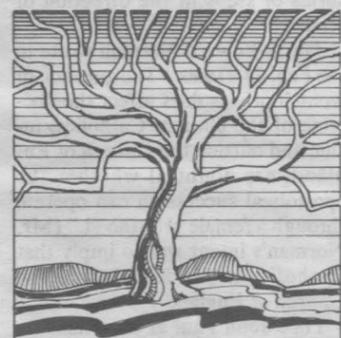


JORDAN SCHOOL — Virnell Campbell, a Pasadena Ambassador College senior from Evansville, Ind., helps youths with art projects at the Bunyat Center for Special Education near Amman, Jordan. Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach visited the center Feb. 4. [Photo by Michael Fezell]

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Gorbachev's reforms: enormous overtones

PASADENA — "I think we're on the eve of something very significant, perhaps even momentous, happening in the Soviet Union," declared Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser to former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in an appearance on U.S. network television.

Not since Nikita S. Khrushchev's reforms in the late '50s and early '60s have so many changes been proposed. From new economic initiatives (such as family run private businesses and joint ventures with Western companies) to pardoning political dissidents, reform winds are blowing from Moscow.

The man behind the new openness, or *glasnost*, is the relatively young (at 56) general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev. In perhaps the most dramatic reform proposal to date, the dynamic Soviet leader has even suggested that the names of more than one Communist Party official appear on the ballot in regional elections.

No longer can these changes be dismissed as simple propaganda. Behind Mr. Gorbachev's activism is his realization that the Soviet Union faces almost insurmountable problems.

For one, the Soviet economy is seriously troubled. Since entering the '80s, economic growth not only slowed but many analysts believe it ceased to grow in real terms. Soviet citizens already have one of the lowest living standards among industrial nations.

Secondly, Soviet agriculture still can't produce enough food to feed its people. Before the communist revolution of nearly 70 years ago, czarist Russia was a net exporter of food. Since then, the Soviet Union has had, as cynics

say, 70 years of bad weather.

Thirdly, declining oil production is of special concern because the petroleum industry is one of the few hard currency earners for the government.

The dilemma facing Mr. Gorbachev is how to remedy this deplorable state of affairs without compromising basic communist principles. In other words, reform, but not another revolution.

Diplomatic offensive

Mr. Gorbachev is equally active on the diplomatic front. His dynamism stands in rather stark contrast to the troubles experienced by President Ronald Reagan in the ongoing Iranian arms sales controversy.

"The European perception of President Reagan," wrote Hella Pick in the Feb. 12 *Guardian* of Britain, is one of a "lame duck displaying neither the interest nor the ability to provide perceptive leadership to the Alliance. This generates even more unease at the time when Mr. Gorbachev appears intent on radical changes abroad as well as at home."

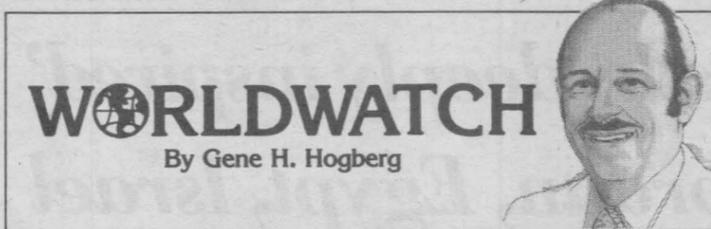
Two examples stand out. Feb. 20 Mr. Gorbachev invited the 12 European Communities foreign ministers to join Moscow in setting a new approach to the Middle East. The maneuver was skillfully crafted, intended to exploit U.S. and European differences in the region. The flattered ministers responded favorably.

Then, on the last day of February, Mr. Gorbachev called for the elimination, over five years, of medium-range missiles in Europe.

Under his plan the Soviets would pull out their 271 triple-warhead SS-20 missiles from the European part of the Soviet Union, leaving

only 100 missiles in Soviet Asia. In return the United States would eliminate the 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles, which are in the process of being placed in five NATO

eventually pull Soviet forces out from Eastern Europe in exchange for the removal of all U.S. military personnel from Western Europe? Such a proposal would pale the cur-



countries, keeping 100 missiles on U.S. soil, perhaps Alaska.

In dropping his demand to link the withdrawals to limitations on Mr. Reagan's planned space-based defense system, the Soviet leader has skillfully put the ball squarely in the U.S. court. Mr. Gorbachev knows that Mr. Reagan might be tempted to agree to an arms-reduction breakthrough to put Irangate behind him.

Ideas on Eastern Europe

Mr. Gorbachev's reasoning goes beyond diplomatic one-upmanship, however. He is appealing to the instincts of many people in Western Europe. He continues to stress the Europeanness of the Soviet Union. Of his latest proposals, for example, Mr. Gorbachev said there exists "a real opportunity to free our common European home from a considerable portion of the nuclear burden."

There is good reason to believe the United States will eventually accept the Gorbachev plan, providing a method to verify missile withdrawals proves acceptable. Then what?

What if the Soviets come up with yet another offer — to reduce and

If the offender is not aware that he offended you, humbly tell him his error. Read Matthew 18. Pray for a right attitude and approach.

Focus on your own problems. The servant in Matthew 18 forgot the great debt forgiven him. He focused on someone else's shortcomings. We tend to forget God's mercy.

If we repent of sins daily and remember we need God's mercy, we'll be happier to share it with others. Ecclesiastes 7:20-22 says to beware of focusing on the sins of others, while forgetting our own.

Revenge has no place in our lives. Vengeance belongs to our merciful, just, all-knowing God (Romans 12:19), who chastens for our good. Personal revenge brings misunderstanding and maybe hatred. You will be a bitter, lonely person if you can't forgive and forget. Verses 20 and 21 tell us how to respond.

When it is difficult to forgive, Matthew 5:44 will help. Pray that God will forgive the sin the person committed, and that He will bless him or her in all aspects of life. This produces a forgiving attitude, and you begin to look for God's intervention in the person's life. You become a partner with God in forgiveness.

We remember sins because we choose to. Ask God for help in wiping clean your memory. God says in I Peter 4:8 that love covers a multitude of sins. And our actions must prove our willingness to forget.

Forgiveness is for giving and receiving. Christ has chosen us to participate in a work of forgiveness and of reconciliation (see II Corinthians 5:19). Christ tells us, "And when ye stand praying forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25). See also Colossians 3:13-14.

Each week we have opportunities to forgive and be forgiven. Look for them and exercise God's attitude the next time someone offends you.

tual end of both the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization," wrote Peter Bridges in the Jan. 18 *Los Angeles Times*. "It means ensuring for both West and East that a Germany bigger and stronger than anything else in the heart of Europe would not again turn aggressive . . .

"These are bigger thoughts than have been thought in Washington for some decades . . . Yet we had better start thinking big about Eastern Europe, because Gorbachev may well do so after he has his Central Committee fully with him — and, given the man's apparent vigor and ability, that may not be far off . . . Could we ever conceive of pulling all our forces out of Europe, as part of the price for something new?"

That "something new" — a united Europe, proclaiming its own nuclear-armed neutrality, developing close economic and political links with the Soviet Union, will certainly not be to America's liking.

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



Ordination of women: threat to Anglican unity

BOREHAMWOOD, England — To ordain women or not to ordain women.

That is the question facing the Church of England. Battle lines are drawn. Most bishops favor ordination. A highly vocal minority is dead set against it.

Doctrinal disputes

The national church has been marred by publicly aired doctrinal disputes. First the deity of Christ was questioned. Then the nature of the resurrection. Finally the validity of the virgin birth. Morale was sapped. Confidence was lost.

Richard Critchfield summed up the church's plight in the Feb. 21 *Economist*: "Mrs. [Margaret] Thatcher calls for a return to Victorian values. Many of the churches that once preached them stand empty, even derelict. Official Christian church membership fell in 1986 below 7 million, down by 1.5 million since 1970. In 1980-85, the number of ministers dropped by nearly 1,500 and over 750 churches closed their doors, or became old folks' homes, restaurants, or in a few cases, mosques."

Some bishops threaten to leave the church if women are ordained. A few consider Rome an alternative.

Reported the Feb. 13 *Daily Telegraph*, "Dr. Graham Leonard, the Bishop of London, claimed yesterday that other bishops would join him in approaches to the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches in the event of the Church of England voting for the ordination of women."

The archbishop of Canterbury is deeply concerned with threats to the unity of the Anglican church. His biggest fear is that the issue of ordaining women priests would divide the church. But pressure from liberal bishops is enormous. There is no question of their determination to press on to total victory — no matter the casualties. Certainly the numbers are there — three to one in favor of ordination.

Downward drift

Whatever the end result, further loss of morale and membership is inevitable. While the ministry is preoccupied with doctrinal dis-

putes, the nation continues its moral downward drift. An ever-widening spiritual vacuum is being created.

As Peregrine Worsthorne wrote in the Feb. 22 *Sunday Telegraph*: "Seldom has this country ever been so direly in need of spiritual guidance and inspiration. Yet just at this very moment the church seems determined to opt for experiment and innovation, regardless of all the strain that this will place on the loyalty of many of the most faithful, to the point if the worst comes to the worst, of driving them out of the fold altogether."

Absence of the Bible

Perhaps the biggest tragedy is the conspicuous absence of the Bible. Rarely does anyone ask, "What does the Bible say about ordaining women priests?"

That is not the issue. Even those who are staunchly against women's ordination fall short on this crucial point. Their main defense is tradition. They say the Anglican Church has not ordained women in the past. Why should they do so now?

This is the main concern of many — not the violation of biblical doctrine. The ordination of women is one more in a long line of steps away from the Bible.

Paul is plain on the ordination of women. Women have a great role to play in the Church, but it is not from behind the pulpit.

Perhaps it's the last chance for the Anglican Church to maintain its integrity and for the defenders of tradition the beginning of a decisive series of steps in the direction of Rome.

For as Edward Norman wrote in the Feb. 24 *Times*: "The question of women priests does affect the doctrine of the church. Catholics, inside and outside the Church of England, are doubtful whether the apostolical succession can operate through a female priesthood." (Mr. Norman's intent was to imply that Catholics are indeed inside the Church of England.)

Pope John Paul II entertains no doubts. In his mind the papacy and women priests are incompatible. Those who resist the Anglican inclination to ordain females may find themselves inexorably moving toward Rome.



Forgiveness is for giving

How do you react to others' sins? Unless you, and I, are close to God and aware of our own shortcomings, we react according to emotions and human reasoning. For example:

If a brother sins against us, we can judge him a sinner (even doubt his conversion) and not forgive.

We can ignore the sin (we don't want to make waves, after all), or make a mental note of the sin and link it to his name forever. We think we've forgiven him, but we have not forgotten the sin.

Since people will offend us, we need to learn how to handle offenses God's way.

God never compromises His laws. But, God does forgive sin. He can because of Christ's sacrifice. Once we recognize our error, repent and resolve not to repeat the sin, He forgives us. The event is forgotten, except for the lesson learned.

God forgives our sins and removes them completely from us (Psalm 103:3).

Joel 2:13 says God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." Psalm 86:5 says He's ready to forgive. This should be our attitude toward others.

Further, sin is against God (Psalm 51:4). It's the breaking of His law. When we hold a sin against someone, we usurp God's authority. We set ourselves up in place of God's perfect judgment and mercy.

Forgiveness falters in the presence of pride. How often have we felt that a wrong was too great to be

forgiven? Oh, we would forgive, but first the offender would need to learn a lesson. Or we may have felt too hurt to consider forgiveness. Even this hurt feeling, though natural, is pride if it keeps us from forgiving.

Christ suffered far more injustice than we ever will. He did not worry about His own feelings. He was deeply hurt by His enemies and His friends alike. But He never let pride affect Him. He didn't feel self-pity. He even said that blasphemy against His name could be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-32).

Christ didn't even judge His murderers.

God enjoys forgiving. We should too. Forgiveness helps create a bond of God-plane love.

How much does God want us to forgive others? We won't be a part of His family if we don't learn to forgive! Matthew 6:12-15 says that if we don't forgive others, God won't forgive our sins.

It's tough to forgive! Offenses can hurt! And maybe the offender isn't sorry. But we can forgive, with God's help.

Deal with offenses immediately. "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath," says Ephesians 4:26. Forgiving is not natural. It takes time to develop mercy. Start as soon as the next offense occurs. It's easier to forgive someone if you don't stew over what the person did. Catch yourself before you fall into bitterness, hardheartedness or vanity.

Trip

(Continued from page 1)

the college participating in an archaeological dig in Petra, which [invitation] we accepted."

After the palace visit Mr. Tkach returned to his hotel room to conduct services.

That evening Mr. Abu Odeh invited Mr. Tkach and his group to his home for a dinner of Arabic dishes. Other guests were Prince Ra'ad, Mrs. Inman Mufti, the first woman to be a cabinet member of a Jordanian government, and other dignitaries, Mr. Frankel said.

On behalf of King Hussein, Mr. Abu Odeh presented a Longines gold watch to Mr. Tkach and gave Waterman Paris pens to Mr. Fezell, Mr. Locke, Mr. Tkach Jr. and Mrs. Escat.

"The royal insignia was engraved on the presentation case of the watch," Mr. Frankel commented. "A beautiful card said, 'With the compliments of King Hussein I.'"

Feb. 8 Princess Sarvath was host to Turkish tea in the royal palace for Mr. Tkach. Princess Sarvath is the wife of Prince Hassan, brother of King Hussein.

The pastor general gave the princess a copy of *The '86 Envoy*.

"Princess Sarvath, too, was full of praise for the students and the job they are doing," Mr. Frankel said.

Mr. Fezell added, "Mr. Tkach and Princess Sarvath hit on common ground right away, as both have a strong interest in raising pigeons."

Afterward a tour of the gymnasium and exercise areas at the Sports Federation was conducted by Col. El Karmi, director. YWMA board members were then hosts to a lunch for Mr. Tkach, his party and Jordanian officials.

The group then took a minibus to Jerash, north of Amman and site of "the best and most complete ruins of a provincial Roman city," according to Mr. Frankel.

On the way back the group visited the students' residences in Soweilah, on the outskirts of Amman.

Egypt

The next morning, Feb. 9, the G-III departed for Egypt's Luxor international airport.

Mr. Tkach and his party visited the temples of Luxor and Karnak, the center of ancient Thebes.

"I was struck by the design concept of the ancient temples whose ruins we visited," Mr. Tkach wrote in the Feb. 24 Pastor General's Report.

Explaining the method of wor-

ship there, he said: "One would first see an open courtyard, airy and open to the sunlight. Then the worshiper would proceed to an inner courtyard, darker and more mysterious. Finally came the 'holy of holies,' nearly totally enclosed and unlit, viewed only by a select few.

"How different from the progression to which God has called His people!" he added. "I had to think of Proverbs 4:18, 'The path of the just is as a shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.' God's purpose is to bring us into the light of His truth."

"The worship of such false gods is not quite so evident today, but Mr. Tkach was moved by the Godless state of the society that ancient Israel came out of," according to Mr. Fezell.

He added that Mr. Tkach examined a brick similar to what the Israelites had to create as slaves in Egypt.

That evening the group attended a sound and light show at Karnak. "They lit up the ruins there with music in the background," Mr. Frankel said. "A commentator then gave history of the area."

The next morning, Feb. 10, the group boarded a ferry to the Valley of the Kings and Queens. Mr. Tkach piloted the boat for part of the two-mile trip up the 4,145-mile-long Nile.

Among the once-secret tombs of Theban monarchs the group saw the crypt of Tutankhamen, an Egyptian pharaoh who died about 1340 B.C. Archaeologist Howard Carter discovered Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922.

"In the Valley of the Kings, archaeologists have found more than 60 mummies, all but Tutankhamun's despoiled," according to author Bruce Brander writing in *The River Nile*.

The group also saw the tombs of Seti and Ramses VI, as well as Queen Hatshepsut's Deir el Bahari temple and the Colossi of Memnon.

Feb. 11 Mr. Tkach and his party left for Cairo. Guests on the G-III were Mr. Safieh, tour organizer, and Mrs. Barkoki, the group's guide, "who writes fluently in hieroglyphics and wrote out all our names," Mr. Halford remarked.

Once in Cairo, the group toured the Egyptian Museum and "spent a great deal of time looking at the treasures of King Tut," Mr. Frankel said.

That evening Mr. Tkach was guest at a dinner given by Mohamed Abdel-Kader Hatem, a former adviser to the late President Anwar Sadat and now counselor to the Egyptian government.

"Dr. Hatem was a close acquaintance of Mr. Herbert Armstrong and was instrumental in arranging a

cultural center project that Ambassador Foundation helped fund," Mr. Tkach wrote Feb. 24.

Feb. 12 the pastor general and others rode camels to the Great Pyramids at Giza. They climbed the pyramid of Cheops (or Khufu), often called "the greatest pyramid of all."

"We walked down into the bowels of the pyramid and climbed at about an 80-degree angle, all the way to the top on the inside," said Mr. Frankel, describing the ascent.

"There was barely enough room along the passageway for two people to pass each other. It was a terrible claustrophobic feeling."

They also saw the Great Sphinx, a composite creature from Greek mythology with a lion's body and a human head, dating from the reign of King Khafre in about 2550 B.C., according to *The River Nile*.

Israel

Friday, Feb. 13, the group boarded the G-III for Jerusalem's Atarot airport. There Mr. Tkach was met by Michael Ravid, formerly Israeli consul general in Los Angeles, Calif.; his wife, Hanna; Zvi Dagan of the International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY); Raymond Clore, a local church elder working in the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem; and his wife, Rhonda.

An official of the Jerusalem Foundation took the group on a tour of Ambassador Foundation projects in Jerusalem, including the City of David excavations and the Liberty Bell Garden, a park that was developed with assistance from the Ambassador Foundation and a portion of which was named after Mr. Armstrong in the 1970s.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek joined Mr. Tkach and the group for lunch at a restaurant on the slopes of the Valley of Hinnom.

"I asked him what he sees as his greatest challenge as mayor," Mr. Tkach wrote Feb. 24. "He replied, of course, 'the people challenge.' He went on to explain a little of the depth of differences between the variety of people that make up the population of Jerusalem."

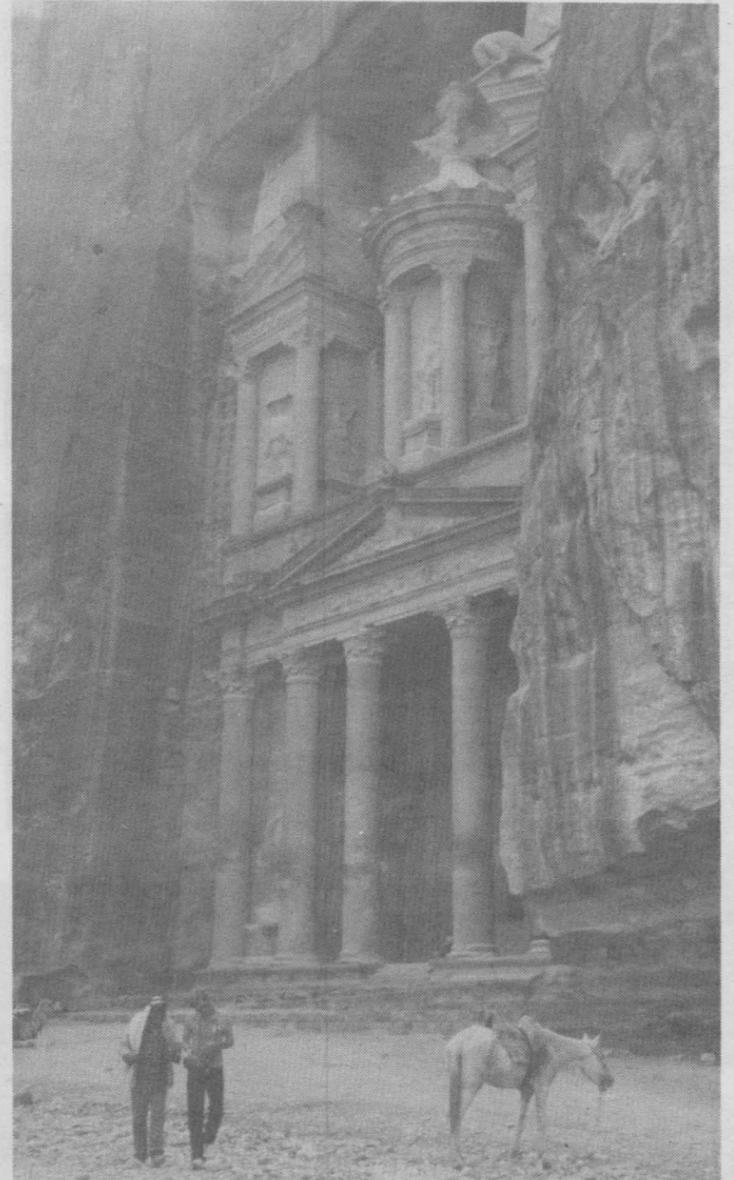
"Mayor Kollek appeared to be a sincere man, who has worked hard to maintain a reasonable peace in a deeply divided city."

At the Holy Land Hotel the group saw a model of Jerusalem as it looked in the time of Christ.

"Mr. Tkach suggested the possibility of college students creating such a model at Ambassador, as a learning experience," said Mr. Fezell. "The model makes the city come alive when you see it from an overall perspective."

Mr. Tkach said: "It was deeply inspiring to visit Jerusalem, to view the Temple Mount, the Mount of Olives, the site of the City of David, the Kidron Valley and the valleys of Hinnom and Jehoshaphat."

Mr. Tkach again called Auditorium P.M. brethren assembled on the Sabbath, Feb. 14, from his hotel



CARVED INTO ROCK — The Treasury at Petra, a tomb in classic Greek style, carved into the side of a cliff, got its name from an ancient belief that pirates hid their gold there. [Photo by Julie Stocker]

room in Jerusalem. He said that Jerusalem, "the City of Peace, has probably seen less peace than any other city on earth in the past 3,500 years."

That afternoon in Mr. Tkach's room Mr. Clore gave a Bible study on Jerusalem in light of politics and Bible prophecy.

The next morning, Feb. 15, the pastor general visited the archaeological excavations along the southern wall of the Temple Mount that Ambassador students participated in from 1968 to 1976.

The group's guide was Elat Mazar, an archaeologist and granddaughter of Professor Benjamin Mazar, former director of the excavations and former president of Hebrew University.

"She was particularly excited to have us there and praised how hard the Ambassador College students worked on the project and what a fine example they were — the finest workers they've ever had," said Mr. Frankel.

After visiting the Dome of the Rock, Mr. Tkach and the group ate lunch in the Dead Sea area, after

passing through the Judean Desert.

They took a cable car up to Masada, the last fortification of Jewish zealots, who committed suicide rather than surrender to the Roman army in A.D. 73, Mr. Frankel said.

Feb. 16 the group visited Nazareth, ancient Jericho, the Sea of Galilee and Megiddo, where they looked over the valley of Armageddon.

"In Nazareth we visited the location of the synagogue that Jesus and his family must have attended," Mr. Frankel said. After lunch the group then toured Peter's hometown of Capernaum.

Mr. Tkach spent his last day in Jerusalem Feb. 17, touring Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial). "What a gut wrenching, profoundly stunning testimony to man's inhumanity to man!" he wrote Feb. 24.

"It was awful to contemplate. But as we know from the prophecies of God's Word, the kind of tragedy this memorial depicts will continue to occur until the Messiah returns," he added. "As we walked out of Yad Vashem, it was difficult for any of us to speak."

The group walked through the marketplace (*souk*) of the Old City before being picked up by bus and taken to the Jerusalem airport, Mr. Frankel said.

The G-III left Jerusalem at 2 p.m. for Luton airport.

After spending the night in London, they headed for home, arriving at the Burbank airport shortly before 4 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, Feb. 18. The party was met by headquarters ministers, wives and family members.

"We all found the trip very enlightening and eye-opening," Mr. Fezell told *The Worldwide News*. "We obtained a broader perspective of that part of the world and definitely learned a great deal."

"The combination of personalities on this trip was very much like that of a family, with teamwork and helping one another out," Mr. Tkach Jr. said. "Everyone tried to make the trip enjoyable for everyone else."

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 60,000

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TOMB ENTRANCE — Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach and Ambassador student volunteers working in Amman, Jordan, explore a burial chamber in Petra. [Photo by Michael Fezell]

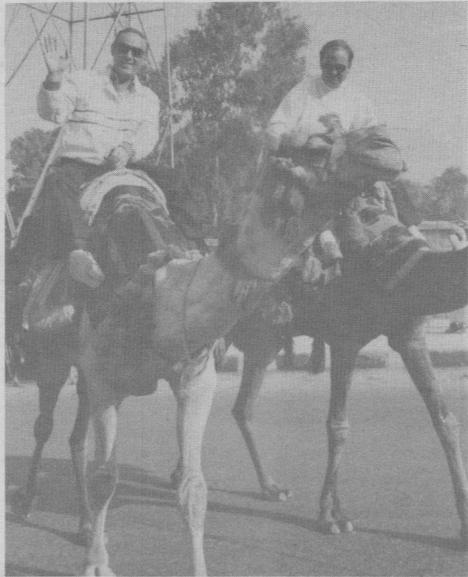
Report from _____ the Treasurer's Office

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Greetings from Down Under. My wife and I are visiting here while on a business trip to the regional offices in New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. In addition, we expect to visit at least two churches in each of these countries. These trips improve communications and cooperation between each of the offices and Pasadena and help promote unity. It has been about 3½ years since our previous visit to this part of the world.

Donald Miller, the Church's budget coordinator, has kept me up to date on the financial figures at Pasadena. As expected, the large increase of January has not continued into February. That big increase came primarily because of 1986 year-end contributions that arrived in early January.

The income increase for February is 7.4 percent, while the year-to-date is now 15.9 percent. Expenses are below budget.

Contributions for the Office Facilities building have added quite a bit to the overall increase. Without these contributions the year-to-date increase in income would now be about 11.7 percent.



EN ROUTE TO GREAT PYRAMIDS



JERUSALEM



AMMAN, JORDAN



AMMAN, JORDAN



IN FLIGHT OVER EGYPT

Mr. Tkach visits Middle East

FIRST MIDEAST TRIP — Photo coverage of Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's Feb. 3 to 17 Mideast trip begins clockwise from upper left: Camels, called "God's gift" by bedouins, carry Mr. Tkach (left) and Dean May, director of the Church's Fleet & Transportation Department, in Giza, Egypt; Mr. Tkach and Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem, embrace; Mr. Tkach accepts a gift of paper flowers at the Bunyat Center for Special Education; a student pins a badge on Mr. Tkach at the Al Hussein Center for the Physically Handicapped; from left: Mr. Tkach, Nihad Safieh, owner of Blue Bell Tours, and Richard Frankel, Washington, D.C., and Front Royal, Va., pastor, aboard the G-III from Luxor to Cairo, Egypt; Mr. Tkach was "touched and moved" by a gift of wild flowers from the on-site custodian (left) of an archaeological excavation in Jerusalem, and Elat Mazar, granddaughter of former Hebrew University President Benjamin Mazar; Joseph Tkach Jr. in front of the Great Pyramid at Giza, built 4,500 years ago; Michael Ravid (left),

former Israeli consul general in Los Angeles, Calif., greets Mr. Tkach at the Jerusalem airport; Miss Mazar points out Jerusalem dig site where Ambassador College students worked from 1968 to 1976; Mr. Tkach observes a student at the Sheltered Workshop, directed by Richard Weber (center), in Amman, Jordan; Raymond Clore (left), a local church elder working at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem, presents a mosaic of the tree of life to Mr. Tkach in Jerusalem; and Mr. Tkach visits a children's playground named after Herbert W. Armstrong at Liberty Bell Garden in Jerusalem. Below, from left: Mr. Tkach with Adnan Abu Odeh (left), principal royal aide to King Hussein, at dinner in Mr. Abu Odeh's home; with Ambassador student volunteers at the women's residence in Soweilah, on the outskirts of Amman; tea with Princess Majda, sponsor of the Al Hussein Center. [Photos by Ellen Escat, Michael Feazell, Sylvia Owen and Julie Stocker]



JERUSALEM



AMMAN, JORDAN



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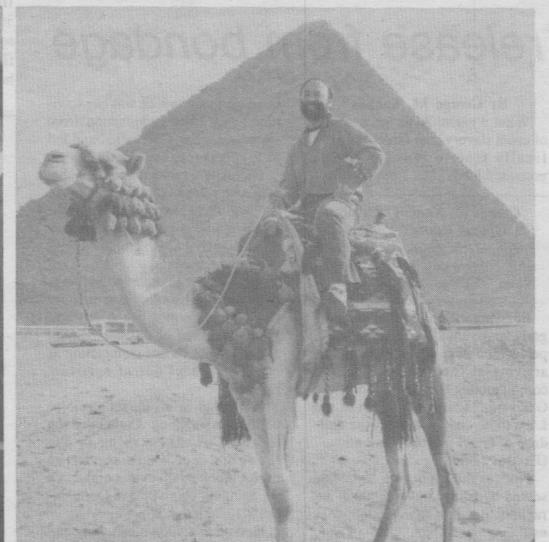
AMMAN, JORDAN



JERUSALEM



JERUSALEM AIRPORT



GIZA, EGYPT



IRON SHARPENS IRON

Passover and lesson of Achan: looking beyond the ritualism

By John White

How do we take the Passover and observe the Days of Unleavened Bread? Do we fully realize their spiritual significance, or do we fail to see the reality beyond the ritual?

John White pastors the Durban, South Africa, church.

In the book of Joshua there is an example of how one man kept these days in a ritualistic way only. He did not value the spiritual symbolism. It cost him his life!

Achan's sin is a lesson for us all.

The conquest of Jericho

The children of Israel had just entered the promised land, picturing our entering the coming Kingdom of God.

Because none of the men born in the wilderness were circumcised, God required all men to be circumcised in readiness for the Passover (Joshua 5:2-8). Then God "rolled away the reproach of Egypt" (a type of sin) from them and they took the Passover. The manna ceased and Israel embarked on the seven days of Unleavened Bread, symbolizing the putting away of sin (verses 9-12).

But now the city of Jericho had to be conquered. "See," said God, "I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour" (Joshua 6:2).

Jericho was to be destroyed and the proceeds consecrated to God (verses 17-19). As the firstfruit of conquest, Jericho was to be "accursed" or doomed to destruction.

With God's help, Israel gained a resounding victory over Jericho (verses 20-21).

But something went wrong.

The confidence Israel gained at Jericho was shattered when Joshua ordered the advance on the next city, Ai (Joshua 7:1-5). Israel suffered bitter defeat. They were driven back.

But why?

Because someone had not fully accepted Christ as his commander, had not obeyed. He had taken some of the spoil of Jericho and had him-

self become accursed.

Achan's sin

Joshua was distraught when he realized God's protection and help were removed because of sin (verses 6-13). He asked God's forgiveness on Israel.

Joshua investigated (verses 14-18). Only when, by process of elimination, Achan and his family were found out, did Achan confess his

guilt. But then it was too late. There was no real repentance. Achan and all that he had were punished by being stoned to death. Then their remains were burned (verses 19-26).

Such a punishment may seem severe. But is it?

God offers us, sinners all, a Savior and a Captain, Jesus Christ. When we take the Passover we renew our allegiance to Him. But to follow Him into the promised land, the Kingdom of God, we must be willing to leave behind our sins (symbolized by leaven). We must not take of "the accursed thing" again.

Those who take the Passover lightly — who don't see beyond the ceremony and symbolism to the truth of God's law and His government — may also find themselves,

like Achan, "burned with fire" (Joshua 7:15, Malachi 4:1-3)!

Fortunately, neither the story nor the lesson ends here. Israel's sin was purged, and dismay was turned into triumph at Ai (Joshua 8). This time the spoil became theirs; and in God's Kingdom a reward far more precious than the silver and gold of this world will belong to the saints made immortal (Daniel 7:27).

We need to set priorities at this Passover season and be submissive and obedient under God's government. Let us not be like Achan and take the Passover ceremony or the symbolism of the Days of Unleavened Bread as mere ritual. Let us purge out sin and look beyond the ritual to the reality of God's coming Kingdom!

Why did Jesus Christ curse the fig tree?

By Rex J. Morgan

Just before Passover one year, Jesus Christ and His disciples were walking along a road near Jerusalem. In the distance Jesus spotted a fig tree bursting with leaves. But when He got to the tree, He found no fruit on it.

So Jesus cursed the tree, saying, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever" (Mark 11:12-14).

Rex J. Morgan pastors the Whangarei, New Zealand, church.

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? Was this an outburst of anger on His part? Just because the tree didn't have anything for Him to eat, did He want to make sure that no one else could enjoy its fruit either?

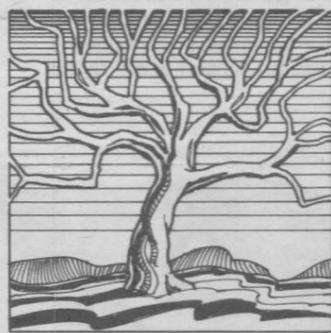
What Christ was looking for

The event took place just a few days before Jesus' last Passover. Christ saw from quite a distance that the tree had leaves on it. So He went up to it expecting to find something on it.

Jesus grew up in the Holy Land. He knew very well when and when

not to expect to find figs on a tree. It was then mid-April. Mature figs are not formed until June.

Jesus wasn't looking for mature figs, but for something else. Notice what *The International Standard*



Bible Encyclopedia article "Fig" says about what a person in Jerusalem would expect to see on a fig tree in April:

"About the end of March, the fig trees commence putting forth their

tender leaf buds, and at the same time, in the leaf axils, appear the tiny figs. When the young leaves are newly appearing, in April, every fig tree which is going to bear at all will have some *taksh* (immature figs) upon it. This *taksh* is not only eaten today, but it is sure evidence, even when it falls, that the tree bearing it is not barren."

If the small, immature figs are not present with the earliest leaves, a fig tree, perhaps because of disease, may have become incapable of bearing fruit. And this no doubt was the situation that Jesus met.

A vital spiritual lesson

So there was a physical reason for Him to curse the tree, but Christ also saw here an opportunity to teach the disciples a lesson.

Jesus often compared people to trees bringing forth fruits of various kinds. We as Christians are told to "bear much fruit" (John 15:8), to bring forth "fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:8) and that "the

fruit of the Spirit" is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Unfortunately, some people are like the fig tree Jesus cursed. They have a bold display of leaves, looking good on the outside. From a distance they seem to be real, solid Christians. But in fact they have no fruit!

In II Corinthians 13:5 Paul tells us, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." As the Passover approaches, we need to examine ourselves to make sure that we really are bringing forth spiritual fruit in our lives (I Corinthians 11:28).

Just as Christ looked for physical figs on that tree more than 1,950 years ago, so He is now looking for spiritual fruit in future members of the Family of God.

When Jesus comes to you, looking for fruit among the leaves, what will He find?

Special night pictures release from bondage

By George M. Kackos

What a night! After generations of cruel slavery, the Israelites were finally free to journey to the promised land.

George M. Kackos, pastor of the Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Mich., churches, is a regular contributor to *The Good News*.

Bursting with happiness, they eagerly spoke about the miracles God performed and looked forward to arriving at their destination. To commemorate this joyous occasion, God said, "This is that night of the Lord to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations" (Exodus 12:42).

Notice, the night was to be observed by future generations of Israelites. But how does this apply to us?

As spiritual Israelites (Galatians 4:28) we ought to rejoice, because we have been released from our

bondage to sin, which was our spiritual Egypt. Our redemption from sin began when God called and led us to repentance and baptism.

For us it was a joyous time, because we were becoming free of sin and beginning to be filled with righteousness. We began to look forward eagerly to our promised land — God's Kingdom.

This is why we observe the Night to Be Much Observed: to remember that joyous evening when physical Israel came out of physical Egypt, and to reflect on our own calling as spiritual Israel out of spiritual Egypt.

With this in mind, let's rejoice with understanding. Let's keep the meaning of this evening in our thoughts. Let's talk about the things that pertain to this night, not the things of this world (I Corinthians 2:12-13).

Realize this: God is watching and observing us. He is determining whether we really do appreciate our marvelous calling!

BE READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER

In this issue *The Worldwide News* begins a new feature titled "Be Ready to Give an Answer." In I Peter 3:15 Christians are admonished to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."

Various subjects will be featured, including information about the Church's work and biblical and doctrinal subjects such as the Sabbath and Holy Days. With the information outlined on the card and the scrip-

tures given you should be able to prove that particular doctrine.

"Be Ready to Give an Answer" is designed to be cut out and attached to a 4x6 card and filed in a file box.

PASSOVER

The Passover in the Old Testament

- A feast of the Lord (Lev. 23:1-5).
- To be observed in the beginning of the sacred year (Ex. 12:2).
- Instituted before the law of Moses (Ex. 12).
- To be observed forever (Ex. 12:14, 24).
- One law for Israelites and strangers (Ex. 12:48-49).
- Israelites were in bondage in Egypt (Ex. 2:23-24). God purposed to free them (Ex. 3:7-8).
- A lamb without blemish was slain for Israelite households (Ex. 12:3-7).
- Death of firstborn in every house in Egypt not marked with lamb's blood (Ex. 12:23, 29-30).
- Israelites left Egypt in haste (Ex. 12:31-39).

The Passover in the New Testament

- Jesus, our example (I Pet. 2:21), kept it. As a child (Luke 2:41-42). As an adult (Matt. 26:17-20).
- The night before His crucifixion, Jesus changed the manner in which His followers should observe the Passover. Rather than slaying and roasting a lamb, we are to partake of unleavened

bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-29).

- Christ was God's Passover lamb (I Cor. 5:7) without blemish (I Pet. 1:18-19).
- He died to deliver us from sin (Gal. 1:4).
- Unleavened bread symbolizes His body (I Cor. 11:23-24) broken for our healing (Isa. 53:5).
- Wine symbolizes His blood (I Cor. 11:25) shed for remission of our sins (Rom. 3:25).
- Jesus added to the observance of the Passover the foot-washing ceremony — an ordinance of humility (John 13:4-11).
- He commanded His disciples to teach and follow His example to the end of the age (John 13:14-17; Matt. 28:19-20).
- Paul told the predominately Gentile church at Corinth, "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:7).
- Christians (converted Jews and Gentiles) are to observe the Passover until Jesus returns (I Cor. 11:26).
- Otherwise "ye have no life in you" (John 6:53-56).
- "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

ANDREWS, Rickey and Gladys (Bailey), of Lufkin, Tex., girl, Shanna Lynn, Oct. 29, 1:38 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

ARNOLD, James and Charlene (Boehme), of Roaring Spring, Pa., girl, Jamie Leigh, Jan. 6, 12:30 a.m., 7 pounds 9 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BROCK, Allen and Sharon (Frazier), of Morgantown, W.Va., girl, Priscilla Charlene, Feb. 6, 11:23 a.m., 11 pounds, now 3 boys, 2 girls.

BUTLER, Nic and Kaye (Eastwood), of Melbourne, Australia, boy, Casey James, Jan. 18, 7 pounds 7 ounces, first child.

CALDWELL, Bruce and Erica (Von Arx), of Toronto, Ont., girl, Sarah Elizabeth, Jan. 14, 12:12 a.m., 4 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

COLE, David and Mary (Fuller), of Tulsa, Okla., girl, Hannah Kathryn, Jan. 23, 11:28 p.m., 7 pounds 2 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

COLE, Stephen and Tricia (Baldwin), of Appleton, Wis., girl, Brianna Lynn, Jan. 13, 4:27 p.m., 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 girls.

CORNISH, Barry and Darlene (Hoffman), of Sioux Falls, S.D., girl, Jessica Rae, May 21, 5:48 p.m., 8 pounds, first child.

CRISPE, Stephen and Donna (Billard), of Halifax, N.S., girl, Laura Debra, Dec. 12, 5:26 p.m., 7 pounds 12 ounces, now 3 boys, 2 girls.

DIETZ, James and Brenda (Leach), of Dallas, Tex., boy, Ryan Michael, Jan. 29, 5:34 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

ELLEDGE, George and Carolyn (Konze), of Anchorage, Alaska, boy, Hunter Christian, Dec. 12, 11:13 p.m., 8 pounds 12½ ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

ENGLAND, Robert and Patricia (Morris), of Washington, D.C., boy, Bryant Mitchell, Jan. 27, 8:53 p.m., 7 pounds 12½ ounces, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

FARMER, Kevin and Ann (Ortolano), of Boston, Mass., girl, Shari Ann, Feb. 1, 1:36 a.m., 7 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

FERDA, Phillip and Lauren (McMillan), of Highwood, Mont., girl, Vicki Ann, Jan. 27, 5:35 p.m., 6 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

GARRATT, Wayne and Ruth (Stauffer), of Sydney, Australia, boy, Drew Nathaniel, Jan. 17, 4:13 a.m., 6 pounds 14½ ounces, now 2 boys.

GELINAS, Raymond and Susan (Reed), of Salt Lake City, Utah, girl, Katherine Marie, Jan. 26, 7 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

GERLINSKY, Lenard and Esabelle (Messier), of Edmonton, Alta., twin boys, Christopher George and Craig Bernard, Dec. 17, 8:08 and 8:09 a.m., 6 pounds 6 ounces and 6 pounds, now 3 boys.

HAIST, Bradley and Deborah (Dodge), of Midland, Mich., girl, Annessa Ruth, Feb. 9, 8:35 p.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

ISAACSON, Wayne and Shirley (Bump), of Puyallup, Wash., boy, Shane Michael Jake, Feb. 2, 2:54 p.m., 7 pounds 2 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

JELENIOWSKI, Wayne and Tina (Lisenbee), of Palmer, Alaska, girl, Katie Lynn, Jan. 29, 4:45 p.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys, 3 girls.

JOHNSON, Allen and Tanya (Tucker), of Fargo, N.D., boy, Brandon Allen, Jan. 22, 12:04 a.m., 7 pounds ¼ ounce, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

JONES, Randy and Robin (Brubaker), of Kalamazoo, Mich., girl, Lindsey Renee, Jan. 27, 8:10 p.m., 9 pounds 2 ounces, now 2 girls.

JOSEPH, Dennis and Deborah (Hensley), of Lansing, Mich., boy, Nathan Andrew, Dec. 7, 10 pounds, now 1 boy, 3 girls.

LANDIS, Steve and Patti (Ziegler), of Denver, Colo., boy, Sean Robert, Jan. 27, 1:11 p.m., 6 pounds 14½ ounces, first child.

LEWIS, Wilbur and Gail (Niemeyer), of Dallas, Tex., boy, Aaron Matthew, Dec. 19, 9:59 a.m., now 3 boys.

MCCALLA, David and Janet (Johnson), of Abilene, Tex., boy, Clinton Daniel, Dec. 17, 5:18 p.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys.

McKENZIE, Charles and Suzanne (Davis), of Cincinnati, Ohio, boy, Sean David, Jan. 21, 11:10 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

MITCHELL, Kenny and Joanna (Burgess), of Pasadena, girl, Heather Joy, Jan. 18, 10:50 p.m., 9 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

MYERS, Steve and Nancy (Ruemmele), of Wabash, Ind., boy, Matthew Charles, Jan. 24, 4:57 a.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 3 boys.

NDUNG'U, Wainaina and Mary (Wangui), of Nairobi, Kenya, boy, John Ndung'u Wainaina, Aug. 28, 9:45 a.m., 3.9 kilograms, first child.

NEES, Rickie and Lill (Abrahamsen), of Mountain Home, Idaho, girl, Sofie Marie, Jan. 20, 8:05 a.m., 8 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

OSBORNE, Tod and Katherine (Collins), of Melbourne, Australia, girl, Karissa Louise, Sept. 26, 7:57 p.m., 8 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

POLLARD, Richard and Kathy (Osborn), of Lamarque, Tex., girl, Jessica Anne, Aug. 5, 2:12 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

RICKER, Randall and Marguerite (Blanchard), of Fort Wayne, Ind., girl, Stephanie Marguerite, Jan. 21, 7:50 p.m., 8 pounds, first child.

ROCKWELL, Ken and Vivian (Burnette), of Washington, Pa., girl, Amanda Danielle, Jan. 22, 7:54 a.m., 8 pounds, now 3 boys, 2 girls.

SAVERCOOL, Mark and Tamara (Boyle), of Lansing, N.J., girl, Sarah Anne, Dec. 10, 2:07 p.m., 6 pounds 15 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

SCHALLER-MARTEN, Carl and Sandy (Schaller), of Magalia, Calif., girl, Tonya, Jan. 30, 4:01 a.m., 5 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

SCOTTI, Drew and Laurie (Nostrand), of Freeport, N.Y., girl, Amanda Jane, Aug. 14, 2:24 p.m., 5 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

SHABI, Rick and Deborah (Metz), of Nashville, Tenn., girl, Katie Lynn, Jan. 26, 3:30 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

SLICK, Michael and Gretchen (Keiper), of Bethlehem, Pa., boy, Travis Jonathan, Feb. 7, 9:33 a.m., 8 pounds 4½ ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

SPRINGER, Charles and Jaimey (Stringer), of Long Beach, Calif., boy, Charles Edward III, Dec. 6, 3:14 a.m., 7 pounds 9 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

STAGNO, Anthony and Dora (Caruana), of Malta, boy, Matthew Philip, Dec. 31, 5:10 p.m., 7 pounds, now 6 boys.

STOWERS, Gary and Brenda (Callison), of Tulsa, Okla., boy, Justin Gary, Jan. 19, 6 pounds, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

STURGISS, Kevin and Leona (Haynes), of Canberra, Australia, boy, Christopher David, Jan. 26, 1:50 p.m., 7 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

TARRANT, Patrick and Cindy (Nobles), of Athabasca, Alta., boy, Justin Patrick, Jan. 15, 2:45 p.m., 9 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

TERRIAN, Jerry and Karen (Weber), of Gulliver, Mich., boy, Justin Alan, Jan. 29, 11:47 p.m., 6 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys, 5 girls.

TRACY, Martin and Roxanne (Jaus), of Norwood, Minn., boy, Zachary Martin, Jan. 11, 7:54 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 3 boys, 3 girls.

TRIPLETT, Richard and Vicki (Harr), of Seaford, Del., boy, Andrew Lee, Dec. 31, 12:21 p.m., 8 pounds 12½ ounces, now 4 boys.

VREELAND, Mark and Peggy (Grup), of Ann Arbor, Mich., boy, Mark Andrew II, Jan. 22, 5:48 p.m., 8 pounds, first child.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Vernich are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Lyn to Andrew Michael Benedetto. A May 17 wedding in Pasadena is planned.

WEDDINGS



MR. AND MRS. J. GROSENBACHER
Jeffrey Alan Grosenbacher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Miller of Elkhart, Ind., and Elizabeth Marie Howard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Howard of Hinsdale, Ill., were united in marriage Oct. 5. The ceremony was performed by Robert Dick, pastor of the Elkhart and Plymouth, Ind., churches. The couple reside in Elkhart.



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES DION
Helene Damhoff and Charles Dion were united in marriage Sept. 22. The ceremony was performed by Donat Picard, pastor of the Montreal, Que., North and South (French) churches. The couple reside in Longueuil, Que.



MR. AND MRS. ALAN CHASE
Susan Diane White, daughter of Joyce White of Preston, Miss., and Alan James Chase, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Chase of Mobile, Ala., were united in marriage Sept. 13. The ceremony was performed by John Cafourek, pastor of the Tupelo and Columbus, Miss., churches. Gloria Goodwin, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Charles Chase, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple reside in Mobile.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID GIBBS
David W. Gibbs, son of Cebert and Lorraine Gibbs of Birmingham, England, and Alberta Warren, daughter of Benjamin and Doris Warren, were united in marriage Nov. 30. The ceremony was performed by Melvin Rhodes, pastor of the Birmingham and Gloucester, England, and Llanelli, Wales, churches. The groom's father was best man, and bridesmaids were Judith Warren, sister of the bride, and Sandra Gibbs, sister of the groom. The couple reside in Birmingham.



MR. AND MRS. ALLEN OLSON
Lynda Jeannine Samson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Samson of Huron, Ohio, and Allen Dean Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Odean Olson of Pierre, S.D., were united in marriage Aug. 24 on the Pasadena Ambassador College campus. The ceremony was performed by Daniel Samson, brother of the bride and pastor of the Campbellton (French) and Bathurst, N.B., churches. Maryse Audoin was maid of honor, and Tim Morgan was best man. The couple, both Pasadena Ambassador College graduates, reside in Birmingham, Ala., where Mr. Olson is assistant pastor of the Birmingham A.M. church.



MR. AND MRS. LARRY PERSON
Karen Elizabeth Carter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carter of Naples, Fla., and Larry Allan Person, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allan J. Person, were united in marriage Jan. 18. The ceremony was performed by Dale Dakin, a minister in the Fort Myers, Fla., church. Angela Renee Carter, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Ron Jay Person was best man. The couple reside in Orlando, Fla.



MR. AND MRS. JAMES CASSEL
James Edward Cassel and Laura Jeanette Kiewer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Kiewer, were united in marriage Sept. 28 in Oklahoma City, Okla. The ceremony was performed by Gerald Flurry, pastor of the Oklahoma City and Enid, Okla., churches. Lisa Clark, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and J.D. Kiewer, brother of the bride, was best man. The couple and the groom's daughter, Jasmine, 7, reside in Oklahoma City.



MR. AND MRS. MARTYN PHILO
Wendy Jayne Neale, daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. R.S. Neale, and Martyn Philo, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Philo, were united in marriage Sept. 14 in Thornbury, England. The ceremony was performed by Paul Suckling, director of Church Administration for the Borehamwood, England, Regional Office. Helen Neale, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid, and Colin Philo, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple reside in Bournemouth, England.

ANNIVERSARIES

A surprise anniversary celebration took place Jan. 10 honoring Donald and Annie Shaw, married 25 years Sept. 2; Everett and Mary Sue Craft, married 25 years Dec. 22; and Leon and Myra Stiglich, married 42 years Nov. 9. Mr. Shaw is a local church elder, and Mr. Craft and Mr. Stiglich are deacons in the Roanoke, Va., church. The celebration, attended by Britton Taylor, church pastor, and his family, deacons, deaconesses, their families and the families of the guests of honor, included a buffet meal and a cake. Each couple received a quartz clock and picture frame and a cake.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Young celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Feb. 22 with family members and friends. The Youngs were married Feb. 17, 1947, and have three children, Stephen, Michael and Janet. The Youngs attend the Long Beach, Calif., West church, where Mr. Young is a local church elder.

Chillicothe, Ohio, brethren presented local church elder Kenneth Christopher and his wife, Lee, with a videocassette recorder in honor of the Christophers' 40th wedding anniversary. The Christophers were married Dec. 21, 1946, and baptized in 1964. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

NOTICES

The churches in England will sponsor an annual singles convention at Stowe House July 27 to 31. Singles from the United States, Canada and other international areas are invited to attend. Stowe House is the former home of the Dukes of Buckingham and is now a school set on 250 acres of gardens, fountains and lakes. The convention will include lectures, sporting activities and trips, a talent show, a square dance and a formal dance. Cost is between \$5 and \$55 depending on accommodations. Prices include three meals a day and all activities and excursions. Singles outside the British Isles who are interested in attending should write to United Singles, Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1LU, England, for an application and information.

ANNIVERSARIES MADE OF GOLD

Mr. and Mrs. W.C. Gingar celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 6. The Dunstable, England, church recognized the event with wine and cake, and flowers for Mrs. Gingar after Sabbath services Feb. 7. The Gingars have two children and two grandchildren.



MR. AND MRS. EARNEST CRAIG
Earnest and Doris Craig celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary with Sydney, Australia, South brethren after Sabbath services Jan. 24. The couple were presented with a cake, a card and a bouquet of flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Craig were married Jan. 21, 1928. They were baptized in 1967.

Dwight and Marguerite Webster celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 1 with their children at a champagne brunch. Denver, Colo., East brethren honored the couple with a dozen red roses at Sabbath services Jan. 3. Mr. and Mrs. Webster were married Jan. 1, 1937, and were baptized in

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We'd like to let the readers of *The Worldwide News* 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.



Our coupon baby this issue is Marla Denise McMurtry, daughter of Eddy and Perri McMurtry of Amarillo, Tex.

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

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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

*Including newborn 3-87

1952. They have two sons, Larry and Stephen; one daughter, Sharon Johnson; four grandchildren, Terry Lee, Brandon and Elise Webster and Darlene Johnson; and four great-grandchildren, Nathan, David, Christie and Amanda.

Jan. 26 of a heart attack. He has been a Church member since 1973. Mr. Cann is survived by his wife, Della, a Church member; one son, Gordon; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Neil Earle, pastor of the Toronto East and West churches.

OBITUARIES

BARTLETT, Jessie P., 71, of Jericho, Vt., died Dec. 26 after a short bout with leukemia. She was baptized in 1968 with her husband, Earl, who died in 1979. Mrs. Bartlett is survived by one daughter, Betsy Berryman; and four sons, David, Arthur, Irving and Robin. Funeral services were conducted by Kenneth Williams, pastor of the Concord, N.H., and Montpelier, Vt., churches.

FARANT, Denis, 72, of Sacramento, Calif., died Oct. 13 of a heart attack. He has been a Church member since 1966. Mr. Farant is survived by his wife, Bernadette, and three children, Duane, Joshua and Diane.

HEMMINGER, Jennifer Lynn, 13, of Republic, Ohio, died Dec. 17 in an automobile accident. Jennifer is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman H. Hemminger Jr.,



JENNIFER HEMMINGER

both Church members; two brothers, Daniel W. and Timothy R.; and one sister, Amanda A. Funeral services were conducted by David Fiedler, pastor of the Toledo and Findlay, Ohio, churches.

BENTE, Eva "Dolly," 61, of Pittsburgh, Pa., died Oct. 13 after several weeks of illness. She has been a Church member since 1961 and a deaconess since 1964. Mrs. Bente is survived by her husband of 41 years, Harry, a Beaver Valley local church elder; her mother, Anna Conway; a brother, Richard Conway; three sisters, Dorothy Quick, Betty Bressler and Catharine Hilard; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were conducted by David Orban, pastor of the Pittsburgh and Beaver Valley churches.



WILLIAM C. BURNS

BURNS, William C., 73, of Duarte, Calif., died Dec. 18 of cancer. He has been a Church member since 1965 and a deacon since 1969. Mr. Burns is survived by his wife, Ida Lee; two sons, David and Billy; and two grandchildren. Graveside services were conducted in Joplin, Mo., by William Gordon, pastor of the Independence, Kan., and Joplin churches.

CANN, Gordon, 74, of Toronto, Ont., died

ACCENT ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

Singles sponsor snowline weekend

Nine inches of new snow added to the setting of the fifth annual singles snowline party at the KK Ranch in Easton, Wash., Jan. 23 to 25. **Seattle and Bellevue, Wash.,** singles sponsored the event. More than 100 attended, some from as far as San Francisco, Calif., and Boise, Idaho.

Bellevue churches, gave a Bible study Friday evening on dating and a Sabbath sermon on radiating joy and happiness.

weekend were games and dancing Saturday night, and a snowman-building contest, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and snowball fights Sunday. *Darla Douglass and Ann Kofal.*

Australian youths climb mountains

Fifty-two **Gold Coast, Australia,** Church youths and families pushed through a tropical rain forest in

northern New South Wales Jan. 25 to climb Mt. Warning.

Evangelist Dennis Luker, pastor of the Seattle and

Social features games, art, talent

About 600 **Baltimore, Md.,** brethren gathered for a winter social after Sabbath services Jan. 17.

the children and adults.

The hikers met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay Hesse, about a 10-minute drive from the base of the mountain. The climb to the summit took two hours. The trek down the mountain took 1½ hours. The group returned to the Hesses' home where they swam in the pool and ate a barbecue lunch. *Ben Matusch.*

After an indoor picnic in the Hammond High School cafeteria in Columbia, Md., activities included games for

An art exhibition featured works ranging from pencil sketches to oil paintings by Baltimore church artists.

A talent show and sing-along capped off activities. *Jon and Ginnie Cook.*

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

UPDATE

PASADENA — The *World Tomorrow* telecast "The Key to Prophecy," aired Feb. 21 and 22, brought in 56,889 calls, according to evangelist **Richard Rice**, director of the Church's Mail Processing Center. The program was presented by **David Albert**.

This is the second highest response of any telecast. "Our Telecommunications Department notified us that 14 WATS [Wide Area Telephone Service] lines were not operational due to a technical problem the local phone company was experiencing," Mr. Rice said.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — Application forms for the 1987 Summer Educational Programs (SEPs) in Orr, Minn., and Big Sandy should be available in most church areas by March 20, according to **Kermit Nelson**, who coordinates YOU activities in Church Administration.

More than 7,000 applications will be mailed to church areas in the United States and to the Canadian Office. Of those applying, 1,152 youths will be selected to attend one of two sessions at Orr or Big Sandy. More than 150 Church youths will serve as staff members at the two camps. Dr. Nelson said applications for staff positions will be sent along with camper application forms to church areas.

"It is our goal to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to attend SEP," Dr. Nelson said.

★ ★ ★

BOREHAMWOOD, England — The Festival Office here announced that space is available for 250 people from the United States and Canada to attend the Feast site in Trabolgan, Ireland.

"Because of the outstanding price we have been offered, the

management wants us to guarantee 100 percent occupancy... we need a commitment to these numbers soon to confirm our plans," said **Paul Suckling**, director of Church Administration here.

Members with a firm interest in attending the Trabolgan site should contact the Festival Office, Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1LU, England, or call 44-1-953-9547 or 44-1-953-1633 by March 20.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — Church members who would like to attend the Chiang Mai, Thailand, or Amman, Jordan, Feast sites must send in a standard International Festival Application, according to the Festival Office here.

This applies even to those who gave their names to their pastors in response to the announcement in the Jan. 27 Pastor General's Report. Send applications to the Festival Office, Pasadena, Calif., 91129.

★ ★ ★

BURLEIGH HEADS, Aus-

tralia — Arrangements have been made for a Feast site in Chandler, Australia, a suburb of Brisbane. There will be no site in Gold Coast, Australia, this year, according to **William Winner**, director of Church Administration here.

Services in Chandler will be in the theater of the Sleeman Sports Complex, built for the 1982 Commonwealth Games. About 1,500 brethren are expected to attend the site.

Brisbane has a variety of accommodations and an international airport. Taxis, buses and rental cars are available for transportation from the airport and around the site. Temperatures should be in the low to mid-70s Fahrenheit (low 20s Celsius).

Applications should be mailed to the Festival Office, Worldwide Church of God, Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Qld., 4220, Australia.

★ ★ ★

PASADENA — A breakdown of contribution sources, prepared by the Mail Processing Center, shows that members contribute the majority of Church income.

In 1981 members contributed 82.2 percent of the total income; co-workers contributed 13.9 percent; donors, 3.3 percent; and others, 0.6 percent. In 1986 members contributed 77.4 percent; co-workers, 18.1 percent; donors, 3.5 percent; and others, 1 percent.



IN APPRECIATION — Ray Dick, who served as site manager for the Wisconsin Dells, Wis., Feast site, presents a plaque from the cities of Wisconsin Dells and Lake Delton, Wis., to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach Feb. 23. The plaque reads: "To Mr. Joseph W. Tkach and the Worldwide Church of God in appreciation for 15 years of celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in our Wisconsin Dells community." [Photo by Warren Watson]



FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

PASADENA — Edmond Macaraeg, pastor of the San Pedro, Victoria and Imus, Philippines, churches, and his family suffered "a most traumatic experience" Friday evening, Jan. 16, reported Guy Ames, regional director of the Philippines.

Mr. Macaraeg, his wife, Lorna

(8½ months pregnant), their six children and Mr. Macaraeg's sister were sitting down to a Sabbath evening meal when six men brandishing guns and knives burst into the house and held them up.

"The men were seeking arms and money and said they had been informed that the Macaraegs were

rich," Mr. Ames said.

When Mr. Macaraeg gave them all he had, "and it proved to be little, they then forced the entire family to sit at the table with their heads down, while for two hours they ransacked every inch of the house," Mr. Ames said. "Constant threats were made, with cursings."

Finding no weapons or money, they loaded electrical goods, camera equipment, tools and other items in suitcases the Macaraegs owned.

At gunpoint

Since none of the men could drive, they forced Mr. Macaraeg at gunpoint to drive them away in his fleet car. "For five hours through the night he drove south to a distant province," Mr. Ames reported.

At a deserted area they ordered Mr. Macaraeg to lie down on the roadside. But Mr. Macaraeg refused, knowing such men usually kill their victims.

"Surprisingly, they agreed to let him sit with his head down at the wheel of the car, so he could not see where they went, then drive home," Mr. Ames said.

When he reminded them that they had taken all his money and he could not get home without gas, they returned some of the money. He reached home five hours later, at 8:30 Sabbath morning.

"Miraculously he never had to fill up with gas all the way back since the gauge hardly moved as he drove for another five hours," according to Mr. Ames.

"After a night of desperate suspense, it is needless to say that his family and those who knew of the ordeal were so very grateful to God for sparing his life.

"Mrs. Macaraeg, after a short labor the next afternoon, gave birth to a fine, healthy baby girl," Mr. Ames said.

Crisis in Nigeria

"The inflation factor since October, 1986, is about 300 percent. At this rate, it will not be too long before the bottom falls out."

This said Lateef Edalere, pastor of the Lagos, Owerri and Benin City, Nigeria, churches, about the Nigerian economy in a report to David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa in the Borehamwood, England, Regional Office.

"Members are beginning to find it difficult to attend services because of a lack of transportation fares," Mr. Edalere added.

The second-tier foreign exchange market "has caused scarcity of local currency [the naira]." As foreign currency is purchased with the naira at an ever-increasing rate of exchange, the money in circulation is depleted, he said.

"Technically this should force the price of commodities to fall. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the currency has been withdrawn from circulation, creating problems."

Mr. Edalere also reported to the British Office that one of his neighbors received a telephone call "from men of the underworld," informing him that they would soon be visiting to conduct an "operation," Mr. Stirk said.

"The police were contacted, and two officers were assigned to the area," Mr. Stirk continued. "However, past experiences have shown that these men are ruthless, armed and usually come in large numbers.

"It has since been reported that armed robbers did visit the area but fortunately not the street on which Mr. Edalere lives.

"Your prayers would be appreciated for our ministers and members living in these difficult areas."

Personal

(Continued from page 1)

to visit the students serving in Thailand, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

One rather interesting part of the trip was the opportunity to tour the ancient red-rock city of Petra in southern Jordan. Petra was definitely an impressive sight, with its many monuments carved in the colorful rock walls.

We saw ruins of Roman-built paved streets, baths and fountains, as well as hundreds of the estimated 10,000 caves once used as dwellings. Though Petra was at one time an important trade center, it gradually lost its importance after a severe earthquake in A.D. 363.

I have heard many people comment on how horribly desolate Petra is, but some of our party who have spent a good deal of time in Yuma, Ariz., assured me that Petra is no more desolate than southwestern Arizona. After all, Petra was quite successfully inhabited as a Nabataean and later Roman and Byzantine city for centuries.

Is Petra to be the location God refers to as "her place" in Revelation 12:14, where the Church will be nourished from the face of the devil for "a time, times and half a time"?

All we really know is what the Bible tells us. We are told in Revelation 12:13-17 that the devil persecutes the Church, the Church is given two wings of a great eagle that she might fly, or flee, to her place in the

wilderness, where she is to be nourished from the devil's angry face.

We are then told that the devil casts water out of his mouth as a flood to cause the woman, or Church, to be carried away of the flood, but the earth opens its mouth and swallows the flood.

So what are we told about the location of this place of nourishment? Only that it is in the wilderness. How does the Church get there? She is given two wings of a great eagle that she might flee there. In this regard we might note that God described Israel's flight from Egypt as "I bore you on eagle's wings" (Exodus 19:4).

Now some have ridiculed the idea of a place of safety as some paranoid teaching based on some "obscure," mysterious verses in Revelation. But the fact is, this place of nourishment or safety is not some form of fiction derived from a "convoluted interpretation" of so-called "obscure" verses. It is simply a part of the unbreakable Word of God. It does exist, and this prophecy will happen.

When? God has not told us exactly, though we do know the parable of the fig tree (Matthew 24:32-35).

Where? God has not told us. If it is the red-rock city of Petra, God will tell us in time. If it is somewhere else, God will tell us in time. All He has revealed to us so far (not in anyone's imagination, but in the pages of His Word the Bible), is that it is in the wilderness, and that we will

be given the method of getting there.

Wherever the place is, God will see to it that we are nourished. He does not say it will be easy. Nor does he say it will be crushing hardship.

The simple truth is, our nourishment from the face of the devil is something God will take care of. Our job is to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, to overcome and to endure faithfully to the end of our lives. Preserving our physical lives is not our primary goal if we are indeed true Christians.

Our goal is to become one with God in mind, heart and character through the process of repentance from our own corrupt human way of life, made possible by the shed blood of Jesus Christ in our stead.

The "place of safety" is merely one more chapter in the overall experience of God's Church. It is not an end in itself by any means. Many of us who are alive today will be dead by then. God nowhere promises that every single individual of the Church will be in that place. He knows what is for the ultimate good of each.

I'll leave the rest of the details of the Middle East trip to Jeff Zhorne's article in this issue of *The Worldwide News*. Thank you again deeply, brethren, for your ceaseless prayers and encouragement. I certainly need them and greatly appreciate them.

With love, in Jesus name,
Joseph W. Tkach

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