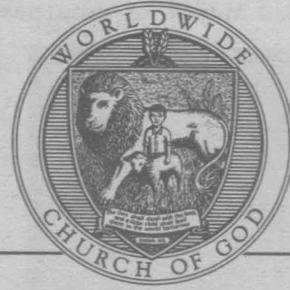


3 Ambassador commencement ceremony in photos

4 Striking a chord at worship services in Washington, D.C.

4 How new is the new covenant?

# The Worldwide News



VOL. XXIII, NO. 11  
June 6, 1995

## Ambassador University conducts graduation exercises

By Reginald Killingley

**BIG SANDY**—Ten and a half months after Ambassador College became Ambassador University, the school conducted its first spring commencement exercises under the new name May 15. The university graduated 362 students—246 with bachelor's degrees and 116 with associate's degrees—representing 22 countries and 43 U.S. states.

The two-hour ceremony took place in the university's field house auditorium, decorated for the occasion with the flags of the graduates' countries of origin, ranging from Argentina to Zaire. The audience of 1,644 included guests who viewed the proceedings on closed-circuit television at other locations on campus.

Donald L. Ward, university president, introduced the commencement speaker, Herman L. Hoeh, vice chairman of the university's board of regents. Dr. Hoeh spoke in place of the scheduled guest of honor, board chairman Joseph W. Tkach, who was forced by illness to cancel his visit.

In his 20-minute speech, Dr. Hoeh began by reading a message from Mr. Tkach in which the chairman expressed his regret at missing an occasion he looked forward to as a highlight every year.

Dr. Hoeh encouraged the gradu-



**ENRICHMENT**—Marty Connelly (left) from Orange, Connecticut, receives the Russel Shiver Award from Herman L. Hoeh. Right, President Donald L. Ward. [Photo by Abraham Lorenzo]

ates to develop relationships with mentors and others who could set the kind of example and give them the sort of advice and assistance they would need to become successful in their fields of activity after college.

"What you know is important," Dr. Hoeh said, "but whom you know is equally important. The people you get to know can greatly enrich your life."

Earlier, Student Body President Ryan A. Fuessel, from Gonzales, Florida, told his fellow graduates that commencement was an occasion

to rejoice, reflect and receive.

For Michele Wayne Bertuzzi, from Eugene, Oregon, the day was indeed

a special time to rejoice. He graduated from Ambassador 30 years after his father Robert did. "The class of 1965 was a pioneer class—the first to graduate from the Big Sandy campus," said the younger Bertuzzi, "and the class of 1995 is also a pioneer class—the first large group to graduate from Ambassador since we became a university."

After the ceremony, attendees moved outdoors to the Hall of Administration plaza, where the graduates received the congratulations of family, friends and faculty.

Dr. Hoeh proposed a toast to the future success of the graduates, whose celebratory mood could not be dampened even in the 95-degree, high-humidity weather.

"To wisdom, good judgment and self-control," said Dr. Hoeh, "and to the very special contributions our newest alumni will make, because of their experiences, into the next century."

See Graduation, page 3

## Mr. Tkach undergoes second surgery

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

My father had to be readmitted to Huntington Hospital in Pasadena on Sunday evening, May 28, because of severe pain in his back and intestines.

After taking X rays, his doctor discovered a mass in the colon that had been growing for at least a year. The doctor arranged for an immediate operation to remove it. A cancerous, grapefruit-size mass was removed, and the doctor was able to remove all visible spots.

Thankfully, the cancer does not appear to have spread to the liver. The doctor told us that this cancer responds well to chemotherapy and is sometimes cured by it.

Right now, my dad is in a great deal of pain from the surgery. We deeply appreciate your prayers for his comfort and recovery and thank you for all the expressions of kindness since he first entered the hospital nearly three weeks ago for gall bladder surgery.

His doctor felt that the gall bladder problem, although unrelated to the cancer, may have been a blessing in disguise. The gall bladder surgery caused the intestinal blockage from the cancer to become apparent sooner than it probably would have otherwise. In any case, we know Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives and that we are all in his capable hands.

It saddens me that some dissidents have said that this is "God's judgment" on my dad for changing Church doctrine. This is exactly the

kind of ungodly, unbalanced way of looking at things that Jesus Christ has led the Church out of, and I thank our Savior deeply for his mercy and blessing in having done so.

I also praise and thank God for the faith, courage, commitment and strength he has given my dad in leading the Church toward Christ in spite of all opposition. I know the vast majority of you who remain in the Church feel the same way. Thank you, friends, for your faithfulness to Christ and your loyalty to the Church.

Let's pray earnestly for my dad, for the Church and for one another. Jesus promised never to leave or forsake us, and we can be certain that he hasn't. I'll keep you informed of my dad's progress.

**Update:** On June 1 doctors were positive and explained that my dad will return home next week and be able to return to work in a few weeks.

The surgeon successfully removed the tumor and four small spots. He didn't see any other cancer. His liver and blood are healthy, and he will begin chemotherapy in a few weeks as an outpatient. There are many kinds of chemotherapy and the kind that is given for this type of cancer will not cause him to lose his hair nor feel nauseous.

Of course, this kind of positive and optimistic news was good to hear. We thank God for his help and strength in times like this. Your prayers for his continued recovery are very much appreciated.



## Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

### Sabbath and Holy Day observance: an issue of form, not of substance

I am both grieved and dismayed by the unethical actions of some of our former ministers. Where is the love for the people of God when a pastor uses his office to upset, confuse and divide his flock?

Some think they are being loyal to God by telling the congregation that they should reject the Church's doctrine. They have come to the point that their views on Sabbath observance are more important than the Word of God and the spiritual well-being of the members. They see the weekly Sabbath as the dividing line between true Christians and false Christians.

Even in the face of the Holy Spirit correcting the Church on this matter, they cling to their own belief instead of submitting to the Word of God. For them, living faith in Christ is not enough to determine Christian identity—they demand adherence to the Law of Moses, specifically Sabbath and Holy Day observance, in addition. We have all done this in times past. But Christ has now led us to see the truth more clearly. He has shown us, through the Scriptures and through duly constituted authority in the Church, that we need to change.

By the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, I came to see these things over a period of years. It was not easy for me, but it

See Personal, page 5

# Tradition of quality music

By Sharon Vischer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Maria Theolinda Carvalho Da Nobrega-Guilherme, 80, died May 18. Funeral services were conducted by Terry Browning, pastor of the Johannesburg East church.

Maria, christened Theolinda Carvalho (later to become her stage name), was born Feb. 9, 1915, in Sao Miguel, on a tiny volcanic island in the Azores. She has fond memories of the village where she was born, and remembers the streets being cleared and filled from side to side with fresh flowers in mosaic patterns, as part of village religious celebrations.

Maria was born into a musical family, and began her piano studies as a young child. She finished high school in Sao Miguel at the age of 15 and moved to Lisbon, Portugal, with her family to continue her music studies. Her first piano teacher there was Etelvina D'Moraes, a pupil of Hungarian pianist and composer Frans Lizst.

She did exams privately and reduced her study years from nine years to six years, writing her final exams at the Lisbon Conservatory of Music at the age of 21 in 1936.

In Lisbon, Maria performed in many concerts as a solo pianist, as a



Maria Guilherme

partner in two piano performances and as an accompanist for her sister Lidia. An article in the national newspaper referred to Maria and Lidia as "two sisters of the same level of greatness ... not common in music ... especially of the young generation."

Early in 1940 Maria met her future husband, Pieter Guilherme, while accompanying a chorus in which he was singing.

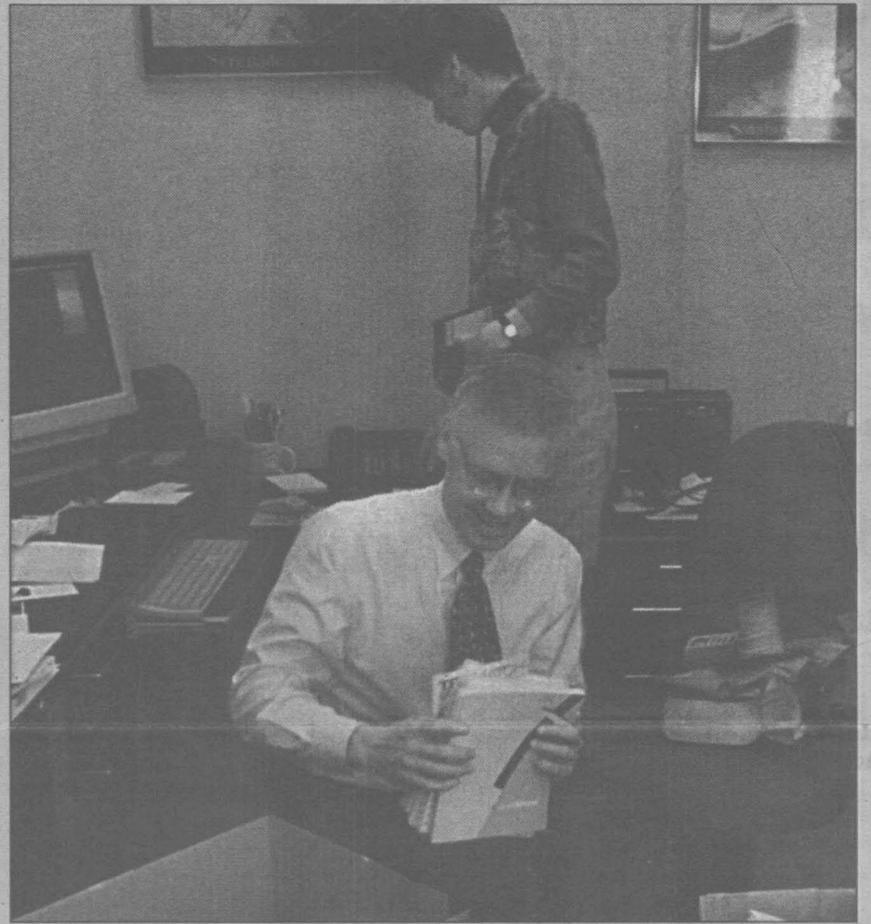
After the Second World War Maria and her husband moved to Lorenzo Marques (now Maputo), capital of Mozambique in southern Africa, where she taught piano. She continued her concert performances there and appeared on the same program with Yehudi Menuhin, John Arnowitz and Marcel Gazolle.

Maria wrote editorials on the arts for the national newspaper, and had hundreds of clippings from her years of writing music critiques. She had a collection of newspaper articles that were written about her own performances as well.

They moved to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1956 and remained there until independence from Britain in 1980. Maria taught piano at Trinity College of Music in addition to looking after their two children, Theresa and Pieter. The family came to South Africa in 1980. Mr. Guilherme died in 1990 after a lengthy illness.

In 1989, at the age of 74, Maria became a member of the Worldwide Church of God. She performed special music and offertory music in the local church and also at the festivals to the end of her life. She continued her lifelong tradition of performing quality music in a world that she felt "no longer remembers what real music is all about."

Sharon Vischer attends the Johannesburg, South Africa, East church.



## Church employees on the move

Mike Hale, Creative Services art director (foreground), was one of many employees in Creative Services, Editorial, Media Promotion and Personal Correspondence moving into vacant offices in the Office Facilities building, May 9 to 19. The offices were vacant because of employee cutbacks.

To the rear of Mr. Hale is Tina Dennis, a Telecommunications technician, who made sure each person's telephone was relocated to the right office. The movement of personnel and their computers also created work for Data Communications personnel, who laid cable for a Token Ring Network.

By the end of July, Publishing employees will also be housed in the Office Facilities building and the Publishing building will be closed.

"The past few months have been trying," said evangelist Bernard W. Schnippert, director of Media Operations. "Long-time employees, many of them friends, have departed for other jobs and careers. Even though many of them chose to voluntarily resign and left with friendly and gracious attitudes, it has been saddening to see them leave. For those of us remaining, it seems as if we've been in a grieving period.

"But now, as we bring all Media Operations employees together, under one roof, there's a renewed feeling of excitement and purpose as we look forward to working together with increased efficiency."

The Worldwide News



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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.

### Elated by new teaching

When the New Covenant teachings first started coming out I was elated. Many of the previous teachings in the Church that were confusing have been made clear. I have absorbed, underlined, praised and thanked God for every word of this enlightenment. It is indeed like a new birth. My spirit has been uplifted and my convictions strengthened. I feel free to express things that I long felt were right but was afraid to express.

I am praying and fasting for God to clear up this discord in the Church. One body cannot walk in two different directions at the same time. Thanks for the supportive letters printed in this section of *The Worldwide News*. Once I felt all alone in my jubilation. Now I see that there are others who feel the same way.

I am praying for the leadership at headquarters. May God grant that their authority not be wrested away by those who do not yet see the truth of these new teachings.

Houston, Texas

### Preaching Christ in Sri Lanka

I read with great interest your April 25 article on the personal evangelism of the Ambassador students and their Worldwide Educational Institute (WEI) students in Sri Lanka. It was while there on the project myself, for 1 1/2 years starting in 1992, that my class initi-

ated the cleaning and repainting projects for the hospital that your article spoke about.

I cannot forget the District Medical Officer (DMO), the surgeon in charge of the hospital, coming to me in disbelief that anyone would care about his poorly funded rural hospital. He was almost beside himself with tears that we cared, and he extended every hand to help us in what we were doing.

Patients from all over the hospital, and staff also, came to look at us wide-eyed that we would do such a thing. Community service in these nations is a luxury when people are just trying to survive.

We worked often on Sundays from early morning to sunset. The students had homework to do that night, but on Monday mornings they would arrive at school more punctual and more bright-eyed than usual. The camaraderie helped their studies, and gave them a greater sense of what other people's realities are. They became better students and better people. As teachers we improved, and valued these experiences, even though they were hard work.

Daniel Thompson's comments are so succinct and fundamental to where Jesus Christ is leading the Worldwide Church of God, that all members need to read what he said again. God has placed special people in charge of these projects. We need to value and acknowledge that. Most first world people cannot live in a third world country. Thanks for the inspiring update.

Aldo Antolli  
Big Sandy

### God is giving his people truth

I am a young member of the Church here in Peru. As many in the Church, I felt wor-

ried about doctrinal changes, initially.

It's really necessary to keep an open mind so that no prejudice hinders objectivity and honest searching for all the truth.

We need to keep our minds open and go to the Bible and let it talk to us freely with no old brochure or booklet in the way. This is what I did.

Now I've at last realized that God is doing his work powerfully and is giving his people the truth, the genuine truth, through his chosen leaders. Thanks, Mr. Tkach and thanks all of you there at headquarters for your love and service. Here in Peru you have a great deal of support and prayers.

Grover J. Aranguri-Carranza  
Trujillo La Libertad, Peru

### Continue this greatest journey

The happiness I feel as I look at the Scriptures and see them, as though for the first time in over 28 years in God's Church, is indescribable as the truth of them leaps out of the pages at me. More and more, the words of detractors seem stale and far away—behind me somewhere, as though the Church has sped forward in rapid spiritual growth.

That is scary—at first. It's like being in a vehicle that has leapt to life from 0 to 60 in a few seconds, and you're not sure just where you're going. We were settled in old ways, and suddenly the rug is pulled out and as we topple in disorientation, we hear someone urging us to get up and continue this greatest adventure of our lives—the journey to life eternal in joy and gratitude and love—and to share it in loving concern and service with others.

Let's stay on this most exciting and wonderful adventure together. Hold tight—the going is sometimes rough—and some will fall out on the bumpy part of the road if they don't hold on in faith in their Savior, who knows where he is taking us.

Nancy Gunnels  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

# Graduation: Honoring students' achievements

Continued from page 1

## May 1995 Graduation Awards

### Sportsmanship Award

Joseph Grant Mitchell  
Cheryl Smith Carter

### Shari Lee Seltzer Award

Gregory Alan Radtke  
Zephani O. Santibanez

### Russel Shiver Award

Martin Patrick Connelly

### Watson Wise Incentive Award

Joseph Gerald Piotrowski  
Brenda Kay Szymkowiak

### Academic Excellence Award

Lynn Marie Grabbe  
Sheila Renée Hannaway

### Herbert W. Armstrong Achievement Award

David James Dickinson  
Ryan A. Fuessel  
Carmen Rachelle Rabey  
Karen Nicola Barbour

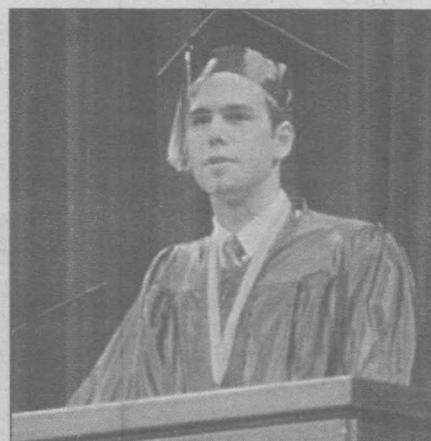
Photos by Abraham Lorenzo and Wayne Laviere



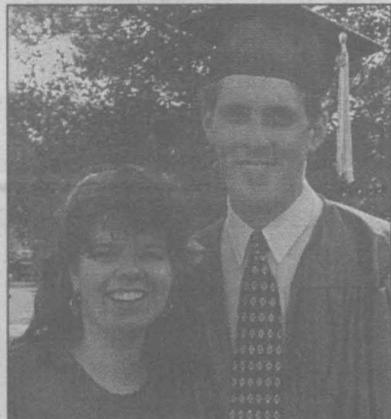
Kim and Lyndon F. Cain



Eric Mohr and Carmen Rabey



Ryan A. Fuessel



Gina Caldwell and Marty Connelly



Greg and Laura Radtke



Marsha Hale and Sheila R. Grady

## 1995 Festival to offer members and families 'every ounce of benefit'

By Norman Shoaf

"We want to offer as much learning, fun and growth as each member can absorb during the week," said Mark McCulley, Festival Administration manager, about this year's Feast of Tabernacles. In the following interview, Mr. McCulley offers an advance look at several exciting aspects of this year's Festival.

### How are preparations for the 1995 Feast of Tabernacles coming?

I grew up in the Church, and the Feast has been the highlight of the year since I was in first grade. Just about every Church member I have spoken to feels the same way.

Our goal in the Festival Office has always been to make the Feast exciting and fun, but a good learning experience, too. In the 16 years I've worked in the Festival Office, I don't think I've ever felt this excited about the potential to come from a festival.

Even though the festivals are not required for salvation, we realize that they have provided wonderful benefits to Church members for many years. When we, together as a body, come into the presence of almighty God, we have a chance to encourage one another with our fellowship, to grow in our dedication to the Lord of our lives, to strengthen our faith in our Savior and to deepen our understanding of salvation.

Since members will have dedicated this whole week to God by traveling to a Festival site, we intend to return every ounce of benefit we can arrange during that time. Not only will we have interesting, helpful sermons, we also intend to offer, at every site, a workshop on effective Bible study. Most sites will offer other activities such as a youth workers' workshop, an intergenerational

discussion group and other learning opportunities.

These extra sessions will be scheduled at various convenient times during the week, apart from the church services.

In short, we want to offer as much learning, fun and growth as each member can absorb during the week. Does this sound like a great way to spend the Feast, or what?



Mark McCulley

### Headquarters will be providing extra support for those who speak at the Feast this year. Can you tell us a little about that?

Mr. Armstrong used to write the ministry and encourage them to speak about the promises of the future. In recent years, we've provided suggested subjects for them. This year we will provide a Festival lectionary to the ministry to prime the pump for their speaking.

### What is a lectionary? How can a lectionary help speakers—and their listeners?

A lectionary is a collection of outlines for individual sermons, each with some suggestions for introductions and illustrations to help get the point of the message across. It contains background research on the

scriptures used and suggests hymns to go along with the message, so that the audience can participate in singing about the message as well as hearing it.

### Does this mean speakers will simply be reading from texts?

Not at all. Of course, many speakers write out certain parts of their messages for maximum clarity and impact. I do this with my introduction, purpose statement, major points and conclusion when I speak.

This is basically the same idea, but duplicated for use by all the ministers. That gives us more mileage from the same effort.

### So each lection will provide a general topic, sample support material and biblical exegesis of key texts. Then the speaker tailors the material into his own message, using his own words and personality to create a message especially for the brethren at his Feast site.

That's exactly it. There is plenty of room for the speaker's personality to come through, as well as the uniqueness of the environment where he will deliver the message.

Some areas, for instance, would need a totally different introduction from the sample in order to bring the audience to the speaker's wavelength. Some analogies don't work in some cultures.

So we give the speakers freedom to use other illustrations to bring the point to the audience. But, each sermon given will get across the same point at every site where it is used.

### So there'll be plenty of variety and interest in the collection of messages at each Feast site?

That is our hope, prayer and intent. Some topics are written for the keynote messages and will be given at all sites. Another is designated as the Youth Day sermon. We are providing more lessons than there

will be sermon slots for, and there will be many ways a topic can be tailored for a local audience.

### Who prepared the lectionary materials?

A group of senior ministers, researchers and writers in Editorial, with direction from Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration. However, those contributors have not created the entire sermon. It's more like they built the foundation and walls of a building, with the roof and all the other finishing touches built by the individual speakers.

### Why did the Church feel a lectionary was needed?

This is a time when the Church is clarifying its teachings and rounding out our understanding of some major topics such as salvation.

To advance that understanding as far as possible in a concentrated dose, we felt we would get the most benefit from providing outlines that the ministry could use as springboards, rather than making them do all the research themselves.

### Can you give us a few sample topics or titles?

Well, I don't want to spill the beans by letting you in on all the secrets too early, but let me tantalize you a little. How about a sermon for the youths titled "The Kingdom of God Belongs to Such as These"? Or another message called "The Kingdom of God—Living the Future Now." Or one titled "Victory Over Darkness."

### Will each site still have guest speakers assigned by headquarters? Do you know who these men will be yet?

Yes. However, we're still making a few adjustments in the list, which we'll release just a bit later.

### What other innovations will we see at the Feast this year?

See Feast Questions, page 7

Norman Shoaf is editor of the Church's nonserial publications.

# The new covenant is much older than you think

By Paul Kroll

**T**he Church has been reminding us that Christians are under the guidance of the new covenant, not the old. This brings up an important question: What is the relationship between the two covenants?

It's sometimes said that the new covenant is a magnification of the old. In an informal way of speaking, this may be acceptable. However, by thinking of the new covenant as only an enlargement of the old, we may be led to accept the erroneous idea that the new grew out of the old.

If the new covenant is but an expanded version of the old, then this creates a question. Perhaps some of the practices (such as avoiding unclean meats) commanded under the old should also be commanded in the new? After all, if something has been added to the new covenant, why can't it include at least some of what was in the old?

Also, to say the new covenant comes after the old is to imply the new is but a Johnny-come-lately, whose existence depends on something that came before it. We might be left with the wrong conclusion that the old covenant is the real basis for the new.

This is absolutely not the case. And that's why the title of this article is "The New Covenant Is Much Older Than You Think." This title insists on the ironic conclusion that the new covenant existed long before the old.

As we know, the old covenant existed on a much lower, human plane. It was, we might say, a kind of teaching tool. This covenant had but a limited existence for a specific time in history under special circumstances. The best it could do was point, for a limited time, to the reality of God's purpose in Christ—the new covenant.

On the other hand, the new covenant should be understood as timeless. We cannot attach an age to it, as it goes back to "the beginning." Since God's purpose is as good as the reality, we can say the creation has never existed without the new covenant.

The New Testament often insists that the new covenant goes back to the beginning. Of course, these verses do not use the words "new covenant." For this reason we need to get a working definition of the new covenant so we can understand when it is being spoken about.

Essentially, the new covenant can be defined in the following phrase: the working out of God's purpose to create human beings and give them eternal life. But here is where things get complicated. We infer from Scripture that God purposed human beings to be created in such a way as to allow them to become prisoners of the natural world order, which includes sin and death.

## Bondage to sin, decay

We understand this aspect of the new covenant from the New Testament. The apostle Paul, for example, summed it up with these words: "The creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present

time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we are saved" (Romans 8:20-24).

Our human bondage to sin and decay forms the underlying problem the new covenant is meant to deal with. Without the new covenant promises, every human would die and decay into eternal nothingness. God's purpose would be stopped dead in its tracks.

But we know the rest of the story

## The new covenant did not come into existence with Christ's death, nor did it come into existence with Abraham. The new covenant came into existence as God's original purpose for the human race.

of the new covenant. God provided a means whereby sinning humans could be rescued from the world order, as well as from sin and death. God himself in the person of a human being (Jesus Christ) would die for humanity's sins. That person, Jesus, would then be resurrected as Savior.

God could forgive humans their sins and ultimately raise them from the dead. That means Jesus Christ is the embodiment of the new covenant. (In a sense, Moses exemplified the old covenant.)

Under the new covenant, sin and death are defeated, and God's purpose to provide humans with eternal life comes to pass. That, we know, is the new covenant in a nutshell.

But to say it again, the new covenant is much older—eternally older—than the old covenant. A number of New Testament verses testify to the eternal existence of the new covenant. As stated earlier, they don't use the words "new covenant."

Rather, these scriptures refer to the promise of Christ's atoning work and God's purpose to give eternal life in him. Christ himself, in effect, is the basis of the new covenant. Let's see, in rapid-fire fashion, how insistently these scriptures tell us of the eternal existence of the new covenant.

The new covenant is God's "eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:11). Jesus (the Lamb) "was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). We were redeemed from our empty way of life by the blood of Christ, who "was chosen before the creation of the world" (1 Peter 1:18-20). God's "work has been finished since the creation of the world" (Hebrews 4:3).

It was God's purpose to choose humans for salvation "before the creation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). The kingdom we are to inherit has been prepared "since the creation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). God's purpose to save us and call us to his grace "was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time" (2 Timothy 1:8-9).

The new covenant has been eternally (as far as we're concerned) in existence. It is "the hope of eternal life, which God,

who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time" (Titus 1:2).

## Hidden purpose

The new covenant, to repeat, is extremely old indeed. It appears new only because it didn't come into general force until about 1,950 years ago. As we know, the fact of its existence before this time was generally hidden from human knowledge. (Of course, the new covenant was discussed and could be found in the Hebrew Scriptures, if one knew what to look for.)

One of Jesus' purposes was to reveal the prior existence of this eternal new covenant. Matthew, quoting one of the prophets, said of Jesus' teaching: "I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world" (13:35).

Paul said God's new covenant purpose to include all people in his plan of salvation "has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints" (Colossians 1:26). It was, said Paul, "God's secret wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:7).

Elements of the new covenant, however, were in operation long before the old covenant was given. Here are some examples.

The new covenant ministry of Melchizedek existed before the old covenant ministry of Levi. The new covenant high priest in the Melchizedek line existed before the old covenant high priest Aaron. John tells us that the Logos existed before Moses. The new covenant "fruits" of the Holy Spirit existed before the giving of the old covenant law at Sinai. (After all, the Holy Spirit is eternal.)

The new covenant people such as Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham lived before the old covenant people of Israel (Hebrews 11:5-12). In Galatians 3:8, Paul says God "announced the gospel"—the new covenant—

"in advance to Abraham."

The fact that the new covenant existed before the old has many implications for us. Obviously, as Christians we would want to look to that which came first—to the real thing—as our authority for truth. That's the new covenant. We would not look to the old covenant, which was but an imitation—a copy or shadow—of the new covenant that was from the beginning.

Since the old covenant has become obsolete, it would of itself not determine how we should worship God. The old covenant institutions—temple, Levitical priesthood, law etched on stones, various regulations and the sacrificial system—would not be normative for us under the new. That is, we would not determine what must be done under the new covenant by looking at the institutions of the old. The Book of Hebrews makes this quite clear. So does Paul in his letters.

## Shadow and reality

Let's summarize the difference between the two covenants. The old covenant institutions were the shadow; the new covenant is the eternally existing reality. The shadow does not speak for the real thing. The new covenant does not grow out of the old, neither is it a magnification of the old. The old covenant grew out of the new. How, then, can the "new" be a magnification of a covenant (the "old"), which came after it?

The new covenant did not come into existence with Christ's death, nor did it come into existence with Abraham. The new covenant came into existence as God's original purpose for the human race. For us, only one conclusion is possible: The very old "new" covenant is our authority for how we are to live our lives in Christ.

## Worship celebration strikes chord with Washington churches

By Joe Comino

WASHINGTON, D.C.—*Plain Truth* subscribers converged on Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, May 20 for an open house service that harmonized church musical talent with the Young Ambassadors summer tour.

Members of the five Washington

churches and guests from as far away as Baltimore, Maryland, participated in an afternoon and evening of music and sermons, which organizers called a worship celebration. Attendance was 548, which included about 15 new people.

Services featured special music throughout, incorporating the talents of the choral group, "Voices of Harmony and Praise," the Young Ambassadors troupe on the Washington leg of their summer tour and the musical expertise of David Bilowus and Ross Jutsum, who accompanied the group from Big Sandy.

After services, a preconcert show, including arrangements of sacred music and an interpretive dance number, set the stage for the Young Ambassadors concert later in the evening.

Lloyd Garrett, Washington North pastor, saw the worship celebration as a means of encouraging new people to tune in to the gospel and to the Church. Those who responded to the invitation had "the opportunity to see some of the variety in the ways we can worship God," said Mr. Garrett. "I thought it was quite successful—and to have the



**BUTTERFLIES IN FORMATION**—Ross Jutsum talks to children onstage to ease their jitters before performing at a worship celebration near Washington, D.C., May 20. [Photo by Kevin Pierce]

See Celebration, page 7

# Personal: understanding clear, biblical truths

Continued from page 1

was necessary if I was to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

We all know that some things have to be learned in stages, as we are prepared for them, as we are mature enough to receive them. This is true for children as they grow up, and it is even true for adults as we continue to mature. And not only must we learn certain things before we are ready to understand other things, we will also become stunted and immature if we do not move on in our understanding when it is time to do so. The same is true for the Church.

I have not set the pace for doctrinal change. Jesus Christ has. As I was convicted by Christ, I told the Church everything the Holy Spirit led me to understand. Even last year, I still did not understand what I understand today. Some of you know I was still preaching that we would never change our position on the Sabbath, the Holy Days, tithing and unclean meat as late as last October.

By that time, I had come to see clearly that there are true Spirit-filled Christians who were not Sabbath-keepers, and I had explained that to the Church. But I did not yet understand how such a thing could be. I only knew that it was true. Our revised Sabbath booklet, *A Day of Renewal*, reflected that partial understanding, explaining that there are Christians who don't observe the seventh-day Sabbath, but that we should observe it because God had revealed it to us. I could not explain why he had not revealed it to other Christians. I only knew that he hadn't.

But when Christ led me to understand the simple and pure biblical truth, it was indeed, as so many ministers and members have described it, like a veil of blindness being lifted. I found that the Holy Spirit had given me a sense of peace and courage to teach the truth about this matter, even though I knew it would not be popular.

Now some people want to accuse me of "planning these changes for decades," alleging that I had an "agenda" from the beginning to make all the changes we have made. What astonishing nonsense!

All I can say is that if I had been working from a prearranged agenda of changes, I certainly would have chosen a slower pace of introducing them to the Church. What I did was to teach what Christ led me to see at the pace he led me to see it, and I am the first to admit that I certainly did not foresee all the implications of some of those things. Looking back now, I can see that one thing led to another. One thing is for sure: Our loving God knows what we need, and he knows how to lead us.

I serve Jesus Christ, and I take the responsibilities he has given me most seriously. If the Holy Spirit had led me to understand the truth about the old and new covenants a year ago, I would have preached it a year ago. But I have been led as Christ determined to lead, not as I might have chosen for myself. The fact is, I have continued to grow in understanding about the covenants ever since I first introduced it to the Church last December.

## Bedrock 'issue' of the Church

Brethren, at the time Mr. Armstrong died, I believed fully that what he had taught was fundamentally true. I had absolutely no idea that we had been wrong about the role of

Sabbath and Holy Day observance. To me, this was the fundamental, bedrock issue of the Church of God. But God has now shown me and the Church that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the fundamental, bedrock "issue" of the Church of God.

Like most of you, I thought Jesus Christ had always been the bedrock of our faith. But now the Holy Spirit has led me to see that we had the Sabbath in the spotlight, and Christ on the sideline. Yes, we had Christ, but we placed the Sabbath on an equal par with him—so much so that we were able to say that if people don't have the Sabbath, they don't have Christ. Faith is in vain without Sabbath observance, we thought.

We made Christ of no effect through our old covenant perspective of the Sabbath. Faith in Jesus Christ, in our view, was not sufficient. It had to be faith in him plus Sabbath observance. And we interpreted the Bible according to that perspective, even when the Bible did not say it, and even when the Bible flatly refuted it.

We interpreted the Bible with a Sabbatarian bias, and that bias

**Some people want to accuse me of 'planning these changes for decades.' If I had been working from a prearranged agenda of changes, I certainly would have chosen a slower pace of introducing them to the Church.**

obscured the true Reality—the One of whom the Sabbath was only a shadow. We had not understood that Sabbath and Holy Day observance is an issue of form and not of substance.

Now, on the other side of the coin, some people have thought that if a Christian is to avoid legalism, he or she must stop keeping the Sabbath. But I hope we can see that this would be just another form of legalism. In Jesus Christ, we are not limited to nor restricted from any day, time or place of worship. We worship God in spirit and in truth, and therefore we are free to worship at any time or place we decide to do so.

Brethren, thank you for remaining faithful to Jesus Christ, for letting the Holy Spirit lead you into all truth! Thank you for your encouraging letters and calls to one another and to me. And thank you for your prayers, for it is not by human might nor human power, but by the Spirit of God that the gospel of Jesus Christ prevails!

The future is indeed bright for the Church, because Jesus Christ is faithful. The gospel will be proclaimed, and that is a task that every part of the Body, all according to their gifts, are called to have part in.

## Goals of Church

Our goals are still the same: 1) Nurture and equip our local ministers and congregations for spiritual growth, worship and evangelism, including providing youth programs, member assistance programs and local church facilities; 2) publish *The Plain Truth*, *Worldwide News* and booklets; and 3) support Ambassador

University. And our Master is still the same. The only difference is that he has brought us closer to him.

I call on all members everywhere to join together in earnest prayer for God's guidance, inspiration, blessing and peace in the Church. And I want to point out that there is an aspect of churchwide prayer that has been long neglected in the Church, one that was a vital part of the first-century Church and a vital part of this Church in the early days of Ambassador College. That is the practice of meeting together for corporate prayer.

Ministers should encourage members to meet together regularly in small groups in homes specifically for prayer. In such meetings, we can pray for each other personally, for the ministry, for the Church and for those we yet need to reach with the gospel. This kind of prayer is also ideal as part of our small group Bible studies.

I also encourage pastors, wherever possible, to hold weekly prayer meetings, either before or following Sabbath services, or at a convenient time during the week. Plan the meeting ahead of time. Have members share what they'd like to have prayer for, and then take volunteers to pray for each specific issue that needs prayer. Allow all who wish to pray aloud to have an opportunity, one at a time.

You may wish to include worshipful music, if possible, as well as hymn singing. I remind you that this is not a new thing. It was part and parcel with the experience of the first-century Church (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:24-31; 12:12) and Mr. Armstrong's practice in the early days of this Church.

I hope all the ministers have taken time to read one another's comments in what has come to be called the "Good News Grapevine" [May 9 and 23 *WN*]. I have personally taken a great deal of encouragement and inspiration from the things so many of you have written, and thank Ron Lohr, pastor of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, East and West churches, and all of you for making it such a worthwhile project.

The good news is indeed overwhelmingly positive, and it is so refreshing and rejuvenating for Christians to share it with each other. It is sad that those who cannot yet understand "this new covenant thing" also cannot understand the joy and excitement of those who do. But what joy in Christ there is for those who are able to share these

things with one another as they grow in his grace and knowledge!

Again I say, the future is indeed bright for the Worldwide Church of God, and that is because our Lord is faithful. Let's devote ourselves to his praise and worship and to his service.

P.S. Please allow me to clarify the now infamous golf statements in my recent sermons. I have been accused of denying that I preached that it is

**The good news is indeed overwhelmingly positive, and it is so refreshing and rejuvenating for Christians to share it with each other. What joy in Christ there is for those who are able to share these things with one another as they grow.**

not a sin to play a round of golf on the Sabbath. I don't deny that I preached that in my sermon in Big Sandy on Dec. 24, 1994.

I did have the statement edited out of the video that was played in all the churches, however. I had it edited out because I was informed that some people had misinterpreted my comment to mean that it was fine to play golf instead of going to services.

That is certainly not what I intended. So I thought it best to avoid the misunderstanding by not including the comment in the video. Then in a later sermon, I tried to explain that I never said it was fine to miss church to play golf, and the result was the accusation that I was lying about having mentioned golf in Big Sandy at all.

Well, please forgive me if I have misstated my intent, or if I have not made this clear, or if I have confused anyone. That was not my intention. To make it plain, I do not believe that golf or other such things should take priority over coming to church services. But neither is it a sin to play a round of golf on the Sabbath. I hope that makes clear the point I was trying to make.

## Church Administration announces list of disfellowshipped ministers

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

It is with deep and sincere regret that we find it necessary to inform you that the following named persons, former ministers of the Worldwide Church of God, have been disfellowshipped from the Worldwide Church of God, and their ministerial credentials have been revoked.

Such men have either been notified of this change in their status or are in the process of being notified. To prevent further confusion among the congregation arising from the lack of knowledge regarding their status, we are advising you of their names at this time:

Bill Bradford, Tom Clark, Richard Crow, Randy D'Allesandro, Howard Davis, Roy Demarest, John Elliott, Larry Greider, Mike Hanisko, Clyde Kilough, Mitchell Knapp, Randall Kobernat, Paul Luecke, Mark Mickelson.

Al Mischnick, Norm Myers, Brian Orchard, Harold Rhodes, Ron Smith, Dave Treybig, Glen White, Wilber Berg, Charles Bryce, Richard Duncan, Richard Dunlap, Bruce Gore, Arnold Hampton, Frank McCrady III, Darris McNeely, Gary Smith, Britton Taylor and Roger West.

The Church does not bear any ill will toward these former ministers, and we pray that God will grant them repentance.



PRITCHARD, James, 86, of Manchester, England, died March 14. He is survived by a daughter, Sheila; three sons, Les, Brian and John; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

JONES, Irma M., 86, of Omaha, Nebraska, died April 30. She is survived by a brother, Raymond M. Brannon, and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

FRENCH, Emery, 86, of Plant City, Florida, died April 21 of heart failure. He is survived by his wife, Helen, a daughter, Shirley Mast, a sister, Leora Jones, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



CARY PERDUE

PERDUE, Cary, 83, of Kernersville, North Carolina, died March 8. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two sons, Malcolm and Bobby; a daughter, Kay Owens; and four grandchildren.



MABEL ROYCE

ROYCE, Mabel M., 81, of Beloit, Wisconsin, died April 7 of bone cancer. She is survived by her husband, Elmer; three sons, Ronnie, Terry and

Gordy; a daughter, Merilyn Wegner; two sisters, Hazel and Doris; 17 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

GOUNARIS, Ida, 81, of Baltimore, Maryland, died April 18. She is survived by three daughters, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

McDONALD, Viola, 80, of Salina, Kansas, died April 15. She is survived by three children, Pearl Hanna, Bill and Cherry Miller; 12 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvie, two sisters, five brothers and one grandson.

REED, Alice, 79, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, died April 25 of a stroke. She is survived by three daughters, Sandra Turner, Linda Rhodes and Carolyn Vandeven; three sisters; 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister, and her husband, Orville.

TERLAIN, Alice, 78, of St. Petersburg, Florida, died April 8. She is survived by two daughters; two sons, David and Larry Deitch; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

WILSON, Alex T., 78, of Port Charlotte, Florida, died Feb. 25 of heart and kidney failure. He is survived by his wife, Edna (Nevitt), a son, a daughter, a stepdaughter, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a brother.

PETTY, Gladys, 77, of Bossier City, Louisiana, died April 19. She is survived by four sons, Bill, Donald and Ronald Neely, and Larry Petty; a daughter, Sara Piro; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

SHAW, Anne, 77, of Regina, Saskatchewan, died April 11 of cancer. She is survived by a daughter, Roberta; a son, Harry; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; five sisters; and five brothers. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert.

ASKINS, Mamie F., 77, of Nashville, Tennessee, died of a heart attack Feb. 21. She is survived by a daughter, Betty; a son-in-law; a son,

James; a daughter-in-law; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and other family members.

HIGGINS, Joseph Robert, 77, of Prineville, Oregon, died April 2 after a long period of declining health. He is survived by two sisters, Irene Helms and Jean Van Landuyt; five nieces; four nephews; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

FULLER, Edith Louise "Robbie," 75, of Oakland, California, died April 14. She is survived by a son, Hurley Joseph; a daughter and her husband, Thomasine Jeannette and Charles Bryant; two granddaughters and their husbands, Dona and Barry Hodges and Joy and Previn Sanders; two grandsons, Don and Jamal Colter; and a great-grandson, Dwight Sanders. She was preceded in death by a brother, Paul, and a sister, Florence.

GUNSON, Robert, 74, of Winter Haven, Florida, died Feb. 15 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Mary Phyllis, a daughter, Janci Lee Hurt, a son, David, a brother, William, a grandson, Michael Hurt, and several nieces and nephews.



JUNE PENA

PENA, June M., 73, of Zephyrhills, Florida, died April 12 of congestive heart failure. She is survived by a brother, Robert Poteat; a son, Herbert Green; two daughters, Cherie Tysinger and Pencie Buntyn; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward.

WINSLETT, Audrey Cecil, 72, of Auburn, Alabama, died April 10. He

is survived by his wife, Sara Luella Christian; four sons, Anthony W., Cecil Frederic, Kenneth E., and Michael S.; and a daughter, Glenda Wilson.

RINGEL, David S., 72, of Bossier City, Louisiana, died April 1 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He is survived by his wife, Eileen, a brother, Kenneth M., and a sister, Sheila Joyce Otis.

DREADEN, Everett J., 72, of Crestview, Florida, died May 6 of pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lorene; three children, Larry, Art and Cindy Murphy; two daughters-in-law, Susan and Sandra; a son-in-law, Dan; and six grandchildren, Jonathan, Lindsay, Zachary, Tyler, Jesse and Cody.

EVANS, Polly, 69, of Moosomin, Saskatchewan, died April 24 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Harold, her mother, Mary Chernenkoff, her brother, Fred, and two sisters, Olga, and Lizzie.



REGENIA MCKILLICAN

McKILLICAN, Regenia, 69, of Denver, Colorado, died Aug. 12 from complications of diabetes. She is survived by her mother, Nellie; a daughter, Gayla; a son-in-law, Jim; and a granddaughter, Rebecca.

JENNINGS, Eddie, 67, of Cambridge, England, died April 19 of myeloma. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne, two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

PILSNER, Terry, 66, of Regina, Saskatchewan, died March 2 from a fall in her home. She is survived by

three children, Judy, Janice and Jeff, and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe.



DARREL ZIMMERMAN

ZIMMERMAN, Darrel, 66, of Lancaster, Minnesota, died April 11. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; two daughters and sons-in-law, Tamara and Robert Olson, and Kathy and Michael Wollin; seven grandchildren, John, Michael, Stephen, Daniel, Konrad, Kelly and Katy; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Betty Sayre; a brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Marilyn Zimmerman; his father-in-law, Earl Vrem; three aunts; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clayton and Alvina; and a brother-in-law, Durwood Sayre. Mr. Zimmerman was a deacon in the Grand Forks, North Dakota, church.

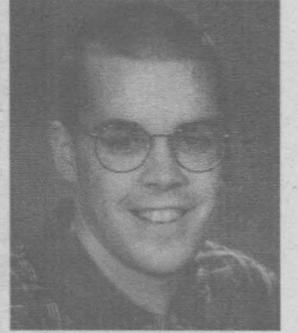
LARABY, James Joseph, 55, of Gladstone, Michigan, committed suicide April 15. He is survived by his wife, Maria Gassert, a Church member; a son, Dirk James; a daughter, Nicole Ann; two brothers, Roy and Robert; and a sister, Linda.



MICHAEL TOLSON

TOLSON, Michael Kent, 22, of Clay

City, Kentucky, died Feb. 26 in an automobile accident. He is survived by his parents, James Roy and Audrey, his grandparents, Elvin and Sallie Tolson, a grandmother, Gladys Samons, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.



RYAN EASH

EASH, Ryan, 20, of LaGrange, Indiana, died March 21 from injuries in a car accident. He is survived by his parents, Tony and Delinda; three sisters, Lori, Tristan and Tasha; a brother, David; and his fiancée, Kelli Boots.



JOSHUA REYNOLDS

REYNOLDS, Joshua Anthony, 12, of Carbondale, Illinois, died March 24 after a long illness. He is survived by his parents, Billy and Alice; a sister, Jena; and his grandparents, Mike and Joan Gollinger, and Ada Reynolds.

METTING, Autumn, 5, of Yorktown, Texas, died March 22 after a long illness. She had cerebral palsy since birth. She is survived by her parents, Barbara and Tracy, and a brother, Dakota.

## Questions and answers about the Feast of Tabernacles this fall

Continued from page 3

A number of Festival coordinators who are working on some of the seminars I mentioned earlier are seeking input from their peers in the ministry. That's encouraging for me, as I see the concepts taking off.

We are allowing the coordinators to vary the service schedule somewhat to accommodate local needs.

We plan to use music in ways we haven't tried before to tie the services together and to give each service more of an atmosphere of worship. We will be looking for new ways to serve communities and to preach the gospel during the Festival.

**How is this paid for? Are there**

**sufficient funds to cover these expenses?**

These expenses are paid from the Festival Fund, to which we ask for members' contributions. As with the rest of the Church's income, the Festival Fund income is running below last year, and at this point it appears that some of our expenses won't be met.

We are adjusting everywhere we can, but we would appreciate any donations members can make. We want to make sure we can pay for member assistance programs, rent the meeting halls and pay for the activities you and I have been discussing. So I would like to remind anyone who hasn't yet contributed to the Festival Fund, and is able to do so, to send in their contribution right away.

**There's been talk of the name "Festival of Faith." Have we changed the name of the Feast of Tabernacles?**

No. "Festival of Faith" is merely a theme statement. During the Festival we will rejoice in the salvation we have through faith in Jesus Christ, so the theme is one way of expressing it. Future years may have other themes.

**Will the Feast be open to the public this year? If so, how will this change the Festival?**

At certain sites we plan to send *Plain Truth* readers and co-workers an invitation to join us. At all sites, we will make the statement to the public that interested people are welcome to join in our worship.

To accommodate the work schedules of our invitees, we will hold a few services in the evening at those sites.

**So brethren should be prepared to**

**welcome new people to services?**

I pray that Christ will move many people to join us for this celebration. And we all need to think in terms of welcoming everyone who is there.

Some may be returning to the Church after being away for a time, and others may be visiting for the first time. We want everyone to feel at home.

**You seem excited about the Feast. May we join you in the sentiment?**

Delighted! I'm taking every chance I can get to encourage others about the Festival. I feel that God has some big plans for this year's Feast, and I can't wait to see them unfold! I'm looking forward to when everyone gets in on the excitement as they arrive at the Feast sites. I think all the Festival coordinators feel the same way.

We are preparing a bounteous feast of spiritual food and wonderful rejoicing for everyone. Please don't miss it.

## Festival Updates

### Space available for transfers to Uruguay and Italy

Space is still available for those wishing to keep the Feast in Uruguay or Italy.

The Feast in Uruguay will take place at the ocean resort of Punta del Este. Services will be in Spanish with English translations. Please see the March 7 *WN* for details.

In addition to the Festival experience, post-Feast tours will be offered to Buenos Aires, Argentina; and Iguazu Falls and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Please send international transfer applications to Spanish Department, Ambassador University Campus, Box 111, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755.

In Italy, because of cancellations, 10 double rooms are now open for the Feast in Fiuggi, along with the Rome tour. Only those who are interested in going to Rome as well as Fiuggi should apply.

If you are interested, please send your international Festival application to the French-Italian Department, Ambassador University Campus, Box 111, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755.

## Celebration brings positive feedback

Continued from page 4

YAs come at the same time was the icing on the cake."

John Comino, Washington South pastor, commented on the spiritually up-tempo services, which included different musical elements. "To us," said Mr. Comino, "worship celebration" means a festival atmosphere with super good special music," in which combined churches participate.

"A couple of families asked about attending one of our small groups and attending church services," he said.

Verilyn Gross, a subscriber, said:

"It's different than what I'm used to. I enjoyed it." Mrs. Gross said that in addition to appreciating the music, it helped her become more familiar with the Bible. I was telling the people on my job about it afterward."

According to Dr. Jutsum, director of the Ambassador Music Department, music can play an important part in worshipping God because it "so readily brings us together."

Music can succeed in "accenting commonalities, at the same time pointing out diversity." Since music is a universal language, he added, uplifting music may strike a common chord within different people.

# update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

## SEP to offer two summer sessions

Two camper sessions of the Summer Educational Program (SEP) in Orr, Minnesota, are planned to run from June 27 through July 17, and from July 19 through Aug. 8. One hundred ninety-two campers and 50 to 60 volunteer high school workers will also participate in each session.

## Everything coming up roses for 106-year-old

PORT ST. LUCIE, Florida—**Juanita Mirayes** received 106 roses on her 106th birthday, which she celebrated with family and friends at the Port St. Lucie Convalescent Center Jan. 8. Local and state politicians also joined the celebration to wish Mrs. Mirayes well.

Born in 1889 in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mrs. Mirayes spent her youth working as a missionary and later, as a teacher, taught home skills and infant care. Mrs.

Mirayes and her husband, **Miguel**, who died in 1955, raised eight children.

She moved to New York in 1944, where she worked as a seamstress before moving to Port St. Lucie 14 years ago. Her doctor says she is surprisingly healthy, and when **Barbara DiObilda**, a reporter the *Port St.*



Juanita Mirayes

*Lucie News*, asked for the secret of her longevity, she said: "I love the Lord Jesus Christ. He always takes care of me."

## Oklahoman celebrates 100th birthday

ALTUS, Oklahoma—**Stella Chapman** celebrated her 100th birthday March 12.

Born in Ellis County, Texas, in 1895, she moved with her parents to Eldorado, Oklahoma, and married **Luther Lee Smith** in 1915. Together they raised three children: **Ida Margaret Adkins** (deceased), **Luther L. Smith** and **Joe W. Smith**.

Her husband died in 1946 and she married **W.A. Chapman** in 1957. Mr. Chapman died in 1968 and Mrs. Chapman has been a widow ever since. She lives at the Altus nursing home and is a member of the Lawton, Oklahoma, congregation.

## Blue Grass jam

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—The church here will be host to a Blue Grass and Country music barn dance July 1 and 2. The dance begins Saturday evening and there will be hay rides, jam sessions, clogging and square dancing. Primitive camping is available.

For information and directions write to **Jim Smoak**, Box 231, Pekin, Indiana, 47165; or call him at 1-812-967-4161.

## Singles pre-Feast beach party

PANAMA BEACH, Florida—Singles, make plans to attend the Panama City Beach Pre-Feast Frolic, Aug. 25 to 27. Enjoy three days on the beach, and an evening of dancing, food and fellowship. Guest speaker for Sabbath services will be evangelist **Joseph Tkach Jr.**

The package includes two nights lodging overlooking the beach, Saturday dinner, a casual dance, Sunday brunch and all taxes and tips. Cost for each person, per room, is \$130. Deadline for reservations is June 20.

If you live in the continental United States, see your pastor for a brochure, or contact **Chan and Jill Lipscomb**, 4012 LeeAnn Circle, Panama City, Florida, 32405; or telephone them at 1-904-265-9458; fax 1-904-271-8125; or E-mail to CompuServe 72147,2074.

## Las Vegas planning 25th anniversary

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—The Las Vegas congregation is happy to announce its 25th anniversary celebration to take place July 8, with Sabbath services, dinner and a dance. All brethren who have

been part of the history of the congregation are invited to join the celebration.

For details contact **Ken or Sue Peterson** at 1-702-243-6402, or write them at 9433 Whittier Ct., Las Vegas, Nevada, 89117.

## Media Operations director defends dissertation

Evangelist **Bernard W. Schnippert**, director of Media Operations, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation May 8, completing the requirements for a doctor of philosophy degree



Bernard W. Schnippert

in management-administration from Walden University.

Walden is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

## PT article on Africa touches hearts

The November-December *Plain Truth* magazine article "The Challenge of Africa" has generated more than \$17,000 in donations from readers, according to assistant editor **Susan Stewart**.

"And that's just the money we know about that came to us," she commented. "Mail just kept coming in. We kept getting mail from England, New Zealand, Australia—all around the world—from people just wanting to help." Ms. Stewart remembers sending on one check for more than \$2,000.

"Most people asked if there were things they could personally do," Ms. Stewart said. "It was like the widow's mite. People seem more sympathetic when they feel closer to the situation. 'Father Tom,' who runs the orphanage mentioned in the article, said people at Disney invited 400 of the orphans to a free showing of *The Lion King*, and one of the \$500 gifts that came in will be used to provide treats for the children."

*The Plain Truth* ran an article in the May-June issue, "Thank You From Africa," to express appreciation to readers for their generosity. **Neil Earle**.

## Singles summer break

LANCASTER, Pennsylvania—The Lancaster and Harrisburg singles invite all singles to Summer Break '95.

Arrive July 22 for Sabbath services beginning at 2 p.m., followed by an evening of dining and dancing. On Sunday a combined church and

singles picnic is planned.

The cost for the weekend is \$25 for the dinner and dance, and \$5 for the picnic. Payment for Summer Break '95 should meet the July 12 deadline. Checks should be made payable to LCAF Harrisburg and mailed to **Chris Krout**, 464, Campbelltown Rd., Palmyra, Pennsylvania, 17078. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

For information about housing or motel accommodations call **Chris Krout** at 1-717-832-0299. For general information call **Phil Charles** at 1-717-626-5375.

## Capital event for Church singles

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Singles here invite other singles to their Capital City Classic over Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 1 to 4.

Services will feature guest speaker **John Halford**. Other activities include a Friday night welcome reception, a Sabbath Bible study and lunch, an elegant dinner-dance, a tour of Washington D.C., and a karaoke dance.

Indoor activities will take place at the Arlington Renaissance Hotel, just steps above the Ballston Metrorail (subway) station in Arlington, Virginia.

The cost of the weekend is \$57 if paid before Aug. 1. After that date, the cost will be \$60. All payments must be made by Aug. 22.

Please make checks payable to D.C. Church Activity Fund and send to **Mike Castro**, 5055 Seminary Rd., No. 924, Alexandria, Virginia, 22311.

The cost of a room at the Arlington Renaissance is \$69 a night for one to four people per room. Call 1-800-228-9898 to make hotel reservations and mention you are with the Worldwide Church of God.

For more information, write to **Brett Mourer** at 7016 Jefferson Ave., Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, or call him at 1-703-641-9847.

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## End of an era for performing arts at one of Pasadena's 'jewels in the crown'

After 21 years of featuring some of the world's best known musicians and singers, the Ambassador Auditorium, as a performing arts center, closed its doors May 17. The era was brought to an end by Larry Elgart and his Manhattan Swing Orchestra.

In recognition of the cultural contribution to the community, the Pasadena Arts Council presented Ambassador Performing Arts with a Community Award at its annual Gold Crown Honorees banquet at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, June 2. Accepting the award for Ambassador Performing Arts was William Wiemhoff, booking office manager.

The Performing

Arts program, inaugurated in 1974 by Herbert W. Armstrong as part of the Ambassador Foundation, aspired to promote understanding between peoples through music.

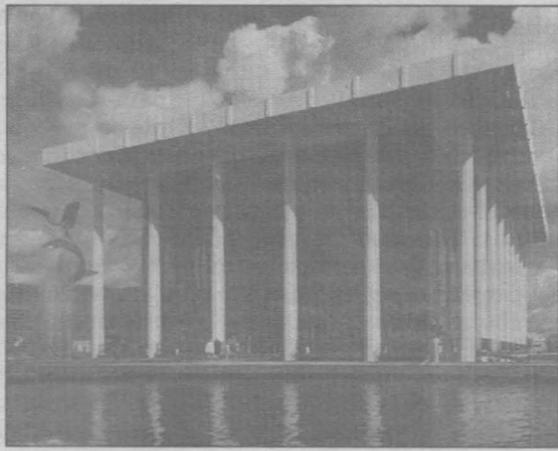
"The program achieved an internationally renowned status in the concert world," said Pastor General **Joseph W. Tkach**. "I commend the staff and volunteers for the

impressive job they have done. They earned a reputation for outstanding service and set a good example for the Church."

Reflecting on his 19 years at the Ambassador Auditorium, Mr. Wiemhoff told the *Pasadena Star-News* May 12 that "no one ever told us who to book. All we have ever been asked is, 'Is it the best?'"

Denis Nelson-Nash, executive director of the city Arts Division, said Ambassador was "one of the jewels in the crown of Pasadena and its closure was a loss to the whole region," according to the *Star-News*.

The Church, which helped Ambassador Performing Arts cover its operating costs, can no longer afford the subsidy.



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