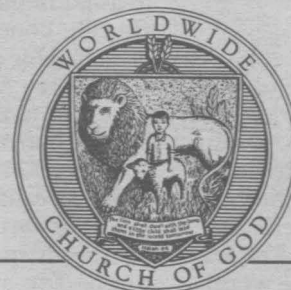


3 Senior writer Clayton Steep dies

3 Feast format centers on worship and spiritual renewal

4 Why prayer meetings? What can they accomplish?

# The Worldwide News



VOL. XXIII, NO. 18  
SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

## Joseph Tkach Jr. named deputy pastor general

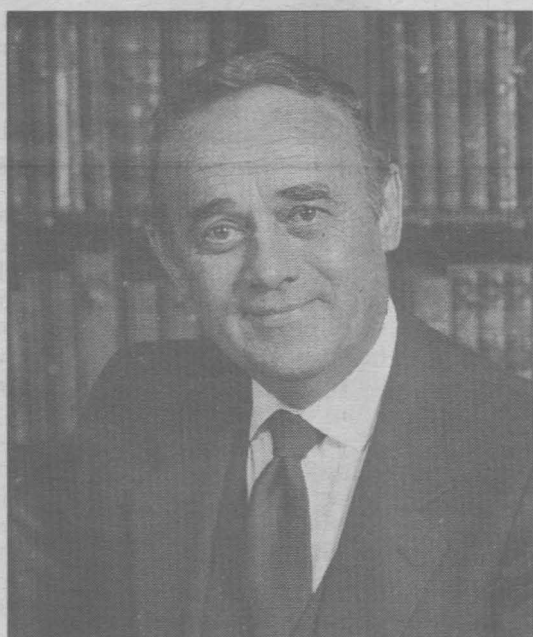
Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach named his son, Joseph Tkach Jr., as deputy pastor general Sept. 5, after medical tests revealed that Mr. Tkach's cancer is more pervasive than doctors had first known.

In the Sept. 6 Pastor General's Report, Mr. Tkach told ministers that "a bone scan done with a radioactive isotope revealed some 50 spots on my bones. This is a different kind of cancer from the colon cancer and requires a different kind of treatment."

Mr. Tkach continues to receive chemotherapy for the colon cancer, but the spots on the bones require radiation. "I will need to make a decision about the radiation in the next few days," he said.

"This treatment can greatly reduce my pain, but it would also make me very weak. There is also the possibility that the radiation treatment can stop the cancer."

Nevertheless, the pastor general has responded well to the chemotherapy for colon cancer. "The doctors tell me that my blood is in very good condition and that my liver is still cancer-free," he pointed out. "But I want you to know the facts about my overall condition, and the

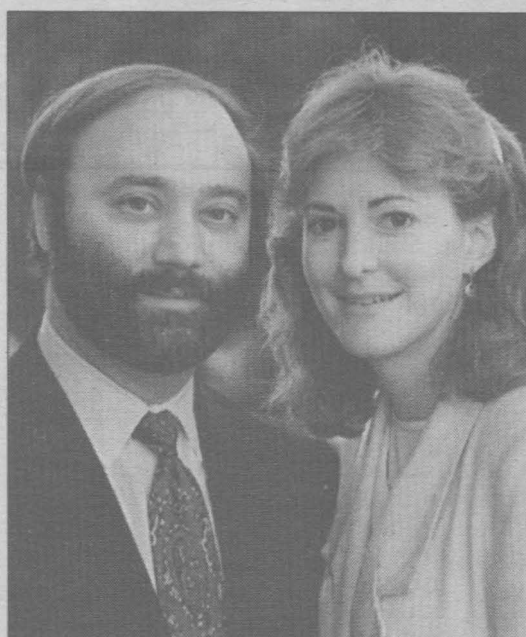


Joseph W. Tkach

news about the bones is indeed a setback."

Sept. 5 the pastor general met with Gregory Albrecht, Dean Blackwell, Michael Feazell, Ralph Helge, Herman Hoeh, Ronald Kelly, Joseph Locke, Richard Rice, Bernard Schnippert, K.J. Stavrinides, Mr. Tkach Jr. and Richard van Pelt.

He laid hands on Mr. Tkach Jr. and asked God to set him apart for the office of deputy pastor general of



Joseph Jr. and Tammy Tkach

the Worldwide Church of God and to bless him in that office and the office of pastor general after his death.

As deputy pastor general, Mr. Tkach Jr. will become pastor general upon Mr. Tkach's death or inability to continue in his duties. Mr. Tkach Jr. continues with his present responsibilities as director of Church Administration.

"I know that God would have me make appropriate provision for the future in this way," Mr. Tkach said. "I ask you to give my son the same prayerful support and encouragement you have always given me."

He continued: "Of course, we know that with God all things are possible. I belong to him, and if it is his will to heal me now, I praise his name. On the other hand, if it is his will to wait until the resurrection, I praise him for that, too."

"God has given me a rich and exciting life in his service, and whatever happens, I am at peace, knowing I am safe and secure in his hands."

Mr. Tkach told the ministers: "God has blessed me to see the beginning of the gold-

en age of the Worldwide Church of God. He has given me the overwhelming joy to witness his Holy Spirit at work in a miraculous way to lead us out of entrenched doctrinal errors into the pure light of his glorious gospel!"

After expressing thanks to ministers and wives for their faithfulness in times of stress, the pastor general See Deputy Pastor General, page 5



### Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

#### Celebrating the good news of eternal life in kingdom of God

Thank you again for your prayers and support, dear friends and fellow servants of Jesus Christ. I know that I am often in your prayers, just as you are in mine. We all make our requests known to our Father and look to Jesus Christ to direct and bless our work. And what a marvelous work he is doing among us! God has shown such love and mercy to us to forgive us our sins, and also to forgive us for our wrong teachings as a Church. How everlastingly grateful we will all be to our Lord and Savior, who did not leave us in our errors!

I have asked my son to write a few words to you, especially on the subject of the Millennium, to clarify a few things, since the Feast of Tabernacles is approaching.

I love you all.

Your servant in Christ our Lord,

Joseph W. Tkach

As reflected in the August co-worker letter, my dad was very encouraged by his visit to Ambassador University for freshman orientation. He See Personal, page 6

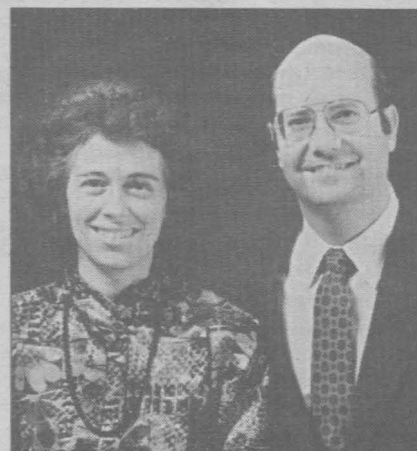
#### Evangelists hold new responsibilities

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach sent the following memo to operation directors and department managers in Pasadena Aug. 31.

"I'm happy to announce that Bernie Schnippert has been appointed as treasurer and director of Finance and Planning. Replacing Dr. Schnippert as director of Media Operations will be Greg Albrecht. Congratulations to both men. I ask that everyone give them prayerful support in their new responsibilities.

"I also want to give my hearty thanks to Dennis Stauffer for his fine work over the past several weeks as treasurer pro tem. Mr. Stauffer will now continue in his role of budget manager.

"And thanks again to all managers, supervisors and employees for their labor of love during the past several months. I am excited about the future for the Church and thank God for his great love, mercy and power in showing us the way ahead. Let's remain committed to our Lord and Savior as we tackle the challenges and opportunities he has in store for us."



Arlene and Bernie Schnippert



Greg and Karen Albrecht

# Brethren show deep desire to aid needy children

Members practice pure and undefiled religion for orphans of Africa

By Julie Wilson

DUNSTABLE, England—Since my article in the March 7 *Worldwide News* on the work of Dimetros Woldu for orphans in Ethiopia and Eritrea, I have been overwhelmed at the love and concern shown by our brethren.

I have to date received about 80 letters from members all over the world.

Many express their deep desire to help the orphans I wrote about, either through sponsorship of a child or by donating to a general fund.

Rev. Woldu is also touched by the compassion shown by our Church members. He commented: "It is clear and obvious that you are doing your level best to help the needy orphans. We won't forget your cooperation ... you are their only hope and you don't know how much they appreciate your kind deeds."

## Your comments

Wallace Miller from the United States wrote: "I read your article with great interest. I am very encouraged that we as a church are stepping out collectively and individually to do the work Christ commissioned us to do. I would be most interested in helping Rev. Woldu in his effort to help minister to the orphans in Ethiopia."

R.A.H. Lehmann from Western Aus-

tralia wrote on behalf of her congregation: "I was very much moved by your article. So, too, were the pastors of the Perth North and South congregations. A number of our members would like to assist in this project and, as a whole church, contribute towards keeping one child for one year."

Jennifer McQuien from Florida placed an announcement in her church bulletin and after services she collected \$200.

Alan Moreton from the United Kingdom wrote: "I was deeply moved by the desperate needs of the orphans for an education that will equip them to face adult life in a self-supporting way.

"I know what it feels like to face life without the support of loving parents and to be ill-equipped educationally. The emotional and educational disadvantages are far-reaching and long-lasting and that is why I want to support the work of Rev. Woldu, whose work and simple but profound philosophy strikes a chord in my own heart."

So far I have sent more than \$1,000 to Rev. Woldu to assist the children. And the donations continue to arrive.

The generous support of our brethren has enabled me to found a small charity called the Aid to Africa Fund. This charity is committed to sponsoring orphans in Ethiopia and raising funds for a vocational training center and orphanage in Eritrea.

All of the money raised goes directly to Africa for immediate use in assisting the children. Basically none is used for administrative costs. In fact, many can send their contribu-

tions directly to the orphanage to avoid currency conversion charges.

## Children in need

I have the personal details and photographs of 20 children in Ethiopia who will be sponsored by our brethren. Rev. Woldu has more than 200 additional children in need of help.

The children come from various religious backgrounds. Some are Christian, from different denominations, others are Muslim. But as Rev. Woldu wrote to me: "Our motto is to help the children of God, and all belong to him regardless of their religions, denominations and clan because this is the true value of life."

Reading the details of the children can be heartrending. The photo of a 5-year-old girl, whose father died in the war and whose mother is disabled, was particularly sad.

These children have no means of support without their parents, and many need medical care.

The other need is for a vocational training center and orphanage in Asmara, Eritrea. This orphan center was originally funded by a German evangelical organization, but this support has since ceased since Eritrea received independence.

Because this funding was terminated, more than 250 orphans are without help, and the building remains incomplete. The building has 15 classrooms and dormitories, but much work is still to be done to complete construction.

The cost for completing the construction work and making the building ready for use is estimated

to be about \$128,000. This would enable care and housing for 500 orphans and a vocational training centre for about 100 trainees.

It is hoped that some of the money can be raised through the Aid to Africa Fund and the support of members.

The Christian compassion of our brethren is positive proof of Christ living in us. He is moving Christians to extend the hand of love to the needy.

These Christians are fulfilling Christ's instruction to care for the suffering. In Matthew 25 he commends those who help others, saying that when we help another person it is as if we are helping Christ himself.

Although the needs in this world are great, and it can at times seem overwhelmingly impossible to make a difference to the suffering, we can do our part. We can reach out and what may seem like a small gesture on our behalf can make a big difference in the life of a child in Africa.

So, once again, a heartfelt thank you to all those who have shown an interest in supporting this program. Thank you also for your patience in my getting the relevant information to you. It does take time to coordinate and reply to all your responses. But your help is much appreciated by myself, Rev. Woldu and the children of Ethiopia and Eritrea.

If others are interested in further details on how to support the Aid to Africa Fund, either individually or as a church group, please contact Julie Wilson, Aid to Africa Fund, 7 Englands Ave., Dunstable, Beds., LU6 1UH, United Kingdom.

Julie Wilson is a member in Dunstable, England.

## The Worldwide News

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## Comments from the Good News Grapevine

God taught me his will for 15 years before he led me to a group of his people. The old covenant was good for a beginning; it taught me to brave being different from the world, taught me discipline, and strengthened my resolve to follow God where he led. But I was getting comfortable and maybe a bit self-righteous.

Then the changes began. I was upset, confused, uncomfortable and even began to think about looking for another church, though I knew this was where God had led me.

I prayed and asked God to lead me in his will, even if I didn't understand where I was going and to give me the patience I needed to abide, even if I did not yet understand why.

Slowly, ever so slowly, God gave me understanding, and I am excited again. I am regaining my enthusiasm for God's ways and I am overjoyed because now I do his will because I want to, not because I have to.

I do it because I want a good relationship with God, I want to please him, I want to do his will. It is no longer a chore, but a joy. When we love someone, we try to please them. Are not our earthly relationships a shadow of our relationship with God?

God is loving, kind, forgiving and most of all patient. I am glad he is giving me this chance and I thank him every day for bringing me to understand his nature. I now look forward to learning even more about the new covenant.

Eileen Atkinson  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Our first contact with the new covenant teaching was through a video presentation by Mr. Tkach. It seemed so right as we listened to the video, though it was quite radical. But then the doubts set in.

We got home and I did as Mr. Tkach said and read Galatians, Hebrews, Romans, Colossians. I took an

unmarked New King James Version and read through Hebrews from start to finish. Suddenly it meant different things than what it had before. Then I read Colossians. It seemed so right.

Then I read Romans, and came up with some questions. Then I wondered about creation week, Abraham tithing and obeying God's commandments and statutes. Doubts came.

But Hebrews had said the old covenant was obsolete and replaced by the new. That was clear. So God had to provide the answers. There must be something incomplete in my understanding. Christ is the head of his Church and leads it in his own, inimitable way. I had to rely on him.

I latched onto some basic scriptures—Hebrews 8:13; 4:3,10; Exodus 34:28; and Colossians 2:16-17. These gave the basis for the new understanding.

The Gospels made more sense. The whole thrust of the Gospels was that "my burden is easy and light." If the Sabbath was such a big issue, why didn't Christ teach the disciples how the Sabbath should be kept—they would have learned the same hundreds of rules for keeping the Sabbath that the rest of the Jews had learned. Why didn't Christ rectify this lack in their understanding?

And what about the gentiles? They had never learned how to keep the Sabbath. Why is there no instruction in Paul's letters setting them straight? Sure, Paul went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, but that was the obvious place to evangelize the Jews.

So it seems that the whole thrust of the New Testament is in agreement with the new understanding.

Then Mr. Tkach wrote about a moral law that has always existed, and always will. Suddenly it clicked into place. Against the background of this great moral law (the law of love—God is love) the Ten Commandments were given to a physical people in an attempt to make it possible for them to exemplify this

way of love to the nations around them. In a physical way to apply the spiritual law of love. They were a schoolmaster to keep them on the straight and narrow, and they pointed to a need for Christ.

When Christ died and was resurrected, we no longer needed the physical law, as Christ lives in us and we have the power of God's Spirit. The Sabbath was a physical ritual to keep us mindful of God. I still set aside the Sabbath, but not because of a ritual—I feel I need that time in the busy life I lead.

I had many long conversations with a friend with whom I work. We tossed ideas around, supporting the new teaching. This was a great help getting through the moments of doubt, the days of grieving for the old covenant and the loss of concepts I had seen as absolutes since I was 11 years old, though—in actual fact I felt an indescribable freedom, a sense of relief, which has been progressing since the new understanding of the omnipresence of God.

It is so great that Christ and the Father have made their home in me, they are experiencing the things I experience, and are right at hand to support me when I need them.

This new covenant understanding follows on. The difficult scriptures I used as subjects for countless sermonettes are now so easy to understand.

Other questions have been answered too. No doubt others will come, and they will be explained as well. I am grateful and humbled that God has revealed this to us at long last. I am grateful that Mr. Tkach has had the courage to pass on this new revelation.

Gerry and Leni van der Wende  
Dunstable, England

We're well on our way to a unified faculty and staff here in Big Sandy. Things are being clarified daily and excitement is building for the school year.

See Good News, page 6

# Clayton Steep dies at 57: 'He was a true friend'

By Jeff Zhorne

We are saddened to announce the death of Clayton Dale Steep, booklet managing editor and a longtime writer for the Church's publications.

Clayton, 57, died of congestive heart failure Aug. 30 at St. Luke's Medical Center in Pasadena, where he had been hospitalized for several weeks with a severe stomach disorder.

"There are friends and then there are friends," said Carrol Miller, a longtime friend and head of the Personal Correspondence Department. "He was a true friend, a brother."

Clayton contracted poliomyelitis at an early age and experienced poor health at various times in his life. "Of the many who have been struck by polio in their youth, it is only the few who are privileged to contribute over some four decades to the lives of tens of thousands of others. Clayton was one of those privileged few," said evangelist Herman L. Hoeh.

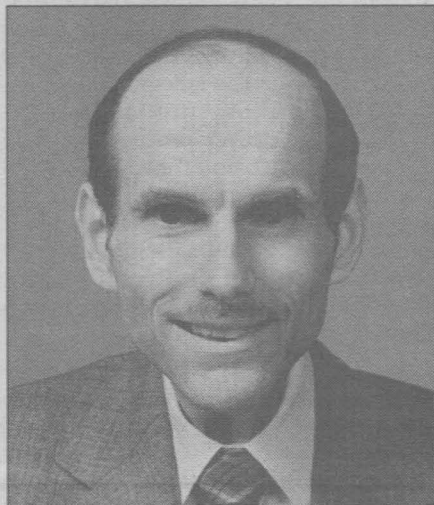
Clayton had been a Church member for 40 years and worked for the Church since 1958. He attended Ambassador College from 1958 to 1962, working in the press and later as a mail reader and letter answerer. In 1976 he was transferred to the French Department, where he was a writer, editor, associate instructor, letter answerer and publications coordinator.

He started working in Editorial Services in 1979 as an associate editor and was named senior writer in 1983. Clayton's articles were known to many for their sensitivity, personal insights

and common-sense approach.

## 'Father figure'

"He played an important part in the Work for longer than many of us have been in the Church," commented Norman Shoaf, booklet editor and Clayton's supervisor. "Hundreds of



Clayton Dale Steep

people around the world were thinking of him during his illness and deeply cared for him as a father figure, as a friend and as a shining example of God's way of life."

Ron Grove, WN layout editor and one of Clayton's closest friends, said, "Clayton always liked to be in the background—not too much fuss."

Joe Cavallo, another close friend, said: "During my 26-year friendship with Clayton, I can truly say he was always thoughtful, gentle and kind. He could point me to the positive

and be cheerful even in dark times. My heart aches for him."

Paul Petranek, a member who attends the Dallas, Texas, North church and Clayton's childhood friend, talked to Clayton nearly every other week for the past decade.

"He was my best friend," said Mr. Petranek. "Nobody can replace him because we went through so many things together—both before the Church and as part of the Church."

Clayton wrote three pieces for the Good News Grapevine, a collection of positive comments circulated among ministers and members. In Volume 5 he recounted his spiritual progress moving away from legalism toward new covenant beliefs.

"Now that we are free from reliance on a law code, we will of necessity rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance," he wrote. "This, I firmly believe, will lead to more of the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to what Mr. Tkach recently called 'The Golden Age of the Worldwide Church of God.'"

His last article appeared in the July 4 WN. In it he described the ministerial team who baptized him in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, his birthplace, Aug. 1, 1955, at age 17. Then he added with sadness: "I was looking forward to sending thank-you cards to the team. I wanted to remind them of the occasion and in so many words say: 'Here I am, still in the Church, 40 years and counting!'"

"Unfortunately, however, my joy was diminished a few days ago when I learned that both ministers have

left our fellowship," Clayton continued. "I pray that they will be given understanding and that the day will soon come when Mr. Armstrong's final plea may yet become reality: that we may be one and remain one."

## Legacy of love

Clayton, who never married, is survived by his father, Frank; a sister Sylvia Amrick; nieces Melinda Steep and Cherie Steep Cox; nephew Zachary Steep; and a sister-in-law Estelle Steep. A graveside memorial service was conducted Sept. 5 by Dr. Hoeh at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California.

"Mr. Steep was interested in what he could do with and for others," Dr. Hoeh told the family and friends, "and he never gave complaining a chance to take root."

In his committal prayer, evangelist Greg Albrecht said: "Clayton was subject to pain, but as a Christian soldier endured his earthly struggle with patience and faith, serving God and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim that gospel.'"

Clayton penned in the Good News Grapevine: "What does it matter, how dark the night? We walk by faith, not merely by sight."

We remember Clayton for the way we knew him in life. He leaves a legacy of love, genuine humility, compassion and a willingness to be accepting of and patient with others. He was authentic and he lived his Christianity. We will miss him greatly.

## Festival '95 promises worship, fellowship, spiritual renewal

By Jeff Zhorne

Members and families can expect an outstanding experience of worship, fellowship and spiritual renewal the Feast of Tabernacles Oct. 8 to 16.

According to Mark McCulley, Festival Administration manager, "What we are preparing for Church members is a strong, encouraging, positive, inspiring spiritual diet to build upon what we've been learning the past few years and to prepare us for what's ahead."

"There are so many really good sermons out there waiting to be given. I've told all the coordinators that I'd love to be at their site to enjoy the services."

### Revised format at four sites

Four sites—Chattanooga, Tennessee; Dayton, Ohio; Fort Worth, Texas; and Palm Springs, California—will offer a revised format centered on evangelism.

"What we're doing is several-fold," said Mr. McCulley. "First of all, we have moved several of the services at those sites into the evening to accommodate nonmembers who otherwise would not have taken off work but who can drive from local areas and attend in the evening."

To publicize the Festival, the back cover of the September-October *Plain Truth* carries a message for people within easy driving distance of the four sites. The message invites people to the Festival and gives a local person's name and phone number to call for extra information.

As of Sept. 7, calls had been re-

ceived at each of the four sites.

"Then we took one more step," Mr. McCulley added. "We printed 5,000 invitations with a cover that says, 'You're invited...' Inside the message reads: 'to join us for worship services as part as our Festival of Faith '95.'"

The cards were shipped to Festival coordinators of the four sites. Members near those sites are encouraged to give invitations to people they know. "It becomes even more personal when your friend hands you this invitation or mails it to you," he said.

Most Church growth, in terms of new attendees, is not through media but through personal contact, Mr. McCulley pointed out. Therefore, the invitations are an inexpensive way for members at the four sites to distribute personalized invitations to family, friends and neighbors.

"At these four sites we are focusing the preaching on evangelistic themes, rather than general in-house concepts." For instance, the sermons there will include "The Greatest Gift" and "Times of Refreshing." *Plain Truth* readers and others will be welcomed.

### Musical experience

The Festival will feature more music in the worship services. "We're tying the music to the preaching and making it part of the teaching," said Mr. McCulley.

"Music has always been used in the Bible as a means of turning our thoughts and emotions to God," he said. "The Psalms themselves were a means of doing that."

Springing from the musical emphasis is the new praise service, another facet of bringing music

into our relationship with God.

At several sites an evening of hymn singing and other musical presentations will provide opportunities to rejoice and praise the Father and Jesus Christ in song.

### Workshops

All U.S. sites will offer parent-teen discussion workshops (see Aug. 29 WN) and workshops on effective Bible study. Field ministers and others have created a variety of workshops on marriage, family life, grief and loss, growth and change, communication, personal finances, youths and other subjects.

"We're grateful to the field ministry for volunteering to lead these workshops and provide extra spiritual food to the membership. It should make the spiritual Feast rich, broad and deep," said Mr. McCulley.

"We want to encourage everyone to set aside as much time as possible for what promises to be an outstanding experience of worship, fellowship and spiritual renewal," he continued.

"We in Church Administration feel strongly that what we're going to be learning at the Feast will prepare us for the next phase of preaching the gospel and for our next opportunities, individually and collectively."

## We need your Feast photos

*The Worldwide News* needs your best Feast photos for our Nov. 14 post-Feast issue.

We are asking any members who want to submit photos for our post-Feast issue to get their film processed during the Feast, ask for double prints and send us as many as 10 of their favorite photos. Photos should be put in the mail no later than Oct. 15. Because of staff reductions we are not able to return photos, nor process any undeveloped film sent to us.

The Feast coordinator may appoint an official photographer to photograph whatever the coordinator needs, but this film should not be sent to us for processing.

(Members in areas administered by the Australian, Canadian, Philippine and South African offices should send their photos to the regional offices. The regional offices will send a suitable selection on to Pasadena, and also keep a selection for their regional editions of *The Worldwide News*.)

Here are some subjects we are interested in: family day, family activities, brethren of different ages and races together, and an overall view of Church services in the Festival hall.

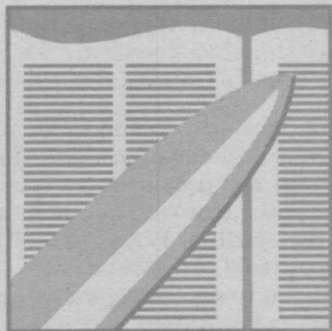
For proper credit of your photographs, please write your name and the Feast site clearly on the back of any photos you submit. Please send your photos to *The Worldwide News*, Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91129.

We look forward to seeing your photos and hope that your Feast is an inspiring one.

# IRON SHARPENS IRON

so one man sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17—As iron sharpens iron,



## Prayer meetings: following in the footsteps of the first-century church

By George Kackos

**P**ayer meetings are a wonderful blessing, a way to express heartfelt, emotional prayers that bind us closer to God and each other. But why have prayer meetings? What purpose do they serve?

"When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father," Jesus said (Matthew 6:6). Let's consider his teaching on personal prayer. Why did Jesus object to the public prayers of the hypocrites? Because they prayed to be "seen by men" (Matthew 6:5).

Does this mean Jesus opposed all public prayer, even prayer to be "seen by God"? Absolutely not!

Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer" (Matthew 21:13). According to *The Temple—Its Ministry and Services As They Were at the Time of Christ*, "there can be no doubt that, at the time of Christ, public prayer occupied a very prominent place in the ordinary daily services of the Temple" (first edition, by Alfred Edersheim, page 152).

Jesus' reassuring words clearly reveal that prayer meetings have a place in the Church. So do the examples in the early New Testament Church.

### Prayer meetings

After Jesus' ascension, the disciples met for prayer. They asked God to select Judas' replacement. He revealed that it was Matthias (Acts 1:21-26).

When the disciples prayed for boldness, they got it: "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (4:31).

Prayer for Peter produced results. He was released from prison—so miraculously that those praying for

him doubted that it had happened (12:5-16).

When Paul and Silas were put into prison at Philippi, they prayed and sang hymns. Besides God, who was listening? Their fellow prisoners! What happened? An earthquake shook the prison, allowing all the prisoners to escape. Even the jailer's family benefited by being converted (16:25-34).

Did public prayer precede the New Testament era? Solomon said at the dedication of the Temple: "Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive" (1 Kings 8:30).

### Make them successful

So how should we approach prayer meetings? "All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'" (1 Peter 5:5). With that attitude, we are ready to pray with one another.

Where possible, husbands and wives should pray together (1 Peter 3:7). At times, children can be included. Beyond family prayer, other prayer circles can be created (Matthew 18:19-20). These include our Church prayer meetings.

To make our prayer meetings a success, we let everyone pray or ask for prayer. Those asking write their requests on note cards, which are given to prayer volunteers. Our prayer leader places the volunteers in sequence. He then starts the prayer circle and finishes it.

What do our members pray about? Lots of things. Because of our doctrinal changes, gaining understanding is an important issue. It was a major focus of Paul's prayers for the brethren (Ephesians 1:15-19).

Seeking God's guidance in doing his work is needed. Paul asked, "Pray that I may proclaim it [the gospel] clearly,

as I should" (Colossians 4:4). Mr. Tkach has said, "I call on all members everywhere to join together in earnest prayer for God's guidance, inspiration, blessing and peace in the Church."

Many need God's deliverance. People are sick, unemployed and face other difficulties (2 Corinthians 1:9-11). To promote deliverance, it may on occasion, be necessary to confess sin (James 5:16). People should be cautious about what details they reveal, and others in the group should treat all such information as confidential.

Spiritual growth is essential. "This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Philippians 1:9). Through love and other qualities of spiritual growth, we can overcome problems and build relationships.

What about those who oppose us? Jesus says, "I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

We must pray for those in authority and those we are trying to reach with the gospel (1 Timothy 2:1-4). "We must pray daily for the people we are trying to reach with the precious good news of the kingdom of God!" wrote Mr. Tkach.

Giving God glory and thanks is vital: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6). "Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness" (Psalm 150:2).

An overall goal of our prayer meetings is this: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26). And we see God's intervention in people's lives.

As you participate in prayer meetings, we hope they bring you many blessings. They can make a difference. As my wife, Merry, says, "These meetings are binding us together in a growing spiritual unity in Jesus Christ."

George Kackos pastors the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, church.

### Our first prayer meeting

By George Kackos

When Mr. Tkach announced the prayer meetings, I thought our members might have questions and reservations. So I decided to prepare them for the meetings.

I brought the topic up at a deacons and elders meeting. This gave me some excellent input. One deacon said: "You better do a lot of preaching on this subject. We need convincing." I then gave a two-part sermon on "Why Public Prayer."

The next Sabbath we had an excellent sermonette on family prayer. Through personal example, the speaker illustrated the power of family prayer.

We now felt ready for our prayer meetings. The stage was set and the audience was ready. Members, both young and old, filled our prayer room.

I led off the meeting, then we went around the room listening to heartfelt, emotional prayers. A woman pleaded for a child suffering with cancer. A man thanked God for Mr. Tkach's leadership. My wife prayed for two ailing members. Others added their words. By the time the prayer circle returned to me, tears were flowing, and the feeling of oneness was growing.

As a congregation that has lost beloved members to other churches, we feel a strong need to draw closer to God and one another. Through prayer meetings, we can do this and much more.

Like the early New Testament Church, we can see God's intervention in our lives. We have a woman with deteriorating knees who is now doing much better.

Over time I think our prayers will become more effective. Walls that separate us will come down, and bridges will connect us in a growing unity with Jesus Christ.

## A church on its knees: an analysis of prayer in the book of Acts

By David Chaundy

Luke ascribes a vital role to prayer in his account of the founding and growth of the New Testament Church. He refers to prayer more than 30 times in the book of Acts. Although he only explicitly mentions kneeling in prayer three times (Acts 9:40; 20:36; 21:5), the early church, figuratively speaking, was a church on its knees.

Prayer was a major characteristic of the early church and the apostles. It was employed at important events and transitions, with visible results.

The books of the New Testament are full of references to prayer. There are exhortations to pray when in trouble (James 5:13); to have the elders pray over a sick disciple (James 5:14); to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17); to be devoted to prayer (Colossians 4:2); to pray for others (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-2); and to pray for church leaders and for opportunities and boldness to proclaim the gospel (Colossians 4:3-4; 2

Thessalonians 3:1-2; Ephesians 6:19).

Following the example of Jesus, prayer became a vital tool in the early church.

J.W. Packer in the *Cambridge Bible Commentary* notes the parallel between the life of Christ and that of the Church: "The life-blood of the church, like that of Jesus himself, was prayer.... Through the channel of prayer Jesus was in continuous touch with the Father; and through the same channel the followers of Jesus retained their contact with the Master."

"So Luke ... saw the church reliving the life of Jesus. As he prayed, the church prayed; as he healed, so did the church; as the good news was portrayed in the life of Jesus, so it was proclaimed through the church's words and deeds" (pages 226-227).

Prayer kept the disciples in touch with God and allowed God to direct them as the Church was established and as the gospel spread to all nations. Prayer helped bind the Church together as each member did his or her part.

Prayer is a vital part of the commission of the Church to live and preach the gospel. We must not neglect the power of prayer in our lives.

David Chaundy is a senior at Ambassador University.

# Deputy pastor general named by Mr. Tkach

Continued from page 1

reminded them that Jesus Christ lives and works within people as the anchor of our souls, the Rock of our salvation and source of stability.

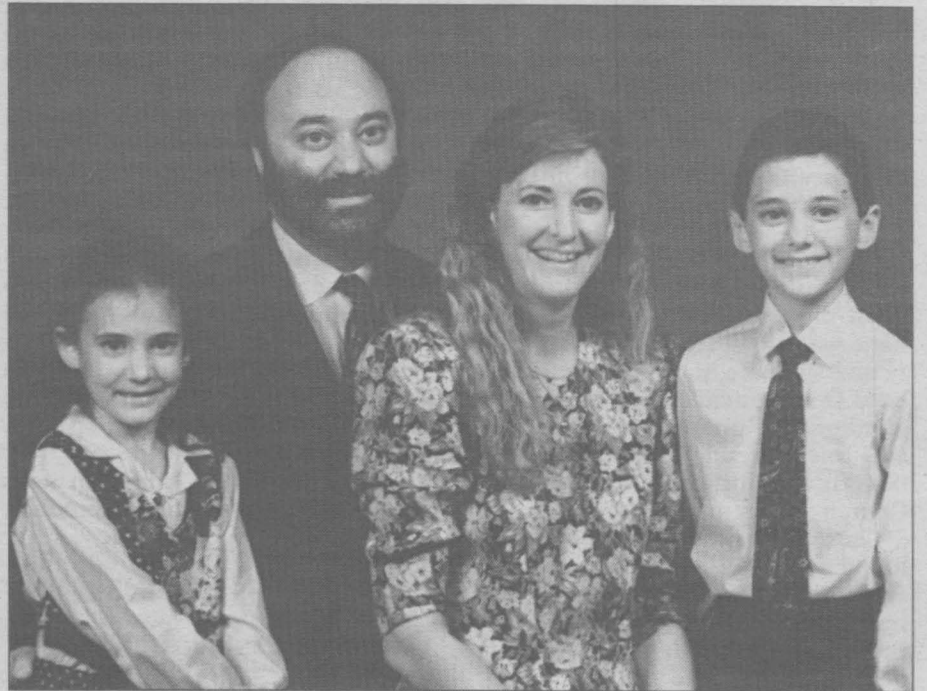
Mr. Tkach wrote: "Psalm 46 reassures us: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging...."

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress' (verses 1-7)."

Mr. Tkach told the ministers that he has "never been more thrilled about the state of the Church! Our Lord and Savior has opened the doors of heaven to us, blessing us with untold spiritual blessings and bringing us closer to him as he prepares us for fruitful work in his gospel in ways we had never imagined."

He added that he is "definitely looking forward to our best Feast ever—a celebration in which we remember our spiritual need, in which we humbly acknowledge the abundant way in which our need is filled through faith in Christ and in which we let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts to produce streams of living waters. Let us rejoice and be glad, giving glory to our Lord and Savior!"

The full text of Mr. Tkach's letter to ministers will appear in the Sept. 26 WN.



Joseph Jr. and Tammy Tkach with children Stephanie and Joey.

## Questions & Answers

FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**Question: Is it correct to say that Old Testament laws are valid unless specifically declared obsolete in the New Testament?**

Answer: No. For example, God commanded the Israelites to wear tassels: "Throughout the generations to come you are to make tassels on the corners of your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel" (Numbers 15:38). This law had a spiritual purpose, clearly stated in verse 39: "You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them." Both the spirit of the law and the letter of this law were commanded.

This command told the Israelites one of the ways in which they should keep the First Commandment. However, this law is obsolete—even though the New Testament says nothing about tassels. The new covenant does not require us to keep the spirit in addition to the letter—the old covenant required both spirit and letter. Rather, in the new covenant we should keep the spirit of the law—a willingness to obey God—but the letter of the law is completely obsolete, for both Jews and gentiles. Abiding by the spirit of the law does not in every case require us to obey the letter (though it certainly does with moral laws regarding theft, murder, adultery, etc.).

God declares the entire old covenant obsolete (Hebrews 8:13). The old law code by itself is no longer in effect. Laws regarding Christian conduct and requirements should be based on the current agreement we have with God, the new covenant.

A good rule of thumb is that the old covenant law is binding on Christians only as it has been transformed by Christ. The Holy Spirit gives us the understanding of that transformation through the New Testament.

**Question: Is it correct to say that Old Testament laws are obsolete unless specifically repeated in the New Testament?**

Answer: No. It's not quite that simple. An obsolete law code can con-

tain some laws that are still valid. The Old Testament, for example, forbids people from having sexual relations with animals. Although the New Testament does not repeat this particular commandment, Christians should not commit bestiality.

Although the New Testament contains many laws and commandments, it is not intended to be a complete list of laws. It is not a law code. Rather, it focuses on the underlying principles of all correct conduct: faith toward God and love toward others. All New Testament commands are built on that foundation. New Testament commands illustrate how we today, as guided by the Holy Spirit, should base our conduct on the principles of love and faith.

Paul, for example, was inspired to criticize homosexuality as sinful (Romans 1:24-27). It is contrary to God's creative intent and is generally recognized as deviant. Although some segments of society approve of such perversions (verse 32), homosexuality is clearly not the purpose for which God designed our reproductive organs or sexuality itself. The same line of reasoning helps us understand that bestiality is also sinful.

When the New Testament writers prohibited *porneia* (sexual immorality), both homosexuality and bestiality could be included within the intent of the prohibition of *porneia*. So the divine instruction against bestiality is still valid. However, its validity isn't based on the old covenant law code, but on the fact that it reflects a proper application of faith and love.

We would conclude that bestiality is wrong even if the old covenant said nothing about it. The Church forbids bestiality—not on the basis of a specific law in the old covenant (which, as a law code, is obsolete) but based on principles of the new. The old provides supporting evidence, but the new provides the authority.

When we see that New Testament commands are based on faith and love, we can also discern when it is appropriate to modify New Testament commands and customs. We

are not obligated to give literal kisses simply because Paul commanded his readers to "greet one another with a holy kiss." Modern cultures have different customs for expressing the intent of Paul's command.

These two examples, one discussing an old command that is still valid and the other a new command whose principle should be interpreted culturally, illustrate that we should not view the New Testament as a law book. It gives principles that form the basis of Christian conduct and numerous practical examples of how those principles are applied.

In some cases Christian behavior corresponds to Old Testament law (whether or not that law is specifically repeated in the New), and sometimes Christian behavior contradicts the requirements of the Old Testament (when we ignore various regulations commanded in the Old).

**Question: Please explain the spiritual rest pictured by the Sabbath.**

Answer: The Sabbath foreshadowed our spiritual rest in Christ. Being united with Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives spiritual rest—peace of mind and spiritual help in living a Christian life.

If you go back to Genesis 2, where the seventh day is first mentioned, you may notice that it is not described as a 24-hour day with a morning and an evening like the other days. In its spiritual significance, the Sabbath doesn't have an end. The meaning is that God intended Adam and Eve to be in a harmonious, sinless relationship with him from then on. When they sinned, they were cast out of God's presence. The relationship was broken. They had been cast out of God's rest.

Next, the Sabbath is mentioned in connection with the events leading up to the giving of the old covenant at Sinai. At this point, the Sabbath was commanded to Israel as a day of the week on which the Israelites were to do no work. This Sabbath was a reminder of the creation rest that had been lost and a shadow of

Christ and his spiritual work of salvation. Christ is the reality to which the physical Sabbath pointed. Christ is not merely the Lord of one day, but of all time and all things (Colossians 1:15-20). When we are resting in Christ, we are keeping the true Sabbath (spiritual rest) regardless of what time or day it is.

Even when Israel kept the seventh-day Sabbath, they could not enter into God's rest because of their unbelieving hearts (Hebrews 3:7-19). But, Jesus invites us to enter the true rest that the weekly Sabbath foreshadowed (Matthew 11:28-30). When we enter God's true rest, we cease from our own works—living in sin (Hebrews 4:10).

The true rest, then, is the new life in Christ. Through him we have ceased from our futile works of sin, and we now walk in newness of life as new creations in Christ (Romans 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17), created for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10). Living in Christ is resting from sin and is living by love. This is what it means to keep the Sabbath in the spirit and from the heart. This is not something done one day a week, but always.

The Bible tells us that our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). In Christ this separation has been taken away (Colossians 2:13-15). We had been like sheep going astray, but now we have been healed by Christ's stripes and are returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls (1 Peter 2:24-25). We now have the pledge of a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21). Through the Holy Spirit, the Father and the Son have come to dwell in us (John 14:17, 23).

Living in God's rest means having God dwelling in us. We have become a new creation, and our life has become God's life! What a wonderful gift! Is it any wonder that the apostle Paul could say with great joy, "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3)?

# Personal: Festivals celebrate kingdom of God

Continued from page 1

finds it distressing, of course, not to be able to be more involved in his work right now, but he continually expresses to a number of us in Pasadena his excitement and thankfulness to God about the spiritual growth and direction of the Church, a feeling we all share.

On the subject of Ambassador, I hope we will all remember the faculty and students in our prayers. They need God's guidance and blessing in handling the unique situations they face this year, and for the long-term benefit the university can give the Church and its members.

Church finances seem to be stabilizing somewhat, and our expenses are now near our income—due primarily to reductions in our expenses. Steady, stable income is very important, of course, and greatly needed, so we ask you to pray about the annual festival offerings as well as our regular income.

Christians do have a responsibility to use their resources to serve God, and this is done primarily, in the collective sense, through the Church. Most contributions are used to directly benefit the membership—providing meeting facilities, literature, training and paying ministerial expenses. Most members realize that the level of service the Church can provide depends largely on the level of contributions.

## Ready for the Feast

In this letter, I want to turn our attention to the fall festival season.

My dad wants me to bring to your attention a mistake many of us have made, himself and myself included. Sometimes we have talked as if the Millennium of Revelation 20 were the same thing as the kingdom of God. God's kingdom, of course, includes much more (both in space and in time) than a mere 1,000 years.

God's kingdom has always existed in heaven, of course, and the holy angels are loyal subjects of the kingdom. The kingdom existed when Jesus was on earth (Luke 17:21), it exists even now (Colossians 1:13 says that we, along with all saints, are already in the kingdom), it will be expanded to incorporate all things after Christ returns and it will exist forever and ever.

(In fact, it is probably better stated that all rebellious elements of the kingdom will be, one way or another, brought into subjection, since nothing is actually not under God's ultimate authority; it is just that parts of the kingdom are currently in rebellion against God.)

The Millennium, regardless of how it is interpreted, is simply one temporary phase of the human experience of God's kingdom—one of the places and ages and ways in which he rules. I think we all know this by now, but I hope a brief reminder will help us avoid confusing the terms.

Hand in hand with this is the fact that the Millennium is not the gospel. The Millennium, 1,000 years of saints reigning with Christ, is indeed good news, but it is not *the* good news.

When Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God, he did not focus on the Millennium. Rather, his main point was how people *enter* the kingdom—by repentance and forgiveness and through faith in him as Messiah and the Son of God.

Entering the kingdom is the same as entering into salvation, and the

book of Acts shows that the gospel of the kingdom is the same thing as the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

The good news is that we can *enter* the kingdom. The gospel tells people how they can respond to God's invitation to be in his kingdom forever. The gospel is the same today as it has been for the past nearly 2,000 years, and as long as there are mortal humans, it will always be the same.

As another point, sometimes we have said that the Millennium is the "fullness of the kingdom." I've probably said it myself, but it's not true. The fullness of the kingdom does not come until *after* the Millennium,

**Our fall festivals traditionally focus on the wonderful future God has promised those who love Jesus Christ, and this is good. We have multitudinous reasons to rejoice and praise our Savior for making it possible for us to enter that glory.**

with the new heavens and new earth. It is *only then* that the fullness of the kingdom will have come, when everyone who is going to be saved will have been saved and glorified.

That future age of glory, the new heavens and new earth, will be eternal. The Millennium of Revelation 20, no matter how it is interpreted, simply can't compare to eternity either in glory or in length. The Millennium is only a preparatory step toward the fullness of the kingdom. It is not the focus of the gospel.

Our fall festivals traditionally focus on the wonderful future God has promised those who love Jesus Christ, and this is good. We have multitudinous reasons to rejoice and praise our Savior for making it possible for us to enter that glory. We eagerly look forward to the return of Christ and the inheritance of the saints.

But our celebration should not focus on unprovable speculation about physical details of a physical Millennium. Rather, we should be celebrating the good news of eternal life in the kingdom of God—the fact that God has invited us to enter it, and that Jesus Christ has made it possible!

Let the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles be a celebration not merely of the millennial reign of Christ and the saints, but primarily of the fullness of the kingdom, focusing our attention on the glorious new heavens and new earth God has promised.

The good news is that God is right now calling many to enter that kingdom—a cause for great celebration!

Let's remember that the apostles interpreted numerous promises given to Israel through the prophets as having been fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, "who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through

his holy prophets" (Acts 3:18-26, New Revised Standard).

And Peter expressly wrote that what we, as Christians, are looking forward to is the new heavens and new earth "in accordance with his promise" (2 Peter 3:11-14 New Revised Standard).

The Millennium, which is mentioned only in Revelation 20, is simply not the focus of the gospel or the preaching of the apostles. They focused on reconciliation with God through faith in Jesus Christ, which would lead to an inheritance of immortality at his second coming, and contrasted that with the ultimate destruction of the enemies of God.

And let our celebration on the Last Great Day remind us that our merciful Lord who died for all will indeed judge all humans fairly and justly, even those who never heard the gospel in their lifetimes. He will make fair provision for them as the Righteous Judge of all, as described in Revelation 20:11-15.

Let's not get hung up on *when* and *in what order* all these events take place. There are various ways the time order could be interpreted. That's not the point of the promises. Let's rejoice in the wonderful assurance of salvation and immortality that God has given us in Christ through his Spirit, and celebrate the glorious plan of salvation our Father has revealed in his Son (Ephesians 3:8-11).

## Celebrating God's plan

God has a wonderful plan for us—redemption and salvation, reconciliation with God, eternal life through Jesus Christ. On the annual festivals, we celebrate what God has done for humanity through our Savior, and we look forward in hope to his second coming and our inheritance of immortality with him. Salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is "the reason for the season."

As my dad wrote a year ago (Sept. 5, 1994, WN): "I find it tremendously exciting to think about these amazing future blessings, and I hope that you share in my enthusiasm."

## Good News Grapevine

Continued from page 2

I too went through a period of disorientation and frustration when facing the changes. I felt without foundation at times. One thing I remembered from my 15 years of teaching speech here at Ambassador, is that sometimes you are asked to be a proponent on an issue you don't really want to have anything to do with.

I decided that if I was to be fair with the new teaching I needed to fight through the emotion and be a proponent. Only then would it get a fair hearing with me. So in the uncharted waters I went—and it worked. I am filled with excitement about where Christ is leading us.

Proverbs 18:13 describes this process. Thanks for the encouragement found in Good News Grapevine.

Gary Shaffer  
Ambassador University

Like most, at the beginning, I had a difficult time with the new understanding. I had told brethren beforehand, on different occasions, that despite the many changes we were going through, at least we would always have the Sabbath, Holy Days

I ask you to help make the Feast "a time for celebration and rejoicing in our spiritual blessings, in the joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"Our promised *spiritual* inheritance, of which we already have a foretaste, is a much greater and glorious blessing than the promised land was to the Israelites—and it is also an infinitely greater blessing than the physical abundance described by the Old Testament prophets. In Jesus the Messiah, all things are fulfilled, and we can certainly say, as well, filled to the fullest and overflowing.

"Notice that the book of Revelation has only a few verses about the Millennium, and there is no description of physical blessings. Far more attention is given to the new heaven and new earth.

"Like John, we need to see beyond the Millennium. The physical Millennium will be temporary, but the spiritual kingdom of God lasts forever. As the spiritual people of God, we need to have a spiritual focus. We ought to let the physical point us to the spiritual and the eternal."

As we keep the Feast, let's rejoice that we have been chosen as part of God's spiritual harvest. Festival messages should have a more spiritual focus than we have tended to give them in the past. That's also why I want the music at the Feast to be joyful, ringing with praise and thanksgiving to God for the salvation he gives not only to us, but to all through the reign of Jesus Christ.

For some *Worldwide News* readers, this will be the last "Personal" that will arrive before the Feast, so let me close by wishing everyone, on behalf of my dad and myself and all of us in Pasadena, the most meaningful and happy Feast ever.

Come before the Lord with rejoicing, and with songs of praise. Worship him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength—and please don't forget the offering!

With love and joy, in Christ's name,

Joseph Tkach Jr.

and tithing as "untouchable." Famous last words.

However, by studying the material preached and written from headquarters, I came to realize that the "inspired margin" of my Bible was not as inspired as I had thought. It became clear that some "difficult scriptures" were only difficult because, in the past, if we read them at face value, they said something we didn't want to hear.

Since we interpreted the New Testament in the light of the Old, then whatever the New Testament said in regard to Holy Days and other matters, we had to fit in with what the Old Testament said. If it didn't we gave those scriptures a "stretched" explanation.

Now, by interpreting the Old Testament in the light of the New, we are finally getting our theology to fit with what the Bible is actually saying for Christians today.

Paul's statement in Ephesians 2:20 that we "are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets," reversing the chronological and natural order, and giving precedence to the apostles, may be a hint at the fact that the apos-

See Grapevine, page 8

# Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

June 15, now 3 girls.

**MORISSET**, Eugene and Deborah (Brubaker) of St. Paul, Minnesota, girl, Elaine Lillian, July 4, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**ORBAN**, Douglas and Desirea (Lindquist) of Denver, Colorado, twin boys, Colton Mark and Conner Douglas, July 8, first children.

**THOMPSON**, Erik and Daphne (Clark) of Wodonga, Australia, boy, Aikk Erik, June 11, now 4 boys.

**WEANER**, Alan and Christina (Charles) of Roanoke, Virginia, girl, Julia Kate, July 11, now 2 girls.

**WILLIAMS**, Willie and Karen (Stevens) of Sharon, Mississippi, girl, Jessica Elizabeth, March 28, now 2 girls.

**WILLIAMSON**, Mark and Pam (Nickelsen) of Spring Hill, Kansas, boy, Byron Devon, Aug. 11, first child.

**WOMERSLEY**, Andrew and Joannie (Scalf) of Warrnambool, Australia, twin boy and girl, Michael Allen and Rhiannon Marie, Aug. 10, first children.

**YEOMANS**, Cam and Lori (Murphy) of Calgary, Alberta, boy, Shane Mackenzie, June 28, first child.

## Engagements

Alan (Tom) Marquis and Sarah Gast of Columbus, Ohio, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Deborah Helene to Thomas Murray of Akron, Ohio. A spring wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Edwin Doncheck of London, England, are pleased to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Wendy Ann, to Paul Robert Fife of Edenbridge, England. A Dec. 21 wedding is planned in Bali, Indonesia.

Nancy Rucker of Wichita, Kansas, and Glen L. Rucker of Des Plaines, Illinois, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Julia Lin Rucker to Jon David Beadles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson D. Beadles of Madill, Oklahoma. A Sept. 17 wedding in Madill is planned. The couple will live in Wichita.

## Weddings



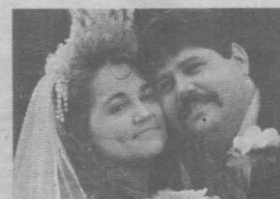
**NATHAN & JACQUELINE SCHMIDT**

Jacqueline Marie Weidman, daughter of Gary and Donna Weidman of Leduc, Alberta, and Nathaniel Gene Schmidt, son of Walter and Jeana Schmidt of Edmonton, Alberta, were united in marriage May 6. Patricia Kneller, Charmaine Botros, Rebecca Schmidt and Kathy Downey attended the bride. Walter Schmidt Jr., John Rehring, Clayton Weidman and Tony Siewert were groomsmen. The couple live in Edmonton.



**TAD JR. & RACHEL LAMB**

Rachel Shenora Kirishian, daughter of Arthur and Mignon Kirishian of Puyallup, Washington, and Tad Lamb Jr., son of Tad and Cathy Lamb of Columbus, Ohio, were united in marriage July 2. The ceremony was performed by John Karlson, pastor of the Columbus, Ohio, church. Ruthanne Wood, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Jason Lind was best man. The couple live in Columbus.



**SCOTT & TAUNNYA COE**

Taunnya Dunn, daughter of James and Carolyn Blake of Cameron, West Virginia, and Scott Coe of East Liverpool, Ohio, were united in marriage April 30. The ceremony was performed by John Dobritch, pastor of the Youngstown, Ohio, church. Wendy Lane was matron of honor, and Dan Coe, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in East Palestine, Ohio.

Olive Baker of Dorset, England, and Alan Grist of Kent, England, were

united in marriage July 21. The ceremony was performed by Barry Bourne, pastor of the Southampton, Reading and Godalming churches. The couple live in Kent.



**DUSTIN & MONICA REGISTER**

Monica McGowan, daughter of Jeff and Judy McGowan of Peoria, Illinois, and Dustin Register, son of Lloyd Register III of Maitland, Florida, and Cassie Register of Orlando, Florida, were united in marriage May 16. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, pastor of the Peoria church. Roxanne Sears was matron of honor, and Jon Register, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Winter Park, Florida.



**MICHAEL & RACHEL SWAIM**

Rachel Ellen Rowe, daughter of Jerry and Deborah Rowe of Marion, Indiana, and Michael David Swaim, son of David and Carla Swaim of Crawfordsville, Indiana, were united in marriage July 2. The ceremony was performed by Michael Grovak, pastor of the Lafayette, Indiana, church. Camille Benbow was maid of honor, and Tom Swaim, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live near West Lafayette, Indiana.



**MATTHEW & REBECCA FRICKE**

Rebecca Dunn, daughter of Ed and Carol Dunn of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, and Matthew Shawn Fricke, son of Ron Fricke of Baldwin, North Dakota, and Marlys Fricke of Bismarck, North Dakota, were united in marriage June 11. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, a local church elder in the Indiana, Pennsylvania, church. Laura Scott, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Aimee Pail was maid of honor. The best men were the groom's father and Rob Wilkin. The couple live in Bismarck.



**MALCOLM & SUSAN FARLAND**

Malcolm George Farland and Susan Bell were united in marriage April 14 in Manurewa, Auckland, New Zealand. The ceremony was performed by Colin Riseborough, pastor of the Whangarei church. The couple were attended by the bride's sister, Carolyn, her daughter, Rachel, and sons of the groom, David and Arron.



**GEORGE & SARAH STRUB**

Sarah Rehak, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Del Rehak of Big Sandy, and George Strub, son of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Strub of Huntsville, Texas, were united in marriage Aug. 6. The ceremony was conducted by Marty Yale, a minister in the Big Sandy church. Marinette Soberano, Jennifer Taylor, David Marquis and Patrick Strub attended the bride and groom. The couple live in Big Sandy.



**FRAM & CARLA SETHNA**

Carla Pearson, daughter of Pat and

David Pearson of Buckhorn, Ontario, and Fram Sethna, son of Freny and Bomi Sethna of Toronto, Ontario, were united in marriage June 18. Dennis Lawrence, pastor of the Barrie, Ontario, church, performed the ceremony. The bride's attendants were Jodee Burbach, Patricia Romeo, Shannon McKenzie, Tina Rayner, Wendy Jacobs and Shireen Sethna. The groom's attendants were Arthur Gonzales, Chris Kraft, Ken Clayton, Andrew Steinhuebl, Dexter Legerton and Greg Pearson. The couple live in Toronto.

## Anniversaries



**ERNESTO & ROSALIA BAYLOSIS**

Ernesto and Rosalia Baylosis of Makati City, Philippines, celebrated their 30th anniversary May 31. They have four children, Mary Ann, John-Ted, Kristine and Ryan.



**MR. & MRS. STEVEN HONSE**

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Honse of Bettendorf, Iowa, celebrated their 25th anniversary June 12. They have two children, Amy and Eric. Mr. Honse is a local church elder in the Davenport and Iowa City, Iowa, churches.



**ALBERT & MARILYN TALISON**

Albert and Marilyn Talison of Indianapolis, Indiana, celebrated their 25th anniversary Aug. 2. They have two children, Michele Moseley and Chris; a son-in-law, Joel Moseley; and a granddaughter, Tiera. The Talisons serve as deacon and deaconess in the Indianapolis P.M. church.



**ROBIN & LILIAN MORROW**

Robin and Lilian Morrow of Ipswich, Suffolk, England (previously of Belfast, Northern Ireland), celebrated their 45th anniversary Aug. 21. They have two sons, Gordon and Paul, two daughters-in-law, Daphne and Jacqueline, and four grandsons, Michael, David, Niall and Conor.



**MR. & MRS. RICHARD SIEDSCHLAG**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Siedschlag of Moorhead, Minnesota, celebrated their 35th anniversary July 2. They have two sons, Daniel and Michael; three daughters and three sons-in-law, Carolyn and Tim Sigurdson, Darline and Stephen Sween and Paulette and Tim Wolbeck; and three granddaughters, Jessica and Jasmine Sigurdson, and Amber Wolbeck.

## Anniversaries Made of Gold

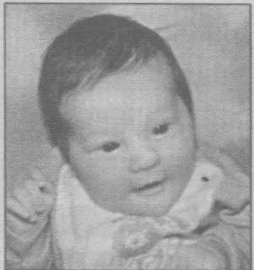


**BRISCOE & VERNELLE ELLETT**

Vernelle and Briscoe Ellett of Wade,

## Birth Announcement

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



Our coupon baby this issue is Krista Lee Kasperon, daughter of Mark and Mary Ann Kasperon of New Haven, Connecticut.

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

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

\*Including newborn  
9-95

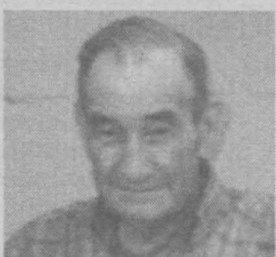
North Carolina, celebrated their 50th anniversary July 7. They have three sons and a daughter, Briscoe II, Patrick, Michael and Donna Int-Hout.



**ALBERT & BARBARA SPRINGMEYER**

Albert and Barbara Springmeyer of Sparks, Nevada, celebrated their 50th anniversary July 3. They have six children, Sue Nelson, Martha Voss, Tom, Dan, Cliff and Andy; two sons-in-law, Sid Nelson and Chuck Voss; 13 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## Obituaries



**ROBERT OSBORNE**

OSBORNE, Robert, 97, of Vinton, Ohio, died Aug. 7. He is survived by two sons, Robert and Larry; five daughters, Virginia Webb, Bernice Dooley, Donna Peck Jackson, Shirley Terry and Betty Jo Higley; a daughter-in-law, Donna; and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel Pearl; two sons; four daughters; five brothers; and one sister.

MORGAN, Essie, 91, of Mayo, Florida, died July 16. She is survived by four sons and one daughter, Dorothy Swinson; 24 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; four sisters; and two brothers. She was preceded in death by her husband, one son and four daughters.

MINK, Sheridan, 90, of Mount Vernon, Kentucky, died June 13 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Lessie, eight daughters, three sons, two sisters, one brother, 56 grandchildren, 79 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son.



**JOSEPH LAVERGNE**

LAVERGNE, Joseph A., 80, of Texas City, Texas, died July 25 of bone cancer. He is survived by his wife, Evia; four children, Joe, Verna, Lionel and Margaret; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a

brother and three sisters.



**MARIE HANIST**

HANIST, Marie, 73, of Bradley, Arkansas, died July 28 of a stroke. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Crabtree; a son, Willie; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



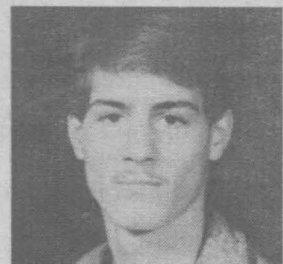
**ROSE JACKSON**

JACKSON, Rose, 63, of Youngstown, Ohio, died July 30 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Harold; a daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Randy; two sons, Jay and Tom; and two grandchildren, Jeffrey and Becca.

DUBOIS, Desire, 60, of Birmingham, Alabama, died June 23 of lymphoma. He is survived by his wife, Lois; three stepdaughters, Lynne Thomas, Anne Morgan and Nora Benson; five brothers; and two sisters.

LEASURE, Norma Sue, 56, of Moore, Oklahoma, died March 29 of heart failure. She is survived by her mother, Hopel Meazie; two daughters, Yvonne Burgess and Louise Andrews; a son, Bobby; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; four sisters; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, a son, a daughter, her father and two brothers.

BAILEY, Michael R., 42, of St. Louis, Missouri, died unexpectedly July 7. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; his mother, Delores; a brother, David; a sister and brother-in-law, Don and Travis; and other family members.



**DAVID ENGE**

ENGE, David Laurence, 22, of Evansburg, Alberta, died July 3 after an automobile fell on him. He is survived by his parents, Laurence Enge and Reta Tolmie; a brother and two sisters, Eric, Candace Welsh and Crystal; two step-sisters; two step-brothers; his grandparents, Peter and Gwen Kopp, and Edith Enge; and many aunts and uncles.

# Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

## Regional pastor appointed for German-speaking areas

BONN, Germany—**Paul Kieffer**, regional director for the German-speaking areas, resigned Aug. 1. No new regional director will be assigned to the area, but **Henry Sturcke** has been appointed regional pastor.



Henry & Edel Sturcke

Mr. Sturcke will also serve as coordinator and liaison with headquarters for the ministry in Germany, and advise staff in the Bonn Office.

## Scots box goods for victims in Bosnia

SCOTLAND—Congrega-



**RELIEF**—Members from five congregations in Scotland packaged donated items for a charity that aids victims of the war in Bosnia.

tions in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Irvine and Perth added their generosity to that of many others to help ease the lives of victims caught up in the conflicts in Bosnia.

Members first collected shoe boxes from shoe retailers. Then adults and children from all five congregations packed the boxes with nonperishable foods, toiletries, candles and other items donated by members.

In addition, more canned food, cereal, 120 pounds of flour, sugar and pasta, plus quantities of salt, porridge and coffee were donated by the Summer Educational Program (SEP) camp at Loch Lommond, Scotland.

The items were taken to collection points organized by the *Sunday Post* newspaper and taken by truck to Bosnia by Edinburgh Direct, a charity that delivers much-needed items to the people in Bosnia every six weeks. *Stuart Bellini*.

## YOU members entertain international campers

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—YOU members **Julie Amick**, **Maryann Livermore** and **Theresa Dobritch** of the Youngstown church helped entertain 48 international campers aged 11 from 12 countries including El Salvador, Turkey, Denmark and Indonesia.

This camp was conducted

in Youngstown by CISV (Children's International Summer Villages), a volunteer organization that offers children an opportunity to make new friendships worldwide and understand and appreciate different cultures. CISV has other campsites in the United States and in 61 other countries.

**Nelson and Donna Trickett**, members of the Youngstown church, organized a one-hour presentation for the campers, which consisted of hand puppets, marionettes, international music, skits featuring facts about the various countries represented at the camp and hands-on international musical instrument experience.

If other congregations would like to learn more about a CISV chapter nearest them, write to Children's International Summer Villages; **Sally Stein**, Administrative Secretary; 833 N. Dorset Rd.; Troy, Ohio, 45373; or call 1-513-335-4640.

## Charity golf scramble at Feast in Pensacola

A charity golf scramble will take place Oct. 12 at Fantastic Marcus Point Golf Club in Pensacola, Florida.

The entry fee is \$50 with \$15 of that amount going to an area charity. The fee includes green fee, cart and box lunch. Mulligans (extra shots) can be purchased at \$5

each. Please send fee and average score by Sept. 29 to **Bob Albarado**, 106 Teakwood Dr., Youngsville, Louisiana, 70592, telephone 1-318-837-2112.

## Pioneer of color photography turns 90

BONN, Germany—**Alfred Hennig** celebrated his 90th birthday Sept. 2, and was honored by the official News Service of the German Parliament.

Mr. Hennig and his wife, **Helene**, have been associated with the Church and the Bonn Office since the mid-1960s when **Frank Schnee**, then regional director for the German-speaking areas, obtained photo material from him for Church publications.

In 1974, for recognition of



Helene & Alfred Hennig

his work in color photography, Mr. Hennig received the *Bundesverdienstkreuz*—the Order of the Federal Republic of Germany—one of the highest orders given in recognition of service toward the public and the state.

In 1993 the city of Bonn exhibited 30 poster-sized photos he had taken, displaying them under the title "Crowned Heads in Bonn."

## Christian artists celebrate before the Lord

ESTES PARK, Colorado—Some 3,000 worship leaders and Christian singers from various denominations around

the world gathered here for the 21st annual Christian Artists seminar, July 30. The theme for this year's event was "Celebrate Before the Lord."

Representing the Church were **Ross Jutsum**, chair of the Music Department at Ambassador University, and **Mike Hale**, Creative Services art director in Pasadena.

The six-day event offered workshops, seminars, concerts and worship services. The seminar was designed to be a time of refreshment and renewal.

Conferences included music and worship, drama, dance, songwriting and performances, along with competitions in many of these areas.

Performances were given by **Susan Ashton**, **Ray Boltz**, **Bruce Carol**, **The Gaither Vocal Band**, **Steve Green**, **Larnelle Harris**, **Wayne Watson**, **Marty Raybon**, **Bestal Goodman**, **Mark Lowry**, **Babbie Mason** and many others.

"I felt encouraged to meet and exchange ideas with so many people dedicating themselves to serving in music ministries," Mr. Hale said.

"Dr. Jutsum plans to take some of the music showcased in Estes Park and use it in Big Sandy with the orchestra, choir and Young Ambassadors, and with the entire student body at the new weekday chapel services at the university."

## Member produces poetry book

WATERFORD, Michigan—Member **Joann Rhue** put together a collection of her poems in a softbound book titled *Rhyme and Reason*. If you would like a copy of *Rhyme and Reason*, send \$10 per copy, plus \$2 for shipping, to **Joann Rhue**, 2830 Wisner, Waterford, Michigan, 48329, or call 1-810-666-4740.

100% recycled paper



## Ambassador alumni invited to homecoming in December

Ambassador alumni are invited to attend this year's homecoming Dec. 21 to 24.

Events include class reunion hospitality hours at faculty homes; dinner with entertainment in a setting of a '50s diner; a question and answer session with university administration; open house at several campus locations; an intercollegiate basketball game; and a family brunch Sunday morning. (See Aug. 15 *WN* for details.)

Cost for the weekend's activities is \$35 per person for members of the alumni association and \$45 per person for nonalumni spouses or alumni who have not joined the alumni association.

Reservations and payment must be received no later than Dec. 1. For reservations or more information or to request a homecoming brochure, please call the alumni association office at 1-903-636-2023. The fax number is a 1-903-636-2365 and the Internet e-mail address is [alumni@ambassador.edu](mailto:alumni@ambassador.edu).

For your convenience, you may pay using your Visa or MasterCard.

## Good News Grapevine

Continued from page 6

tles (and therefore the New Testament) take precedence over the prophets (the Old Testament).

I thought I had a new covenant religion. What I actually had was an old covenant religion in New Testament guise.

Instead of the exclusive group we tended to be (promoting brotherly love among ourselves, but avoiding the world), we will now be reaching out to extend love to all humankind.

The personal evangelism approach that Mr. Tkach has been teaching goes hand-in-hand with this new covenant Christianity, that of going forth into all the world.

It has been a humbling experience to see I was wrong in many areas. It has been a sad- dening experience to see many

friends leave the Church. But I find myself feeling so positive now about the future of the Church despite the present losses.

Having been through our old covenant phase, and seeing firsthand where it is deficient in comparison to the new, we can appreciate far more this new covenant that Christ brings to us.

I believe we are now poised to do our greatest work ever. We have no television, our *Plain Truth* circulation is small compared to what it once was, our numbers are down and our finances are low.

What better time then for a work to be done, "not by [human] might or power, but by My spirit, says the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6), the Holy Spirit of the new covenant.

Keith Brittain  
New Bern and Wilmington,  
North Carolina

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