

The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. XX, NO. 23

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 15, 1992

Rebels bomb palace in Venezuela, but coup fails

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela survived the second attempt to topple him this year, after an abortive coup Friday, Nov. 27.

Rebel troops bombed the presidential palace here, but loyalist soldiers put down the insurrection 14 hours after it began, said Reg Killingley of the Spanish Department in Big Sandy.

According to news reports, the final death tally may exceed 200, well over half of them civilians. This is in marked contrast to the Feb. 4 coup attempt, in which 35 people, mainly soldiers, died.

Salvador Barragan, pastor of the Barquisimeto and Caracas, Venezuela, churches, said telephone communications were cut and Sabbath services had to be canceled.

Thankfully, no one from the Church was hurt, even though it was a frightening experience for many, especially those closest to the military action.

Mr. Barragan said rumors of yet another coup attempt were still in the works.

Naturally, he hopes these rumors are unfounded. Local elections (for state governors, mayors and other local officials) were conducted Sunday, Dec. 6, when incumbents lost half their gubernatorial seats.

Back-cover PT ads identify the Church

Through Dec. 4, Media Operations in Pasadena received 870 letters in response to *Plain Truth* back-cover ads mentioning the Church and the Feast of Tabernacles.

These ads appeared in the October and November-December issues.

Editor-in-chief Joseph Tkach approved the idea this spring. Reflecting the Church's policy of clearly identifying the Church to our listening and reading audience, the ads are similar to the new close for *The World Tomorrow* (see Dec. 1 *Worldwide News*).

Response is excellent, according to Mary Hamilton, special projects coordinator in Media Operations. She noted that the number of ministerial visit requests projected for 1992, including requests prompted by all media sources, was 5,524.

Close to half of the 870 respondents have been on file for 10 years or longer. About a fifth were added to our computer files some time in 1992.

The ads prompted visit requests from every state except Alaska and Wyoming. The largest number of requests came from California, New York, Florida, Texas and Ohio.

Each person who responded to the ads received the address of the nearest church services as well as the minister's phone number.

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Because of the success of these test ads, Media Promotion is planning ads for the back covers of future issues of *The Plain Truth*.



PERSONAL FROM Joseph W. Tkach

Dear Brethren,
As the Reseda, California, congregation gets under way with its public service program, other pastors have asked if they could get started with such programs as well.

I'm excited about that enthusiasm and look forward to seeing more programs get under way.

It will be about three months before the manuals can be finalized as we work through the pilot program in Reseda. At that point, the materials can be made available to all pastors.

A number of congregations have had meaningful programs

Youth Day makes teens feel more a part of the Church

By Roxann Thompson

LOS ANGELES—The congregation here conducted a Youth Day on the Sabbath of Nov. 21 to give teenagers opportunities to perform ushering duties, lead song services, take attendance and deliver the opening and closing prayers.

Roxann Thompson is a member who attends the Los Angeles congregation.

After consulting with Church Administration, pastor Curtis May implemented Youth Day on a trial basis to help youths feel more a part of the Church and to get them involved actively in services.

As I entered the building for Sabbath services on Youth Day, two young ladies (high school seniors) warmly greeted me with hugs. I continued upstairs to the meeting room, where several young ushers waited to seat us.

They smiled and asked how many seats we needed. Many people complimented the teenage ushers on their attitudes and politeness in serving.

Kent Akins, a 1992 high school graduate, directed song services with confidence. I felt somewhat apprehensive when he announced that my younger brother, William Thompson, would be giving the opening prayer.

Much to my relief, William's voice was steady as he delivered an inspirational, well-thought-out prayer.

After songs and announcements, we listened to the Imperial Schools choir sing stirring renditions of "In So Many Ways" and "Pass It On."

"What do you want to be?"

A high point of the day was Mr. May's powerful message for the young people on setting and reaching goals in life. He began by asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Younger children in the audience responded enthusiastically, with answers ranging from archaeologist and doctor to basketball player.

Mr. May then explained that many people don't realize their dreams and goals because they don't know the necessary steps to take and they're not willing to make sacrifices.

To illustrate what happens with poor planning, he showed a videotape of famous basketball players missing slam dunks.

Next, he showed a videotape of basketball star Michael Jordan to illustrate where hard work and good planning can take us.

Finally, he stressed the importance of always standing up for what's right and gave the example of a young man who refused to play basketball for his high school on Friday evenings, but who was still recognized for his outstanding performance.

Mr. May ended by giving the youths five dares: 1) Dare to say no to drugs, 2) Dare to make As

and Bs in school, 3) Dare to respect your teachers and other people in authority, 4) Dare to say no to premarital sex and 5) Dare to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days.

Impressed with teens' friendliness

When Youth Day was over, many left with positive impressions. Visiting ministers from Pasadena told Mr. May they were impressed with the teens' ability and friendliness and the overall theme of the day.

One woman visiting from Pasadena remarked that she felt moved almost to tears by a comment Kent Akins made during closing song services about the encouragement we had all received from Mr. May's sermon.

Because of all the positive feedback Mr. May received, evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, suggested Mr. May conduct Youth Day every few months.

Others may also want to incorporate it into their local church areas.



HANDS ON—Youth Day songleader Kent Akins, a 1992 high school graduate, leads members and families in the Los Angeles congregation. [Photo by Ron Greene]

words upward, inward and outward.

Upward has to do with worshipping God and bringing glory to God in all we do. *Inward* has to do with teaching and nurturing those God has called.

Outward is concerned with evangelism, or taking the gospel to those who have not accepted it, and following Jesus' instruction in the parable of the Good Samaritan to "go and do likewise."

All of these overlap, of course. In other words, when we teach and nurture or share the gospel or serve others in the name of Christ, we are glorifying God.

Also, when we serve others we should not miss the opportunity to share the gospel. Likewise, when we teach and nurture, we are renewing one another's faith in the gospel and stirring one another to good works.

And again, the good works

we do are a part of sharing the gospel.

Let's focus on this *outward* aspect of the commission. The *outward* aspect of the commission consists primarily of evangelism, service and social action.

Evangelism, basically, is telling people what the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to them. It includes showing them that they are sinners and that they need repentance and forgiveness.

In short, it is telling people Christ's message about how they can receive eternal life in the kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Social action is also a part of the *outward* aspect of the commission, but it is something that must be approached carefully and thoughtfully, with caution and good judgment.

For example, some people feel that it is up to Christians to (See **PERSONAL**, page 6)

Somalia: Will U.S.-led rescue work?

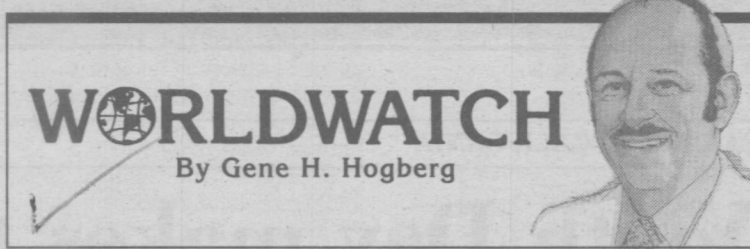
In a sobering, eight-minute address to the American people Dec. 4, President George Bush announced the commitment of a large military force to Somalia to relieve famine conditions in that strife-torn East African nation.

The purpose of the operation, he said, was humanitarian, intended to ensure that international relief supplies, presently bottled up at Somalia's docks and airports, can be safely transported inland to areas where starvation is imminent.

The President stressed that more than a quarter million Somalis have already died from drought compounded by political anarchy and fighting among the country's competing warlords. As many as 1.5 million more might perish, he said, if the present chaos continued.

Mr. Bush emphasized that the operation would not be solely an American effort. Over the previous several days before his nationwide announcement, Mr. Bush, presidential aides revealed, aggressively worked the telephone, lining up commitments, to one degree or another, of troops from more than a dozen nations.

Other countries will contribute financially. All of this is similar to the way in which Mr. Bush cobbled together the coalition that



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

fought in the Persian Gulf War two years ago.

In explaining his decision to implement what will be known as "Operation Restore Hope," President Bush declared that "the people of Somalia, especially the children of Somalia, need our help.... We must give them hope. America must act...."

"In taking this action... I understand the United States alone cannot right the world's wrongs, but we also know that some crises in the world cannot be resolved without American involvement, that American action is often necessary as a catalyst for broader involvement of the community of nations."

At the end of his address, Mr. Bush praised the efforts of those asked to take part in this humanitarian mission.

United Nations precedent

The announcement from the White House came the day after

the United Nations Security Council, in a unanimous 15-0 vote, authorized the American-commanded operation.

With that action, coming on the heels of the deployment of peacekeeping units in Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations (U.N.) is decidedly moving down a new road. Previously, small, almost token, U.N. peacekeeping forces were dispatched into troubled areas only upon the request of one of the combatants to a conflict, and usually with the agreement of both sides.

The Somalia case establishes a precedent in that there is no power inside that country to make the request; all sovereign authority has vanished. Also, the U.N. force there will be involved in more than peacekeeping, or just keeping opposing forces apart.

It will instead be a peacemaking operation, charged with not only guaranteeing relief shipments, but with establishing order, disarming

the several private armies and rampaging gangs, and trying to prepare for the transition to a new government.

Peacemaking at the U.N.'s own discretion is now established as a principle that may be used for U.N. intervention in internal, or even regional, conflicts in the future, such as in the Middle East.

Already there is growing discussion over the need to commit greater military force, especially combat aircraft, into the former Yugoslavia, to put teeth into the U.N. ban on military flights over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbian forces have been violating this ban with impunity.

New world disorder

The world, as we discussed in this column last time, is becoming an ever more perilous place. Hot wars and reports of impending conflicts dominate the headlines.

In an address to the Common-

wealth Club of San Francisco Nov. 6, former *Washington Times* editor-in-chief Arnaud de Borchgrave said that, by his count, there were "some 40 ongoing conflicts that [have] followed the end of the Cold War." But this is not all.

Mr. de Borchgrave continued, London's *Financial Times* "recently pinpointed no less than 60 emerging conflicts in Europe alone, to which it added some 14 flash points in the Caucasus that have barely made it into the news."

Even the *Financial Times* estimates fail to tell the whole story. "The Royal Institute of International Affairs in London," added this veteran newsman, "estimates 125 ethnic or minority disputes in the old Soviet orbit alone, 25 of them classified as armed conflicts."

"The world, therefore, is an infinitely more complex and dangerous place than it ever was at the height of the Cold War.... Now there are no rules, hence the new world disorder."

President Bush, reporters say, is doing what he can to firm up U.S. (See SOMALIA, page 6)

Letters to the Editor

Letters for this section should be addressed to "Letters to the Editor." The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity or space. We welcome your comments.

Articles go in-depth

I am so impressed by all the articles in the October *Plain Truth*, especially "The Trial of Job" by Paul Kroll and "After Conversion, Then What?" by Clayton Steep.

They gave meaning, depth and much-needed answers to important issues of life. The articles (all of them) inspire thought and make us rejoice in what a wonderful God we have!

Also, Alan Dean, thank you for "Blackboard Jumble" (Aug. 11 WN), because it didn't overwhelm me with the things I need to change. The lines between the lines inspired me, through

compassion and understanding, to realign my priorities and make the changes.

I think when an article inspires us to do this, that it is true, effective motivation. I pray for this kind of growth reflected in these articles, in the Work and in all of us. It's so good to see it happening.

Oak Grove, Missouri

☆☆☆

Feast: Coming to the Light

I just wanted to thank you for helping us to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. It was the first time for me to go by myself with the children, and I was quite nervous. I did pair up with another lady and her two children, and things worked out wonderfully.

We had the most inspiring time and the brethren were so helpful. We went to Niagara Falls. It is a beautiful place.

Thank you also for your sermon and for the film, "Reflecting the Light." It is so exciting to see all the progress God

is showing us. We are behind you 100 percent.

Weatherly, Pennsylvania

☆☆☆

Coping with grief

I am writing to let you know why I ordered and what happened to the four copies of the *World Tomorrow* program titled "Coping With Grief."

A close friend and his wife started a grief-counseling group. They have a large number attending their meetings and have qualified counsellors speak.

Ministers from local churches also counsel and help people who have lost loved ones. I told my friend I had a tape he or his wife might be interested in seeing, regarding grief counselling.

They viewed the tape, which I had borrowed from our local church library, and played it at their next group session. They and all the visiting counsellors were so impressed they immediately asked for copies.

One tape was shown to the local agricultural college's students and faculty. (One of the students had just been killed in an accident.) Another counsellor is off to England and will be using his copy there.

Australia

Now knows what he lives for

To all involved with *The Plain Truth*, may I say I am very grateful for my subscription.

I am disabled, unable to work. However, since reading *The Plain Truth*, my attitude to life (even though I have never suffered from any harmful habits, like drug taking) has totally changed.

I became disabled in my early 30s after an active life (I am now 52). I managed to struggle through adversity although I often felt suicidal, wondering what I had to live for.

Thanks to *The Plain Truth*, I now know I will always be grateful.

B.F.

Walsall, England

☆☆☆

Worth something

Before I came across *The Plain Truth* I was a hopeless alcoholic, in and out of hospitals and institutions. I lost my house, family and job.

Then into my useless life came *The Plain Truth* and your other literature. Finally, the ultimate achievement of this new sober (day by day) life of mine was when I received my certificate of completion of the Bible correspondence course.

I framed it and it now hangs proudly over my bed to remind me that I am worth something and I now have true belief and faith in God.

Thank you all for saving my life and soul.

Fermoy, Irish Republic

"Into all the world..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column prospective members, co-workers, subscribers to the Work's publications and viewers of the *World Tomorrow* telecast express their views and opinions.

Many ways to comfort

I've just read "A Time to Comfort" in the September *Plain Truth*.

Tom Lapacka is to be thanked for his understanding. The article brought tears to my eyes again after these past several years alone. I thought I had shed them all.

I remembered how much comfort my son brought me, listening and caring. For the first time after 24 years... we were close again.

There were other comforters as well. One person gave me an automobile club membership, which he knew would alleviate any fear I might have being stranded on the road alone.

There are so many ways to give comfort. God seems to provide the ones we need to listen, to hold, and help.

E.B.

Penn Valley, California

☆☆☆

A lot of what everyone needs

Our middle child Jessie was born with spina bifida 2 1/2 years ago. It has turned our lives upside down. In the beginning,

the sadness and pain were too much to bear.

But our eyes have been opened. For a long time I tried to understand why this happened to us and our little girl. After much soul searching and reading I have come to realize that all things that happen in this chaotic world are not a direct result of God's wishes.

The question is no longer why, but how can we carry on?

I thank God I was raised to believe and have faith. How we have carried on is by knowing we are not alone. We have help and strength.

Sometimes I feel sorry and very depressed, but I really do know we have someone very powerful and strong alongside us. Believe me, nothing in this world could ever have given me the strength to endure this, other than my faith in God.

I never thought I'd say this, but we are lucky. We are fortunate to see things as we do since Jessie's birth. We know the beauty in a child's smile, the joy in her eyes. We see the wonder in life itself. We are thankful we have endured what happened.

Could we please receive your publications? They are a little more of what we need. Actually, they are a lot more of what everyone needs.

Scarborough, Canada

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



Humanity divided

BOREHAMWOOD, England—The news from greater Europe is of fragmentation. Countries that desperately need to pull together in the aftermath of communism are splitting apart.

Yugoslavia is now Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia. Towns are divided down the middle on racial lines or, worse, have undergone "ethnic cleansing."

The former Soviet Union, freed from communist ideology, is now plagued with nationalism and ethnic jingoism.

Apart from European union, the '90s are also witness to the urge to dig political trenches head high and climb into them. The symbol of Berlin's fallen wall has not been matched by an overcoming of the spiritual barriers that divide humanity.

This desire to splinter is typical of all human society. In Britain, Parliament is divided into the Government and the Opposition. The two sides sit opposite one another and the voice of the peacemaker is heard only rarely in the halls of Westminster.

Other nations fare no better. Consider the bitter words that haunted the U.S. presidential campaign. And France and Germany are experiencing a cancerous growth of a vocal far-right.

Divisions send their cracks and gulfs into every aspect of life. The generation gap. The battle of the sexes. Science vs. religion. Boss vs. worker. Liberal vs. conservative. Each is often too busy shouting his or her own case to hear the opposing viewpoint.

To accept another person's view is considered defeat. To learn from the opposition is unthinkable. The goal of this pressure-group mentality is to lobby for supporters of its own view—not to grow in knowledge. How opposite this is from the Bible teaching.

New ways of thinking

There is indeed a time to speak. A time to warn others that their course of action may shipwreck their lives or harm others. At such times, speech—not silence—is golden! There are times, said Winston Churchill, "when the counsels of restraint and modera-

tion lead directly to the bull's-eye of disaster."

But our efforts must be genuine and sincere—always concentrated on the most effective ways to help others. There is a time and a way to speak. But to criticize or force another people into a corner without understanding their side of the issue is to ensure they will not hear you. We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

The habit of digging ourselves into our respective trenches and only coming out to fire at the opposition is this world's—not God's—way of thinking. We in God's Church cannot subdivide into opposing camps.

United we stand

From the beginning, Christianity united those who by nature irritated and antagonized each other. The disciples of Christ could scarcely have been more different.

His group contained practical, self-employed craftsmen, fishermen and a tax collector for Rome. There were optimists whose unflagging zeal led them to impetuous acts. As well as cautious souls who were reluctant to go ahead until all was secure.

Yet one of the most encouraging things Christ said before his crucifixion was that, apart from the son of perdition who betrayed him as was prophesied, he had lost none!

There was room in this apostolic band for both optimist and pessimist. For a Peter and a Thomas. Christ was the keystone who tied them together. Each was united in an all-encompassing purpose greater than the forces that would normally have divided them.

The apostle Paul wrote that each part of the Body must hold the others in high esteem, respecting their unique importance to the health of the whole. Our resources are too precious for us to waste in opposing ourselves. We are too small to be divided!

In Yugoslavia people destroy one another with mortar bombs because they can no longer live and work together. On both sides of the Atlantic, politicians hurl insults at each other. In contrast, we should be identifiable because of the love we have for one another.

Fire, rescue, medical teams stand ready to render aid

By Frank Parsons

BIG SANDY—"We have an 18-wheeler loaded with oil-field pipe turned over on top of a car." "There are victims with multiple injuries, please respond!"

"There's a trailer on fire by my house and I'm not sure if anyone is inside!" "My mother is having chest pains, please hurry!" "We have an oil well explosion, can you assist?"

Frank Parsons, supervisor of the Mail Processing Extension Center in Big Sandy, is an emergency medical technician and a paramedic.

These are typical calls received by the Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Unit throughout the year.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, men and women in this unit are ready to respond to life-and-death emergencies—whether fire, rescue or medical.

Of the 18 active members of the department, 13 attend Sabbath services, donating their time and often their own expenses putting their lives on the line to serve the community.

Fire chief Bob McMillan speaks highly of these brethren, who hold many leadership positions ranging from first assistant chief to civil defense emergency management coordinator.

Close teamwork and cooperation is required from all the department's members, since their lives depend on the actions

of their fellow firefighters.

Safety and training are vital keys to this kind of service. Firefighters attend training sessions for several hours at least twice a month.

Many use vacation time to be trained in fire and rescue at the Texas State Fire School at Texas A&M University.

EMS (emergency medical service) training is another vital aspect of the training these

community servers have.

Nine members have EMT (emergency medical technician) training of various levels approved by the State Health Department.

These levels range from paramedic (requiring more than 750 hours of intensive training in critical trauma care, administration of drugs, labor and delivery) to special skills such as emergency care attendant, requiring 20 hours of

training. All levels must pass intensive state exams.

With the closest major hospital more than 20 miles away, EMS personnel and law enforcement agencies often call upon these volunteers first to stabilize or provide life support for patients or victims until ambulance units arrive.

In addition to the firefighting and EMS aspects of the department, a rescue unit is being created. Classes in all phases of rescue—including extrication, rappelling, confined spaces, water rescue—are being scheduled.

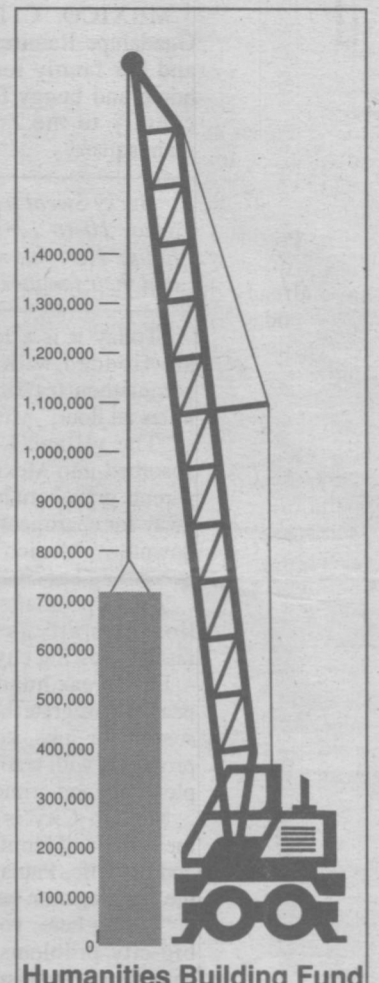
The department is seeking a used one-ton van or special trailer to carry equipment necessary for this type of community service.

A close affiliation has developed between the Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department and the Ambassador College Security Department to provide mutual aid.

These dedicated people stand trained and ready to serve the community when needs arise.



TEXAS TEAM—Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department firefighters are (from left, kneeling): vice president Frank Parsons and secretary Sherman Klepfer; (standing) president Lonnie Pierce, Jesse Allen, chief Bob McMillan, vice chief John Nosal, fire marshal Roxanne McMillan, emergency management coordinator Greg Bowers, David Jones, Sherry Nosal, Ambassador College Security officer Melven Allen and David Fisher; (on truck) Ken Swisher and Robert Cox. [Photo by Mike Bedford]



UPWARD, ONWARD—As of Dec. 4, individuals and congregations have donated \$714,169.50. [Artwork by Ken Tunell]

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 71,000

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Stylebook guides editors, writers to consistency

By Richard A. Sedliacik

More than 150 copies of an updated version of the *Worldwide Church of God Publications Stylebook* were distributed in November to various employees and departments in Pasadena and the regional offices.

Richard A. Sedliacik, the Church's corporate style adviser, serves on the nonserial publications staff of the Editorial Services Department.

The stylebook is the guideline that the Church's editors and writers use to maintain consistency in the style of our publications.

The rules and principles outlined in the stylebook—spelling, capitalization, punctuation, definitions, abbreviations, grammar—are followed, with rare exception, in all the Church's publications.

Stylebooks eliminate inconsistencies that can detract from the quality of a publication and distract the reader.

As *The New York Times Style Book for Writers and Editors* puts it, "A publication that capitalizes the word on one page and lowercases it on another may lead the careful reader to believe that such untidiness extends to larger matters."

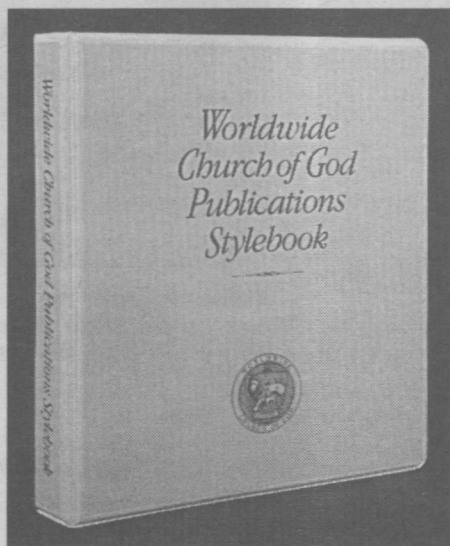
The Church's stylebook was adapted from a stylebook originally written in the mid-1970s for *The Worldwide News* by Dixon Cartwright, currently an instructor in mass communications at Ambassador College.

In August 1988, a decision was made to produce an overall stylebook for all of the Church's publications.

After months of work and hours of discussing points with the publications' editors, the new stylebook, called the *Worldwide Church of God Publications Stylebook*, came out in June 1989. Since then it has undergone two revisions.

An electronic version of the stylebook enables writers and editors to instantly access the information in the stylebook. If they have difficulty finding an item, they can use word search on the computer to quickly locate it.

(Please note that the stylebook is available only to Church employees and not to the membership at large.)



Ministerial Ordinations

Nilo Belarmino	a deacon in the Zamboanga, Philippines, church, was ordained a local church elder Oct. 16.
Luciano Cozzi	pastor of the Catania, Italy, and Valletta, Malta, churches, was ordained a preaching elder Oct. 12.
Peter Denee	a deacon in the St. Catherines, Ontario, church, was ordained a local church elder Sept. 28.
Maurice Frohn	of the Maidstone, England, church, was ordained a local church elder Sept. 19.
Ruel Guerrero	of the Manila, Philippines, South church, was ordained a local elder Oct. 12.
Dominador Guevarra	a deacon in the Malolos, Philippines, church, was ordained a local church elder Oct. 13.
Valentin Joson	a local elder in the San Fernando, La Union, Philippines, church, was ordained a preaching elder Oct. 19.
Tom Lapacka	a preaching elder in the Mojave, California, church, was ordained a pastor Oct. 3.
Lehman Lyons	a deacon in the Charleston, South Carolina, church, was ordained a local church elder Sept. 28.
James Mullady	a deacon in the Tucson, Arizona, church, was ordained a local church elder Oct. 7.
David Perry	associate pastor of the Savannah, Georgia, church, was ordained a preaching elder Sept. 28.
Gary Poffenroth	a deacon in the Evansburg, Alberta, church, was ordained a local church elder Sept. 28.
Melchor Raduban	pastor of the Santiago and Roxas, Philippines, churches, was ordained a preaching elder Oct. 19.
Jeremy Rapson	associate pastor of the Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent and Liverpool, England, and Llandudno, Wales, churches, was ordained a preaching elder Oct. 12.
Gerhard Richter	a deacon in the Grande Prairie, Alberta, church, was ordained a local church elder Sept. 28.
Philip Stevens	a deacon in the Cambridge, England, church, was ordained a local church elder Oct. 7.

Mexico City brethren resourceful and caring

By Becky Sweet

MEXICO CITY, Mexico—When Guadalupe Ramirez, 76, was a child, she and her family took leisurely trips in a horse and buggy from their home in the country to the Zocalo, Mexico City's main square.

Becky Sweet traveled to Mexico City Sept. 10 to 17 to interview pastor Felipe Neri, his wife, Paula, members and their families.

"Today it is a lot different. The roads are flooded with cars and buses, and sometimes traffic slows to just a few miles an hour," Mrs. Ramirez said.

"The village I grew up in has been absorbed into Mexico City. The fields my parents grew corn in were long ago cleared away for apartment buildings. When I visit downtown Mexico City, I get lost because everything has changed so much."

With a population of more than 17 million, this city is both the largest and fastest-growing city in the world.

Each year hundreds of thousands of peasants migrate here from rural areas to search for jobs, compounding the city's problems with traffic, air pollution, unemployment and crime.

Mexico City is home to 370 Church members and families. Felipe Neri, pastor, and his wife, Paula, have been assigned to the congregation here since June 1991.

"Living here, you have to face a lot of big-city problems on a daily basis and sometimes that can be draining," Mr. Neri said.

"It takes constant determination to live life as a Christian. When you drive, you have to be patient and not lose your temper even though it may take two hours to go a short distance.

He added, "You have to wait in line for everything, and be content with a lot of situations that are far from ideal."

Jobs, decent pay, hard to get

One of the biggest difficulties for brethren is low wages. The minimum wage in Mexico is 30,000 pesos (about US\$10) for an eight-hour work day. About a quarter of Mexico City brethren earn that wage.

A few brethren make as much as 300,000 pesos a day, mostly through government or private industry jobs.

Finding a well-paying job in Mexico City is far from easy, especially when a person doesn't work on the Sabbath.

"Although there are more job opportunities here than in other parts of Mexico, there is also a lot more competition," Mr. Neri said.

"For one job opening, there might be 10 people who want the same position. Most employers in Mexico expect their employees to work six days a week, with only Sundays off.

"So if you apply for a job and you are the only applicant who won't work on Saturdays, that lessens your chances considerably. That is one of the biggest difficulties for the brethren here."

To live decently (not in luxury, by any means), Mr. Neri estimated a person needs to earn about 100,000 pesos a day or three million pesos a month. At that wage, a person can rent a small house or apartment and buy a used car.

"We are encouraging our teens to study and finish their education," Mr. Neri said. "Young people often cannot go

on to college because of lack of finances.

"A teenager, if his parents are hurting financially, will normally go to work so he can support his parents, rather than go to college. Our teens love their parents and want to help them out, but at the same time they need to be educated."

Families stick together

Partly out of economic necessity and partly out of tradition, the entire extended family often lives together in the same home.

On average, an apartment costs one million pesos a month (about US\$330) to rent, and reasonably priced apartments are not easy to find. The majority of Mexico City brethren rent rather than own their homes.

Member Sabino Choperena, 90, and his wife, Maria, live together in the same house with their three sons, daughter, daughters-in-law, son-in-law and seven grandchildren. They have lived this way all of their lives.

"Mexican families are not spread out geographically like they are in the United States," Mr. Neri said.

"Here, most people live in the same neighborhood their entire lives, in the same city as their parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. Family is extremely important to the Mexican people.

"In my own case, we live with my mother in the same house I grew up in, my brother and his wife live right around the corner from us, my 14-year-old son, Jose Luiz, goes to the same school I did and we hope my 2½-year-old daughter, Natalia, will go to the same kindergarten I went to."

Corina Rosales, a 45-year-old member, and her mother, Guadalupe Ramirez, live next door to each other and share a common yard.

Mrs. Rosales has lived in the same house her entire life. Although the house is paid for, they are just now in the process of buying the land.

"As is typically done in Mexico, our house was built room by room, as we could afford building materials," she explained. "My parents built the living room and bedroom first, and that was all we had for many years.

"Gradually we built on a kitchen and dining room, and the bathroom was last. Before that, we used an outhouse. We didn't do any building until the money was saved first."

Shopping Mexican-style

After housing, food and clothing are the other main expenses for brethren here.

One way Mexican women stretch their grocery budgets is by shopping at a *tianguis* rather than at a supermarket.

A *tianguis* is essentially an "outdoor market on wheels," similar to a "farmer's

market" in the United States, usually covering several blocks.

Neighborhood *tianguis* are all over Mexico City, each operating on a different day of the week. Vendors set up stalls to sell everything from fruits, vegetables, tortillas and nuts to spices, meats, cheese and some nonfood items.

"The supermarkets in Mexico have come from the United States, but the *tianguis* has been a tradition in Mexico since the time of the Aztec empire," Mrs. Neri explained.

"Mexicans prefer the *tianguis*, and it is a big part of our culture. Ladies like shopping at the *tianguis* because here you have more variety of produce, better quality and more reasonable prices than what you'd find at a grocery store."

Entrepreneurship vs. education

Mexicans have traditionally dealt with unemployment or supplement insufficient incomes by selling fruits, candies, nuts, newspapers or other trinkets to passers-by.

Some salesmen take advantage of traffic jams and walk among stalled vehicles, hawking sombreros or bouquets of flowers, showing no fear of being hit by cars.

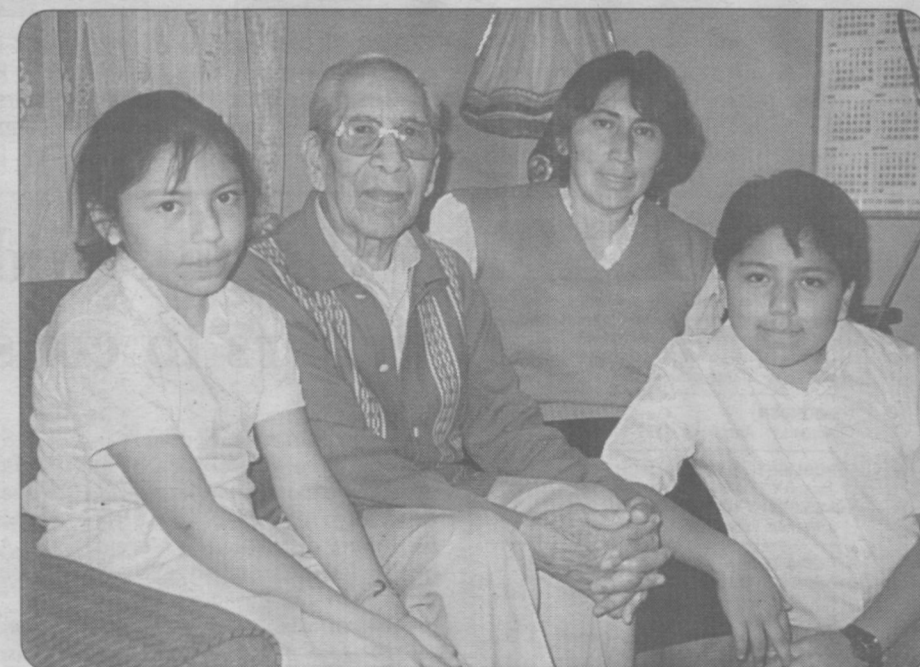
Men stage fire-breathing acts at

busy intersections, hoping for donations, while clowns perform juggling routines. Some people offer to clean windshields or set up shoe-shine stands.

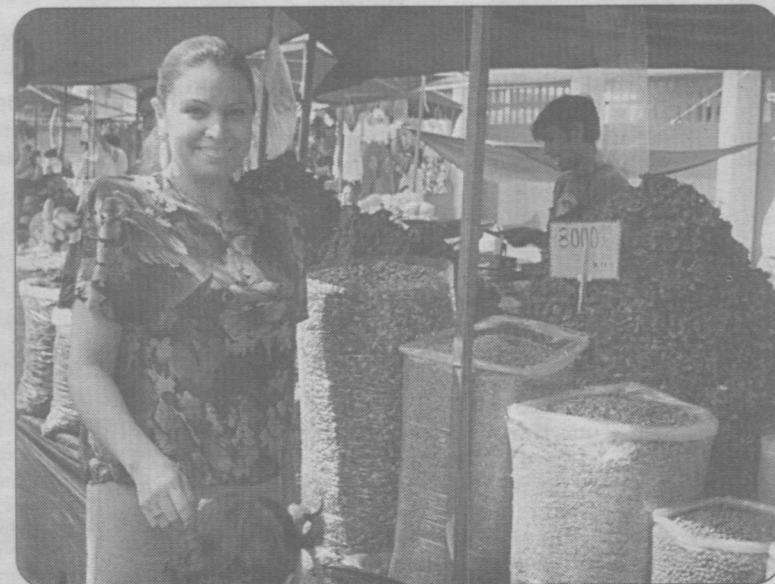
"Although the government doesn't encourage this kind of activity, they aren't real strict about stopping it, either. In



Felipe Neri, a native of Mexico City, has been church pastor since June 1991. His wife, Paula, grew up in Guadalupe. They live in the southern part of the city, a block from the rented hall where Sabbath services take place.

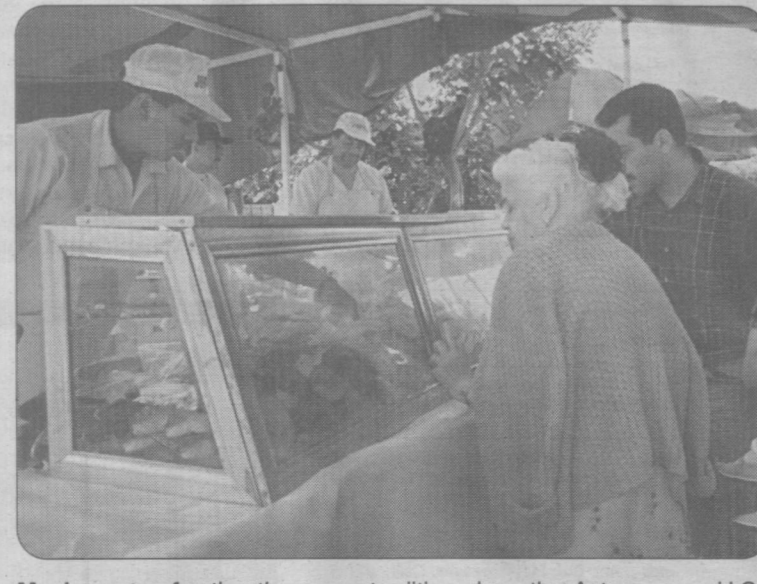


Three generations live in the same apartment, as do many Mexico City families. Mary Fernandez, her father, Alfredo Sandoya Caporal, 85, daughter, Ruth, 10, and son, Abraham, 11, live together. Mary's husband, Carlos, at work when this photo was taken, is gone 12 hours a day driving a passenger train.



A Mexican *tianguis*, a market on wheels, is where Paula Neri buys her produce. Individual stalls sell meat, vegetables, dozens of varieties of chile peppers, toiletries, pottery, even clothing.

PHOTOS BY BECKY SWEAT



Mexicans prefer the *tianguis*, a tradition since the Aztecs, over U.S.-style supermarkets with their limited choices and whose produce is not as fresh. Felipe Neri here is with his mother, Margarita, at a fish vendor's stall.

Mexico, people like to buy and sell things on the streets. It is part of our culture, the way we like to do things," Mr. Neri said.

"Even people with professional degrees sometimes opt for the life of a salesman. Professional jobs are especially hard to come by, and many times these

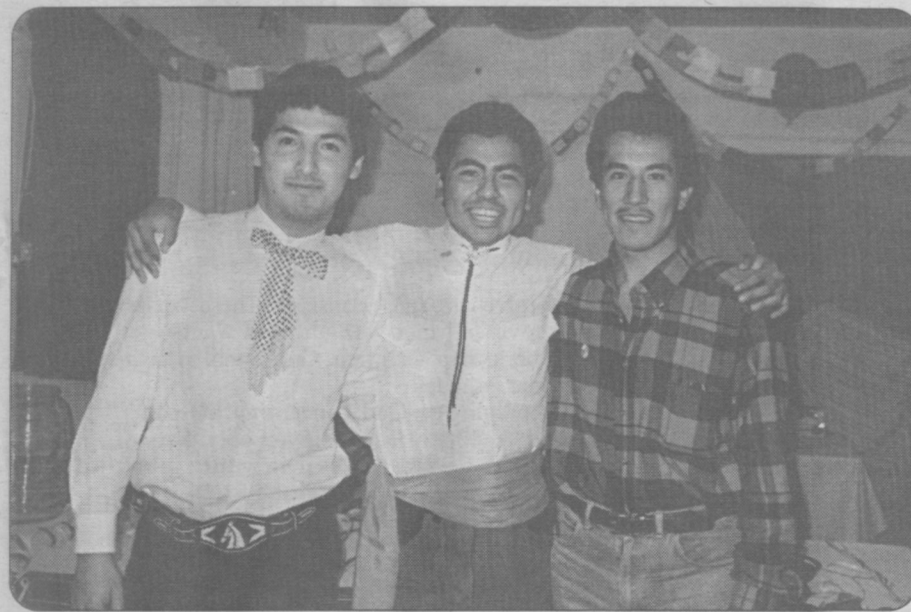
jobs do not pay well," he added.

"A person with a law or engineering degree sometimes can make more money selling tacos or quesadillas along the street than he would with a professional job."

Some of the best-selling items are *fayuca*,



This washtub, in the shared yard of Guadalupe Ramirez and her daughter, Corina Rosales, is the church's baptizing pool. They still wash their clothes in it—the traditional way, by hand—as many Mexican families do.



Three of the 30 Mexico City YOU members at a Mexican fiesta (church social) Sept. 13 in the home of member Sabino Choperena, 90. He offers his house for church socials, otherwise high hall-rental costs would greatly limit such activities.



Their native costumes adding to the evening, Corina Rosales (second from left), Guadalupe Ramirez (far right) and two other Church members also enjoy the social.

ca, U.S. consumer goods that Mexican citizens bring into their country to sell.

Fayuca are products such as hair spray, cologne, instant coffee, clothing, watches, televisions, compact discs—anything manufactured or at least marketed in the United States.

Stress of travel

About 80 percent of the brethren here cannot afford cars and rely on public transportation to get around. Mrs. Rosales takes the microbus to and from work every day. "The microbus is different from the regular-sized, large buses," she explained.

"The regular buses are always crowded and the drivers drive rather recklessly. Passengers sway all over the place and sometimes get carsick.

"My son, Belibet, has nicknamed these buses, 'Guajolotes,' meaning 'jets for turkeys.' The minibuses are more comfortable than regular buses, although they are a little more expensive to ride."

The most economical way of bus travel is to buy 15-day passes, but sometimes these are hard to come by.

"A limited number of passes are printed, and they are sold on first-come, first-served basis," Mrs. Rosales said. "Sometimes I'll wait in a long line for a bus pass, and when I finally get to the cashier's window, I learn the passes are sold out."

"Normally the pass is for sale for two days, but after the first day, they are often sold out."

Subway travel, at least during the 4 to 6 p.m. rush hour, is only for the most daring. Passengers cram into subway cars like sardines in a can, with a few determined young men hanging onto the outside doors of the car, waiting for the doors to shut and magically squeeze them in.

Brethren who can afford cars almost always buy a used car, seven or eight years old, and in most cases a Volkswagen Beetle. Like in 1930s Germany, the Volkswagen Beetle is Mexico's "car of the people."

Besides Brazil, Mexico is the only other country where the Beetle model is still manufactured. Around 75 percent of the cars on Mexico City's streets are Beetles, coming in every color of the rainbow.

Most people who own cars end up with at least one major dent sooner or later—little wonder, considering Mexi-

co City's driving conditions.

If a driver allows three car lengths between himself and the vehicle in front of him, four cars will try to fill up the space. Two cars often squeeze in a lane meant for only one, with only a few inches between vehicles.

Seasonal smog limits travel

Although Mexico City does have a serious air pollution problem, it is not as bad as most people think.

"During the June through September rainy season, frequent showers clear the air and we have little or no smog," Mrs. Neri said.

"These are the best months to visit Mexico City because the sky is blue and the air is clean and fresh. You can even see the volcanoes Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl off to the southwest."

The months that give Mexico City its reputation for air pollution are the months of the dry season, December through March.

During these months, the city is afflicted with winds strong enough to thicken the air with dust, but too weak to blow away the smog.

Government officials estimate that 70 percent of Mexico City's air pollution comes from exhausts of the three million motor vehicles. During the morning rush hour, visibility often drops to less than three city blocks.

During the smoggiest months, school is often rescheduled to begin at 11 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. to even out traffic exhaust. Occasionally school is canceled altogether.

"To try to limit pollution from car exhaust, the government regulates vehicle usage. Depending on the last digit on a person's license plate, that car is not allowed to be driven a certain day each week," Mr. Neri explained.

"On my car, the license number ends with a seven, meaning I cannot drive my car on Tuesdays. If a person drives his car anyway and is caught, he is fined the equivalent of about one month's salary.

"Everyone is allowed to drive their cars on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays," he added.

United despite obstacles

"Each day I get about 10 to 20 phone calls from brethren, 'just to see how I'm doing,'" Mr. Neri said.

"The brethren here are friendly, warm and caring, and really are a 'family' despite all the obstacles of living in the biggest city in the world."

For the most part, Mexico City brethren are unable to fellowship with one other as much as they would like to. Because of heavy traffic, it can take three hours to drive from one end of the city to the other.

Most members have to work six days a week (every day except Saturday) and can only get together on the Sabbath.

"Please pray that the unity of the Mexican brethren will continue and grow stronger, even though we live in a big city with a lot of difficulties," Mr. Neri said.

"Pray that our members here can earn a better standard of living, live more decently and have good health despite the pollution.

"Most importantly, please pray that we can stay oriented toward the Church and headquarters. Finally, please remember, *Worldwide News* readers, you have family in Mexico City."



In the medieval Zocalo, the city's main square, Mirna Beckerat, a Guatemalan member in Mexico City, is ready for a bargain. The market in the Zocalo, with such handicrafts as copper and clayware, blankets and paintings, catches the eye.

Debbie Witt rebuilt her life at not-so-typical parts store

By Bill Stough

MOUNT VERNON, Kentucky—When a customer asks Greenhill Auto Parts owner Debbie Witt for an automobile part, she flips through parts books mounted to the side of a counter using pencils attached to her hand splints.

When she has found the part the customer wants, Debbie uses the pencils to punch the part number and other information into a computer, which then prints out a receipt.

Bill Stough is a member who attends the Eureka, Missouri, church.

After the part has been paid for Debbie tells the customer where

the part is located in the store so the customer can get it.

As you can see, this is not your typical store and Debbie is not your typical owner.

Accident changes life

Debbie is a member who attends the London church. Although she has partial use of her hands she is paralyzed from the neck down, the result of an automobile accident in 1980 that threw her through the windshield of a car.

Her parents, Harry and Ellen, helped her endure seven months of painful hospitalization and, rather than put her in an institution, took her home to care for her.

As soon as she was able Debbie, who was not wearing seat

belts at the time of the accident, wrote an article that was published in an area newspaper, on the value of wearing seat belts.

Making a contribution

Unable to do little else but read, Debbie found life boring and began considering ideas that would help her make a positive contribution to life.

Sales and accounting appealed to her and she thought about opening a store.

While most types of stores would be difficult for her to handle she believed she could operate an auto parts store, though she realized it could not be run in the normal way.

And Debbie could count on the help of her father, a mechanic, who knew auto parts.

Learning new skills

Before opening Greenhill Auto Parts Debbie had to learn how to use a computer to monitor inventory, print customer receipts and for other office needs.

Ray Cowan of the London church suggested she contact John C. Ballard at NCR (National Cash Register).

Mr. Ballard, who is not a Church member, gave Debbie a computer, books and training materials, and from those she learned how to operate the computer.

When Mr. Ballard saw her progress he organized a donation drive and bought her a printer. He now owns his own company and



OWNER-OPERATOR—At her desk, Debbie Witt guides pencils to punch auto part numbers and other information into a computer. It's not easy, but she can type about 30 words a minute this way.

continues to provide repairs, paper and support functions for Debbie. The Witts have been astounded by the love and generosity they have been shown.

Overcoming obstacles

Although she can type 30 words a minute it is not easy for her because of weak wrist extension and because she cannot move the muscles in her hands or arms except the upper biceps. At first she found typing exhausting but with continued practice it has become less tiring.

She wears splints on her wrists for support and to keep them straight. Each splint has a slot that holds a pencil and she uses the eraser end to punch the keyboard and do other work.

She learned how to turn the pages of automobile parts books in a rack mounted at the side of

her counter and how to make change from the cash register by manipulating the pencils.

A telephone has been modified also for her use.

Although she had little available for starting a business, Debbie set up shop on her parents' property in an unused auto body shop that was remodeled for her use.

Member Eugene Robinson, who owned an auto parts store in London, provided the initial stock of parts on consignment, so that Debbie didn't have to buy everything in order to start. She now buys directly from several distributors who deliver parts to her store.

Despite her paralyzed body and recurring bladder infections, Debbie has rebuilt her life, exhibiting persistence, resourcefulness and a positive frame of mind.

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

block abortion clinics. But that is not the kind of social confrontation that we believe is appropriate for Christians.

We do not believe God has commissioned us to force sinners not to sin or to physically prevent every injustice in this world; rather, he has called us to tell them what sin is and how they can be forgiven and converted.

In addition, we do not believe we should take sides in politics or partisan political issues.

The kind of social action we should be involved in would include such things as promotion of mutual understanding between cultures, promotion of education and skills-training for underprivileged people, and involvement in curriculum development and safety in schools.

Some social issues we address in *The Plain Truth* or on *The World Tomorrow*. For some social concerns, our members can get involved personally or in groups in volunteer programs that help bring about positive moral and environmental changes in their local communities.

Another part of the outward aspect of the commission is the new public service program. As Jesus made plain, Christianity is not a spectator sport.

God has called us to do good works. Paul wrote: "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

As noted above, after Jesus gave the parable of the Good Samaritan, he said, "Go and do likewise."

And in the parable of the

judgment in Matthew 25, Jesus said: "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'" (verse 40).

As children of God, as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ with him living in us, we cannot help but participate in his life—a life of love proven in service.

With God's gift of salvation comes responsibility to live as Jesus lived. It is our obligation to God and to our fellow human beings.

The Holy Spirit leads us toward caring and serving, guiding us to love our not-yet-converted neighbors and to love one another as Christ also loves us.

Paul wrote: "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

In the Feast sermon, I mentioned that we have tended to have certain barriers to growth. One of these barriers is our self-imposed isolationism from the world.

Coming out of the world, though, refers to shedding the selfish, ungodly, materialistic ways of the world, not to avoiding contact with the very people Christ plans to save.

The public service program is one important way that we can let the light of Jesus Christ shine through us, as well as derive the important spiritual benefits and growth that come from getting involved in the kinds of things God commands us to do.

Perhaps the most important part of the public service program, though, is the opportunity it presents to share the gospel of the kingdom of God with more people. I'll write more about that next time.

however, he will be criticized for allowing America to get stuck in a quagmire.

The President-elect must also determine which crises in the future require intervention similar to that of Somalia. "Where does President-elect Clinton draw the new red line?" asked Thomas L. Friedman in the *New York Times*.

"How much starvation is necessary, or how bad does the human-rights situation have to become to justify American action? If Somalia, why not Bosnia, and if Bosnia, why not Kurdistan, and if Kurdistan, why not Haiti?"

Somalia

(Continued from page 2)

foreign policy in this increasingly chaotic world before he turns over the reigns of power Jan. 20.

One of the biggest challenges of President-elect Bill Clinton's administration will be deciding when to pull U.S. forces out of Somalia. If he does it too soon, all will have been in vain, like plowing the sea. When the Marines depart, Somalia's warring factions will resume their struggle for power.

If Mr. Clinton waits too long,

When you are out of step

By Dexter H. Faulkner

My friend Inez does not like daylight-saving time and simply refuses to adjust her clock.

She will probably go to bed and get up at the same time she always has. But as far as the clock is concerned, she is out of step with the rest of the nation. A minor matter for a retired person and pretty harmless at worst.

Like Inez, there are times when we too are out of step with everybody else.

It might be simply because we are stubborn, cranky or just plain cantankerous.

Sometimes differences are a matter of personal preference. Yet when we find ourselves out of step with everyone else, especially out of step spiritually, we need to examine ourselves.

The apostle Paul advised the Corinthians: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

Paul urges us to give ourselves spiritual checkups. We should look for an awareness of Christ's presence and power in our lives (see Galatians 2:20). Only then will we know if we are true Christians or merely going through the motions.

If we are not growing closer to God, then we are drawing away from him and we need to make whatever adjustments—in our attitudes or our actions—that are necessary.

After God's own heart

Being out of step with the sins of this "present evil age" (Galatians 1:4) is good. But the important question is how we stand with God. Ask yourself: Am I out of step with God?

I like the example of David because he is a man who made many mistakes and, yet, God says, "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" (Acts 13:22). You and I should hope and pray we have this kind of heart as well.

David's attitude of heart is obvious in Psalm 51. The theme of these verses is David's plea for

mercy, forgiveness and cleansing. These verses should move and motivate us. God wants our hearts to be in step with him. God wants to help us adjust our attitudes.

David, praying to God concerning his adultery, said, "Against you [God], you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Psalm 51:4).

Although King David had committed adultery with Bathsheba, he said the sin was

against God. What did he mean?

Stealing, murder and slander are also against someone else—a victim. According to this world's standard, extramarital sex between two consenting adults is acceptable if nobody gets hurt.

But people do get hurt. In David's case, a man was murdered, a woman was widowed and a baby died.

All sin hurts us and others, but ultimately it is against God because sin is rebellion against our Creator's way of living. Sin is the transgression of God's law.

So when tempted to do wrong, remember that we sin against God—not just other human beings. This concept may help us stay in step.

When things go wrong

Of course, things do go wrong in our lives. That's the way life is. We have our ups and downs, mishaps and problems to deal with.

Like a mouse running through a maze, there's a place to enter and a place to exit, but also many dead ends and walls encountered along the way.

When we hit a wall in our lives, we may have to alter our attitude, our heart or our actions to get beyond the obstacle. If we don't change we may just keep hitting our head against the wall.

We need to put things right when things go wrong. Above all, keep in step with God.

We are fortunate, however, that God has given us the power to change through his son, Jesus Christ, and we, along with Paul, can say: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Just one more thing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

BOUNDS, Dennis and Rebecca (Karels) of Houston, Texas, girl, Juliane Denise, Nov. 18, 6:50 a.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

BROWN, John and Sabrina (Watts) of Sacramento, California, girl, Keyah Natae, Nov. 8, 11:25 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

BRUMGARD, Robert and Marjorie (Garrison) of New Freeport, Pennsylvania, boy, Andrew William, June 30, 4:34 p.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, now 3 boys, 1 girl.

BRUNCKHURST, Paul and Anita (Jones) of Bellevue, Washington, girl, Elise Michelle, Nov. 11, 7:05 p.m., 8 pounds 11 1/2 ounces, first child.

CHANDLER, John and Trish (Wise) of Melbourne, Australia, boy, Jonathan Charles Frederick, June 4, 9 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

DEGLER, Kirk and Teresa (Maxey) of Washington, D.C., boy, Kirk Kerit Jr., Sept. 29, 11:01 a.m., 9 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

DERAAS, Clint and Linda (Daly) of Duluth, Minnesota, boy, Bradley Garrett, Nov. 10, 9:30 p.m., 7 pounds 4 1/2 ounces, now 2 boys.

EFFENBERGER, Heinz and Linda (Mills-Parsaie) of Hamburg, Germany, boy, Elron Heinz, Sept. 23, 7:40 p.m., 3.15 kilograms, first child.

ERICKSON, Timothy and Rene (Prusinske) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, boy, Mitchell Hayes, July 4, 3:10 p.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

HANLEY, Peter and Tracey (Gray) of Leeds, England, girl, Natalie Hope, Sept. 28, 7:49 a.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, first child.

HEBERT, Lynn and Sherry (Nehk) of Cartersville, Georgia, boy, Daniel Joseph, Oct. 10, 5:24 p.m., 9 pounds, now 3 boys.

JEDNORSKI, Chris and Karen (Drechio) of Baltimore, Maryland, boy, Jesse Christopher, Sept. 9, 12:40 p.m., 8 pounds 15 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

JONES, Philip and Celia (Henderson) of Hamilton, Bermuda, girl, Alyssa Jordan, Oct. 8, 11:44 p.m., 6 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 girls.

KASWAGA, Ben and Martha (Liguguda) of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, girl, Elokaga Tumpe, Sept. 24, 2 a.m., 3.5 kilograms, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

LUCAS, Michael and Melanie (Leckie) of London, Ontario, boy, Seth Ranen, Oct. 31, 5:30 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, now 3 boys.

MARTENS, Steve and Linda (Blosser) of Pasadena, girl, Stephanie Margaret Elaine, Nov. 2, 6:13 a.m., 7 pounds 12 ounces, first child.

MCCREREY, Ronald and Joan (Scoggins) of St. Joseph, Missouri, girl, Stefanie Marie, Oct. 17, 3:13 p.m., 6 pounds 13 ounces, first child.

OCHWO, Henry and Rose (Apio) of Toronto, Uganda, boy, Grace-Edwin Kamba, Sept. 14, 3:08 a.m., 2.2 kilograms, now 4 boys, 2 girls.

RIZZUTO, Sal and Carolyn (Burger) of Allentown, Pennsylvania, girl, Alicia Marie, Oct. 19, 11:51 a.m., 6 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

SCHMEDES, Keith and Stephanie (Robinson-Davis) of Pasadena, girl, Kirsten Shanel, Sept. 23, 3:28 a.m., 7 pounds 1 ounce, now 3 girls.

SCOTT, Gary and Brigitte (Stanley) of Auckland, New Zealand, girl, Emily Jane, Sept. 24, 5:28 a.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

VANAGS, Arvid and Annemarie (Ocvirk) of Temora, Australia, boy, David Frank, Nov. 3, 6 pounds 7 ounces, first child.

WAID, Harold and Tracy (Jones) of Jasper, Alabama, boy, Austin Michael, June 28, 4:11 p.m., 8 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

WARDLE, Raymond and Diane (Oppermann) of Ipswich, Australia, girl, Lauren Jane, Sept. 6, 7:45 a.m., 9 pounds 2 ounces, now 3 girls.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Stevens of Cambridge, England, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Emma to John Mynott of Cambridge. A summer 1993 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Eckman of Palmer, Alaska, are pleased to announce the engagement of their second daughter, Mandy Kay, to Scott Jennings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Jennings of Brisbane, Australia. A Feb. 28 wedding in Brisbane is planned.

WEDDINGS



JOHN & SUSAN BANKES

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Arnold of Huddersfield, England, are delighted to announce the marriage of their daughter Susan Jane to John Morris Bankes, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Bankes of Southport, England. The ceremony was performed July 12 by Robert Harrison, Bradford, Newcastle upon Tyne, Hull and Middlesbrough, England, pastor. Lorna Francis was matron of honor, and Peter Francis

was best man. The couple live in Luton, England.



DARREL & CASITA GARVEY

Casita Facey and Darrel Garvey were united in marriage Oct. 11. The ceremony was performed by Lateef Edalere, Kingston, Jamaica, pastor. Lydia Audrey Huntley was maid of honor, and Tennyson Bruce, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Jamaica.



STEVE & BARBARA BIGGERSTAFF

Barbara Ann Herald, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby R. Bailey of Princeton, West Virginia, and Stephen Ramsey Biggerstaff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Biggerstaff of Marion, North Carolina, were united in marriage Oct. 3. The ceremony was performed by Randall Kobornat, Kingsport, Tennessee, and Norton, Virginia, pastor. Nellena Easter was maid of honor, and Mark Biggerstaff, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Bristol, Virginia.



NIGEL & CHRISTINE SHAW

Christine M. Hancock and Nigel T. Shaw were united in marriage July 31. The ceremony was performed by David Magowan, London South, Brighton and Maidstone, England, pastor. The couple live in Ipswich, England.



TED & KIMBERLY SWANSON

Kimberly Dawn Kundert, daughter of Gordon and Velora Kundert of Milk River, Alberta, and Ted Willard Swanson, son of Roy and Anita Swanson of Milk River, were united in marriage July 26. The ceremony was performed by Robert Berend, Lethbridge, Alberta, pastor. Susan McClung, Kirsten Hartly and Laverne Hartly were bridesmaids, and David Swanson, Kris Reid and Paul Swanson were groomsmen. The couple live in Milk River.



DAVID & JANE SALMONS

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hanson of Spokane, Washington, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Jane Louise to David Twain Salmons, son of Donald and Carol Salmons of Racine, Ohio. The ceremony was performed July 25 by David Treymbig, Spokane, Washington, and Lewiston, Idaho, pastor. Stacy Whitesitt, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Patrick Duyck was best man. The couple live in Seattle, Washington.



FLOYD & ANGELITA TANOUE

Angelita Pascual, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Federico Pascual, and Floyd Tanoue, son of Mr. and Mrs. Shigeru Tanoue, were united in marriage July 26. The ceremony was performed by Richard Parker, Honolulu, Hawaii, pastor. Mary fe Pascual was maid of honor, and Brad Leamaster was best man. The couple live in Milliani, Hawaii.

Norma Moncales, whose guardians are Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Concepcion Sr. of Davao, Philippines, and Jose Salvador Sr. of Maramag, Philippines, were united in marriage Aug. 29. The ceremony was performed by Felipe Casing, Davao, General Santos City, Kidapawan and Targum, Philippines, associate pastor. Jane Concepcion was maid of honor, and Roderick Casing was best

man. The couple live in Maramag.



MONTE & SUSAN McCORMICK

Susan Annette Lisenbee and Monte Joe McCormick were united in marriage Oct. 10. The ceremony was performed by Kent Fentress, Spokane, Washington, associate pastor. Sandy Whited, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Dennis Whited was best man. The couple live in Spokane.



GARY & LISA PINDER

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kissel of Walkersville, Maryland, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Lisa Jeannene to Gary David Pinder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Pinder of Windermere, England. The ceremony was performed Oct. 4 by Steve Gerrard, Cumberland and Frederick, Maryland, and Front Royal, Virginia, associate pastor. Lois Botha was maid of honor, and Brad Phipps was best man. The couple live in Maryland.



SIMON & MADELEINE CARTER

Madeleine Ann Belej, daughter of N.J. Belej of Gloucester, England, and Simon John Carter, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Carter of Northampton, England, were united in marriage Aug. 30. The ceremony was performed by David Bedford, Birmingham, England, pastor. Michelle Powell was matron of honor, and Paul Carter, brother of the groom was best man. The couple live in Milton Keynes, England.



JOEL & LEANN NICKELSEN

LeAnn Marie Heim, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Heim of Brighton, Illinois, and Joel David Nickelsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Nickelsen of Huntington, West Virginia, were united in marriage Aug. 16. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, a minister in the Huntington church. Sherry DeVilbiss, sister of the bride, and Karen Biggs were matrons of honor, and Jim Nickelsen, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Olathe, Kansas.



CABNER & MARIA VIRGILE

Maria Isabel Lopez and Cabner Virgile Jr. were united in marriage Sept. 6. The ceremony was performed by Carlos Perkins, Brooklyn, New York, North pastor. Linda Bentz was matron of honor, and Elijah Antoine was best man. The couple live in Brooklyn.



EBINEZER & BEVERLY YUSON

Beverly Loma Casing, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Felipe Casing of Davao, Philippines, and Ebenezer Yuson of Quezon, Philippines, were united in marriage Aug. 2. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, Davao, General Santos City, Kidapawan and Tagum, Philippines, associate pastor. Grace Gulfan was maid of honor, and Roderick Casing was best man. The couple live in Quezon.



ERNESTO & RITA MAGUNDAYAO

Rita G. Derpo of Manila, Philippines, and Ernesto C. Magundayao of Cavite, Philippines, were united in marriage Feb. 9. The ceremony was performed by Edmond D. Macaraeg, Bacolod and San Carlos, Philippines, pastor. Maria Luisa Sy was maid of honor, and Edgar Bansale was best man. The couple live in Cavite.



JAMES & CYNTHIA CALLAHAN

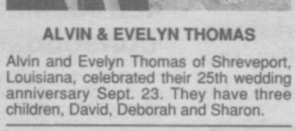
Cynthia Louise Russell and James Scott Callahan were united in marriage Oct. 13 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The couple live in Gainesville, Florida.

ANNIVERSARIES



KEN & FRIEDA IIAMS

Ken and Frieda Iiams of Rathdrum, Idaho, celebrated their 40th anniversary Sept. 24. They have three sons, Gerald, Mike and Steve; one daughter, Linda; three daughters-in-law, Valerie, Joyce and Melinda; and one grandson, Brandon. Mr. and Mrs. Iiams serve as deacon and deaconess in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, church.



ALVIN & EVELYN THOMAS

Alvin and Evelyn Thomas of Shreveport, Louisiana, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sept. 23. They have three children, David, Deborah and Sharon.



LEROY & CHERYL RATH

LeRoy and Cheryl Rath of Phoenix, Arizona, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Oct. 6. They have three daughters, Sharon, Christa Maitland and Jennifer; one son-in-law, John; and one grandson, Brandon.



BOB & PAT DEVINE

Bob and Pat Devine of Nottingham, England, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Sept. 29. They have two daughters, Ruth Arnold and Rachel; and one son-in-law, James Arnold. Mr. Devine is a local church elder in the Nottingham church.



MR. & MRS. WILLIAM CHAPMAN

Mr. and Mrs. William Chapman of Pflugerville, Texas, celebrated their 40th

wedding anniversary Oct. 11. They have one son, John; three daughters, Sue Kuhn, Elaine Clark and Mern; one daughter-in-law, Pyong; two sons-in-law, Larry Kuhn and Jay Clark; and 16 grandchildren.



ERIC & PAT SHAW

Eric and Pat Shaw of Pasadena celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Sept. 28. They have two daughters, Bonnie Witte and Vicki; and one son-in-law, Jade Witte.



HARRY & JANICE RANDALL

W. Harry and Janice Randall of Allentown, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Oct. 6. They have three sons, Jeff, Jay and William; one daughter, Tina Hornsby; one daughter-in-law, Diane; one son-in-law, Don Hornsby; and one granddaughter, Candace.



KEN & FRIEDA IIAMS

Ken and Frieda Iiams of Rathdrum, Idaho, celebrated their 40th anniversary Sept. 24. They have three sons, Gerald, Mike and Steve; one daughter, Linda; three daughters-in-law, Valerie, Joyce and Melinda; and one grandson, Brandon. Mr. and Mrs. Iiams serve as deacon and deaconess in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, church.

ANNIVERSARIES MADE OF GOLD

Floyd and Lucille Harper of Evansville, Indiana, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 8. They have two sons, three daughters and 11 grandchildren.



SAM & LESBIE RECORD

Sam and Leslie Record of Willard, Missouri, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 17. They have two daughters, Janice Rockhold and Shirley Record-Ranchie; one deceased son, Rex; one daughter-in-law, Barbara; one son-in-law, Jerry Rockhold; and three grandsons, Allen, David and Robert. Mr. Record is a deacon in the Springfield, Missouri, church.



BEN & FRIEDA SCHMIDT

Ben and Frieda Schmidt of Oak Grove, Missouri, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 30. They have seven children, Richard, Nadine Szymkowiak, Elaine Den Houter, Calvin, Wayne, Philip (deceased) and James; 22 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



MACK & RUTH TRIPLETT

Malcolm "Mack" and Ruth Triplett of Columbus, Ohio, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 3.



GUY & VIRGINIA SAMS

Guy and Virginia Sams of Church Hill, Tennessee, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary Sept. 15. They have a daughter, Marty Saunders; and a son-in-law, F.O. Saunders. Mr. Sams is a local church elder in the Norton, Virginia, church.



KENNETH & BILLIE POST

Kenneth and Billie Post of Dickinson, Texas, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 4. They have five children, 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

OBITUARIES

DOBSON, Elmer R., 82, of Coyle, Oklahoma, died Oct. 29. He is survived by three sons: Joe, pastor of the Kansas City South and Topeka, Kansas, churches; Charles and David, pastor of the Bakersfield, Mojave and Victorville, California, churches; one daughter, Jill Simmons; and eight grandchildren.

MARBERRY, Earl, 61, of Gary, Indiana, died Oct. 15. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; two daughters; one brother; three sisters; and four grandchildren.

DAILEY, Susan A., 62, of Corona, California, died Oct. 4 of a stroke. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Carl; two sons, Robert and Joseph; two daughters, Susan and Kristine; one daughter-in-law, Evelyn; two sons-in-law, Jim and Chuck; and three grandchildren, Lindsay, David and Chelsea.

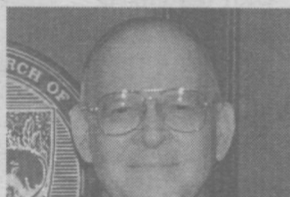
TAYLOR, Arlena, 82, of Rupert, Georgia, died Nov. 2 of cancer. She is survived by six sons, six daughters, 38 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

WILSON, Marguerite F., 99, of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, died Nov. 9. She is survived by three daughters, 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren. Her husband, one son and one grandson preceded her in death.



UZZELL LEWIS

LEWIS, Uzzell, 83, of Beaufort, North Carolina, drowned Sept. 25 when his riding mower fell over onto him in the waterway next to his home. He is survived by one son, Ray; a daughter-in-law, Cindy; three grandchildren, Ray, Mark and Valerie; two stepgrandchildren, Lester K. Josey and Jeannette-Mason; and four great-grandchildren.



WILLIAM WAGNER

WAGNER, William, 67, a local church elder in the Boca Raton, Florida, church, died Oct. 17. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Barbara; one son, Jeffrey; two daughters, Wendy Hogberg and Laurie Huntier; and four granddaughters.



VIBERT GILKES

GILKES, Vibert, 48, of Pasadena, died Oct. 15 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife of 2 1/2 years, Pamela; and two daughters, Lorraine and Louise.



ZOLA DUERR

DUERR, Zola McCall, 99, of Chico, California, died Oct. 8. She is survived by one son, Homer; one daughter-in-law; two grandsons; one granddaughter; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Photo reminders...

Photos can be accepted with wedding, anniversary and obituary announcements. Either color or black and white photographs can be used. Please do not send negatives or slides. If you would like your photo returned, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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

UPDATE

Olongapo church's relief program impresses townships

OLONGAPO, Philippines—The Olongapo church distributed 200 supply packets Oct. 1 to families affected by the lahar (mud flow) of Mt. Pinatubo.

Manuel Blanca, a deacon in the Olongapo church, led the relief distribution. Their goal was to take supplies to towns where people did not leave their homes.

The people in these houses are basically safe from lahar because they were on hilltops, yet they are isolated by a two-kilometer-wide river of lahar between their houses and the town.

They generally have no incomes because most are farmers whose farms were buried by several feet of lahar.

The group took 100 supply packets to people in two towns, Santa Fe and Palan. "In both barangays [towns] the people were very grateful and appreciated the relief packets very much," said Chuck Mago, Olongapo pastor.

"Food is much needed, so they were relieved to see that the goods were things they could eat. The rice in the packet was the most appreciated."

While the distribution was in progress, some asked who was behind the relief goods and expressed gratefulness.

"One of our crew mentioned the Church is behind this relief action, and that the Church is the publisher of *The Plain Truth*," said Mr. Mago.

"Some wrote down the

Church's mailing address. The crew was the most excited of all. They consider this a great opportunity to show our light, and are volunteering again for the next relief operation."

Georgia Nash celebrates 101st birthday

CLARKSBURG, West Virginia—Member Georgia Nash turned 101 Sept. 27. She has been



GEORGIA NASH
Turned 101 in September

a member of the church here since 1978 and now lives in a nursing home.

Mrs. Nash taught school for many years in the Clarksburg area. She has one son, Julian, and two grandchildren.

Government recognizes church in Cameroon

YAOUNDE, Cameroon—After many years of striving to sat-

isfy requirements for registration in Cameroon, the Church was finally recognized here Aug. 27. This process began in 1977.

This registration enables the Church to meet freely without having to notify government authorities in advance.

Registration allowed the Church to conduct a full Feast of Tabernacles for the first time. The Feast was celebrated in Kribi, a holiday village in the tropics.

Atlanta singles hosts for winter dance

ATLANTA, Georgia—The Atlanta Northwest singles invite all singles to a \$10 winter dance Jan. 30.

Sabbath services start at 2 p.m. at Nash Middle School, 951 Power Springs St., in Smyrna, Georgia.

The dance will take place from 8 p.m. until midnight at the Smyrna Community Center, 200 Village Green Circle, in Smyrna. Dress is casual and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

For tickets, send a \$10 check payable to Atlanta Northwest Church Activity Fund to Mark Tabladillo, 29802 Georgia Tech Station, Atlanta, Georgia, 30332.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a map. Checks postmarked after Jan. 14 will be subject to a \$5 late fee.

For further information, call Mr. Tabladillo at 1-404-434-6712.

Caribbean Office reduced after consolidation

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Evangelist Bernard Schnipfert, director of Media Operations, and Tom Lapacka, international media coordinator, met with evangelist Colin Adair, regional director for the Caribbean, and employ-

World Tomorrow Program

TELEVISION STATION

UPDATES

Renewals

Station/Location	Air Time	Channel
KAUZ Wichita Falls, Texas	Sunday 9 a.m.	6
KFVS Paducah, Kentucky	Sunday 5:30 p.m.	12
KNOE Monroe, Louisiana	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	8
WBRC Birmingham, Alabama	Sunday 9 a.m.	6
WDTV Clarksburg, West Virginia	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	5
WKBT La Crosse, Wisconsin	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	8
KRDO Colorado Springs, Colorado	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	13
KRRT San Antonio, Texas	Sunday 6:30 a.m.	35
KTBS Shreveport, Louisiana	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3
KUSA Denver, Colorado	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	9
WAND Springfield, Illinois	Sunday 7 a.m.	17
WDIO Duluth, Minnesota	Sunday 10 a.m.	10
WFLA Tampa, Florida	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	8
WGNO New Orleans, Louisiana	Sunday 7:30 a.m.	36
WKPT Bristol, Virginia	Sunday 11:30 a.m.	19
WKRG Mobile, Alabama	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	5
WMTV Madison, Wisconsin	Sunday 8 a.m.	15
WOOD Grand Rapids, Michigan	Sunday 11 a.m.	8
WPIX New York, New York	Saturday 6 a.m.	11
WWTW Traverse City, Missouri	Sunday 7 a.m.	9
WXIA Atlanta, Georgia	Sunday 6:30 a.m.	11

ees of the Caribbean Office here Nov. 19.

They discussed implementing plans to consolidate mail processing functions performed in the Caribbean Office with existing mail processing functions in Big Sandy and Pasadena.

Because of the consolidation, the size of the Caribbean Office was reduced.

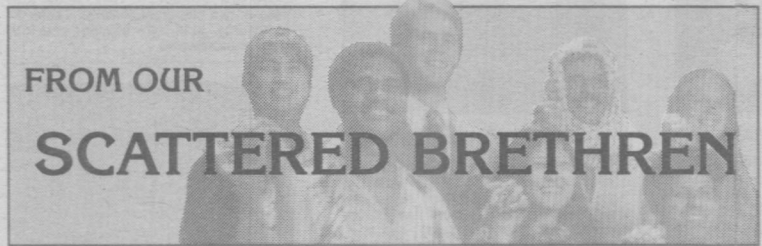
Southwest ministers and wives attend conference

PALM SPRINGS, California—Ministers and wives from the Southwest region of the United

States met for a conference here Nov. 17 to 19.

Speakers were evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration; evangelist Dean Blackwell; Victor Kubik, an assistant director of Church Administration; Bill Jacobs, YOU coordinator; evangelist Michael Fezell, administrative assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach; and evangelist Greg Albrecht, *Plain Truth* editor.

On the last day of the conference the group watched a video of Mr. Tkach's presentation to the regional directors last summer.



FROM OUR
SCATTERED BRETHERN

"That He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

Land of wonder under the 'land down under'

By Marjorie Desgrosseilliers and Simone Worthing
In 1642 Abel Tasman, a Dutch navigator-explorer, was the first European to discover the small heart-shaped island hanging like a locket from the mainland of Australia—Van Diemen's Land, which in 1856 became Tasmania.

Marjorie Desgrosseilliers, a researcher for *The Plain Truth*, attended the Feast in Tasmania, and Simone Worthing is the wife of Cliff Worthing, assistant pastor in Tasmania.

Known today by tourists as the land down under the "land down under," Tasmania is an island state of beauty, tranquility and friendly people.

Essentially a mountainous island, "Tassie" is also a land of gentle, sloping fields and hills. Rain forest comprises most of the southwest corner, some of which has not been explored because of thick undergrowth.

190 members, families
Tasmania is home to 190 Church members and families who attend congregations in three

major cities: Launceston, Devonport and Hobart (capital of Tasmania and claimed to be the second oldest city in Australia, after Sydney).

The first Sabbath services in Tasmania were conducted in June 1969 at the Windmill Hill Hall in Launceston. In June 1972 a church was formed in Hobart. The Devonport church started in March 1974.

Starting in 1993 Rod McQueen, pastor of the Tasmanian churches; his assistant, Cliff Worthing; and Barry Williams, a local church elder; plan to preach in each of the three congregations seven out of eight sabbaths. A tape will be played on the remaining Sabbath.

Mr. McQueen tries to get to two services every Sabbath—with a drive between them ranging from 1½ hours to three hours.

Mr. McQueen says even though the state is a relatively small island, "the brethren here really are scattered."

'We can't just pop over'

In Tasmania's far northwest, Tony and Jude Williams live on a dairy farm at Circular Head—about a two-hour drive from the nearest church in Devonport.

In their beautiful, but somewhat isolated corner of Tasmania, Jude

works the farm while her husband, Tony, makes custom-made furniture.

The Williamses, who have been attending for 13 years, go to services once a month and listen to tapes the rest of the time.

"We have contact with other members over the phone, which is really good," says Jude, "but we do miss the fellowship and the social aspect of the church. We can't just pop over and see someone or vice versa."

The Williamses say that even though they are on their own most of the time, "being more isolated has helped us to develop a lot of skills, as well as become more involved in the local community."

Tony and Kaye Hicks, members since 1980, live in Ross, a town in the Tasmanian midlands, about 50 miles from the nearest church area of Launceston. Despite their somewhat isolated location, they attend weekly Sabbath services.

"We have no contact with brethren during the week though," says Kaye. "We'd like to make phone calls, but we can't as they cost a lot of money and we have to count our pennies."

"And most of the brethren can't afford to come up or down to see us, so we only see people when they're passing through."

She continued: "We do miss having people around and find it difficult at times being away from everyone, but it helps us to really appreciate services and fellowship all the more."

Alone but never alone

Ernest Bond is a 70-year-old member who lives alone at Lune River. Because of damage to his

ears during World War II, Mr. Bond has never attended church services or the Feast.

"In large groups I have to turn sideways to hear anything and the strain of trying to concentrate and pick up every sound causes splitting head and ear aches," he explained.

Under strict doctor's orders to avoid this type of situation, Mr. Bond certainly hasn't given up on communicating with people.

He's in charge of the state ambulance for the area, runs the first-aid station and is a senior first-aid instructor for school and community groups.

This year Mr. Bond received an honorary award from Queen Elizabeth for his first-aid and ambulance services. The chairman of the board came out in person and presented the award.

Mr. Bond has been in contact with the Church since the 1960s but was baptized just early this year.

Community in tiny outpost

There is a strong feeling of community in this tiny outpost of God's Church. But it hasn't been without its trials and difficulties.

"It's scary," one member said. "People you've known for 20 years in the Church just up and leaving. It really makes you stop and think. It made me question my own conversion—will I do that too?"

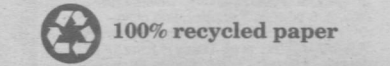
"We are somewhat isolated, but we're still members of the Worldwide Church of God. We just have to hang in there and know that God will work all things together for the good."

So, for the Tasmanians, being remote members puts a great responsibility on them to make

sure their Christian lights are shining brightly.

As Kaye Hicks puts it: "In the city you're able to get away with things, but in the country everyone sees everything you do and reports it to someone else. You have to watch everything you do and say."

This philosophy has knit this small church together tightly.



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