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# The Worldwide News



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## Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

### New covenant leads us to victory, freedom and salvation in Christ

I am sorry to report that several beloved ministers have concluded that they cannot teach that Sabbath observance is not required for Christians under the terms of the new covenant, and have chosen to resign from the ministry.

It is my heartfelt hope and prayer that these men will eventually come to understand the truth and joy of the gospel, the fact that "a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.... All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:21-24).

It is only natural that our minds fall into certain familiar patterns of thinking, and it can be very hard to break out of those patterns. As a Church, we have believed and taught for decades that the sign of God's true and faithful people is Sabbath-keeping. On the basis of this belief, we saw ourselves as the one and only true Church, the faithful, end-time remnant of God's people, and conversely, we saw all other "professing" Christian fellowships as deceived "Protestant daughters of the great whore of Revelation."

Some have found the very thought that the Church could have been wrong about such a fundamental issue so distressing that they are simply unable, at least for now, to accept the testimony of the word of Scripture that the old covenant has been superseded by the prophesied new covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ. Rather than being able to see the new covenant as truly new, they fall into our old argument that the new covenant is the old covenant made even more binding and written in our hearts.

#### New covenant makes old covenant obsolete

Hebrews 8:13 plainly says that "by calling this covenant 'new,' he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear." Although the verse says the first covenant is already obsolete, we used to take the last phrase in this verse, "will soon disappear," as meaning that the old covenant is not yet obsolete. We believed and taught that it was still binding on Christians, and would "soon disappear" only when Christ returns.

But the passage specifically tells us that the old covenant is already made obsolete by the new one. To interpret this passage our old way is to miss the point of the chapter and the letter. The old covenant became obsolete when Jesus Christ died for the sins of the ungodly, when the veil in the temple was ripped from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51; Hebrews 10:20).

When Jeremiah prophesied the new covenant, Hebrews is telling us, it was then obvious that the old was doomed and would disappear soon after Jeremiah's prophecy. It became obsolete when Jesus came, and its temple rituals even for Jews disappeared entirely with the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.

#### Saints in God's sight

Jesus Christ has, through his bodily sacrifice, broken down the partition that separated Jew from Gentile, that partition or barrier being the law.

Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came

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## Some ministers resign over new teachings

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

In this time of renewed doctrinal understanding and growing in the knowledge of God's grace, I am saddened to report that several full-time ministers have decided to step down from their pastoral duties.

We have had several calm and friendly conversations with certain of our ministers, yet some have decided to resign. These are men we know and love. We do talk with them and meet with them individually as they request.

We are grieved that some ministers cannot, at this point, embrace the scriptural declaration that salvation comes by faith in the Son of God apart from the Law (Romans 3:21-26). These men are sincere in their

convictions, and we pray that God will, as he has done for us, quicken their understanding.

As my dad wrote in the March 27 letter to members, "I greatly appreciate the integrity of some of these men, who recognized their limitations and for the sake of unity in the Body of Christ, stepped aside until such time as they can fully understand and teach new covenant Christianity."

The dedicated efforts of the resigning men, their wives and families have certainly enriched the Church over the years. We are deeply grateful for their loyal and faithful service, and for the many sacrifices they have made. Some ministers, however, have chosen to become a divisive element in the Church and have decided to start their own churches.

This is a painful transition time for the Church. Rather than focusing on the differences between what people

See Ministers, page 4

Evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr. is director of Church Administration.

## Festival conference centers on educating and serving members

"Despite rumors to the contrary, we are not planning to stop celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles," Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, told U.S. and Canadian Festival coordinators in Pasadena March 13 to 15.

"In this time of doctrinal clarification, we have more clearly realized we are not required to keep the Festivals for salvation," he said. "However, we meet together because we love to worship God at the Feast of Tabernacles."

The purpose of the annual conference was "to review our operation of the Festival: to talk about what we have been doing, what we can do to make the Festival more spiritually profitable to members, and to find out what we don't yet know so we can prepare adequately to serve God's people."

Conference sessions focused on the meaning of the Festival, the proper approach to evangelism, planning more effective church services, and organizing a weeklong celebration for many different types of people.

"Unfortunately, a paper with some notes from an earlier brainstorming session has been faxed all over," said Mark McCulley, Festival Administration manager. "We watched two videotapes on how some churches coordinate their service, and we made notes. Some members have been told erroneously that this paper contained the official list of Church activities for the 1995 Festival, and that was never true. As in any idea-generating workshop,

all kinds of proposals were brought up. That does not mean they were all intended for use," he said.

Ideas discussed included adding opportunities for marriage and parenting seminars into the Festival schedule. Depending on local desires and available resources, coordinators were encouraged to bring in workshops on marriage, parent-teen relationships and a variety of other topics.

"We would like the schedule to be so rich with learning, growth and fun that members will go away being delighted they came," Mr. McCulley said.

"At several sites we are making plans to invite co-workers and *Plain Truth* readers to worship with us," reported Mr. Tkach Jr. "At those sites, we will hold the weekday services once or twice in the evening, so our guests can attend outside of work hours as well as on the weekends."

Some sites such as Palm Springs, California, may schedule church services for the afternoon, when the outside temperature is highest, leaving the cooler parts of the day for individual and family pursuits.

"It makes sense to let people enjoy an air-conditioned church service in the hottest part of the day when they will want to be inside anyway," remarked Richard Parker, Palm Springs coordinator. "I think peoples' minds will be more firmly focused on the services, rather than wishing they could be outside with friends."

# Spanish program opens door to evangelism

By Pedro Rufián

MADRID, Spain—The Church in Spain is involved in congregational and personal evangelism, despite being in an unfavorable environment.

Much mistrust exists in Spanish society, primarily because of a growing loss of traditional moral values and corruption scandals that have tainted the government, financial institutions and the judicial system.

An ex-director of the Civil Guard, for example, is a fugitive from justice and is living at an unidentified hideout. A secretary of state and other high-ranking officials with the Department of the Interior are in prison.

A president and vice president of a banking institution also are in prison for embezzlement of funds. Other important businessmen were arrested for having gotten rich by fraudulently diverting capital for personal gain from the companies they directed. They also created phantom foundations to evade tax payment and to have a safe place to keep their fortunes.

## Climate of mistrust

Because of this financial scandal and fraud, all types of associations, foundations and organizations in

*Pedro Rufián and his wife, Brigida, pastor brethren in Spain and Portugal.*

Spain have seen their credibility damaged. The Church in Spain, primarily in Madrid, has been affected by this climate of mistrust in society.

The members themselves, who are faithfully following God and the Church, have not been affected directly, but indirectly the congregations have been affected by an attendance rate for the open door program that is significantly lower than the attendance at *Plain Truth* Bible lectures.

The lectures were conducted six months earlier (before the scandals came to the public's attention).

During our last effort of congregational evangelism which, in effect, is the definition of our open door meetings, most members helped with the project by taking the initiative to prepare 4,135 invitation letters for mailing and, through other means, invite several other households.

Twenty-seven people attended on the Sabbaths of Oct. 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5, which was 0.65 percent of those invited.

If we compare this percentage with the attendance at Bible lectures last April, when we invited 2,878 households and had an attendance of 90 people (3.12 percent), we can see that the situation being experienced by the country has affected our open door results.

But the brethren felt inspired to have had the opportunity each Sab-

bath to meet some new people and to offer them their hospitality.

Six or seven of the individuals who attended on the open door days are now regularly attending services each Sabbath. Many of the members already have invited them to their homes.

Despite suffering for the past year under a recession, which now seems to be coming to an end, the Church's income in Spain for 1994 rose 0.5 percent compared to 1993.

For 1995, a possible 3 percent increase in the gross domestic product is anticipated. This will make possible a decrease in the high rate of unemployment (nearly 20 percent) we are now suffering. Thanks to God few members are without jobs, although some of them are underemployed and some only have temporary jobs. I am sure they would appreciate your prayers.

## Members in remote areas

In addition to nearly 100 baptized members, another 100 individuals on the Iberian Peninsula form part of the Church as co-workers, associates or as relatives of members.

Most of these people are scattered throughout Portugal, Spain and their island territories, namely Portugal's Madeira and Azores islands, and Spain's Canary and Balearic islands.

More than 70 percent of the brethren are scattered. From our office in

Madrid they receive monthly cassette recordings to be played each Sabbath.

The Madrid congregation, with an average attendance of 38 people, and the Lisbon congregation, averaging 32 in attendance, are the only two central locations where the brethren can meet.

Many of the scattered brethren maintain and strengthen brotherly ties through letters. I dedicate about 10 days each month to traveling by car and airplane to visit them at least once a year.

In Portugal, Carlos Tavares, our local church elder, and his wife, Yvonne, are an inspiration to the Portuguese brethren.

About four times a year I visit the Lisbon church and a Bible study in Porto. It also appears that God is raising up a group of about 20 believers in Barcelona, Spain. I have begun to travel there more frequently.

Leon Walker, Spanish regional director, and his wife, Reba, visit us once or twice a year in Portugal and Spain, and they inspire us and answer doctrinal and administrative questions.

Please pray for your brethren around the world who are scattered, without the blessing of being able to meet with others for Christian fellowship on the Sabbath, which is the case with most of the members in Spain and Portugal.

## 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.

### Playing the game Christ's way

You have overwhelmed me recently with a flood of doctrinal information pouring forth in serial form regarding the dramatic changes in Christ's game plan.

It sort of reminds me of the controversy in the early Church. They had to make a choice—whether they would follow Christ or the Law. They obviously chose Christ, but along the way things sort of got humanly mixed up.

So, I am very happy that you at headquarters are making a concerted effort in rolling back the tarp of misinformation from the playing field and are putting a new game plan in order. After 30 years I sort of feel reborn, and like charging out of the stodgy dugout with renewed vigor, ready to play the game Christ's way.

Jack Campbell  
Allegan, Michigan

### Greatly encouraged

I was glad to read in the article by Mr. Tkach Jr. that "the Church has repented of limiting the gospel to primarily the announcement of Jesus' second coming" [WN, March 7].

I look forward to Christ's return. This good news should not be pushed aside or forgotten. But it isn't the whole gospel. We need to be often reminded that we all come short of the glory of God and that our sins have separated us from him.

In his great love for humanity he sent his son, Jesus Christ, so that our sins could be blotted out. It is through his shed blood that we are reconciled to God.

The commands of our Father and Jesus Christ are much more beautiful seen through the magnifying glass of the whole gospel.

It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance. I am persuaded he is leading his people. All glory and honor belong to him.

I am greatly encouraged.

Mrs. Donald Salmons  
Racine, Ohio

### Revealing the truth in stages

I want to thank Mr. Tkach for being so courageous in announcing and teaching us a greater understanding of God's truth.

Humans do not like change, and this especially applies to traditional religious customs and beliefs that we have ardently and reverently observed in the past.

We naturally want stability and constancy in our belief systems. We find it irritating that God should reveal his truth in stages. We like to get the whole truth all at once.

This is not our Father's way of dispensing his truth. We find God progressively reveals his teachings to man and he often changes many of his former laws and ceremonies as mankind develops a more mature spiritual understanding on the vital aspects of his divine plan, purpose and nature, until a time when he knows his people are able to handle its theme in a mature and intelligent fashion.

Our chief desire as Christians should be a willingness to adopt the mature doctrines of God when he chooses to give them to us. Christians should be willing to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every time God reveals to us new understanding of the gospel, we Christians should be willing to accept it. Let's allow God to do it his way, in his own chosen time and manner.

If we believe in him—that he is in control—the least we should do is to study in prayer the new truths he is allowing us to understand, always asking Christ to guide, lead and direct us through his Holy Spirit to a greater maturity in him.

One day we will realize that what we know about God and his teachings are far less than what we don't know and yet have to learn. May God speed that day and may he always grant us the maturity in Christ to continue to learn of his truth as he reveals it to us.

New Jersey

## "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.

### Closer to the source

I find your magazine educational and enlightening. The stories and quotes from the Bible are interesting and I look forward to each month's issue.

I have found that reading the articles has given me a different outlook on life. My feelings for other human beings have changed and I feel closer to the Almighty who created heaven and earth.

I'm hoping and praying that the world will change and that all people will try to make it a better place to live.

I see a lot of destruction and hatred in today's news but I read a lot of good news from you. This gives me some hope for the future.

Prince George, British Columbia

### Sincere confession

Thank you for the year's subscription to your magazine, which you sent free of charge.

Our friends in this remote barrio come to us with deep pleasure in their hearts after reading it.

We are really impressed by their sincere

confessions regarding getting so much knowledge from this magazine and how much it has contributed to their daily lives. Sharing what we have to comfort others makes us feel great.

Angeles City, Philippines

### The Lord's servant

I've just finished reading your article "Mary, You Have Found Favor With God" [November-December *Plain Truth*].

I accepted Jesus as my Redeemer when I was 8 years old. I have just celebrated my 82nd birthday.

All through the years I have always felt the hand of God in my life, although in life we all have ups and downs. To know Jesus said, "I'll never forsake you," has been my greatest consolation. I was sailing in deep troubled waters when I received my *Plain Truth* today.

The first article I read was about Mary. When I came to the paragraph where Mary simply said, "I am the Lord's servant," I simply melted. Those words sent me sailing through my problem, knowing God does all things well, and to just humble myself and wait upon his timing. He is never too late, and I'll understand it all by and by. He will never forsake me. All things are possible with him.

Bethany, Oklahoma

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# Pastor General visits...

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO



**Trip Overview**  
 Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 301 brethren from Alamosa, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado, March 11. Hosts for the visit were Paul and Jennifer Butler, and Paul and Mary Meyer. [Photos by Brad E. Bailey and Richard Welsh]



# Festival Updates

**Australian sites**

Hervey Bay, Australia, was canceled in January because it was not available as a Festival site. Brethren assigned to that site were reassigned to Caloundra, which could not accept many transfers.

In March, Caloundra, Gold Coast, and Merimbula, Australia, filled to capacity and are no longer accepting transfers. Applications received for these sites will be forwarded to the second choice. If both choices are full, another Australian site will be offered.

Gosford, Ulladulla, Mornington Peninsula, Hobart and Perth are still open sites.

**Ensenada, Mexico**

Because of the financial crisis in Mexico, it has become too expensive for the Mexican brethren to transfer to Ensenada. Therefore, the site has been canceled. Tijuana is being con-

sidered as a possible replacement site, but it is too early to determine at this time.

Applications to this site were forwarded to the second choice site if one was provided. Letters will be mailed to applicants advising individuals about their application. The Spanish Office has asked that applicants please do not call for this information.

**Kenmare, Ireland**

The site in Kenmare, Ireland, is now closed to further transfers.

**Spain**

The Feast of Tabernacles in Spain will again be conducted in Talavera de la Reina, near Toledo. Housing and services will be in the Hotel Beatriz. Temperatures are expected to range from 65 degrees to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (18 to 26 Celsius). A day trip to the historic city of Toledo, a

family picnic and a talent show are among the planned activities.

Housing at the Hotel Beatriz includes breakfast and lunch. The cost of housing per person is single occupancy, \$75 a day; double occupancy, \$58 a day; triple occupancy, \$55 a day; children under 6, \$30 day. These prices are the same as last year. The hotel does not have connecting rooms.

Translation of the services from Spanish to English will be provided. There is space only for 100 transfers. Those wishing to transfer should obtain an international Festival application form from their pastor.

**Costa Rica**

The Feast will take place at La Costa Hotel & Villas Condovac on Hermosa Beach, 160 miles from San Jose, the capital. A limited number of transfers will be accepted. Services will be conducted in Spanish with simultaneous

translations into English.

The site offers a four-star hotel, single and double occupancy. Each room can accommodate three adults and as many as two children under 12 years of age.

Family villas can accommodate as many as five adults and four children. The villas all have kitchenettes. The room rate per night is \$35, taxes included. This rate applies equally to the villas and hotel rooms. The hotel has a swimming pool, tennis courts and restaurants.

Costa Rica is known for its ecological richness and diversity. Near the site are biological reserves and national parks. Other activities are deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, water-skiing, wind surfing, jet skiing, kayaking and horseback riding.

Those interested in transferring should obtain an international Festival application form from their pastor.

# Coping with doctrinal change: Give yourself time

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

**How can pastors or Church members be positive when they are struggling with their own understanding of the new covenant?**

Some pastors have explained to their congregation that they are learning these things along with the congregation and have read the Church's explanations in a positive frame of mind, even though they don't yet fully understand the new covenant.

They also assign speakers who do understand it, and encourage those who are having trouble to keep studying and to ask questions of those who are not having trouble. As you can imagine, congregations with such pastors are fairly stable and content.

On the other end of the spectrum, some pastors have chosen to "draw a line in the sand" by telling their congregations that they will not support Pasadena, and that they may get fired for it. That approach is clearly not ethical. It divides the congregation and harms it spiritually. Even in this situation, however, our goal is to help the minister understand the new doctrine in a rational, non-emotive way, if he is willing.

Peace is promoted when we encourage each other to act graciously and kindly toward one another, regardless of personal convictions. No good purpose is served by negative gossip or tale-bearing. Imputing motives and running others down do not contribute to the spiritual health of the congregation. Pejorative labels such as "gang of four" and "instruments of Satan" don't help encourage members to love one another.

Our goal is to help any minister who wants to be helped. Only in cases where ministers have determined that they cannot and will not progress in trying to understand the new covenant do we, for the sake of the spiritual health of the congregations, have to end their employment.

We all have convictions, and we certainly do not expect any ministers or members to violate their consciences on any matter. We are trying to help ministers understand that even though we, as ministers, are free to have our own convictions about how we spend the Sabbath, we should not try to bind our convictions about this on others.

From a new covenant standpoint, we have no need to judge others

about how they spend the Sabbath. A pastor can hold his own convictions about Sabbath observance, yet give clear freedom to the members to hold their own convictions about Sabbath observance in accordance with Church doctrine. A pastor should be able to observe the Sabbath as pietistically as he wishes without troubling the consciences of members who don't observe it the same way.

It is important that our ministers understand and preach Church doctrine. However, this does not mean that we expect ministers to understand everything, particularly in regard to a change, overnight.

We expect our ministers to study

the materials the Church provides as well as do their own study. We expect that they will not close the door to further understanding. We expect them to be positive with members and provide an environment that allows and encourages them to understand and support Church doctrine. And we expect them not to work against the Church by undermining and tearing down headquarters in the minds of our members. In short, we can be very patient with ministers as long as they do not become a barrier to the growth of the congregation.

We are convicted that Christ is leading these changes, and it is our responsibility to help our members

understand them. We are definitely not out to lose ministers. Rather, we want to see our ministers lead our members forward, and therefore we want to help our ministers move forward as well.

**What about the letter many of us have received from a group called "Friends of the Brethren"?**

This mailing comes from a person who left the Global Church because of differences with their leadership. Therefore, he has followed the example others set in causing division and leaving our organization by causing further division and leaving that organization. How sad this becomes

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## Ministers' reasons for leaving include differing views

Continued from page 1

believe and don't believe, we should focus on what we have in common: that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, striving for unity in the faith.

As a Body, we constantly work toward that unity, not forgetting Jesus' command to love one another. Love provides the environment for faith to grow. We are learning to grow together in the unity of the Spirit, working together to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Some ministers are uncertain as to what employment they will seek, while others have a specific career change in mind. Nearly all of them have told me that they would not join any of the splinter groups. Several have mentioned that they hope to be of service to the congregation in youth programs.

Victor Kubik has resigned from his position as assistant director of Church Administration, and he will no longer serve in our ministry. He is replaced by Richard Rice, formerly director of the Mail Processing Center.

Roy Holladay, by mutual agreement, has resigned from his position as regional pastor, will no longer serve in our ministry and has left the Church. He is replaced by Craig Bacheller as the regional pastor. Sio Oui Shia takes on his pastorate in Fort Myers, Florida.

Ray Wooten, by mutual agreement, has resigned from his position as regional pastor, will no longer serve in

our ministry and has left the Church. Dan Rogers replaces him as regional pastor, and Bob Miller will serve as the pastor.

Doug Horchak has resigned from his position as regional pastor, and he will no longer serve in our ministry. He is replaced by Jim Turner as regional pastor. Paul Meyer will serve as the Fort Collins, Colorado, pastor.

Ken Giese has resigned from his pastorate and will no longer be serving in our ministry. Dave Havar will pastor the Big Sandy A.M. and P.M. congregations until Don Mear's relocates as the pastor of both congregations. Dave will relocate in the summer to a new pastorate.

Ron Wallen, by mutual agreement, has resigned from his pastorate and will no longer be serving in our ministry. He is replaced by John Novick as pastor.

Rand Millich, by mutual agreement, has resigned from his pastorate, will no longer be serving in our ministry and has left the Church. David Stone takes over his pastorate. David Covington will become the pastor of the Roanoke, Virginia, congregation.

Ron Weinland, by mutual agreement, has resigned from his pastorate and will no longer be serving in our ministry. He is replaced by Larry Brown as pastor.

Dave Mills, by mutual agreement, has resigned and will no longer be serving in our ministry. Mike Greider will have responsibility for his pastorate.

Jim Servidio has resigned from his position of regional pastor and will no

longer serve in our ministry. Don Hildebrand replaces him as the pastor of the Minneapolis, Minnesota, North church.

Gerald Weston and his associate, Dave Burson, have resigned, both by mutual agreement, and have left the Church. Ray Meyer and Ron Jameson will add this pastorate to their circuit.

Lyle Welty, by mutual agreement, has resigned his position as regional pastor and from our ministry. Bob Rodzaj, his associate, has also, by mutual agreement, resigned from our ministry. Fran Ricchi replaces Lyle as regional pastor, and Ed Faulk will serve as his associate in pastoring the church.

Eugene Noel has resigned and will no longer be serving in our ministry. John Karlson will take his pastorate.

Cliff Veal, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry. Lloyd Briggie is relocating to pastor the St. Cloud and Brainerd, Minnesota, churches.

Lambert Greer, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry and left our fellowship. Kent Fentress will relocate to serve as pastor of the Louisville, Kentucky, church.

Keith Walden, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry and is making a career change. David Clark will pastor the Austin, Texas, church.

Charles Bryce, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry. Marty Davey is relocating to pastor the Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, churches.

Don Hooser, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry. Felix Heimberg and Leon Sexton will be responsible for this pastorate.

Steve Shepperd, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry, and will be relocating to the northwestern part of the country. Steve Gerard will add the Elkhart, Indiana, congregation to his circuit.

Alton Billingsley, by mutual agreement, has resigned from our ministry. Rod DeVries has relocated to pastor the Modesto and Stockton, California, churches.

Ron Smith, by mutual agreement, has resigned from the full-time ministry and is making a career change. His pastorate will be handled by Larry Hinckle.

Earl and Katrina Williams have resigned from serving in our ministry and from membership. Joe McNair will serve as pastor of the Atlanta, Georgia, East congregation. There are false rumors circulating that Earl is filing a lawsuit against the Church. As is frequently the case, the rumors are not true, and Earl said he does not have any intentions of filing a lawsuit against the Church. Earl said his decision is not based on doctrinal

See New Teachings, page 5

## Recapture the joy of giving during Holy Day seasons

By John Halford

During Holy Day seasons, our minds turn, among other things, to offerings. The Bible tells us that the attitude in which we give is much more important than the amount.

Remember 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (King James Version). But if we have been observing the Holy Days for many years, perhaps giving has become routine.

I'd like to share two letters from

*John Halford is foreign evangelism coordinator in Church Administration International.*

Africa with you. They've helped me be a cheerful giver again, and I think they'll help you too.

The first is from a widow from Ghana. She thanked her pastor for some assistance that allowed her to enjoy the Feast last year: "This is to express my sincere gratitude for the help given me during the Feast. It was a great surprise to me.

"I hope the Lord would greatly replenish the source of help. My plea is for the Church to pray for me so I do not request help next time, but rather be able to help others."

How much money do you think she received. About one dollar!

The second letter was given to me by Jack Brunet, pastor of the Brussels, Belgium, church. Jack also helps in the work in Africa. This letter was mailed in Zaire and is covered, front

and back, with 128 postage stamps.

This was perhaps several weeks' income in that country. Someone in a poor village recognized the "pearl of great price" and invested the equivalent, by our standards, of hundreds of dollars, hoping to learn more.

Jack showed me a video he made of a poor church of another denomination in Angola. As they took up their offering, these almost penniless people sang, waved and smiled. Some danced to the collection basket.

I'm not suggesting we do that—it is not our Church's culture. But is there something we can learn from their example? It is often the poor who show us how to give cheerfully.

Can they help us make our offerings cheerfully, rejoicing because we have something to give to God, his work and his people?

## Youth promotions bring in excited new subscribers

"I just can't tell you the blessing of hearing that you have a magazine like this, and that it has a Christian backing. I think you all are wonderful to put something like this out," said one caller.

Since March, *Youth 95* has been promoted using cards, direct-mail letters and television ads.

"By the time we're through, we want to make sure every *Youth* magazine reader and Church member has had the chance to help launch the magazine by buying a subscription or giving someone a gift subscription," said Mike Bennett, *Youth 95* editor.

"Because of the economics of magazine publishing, you need a fairly large print run to make a magazine pay for itself. The support of YOU members and Church members is crucial."

### Promotions and ads

March 10 a *Youth 95* subscription letter to Church members and co-workers was mailed, followed by a renewal letter to all *Youth 95* subscribers, mailed March 14.

"Our concern at this point is how we can provide the magazine to needy teens," said Mr. Bennett. "Members can help by providing subscriptions through our outreach program" (see ad on this page).

A television ad offering *Youth 95* subscriptions for \$9.95 a year began airing March 6 through the end of the month in 15 U.S. areas. To save money, the ad was converted from an existing ad produced by the Television Department.

"It's exciting to see new people learning about the magazine for the first time," said Tobin Cookman, supervisor of Telephone Response.

One caller said: "My son is on the edge of destruction, and I have been so worried. I just can't tell you the blessing of hearing that you have a magazine like this, and that it has a Christian backing. I think you all are wonderful to put something like this out."

A teen caller said: "I have been having so many problems in my life and I really feel that this magazine will give me the answers that I need. Thank you."

Other subscription offers are appearing in *The Plain Truth*, *The Worldwide News* and the *News of the Work* newsletter for co-workers. In May, *Youth 95* will have a classified ad in *Moody Monthly* and a free mention in a teen magazine called *YOU!*

### More exposure, more benefit

"We're covering as many areas as possible because we believe in the magazine and feel we need to make it available to as many teens as possible," said Rick Shallenberger, *Youth 95* managing editor. "The more potential readers we expose to the magazine, the more teens will benefit from

### YOUTH 95—Reaching Out...

## Here's how you can help YOUTH 95 help youths worldwide.

*YOUTH 95* wants to share its positive, uplifting message of hope with as many young people as possible. And here's how you can help.

By providing a gift subscription for our outreach efforts, you will enable a young person who may not be able to afford it, to receive all the benefits of subscribing to *YOUTH 95*. Benefits with life-changing potential.

*YOUTH 95* magazine has always striven to help young people, both in the Church and outside of it, deal with the difficult and challenging issues they confront daily. Coping with gang shootings, sexually transmitted diseases, suicide and everyday stresses.

But we need your help in order to help them. Here's all you do, call 1 (800) 625-5588 and request an outreach subscription. We will bill you later, at which time you can select whom you want to receive the subscription or we will send it as a gift to a needy youth.

Remember, you pay nothing now, we will bill you later.

☎ **Subscribe toll-free 1 (800) 625-5588**



**YOUTH 95**  
A 1-Year Subscription  
Only \$9.95

### FREE GIFT...

A 16-page brochure on teen sexuality is yours free with your paid subscription to *YOUTH 95*. Subscribe today.

## Questions & Answers

FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

***Youth 95* may not be the primary way in which the Church preaches the gospel, but the magazine does contain the gospel. Doesn't Matthew 10:8 tell us that it is wrong to put a price on this message?**

Matthew 10:5-10 records Jesus' instructions for his disciples on their first mission. He told them to heal the sick, drive out demons and preach that the kingdom of God was near. He also told them that they did not need to take any supplies with them, not even a money bag. And they were not to accept payment for their services: "Freely you have received, freely give."

The disciples were not to carry money or accept money. Instead, they were to accept room and board, "for the laborer is worth his keep." No matter where they went, they were to look for hospitable persons and stay with them as long as they preached in that village (verses 10-11).

Luke 9:3-4 and 10:1-9 record similar instructions. The disciples were able to heal and exorcise and preach, and the people supplied their needs. The experience was a practical lesson for the disciples' faith. Shortly before he was killed, Jesus asked his disciples, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" And they answered, "Nothing" (Luke 22:35).

However, Jesus then told his disciples, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag" (verse 36). Jesus told them to change the way they go on missionary journeys. The purse they

carry is not only to pay their expenses, but also to receive money from others.

Many years later, Paul wrote that those who preach the gospel have a right to be supported by it (1 Corinthians 9:4-14). Although he did not use that right with the church at Corinth, it was nevertheless a right. Paul commended the church at Philippi for giving him financial support even when

he was preaching in another city.

In the New Testament, the word was spread orally by traveling preachers. Today, the word is often spread in print, such as in the millions of Bibles that are printed every year. It is not wrong to sell these books, even though they contain the gospel. The expenses must be paid. It is not wrong to tell people that they have a financial responsibility to support those who preach the word of God to them. Whether this is done through donation requests or by charging specific prices for specific items is an administrative matter.

The preaching is generally free. The printed form usually is not. That is what we are doing with *Youth 95*. Those who cannot afford subscriptions are welcome to attend our church services, where they can hear the gospel for free. We also hope that gift subscriptions will be made available for such teens who really want the magazine. Those who can afford to pay are being charged for the production costs, since the laborers are worthy of their wages, and the printing and mailing costs must also be paid. In this way we hope we do not have to cancel the magazine in entirety. *Joseph Tkach Jr.*

## New teachings

Continued from page 4

disagreement or ill feelings toward the Church.

At this point a few other ministers have contacted us about resigning as well. In each case, the reason given is inability to accept or teach the Church's position about the Christian life under the new covenant.

These men feel the Church must teach that the Sabbath and Holy Days are required for Christians, or they cannot serve in the ministry. A number of them acknowledge that they believe there are Christians in Sunday fellowships. Yet they maintain that true Christians will be Sabbath-keepers. How to resolve this contradiction is unclear to them.

Some asked that my dad convene a

conference with them on this subject like was done in Acts 15. Yet, they fail to recognize that the very issue they are struggling with is what was discussed and resolved in Acts 15—the law of Moses is not to be bound on Christian converts.

The Law and the Prophets pointed to Christ, and now that he has come and given his Spirit to those without the Law who believe in Christ, there is no point in "testing God" by going back to the yoke that, as Peter put it, "neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear" (Acts 15:10-11). Maybe we all need to read Acts 15 again, carefully. It is not merely talking about the physical act of circumcision, but the Law of Moses (verse 5).

We remain open to answer any questions that the ministry needs

answered to better understand the new covenant. We plan to hold question and answer sessions with the ministry in the next round of regional conferences. The regional pastors will also be visiting with the ministry to answer their questions.

These changes are of God. They are led of Christ. They are faithful to the Bible. The Church needs to move forward in the grace of God, and we need to praise him for granting us courage and faith in the face of a painful transition from the old covenant letter of the law to the new covenant life of faith in the Savior.

I will keep you updated on any further developments. Thank you all for your faithfulness to truth even when the truth hurts. Let's continue to pray for one another and also for those who are struggling.

# Personal: New Covenant freedom is not license

Continued from page 1

and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (Ephesians 2:13-18).

Paul says Jesus abolished in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. By this Jesus has become the Way by which even those who do not have the law (Romans 3:21) can also be saved by faith in him (verse 22).

The old covenant Festival of Unleavened Bread reminded Israel that God had delivered them out of Egypt and made them a holy nation. Under the new covenant, Christians are made holy, not by the law, but by the sacrifice of Christ (Hebrews 10:10). Because of what Jesus has done for us, we are saints in God's sight. We have been declared righteous, holy, without sin. It is a gift of God to those who believe the good news of what Christ has done for them.

But the finished work of Christ on the cross for our justification does not mean that Christian work is finished. Verse 14 refers to "those who are *being made holy*"—those who are being sanctified. The work of Christ in his people continues. We are called in Christ to live holy lives (2 Timothy 1:9).

We are told in Ephesians 2:8-10: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

We have been called for a purpose, saved for a purpose. That purpose involves continuing the work of Jesus Christ in the way we live and in the message we preach. And as the Spring festival season brings to mind, the gospel has something to say about how we live: Christ has died and was raised for us, so we, in him, die to ourselves and live with him (Romans 6:3-14). In Christ, we are servants of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24). Our sanctification is part of the high-priestly work Christ is doing.

## Festival of freedom

The Festival of Unleavened Bread is a festival of *freedom*, since we are no longer slaves of sin. We rejoice during this festival with a joy greater than that of the Israelites when they left slavery in Egypt, because Jesus Christ has broken our chains and now lives in us and leads us by the Holy Spirit. We have full assurance by faith in him (Hebrews 10:22). He who did not spare his own Son will never abandon us. The New Testament Passover reminds us of Christ's love for us, and the festival that follows pictures our response to his love.

Christ has set us free from sin and free from the old covenant. In other words, we are freed from sin, not by keeping the old covenant law, but by having faith in Christ. The old covenant law is not the avenue for freedom from sin, nor the avenue for righteousness, nor the avenue for obedience to God. The avenue, the *only* avenue, for freedom from sin, for righteousness, and for obedience to God is the avenue of faith in Jesus Christ.

The law of the old covenant, though a shadow of the good things that have come in Christ (Hebrews 10:1), is not binding on Christians at

all. The old has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). The new surpasses and supersedes the old entirely. The aspects of the new covenant that are similar to or the same as the old, in terms of human conduct, are distinct from the old covenant itself. To love God with all our being and to love our neighbor as ourself forms the fabric of the old covenant and reflects the character of God. These fundamental aspects of human conduct are also characteristic of the new covenant.

**Just as each Christian endures trials, the entire Church has trials, too. Throughout them all, we can be confident that Christ will be faithful to us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. It is to him that we must look, in humility and faith and love, for the hope that lies ahead.**

However, in the new covenant, these fundamental laws are written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ. The laws of the old covenant itself, including what was written on tables of stone, have now been set aside in favor of that which is truly permanent (2 Corinthians 3:7-11).

That means that our worship services on the Sabbath and on the festivals are not held on those days by commandment, but by choice—a choice that comes through the freedom that we have in Christ. We have "died to the law through the body of Christ" (Romans 7:4) so that we may belong to another—Jesus Christ—the one who has been raised from the dead so that we might bear fruit for God.

"By dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code" (verse 6). In Christ, we are free to hold worship services whenever we choose. Our choice now rests primarily on our own tradition, not on any requirement of the law.

We find the Christian life described, among other places, in Galatians 4:21-5:22. Paul begins this passage by asking, "Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says?" He goes on to explain an allegory about the two covenants: Hagar is the old covenant, which Paul describes as Mt. Sinai. The free woman is the new covenant, which he describes as Jerusalem above, and says she "is free, and she is our mother" (4:26). He explains that "for freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (5:1 New Revised Standard Version). The yoke of slavery is Hagar, the old covenant, Mt. Sinai.

Paul goes on in chapter 5 to explain that our freedom in Christ should not be used as an opportunity for self-indulgence (verse 13). He then describes the works of the flesh and admonishes Christians not to gratify those desires, but rather to live by the Spirit and bear its fruit

(5:16-26). This contrast between the works of the flesh (which are to be avoided) and the life of the Spirit (into which Christians have been raised with Christ in his resurrection) finds the old covenant regulations pertaining to times, places, rituals, foods, sacrifices, etc. irrelevant to Christian conduct.

As Colossians 2:23 puts it, "Such regulations [all such regulations, whether pagan or old covenant] indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence."

We have long realized that Sabbath-keeping does not restrain self-indulgence. We knew that even though a member might be very careful about not working on the Sabbath and Holy Days, putting leaven out of the home, avoiding unclean meat, etc., he might well be indulging in any number of the ugly sins Paul listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

In other words, we knew by experience what Paul clearly said in Colossians 2:23, but we didn't quite get the point: The regulations of the old covenant, including the Sabbath and Holy Days, simply do nothing for restraining the sinful nature. But the heart that is regenerated by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ lives according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh.

Our error was the same as that of the troublemakers in Galatia. We thought that certain old covenant regulations should be binding on Christians, so much so that we thought anyone not keeping those regulations was in fact not Christian at all. But Paul's point is that those things are not required for Christians at all—faith in Christ is what is required for Christians. That is why Paul wrote, "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4).

When Paul says the law is "abolished in his flesh," he does not mean that we should live ungodly lives. He means we should live godly lives *in Christ*. And godliness and ungodliness are described in many places in the New Testament, including the Galatians 5 passage mentioned above. (They are also described throughout the Old Testament, and we can and should use the Old Testament for spiritual guidance and instruction. But we must learn to let the New Testament interpret the Old,

not the other way around.)

Right now, the Church is experiencing a trial. Trials are part of the Christian life. Some we bring upon ourselves with poor decisions, and some are the results of the circumstances we live in, and some are persecution for righteousness' sake. No matter what the cause, we are to endure our trials as cheerfully as we can, entrusting ourselves to our Father in heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ. Real faith is living faith, and it is in the face of trial that our faith is made strongest.

In faith we know our loving Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer will work circumstances out for the best (Romans 8:28). We rejoice in the salvation we've been given in Christ. We rejoice in the eternal reward with him that is promised in the new covenant.

## Rescued from bondage of sin

This festival of freedom in Christ reminds us of the good news, the gospel Paul calls the "power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). We want it to be a joyful celebration of the fact that Christ has rescued us from the bondage of sin and is leading us to victory over every form of sin and slavery. By the grace of God, our lives have been given to him, and he will faithfully guide us.

Just as each Christian endures trials, the entire Church has trials, too. Throughout them all, we can be confident that Christ will be faithful to us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. It is to him that we must look, in humility and faith and love, for the hope that lies ahead.

We need intimate, personal fellowship with Jesus Christ, brethren. We need to participate in his serving nature, in his body and in his blood. Through faith, we need to be cleansed by him, made holy by him, walking in newness of life, in sincerity and truth and righteousness, all to his honor and glory. "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Romans 1:17).

Let us rejoice and be glad, and use this Festival season to renew our commitment to following him wherever he leads us. I pray that he will bless you with the most meaningful Festival season ever. Please pray for one another, for all those who are struggling with understanding the new covenant, and please pray for me. My prayers are with you.

## Coping: separate truth from error

Continued from page 4

as another splinter group emerges and seeks to garner a following.

It is interesting to consider that all the splinter groups teach essentially the same things with only a few differences. It is noteworthy to consider that there is nothing unique in how they view each other.

First, they each claim that they are the correct group to join because they believe they have more truth than any other. Second, they each try to solicit our members to join them. Third, they continue to teach error caused by misinterpretation of Scripture and distortion of history.

Let's remember them all in our prayers, that God would grant them the ability to acknowledge the errors and see the objective truth of Scripture.

All of us, as ministers and members, feel the same pain and stress as we repent of mistakes, as we grow in greater understanding of God's grace and how we should conduct ourselves and interact with each other. We each grow and learn at our own pace and in our own time.

Some are aided by their life's experience while others are not. Please let's continue to remember each other in our prayers. The result of such also leads us to improve in our unity and love for one another.

# Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

## Births

**BAPST**, Bob and Lisa (Derstine) of Columbus, Ohio, boy, Brandon Murray, Feb. 15, first child.

**BRAUGHLER**, Denver and Michele (Croft) of Silver Springs, Maryland, boy, Lojlik Lemuel, Jan. 1, now three boys.

**CHABOT**, Leo Jr. and Margon (Whetson) of Culpeper, Virginia, boy, Leo A. III, Jan. 3, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**CLENDENING**, Ritchie and Toni-Lynn (Kachmar) of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, boy, John Claude, Jan. 16, first child.

**DANIELS**, David and Lucy (Vander Wielen) of Neenah, Wisconsin, boy, Benjamin Luke, Feb. 14, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**DANIELS**, David and Sherrie (Bennett) of Ogden, Utah, girl, Ashley Nichelle, Dec. 19, first child.

**DEGLER**, Kirk and Teresa (Maxey) of Mechanicsville, Maryland, boy, Justin Keith, Feb. 3, now 2 boys.

**DURKEE**, Bobby and Michelle (Pruitsman) of Fort Myers, Florida, boy, Darin Michael, Aug. 25, first child.

**EASTERLING**, Nick and Carla (Hubbell) of Flomaton, Alabama, girl, Charlotte Nicole, Jan. 12, first child.

**ERICKSON**, Michael and Angie (Zerr) of Prince George, British Columbia, boy, Matthew Edward, Oct. 1, first child.

**EVANS**, Daniel and Dawn Marie (Dykstra) of Cincinnati, Ohio, girl, Jody Elizabeth, Feb. 16, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

**FENTON**, Niall and Theresa (Hegvold) of Atlanta, Georgia, boy, Connor Sidney Kildare, Oct. 5, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**FITCH**, Mark and Debby (Hazlett) of Paintsville, Kentucky, girl, Haylie Moriah, Dec. 22, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**GUILLORY**, Rudy and Susie (Green) of Jacksonville, Florida, boy, Justin Tyler, Oct. 17, now 2 boys.

**HEMPERLY**, S. David and Michelle (Schrimpf) of Cleveland, Ohio, girl, Jamie Rose, Sept. 27, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**HINTZ**, Terry and Janna (Snyder) of Des Moines, Iowa, girl, Amanda Marie, Feb. 27, first child.

**HUTCHESON**, Jeff and Rebecca (Foote) of Nashville, Tennessee, boy, Andrew Baker, Feb. 15, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**JANSAN**, Isaac and Therese (Warren) of Clermont, Australia, boy, Wilton John, Feb. 28, first child.

**KING**, Chris and Karen (Richerson) of Dallas, Texas, girl, Courtney Danielle, Nov. 29, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**KINJERSKI**, Michael and Christina (Koonce) of Appleton, Wisconsin, girl, Mikaela Gabrielle, Feb. 22, first child.

**KOZLOWSKI**, Steven and Michelle (Watson) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, boy, Joseph Wayne Lucien, Sept. 25, now 2 boys.

**KUBON**, Neil and Laura (Kisel) of Pasadena, boy, Garrett William, Oct. 18, now 2 boys.

**LANGFORD**, Brett and Susie (Kuipers) of Denver, Colorado, girl, Brittany Louise, Dec. 23, first child.

**McCLUSKEY**, Dermot and Lorraine (Speers) of Belfast, Northern Ireland, girl, Megan Lorraine, Jan. 10, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**McNAIR**, J. Peter and Mique (Germano) of Irving, Texas, boy, Joel Alexander, March 4, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**METCALF**, Rick and Andrea (Avey) of Palmdale, California, girl, Alexandra Ann, March 13, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**MORENO**, David and Kathleen (Thibault) of Pasadena, boy, Myca John, Oct. 20, now 3 boys, 4 girls.

**MORRIS**, Edmund and Debra (Honore) of Memphis, Tennessee, girl, Sarah Marie, Nov. 19, first child.

**O'CONNOR**, Carl and Sharyn (Hofer) of Des Moines, Iowa, boy, Quinn David, Feb. 25, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

**OSWALT**, Chad and Luanna (Wenger) of Longview, Texas, girl, Taylor Brooke, Sept. 21, first child.

**POITRAS**, Donn and Sandra (Hofer) of Secheit, British Columbia, boy, Colton, R.M., Jan. 15, now 3 boys.

**PRATER**, Ray and Carolyn (Davis) of Erlanger, Kentucky, boy, Ray Dustin, Feb. 19, first child.

**RAYMAKERS**, Peter-Paul and Heather (Brown) of Melbourne, Australia, girl, Malorie Heather, Jan. 19, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**RICHARD**, Ray and Shirley (Dyck) of Gibsons, British Columbia, boy, Raymond Gunnar James, Nov. 28, first child.

**RODRIGUEZ**, Gerard and Darla (McPeak) of Phoenix, Arizona, girl, Casandra Delores, Feb. 12, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

**SCHARPEN**, Scott and Carolyn (Clark) of Anaheim, California, boy, Tyler Scott, March 6, first child.

**THOMAS**, William and Cheryl (Agard) of Dallas, Texas, boy, Hunter Steven, Jan. 12, first child.

**WELSCH**, Mark and Sandy (De Maniel) of Brisbane, Australia, boy, Tynam Blaike, Feb. 18, first child.

**WESLEY**, J. Phillip and Mindy (Derreberry) of Toledo, Ohio, boy, Timothy Uriah, Nov. 21, now 2 boys, 4 deceased.

**WILLIAMS**, Ryan and Gale (Howard) of Chillicothe, Ohio, girl, Kelcie Danielle, Feb. 26, now 2 girls.

**WISE**, Mark and Michelle (Messier) of Marion, North Carolina, twin girls, Alexis Meleah Rachelle and Brittany Sarah Nicole, Jan. 22, first children.

## Engagements

Jennifer Ruth Morgan and Patrick Russell Primas of Victoria, British Columbia, along with their parents, Robert and Leah Morgan of Victoria, and Ed and Barbara Primas of Red Deer, Alberta, are pleased to announce their engagement. An Aug. 5 wedding is planned in Victoria.

Maynard and Cherry Barnum of Raymond, Washington, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Linda to Daniel Porteous, son of Ron Porteous and the late Florence Porteous of Auckland, New Zealand. A May wedding is planned.

Lloyd and Shirley Bramley of Hamilton, Australia, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Karen Jane to Roland Huber, son of Fred and Beth Huber of Melbourne, Australia. An October wedding is planned.

David G. Courey of Peoria, Illinois, would like to announce his engagement to Lorelle M. Demont of South Africa. An April 29 wedding in South Africa is planned.

David Burrows of Dungannon, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, and Valerie Dunlop of Belfast, Northern Ireland, are pleased to announce their engagement.

Maria Teresa Rojas of Queens, New York, is pleased to announce the

engagement of her daughter Maria Victoria to Jeff Kolsch of Long Island, New York. A September wedding is planned.

## Weddings



**WILLIAM & CHARLOTTE JOHNSTON**

Charlotte Ann O'Hern, daughter of Teresa O'Hern of Heflin, Alabama, and David O'Hern of Birmingham, Alabama, and William Rueben Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rueben Johnston of Ohatchee, Alabama, were united in marriage Aug. 6. The ceremony was performed by Howard Shadoan, a minister in the Anniston, Alabama, church.



**DOUG & BECKY DAVIS**

Rebecca Dayoff Parker, daughter of Carl and Annabel Dayhoff of Cape Coral, Florida, and Douglas Scott Davis, son of David and Connie Davis of Westminster, California, were united in marriage April 3. The ceremony was performed by Willard High, pastor of Chicago, Illinois, South church. Annabel Dayhoff, mother of the bride, was matron of honor, and Patrick Davis, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Manteno, Illinois, with their two children, Lydia and Tommy Parker.



**JOHN & KATHERINE KROB**

Katherine Marie Thornton and John Herbert Krob were united in marriage May 29 on the Ambassador University campus. The wedding was performed by Ed Mauzey. Keely Salisbury was matron of honor, and Robert Fahey was the best man.



**GARRY & MARCIA STEADMAN**

Marcia Lisa Wiebe, daughter of Peter and Carol Wiebe of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Garry Mark Steadman, son of Mervyn and Shirley Steadman of Calgary, Alberta, were united in marriage May 22. The ceremony was performed by Pat Stelmack, a minister in the Brandon, Manitoba, church. Pauline Wiebe, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Dave Lewis, friend of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Winnipeg.



**PHIL & JANET VAN DIJK**

Janet Louise Eddington, daughter of Bill and Rae Eddington of Melbourne, Australia, and Phil Van Dijk, son of Philip and Mary Van Dijk, were united in marriage Dec. 18. The ceremony was performed by Rod King, pastor of the Melbourne East church. The couple were attended by Helen Squelch, Catherine Hill and Joanne Eddington, sisters of the bride; Paul and Robert Van Dijk, brothers of the groom; and Michael Piper. The couple live in Melbourne.



**ROBERT & REBECCA McNALLY**

Rebecca Ann Essman, daughter of

Kathy Woolery of Inyokern, California, and Jim Essman (deceased), of Bakersfield, California, and Robert Christopher McNally, son of Susan and Edward McNally of Granada Hills, California, were married April 10. James Friddle performed the ceremony in Pasadena. Melody Jenkins, Debra Ellis, Rebecca Cloninger and Susan Logan, attended the bride. Michael McNally, Steven McNally, Edward Lacabanne and David Logan attended the groom. The couple live in Chatsworth, California.



**WILLIAM & ROBIN BEECH**

Robin Mabry and William Beech were united in marriage May 8. The ceremony was performed by Steve Smith, pastor of the Columbus, Georgia, church. Their children, Matthew Beech and Cory Mabry, were their attendants. They live in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.



**JAMES & LISA BROWN**

Lisa G. Brion, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell W. Brion of Liberty, Pennsylvania, and James R. Brown, son of Doris A. Brown, and the late Joseph L. Brown of Rochester, New York, were united in marriage Dec. 24. The ceremony was performed by Olieh Kubik, pastor of the Elmira and Binghamton, New York, churches. The couple live in Rochester.

## Anniversaries



**HOWARD & JACKIE SHADOAN**

Howard and Jackie Shadoan of Mundeford, Alabama, celebrated their 35th anniversary Jan. 1. They have three children, Kelly, Lisa and Rachel; a daughter-in-law, Tami; two sons-in-law, Bill Kelly and Terry Geter; and five grandchildren, Jennifer, Billy, Jonathan, Ian and Zachery. Mr. Shadoan is a local church elder in the Anniston, Alabama, church.



**ROBERT & LEAH MORGAN**

Robert and Leah Morgan of Victoria, British Columbia, celebrated their 30th anniversary March 30. They have five children, Roxanna Jones, Derek, Wade, Vincent and Jennifer; a son-in-law, David Jones; a daughter-in-law, Lisa; and a grandson, Zachary.



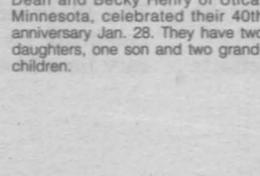
**ALEX & WIESIA CZUPRYS**

Alex and Wiesia Czuprys of Smiths Falls, Ontario, celebrated their 25th anniversary Oct. 25. They have two children, Lydia and David; and a son-in-law, Colin.



**DEAN & BECKY HENRY**

Dean and Becky Henry of Utica, Minnesota, celebrated their 40th anniversary Jan. 28. They have two daughters, one son and two grandchildren.



**GEORGE ROYCROFT**

ROYCROFT, George, 81, of Dr-



**TOM & LOUISE MELUCHE**

Tom and Louise Meluche of Brick, New Jersey, celebrated their 35th anniversary Dec. 31. They have two sons, Thomas and Michael; two daughters-in-law, Virginia and Terry; one daughter, Jennifer; one son-in-law, Eric Lorentzen; and five grandchildren.



**DANIEL & LIISA CAPAZ**

Daniel and Liisa Capaz of Montreal, Quebec, celebrated their 25th anniversary Dec. 20. They have two daughters, Anne and Diane; one son, David; and one granddaughter, Sarah.



**WELDON & EARLINE CHAPPLE**

Weldon and Earline Chapple of San Diego, California, celebrated their 40th anniversary Feb. 14. They have three daughters, Cassandra, Alano and Monique. Mr. Chapple is a deacon in the San Diego church.

## Anniversaries Made of Gold



**LESTER & VERDA MAE McCLARY**

Lester and Verda Mae McClary of Grand Junction, Colorado, celebrated their 70th anniversary March 24. The McClarys have three children, Garrett, Jacqueline Clark and Nannette Pond, eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.



**LEROY & ALTA STEVENSON**

Leroy and Alta Stevenson celebrated their 50th anniversary Jan. 31. They have three sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Obituaries



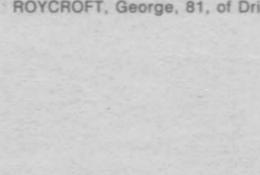
**BELLE WROTH**

WROTH, Belle Irene, 93, of Sacramento, California, died Feb. 9 of congestive heart failure. She is survived by her son, John; two daughters, Eleanor and Shirley; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, David.



**ROBERT JONES**

JONES, Robert, 22, of Edmonton, Alberta, died Feb. 21 in a car accident. He is survived by his parents, Pat and Dennis; two brothers, David and Michael; a sister, Cherie; a sister-in-law, Roxanna; his godparents, Jim and Joyce Moss; his grandparents; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



**ROYCROFT, George, 81, of Dr-**

moleague, Cork, Ireland, died Feb. 23. He is survived by his wife, Nan; two sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret; a nephew, Graham; a brother-in-law, George Jennings; a sister-in-law, Madge; and other relatives.

**TAYLOR**, John E., 74, of Greenville, South Carolina, died Aug. 7 after an extended illness. He is survived by his wife, Irisa, two sons and three daughters. He was a deacon in the Greenville church.



**JOE TAYLOR**

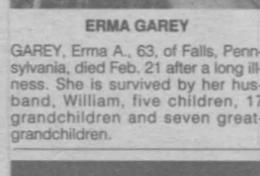
**TAYLOR**, Joe W., 70, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Feb. 21. He is survived by his wife, Hazel; a daughter, Joyce Moore; a granddaughter, Vicki Owenby; and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Taylor was a local church elder in the Knoxville church.

**SPEERS**, Robert, 69, of Ballymena, Northern Ireland, died Feb. 4. He is survived by four children, Siobhan, Lorraine, Paul and Colin; and five grandchildren.



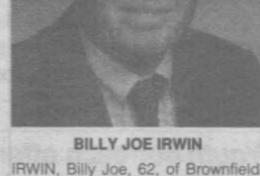
**ERMA GAREY**

**GAREY**, Erma A., 63, of Falls, Pennsylvania, died Feb. 21 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, William, five children, 17 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



**BILLY JOE IRWIN**

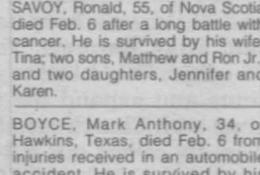
**IRWIN**, Billy Joe, 62, of Brownfield, Texas, died Feb. 24 of lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Reba; two daughters, Valerie Kay Christian and Patricia Gail Verner; and 11 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Rita Allworth.



**YATES**, Mollie, 59, of Liberty, South Carolina, died Feb. 5 of leukemia. She is survived by two daughters, Ava Katherine Cruz and Teresa Ann Yates; a son, Allen Keith Harville; a sister, Delores A. Garrett; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Lee.

**SAVOY**, Ronald, 55, of Nova Scotia died Feb. 6 after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Tina; two sons, Matthew and Ron Jr.; and two daughters, Jennifer and Karen.

**BOYCE**, Mark Anthony, 34, of Hawkins, Texas, died Feb. 6 from injuries received in an automobile accident. He is survived by his wife, Rochelle; four sons, Jeffery Pulley, Anthony, Stephen and Micah Turner; his parents, M.A. and Helen Boyce; a sister, Angela Martin; two grandmothers, Marlene Boyce, and Nellie Nutt; and a number of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.



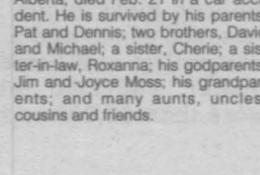
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# update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

## Washington man turns 100

BREMERTON, Washington—Dean Morey celebrated his 100th birthday Nov. 21.

Mr. Morey was born in



Dean Morey

Medford, Oregon. He was baptized by Ernest Hoyt in 1985 and attends the Bremerton church. He plays his grand piano and sings for his friends.

## Youth outreach offers free subscriptions to needy teens

Youth 95 encourages members to join in an outreach program to provide the magazine free to needy teens and charitable organizations.

"We've been providing many copies of the magazine to groups like Boys Town and children's hospitals," said Mike Bennett, Youth 95 editor. "We'd like to continue and expand the program with Church members' help. By calling our toll-free number, 1-800-625-5588, members can provide one or more outreach subscriptions."

## Phoenix North YOU participates in 30-hour famine

PHOENIX, Arizona—The Phoenix North YOU participated in the 30-Hour Famine Feb. 25 and 26. The event is sponsored annually by World Vision to raise funds to help suffering children in the United States and around the world.

The youths learned about hunger and poverty and had fun with Bible studies, discussions, games and a service project at a homeless shelter. The YOU raised more than \$2,000 to help

relieve suffering. Ten dollars provides food for a child for 20 days; \$15 fully immunizes one child; and \$25 provides a family with seeds and tools for planting their next food crop. Dick McKeon.

## YOU member gains entrance to prestigious academy

BLANTYRE, Malawi—Fourteen-year-old Linda Gondwe, a YOU member here, has been approved for admission to Kamuzu Academy. Founded by H. Kamuzu Banda, former president of Malawi, the academy is the most prestigious in Africa, according to pastor Bill Whitaker.

"Selection of students, and the entrance examination are of the highest standards, and of all the schools in Malawi very few teenagers qualify for admission," Mr. Whitaker said.

Linda attended the Summer Educational Program for two years and was an active member of YOU. Her hobbies are long-distance running, high jump and reading.

## Ambassador University receives major gift

BIG SANDY—Ambassador University received a \$100,000 donation March 21 from a leading East Texas businessman, who requested no publicity.

Speaking to an audience of Ambassador students and faculty, the businessman emphasized his belief in the importance of supporting private education. He challenged his AU listeners to make their own contribution in spreading the gospel and Christian principles to the world.

"I'm just returning this money to the Lord," he said, "and as students at a Christian university you are learning the lesson of being trustworthy, even in little things."

"We're very humbled and deeply grateful for this extremely generous donation," said President Donald Ward. "We plan to use part of the money for the university radio station we're starting," he said.

KBAU, the university's noncommercial, educational FM station, will cover Gladewater, Gilmer, Big Sandy, Pittsburg, Longview and a host of other smaller communities in Upshur, Gregg, Smith and Camp counties. Plans call for the station to be on the air later this year.

## Residential village construction to begin

The board of regents met March 19 in Pasadena and accepted a bid for construction of the first unit in the planned men's Residential Village project.

Site preparation is under way and construction on the first building is scheduled to be completed in time for the fall semester.

"Were it not for the efforts

of many brethren of the Church who participated in the plaque sales program last year, we would not have been able to get started on the Residential Village at this time," said President Donald Ward.

"We're eager to begin construction and grateful to the brethren for their prayers and financial support," he said. When completed, the Residential Village will comprise 30 units, each housing 16 students, and a central lounge and recreation building.

## Royals athletic camps

BIG SANDY—Ambassador University Royals basketball, volleyball and cheerleading teams will conduct camps this summer for campers ages 13 to 19.

Women's basketball camp will be conducted by head coach Andy Burnett June 22 to 29.

Royals basketball head coach Dave Goethals will conduct men's basketball camps July 6 to 13 for ages 13 to 15 and July 13 through 20 for ages 16 to 19.

Coed volleyball camps will be conducted by head coach Larry Haworth July 20 to 27 for ages 13 to 15 and July 27 to Aug. 3 for ages 16 to 19.

Head coach Leron Canup will conduct a cheerleading camp Aug. 3 to 10.

Tuition for each camp is \$250. For an application form please call 1-903-636-2000 extension 2090. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Be sure to send your application in as soon as possible.

Adult volunteers are needed to help in the basketball camps in the areas of coaching, instruction, refereeing and supervision. Food, housing and camp staff uniforms will be provided.

Call Dave Goethals at 1-903-636-2000 extension 3779 or write to him at Box 111, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755.

## Church anniversaries

WINNIPEG, Manitoba—The Winnipeg church will celebrate its 30th anniversary June 24 and 25.

## Plain Truth reaches another milestone

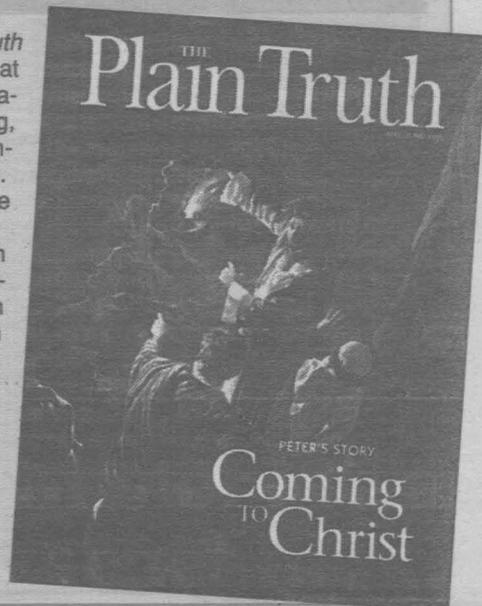
Beginning with the May-June issue, *The Plain Truth* will be produced entirely electronically. Operations that were previously handled externally, such as color separation, generation of separated film and color proofing, can now all be handled in-house by our own personnel," said Barry Gridley, director of Publishing Services.

Other functions such as manual film assembly have been eliminated entirely.

The move to electronic publication stems from an agreement the Church made with R.R. Donnelley printers, which in February 1994 agreed to give the Church \$365,000 for equipment purchases in exchange for an extension of the current printing contract.

Mr. Gridley said: "Now that our new system is fully operational, we can begin to reap the cost savings we originally projected. Reducing our work force and eliminating fees to outside companies will save us approximately a quarter of a million dollars a year—money we can put to use elsewhere."

Inset photo shows cover of the first *Plain Truth* produced electronically.



A dinner will follow Sabbath services. Sunday's activities will be a pancake breakfast, variety concert and a casual dance.

If you would like to attend please call Nestor Guspodarchuk before June 15 at 1-204-663-0646 or write to him at 69 Skowron Cres., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3W 1N4.

BRANDON, Manitoba—The Brandon church will celebrate its 25th anniversary June 24 and 25.

A dinner will follow Sabbath services, and some social activities are planned for Sunday.

If you would like to attend please call Pat Stelmackat at 1-204-826-2096 or write to RR 1, Rapid City, Manitoba, R0K 1W0.

## Youth chosen as state Beta Club secretary

BRADFORD, Tennessee—Tim Ulseth, 16, was chosen as secretary for the Tennessee chapter of Beta Club, a national academic and service organization.

Tim attends services in Jackson, Tennessee, and is a



Tim Ulseth

member of Spokesman Club. His selection as secretary has opened up many speaking opportunities. Tim will enter the competition for selection as the national Beta Club secretary in Orlando, Florida, in June.

Tim is the son of Bill and Anita Ulseth. Gary Pendergraft.

## AU receives blood drive award

Ambassador University received the Outstanding College/University Blood Drive

1994 award for the greatest number of blood donors in East Texas last year at an awards luncheon sponsored by the Stuart Regional Blood Center in Tyler March 21.

This is the third consecutive year Ambassador has earned this recognition. First runner-up in the same category was Panola College in Carthage, and second runner-up was East Texas Baptist University in Marshall.

"We're excited about the recognition, of course, but we're also thankful for the opportunity to give something back to our East Texas community," said Sherry Ellis, nursing supervisor and chairperson for blood donation drive recruiting at AU.

Also present at the luncheon were representatives from many leading East Texas businesses and organizations, as well as area media.

The university received a framed certificate of recognition that will be displayed in the Wilmer E. Parrish M.D. Health Center on the Ambassador campus.

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