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The Worldwide News



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Open house program: Laborers in the harvest

By Paul Monteith

"Church members are our best ambassadors," said Tom Lapacka, Evangelism Support Services manager, at the open house conference in Pasadena, Aug. 19 and 20. "If evangelism is going to take place it will take place through them."

The conference brought together several headquarters personnel: Randal Dick, Michael Feazell, Victor Kubik, Mr. Lapacka and Joseph Tkach Jr., and several ministers: Craig Bacheller, Bill Bradford, John Comino, Bob Fahey, Lloyd Garrett, Don Mears, George Patrickson and Greg Sargent. (See page 7 for church areas pastored.)

They were here to discuss the open house program as a tool for evangelism, how to organize open house services and how to prepare Church members. Each of the ministers, except for Mr. Comino and Mr. Patrickson, will conduct open house services in November to test the program. (This test is for North America only.)

Mr. Comino attended the conference as part of the presentation team and Mr. Patrickson attended as an observer for the Canadian ministry.

An open house brings interested people directly into Sabbath services. It requires the enthusiasm, help and support of members to ensure its success.

Mr. Comino conducted open house Sabbath services in June.

"Of the 165 who attended," said Mr. Comino, "four have been baptized, six are counseling for baptism and 30 have become prospective members."

Personal contact

Until now, the Church has evangelized mainly from headquarters using the publications, the *World Tomorrow* telecast and public Bible lectures. This is corporate evangelism with headquarters solely responsible for preaching the gospel.

All of these are important tools God gave the Church to proclaim the good news, but those God is calling need more than just to hear or read the message. They need personal contact with God's people.

An open house allows contact between guests and members. Each individual, each family, has a part in nurturing those God is calling.

Mr. Comino encouraged his congregations to fellowship with guests, to invite them to a church activity, a Bible study or a meal.

"Follow-up is very important," he said. "Those who show up for services have shown a measure of interest and to let them walk out without any follow-up is a missed opportunity."

Guests were encouraged to attend the following week's service and told that elders and trained lay members

were available for counseling about baptism and other biblical topics during the week.

Mr. Comino was quick to say: "I could not have done the open house alone. I needed members' help, and delegation of responsibilities was important."

Spiritual health

Before people can be brought into the fellowship of the Church, members must be conforming to the image of Christ.

"This is the responsibility of the Church," said Michael Feazell, executive assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach. "This is why Mr. Tkach has focused on three words—*upward, inward* and *outward*—to capture the whole working of the Body."

Upward deals with worshiping God and bringing glory to him in all we do. Inward deals with teaching and nurturing those God has called. Outward deals with evangelizing (see Dec. 15, 1992 *Worldwide News*).

"For the open house to succeed," said Victor Kubik, assistant director of Church Administration, "members must be pursuing a relationship with God, be committed to prayer and study, and be growing in genuine fellowship. This creates a healthy spiritual environment."

The open house is not a seed-sowing effort. The publications and the tele-

cast sow seeds, and the open house is to water and harvest. For now, those invited to the open house are subscribers. In the future, as members act upon Mr. Tkach's outward vision, growth also will come from contacts members have with other people.

Outward: relational evangelism

"There are two kinds of evangelism: confrontational and relational," said Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration.

Confrontational evangelism is the kind where a stranger challenges people about whether they know God, or calls on people at home unannounced. This kind of evangelism turns people off.

In relational evangelism a congregation or an individual shows people what Christ is like by helping them, by being a friend and by living a Christlike life.

See Open houses, page 7

Last issue before the Feast

This is the last issue before the Feast of Tabernacles. The *WN* staff wishes you a joyous and inspiring Festival season, and a safe trip to your destination. Our next issue will be Nov. 2.



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Jesus Christ is central to meaning of Festivals

As we approach the Feast of Tabernacles, let's keep strongly in mind the reason we are keeping the Feast—to glorify God by celebrating what he has done, is doing and will yet do through Jesus Christ. The twin message of who Christ is and what he has done, is doing and will yet do is the focus of the festivals.

Trumpets focuses on Jesus' first and second coming. We often tend to focus only on his second coming, skipping over the breaking in of light into the darkness and the defeat of sin, death and Satan that occurred when the Word became flesh and was crucified and raised for our spiritual freedom and salvation.

The Feast of Trumpets, then, should be a celebration of both Jesus' first and second coming, with deep thanksgiving for God's great acts of mercy toward us in sending his Son to deliver us from the works of darkness and bringing true hope for the bright and glorious future when he will come again and subdue all things under the reign of God.

The Day of Atonement should focus our attention on the glorious redemption God has given us in Christ and our deliverance from the powers of spiritual darkness.

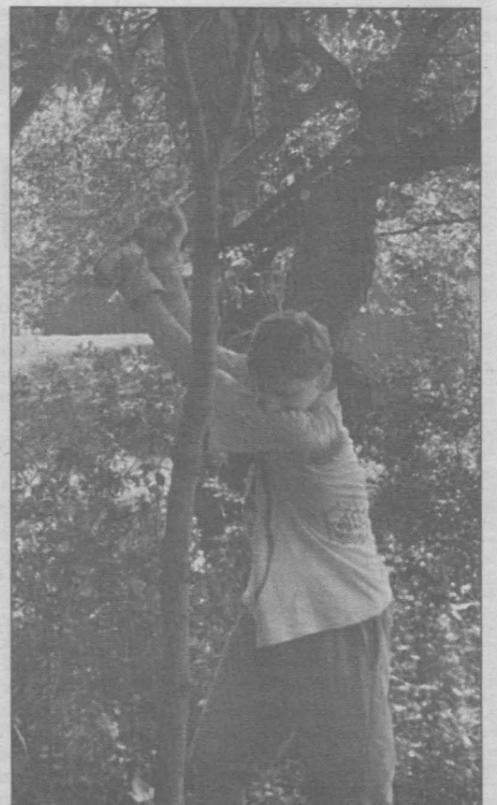
The Feast of Tabernacles, likewise, should be a celebration both of
See Personal, page 3

Brethren clean up Kamp Koinonia

ROCHESTER, New York—Sixty-six members and families ranging from YES age to senior citizens arrived at Kamp Koinonia May 23 to clean up hedgerows and wash windows. Those with carpentry skills renovated an old trailer to be used as a walk-in refrigerator.

"The camp has a program for inner-city children, and I thought this was something we as a congregation could support," said Ken Williams, Rochester pastor. He and Fred Diehl, a local church elder, met with Bill and Reggie West, Kamp Koinonia board members.

"The board members asked us what we expected to get by offering help, and I replied that we just wanted to help people in need," Mr. Williams said. "Then they asked what we expected of them and I said, nothing, except that they help the inner-city children. The board members were pleased with the turnout and enthusiasm of the members."



AN AX TO IT—YOU member Rob Reins cleans a hedgerow at Kamp Koinonia.

Festival harmony amid clash of civilizations

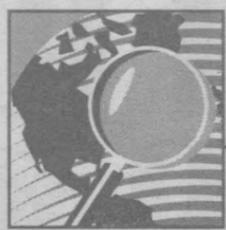
Two actions taken by the United States government Aug. 25 illustrate the dangerous and unpredictable paths down which world affairs appear headed. The destination may be what one expert labels the "clash of civilizations."

In the first case, federal authorities charged that Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, an Egyptian cleric known for his fiery sermons delivered in mosques in New Jersey and New York, was a leader of an Islamic terrorist group that orchestrated the World Trade Center bombing Feb. 26, and a second, foiled plot to assassinate public officials and blow up key New York City buildings, bridges and tunnels in late June.

The sweeping grand jury indictment linked these plots, along with the 1990 assassination of militant Jewish Rabbi Meir Kahane, to several other alleged schemes. Together, it said, they were intended "to levy a war of urban terrorism against the United States." Fourteen other men, nearly all of them followers of the sheik, are named on specific counts.

The indictment, and related ones earlier, relied heavily on information supplied by a government informer operating within the terrorists' inner circle.

The informer's warnings of the group's intentions to strike at the United Nations complex and vital



Worldwatch

GENE H. HOGBERG

transportation arteries in the New York metropolitan area arrived just in time. Agents on a raiding party caught provocateurs mixing batches of explosives.

Washington's second action announced a ban on U.S. exports of almost \$1 billion in high-technology goods, most notably space satellites, to China. This step is intended to punish China for selling sensitive missile technology to Pakistan in violation of arms control agreements.

While officials in Beijing deny the charges, U.S. authorities are convinced that China had shipped components that would help Pakistan build M-11 missiles, which have a range of 300 miles and can carry nuclear warheads.

Together, these two incidents give evidence of what Samuel P. Huntington, writing in the Summer issue of *Foreign Affairs*, calls the coming "clash of civilizations."

Seven or eight major civiliza-

tions—essentially nonreducible cultural groupings of nations—will dominate global politics in the future, claims professor Huntington. These include, he said, "Western, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu, Slavic-Orthodox, Latin American and possibly African civilization."

The most important conflicts of the future "will occur along the cultural fault lines separating these civilizations from one another," writes Mr. Huntington. A major reason why this is so, he explains, is that "differences among civilizations are ... basic. Civilizations are differentiated from each other by history, language, culture, tradition and, most important, religion."

The peoples of different civilizations, he adds, "have different views on the relations between God and man, the individual and the group, the citizen and the state, parents and children, husband and wife, as well as differing views of the relative

importance of rights and responsibilities, liberty and authority, equality and hierarchy."

Within several of these civilizations is a pronounced swing away from Western influence and a return to traditional roots. Religious fundamentalism is a big part of this, as evidenced by an upsurge not only of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, but Hindu fundamentalism in India.

The 1,300-year-old fault line between the Western and Islamic civilizations promises to be one of the most active ones, says Mr. Huntington.

Whereas many Western countries are trimming back their military budgets, several Asian nations are building theirs up, especially China. Nations throughout the Middle East and other parts of the Islamic world, moreover, are important buyers of Chinese weapons technology.

These developments in world affairs are particularly meaningful this time of year. God is calling people from all cultures, races and nationalities worldwide to declare his praises (1 Peter 2:9). Unitedly we worship him in peace and harmony during the Feast of Tabernacles.

The apostle Peter says we comprise a "holy nation, a people belonging to God." In other words, God's civilization.

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.

Faithful to the end

While reading the booklet, *God Is ...*, something very important was brought home to me.

On page 34 is a suggestion that we read John 13-17. John 15:2 states: "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (New King James Version).

The Church is a living branch of the Vine, Jesus Christ. The dead branch can stay the same, never changing, never growing until finally it is cast out. But the living branch has to grow and change.

Those who leave the Church because they can't change and grow perhaps should ask themselves if they aren't allowing themselves to be pruned off the Vine, Jesus Christ.

Glenda Holmes
Magnolia, Texas

Medical benefits

This letter is written after a 17-day stay in a hospital, or, rather in my case hospitals. There were two.

The main reason for this letter is to state a few things I learned by being

hospitalized, or a few benefits.

I was hospitalized for three days with pneumonia. They then transported me to another hospital for two weeks to see why both kidneys had stopped functioning. I was on the kidney machine for five days. My kidneys started back working.

The doctors do not know why they stopped. And they don't know why they started working again.

God's love in the brethren was very much evident through the visits, cards, calls and prayers. It was very real. I could feel it.

A person who is a dean here at Tuskegee University visited me and said he should get in the hospital and maybe he would receive lots of cards. I received so many there was not room for them.

I cannot thank God or the brethren enough for the love, affection and concern extended to my family and me. For that I'm so grateful.

Arthur Carlisle
Alabama

"Into All the World..."

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

More than a Miracle

I was deeply touched by the article "More Than a Miracle" and just couldn't stop crying while reading it. It is so hard to accept little children's suffering.

My nightmare started last August when I gave birth to a baby girl. She seemed normal at first, but when she was six weeks old, a dramatic change appeared. After she was several weeks at a hospital under examination the cruel truth began to show: my baby appeared to be blind, deaf and brain-injured. She had about 300 epileptic fits a day. The doctors didn't give much hope on development or even on her lifetime. The grief is endless. She is 10 months now and still in a semi-vegetative state.

I get joy in my everyday life from my 2-year-old son and I will have another baby in November. I just pray that God will give me a healthy baby this time. It has been difficult to accept that all babies don't get equal chances

to start their lives. It is so unfair. I can't help questioning why.

K.T.
Kuopio, Finland

Came at the right moment

I am an 18-year-old boy and we are eight in our family. Your magazine is sensitive and admirable to many people who are growing spiritually. It gives answers to all our questions concerning life.

The brochure, *Staying Sane in a World of Uncertainty*, moved me greatly. It came at the right moment when I was thinking of committing suicide after my brother's and grand-ma's deaths. I have changed a few things in my life since I read it.

I hope to use *The Plain Truth* to spread the good news throughout the villages.

Zimbabwe

Spirit world

I thank you very much for your letter and the booklets you sent me. All the literature I have received from you has been eye-opening and very good reading. That's why we rush to hear your opinion on every subject you write about.

The booklet *Is There a Real Spirit World?*

for instance. After I had read the above booklet, I thanked God that I did just in time, because a friend of mine was trying to introduce me to his system. I would have fallen into a very bad habit.

V.T.
Bremerhaven, Germany

Enlightening articles

Thank you again for *The Plain Truth*, which I appreciate greatly. I find your articles thought-provoking, enlightening, very valuable and beautifully presented. I admire profoundly how you can do so much—and for free! May God continue to support and sustain you in your excellent work.

I have only recently taken over as pastor [of a Catholic parish] and I have inherited such an impossible debt that it makes it impossible to contribute in any significant way toward the literature as I would like to. I do appreciate and value your kindness and valuable insights into Scripture. They are excellent.

E.D.
Surrey, England

Co-worker newsletter

Thanks for *News of the Work*. I continue to be inspired, even though not yet a Worldwide Church of God member, by Mr. Joseph Tkach's pastoral letter in *The Plain Truth* and especially by the "Among Friends" column in your newsletter.

New York

The Worldwide News



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Pastor General visits...

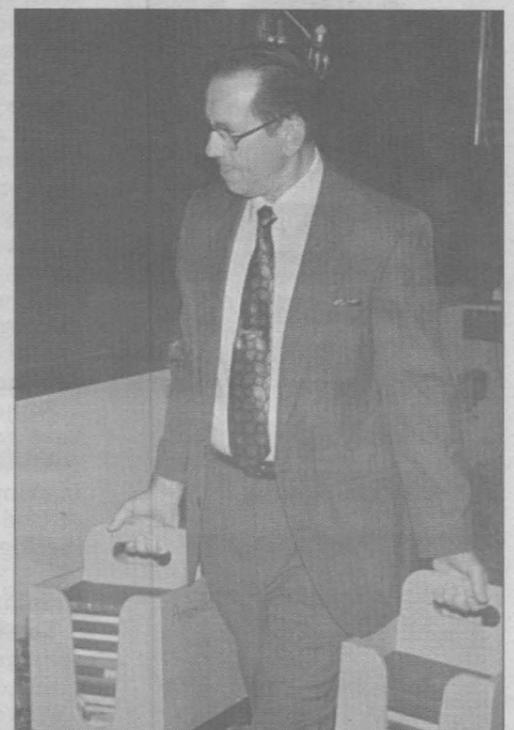
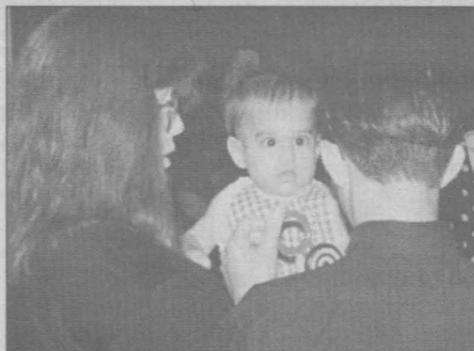
AMARILLO, TEXAS



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 563 brethren Aug. 14 from the Amarillo, Midland and Lubbock, Texas; Liberal, Kansas; and Hobbs and Roswell, New Mexico; churches.

Hosts for the visit were Shorty and Patty Sue Fuesel, Amarillo and Liberal; Mark and Michelle Mickelson, Lubbock and Roswell; and Dick and Judy Rand, Midland and Hobbs. [Photos by George C. Bobo and Perry R. Hoag]



Personal: Anchoring our future hope in Jesus Christ

Continued from page 1

the future time of our inheritance of immortality and glory at Jesus' return *and* of the spiritual strength and sustenance God gives us as his witnesses—as spiritual salt and light in this dark world.

Paul compares our physical lives to temporary dwellings, tabernacles or "tents," in 2 Corinthians 5:1-5. The Holy Spirit sanctifies and empowers us, giving us courage and zeal to do the work of the gospel as we await the return of Christ, when our mortality will be "swallowed up" by true life—life eternal.

Paul wrote, "It is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (verse 5).

Not only are we to be "a kingdom and priests" in the future (Revelation 5:10), but we are already a royal priesthood *now*, called to declare the praises of God. Peter wrote, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

The Feast should renew our joy and zeal for the deliverance of all people everywhere from the anguish and affliction that human bondage to

sin has produced. It should renew our earnest hope for the coming of peace, accord and tranquility in a new world ruled by Jesus Christ.

And it should renew our devotion to living fully and wholeheartedly in Christ, as energetic and involved citi-

The Last Great Day should focus our attention on God's love for all people, increasing our commitment to reach out to our neighbors with concern.

zens of the kingdom of heaven, wholeheartedly involved in declaring his praises to the world.

Reaching out in love

The Last Great Day should likewise focus our attention on God's love for all people everywhere, increasing our commitment to reach out as God's children in love to our neighbors, and helping us to see all humans as made in God's image for his purpose.

This day should motivate us to reflect God's concern for all humani-

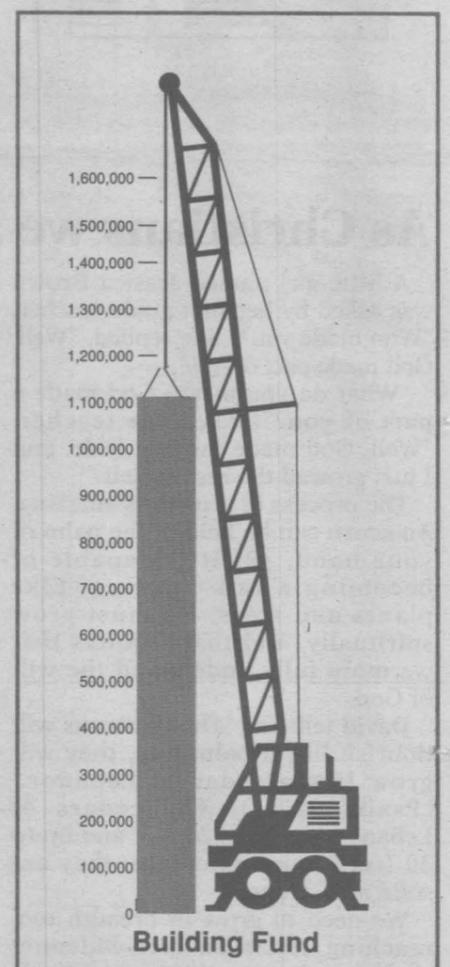
ty and his desire to see all men and women come to repentance. This Holy Day, too, should encourage us to enter into his harvest and be active participants in the work of the gospel, rather than mere benchwarmers or spectators.

Let's make sure we anchor our future hope in the joy of the new life in Christ we have been given now. Likewise, let's vitalize our present calling with the sure hope of the glorious inheritance as we await the return of our Savior. Our present life in Christ and our future hope in him should work together to strengthen and establish us in the faith.

Lights in a dark world

The world is facing trying and dangerous times, and it falls upon the people of God to shine continually brighter as the world grows steadily darker.

We need to pray for one another that none are swallowed up by the increasingly sinful and godless world around us, but rather that each of us has the strength and courage not to shrink back from declaring God's praises, as we are witnesses of the "wonderful light" into which he has called us in Jesus Christ. I'm looking forward to speaking to most Feast sites on the first Holy Day. I pray that your Feast will be the best ever!



STILL CLIMBING—As of Sept. 7, individuals and church areas have donated \$1,155,736.02 to the building fund.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.



The role of theology: What it is and why we need it today

By Neil Earle

Who and what is God? What is the nature of spirit? What is human nature? How does free moral agency work? How could Jesus Christ be both human and divine? Can angels repent? Did God form things from a preexisting substance?

These are good questions. They are also questions that intrigue members, *Plain Truth* readers and *World Tomorrow* viewers.

Some issues, however, are not directly addressed in the Bible. These, and many other such questions, belong to the discipline of theology.

As we know, the Worldwide Church of God is always willing to examine its doctrinal positions. We want to be biblically accurate, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

We are called to give a credible witness to a more skeptical, suspicious and sophisticated public, a modern society drowning in information at the rate of some 1,700 messages a day.

We also need to stay abreast of the times. Many questions are now reaching us from people in the fields of religion and theology. Of necessity, we have discovered the need to become more proficient and careful.

Some in and outside the Church have not always understood the purposes and role of theology and how, in many ways, the Worldwide Church of God has always been indebted to theology and theologians.

Thinking theologically

Theology is simply humanity's reasonings and conclusions about God arranged in a systematic and formal way. It is defined from the Greek *theos* (God) and *logos* (study or discourse).

Neil Earle is international editor of *The Plain Truth*.

What theology does is to help organize, formalize and systematize some of the questions that arise from studying the Bible—and we all have them. Thus theology interacts with a wide field of knowledge including most notably religion, history, philosophy, biology and literature.

All of us in the Church are recipients in many ways of some of the fruits of the theological process, though we may not recognize it.

Just how does this work?

For years we have been familiar with the concept announced in the magnificent opening chapter of John's Gospel, the truth of the Word-made-flesh, the Logos (John 1:1-14). Yet the basic idea of the Logos entered the early church's vocabulary through its evangelizing of the sophisticated Greek-speaking culture of the first century.

The term *logos* traces to Greek philosophy, in particular the thought of Heraclitus of Ephesus, about 500 years before Christ.

If we could understand the world as a whole, Heraclitus taught, we would see evidence of a vast, all-embracing wisdom or intelligence behind everything. That organizing wisdom he called Reason or the Word, the Logos.

Some rank Heraclitus as the first theologian. Though he did not understand God as Christians do, Heraclitus' theology was sufficiently broad-based and all-encompassing so as to be useful to John in his public preaching.

A place for theology

The Holy Spirit as it guides God's people into truth (John 16:13), also assists the ministry in using and applying some of the tools of theology in the spirit of 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Test everything. Hold on to the good."

Just as the first-century church recognized a role for theology, so has the Worldwide Church of God.

Think about this: For years we published and proclaimed proofs of the existence of God. Some of these

ideas—"there is a cause for every effect," "design demands a designer"—are directly traceable to Thomas Aquinas, an Italian-born theologian who lived about 1225 to 1274.

In his most famous work Aquinas systematized the evidence for God's existence in five precise arguments.

Concerning one of these, Aquinas wrote: "Some intelligent being exists by whom all natural things are ordered to their end; and this being we call God.... Now to take away the cause is to take away the effect."

The formal discipline of theology thus functions as a tool to help us formulate and adjust our doctrines under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth.

In 1974 the Church consulted with scholars at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to clarify the meaning of a Hebrew word that affected the exact dating of the feast of Pentecost.

Other names that remind us of our debt to theology and scholarship are Jerome, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther and Calvin, who helped make it possible for us to read the Bible in today's modern languages.

What do you think of when you hear the phrase "teachers of the law" in Mark 12:28, those Luke called "doctors" (Luke 2:46, Authorized Version)? Were the educated elite consistently condemned by Jesus Christ? Was he opposed to scholarship and learning? No. For one thing there was the discussion Jesus had with Nicodemus, one of "Israel's teachers" (John 3:10).

Notice Luke 2:41-49. Jesus' earthly parents had lost track of him at the Passover service in Jerusalem. Where did they find him? "After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions."

Listening and asking questions indicates give and take. Jesus was not opposed to that. Later on in his ministry he told one learned adversary who had argued his theology correctly: "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34).

See *Theology*, page 5

As Christians we are called to grow

A little girl named Jessica Brown was asked by her first-grade teacher, "Who made you?" She replied, "Well, God made part of me."

"What do you mean, God made a part of you?" asked the teacher. "Well, God made me real little, and I just grew the rest myself."

The process of growth is amazing. An acorn can be held in the palm of your hand, yet it is capable of becoming a tall oak tree. Like plants and trees, we must grow spiritually, and that requires that we more fully understand the will of God.

David tells us: "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon" (Psalm 92:12). The cedars of Lebanon grow to 120 feet and up to 30 feet in circumference; they are solid and strong.

We need to grow in breadth too, reaching out in an ever-widening circle to others, making new friends with people of all backgrounds and races.

Paul's example in 1 Corinthians

9:22 was to become all things to all people for the sake of the gospel. He found common ground with those he came in contact with and looked for opportunities to be an example for others in what he believed.

We must outgrow things that limit us, however. All of life must be brought under control with and by the help of the Holy Spirit. We need to emulate the example of Jesus. Luke tells us that "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

We all have a number of opportunities in life to help us to grow. We receive help from the home, the school and the Church. But the basic responsibility for responding to God's nurturing love lies within ourselves.

Peter tells us to grow unto salvation. "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now

that you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:2-3).

As children we wanted to grow up to be bigger, like our brothers or sisters or parents.

When I was in the Philippines for

though I knew that artificial methods, even those that are supposed to stimulate bone growth, don't make you grow taller.

The growth we should seek, however, is to be more Christlike.



Just One More Thing

DEXTER FAULKNER

the Feast of Tabernacles a few years ago, I read an interesting advertisement titled, "How to Be Taller."

Supposedly it was a method to stimulate bones and ligament growth and to increase the cartilage area between the discs of the spinal column.

Since I'm not the tallest guy around, I cut the ad out even

We should yearn to grow up like our spiritual brother Jesus and we achieve this as we yield to the Holy Spirit and develop our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

No matter where we are in our spiritual journey, no matter how mature we are in the faith, we still have much to learn and room for growth.



Pastor General visits...

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA



Trip Overview

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 1,532 brethren Aug. 28 from the St. Cloud, Brainerd, St. Paul, Minneapolis North and South, Duluth, Grand Rapids, Mankato and Rochester, Minnesota; Fargo, North Dakota; and Thunder Bay, Ontario; churches.

Hosts for the visit were John and Linda Orchard, St. Cloud and Brainerd; Mike and Zeldia Hanisko, St. Paul; James and Judy Servidio, Minneapolis North; Leonard and Sandy Holladay, Duluth, Grand Rapids and Thunder Bay; Eugene and Sherry Kubik, Fargo; Steve and Melania Nutzman, Minneapolis, South; and Paul and Gloria Shumway, Mankato and Rochester. [Photos by Phyllis Anderson & Steve Burke]

Theology used as a tool by the Church

Continued from page 4

True, Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, men from the working classes. Yet we need to remember that the rudiments of biblical theology in the New Testament period were hammered out in sometimes difficult theological language by the well-educated Paul of Tarsus.

Even Peter, remember, had a hard time dealing with some of Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:16). And this is true today: not every passage of scripture is easy to understand. But the Holy Spirit helps the Church leadership to understand where the tools of theology can best be applied.

Paul's education was a great benefit for the young church. Paul was tenacious on many theological points, especially the major reinterpretation of the point that circumcision was now of the spirit, not the flesh (Acts 15:1-2; Galatians 2:14).

Paul, as we know, did not mind mentioning his educational credentials on occasion or that he had studied under leading scholars. "I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was

extremely zealous" (Galatians 1:14). "Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers" (Acts 22:3).

Attitude still the key

Of course the Church has consistently reaffirmed and reinforced the simple truth that one does not need to be a theologian to understand God's plan of salvation and to participate in it.

That point was made eloquently in *The Plain Truth* by a scholar who had worked on the translation of both the New King James Version and the New International Version of the Bible.

He said: "One does not need to be educated to understand that Jesus Christ came to save sinners."

Yet God does not expect us to place special value on ignorance. He does expect us to study and grow in our knowledge and understanding.

The Church, in its public proclamations of the gospel, must reason effectively from the scriptures (Acts 17:2).

And, of course, the Church will always be led by the Holy Spirit to grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

To repeat: Salvation and inheritance in the kingdom of God depend upon our spiritual response to God's mercy

through faith in Jesus Christ, not upon our mental and intellectual resources.

Yet it is possible for us to hinder our public teaching by not presenting the truth accurately. God is a god of truth and expects us to grow in the truth as the Spirit leads.

Fixing points of reference

Theology typically steps outside the pages of Scripture to attempt to study the implications of the inspired word. This is why it sometimes misses the mark.

Sound theology, however, based upon the word of God, will confirm and strengthen what the Bible reveals in glimpses and indications.

Theology will never replace the Bible. Still, it is a tool that the Church has consistently found useful if not at times almost indispensable in resolving some difficult and weighty matters.

It has been said that one does not need to be an auto mechanic or a manufacturing executive to understand how a car works. Yet if something goes wrong with your vehicle it does help if you know where to go for expert help occasionally.

There is a role for theology; let's appreciate it.

SEP in Germany

By Frankie Weinberger

The fourth German SEP at Voehl was a "year of growth, learning and fun for staff and campers," said Wade Fransson, camp director.

Nearly 100 campers—twice as many as in 1992—arrived July 25 to attend the three-week camp. Numbers were boosted by 20 Americans, nine Dutch and nine French-speaking campers. Ten countries were represented.

Water polo, survival training and choir were new in the program this year. Another addition, YOU Cards, was a five-part class in designing and producing greeting cards using a melted wax-crayon technique. The cards will be sold and the proceeds will go into the SEP budget.

The international mixture created language learning opportunities in Dutch, English, French and German, and was a profitable cultural exchange too. Classes were taught in German or English, with translations into French and Dutch.

The city of Voehl invited the campers to attend its annual agricultural fair.



CARL & PAULA HOFFMAN

Carl and Paula Hoffman of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary June 6. They have three daughters, Karen Kirby, Cheryl Howard and Patricia Montgomery; three sons-in-law, Mike Kirby, Mark Howard and Daniel Montgomery; and two granddaughters. Mr. Hoffman is a local church elder in the Cape Girardeau church.



TOM & ELNORA MOSES

Tom and Elnora Moses of Carrollton, Georgia, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 15. Carrollton brethren honored them with a reception and roses. They have two children, Sue McDowell and Shannon; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



EDMUND & LAVERNE FRANSEN

Edmund and Laverne Frandsen of Clear Lake, California, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 10. They have three children, Carl Jon, Lorie Ann and Tina Marie; one son-in-law, Robert Slocum; and two grandchildren, Michael and Derrick.



DICK & JUDY BREWSTER

Dick and Judy Brewster of Pasadena celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary May 5. They have two children, Lisa and Derk; and one

son-in-law, Tom Jones. Mr. Brewster is a deacon in the Pasadena East A.M. church.

Anniversaries Made of Gold

Maxwell and Jean Towne of Elk Horn, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 25. They have three daughters, Esther, Patricia and Terry; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



MAXWELL & JEAN TOWNE

Maxwell and Jean Towne of Elk Horn, Iowa, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 24. They have two sons, two daughters, four grandsons and four granddaughters.

Obituaries

WINN, Elmer, 75, died May 24. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kathleen; two sons, Freddie and Bertram; and three daughters, Laura Marie, Colleen and Fanny.

RAINES, Mildred, 71, of Harlingen, Texas, died Aug. 18 of a massive coronary. She is survived by her husband, Eldon; one daughter, Terri Finch; one son, Kenneth Dickeson; four brothers; and three grandchildren.



VERNA CARPENTER

CARPENTER, Verna Valuet, 77, of

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, died July 9 of pneumonia and complications of Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Donovan; one son, John; two daughters, Patricia Francis and Janet Field; one brother, John Valuet; two sisters, Edna Lange and Agnes Maitland; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



JOY KABUNGO

KABUNGO, Joy Elijah, 64, of Lusaka, Zambia, died April 26 after a short bout with malaria. He is survived by his wife, Merina; 12 children; and eight grandchildren.



SANDRA ROHDE

ROHDE, Sandra M., 49, of Holts Summit, Missouri, died July 18 in an auto accident. She is survived by her mother, Edith Rushing; five children, Michelle Lindstedt, Sheila Roop, Channon, Kurtiss and Travis;

five grandchildren; six brothers; and two sisters.

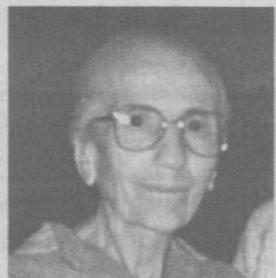


MONTE LINDSTEDT

LINDSTEDT, Monte L., 31, of Holts Summit, Missouri, died July 18 in an auto accident. He is survived by his wife, Michelle; two children, Alex, 4, and Kayla, 2; his mother, Martina; two brothers, Martina and Mike; and one sister, Susan Bessman.

BENNETT, Nancy, 43, of Toronto, Ontario, died July 8. She is survived by two sons, her father, her grandmother, five brothers and six sisters.

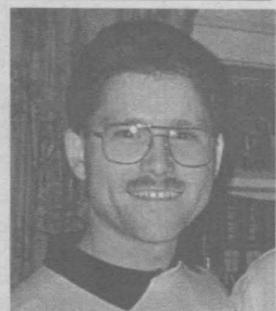
SPELL, Edna Mae, 62, of Brownsville, Texas, died April 23 of cancer. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Paul H.; two sons, Paul J. and Neil; one daughter, Pamela; one daughter-in-law; and five grandchildren.



WILMA EDELBACH

EDELBACH, Wilma, 89, of Dennison, Minnesota, died April 28. She is survived by four daughters, Ellen Amy, Ivy Meier, Dawn Korb and Shirley Heitmanns; six sons, Loren, Russell, Marvin, William, Jesse and Melvin;

50 grandchildren; and 65 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Melvin; three sons; one brother; and four sisters preceded her in death.



DOUGLAS CORATHERS

CORATHERS, Douglas Lee, 27, of Pasadena, died July 2 in a hiking accident. He is survived by his wife, Karla; his mother, Karen Conley; his father and stepmother, Kenneth and Sharon; his stepmother, Janice Robinson; one sister, Diane Burnat; two stepsisters, Nikki Pieper and Sonia Gydosh; one uncle, Paul; and his grandparents, Neal and Bertha Corathers and Howard and Elsie Lohr.



WAYNE HALE

HALE, Wayne Eugene Sr. "Jay," 42, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, died July 16. He is survived by his wife, Rita; three children, Wayne Jr., Shannon and Nicky; one brother, Jimmy; one sister, Betty Gibson; his father, Curtis Reedy; two nephews, Kyle and Rodney; and two nieces, Tammy and Jennifer. His mother, Mamie, preceded him in death.

Open houses

Continued from page 1

"We know God does the calling but we are his tools, a holy priesthood, and a priest directs people to God," said Mr. Fezell.

In one sense, relational evangelism is not entirely new to the Church. About 50 percent of our membership had a personal relationship with a Church member. "Friendships are the most effective means of evangelism. That is where we want to lay greater emphasis," said Mr. Tkach Jr. "Before the word evangelism became part of our thinking, Mr. Tkach came to see that Christians should be more Christlike, they should be lights, the salt of the earth and the help for people in need," said Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International.

"When Mr. Tkach focused on the commission of the New Testament Church, he saw that it did not just warn people, but made disciples." All this leads to the idea that members should be involved in evangelizing.

"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest," said Mr.

Lapacka, quoting from Matthew 9:37-38 (New King James Version).

Mr. Lapacka said, "Jesus didn't say pray for a harvest—the harvest is there. He said pray for laborers."

Christians are to be laborers in the harvest. They fulfill this by: 1) presence—helping people in need; 2) proclaiming—being ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within; and 3) persuading—nurturing those God calls by helping them come to the conviction that God is Creator and that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, said Mr. Dick.

Relationships are built and trust is developed through our presence—whether in a service project or simply by being a friend.

"This trust earns us the right to tell people who ask us what God has done for us," said Mr. Fezell. "They may respond and they may not. If they do respond, if God is calling, then we bring those people into the fellowship of the Church, where they can be nurtured. That is the goal of evangelizing."

The Church will continue its corporate responsibilities—including the publications and the telecast—but, in addition, will support with media and other materials whatever the congregations need to evangelize.

"We want the six ministers here for the conference to become open house experts," said Mr. Lapacka. "Then, when other ministers want to conduct an open house in their area they will call one of these ministers for help."

Headquarters will coordinate the open house dates and materials. "It would take too long to have all the ministers come here for the conference."

Mr. Comino said: "A lot can be accomplished if the brethren are turned on to the program. They've got to own it if it is to be a success. Spreading the gospel doesn't stop with the ministry."

"In the past we taught members that they are training to be teachers in the world tomorrow. Well, they can be teachers now."

Church areas pastored

Craig Bacheller, pastor of the Hollywood and Miami, Florida, churches; Bill Bradford, Oakland and San Francisco, California; John Comino, Washington, D.C.; Central and Arlington and Woodbridge, Virginia; Bob Fahey, Chicago West and Joliet, Illinois; Lloyd Garrett, Washington, D.C., North; Don Mears, Kelowna, Penticton and Tonasket, British Columbia; George Patrickson, employed in the Canadian Office; and Greg Sargent, Jersey City and Union North, New Jersey.

TV commercials promote values

Four 60-second television commercials for the new *World Tomorrow* format advertise Church literature and promote family and moral values.

The Church's television studio worked with Kelliham Productions of Burbank, California, on two of the commercials, "Tell Me a Story" and "Teach Me to Pray." Both mention the Church and offer *The Plain Truth*.

In "Tell Me a Story," a child asks his grandfather to tell him a Bible story. The commercial then emphasizes the importance of faith. In "Teach Me to Pray," two children are playing and talking, when one of them tells her friend about the time she asked her father to teach her to pray.

The third commercial, "The Forest," presents *The Plain Truth* as a guide to a brighter, more meaningful future. The Television Department added a new ending and new audio for the commercial.

The fourth commercial, "The Athlete," was completely produced by the Television Department. It shows how athletes are identified by physical build, the police by a uniform and the rich by their possessions. It then asks how true Christians can be recognized, and offers the booklet *What Is a Real Christian?* as well as a subscription to *The Plain Truth*.

The four commercials were tested in June in seven markets: Austin,

Texas; Birmingham, Alabama; Knoxville, Tennessee; Monroe, Louisiana; Reno, Nevada; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Spokane, Washington.

In each market two or three television stations aired the commercials. They ran 270 times each week, 15 commercials per station, for four consecutive weeks. For every commercial aired, the Church had an average of six calls.

Responses ranged from a high of 3,483 calls to a low of 756 calls.

"Offering *The Plain Truth* or advertising a booklet relating to the message of the commercial is not all we had in mind," said Bernie Schnippert, Media Operations director.

"These commercials communicate the positive family and moral values held by the Church. And even if a person doesn't respond to our literature offers, that individual will have benefited from the message."



'TELL ME A STORY'—One of four commercials promoting the new *World Tomorrow* format, "Tell Me a Story" depicts a grandfather telling a boy how Jesus reached out to save the apostle Peter when he walked on water.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

De Echte Waarheid marks 25th year

NIEUWEGEIN, Netherlands—In September the Dutch *Plain Truth* (*De Echte Waarheid*) celebrates its 25th anniversary. Since the *World Tomorrow* stopped being broadcast last fall, the magazine is the primary means of preaching the gospel in this region.

The Dutch *Plain Truth* started on short notice when advertising space in the Dutch edition of *Reader's Digest* magazine opened up in September 1968. By the end of 1968 *De Echte Waarheid* had 5,470 subscribers.

At first, Dutch students at Ambassador College in Pasadena translated the articles, then translators at *Reader's Digest* did the work. AC students on the former Bricket Wood, England, campus edited the articles.

Before the Dutch Office opened in Utrecht, Netherlands, in 1975, all the Church had in this region was monthly Sabbath services in Utrecht and a post office box in Arnhem.

Johan Wilms collected the mail from 1968 to 1974 and sent it to England for processing. **Roy McCarthy** became director of the Dutch Office when it moved to the Netherlands in 1974.

In 1972 the Dutch area launched a newsstand program, and the Church here has grown ever since. The office moved from Utrecht to Nieuwegein in 1984. **Bram de Bree** is the regional director, and **Jan** and **Margit Zijderfeld** supervise the translation of publications.

De Echte Waarheid has about 25,000 readers, mostly living in the Netherlands and the Flemish part of Belgium, but has copies going into 50 other countries.

Employee, ministers honored for 25 years

Ron Grassmann, manager of the Landscape Department, received a plaque and watch Aug. 2 in recognition of 25 years of service to the Church.

Three local church elders were honored in April for service to the Church. **Glenn Harmon** of the Eugene, Oregon, church was presented his 25-year plaque April 6; **Robert Ashland** of the Belleville, Washington, church received his plaque April 24; and **Robert Berg** of the Fargo, North Dakota, church was presented a plaque April 17.

Northeastern ministers attend conference

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Ministers and wives serving the northeastern region of the United States attended a ministerial conference here Aug. 24 to 26.

The speakers, **Joseph Tkach Jr.**, **Michael Feazell**, **Tom Lapacka**, **Greg Albrecht** and **K.J. Stavrinides**, updated the ministry on a number of current issues (prophecy, nature of God, personal evangelism) and answered questions.

Ministers and their wives also profited from a chance to socialize and exchange ideas on how to serve the local congregations.

South African family victims of attack

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Violence in various areas here has increased. In July men with AK47 guns and hand grenades attacked an Anglican church congregation of 1,300 during their evening service.

Eleven people were killed, and about 50 people were injured.

In the East Rand area, east of Johannesburg, tribal and political violence broke out at the end of July, leaving more than 150 dead and many injured and homeless.

A member in the province of Transvaal, returning home from Sabbath services with his family, was stopped at his gate by four armed men who ordered him out of the car.

The member said afterward that he was amazed at how God gave him courage in this situation.

He spoke boldly to the men and told them to leave his



THE WORLD TOMORROW
TELEVISION PROGRAM

New Station

Station/Location	Air Time	Channel
KVAL Eugene, Ore.	Sunday 7:30 a.m. except January through March, when it will be 6:30 a.m.	13

Renewals

KJAC Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex.	Sunday 8 a.m.	4
KOLR Springfield, Mo.	Sunday 9:30 a.m.	10
KTBS Shreveport, La., and Texarkana, Tex.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	3
KTVU Oakland, Calif.	Saturday 6:30 a.m.	2
WATE Knoxville, Tenn.	Sunday 10:30 a.m.	6
WCBS New York, N.Y.	Sunday 7 a.m.	2

family and take his car. They asked for money and told him to open his briefcase, which revealed Bibles. The men then left with the car.

Police said later the member had faced a dangerous gang, and because they did not wear *balaclava* caps, their intent was to kill him and his family as they had done with earlier victims.

It was a traumatic experience for the member and his family, but they are grateful for being spared. The car was found later in good condition. *Wilma Nigrini*.

Deaf, hard of hearing share Texas hospitality

HOUSTON, Texas—Sixty participants in the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program from Austin, Big Sandy, Dallas, Fort Worth and the Houston, Texas, areas gathered here on the weekend of July 31 for services and activities.

David Barnett, a deaf minister from Big Sandy, gave

the sermonette on encouraging hearing brethren to extend a hand of friendship and enjoined everyone to try communicating even if they didn't know sign language.

Mr. Barnett's sermonette was voiced by **Margaret Davis**, an interpreter here. **Annette Garrett** and **Miriam Shuster**, Houston North deaf members, along with signers **Rita Hall** and **Rene Jones**, greeted brethren as they entered the Church hall. **Bernie Thiessen**, another deaf member, signed the opening prayer from a prepared text.

Carpenter nails apprentice award

CHICAGO, Illinois—The Illinois State Council of Carpenters presented the Illinois State Championship Apprentice Award to **Victory Fuentes**, a member who attends the Chicago South church.

He will compete in the national finals in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in November.



FROM OUR

Brethren Worldwide

Family needs prayers in Ghana

By Kae Tattersall

ACCRA, Ghana—The Barbleys had lands and property and lived a prosperous life in Liberia in West Africa.

Alfred Barbley worked for the European Community dealing with agriculture. His wife, Lillian, ran her own medical clinic.

Then, in 1990, Liberian leader Samuel Doe was overthrown in a coup. The Barbleys fled for their lives along with thousands of their countrymen. Their daughter,

Kae Tattersall and her husband, Alan, pastor the Nottingham, Northampton and Sheffield, England, churches. They served in Ghana from 1990 to August 1993.

Glown, who was studying in Monrovia, the capital, managed to fly to Ghana.

She stayed first with us and then with other Church members in Accra. We all spent many anxious days waiting to hear if her family was alive or dead.

Finally we received word that they had fled to the Ivory Coast and would make their way to Ghana. Their whole family was reunited at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Ghana was flooded with refugees. Mrs. Barbley wept as she told us how she had left many of their goods with a friend. When she returned she found that the house had been looted and burned to the ground, and her friends were murdered.

The family was not able to find jobs, so they moved onto the Church farm in Ghana, where they began growing vegetables and sell-

ing the produce by the roadside. Glown completed a course in computer studies in Accra, but her heart was set on going to Ambassador



EXTENDED FAMILY—Lillian Barbley (in headdress) and her husband, Alfred, eagerly anticipate their daughter, Glown (third from right), being able to attend Ambassador College. Pictured are other members of the Barbley family.

College. She applied twice without success.

Finally on Dec. 14, 1992, Glown received a letter of acceptance, but she has been unable to get a visa to go to the United States. The Barbley family would much appreciate prayers on behalf of their daughter. We wait and pray for the day she will be able to take up her place at Ambassador. The Barbleys counted their blessings of

being alive and being able to fellowship with so many brethren, something unavailable for them in Liberia.

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