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The Worldwide NEWS



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DECEMBER 13, 1994



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Can we be zealous without being exclusive?

Last time, we began a two-part discussion on the topic of Christians in other churches. I broke the topic into these four main points:

1) True Christians are identified by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Other New Testament "signs" of true Christianity are faith and love. These signs may be claimed falsely, but the New Testament still gives these signs as the basic identifiers of the true Church.

2) Not all converted people are in the Worldwide Church of God. True Christians can be found in other organizations. Some may even be scattered and unaffiliated.

3) Therefore, we should be careful not to condemn what God may be doing in and through others. We cannot proclaim that all who are not in our immediate fellowship are unconverted.

4) Although we recognize that there are Christians who are not members of the Worldwide Church of God, this does not give us an excuse to leave the Church where God has placed us. All of us will be judged on the basis of what we do with what God has given us.

Last time, we went through the first two points, and this time we'll go through points 3 and 4.

When we think of the many sacrifices we have made for our Church, it is only normal and appropriate for us to feel a strong emotional attachment to it. We all want a clear sense of identity, but sometimes that strong sense of our own group identity causes us to criticize those who belong to a different group. This kind of exclusivist attitude is a common one in many churches, clubs and organizations.

It's an attitude that causes us to assume that everyone who does not belong to our immediate fellowship cannot have a personal relationship with Christ because they have not experienced what we have experienced, have not sacrificed what we have sacrificed and do not believe what we believe on certain issues. This assumption causes us to magnify and dwell on our differences and to elevate those differences to being the only true criteria for having the Holy Spirit, for being a true Christian.

In some cases, this tendency produced in us a bad attitude even toward other Sabbathkeepers. Whether or not it was official policy, what matters now is that it often happened, and it shows that we, just like many other groups, wanted to be the only true Christians. Instead of saying, "Those people keep the Sabbath, and we ought to respect their faithfulness to Christ," we have tended to add another layer of exclusivism and say, "They don't keep the Holy Days, so they can't be true Christians."

And if we were pointed to a group that also kept the Holy Days, we searched for some other doctrine to disagree on. It's as if we were afraid to think that people might be given salvation who don't fully agree with our every doctrinal understanding. We wanted to do the right thing, but we had a wrong emphasis. Instead of trying to obey Jesus' commandment in John 13:35, the commandment he said identifies his disciples, we applied other tests that would identify us as the only true disciples. Instead of examining our obedience to Jesus' command, we stood in judgment of others. Jesus' "test" commandment wasn't enough to satisfy our desire for feeling special and unique. We felt we needed to be spiritually superior to all others who call on his name, and that none could be considered truly Christian unless or until they came to adhere to all our doctrinal positions. The desire for exclusiveness always leads to dissent and schisms—unchristian fruit.

Sabbath-keeping denominations take the Bible seriously, and that is good. But we sometimes take our own *interpretations* of the Bible and the Sabbath too seriously. We need to take into account that no one, including us, is perfect in understanding or in Christian maturity. Christian maturity, like maturity in general, is a process. It takes place over a period of time as we walk in humility before God.

As we all know, Sabbatarians even disagree among themselves

Continued on page 4

Church names two new U.S. sites for 1995 Feast of Tabernacles

Some sites consolidated
to save money in
administering the Feast

Two new Feast of Tabernacles sites will open in the United States in 1995, according to Mark McCulley, Festival Administration manager. Those sites are in Seaside, Oregon, and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

"These are beautiful new areas in which to keep the Feast, and we hope the members will enjoy them," said Mr. McCulley. "They offer cost savings to the Church, which will keep more funds available for assistance and social programs at the Festival sites."

In addition, Big Sandy will reopen after being closed for 1994. Tours of

Ambassador University will be offered in addition to other activities.

The following sites will not be available in 1995: Eugene, Oregon; Keystone, Colorado; Lexington, Kentucky; Lowell, Massachusetts; and St. Petersburg, Florida.

"Because of changing attendance patterns, and newly available sites, we have been able to consolidate sites and save money in administering the Feast. However, the sites we have canceled are fairly close to other sites, so most members should be able to attend the Feast with no significant additional travel."

More information on Festival sites worldwide will be printed in the Festival Planning Guide scheduled to be distributed to members Feb. 18.

Hope rides high on German humanitarian highway to Croatia

It's important to show
war victims that others
are concerned

By Gary W. Hopkins

BONN, Germany—Since the war in Yugoslavia broke out more than three years ago, members in the German region have provided humanitarian aid to refugees and those in need near Zadar and Slavonski Brod, Croatia.

More than 30 truckloads of clothing, food, medical supplies and equipment have been sent to help

schools, hospitals and relief camps.

The latest shipment left the Bonn Office warehouse for Croatia Aug. 2. Winfried Fritz, pastor of the Bonn-Duesseldorf church, coordinated the collection, which included 50 beds, mattresses and bedding supplied by the German army; 12 wheelchairs; dental materials; kitchen utensils; and an electrocardiogram machine.

Four thousand kilograms of powdered milk as well as badly needed medical supplies were purchased for distribution among various recipients including two refugee centers and a hospital in Ugljan.

In addition, members collected used clothing and shoes for the shipment, and Wilhelm Hoenen, a Bonn-Duesseldorf member, donated a large quantity of food.

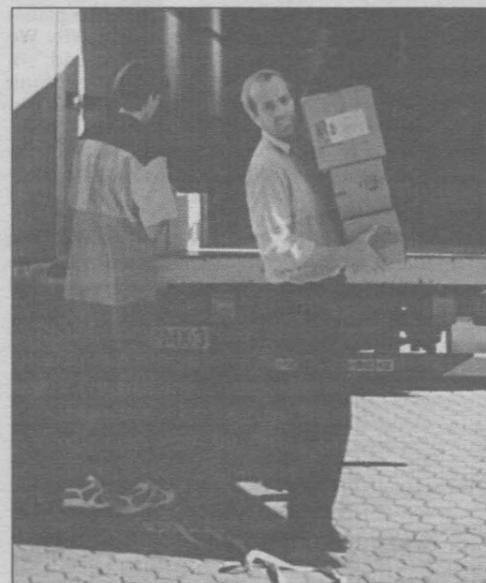
The donations filled a truck with a 25-ton capacity.

Ivo Ivin, a member in Salzburg, Austria, and a native of Croatia, once again accompanied the shipment to Croatia, and helped the Red Cross distribute the donations.

"Although these efforts can't end the war or relieve the terrible needs of the people in Croatia, it's important to give the people hope and to show them that others are concerned for their welfare," Mr. Fritz said.

In his thank-you letter, Matijj Misanec, chairman of the city council of Slavonski Brod, wrote: "It's nice to know that there are people who sympathize with people in need."

Our next shipment is planned for the end of December.



CROATIAN RELIEF—Wilhelm Hoenen and his son Volker carry medical supplies from the delivery truck to the loading ramp. [Photo by Gary W. Hopkins]

Nobel winners take bold steps for peace

"Blessed are the peacemakers, and few in number," reported *Time* magazine last year, giving a twist to one of Jesus' Beatitudes.

Peacemaking is such a rare commodity that it was a marvelous opportunity to meet two courageous men of peace—F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's executive deputy president; and Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel; both recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

On Nov. 4, Mr. de Klerk addressed the Los Angeles World Affairs Council. He was corecipient of the 1993 Nobel award, along with South Africa's new president, Nelson Mandela.

Less than two weeks later, Mr. Rabin was guest of honor at a banquet played host to by the Ronald Reagan Center for Public Affairs. (Mr. Rabin; Shimon Peres, Israeli foreign minister; and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization; are this year's Nobel Peace Prize winners.)

History will record that both Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Rabin embarked on bold courses of change fraught with danger, much of it generated by opposition within their own ranks.

Upon taking office as State President in 1989, Mr. de Klerk proclaimed that "our goal is a totally changed South Africa." Economic and demographic realities in his country, he told us, had simply overwhelmed the outmoded concept of



separate development, or apartheid.

"The first and important lesson for us," he continued, "was the acceptance that South Africa is truly one country and that the destinies of all our people are inextricably interlinked."

In a series of moves, the de Klerk government legalized the African National Congress, released Mr. Mandela from 27 years of imprisonment and asked the white South African electorate to approve the reform process. The voters overwhelmingly agreed.

The former State President and his supporters, he said, also "went on our knees before our Lord and Maker" to ask God's blessing on their endeavor—an unusual course of action for most world leaders, perhaps, but one not uncommon to Afrikaners, given their strong Christian beliefs.

South Africa still faces enormous challenges. A constitution must be crafted for the time beyond the five-year interim period. It may not be easy to satisfy many conflicting aims.

At the moment, a more serious problem involves the great numbers of rural poor who are pouring into the cities in search of work, in the same way people from developing nations are migrating to the industrial countries of Western Europe and North America. South Africa, Mr. de Klerk emphasized, is "more a microcosm of the world than any other country."

Prime Minister Rabin has shown a similar, iron-willed determination to bite the bullet of change in the search for peace. A proven warrior, he has been called a "carnivorous dove."

Mr. Rabin's most difficult task, he told the audience at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, after he received the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award, was to deal with Arafat, whom he had repeatedly denounced as a terrorist. "It took me six to eight months to contemplate reaching an agreement and shaking hands with Mr. Arafat," he confessed.

Once this step was taken, however, the way was paved for Israel's easier

peace agreement with Jordan, reached in October.

Many enemies are determined to wreck Middle East peace, such as the Hamas extremists. "We are determined to pursue peace and to fight the enemies of peace at the same time," the prime minister concluded.

We can applaud the enormous strides these two men and their fellow Nobel laureates have taken to end the cycles of violence and oppression in their regions. But the more important goals of harmony and global brotherhood remain a long way off.

The *Time* magazine story gave part of the answer: "War is rich and vivid, with its traditions, its military academies, its ancient regiments and hero stories.... Peace is not exciting.... It is a rare society that tells exemplary stories of peacemaking—except for the Gospels of Christ, whose... grace may be admired from a distance, without much effect on daily behavior."

As we look forward to the time when humanity will no longer even learn of war, we have the opportunity—and obligation—to make peacemaking a part of our daily behavior.

"The wisdom that comes from heaven," said the apostle James, "is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit.... Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:17-18).

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FOUNDER:
Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)

PUBLISHER & EDITOR IN CHIEF:
Joseph W. Tkach
ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER:
J. Michael Feazell

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Art director: Ronald Grove; **illustrator:** Ken Tunell.

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Print production manager: Skip Dunn; **printing coordinators:** Stephen Gent and Catherine Snyder.

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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.

Money management

I greatly appreciated your Aug. 23 article by Glenn Nice, "Sensible Ways to Secure Your Money and Your Future." I am glad you plan to run articles on money management. This is surely needed for many of us in the Church who are often struggling in spite of our faithful tithes and offerings.

Many of us are in a labyrinth of inexperience and confusion. Sure, there are all kinds of investments, but salesmen from these companies are working for commission and are not financial planners.

Please give us more articles on financial stewardship and how to manage available finances after tithing.

Bill Trimarco
Brooklyn, New York

What God is like

I certainly appreciate Neil Earle's explanatory article, "Making Connections: Why We Need to Know the Bible's Background," in the Nov. 8 *Worldwide News* distinguishing the differences between what God is like and what God is.

To me it demonstrates that God is absolutely sovereign, that he superintends the affairs of humankind to fulfill his grand and glorious purpose.

The more the Church brings out who and what God is, the more wonderful he becomes. And also the greater it should reflect our reconciliation with him.

North Hollywood, California

We appreciate your comments and support. One reader, however, brought to our attention an error in the article. We said that the word hypostasis was used twice in the New Testament. In fact there are five references altogether and only three of them are found in the book of Hebrews: Hebrews 1:3, 3:14 and 11:1. The other references are 2 Corinthians 9:4; 11:17. Our apologies for this oversight.

Coming to understand

In November 1993 I wrote you and disagreed with the new practice of the Church in praising other churches for the work they

do for God. After reading for the past year, I think I understand what you're trying to explain to us.

If we look at the attitude of the early Church, the Jews were hostile toward the Church, but we don't read that the Church returned that hostility.

I was a Catholic, reading a Catholic Bible, when I noticed that the Church I was in and the Bible didn't teach the same thing. Should I have been hostile toward the Catholic Church? No. It was the Catholic Church that introduced me to the Bible—not the Church of God.

The Southern Baptists here in the Southeast are sending Bibles to Russia. Our Church can't because of its small size. I can now change my attitude toward the Baptists and all Christian churches. They are doing

"Into All the World..."

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

From French-speaking subscribers

Thank you for sending *The Plain Truth* free of charge. I appreciate the way your magazine is written and the subjects that are covered. They help me to have a better view on what is happening in the world.

The biblical subjects encourage me to get closer to God and to maintain that relationship. It is said that man feels great pleasure in receiving. I like when you send me your booklets without me begging you. I thank you and greet you in Jesus Christ's name.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Please find enclosed a postal check of 200 French francs as a contribution to the fantastic work that you are doing for the children of God. Your magazine, which I have received for 20 years, is a source of wealth. It transmits to me a little bit of human warmth; it warms my heart when it comes and it brings me much goodness and peace.

Thank you for teaching us to love, serve and please God, and to love and help each other. It also helps us to better understand the Bible, the Word of God.

Paris, France

some of God's work that this Church can't. Just because they go to church on some other day doesn't mean they are against Christ, as I once thought.

South Carolina

Thoughts now turned to baptism

It gives me great pride to be a part of the Church. My grandfather became a member some 40 or so years ago. I have attended since birth.

I have never become a baptized member, but what you have been saying has given me much thought in possibly doing so. Throughout my entire life in God's Church, I could never understand the ideas that we were somehow better than others. I knew people "of the world" who were and are of better heart than some so-called Christians that I had been around all of my life.

God, not a man, rules his Church. Thank you for being strong and accepting God's calling in doing his work.

Midland, Texas

From Italian-speaking subscribers

When I was 10 years old, I subscribed to your magazine, and now I am 14. I want to congratulate you for how you write in simple, easy-to-understand language. The meaning reaches even a young student like me.

I believe that the teenage period of life is not easy to live. I have no marriage problems, nor child education problems (issues that have been discussed in your magazine), but what I read helps me to find a balance with my parents, and to build a Christian foundation for my future life.

The Bible is a book that answers questions; however, these answers sometimes have ambiguous meanings that *La Pura Verità* (Italian *Plain Truth*) explains in a simple way.

I keep every issue of your wonderful magazine like an encyclopedia, because sometimes I need a suggestion for resolving problems that are important to me, and the results are good.

Vicenza, Italy

La Pura Verità is for me an important guide for understanding what before was a mystery and a misunderstanding. Things like love in the family, honoring your parents, how to be stronger inside (for example, the booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*), going to church and praying to God.

Cosenza, Italy



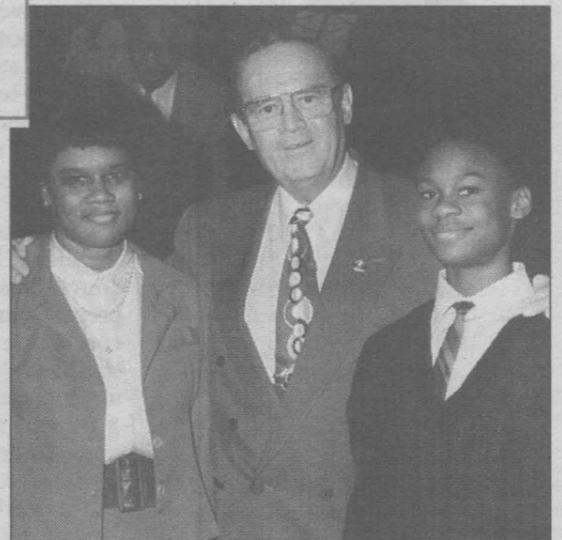
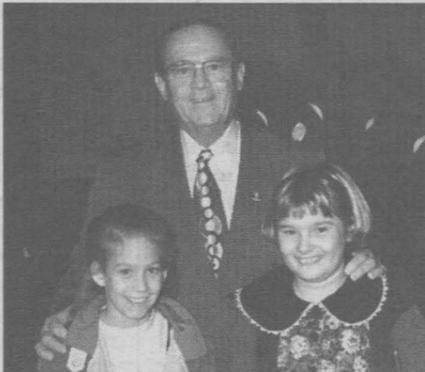
Pastor General visits...

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 495 brethren Nov. 19 from Pittsburgh and Beaver Valley, Pennsylvania. Hosts for the visit were Larry and Linda Neff and Mark and Barbara Welch. [Photos by Frank M. Bria]



Five years later, walls go back up in Germany

Differences between East, West and foreigner divide the country, but the Church embraces variety

By Gary W. Hopkins

BONN, Germany—Nov. 9 marked the fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall—a sensational and peaceful revolution that united a people after 40 years of separation.

Five years later, however, Germany is struggling with unity. Despite such slogans as "What belongs together will grow together!", Germans feel more

divided now than before the wall fell. At the time of reunification the most noticeable differences between East and West Germany were the cars, the roads, transportation, housing, cities, schooling, farming and even the countryside.

Yet Germans soon recognized differences that cannot be changed as easily, such as the way people think. The bad example of a few West Germans spoiled the reputation for the whole, and now East Germans regard them with suspicion and distrust. West Germans expect more gratitude from those in the east and complain about their taxes, which finance development there.

Adding to the problem is the unfavorable attitude some Germans have toward people of other nationalities who live and work here, such as the neo-Nazis who blame foreigners for their own misfortune.

Instead of a mutual respect and appreciation for each other, people ridicule, resent and envy those who are different.

Sometimes the media over emphasize differences. Occasionally an East German being interviewed expresses a sincere longing for the old system that provided cradle to grave welfare, which made many feel secure and comfortable.

Also, East Germans now have new freedoms, and they must decide for themselves, and that makes life seem more

difficult. "In (former) East Germany the relationship to the rulers wasn't nice but [it was] uncomplicated. One knew that most everything was forbidden (as well as leaving the country)," commented the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* Nov. 9.

East Germans also face drastic price increases for housing that was previously subsidized, and with fewer jobs available young people are

forced to migrate westward for work. It's little wonder some fondly recall the good old days.

Narrow margin of hope

During this historical super election year of 1994 (15 state elections and a national election), Germans focused on the country's problems.

One unexpected result was the gains made by the former East German Communist Party heir, PDS (Democratic Socialist Party)—which is now represented in the German parliament. "The result shows that the German unification is not yet finished," commented Alfred Grosser, a political analyst.

A reason for discontent among citizens in the eastern states is the seemingly slow progress. The east doesn't seem to be developing as quickly as predicted. Politicians have admitted arousing false expectations. Too little was said about the personal sacrifices required to meet the challenge of unifying the nation. Consequently, in the new states of Germany, disappointment has replaced the initial euphoria.

Financial limits reduce some of the newly gained political freedoms. Skepticism and impatience replace some of the confidence in the future and the bright optimism of five years ago.

"However, it's right to rejoice about the accomplishments on Nov. 9 and to think less about the problems," commented Bonn's *General-Anzeiger*.

Focusing on achievements gives hope for a better future and strength—See Germany, page 7



German Region October 1994

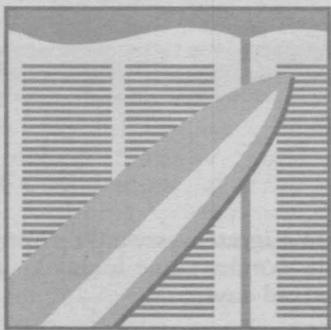
Germany (average monthly attendance)	
Berlin	37
Bonn-Duesseldorf	152
Darmstadt	86
Hamburg	41
Hannover	94
Nuremberg	23
Munich	51
Stuttgart	109
Zwickau	15
Switzerland	
Basel	48
Zurich	123
Austria	
Salzburg	31
Vienna	26

Scattered brethren served by the German Office in the following countries:	
Poland	3
Estonia	11
Lithuania	1
Slovakia-Czech Republic	5
Hungary	1
Former Yugoslavia	9

IRON SHARPENS IRON

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron,



Truth or error: how do you decide?

Paul was concerned about choices between humanly contrived information and divinely inspired truth.

By Greg R. Albrecht

A minister told me of some Church members who did not wish to read any more "Protestant propaganda" from Pasadena. They decided to come to church and "listen" to their pastor, but they refused to read any literature published by the Worldwide Church of God.

This sounds like an exercise we all engage in too frequently—jumping to conclusions. But Proverbs 18:13 reminds us: "He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame."

An advertisement Guinness Beer used about 15 years ago to counter a negative stereotype about its product featured testimony of those who had never tried Guinness Beer. The slogan went something like, "I haven't tried it, because I don't like it."

I'm also reminded of a story about two men on their lunch break in Los Angeles. They walked in front of the courthouse where the O.J. Simpson pretrial hearings were taking place. The courthouse was besieged by the media, traffic was tied up and pedestrians had to wind their way through onlookers.

One of the men stopped abruptly and remarked, "Listen to the lovely sound of that cricket." His companion asked, "How can you hear a cricket in the middle of this?"

The man reached into his pocket and withdrew a quarter. He dropped it on the sidewalk, and six people turned around, searching for the coin.

"We hear," the man concluded, "what we listen for."

How do we make decisions?

An article in the Nov. 29 *New York Times* that discussed the process of

Greg R. Albrecht is editor of *The Plain Truth*.

jury selection demonstrates how often we make erroneous decisions. In "Study Finds Jurors Often Hear Evidence With Closed Minds," author Daniel Goleman introduced his subject: "There is a joke among lawyers about the difference between jury trials in England and the United States: in England, the trial starts once the jury selection ends; in America, the trial is already over."

Goleman's article was based on a study that found nearly one-third of jurors in simulated jury situations had made up their minds by the opening arguments of a trial.

"The nearly one-third of jurors whose decision-making was most flawed, the study found, also tended to be the most vehement about their certainty, and tended to argue for the most extreme verdicts during the jury's deliberation. This gave them undue influence in the final outcome."

"Such jurors misconstrue their task as arguing for one version of events, rather than considering all alternatives. Justice would be better served, the researchers conclude, if these jurors were given instruction in how to weigh evidence against all alternative versions of what happened before coming to their decision."

Goleman was not just talking about jurors who don't listen. He was talking about me. Maybe he was talking about you, too.

"The most dramatically compelling story is more likely to appeal to the poor decision-makers among a jury. 'These jurors are satisfied with the most seductive scenario, the one that at first glance seems to fit the evidence,' said Dr. Deanna Kuhn, a psychologist at Teachers College at Columbia University, who published the study recently in the journal of *Psychological Science*. 'Once they've decided, any further evidence is reshaped in their minds to somehow fit the story they've chosen—or is ignored.'"

"People who jump to conclusions with such certainty don't understand how to assess a framework of evidence," said Robin Flaton, a lawyer and a graduate student of Dr. Kuhn's who helped conduct the study. "They seem to believe the way to reach a verdict beyond a reasonable doubt is

to hold to their conclusions all the more tenaciously in the face of arguments against it."

"The black-and-white mode of reasoning is akin to what cognitive scientists who study decision-making call 'satisficing.' Dr. Kuhn said, 'You're satisfied with a minimal level of data, jump to a conclusion and stop considering further information.'"

The *New York Times* article said: "The 31 percent of those in the jury simulation who were most certain of their verdict tended to use faulty reasoning. While people with more education tended to use better reasoning, Dr. Kuhn said, 'the correlation between education and reasoning was not strong enough to say that by weeding out those with less education you would get a jury that would reach a more reasoned—or more moderate—verdict.'"

The article revealed how lawyers must be skilled in what is referred to in the profession as *voir dire*, or the preliminary examination of a witness or juror.

Goleman quoted Robert Hirschhorn, a jury selection consultant from Galveston, Texas. Among other strategies, Mr. Hirschhorn suggested asking "prospective jurors to give examples of issues they had once believed in strongly, but then changed their minds about. The black-and-white thinkers typically cannot."

Guidance from the apostle Paul

Paul, in what some feel was his last epistle, written as he seemed to sense that his own death was near, warned Timothy: "In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to

See Sound decisions, page 8

Personal: Bible is our standard

Continued from page 1

about Sabbath issues. Even though we agree that we should keep the Sabbath on the seventh day, we do not always agree on *how* to keep the Sabbath. For example, some Sabbatarians think we can go to restaurants on the Sabbath; others do not. Some think we can work in health care on the Sabbath; some do not. Some watch TV; others do not. Some have a very restrictive approach; some have a less restrictive approach. Do some people judge their brothers? They shouldn't, and yet I know that criticism sometimes comes from both "legalists" and "liberals" and everyone in between.

Unfortunately, Sabbath-keeping groups are prone to schisms due to doctrinal disagreements. New groups have formed—some peaceably, and some with animosity. Some break-away groups are content to preach to the public; others try to get people to join them by attacking and dividing their former groups.

Some, attempting to justify their own existence, may even label their parent group as spiritually blind and unconverted. This approach is destructive and contrary to the example and teachings of Jesus, and yet we know it happens—in large part because of the natural, carnal desire for a group to feel exclusive. When a goal of a breakaway group is to divide and take members from their former fellowship, it should be obvious by their fruit that they are serving their own interests and not God's.

As another illustration of our desire to be different, consider the reaction given to some of our recent doctrinal changes. In some cases, the first reaction has been, "That's bad because that's what Protestants teach!" While we are bogged down in this reaction, it doesn't seem to matter much to us what the Bible teaches. That first reaction betrays the fact that we are prone to judge ourselves by comparing ourselves with others. That's human nature. Instead, our first reaction ought to be: "Is that what Christ is leading his Church to understand?

Let's examine the Scriptures to understand it."

Some people accuse us of turning more Protestant, while others accuse us of becoming more like Catholics! Such accusations are sometimes used as emotional levers to cause discontent and division. The standard we must go by is the Bible and what God reveals to us through it. We will not be judged by our similarity to or our difference from someone else. Rather, we'll be judged by whether we were responsive to Christ's leadership—to the truth that God reveals to us.

Our identity is in Christ. He is our special identity, and that does make us exclusive, for our allegiance should be given to him exclusively. We are his bond slaves, his friends and his brothers and sisters. He is the one who made us, who loves us, died for us, redeemed us and owns us. We serve him and make sacrifices for him by serving the Church and one another and by doing the work of spreading the good news and living the Christian life. And all that we do, we do in his name. Our service, our sacrifice

and all our work are for him and accomplished by his power.

Jesus told his disciples not to interfere with a man doing good work in Jesus' name. "Whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:38-40). He didn't tell his disciples to go join the other man, but he did say to leave him alone and let him do his work without harassment.

Jesus also said, "He who is not with me is against me" (Luke 11:23). These two proverbial statements show different sides of the same coin. The point is not whether people are with *us* or against *us*—the point is that *we* should be with Jesus! Whether other people in other groups happen to be with him does not change *our* responsibility to be with him. Our identity is based on faith in him, and our loyalty is to him first.

As part of our loyalty and obedience to Christ, we can agree with other Christian groups where they are right. We can preach the truths we hold in common as well as the truths we believe they neglect. Our goal is to

See Personal, Page 5

Personal: Concentrate on obeying Jesus Christ

Continued from page 4

preach the whole truth of God (Acts 5:20; 20:27).

We also find good advice about how we should think of other Christians in a saying of Rabbi Gamaliel, who said in effect: "Do not fight them. Leave them alone. We do not want to be, despite good intentions, working against God" (Acts 5:38-39). We should let other groups do their work, and we should do ours. They answer to Christ, not to us. We do not need to judge and condemn them. We should avoid doctrinal and Christian-living errors we think they may have, but we should by no means condemn diligent Christians or call them pagans.

Ironically, Gamaliel's most famous student, Saul of Tarsus, did not take his teacher's advice. He was a zealous Pharisee, and the Pharisees tried to be holy by rigorous lawkeeping. Most of them had an exclusivist attitude, thinking that God was pleased only with their own group and that all who ignored their rules were unholy (John 7:49). Saul, in his zeal and resentment, persecuted the tradition-trampling disciples of Jesus. But you know the story—God changed him. He was still zealous, but no longer with the exclusivist spirit. In fact, he was zealous in bringing the gospel even to gentiles with whom he had never previously even eaten a meal because the Pharisees believed that gentiles were ritually unclean.

Our attitude toward other Christian workers

Can we be like Paul? Can we be zealous without being exclusive? Yes—if we are motivated by the same Spirit! Although Paul was the apostle to the gentiles, and he exercised his authority over his churches, he did not feel threatened by the existence of other Christian workers such as Apollos among the gentiles. Although some Corinthians favored Apollos over Paul, Paul was not territorial or condemning. He simply pointed out that they were working for the same goal and the same God (1 Corinthians 3:6-8).

Even our attitude toward those who preach Christ for wrong, selfish reasons is important. Paul's example is shown in Philippians 1:15-18. The important thing, he concluded, "is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached." False motives, of course, are bad. Paul was in prison and could not preach publicly himself, and apparently some were taking advantage of that so they could gain the preeminence. But Paul was still happy that someone was preaching Christ. He did not tell his people to go join those preachers. Yet, even though their own conduct was bad, Paul agreed with them where they were right.

Many centuries earlier, Moses set an example of how to view God's work in unexpected quarters. Eldad and Medad were prophesying in the camp, and Joshua wanted to stop them. But Moses did not feel threatened by their apparent independence. "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" (Numbers 11:29). Moses, whose heart was focused on God and not on himself, wanted more of a good thing. When it comes to serving God, there's plenty of room for more workers. We should all wish that more people would preach Christ and that more would be motivated to do good works in his name!

Let's summarize point 3: We should not condemn other Christian groups. If

they are doing a good work in the name of Christ, let's rejoice and thank God and not have negative feelings about it. Let's not make the mistake of labeling them as unconverted pagans.

God places us where he pleases

Moving to point 4, let's ask another question: Since we avoid condemning other Christians and we recognize that true Christians can be found in other fellowships, does that mean that our members are justified in leaving this Church to join another? We've said it before, and we'll say it again: No.

We must never take God's calling lightly. He places people in the Body of Christ as it pleases him. It is here, in the Worldwide Church of God, that God has brought each of us to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It is here that God has placed us in the Body, and it is here that he expects us to work together in the gospel.

This is the Church through which God is right now working to strengthen our members' relationship with Christ, calling all of us to be more fully dedicated to him, to be transformed to be more like him.

In light of this, there are two basic reasons people leave the Church. One is because they are unable to accept the gospel for what it really is and want to retain the Church's former doctrinal errors. The other, and opposite, reason some leave is that they *do* now see the gospel for what it is, and therefore feel they have nothing in common with those who are behind them in understanding. I'll comment on the second attitude first.

To leave the very fellowship through which God has brought us to this point of spiritual growth is to take what God has given and refuse to use it for the mutual strengthening of the whole Body. It is a "me first" attitude—a spirit of rejoicing in one's own salvation and wanting to find a place where one's faith won't be challenged, without considering the fact that God calls his people not to individual salvation but into the community of the saved. It is a failure to understand that God expects his people to nurture and strengthen one another in the faith, to help each other along in gentleness and patience. God doesn't give us his gift of grace for ourselves alone, but to share it with others. Those who are growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ because of what God has done in this Church have an obligation to let their growth be used of him to help others in our fellowship. To leave the Church is to bail out on the God of grace and love, who is at work in his Church.

On the other hand, some leave the Church for the very reason that God has brought us to the point that we put our focus on our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What can they expect to find in some other fellowship? Either they will continue to hide from the gospel in some rebellious and self-righteous splinter group, or they will eventually submit to God's loving pressure and believe the gospel. When that happens, they will realize they were wrong to leave and that they left for precisely the wrong reason. God will not give up on us regardless of where we go, but we can make our way much easier by simply submitting to him early on and getting about the work he calls us to in his Son.

We all know that God is not pleased with those who shrink back, who look back after beginning to plow, who seek an easier road, some imaginary path involving what we hope will be fewer sacrifices.

Even though we have been baptized

into Christ rather than into any denomination, we still have obligations to the denomination into which God called us. We pledge to work within the group, that part of the Body of Christ that God used to lead us to an unconditional surrender to Christ. We agree to work together, to provide mutual support, to love each other, to help each other, to support each other's burdens.

God puts his people where he wants them, and the Church grows only as the members of the Body work together (Ephesians 4:16). If we slack off on our support, we sap some of the strength of the Church. If we get tired of helping others and quit, we've betrayed the people we are supposed to serve. Instead of walking in the patience and commitment of true Christians, we have selfishly chosen what we expect to be an easier path. There are numerous parallels we could draw with marriage and divorce.

And there are fundamental doctrinal reasons to stay, too. Since we base our beliefs on the Bible, we take it seriously. We know that Christianity is infinitely more than a mere oral profession of faith; it entails a radically changed way of life. The grace of God requires the obedience that springs from faith (Romans 1:5). We know our salvation is in Christ alone, and we preach his second coming. We look forward to the end of this age and the magnificent changes that Christ's second coming will bring. We preach the gospel throughout the world, to all nations, and we see in our own churches a great diversity of people, mirroring the fact that the kingdom of God is open to all peoples. This diversity is one of our strengths and a great opportunity to learn to love and live like Jesus did.

Some members have joined dissident organizations whose leaders have been disfellowshipped for causing division and preaching heresy. We have the obligation to warn you about their dangers, just as Paul warned the Christians in Rome: "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ.... By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people" (Romans 16:17-18). The point here is that such people cause division, and they do it by smooth-sounding deceptions.

"Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned" (Titus 3:10-11).

Beware the dissidents! They have flattering ideas, but their unvarnished goal is to cause division to gain followers, contrary to the teaching of Christ. Keep away from them; do not welcome them into your minds and hearts. As 2 John 9-11 says, do not share in their wicked work. Do not accept their diet of slander and innuendo—do not base your salvation on the rumors they spread! They may offer emotional comfort by teaching things you already agree with, but at what price?

Will you cease to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18)? Will you avoid the maturity that comes from the knowledge of the Son of God (Ephesians 4:13)? Will they lead you toward faith in Christ, love for one another and being led by the Holy Spirit?

My brothers and sisters, I know that most of you are faithful and dedicated, and I am just preaching to a few in the hopes that I might save some. Join

with me in praying for those who are "on the fence." Let them know that we love them. Set a positive example—personal evangelism begins within the Church!

Comfort through faith in Christ

I know that doctrinal changes can be unsettling, but the need for change is sometimes greater than our desire to feel comfortable. I have no desire to cause discomfort or to make anyone dizzy with changes. I want people to be free from anxious thoughts, and this true comfort comes only through faith in Christ. I want people to cast all their care on Christ, to center their lives and hopes and purposes in him. That isn't easy, but it is essential.

A few members have been poisoned by dissident ideas, but do not want to join a bunch of complainers, either. So they stay at home. This may be temporarily expedient, especially if they avoid divisive literature, but it is not a biblically valid approach to Christianity. We cannot forsake the assembling of ourselves together. We cannot neglect the household of faith. Throughout the New Testament, believers are exhorted to do things for one another. They form communities and fellowships for mutual edification, and isolating ourselves is simply not part of biblical Christianity.

Again, I know I am preaching to only a few. Your personal witness to each other is going to be more effective than the words I can write. If our local churches are working effectively, they will provide the friendships and social supports that people do not want to leave. We want local pastors to be providing balanced diets for their people; we want members to love one another. We want members to be part of invigorating networks of friendships, witnessing to a life of Christ in them through their works and their words. We all fall short of the ideal, we know, which is precisely why we need to stay in the Church to continue working together toward the maturing that is in Christ.

To summarize again: We should stay in the Church, but we should not be *preoccupied* with our group identity. We are the weak of the world, called to be slaves of the King. Our focus should be on following Jesus Christ. He is the Head of the Church, and we need to focus our energies on doing his work, not worrying about whether other people are doing it or whether they have it easier than we do. We are the servants, not the masters. We should not be second-guessing how the Master does his work or whom he chooses to work with or how well other servants are doing their jobs.

Instead of worrying about who we are, and who they are, we need to focus on *what we should be doing*. Our real identity is linked to our duty: We are bond slaves of Jesus Christ. We are doing the work he has given us, doing it in the way he has exemplified for us. We are preaching his gospel, becoming more like him, doing good deeds in his name. We are being transformed by the indwelling Holy Spirit, becoming Christlike in love, faith and obedience to the Father's will.

I hope that this clarifies some questions. No doubt some members will continue to feel a little unsettled because this topic affects their awareness of their own identity. We all need to ask God to help us see our identity in Jesus Christ and in doing his work. That should always be our focus and our zeal! Thank you for your support and your dedication to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

ounces, now 1 boy, 3 girls.

DELAMATER, Tom and Doreen (Stansbury), of Big Sandy, boy, Joseph Ryan, Oct. 5, 11:54 a.m., 9 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 girl, 2 boys.

DEMERS, Stephen and Lisa (Meisel) of Barrie, Ontario, boy, Jeremy Evan, Oct. 5, 11:30 p.m., 8 pounds 2 1/2 ounces, now 2 boys.

DUFFIELD, Sarah of Christchurch, New Zealand, girl, Charlotte Jane Anne, Oct. 13, 11:10 a.m., 7 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

DUIN, Mark and Mary Beth (Auch) of Omaha, Nebraska, boy, Grant Ryan, Oct. 27, 2:15 p.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 2 boys.

FITCH, Randy and Iris (McJunkin) of Portsmouth, Ohio, boy, Clint Seminole, Sept. 30, 7:31 a.m., 7 pounds 1 ounce, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

FROST, Gerald and Lynda (Stein) of San Luis Obispo, California, boy, Caleb Michael, May 30, 8:14 a.m., 10 pounds 15 ounces, now 2 boys.

GRASSO, John and Heather (Lindsey) of Melbourne, Australia, girl, Joanne Amy, Oct. 24, 4:25 p.m., 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

GREAVES, Darin and Katherine (Cadman) of Kelowna, British Columbia, boy, Grayden Charles, Sept. 15, 10:51 a.m., 7 pounds, now 2 boys.

HABLUTZEL, Allan and Gail (Wonsowski) of Bremerton, Washington, girl, Annelise Nicole, Oct. 13, 12:24 a.m., 6 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

JOHNSTON, Douglas and Valerie (Stagg) of Clarks Mills, Pennsylvania, boy, Johnny Mack, Aug. 29, 5:19 p.m., 8 pounds 4 ounces, first child.

JONES, Gregory and Eva (Parriski) of South Point, Ohio, boy, Caleb Nelson David, Nov. 7, 5:45 p.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 2 boys.

KORBAGE, Abraham and Valerie (King) of Calgary, Alberta, boy, Jonathon Douglas, Sept. 12, 12:40 a.m., 8 pounds, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

McCOY, Brett and Lynai (Baker) of La Grande, Oregon, girl, Sarah Lynai, Oct. 13, 12:58 a.m., 7 pounds 10.6 ounces, first child.

McLAUGHLIN, Charles and Faith (Etzel) of Salem, Oregon, girl, Hanna Laurean, Oct. 12, 11:32 a.m., 7 pounds 2 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

MENDOLA, Michael and Rachel (Warren) of South Berwick, Maine, girl, Rachele Nichole, Sept. 14, 9:56 p.m., 7 pounds 15 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

MEYER, Paul and Mary (Schemm) of Pueblo, Colorado, girl, Amanda Marie, Oct. 8, 2:22 a.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

MONGBEH, Radcliff and Faye (Turnquist) of Miami, Florida, boy, Emory Douglas, Oct. 6, 11:18 a.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 2 boys.

O'QUINN, Tony and Brenda (Leach) of Fort Worth, Texas, girl, Madeleine, Oct. 30, 12:36 a.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

PADDEN, Tony and Becky (Wilhelm) of Des Moines, Iowa, girl, Alexandra Elizabeth, Sept. 9, 3:45 p.m., 9 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

PARKER, Anthony and Lynette (Douglas) of Brisbane, Australia, girl, Lauren Amy, June 13, 3:47 a.m., 6 pounds, 14 ounces, first child.

RICHARDS, Grant and Tina (Pfeister) of Flint, Michigan, boy, Garrett William Glenn, Aug. 11, 1:44 p.m., 9 pounds 13 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

ROBBINS, Richard and Elizabeth (St. Romain) of Port Arthur, Texas, boy, Jarrod James, Nov. 10, 8:20 a.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, first child.

SMITH, Dale and DeAnna (Blackwell) of Monroeville, Alabama, boy, Carl Edward, Sept. 3, 9:15 p.m., 7 pounds 13 ounces, first child.

SQUELCH, Grant and Helen (Eddington) of Melbourne, Australia, girl, Ashleigh Jane, Sept. 20, 8:20 p.m., 6 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

SUBITO, Nestor and Leonor (So) of Bacoor, Philippines, boy, Timothy James, June 11, 10:35 a.m., 7 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

SULELO, Drummond and Dudu (Mncina) of Johannesburg, South Africa, girl, Nowakhe Nancy, June 1, 2.6 kilograms, first child.

WALL, Brad and Kelly (Craig) of Winfield, Kansas, boy, Tymon Jess Bradley, Oct. 26, 8:08 p.m., 8 pounds 11 1/2 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

WARREN, Todd and Melissa (Ivey) of Regina, Saskatchewan, boy, Matthew Montgomery, Oct. 13, 12:40 a.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

WHEELER, Ben and Melanie (Brunner) of Modesto, California, girl, Chelsea Amanda Marie, Nov. 16,

11:32 a.m., 10 pounds 7 ounces, first child.

WIEBE, Isaac and Susana (Klassen) of Belize City, Belize, girl, Karen, Oct. 4, 6:35 p.m., 7 pounds, now 2 girls.

Engagements

Jeff and Judy McGowan of Peoria, Illinois, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Monica Melanie to Dustin Register, son of Lloyd Register of Maitland, Florida, and Cassie Register of Goldenrod, Florida. A May 16 wedding in Big Sandy is planned.

Darren Brian McGhee and Adrienne Lee MacDonald of Gold Coast, Australia, are happy to announce their engagement. A Jan. 8 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Gil Norman of Big Sandy are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Renee Kathleen to David Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martin of Pasadena. A summer wedding in Pasadena is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Iiams of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Linda Joan to James Barry Smyda, son of Barbara Smyda of Prattville, Alabama. A winter wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Walker of Cozad, Nebraska, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Ruth Meta to John Barry Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Barry Sr. of Green River, Wyoming. An April 1 wedding in Rock Springs, Wyoming, is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Menagh of Alsip, Illinois, announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa Ann to Robert Andrew Kalnas, son of Shelby and Ronald Kalnas of Peru, Illinois. A June 25 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Feakes of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Sernig of Brisbane, Australia, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Jennifer Irene and Bradley Kenneth. An Oct. 1 wedding in Winnipeg is planned.

Jim and Polly Thomas of Lancaster, Texas, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Lou Ann to Kendel Wolaver, son of Wendell and Jan Wolaver of Italy, Texas. A February wedding is planned.

Nigel and Angela Kiernander are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Vivienne to Russell Hunter of Vancouver, British Columbia. A June wedding in England is planned.

Weddings



JEFF & BERNADETTE MARTENS

Bernadette Angela Riehl, daughter of Roger and Caroline Riehl of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Jeffery Richard David Martens, son of David and Patrisha Green of Plant City, Florida, were united in marriage July 30. The ceremony was performed by Patrick Regoird, a minister in the Port St. Lucie church. The couple live in Fort Pierce, Florida.



TROY & KAREN PERRY

Karen Cherie Albrecht, daughter of Greg and Karen Albrecht of Arcadia, California, and Troy Jay Perry, son of Jim and Betty Perry of Pasadena, were united in marriage May 29. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, editor of *The Plain Truth*. The couple live in Huntington Beach, California.



JOSHUA & SONYA HARMS

Sonya Ann Harrison, daughter of Ed and Lou Harrison of Winter Haven, Florida, and Joshua Aaron Harms, son of Don and Patti Harms of Westminster, Colorado, were united in marriage Aug. 7. The ceremony was performed by Doug Horchak, pastor of the Fort Collins, Colorado, church. Amy Fitzgerald, cousin of the bride, was matron of honor, and Steve

Denny was best man. The couple live in Westminster.



LOREN & BLANCA OESTERLE
Blanca Perez, daughter of Jose Perez of San Salvador, and Alicia Burgos of Los Angeles, California, and Loren Oesterle, son of Betty Oesterle of Pasadena, were united in marriage Feb. 27. The ceremony was performed in English by Gary Endres, associate pastor of the Pasadena A.M. church, and in Spanish by Richard Lorenzana, a minister in the Pasadena Spanish church. Carmen Ruiz was maid of honor, and Daniel Jew was best man. The couple live in Azusa, California.



SCOTT & CARRIE MCKEON

Carrie Lee Iverson, daughter of Kirk and Sue Iverson of Phoenix, Arizona, and Scott Daniel McKeon, son of Dick and Patti McKeon of New River, Arizona, were united in marriage Dec. 26. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, a minister in the Phoenix North church. Kristie Yeckel was maid of honor, and Chris McKeon was best man. The couple live in Phoenix.



DONALD & MARY ANN NOLTE

Mary Ann Humphreys, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lurlee Humphreys of Florence, Alabama, and Donald F. Nolte, son of the late C.G. Nolte of Oxford, Mississippi, were united in marriage Sept. 19. The ceremony was performed by Rick Beam, pastor of the Huntsville and Florence, Alabama, churches. Tammy Phillips was maid of honor, and Chris Phillips was best man. The couple live in Florence.



MICHAEL & DARLA TAYLOR

Darla Jeanine Diggins, daughter of Wayne and Jean Diggins, and Michael Daniel Taylor, son of Dan and Cheryl Taylor, were united in marriage July 3. The ceremony was performed by Ron Felling, associate pastor of the Baltimore, Maryland, church. Karen Looney, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Ron Schwedes was best man. The couple live in Baltimore.



DAVID & KATHRYN MAUZEY

Kathryn Ann-Marie Poland, daughter of Warren and Anna Poland of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, and David John Mauzey, son of Edward and Suzanne Mauzey of Big Sandy, were united in marriage May 21. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, a counselor at

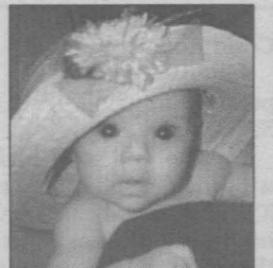


SAM & TAMMY SPRINKLE AND TOM & APRIL SPRINKLE

Tammy Keeton, daughter of Iris Austin of Paintsville, Kentucky, and Sam Sprinkle, son of Sarah Sprinkle of Tipp City, Ohio (left), were united in marriage in a double ceremony May 29. The ceremony was performed by Bob Swihart, a minister in the Dayton, Ohio, church. Jenny Keeton was maid of honor, and Mike Coale was best man. April Williams, daughter of John and Betty Williams of Paintsville, Kentucky, and Tom Sprinkle were also united in marriage. The ceremony was performed by Mike Greider, pastor of the Paintsville church. LeAnna Peyton was maid of honor, and Tim Bailey was best man.

Birth Announcement

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



Our coupon baby this month is McCartney Dana Satterwhite, daughter of Floyd and Minette Satterwhite of King George, Virginia.

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

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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

*Including newborn

Ambassador University. Susan Poland was maid of honor, and Chris Mauzey was best man. The couple live in Dallas, Texas.



WILLIAM & LISA WRIGHT

Lisa Ann Price, daughter of James and Katherine Price of Linville, North Carolina, and William Kevin Wright, son of Charles and Viola Wright of Marion, North Carolina, were united in marriage May 22. The ceremony was performed by Evan Williams, a minister in the Asheville, North Carolina, church. Lorna Price-Cohen was matron of honor, and Tony McKinney was best man. The couple live in Morganton, North Carolina.



DAVID & MATHILDE FITZGERALD

Mathilde Stevenin, daughter of Gerard and Françoise Stevenin of Perdreauville, France, and David Fitzgerald, son of Vic and Kathie Fitzgerald, of Zellwood, Florida, were united in marriage Sept. 11 in France. The ceremony was performed by Erick Dubois, pastor of the Paris, France, church. Nadege Verrier was maid of honor, and Paul Drake was best man. The couple live in Altamonte Springs, Florida.



ROBERT & JENNIFER WILKEN

Jennifer Skinner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Skinner of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Robert Wilken, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wilken of Nashville, Tennessee, were united in marriage Sept. 10. The ceremony was performed by Stanley Murphy, director of residence life at Ambassador University. Rhonda Elley was matron of honor, and Toby Wilken was best man. The couple live in Jackson, Tennessee.



ROY & KATHY ROWBAL

Kathleen Anne Hornstad and Roy Alan Rowbal were united in marriage May 1. The ceremony was performed by Gerry Heldt, a minister in the Lincoln, Nebraska, church. Kami Hornstad, daughter of the bride, was maid of honor, and Daniel Keyes was best man. The couple live in Lincoln.



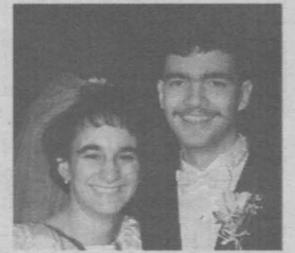
DERECK & LISA MORGAN

Lisa Marie Nakkula, daughter of Dana and Christine Nakkula of Toivola, Michigan, and Dereck Zachary Morgan, son of Robert and Leah Morgan of Victoria, British Columbia, were united in marriage June 12. The ceremony was performed by Jack Kost, Victoria pastor. Kim Roberts and Kelly Beaman were matrons of honor, and Stuart MacDonald was best man. The couple live in Victoria.



TALBOT & TRACY KOCH

Tracy Scott, daughter of Dale and Bernadette Scott of Moorcroft, Wyoming, and Talbot Koch, son of Ken and Emmy Koch of Kaycee, Wyoming, were united in marriage June 5. The ceremony was performed by James Reyer, pastor of the Billings, Montana, and Buffalo, Wyoming, churches. Debra Glenn, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Brad Christensen was best man. The couple live in Kaycee.



PATRICK & LISA MILLER

Lisa Joan Kuntz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rod Kuntz of Delta, Ohio, and Patrick Leon Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Miller of Wadsworth, Ohio, were united in marriage Feb. 12. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, a minister in the Toledo, Ohio, church. Tina Hofbauer, Julie Kuntz and Jeannie Langerderfer attended the bride, and Phil Blake, Rob Pack and Ian Kuntz attended the groom. The couple live in Delta, Ohio.

Births

ANDERSON, Larry and Leigh (Wiedenhoff) of Chicago, Illinois, girl, Gabrielle Shoshanna, Oct. 28, 6:45 p.m., 8 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

API, Jesse and Bethann (Mattson) of Tallahassee, Florida, boy, Michael James, Oct. 19, 5:05 p.m., 9 pounds 8 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

BARTHOLOMEW, Max and Ruth (Hof) of Miles City, Montana, boy, Matthew Wayne, Oct. 25, 3:02 a.m., 7 pounds 6 1/2 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BLAKEMAN, Faron and Teri (Pfeister) of Campbellsville, Kentucky, girl, Jessica Lee, Sept. 6, 10:25 a.m., 8 pounds 7 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BROWN, Jim and Mary (Harkins) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, boy, Christopher William, Oct. 25, 1:30 a.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, now 2 boys.

CARDILLO, Steven and Carissa (Payne) of Jacksonville, Arkansas, boy, Harrison James, Sept. 12, 9:28 a.m., 9 pounds 3 ounces, now 2 boys.

CARLEE, John and Mishelle (Duffey) of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, boy, Michael Daniel, Oct. 11, 8:21 a.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, now 2 boys.

CARLSON, Clayton and Cheryl (Studer) of Kelowna, British Columbia, boy, Austin Jake, Sept. 7, 8:01 a.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

CENTER, Keith and Darlene (Camper) of Cincinnati, Ohio, girl, Jennifer Doreen, Nov. 3, 6:38 p.m., 9 pounds 1 ounce, now 2 boys, 4 girls.

COGDILL, Klaron and Joann (Cliff) of Springfield, Missouri, boy, Jaden Zarek, May 26, 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 4 boys, 1 girl.

COLEMAN, Ramon and Kate (Nelson) of Smithville, Missouri, boy, Jonathan Ramon, Aug. 13, 2:07 p.m., 9 pounds 1 ounce, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

CORREIA, Gary and Mimi (Gauvin) of Tampa, Florida, boy, Kyle Anthony, Oct. 23, 8:21 p.m., 7 pounds 5 ounces, now 2 boys.

DAVIS, Howard and Patti (Cole) of Portland, Oregon, girl, Karalyn Michelle, March 2, 7 pounds 4



GREG & FETECIA JOHNSON

Fetecia Copeland of Manchester, Georgia, and Greg Johnson of Columbus, Georgia, were united in marriage Nov. 5. The ceremony was performed by Stephen R. Smith, pastor of the Columbus church. Wanda Jones was matron of honor, and Gus Hinton was best man. The couple live in Manchester.



CARL & CHARLOTTE POWELL

Charlotte Anne Penner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Penner, of Brandon, Manitoba, and Carl Henry Powell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Powell, of Vancouver, British Columbia, were united in marriage Oct. 2. The ceremony was performed by Owen Murphy, associate pastor of the Vancouver church. Lillian Hallin, Barb Heinrich and Vivienne Bessette attended the bride, and Micah, Tony and Stephen Powell attended the groom. The couple live in Victoria, British Columbia.



GEORGE & LOUISA BLACK

Louisa Matthew, daughter of Patrick and Marie Matthew of Trinidad, and George Thomas Black, son of Edgar and Rita Black of Winnipeg, Manitoba, were united in marriage March 20 in Trinidad. The ceremony was performed by Clifton Charles, pastor of the Trinidad and Tobago churches. Claudia Matthew, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Rajnarine Ragoonansingh was best man. The couple live in Winnipeg and in Trinidad.



JASON & WANDA LANGLEY

Wanda Hill, daughter of Elizabeth and the late Kenneth D. Hill, and Jason Langley, son of Harold Langley and Suzi Doss, were united in marriage March 19. The ceremony was performed by Paul Kurts, pastor of the Gadsden and Anniston, Alabama, churches. Angella Hill, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Tony Langley, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jennifer McDuffie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dunwoodie McDuffie Jr. of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Jeremy Bond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed North, were united in marriage April 23. The ceremony was performed by Steve Myers, associate pastor of the New Orleans and Raceland, Louisiana, churches. The couple live in Bridge City, Louisiana.

Anniversaries



PAUL & ARLENE LUENSER

Paul and Arlene Luenser of Gainesville, Florida, celebrated their 40th anniversary Oct. 23. They have two daughters, Valerie and Suzanne; a son-in-law, Eddie; and two granddaughters, Jennifer and Jessica.



NEAL & MARY MATLOCK

Lester Neal and Mary Matlock of

Mishawaka, Indiana, celebrated their 40th anniversary Oct. 29. They have three sons, Lester, Henry and Bruce; a daughter, Betty J. Tschida; and three grandchildren, Stacy, Cheryl and Scott.



WALTER & SAMMIE BURTIN

Walter and Sammie Burtin of Gary, Indiana, celebrated their 40th anniversary June 4. They have two sons, Walter Jr. and Earnest; two daughters, Linda and Mary Jean; a daughter-in-law, Vanessa; and eight grandchildren, Devon, Renita, Sara, Barbarel, Ruthie, Phillip, Shannon and Brian.



LAWRENCE & VIRGINIA DIETRICH

Lawrence and Virginia Dietrich of Long Beach, California, celebrated their 35th anniversary Sept. 1. They have four children, Dan, David, Debra and Dené; a daughter-in-law, Hazel; and a son-in-law, Victor Glamuzina. Mr. Dietrich is a co-captain of the Church's BAC 1-11 jet and a minister in the Long Beach church.



LEO & KAY DANIEL

Leo and Kay Daniel of Denver City, Texas, celebrated their 35th anniversary Oct. 22. They have two sons, Stan and Larry.



ROGER & SANDY LEWIS

Roger and Sandy Lewis of Anchorage, Alaska, celebrated their 30th anniversary Oct. 31. They have two daughters, Robyn Drown and Heather Larson; two sons-in-law, Graydon Drown and Kirk Larson; and six grandchildren, Anya, Nadia, Charles, David, Arthur and Logan.



DON & JANET ACHESON

Don and Janet Acheson of Barrie, Ontario, celebrated their 30th anniversary Sept. 12. They have four daughters, Cindy Crawford, Yvonne Hahn, Yvette Anderson and Candice; four sons, Darren, Steven, Dean and Wayne; three sons-in-law, Brent Crawford, Tim Hahn and Daniel Anderson; and a daughter-in-law, Gail Wilson.



RAND & GLORIA MILLICH

Rand and Gloria Millich of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, celebrated their 25th anniversary May 25. They have a son, Daral; and a daughter, Tiffany. Mr. Millich is the pastor of the Hattiesburg and Gulpport, Mississippi, churches.



JEFF & JUDY MCGOWAN

Jeff and Judy McGowan of Peoria,

Illinois, celebrated their 25th anniversary Sept. 14. They have a daughter, Monica; and a son, Nathan. Mr. McGowan is the pastor of the Peoria and Macomb, Illinois, churches.



JIM & KAREN HOGAN

Jim and Karen Hogan of Hartselle, Alabama, celebrated their 25th anniversary Sept. 6. They have two sons, Jacob and Jonathan; and two daughters, Amy and Jessica.



DON & KARI CLINE

Don and Kari Cline of Wausau, Wisconsin, celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 16. They have three daughters, Sonia, Sara and Penny; and one grandchild, Taylor. Mr. Cline is a deacon in the Wausau church.



ARNOLD & PATRICIA DREWEK

Arnold and Patricia Drewek of Marathon, Wisconsin, celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 9. They have two children, David and Andrea.

Anniversaries Made of Gold



CHARLES & MARIE TOWER

Charles and Marie Tower of Pasco, Washington, celebrated their 70th anniversary Sept. 13. They have a son, Damon (deceased); a granddaughter, Rebekah; and two great-grandchildren.



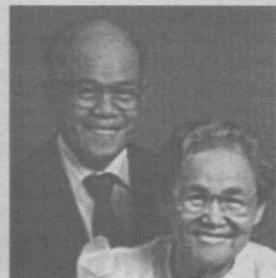
JODIE & LUCILLE CHILDRESS

Jodie and Lucille Childress celebrated their 60th anniversary Oct. 8. They have five children, Theonia, Alec, Linda, Jonathan and Sandra; 13 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.



GEOFF & BETTY DEEPROSE

Geoff and Betty Deeprose of Calgary, Alberta, celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 26. They have two children, Leanne and Brian; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.



JOSE & VALENTINA MILANES

Jose and Valentina Milanes of Salt Lake City, Utah, celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 16. They have eight sons, one of whom is deceased; six daughters, one of whom is deceased; five sons-in-law; eight daughters-in-law; 33 grand-

children; and one great-granddaughter.



MR. & MRS. N.C. KANNAIAH

Mr. and Mrs. Kannaiah of Conoor, India, celebrated their 50th anniversary May 26. They have two sons, Vijayakumar and Sheiger.

Obituaries



ISABEL CARDY

CARDY, Isabel May, 96, of Hemel Hempstead, England, died Aug. 19. She is survived by two sons, Ernest and Tony; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



VERA JANZEN

JANZEN, Vera L., 91, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Sept. 13. She is survived by a son, Dean, and his wife, Charlotte; three daughters, Corrine Aronson and her husband, Stan, Shirley Estavillo, and Wanda Smith and her husband, Max; 10 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl H.

CATES, Acie "Smiley" H. Sr., 89, of Roswell, Texas, died Aug. 15. He is survived by his wife, Vera Faye; two sons, Robert and Acie Jr.; a daughter, Marjorie; two brothers, Rudolph and Willard; a sister, Mary; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

DUNCAN, James Washington, 88, of Auburn, Kentucky, died Oct. 10. He is survived by his three daughters, Frances Shoemaker, Lottie Duncan and Faye Belcher; two sons, James A. and Danny A.; three brothers, Vernie, Sherman and Howard; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mauda Melvina.

LASSITER, Elam K., 87, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, died Jan. 21. He is survived by his wife, Pansy; three daughters, Nada Rhodes and her husband, Ray, Joyce Bauer and her husband, Dallas, and Charlene Powers; two brothers, Mart and J.J.; a sister, Nina Meeker; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; and by many nieces and nephews.



JOHN ARMSTRONG

ARMSTRONG, John C., 83, of Griffin, Georgia, died Jan. 18 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Dean; three children and their spouses, Alan and Gail Armstrong, Dale and Dan McGee, and Vanessa and Craig Borgesen; seven grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

UFTON, Beatrice, 80, of Nottingham, England, died Oct. 31 after several years of ill health. She is survived by her husband, Leslie; four sons, Alan, Michael, Leslie and Peter; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



RAY & BETHEL SMITH

SMITH, Ray and Bethel, 79 and 77, of Tacoma, Washington, died within hours of each other Oct. 6. They are survived by a daughter, Shari; and a son, Kim.



CARL McLAIN

McLAIN, Carl Edward, 74, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died July 6. He is survived by his wife, Velva; a daughter, Janie; a son, Ed; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

WARREN, Ethel, 71, of Baltimore, Maryland, died Sept. 24 after a bout with colon cancer.

BRANSON, Delmer H., 71, of Seward, Alaska, died Nov. 10. He is survived by his wife, Irene; six children; and four grandchildren. Mr. Branson was a deacon.

MANGUS, General Lee "Pee Wee," 70, of Odessa, Texas, died Aug. 8 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Oleta; two sons, Frank and Donald; a brother, Floyd; two sisters, Clara and Dora; two half brothers; four half sisters; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

SHANK, Carl Franklin, 69, of Collinsville, Oklahoma, died Sept. 19 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; three children, Carl Jr., Denise Montroy and Diane Jenkins; and six grandchildren.

SIDNORD, Frank, 65, of Baltimore, Maryland, died Oct. 10. He is survived by three brothers and four sisters.



MARTHA PUSKAS

PUSKAS, Martha, 63, of Monroeville, Pennsylvania, died Oct. 7 of a brain tumor. She is survived by her husband, John; and three children, Valarie Iiams, Sally Martin and Tim.



LIONEL WOOD

WOOD, Lionel H., 63, of Homewood, Illinois, died Oct. 11 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary; his mother; two brothers; and three sisters.



GEORGE HIGH

HIGH, George R., 61, of Norwalk,

Ohio, died Oct. 20 of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Helen; three daughters, Tania Knott, Becky Mardis and Theresa Gregory; his father, Russell; four sisters; and five grandchildren.



PETER MAEZ

MAEZ, Peter B., 55, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died June 13 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla; two sons, Johnny and Jesse; three daughters, Joyce, Debra and Vera; and 18 grandchildren.



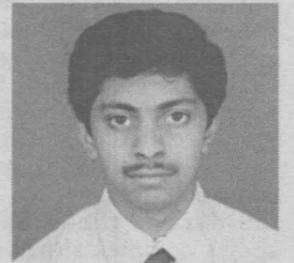
LISA DEMERS

DEMERS, Lisa Marie (Meisel), 27, of Barrie, Ontario, died Oct 7 of a cerebral hemorrhage. She is survived by her husband, Stephen; two sons, Joshua, 21 months, and Jeremy, two days; her parents, Ken and Lynda Meisel; a sister, Laural Farver; a brother, Jeff; parents-in-law, Joe and Margaret Demers; and numerous nieces and nephews.



MARVIN PHILLIPS

PHILLIPS, Marvin Charles, 27, of Joppa, Alabama, died July 17 as the result of a motorcycle accident. He is survived by his parents, Charles and Betty Phillips; two brothers, Daniel and Shane; and two sisters, Mary and Cathy.



MATHEW JOHN

JOHN, Mathew Lewis, 24, of Madras, India, died Aug. 28 in a road accident. He is survived by his father, John Mathai; his mother, Ponnamma John; and two sisters, Angella Beena and Alicess Bindu.

BROADNAX, Kristen Jade, of Yonkers, New York, died Sept. 25 just before birth. She is survived by her parents, Jeffrey and Karen; a sister, Jasmine; grandparents, John Hunter and Earl and Betty Broadnax; three great-grandparents; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Germany: cementing ties

Continued from page 3

ens the vision of a united Germany. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's reelection was a narrow, but hopeful vote for an improved future for united Germany.

One in Christ

Church members strive to meet the challenge of change and unity. Whether German, Austrian or Swiss, members have learned to value and appreciate variety.

Contrary to national trends, they know "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free" [no difference between east and west, or between German or foreigner], because we are all "one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Ambassador graduate meets royalty

AMMAN, Jordan—**King Hussein** visited the Amman Baccalaureate School here Nov. 7. **Daren Clayton**, an Ambassador University graduate employed at the school, gave the king a tour of the school's new sports complex, before escorting him to the main gymnasium for a ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opening the sports complex.

The king was accompanied by his wife, **Queen Noor**, and several members of the royal family. The king's sister-in-law, **Princess Sarvath El Hassan**, patron of the school, addressed the student body, staff, administration and guests.

The king autographed several balls for the school's trophy case. Everyone present then witnessed a 10-minute exhibition basketball game between Clayton's high school boys varsity team and a team consisting of members of the school's physical education staff.

Clayton, the school's sports complex supervisor, was hired for this position last February. He assumed full-time administrative responsibilities in May, after serving one year as an Ambassador Foundation volunteer on the physical education staff.

The school is recognized in Jordan as a leader in primary and secondary education, helping to set the pace

in academics and athletics. *Joe Peters.*

Singles and young adults events

MONTGOMERY, Alabama—The Montgomery church invites all singles and married young adults to a fun-filled weekend in Alabama.

Arrive Jan. 14 for Sabbath services beginning at 2:30 p.m., followed by a night of games and dancing. On Sunday an indoor activity is planned.

Motel accommodations are available, and lodging with brethren can also be arranged. The cost for all activities, except lodging and meals, is \$15 per person. For more information call **Carl Ponder** at 1-205-285-3265, and to register send a check made payable to the Montgomery Activity Account to 145 Cedar Ct., Millbrook, Alabama, 36054. *Stephen Glover.*

DALLAS, Texas—Singles from throughout the United States will gather in Dallas for the Big D Grand Gala scheduled for President's Day weekend, Feb. 18-19.

Sabbath services will feature evangelist **David Hulme** as guest speaker. A semiformal dinner dance will take place that evening at the Dallas Grand Hotel. **Doc Gibbs** and his band will provide a variety of music and entertainment.

Sunday's activities will feature games, more dancing and a Texas barbecue lunch buffet at the Big D Ranch (Old Fort Dallas) in southern Dallas County. Music will be performed by The Marty Yale Band.

Cost for the weekend is \$36 with a deadline for payment by Jan. 1. Make check or money order payable to the DFW Metroplex Singles Association and mail along with registration form to **Marcia Chambers**, 7127 Flameleaf Place, Dallas, Texas, 75249.

A schedule of events and registration forms will be mailed to most church areas. If your pastor did not receive a packet, please call 1-214-296-1395.

The Dallas Grand Hotel offers the flat rate of \$60 per



CHURCH CELEBRATION—Carmel Gatt, new pastor of the Malta and Catania, Italy, churches, and his wife, Florence (behind cake), received a surprise welcome after services Oct. 29. In a letter to the Maltese congregation, Luciano Cozzi, former pastor, wrote: "It is with joy that I bring you this news, for God has blessed his church not only with a new minister capable of taking the responsibilities of pastor, but a Maltese one who can speak and counsel you in your native language, and who will live there on the island to serve you."

room (one to four people). Call the hotel as soon as possible to reserve a room. They have available double-double rooms. This is a room with two queen-size beds, two baths and two closets. The hotel number is 1-800-421-0011. Mention you're with the Worldwide Church of God.

For information on in-home housing call 1-214-296-1395. For more general information call 1-214-412-4909. *Leon Sexton.*

SALEM, Oregon—Singles and married couples are invited to the third annual rain dance here March 18.

Activities will include a social hour followed by Sabbath services; a dinner featuring all-you-can-eat pizza, salad and drinks; a dance; and a Sunday brunch buffet.

The cost is \$9 for preregistrants and \$12 at the door. The capacity is 350 people. The brunch is at a restaurant and is not included in the cost.

For more information call **Aaron Cermak** at 1-503-364-7212 or write to him at 5453 Sunnyview Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305-3262.

Syracuse church to mark 25th anniversary

SYRACUSE, New York—

The Syracuse church will celebrate its 25th anniversary July 29-30.

The church began in Utica in July 1970. In January 1973, after the Albany church started, Syracuse was chosen as a more central location for that area of New York.

Members who attended the Syracuse-Utica church are invited to attend anniversary celebrations in Hamilton. Activities include Sabbath services, a dinner and dance Saturday evening and a picnic Sunday.

Overnight accommodations are available on-site, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information contact **Esther Maybury**, 270 Strong Rd., Preble, New York, 13141. *Randy Bloom.*

Ban on military service aids Argentine youths

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—The Argentine government approved a law that bans the military draft for men aged 18 to 24.

The Argentine church has many young men who would have otherwise been subjected to the former draft law. *Alberto E. Sousa.*

Publishing employee honored for 25 years of service

Leonard Olive of Publishing Services in Pasadena received a plaque and watch Nov. 18 for 25 years of service to the Church.

Members pitch in to build home

LAKELAND, Florida—On Nov. 13, 35 members ranging in age from YOU to senior citizens, helped construct a home for the Habitat for Humanity foundation. A spirit of cooperation and fellowship permeated the group as willing hands installed hurricane stripping and roof decking. Working together on this project

served the community and strengthened the bond between brethren.

The day ended with a prayer of thanksgiving requested by the new homeowner. *Dennis Milner.*

Teen named officer in national organization

ANAHEIM, California—**David Van Norman** of Brandenburg, Kentucky, was named parliamentarian of the National Leadership Conference for the Future Business Leaders of America, which met here July 3 to 9.

During this school year David will travel to various regional and state conferences, as well as to area FBLA chapters, to speak to them about FBLA and to present various workshops.

Future Business Leaders of America has 250,000 members. David is a member of the Louisville, Kentucky, YOU.

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MR-MRS DONALD C TODD
69 SUNSET Lane
MANCHESTER TN 37355-3567

Iron: Sound decisions from listening first

Continued from page 4

myths" (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

Myths, not truth. Personal desires, not sound doctrine. People who do not "put up with sound doctrine." Not only does Paul describe those who lack discernment between myth and truth, but people who "will turn their ears away from the truth."

For Paul, the issue doesn't seem to be whether we as humans listen. Paul is concerned about the choice

between humanly contrived information and divinely inspired truth.

Sound decisions that discern between truth and myth can result from our willingness to listen.

The *NIV Life Application Study Bible* comments on Proverbs 18:13, 15, 17. "In these concise statements, there are three basic principles for making sound decisions: (1) get the facts before answering; (2) be open to new ideas; (3) make sure you hear both sides of the story before

judging. All three principles center on seeking additional information. This is additional work, but the only alternative is prejudice—judging before getting the facts."

Traditional barriers to truth that reinforce myth and ignorance include pride, vanity and self-importance.

Self-importance. The previous verse in chapter 18 warns of pride leading to a fall. Pride does not listen. And other biblical passages inform us that God resists the proud.