



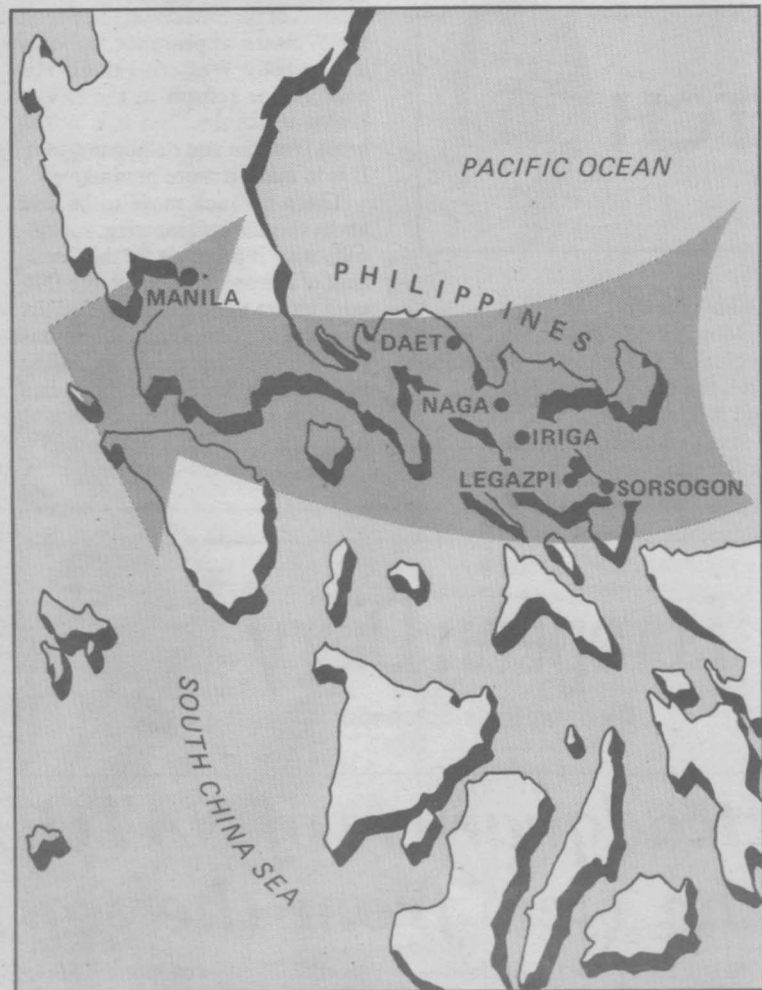
# The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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DEC. 21, 1987



**PATH OF DESTRUCTION**—Five congregations were in the path of Typhoon Sisang that sliced through the Philippines Nov. 25. Seven Church families lost their homes, and one prospective member drowned while attempting to save his nephew and his family. [Map by Ronald Grove]

## Prospective member dies, homes lost

# Typhoon ravages Philippines

**By Rodney Matthews**  
MANILA, Philippines—One prospective member drowned in a rescue attempt and seven Church families lost their homes when Typhoon Sisang sliced through the Bicol region of southern Luzon Nov. 25.

*Rodney Matthews is regional director of the Philippines.*

In the typhoon's path were five cities where God's Church meets—Sorsogon, Legazpi, Iriga, Naga and Daet.

Although final figures are not likely to be known, the government estimates that Sisang killed 600 people, including 200 in Sorsogon

who were swept away by the sea after they did not heed warnings of tidal surges and high waves.

With winds gusting up to 200 kilometers (124 miles) an hour, Sisang was considered one of the most powerful typhoons to hit the region in decades.

Outside of the Philippines the typhoon was named Nina. When typhoons enter Philippine sea waters they are renamed with mainly feminine Philippine names.

### Members protected

Members reported numerous incidents of God's intervention. A family in Iriga fled their house in the middle of the storm as they felt it was becoming dangerous. The instant they were outside, the house collapsed, and as they struggled through the storm a coconut tree fell behind them. They said they were conscious of God's hand protecting them.

Jose Banares, a prospective member attending the Legazpi church, drowned while attempting to rescue his nephew and his family, who lived on an island.

Many members who depend upon crops for their livelihood found extensive damage to their crops.

Medardo Maninang, pastor of the Iriga, Naga and Daet churches in the adjoining provinces to the north, traveled to the Sorsogon and Legazpi region after the storm to check on the safety and needs of the members. George Escara, pastor of the churches, was in Pasadena attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program when the typhoon struck.

Mr. Maninang found an area of massive devastation, demolished homes, ruined crops and downed power lines. Authorities said elec-

trical service may not be restored in some areas for up to four months.

In addition to the seven families who lost their homes, he found others who experienced varying degrees of damage, from loss of roofs to minor damage.

Communications to the area were cut, which hampered attempts by the Manila Office to help brethren. On the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6, however, the Manila Office sent the former pastor of churches in that area, Dionisio Catchillar, now associate pastor of the Manila church, to the region.

Mr. Catchillar communicated the concern of headquarters in Pasadena and the Manila Office and delivered money for the brethren to purchase food and clothing and to rebuild their homes.

Materials used in the repair of houses are in short supply, and prices have more than doubled. As people compete for the limited supplies, businessmen have increased prices to take advantage of the situation.

It will take many months for the region to return to normal, and many years for the coconut trees to bear fruit. However, members from other areas of the country are helping brethren by sending clothing and financial aid.

### Donations not needed

The Church in the Philippines is able to handle the clothing needs of the brethren in the affected areas, and asks that members not send clothing to brethren there. A duty is charged on clothing shipped into the Philippines.

The members expressed their gratitude for God's protection from injury.

**By Kerri Miles**

PASADENA—Joseph Locke, a vice president of the Ambassador Foundation, left here Nov. 30 for Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, to attend the second commencement exercises at the Waterfield Institute, a school operated by the foundation.

Mr. Locke was accompanied by Ellen Escat, administrative assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach; Julie Stocker, administrative assistant in Communications & Public Affairs; and Scott Gjesvold, an instructor at Imperial Schools.

The group stopped in Bangkok, Thailand, and arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Wednesday, Dec. 2. A Sri Lankan air force helicopter transported them to Nuwara Eliya.

Mr. Locke spoke to the graduating class of 65 students, and Gamini Dissanayake, a Sri Lankan cabinet minister and government official in charge of the school, delivered the commencement address. Mr. Tkach telephoned Mr. Dissanayake at the school.

Mr. Dissanayake said Waterfield Institute "is a tribute to the ideals and objectives" of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, according to the

Dec. 10 Ceylon Daily News.

"The story appeared on page 3," said Mohan Jayasekera, pastor of the Colombo church. "The event has received wide publicity nationally here. The national news telecast on the night of Dec. 6 showed shots of the graduation . . . The national radio did a 15-minute story on the school on Friday [Dec. 4]."

He added that four government ministers and other dignitaries, including U.S. Ambassador James Spain, attended the event.

The school, which offers a one-year program of English and vocational courses, will accept about 70 of 300 applicants for the new academic year, which begins in January, Mr. Locke said.

Waterfield Institute is staffed primarily with Ambassador College

students and graduates. Irene Francis, Jennifer Pairitz and Rachel Best will return to the United States, and three other college women, Anita Bourelle, Jennifer VanDyke and Alisa Ferdig, will take their places in January.

Mr. Locke and his party returned to Bangkok after the graduation and spent five days there before returning to Pasadena Dec. 9.

While in Bangkok, Mr. Locke visited Ambassador College students and each of the schools where they teach English. He also saw officials to plan for next year's Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and met with Anan Attachoo, dean of faculty at Chulalongkorn University.

For photo coverage of the trip to Sri Lanka and Thailand see page 7.



**WATERFIELD FACULTY**—From left: Mike Johnson, Irene Francis, David Andrews, Rachel Best, Michael Cook, Dorrie Baker, David Baker (school director), Gamini Dissanayake (a Sri Lankan cabinet minister) and his wife, Timothy Waddle, Jennifer Pairitz and Eric Myers. [Photo by Scott Gjesvold]

## PERSONAL FROM

*Joseph W. Tkach*

Dear brethren:

As the beginning of a new calendar year draws near, people around the world begin thinking about making certain "New Year's resolutions."

People are often quite sincere about their resolutions, and really do have a burning desire to put them into action and to make them last.

Some resolve to lose weight. Some resolve to spend more time with their families. Some resolve to stop smoking. Some resolve to quit getting drunk, or to stop some other kind of damaging habit or practice.

In short, the new year is seen as a kind of starting place. As a point in time when the past can be left behind—an opportunity for a new beginning.

Everyone needs a fresh start once in a while. It gives a whole new perspective. It gives a ray of hope that things will be differ-

ent, that they will be better.

Brethren, as God's people, we do not have to wait until the end of the year to find an opportunity for a new beginning or a fresh start. God makes that wonderful cleansing opportunity available every day, at any time!

We are given the chance to leave the past behind and start anew whenever we are willing to take it. It is a marvelous gift from God, made possible only through the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is called *repentance!*

No other aspect of human life will ever be more important than the ongoing process of godly repentance. God has created us as physical human beings subject to all the trials and problems of temporary physical existence. But He did so for a magnificent, transcendent reason. It is through that experience that we can be prepared for the great change to perfect immortal life, never again to sin!

(See PERSONAL, page 7)

## INSIDE

### On the scene at summit . . . 2



### Ministerial counsel makes a difference . . . 5

# Superpower opposites meet face to face

PASADENA—In early December I covered the summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Accompanying me in Washington, D.C., was Norman Shoaf, an associate editor of *The Plain Truth*, and John Ross Schroeder, British regional editor of *The Plain Truth*.

The summit was indeed historic. For the first time the adversaries agreed to scrap an entire class of weapons, in this case, intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), which comprise Soviet SS-20 missiles and American-made Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles. Most of this weaponry is based in Europe and targeted on European sites.

Only the delivery systems are to be destroyed—the rockets—not the warheads, which either side can store or use on other systems. Only about 3 percent of the nuclear firepower of both sides is affected.

Nevertheless, the INF treaty, signed Dec. 8, is significant. It vindicated President Reagan's firmness in dealing with the Soviets. It was his decision to deploy the two types of weapons in response to the Soviet introduction of the SS-20s that eventually brought Moscow to the bargaining table.

Both U.S. weapons are far more accurate than the SS-20s. For the first time American nuclear missiles stationed in Europe could reach Soviet soil. Mr. Reagan, however, had left open a zero option. That is, if the Soviets would pull out their SS-20s, out would go the cruise missiles and Pershing 2s. Moscow balked at first, but eventually came around.

Soviet leaders understand firmness and unwavering commitment. That is why General Secretary Gor-

bachev, himself a strong and self-confident leader, chose to strike a deal with President Reagan, despite the latter having only a year left in office. Both men respect, and to a certain degree, trust, each other.

Nevertheless, taking no chances on the potential for cheating, American negotiators hedged the INF treaty with exhaustive requirements for verification.

In painstaking detail, a memorandum to the treaty outlines locations of weapons sites and manufacturing plants in the Soviet Union, Eastern and Western Europe, plus the United States.

The treaty provides for a 13-year process of on-site inspection (Americans on Soviet and East European soil and Soviets on American and Western European soil), plus details on how to explode, chop apart or crush each side's missiles.

Never has there been such an arms reduction treaty. It had to be so detailed, so devoid of gray areas, in order for the U.S. Senate to give its assent, which now seems likely.

## Little progress elsewhere

The two leaders also discussed other points of conflict. Here, little progress was made. Mr. Gorbachev could not hold out much hope on removing the Soviet military from Afghanistan. The Soviets simply haven't hit on a way to get out without the collapse of the Soviet-backed government there and resulting loss of prestige.

On other regional issues next to no progress was made. In southern Africa, for example, the struggle for power continues unabated. In November, in Angola, the biggest land battle in Africa since World War II took place. Pro-Western UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) forces, trying

to wrest control of the country from its Marxist forces, were nearly overrun in an offensive commanded by Soviet and East bloc officers, and supported by 35,000 Cuban troops and 4,000 North Koreans.

If it hadn't been for Stinger mis-

siles supplied by the United States, and 3,000 South African troops, rushed in at UNITA's request, the communist hold on all of Angola would have been accomplished. The balance of power on the African subcontinent would have shifted in Moscow's favor.

## WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg



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## Miles apart

It is not unusual that the two sides came to so little substantive agreement, other than the signing of the INF pact. Both societies—the United States and the Soviet Union—are miles apart in their views of the way societies should be organized and governments run.

The two leaders have essentially agreed to cautiously lower the levels of conflict, to live with their differences rather than fighting—directly—over them.

"I'm not dropping my guard or anything," Mr. Reagan told U.S. newspaper columnists. "But I think we have a potential here of a recognition that we have two systems that are competitive, that aren't alike and that have different values... but that have a desire to prove that

we can live in the world together in peace. But neither of us is going to drop his guard."

Mr. Gorbachev also conducted a meeting with U.S. journalists. Like his American counterpart, the Soviet leader upheld and defended his

cannot understand it when people do not share his perception of Soviet society.

"Nowhere did this show more vividly than when he responded to questions on human rights... 'We shall not tolerate anyone's attempts to teach us lessons... How dare anyone raise the issue of human rights in Russia?'"

"This man of unusual intelligence and political skill is still a product of the Soviet system. For all his Western appearance, he does not embody Western values. His concern for reform in the Soviet Union is genuine, but it is not to bring freedom and democracy to it. It is to make it more productive."

There is much more to be said about this historic meeting, specifically what it portends for the Continent of Europe from which the INF missiles are to be removed. Equally important, Mr. Gorbachev has raised interesting points regarding ties between the Soviet Union and Western Europe. More concerning these factors in the next issue.

(First of a two-part series)

## European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



## Headquarters of NATO: the view from the top

BOREHAMWOOD, England—The English Speaking Union visited the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, Belgium. I was pleased to be invited along.

Most of the day was spent in a briefing room. Speakers and panel discussions occupied a lion's share of the time.

Directly behind the main speaker's rostrum was a map that dominated the room. One could not look at the speaker without looking at the map. As the day wore on, the unspoken message of that map slowly seeped into my consciousness.

This wasn't a Mercator map. This wasn't a travel map. This map was designed for military purposes. In effect it was a polar map.

It looked at the world from the standpoint of the North Pole. Only the Northern Hemisphere was shown. From NATO's viewpoint the Southern Hemisphere hardly existed.

The Soviet Union dominated the map. After all, it represents one sixth of the world's land mass—about nine million square miles—and it covers 11 time zones.

Western Europe looked small by comparison. Even North America did not approach the vast Soviet size near the North Pole.

Alaska came to mind. What if the United States hadn't purchased its largest state in 1867? Where would the West be today?

The Mercator map can be deceptive. If one is not careful, one can begin to view the earth (unconsciously) as if it were flat. Travel maps have an important function, but maintaining a global view is somewhat difficult if they are the only maps we see. A globe is sometimes useful.

The traditional theater of modern war has been Central Europe. I tended to think of battle threats in simple trans-European terms.

But another dimension entered my mind when a NATO official from Bonn, West Germany, mounted a ladder and began to use this map as a prop to discuss war from a polar point of view.

He showed how the Soviets were increasing their strike forces at po-

lar sites. He showed how the Soviet Union could strike the northeastern United States over the North Pole. Western Europe is not a big factor in such strategy.

Finally he showed how the Soviet Union could strike Europe, coming north from behind the United Kingdom to attack.

On the right side of the map was a list of the 16 member nations of NATO. Listed No. 15 was the United Kingdom. Listed last was the United States. One might say it is because of alphabetical order, but there is no way the United States would be listed last if NATO had its headquarters in Washington or London.

Food for thought!

No American was among the speakers. A Briton was on one panel discussion, but the chief speaker was from Luxembourg. He was chairman of the panel and was clearly in control. Place names on the map were in two languages—French and English. Names in French were directly above the English.

Spain was a different color than its European counterparts. I asked why. No definite conclusion was reached. One postulation was that the Spanish were still negotiating their military role in NATO.

Be that as it may, NATO is under great pressure now. Significant nuclear disarmament in Europe would leave NATO with inferior conventional forces. Clearly Western Europe is worried about the effects of the American-Soviet missile accords. Will these developments spur Europe into getting on with its own defense?

Said the Sept. 26 *Economist*: "This paper has urged that, by the early 1990s, West Europeans should take over about two-fifths of the work the Americans now do for the defence of Europe. We did so... because one day the United States may willy-nilly start pulling troops out of Europe, but also because Europe's self-respect requires it to do more for itself."

Unforeseen and unexpected events may force European unity in the 1990s. Political and military unity!



## Just between friends

By Dexter H. Faulkner

## Don't wait for a crisis

Many times articles or sermons on Christian life focus on crisis experiences. That's because we often need calls to action, and certainly spiritual principles must be applied in a crisis.

But it is equally true that since most of our time is spent in the daily routine of life, we must learn spiritual principles by applying them in these areas as well.

One of the basics of our Christian growth is faithfulness. That is why Paul wrote, "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2).

Have you noticed that when Paul summarized what our conduct should be, he related it to the ordinary day-to-day activities of life? "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31, New King James).

Read it again. He said, "Whatever you do." Thus it is in the routines of life, as well as in the crises, that a Christian will exhibit faithfulness to his or her Creator.

Why so often then do we have to have a crisis in our lives to point that out? After the Feast this year Clayton Steep, senior writer for *The Plain Truth* and a longtime friend and colleague, became ill and had to be hospitalized. That was a crisis for him and for Editorial! Afterward he sent me a note summarizing his feelings as he experienced daily life in the hospital. I feel that some of

the things he learned reflect what Paul was teaching us about faithfulness.

### Inside room 211

I can't point to a long list of new lessons I learned for the first time during the course of my bout with pneumonia. But the experience certainly did reconfirm various truths that I already knew. Among them:

- God is indeed a very present help when we are in trouble.

- Try as they sincerely may, human beings, limited as they are, can only produce imperfect remedies.

- As repeated time and again by hospital staff, I am fortunate to have such wonderful friends as the brethren showed themselves to be. So many people wind up in the hospital only to have their "friends" desert them. They get no mail, receive no visitors, have no one who cares.

- When doctors are pessimistic, it is good to know they don't have the last word.

- Above all people, those who are ill should be spared having to eat hospital food.

- If most night television is a waste of time, day television is worse! What a breath of fresh air is the *World Tomorrow* program!

- Sometimes it doesn't pay to fight the system. I got so saturated from drinking all the liquids set before me that when no one was looking I began to dump some of the water out of the window, in the

flowerpot, down the drain. Then I found out that both my intake and output were being carefully monitored and compared. The discrepancy in the quantities must have really made some on the medical staff scratch their heads! I can hear it now: "What kind of a rare case do we have here?"

- We don't appreciate enough being able to understand the Bible. Most on the hospital staff who saw me reading my Bible didn't say anything about it, but I know they noticed. And I'm sure they wondered what I was getting out of it. A nurse commented: "Ahhhh, the Bible! What a wonderful book! It has the answers to all of our problems—all of them." Then, embarrassed, she mumbled that she wished she had the time to read it.

- There was no getting around one message that was clear to everyone, though: Things worked out unbelievably and surprisingly well for that Bible reader in Room 211!

- There is nothing like a life-threatening situation to boost one's ability to pray from the heart and to readjust one's priorities. God, of course, knows this. That's one reason He allows us to get into such situations.

- Never underestimate the results of the united prayers of brethren.

- Life's moments are too few to waste.

### Practice faithfulness daily

In our daily lives we often take for granted many of these lessons that Mr. Steep learned from his hospital bed to better appreciate. God was faithful to him throughout. The brethren were also faithful to him. And he had to exercise faith as well.

Life is indeed too short to waste. Let's not wait for the crises in life to learn to exercise faithfulness. Learn it now! "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

# College vice chancellor stresses personal involvement, service

By Kerri Miles

PASADENA—"We want to be involved with the students at every level that we possibly can be. We're here to serve them, and our common goal should be to provide them with the best God-centered education possible and to help them achieve their God potential," said Donald Ward, vice chancellor of Ambassador College.

Dr. Ward, who was appointed vice chancellor Nov. 15, conducted a meeting for Pasadena faculty members Dec. 13. Big Sandy faculty members attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program also attended.

At the meeting Dr. Ward discussed philosophies of education management and goals he plans to pursue for the two campuses.

"I emphasized personal involvement with an attitude of service—the key to greatness that Christ gave in Matthew 20:27," Dr. Ward said.

"We don't want to just tell people that we care for them, but we want to develop systems that prove that we do."

Some changes are already in the works: faculty members will be invited to Sabbath brunch on a rotat-

ing basis to eat with the students; faculty members may conduct one or two Ambassador or Women's Club meetings in their homes each semester; and three meals will be served on Sundays instead of two.

These are steps to "improve student-faculty relationships," Dr. Ward said.

"We want to work from the inside out—reach their minds and hearts first and really . . . get to know them," he said.

### Baseball analogy

Continuing, Dr. Ward compared this to the way that baseballs are made, with a core (representing character); twine (knowledge) is wrapped around the core; and finally a cover (personality) is added. With basketballs, the cover is made first, and then it is inflated. "We want to build from the inside out," he said.

To increase the efficiency of the Pasadena campus, principal administrators and many faculty members will have their offices on the third floor of the Hall of Administration. In Big Sandy, administrators have been moved to the field house.

"I will probably spend at least one week each semester in Big

Sandy," the vice chancellor added.

### 17 objectives

In a memo to Chancellor Joseph W. Tkach, Dr. Ward enumerated

17 areas he plans to evaluate and review—his goals as vice chancellor.

"We are seeking to standardize and unify policies, procedures and administration in these areas," he said.

Dr. Ward plans to evaluate the administrative structure and responsibilities; admissions; academic advisement; budget planning, development and reporting; career services; curriculum planning and development; department head des-

ignations and responsibilities; organization and use of office space for the college.

Registration; transfer of credit to other colleges and universities; evaluation of instruction; teaching assignments; professional growth and development of personnel; promoting masculine and feminine leadership among the students; promoting teamwork and faculty unity; student employment and financial aids; and student services.

## Pasadena deputy chancellor for nine years

# McNairs transfer to New Zealand

By Kerri Miles

PASADENA—After serving as deputy chancellor of Pasadena Ambassador College for nine and a half years, evangelist Raymond F. McNair was named regional director for the Church in New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Joseph W. Tkach Jr., an assistant director of Church Administration, announced the transfer at afternoon Sabbath services in the Ambassador Auditorium Dec. 12.

Peter Nathan, regional director for the past seven years, still has a growth in his brain and will move to the United States for a period of rest with his wife, Karen, and their two children, Benjamin, 12, and Karolina, 10.

Before coming to Pasadena in 1973 Mr. McNair served in England both as regional director and deputy chancellor of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood. In addition to his service as deputy chancellor and regional director, Mr. McNair has pastored 12 churches, "so this type of work is not foreign to me," he said.

Mr. McNair was ordained an evangelist in February, 1953, by the late Herbert W. Armstrong. He

also serves on the Advisory Council of Elders. Mr. McNair and his wife, Evelyn, will move to New Zealand "as soon as we can get visas and make all of the arrangements to move." They will make a preliminary trip to survey the area and



RAYMOND & EVELYN McNAIR meet with Mr. and Mrs. Nathan to discuss the region.

The McNairs are no strangers to New Zealand and the South Pacific. Mr. McNair accompanied the late Herbert W. Armstrong on a visit to New Zealand in 1971, and

the McNairs kept the Feast of Tabernacles in Rotorua, New Zealand, in 1983. They spent Atonement that year with the brethren in Fiji.

"I know quite a few of the people there. I think I know all of the ministry," Mr. McNair said. "My wife and I are happy to have been given the opportunity by Mr. [Joseph] Tkach to serve the work in that area, and we're looking forward to the move very much. I think the people are a fine group of people and the country one of the most beautiful in the world."

Mr. McNair said the hardest part for his wife is leaving her family. "Our children are sad to see us going so far away," Mr. McNair said.

Since the regional directors come to Pasadena two or three times a year, they will be able to visit their families then.

"I have very much enjoyed working with the college. God has blessed the college with unity, peace and growth. We have hired 370 graduates into the work in the last four years. I'm sure this will continue under the new vice chancellor [Donald Ward] and Mr. Tkach's guidance," Mr. McNair said.

## PT staff members attend summit in U.S. capital

PASADENA—The Dec. 7 to 10 meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was "the most significant political summit I've attended," according to Gene H. Hogberg, *Plain Truth* world news editor.

Mr. Hogberg traveled to Washington, D.C., to cover the event with Norman Shoaf, an associate editor of *The Plain Truth*, and John R. Schroeder, British regional editor.

During the summit President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev signed a treaty eliminating intermediate-range nuclear forces. It was the first

agreement ever to eliminate a whole class of nuclear weapons. The leaders also discussed possible further cuts in strategic nuclear arms, as well as other issues (see "World-watch," page 2).

"This meeting had great political bearing on the future," said Mr. Hogberg. "Previous summits have been more what I would call 'top leader get-togethers.' But this summit had substance. It had implications for U.S. security as well as for events to take place in Europe."

The *Plain Truth* staff members covered many key events firsthand, including press briefings from U.S. and Soviet spokesmen offering up-to-the-minute news reports. The trio met several of the 7,000 journalists from around the world who were accredited to cover the summit.

Mr. Hogberg, Mr. Shoaf and Mr. Schroeder also analyzed bulletins and transcripts from the U.S. government's press office, which were available to journalists at the meeting.

"Seeing how the politicians and the press function was enlightening to me," said Mr. Shoaf. "The 'media circus' we hear so much about was clearly in evidence, but underneath it all we got the unmistakable impression that the U.S. and Soviet leaders were deadly serious about what they were doing—and with good reason. Without the knowledge we in God's Church have, they see these efforts as the world's only hope for peace."

Richard Frankel, pastor of the Front Royal, Va., and Washington churches, asked Mr. Hogberg to take the Wednesday evening Bible study, Dec. 9. Mr. Hogberg showed how this turn in U.S.-Soviet relations was linked to current news events worldwide, and covered the meaning of the summit in relation to Bible prophecy. Mr. Shoaf opened the Bible study with some personal impressions about the summit.

Mr. Hogberg and Mr. Shoaf returned to Pasadena Friday, Dec. 11. Mr. Schroeder left for his home in England the previous evening.

## The Worldwide News

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## Letters TO THE EDITOR

### Getting a higher education

I wanted to express my appreciation for your article in the Sept. 14, 1987, *WN* titled "Youths: Consider These Options in Pursuing Higher Education" . . . I wish I could have read an article like yours when I was graduating from high school 10 years ago.

I basically grew up in the Church but for various reasons did not attend Ambassador College. I received a bachelor's degree in accounting from a local university and now work in the accounting field.

As a result of reading your article, I began to realize that God had helped me and guided me to survive those four years by applying many of your keys in the article (without really knowing what those keys were) . . .

Having grown up in the Church, I was somewhat aware of the "mines" awaiting me at college. I tried to be on guard against those destructive attitudes . . .

Even though in one sense your wise counsel came 10 years too late for me, I wanted to express my appreciation, and I hope that all high school students will realize what a gold mine of wisdom is contained in your recent article in the *WN*.

Eric S. Lasch  
Buffalo, N.Y.

★ ★ ★

### Pastor general's travels

The *WN* write-ups of your travels really elate me and bring me ever so close to the brethren in the most distant lands—giving me so much to pray about I now wonder how I could have ever needed something to pray about! Today I have trouble getting in all the many brethren in riot-torn nations and the weather calamities, etc. The write-up of your European visits [see Aug. 17 *WN*] was very vivid and most interesting!

Thanks so much for the *WN*. Through it we're really made a close family . . . the smallest of isles to the greatest of nations.

Cynthia C. Cook  
Corrigan, Tex.

We are . . . very elated to hear about your successful trip to Europe [*WN*, Aug. 17]. As we read through the pages of the *WN* we feel like we are there also with the brethren smiling, shaking hands and saying "hello" to you. Thank you very much for your endless effort of promoting the bond of love and unity among the brethren.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fieder  
Palatine, Ill.

The articles about Mr. Joseph Tkach's visits to the different church areas of the world make one feel they are right there with him.

Mr. Joseph Tkach's "Personals" flow with warmth and concern for the brethren, and all people. He is a very caring, serving (and pleasant) person. I know God is pleased with him (and we are too).

Mary Laska  
Youngstown, Ohio

★ ★ ★

### Miracle of tithing

We have discovered this year the true miracle of tithing. It not only helps us in a very small way to repay God for so mercifully calling us, but it has had its miraculous side benefit of enabling us to pay off [debts] . . . we can see God will continue to work patiently with us in the matter of finances!

Dennis Lunow  
Willowdale, Ont.

At the Feast we were told how much these little donations by the youth of the Church can add up to a very large sum. This helped to show me that I also am helping, if only in a very small way, to get God's word to this world. The Festival entertainment show also showed how our tithes to God can be used to help our less fortunate brethren be able to have a bus.

Alanna Bellaire  
North Bay, Ont.

### Daughter interprets program

My 10-year-old daughter loves reading your magazines, also the *Youth* magazines . . . I am deaf, and she is the only one willing to sit and listen to your program and then interpret to me afterwards. At first, when she just started (at age 7) it was extremely difficult for her to follow your program.

I look at it in a positive way because not only is she helping me to know what you are saying, but in the process, she is hearing the Word of God being preached in accordance with the Bible as she has to listen carefully in order to understand in order to interpret to me, and as a result she understands the Word of God more and more.

Susan Cooper  
Scarborough, Ont.

★ ★ ★

### Plain and true

I am a student of the German language and literature. In September when I was in Berlin, I came across your magazine. I read it with great interest and decided afterwards to subscribe to *The Plain Truth* . . . I would like to congratulate you on handling the articles in your magazine so impartially, as well as the way you discuss history and the present . . . Your magazine is really plain and true.

M.M.  
Bydgoszcz, Poland

★ ★ ★

### Bible story

I thoroughly enjoy reading *The Bible Story*. As a 30-year-old, these books provide me with an entertaining but unique insight into the great drama that unfolds in the pages of the Bible.

Several times these books have made my attention return into the depths of the Bible itself. The curiosity these Bible stories create has added to my Bible knowledge by making the characters of the Old Testament more real.

Norbert Zlotos  
Rexdale, Ont.

## Flossie Rossiter is ever the optimist, despite trials

By Edie Clemens

SASKATOON, Sask.—To visit the home of Flossie Louise Rossiter, a 95-year-old member here, is to step back in time.

Beautifully crafted antique furniture, delicate crystal and fine china blend with snapshots and certificates of births, graduations, marriages and deaths.

Stacks of *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines from the early 1960s to the present are neatly placed and sorted by year.

*Edie Clemens, a member who attends the Saskatoon, Sask., church, writes about Flossie Rossiter, 95, also a member in Saskatoon.*

Flossie is ever the optimist, despite a rough upbringing. "They called me Flossie, but my second name, Louise, was the name of a neighbor who helped me into the world."

Born Jan. 14, 1892, in Jasper County, Iowa, Flossie was 6 years old when her father died of pneumonia. Nine months later her mother died.

At first her grandfather and other relatives tried to keep the family together. But hard times and ever-changing circumstances separated Flossie from her sisters, who were placed with family friends and neighbors.

Flossie, who suffered from a kidney ailment, was orphaned and torn from people and things familiar. She lived with a succession of foster families, leaving when tragedies or economic hardships struck.

During these times, having no one to turn to, Flossie developed a personal relationship with God that has endured to this day.

After Flossie lived four years like a vagabond, Lottie, a maid and friend of Flossie's parents, took pity on her and gave her a home for the next two years. Then Flossie was sent to Charlotte, Iowa, to be cared for by Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Albright, an elderly childless couple.

Under the Albrights' care, Flossie blossomed into young womanhood and attended college in Dixon, Ill., excelling in drama, art and music. Later she graduated

from Capital City Commercial College in Des Moines, Iowa, with a degree in business.

In 1911 Flossie met her future husband, Henry Rossiter, the only son of Mrs. Albright's sister. Kept apart by distance, World War I and an overprotective mother, the couple saw each other only once or twice during the next 10 years.

Obstacles notwithstanding, Henry married Flossie in Des Moines in 1921.

Their honeymoon took them by train across the United States and up the West Coast to British Columbia. By sled and horse and buggy they traveled to the farming community of Watson, Sask.

They built a house on land next to his parents that they gave them as a wedding present. Henry and his father raised wheat and oats, while Flossie tended chickens, milk cows and bees.

A vegetable garden provided year-round food, and flowers bloomed from early spring to late fall. At seeding and harvesttime, she often cooked for 20 farmhands, who worked from sunup to sundown.

The Rossiters had three daughters: Myrtle, Lois and Leota.

Having attended several Protestant churches in her life, Mrs. Rossiter taught Sunday school and played the organ for services.

When Mr. Rossiter developed cancer of the larynx in 1962, they left the farm and went to Saskatoon for medical attention. Long, uncertain hours were spent listening to a host of religious broadcasts on the radio.

"One evening I happened to turn the dial to another station and heard a sermon such as I had never heard before," Mrs. Rossiter recalled. "I looked at Henry and said, 'That man knows what he is talking about.'"

"Of course the man was Herbert W. Armstrong," she continued, "and I had at last discovered the truth."

Mr. Rossiter died in 1965 of bone cancer, and Flossie sold the farm and moved to Saskatoon in 1967. Immediately she contacted the Church and was baptized two years later.

Although she has 10 grandchil-



**GOWN FROM THE PAST**—Flossie Louise Rossiter, 95, wears a gown she wore in 1910 at age 18 to a church ball in Saskatoon, Sask. [Photo by Rob Moncur]

dren and 20 great-grandchildren, Flossie is the only one in her family God has called now.

She has formed a strong bond with the Bill and Stella Ridgway family, who have provided transportation to Sabbath services and activities since she began attending the Saskatoon church.

Mrs. Ridgway said: "Mrs. Rossiter always looks on the bright side of everything. She does not hold grudges, carry resentment or harbor bitterness. She makes lemonade of life's lemons. She loves the brethren like her own family and despite her frail health offers help to others in need."

"She taught us to appreciate our calling and how to age gracefully."

## Bill Roberto appreciates prayers

# Guam member still finds friends

By Rodney H. Matthews

MANILA, Philippines—For most of his 14 years in God's Church, Bill Roberto has been the only member on the Pacific island

of Guam and one of just a few Guamanians now called.

*Rodney H. Matthews, a pastor-rank minister, is regional director of the Philippines.*

In 1966 Mr. Roberto heard the late Herbert W. Armstrong speaking over KUAM radio in Guam. What he said was "incredible," and Mr. Roberto wondered how his teachers, relatives and parents could be wrong.

He took *The Plain Truth* and other booklets for seven years before a letter informed him of a ministerial visit to Guam.

In 1973 Colin Adair, Canadian regional director, then regional director in the Philippines, followed up visit requests from six people on Guam. Only four showed up, however. Two, including Mr. Roberto, were ready for baptism. (The other man has since died.)

Mr. Roberto, a native of Guam, spent four years in the U.S. Navy before World War II. He left the Navy and returned to Guam only months before Japan invaded it.

For 2½ years he lived in the jungles, raising fruits, vegetables and animals, avoiding the Japanese as much as possible.

During the last two months of Japanese occupation he was interned at a concentration camp to await liberation by U.S. forces, July 21, 1944 (Guam Liberation Day).

After living and working in the United States for about five years, Mr. Roberto returned to Guam in 1951 and was married the next year.

He and his wife, Fidela (not a member), have operated a small re-

son built for me, and I get up every morning and make my breakfast," she said. "My son lives next door and helps me with the rest of the chores."

Mrs. Nilsson's Danish grandfather first visited the Salt Lake area alone, before bringing the rest of the family from Denmark.

"He came across a group of Indians sitting in a circle," Mrs. Nilsson related. "He said that really scared him, since he had never seen an Indian before."

Mrs. Nilsson started taking *The Plain Truth* in 1953 and six years later was visited by George Meeker, now pastor of the Wentzville and St. Louis, Mo., North churches.

The nearest member lives more than 90 miles away.



**100 YEARS OLD**—Ane Marie "Dolly" Nilsson, a member who attends the Salt Lake City, Utah, church, receives a visit in her Monroe, Utah, home by pastor Don Lawson. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]



**TOO OLD TO CLIMB?**—Dempsey Lauderdale, 83, a member who attends the Portland, Ore., South church, was retired from his job in 1983, because his employers thought he was too old for heavy physical work that included climbing a 6-foot ladder. Since then Mr. Lauderdale has climbed The Middle Sister, which at 10,047 feet is a major peak in Washington's Cascade Mountains. He is shown here June 15 at the 8,364-foot summit of Mt. St. Helens. On top of that, he can still climb a 6-foot ladder! [Photo by Art Balczarek]



**FIDELA AND BILL ROBERTO** tail store and today are involved in renting residential and commercial units.

When *The World Tomorrow* first aired on KUAM-TV in Guam in November, 1982, not many responses were received, largely because—as Mr. Roberto puts it—of the easy-going nature of Guam's residents and the large transient military population, which make for a population of 150,000.

Mr. Roberto has made friends from around the world, since he usually keeps the Feast in the United States or the Philippines. He visited Jerusalem one year.

For about 18 months, until January, 1987, another Church family lived on Guam. Now the nearest member to Mr. Roberto is John Yugumang, the lone member in Yap, an island of the Federated States of Micronesia, about 500 miles to the southwest.

Mr. Roberto appreciates the concern and prayers of the brethren, and although one of the Church's scattered brethren, he knows that in God's Church geographic separation is no more than just that.



# IRON SHARPENS IRON

## Here's how to help your minister help you make spiritual progress

By George M. Kackos

Why are some brethren helped by ministerial counsel while others are not? What makes the difference between those who make real progress and those who don't? What determines the effectiveness of the help they receive?

*George M. Kackos, pastor of the Grand Rapids and Muskegon, Mich., churches, is a regular contributor to The Good News.*

Spiritual growth is essential for salvation. Therefore you must know the answer to these questions! Ministerial counsel can make a big difference in your level of spirituality, in your ability to solve problems and

words into action?

Realize this: Almost without exception, rejection of ministerial counsel is not based on the higher authority of God's Word, but on the carnal reaction of human nature that doesn't want to admit being wrong.

A certain member of the Church reacted nonchalantly to a sermon on love. To him it was too basic—too elementary—for his advanced level of spirituality. Yet he was devoid of love. Like a lukewarm Laodicean, he simply couldn't see his spiritual nakedness. He couldn't identify with his glaring spiritual faults. Those faults eventually took him out of God's Church!

Behind his facade of self-righteousness was the ugly sin of pride, which hindered his spiritual understanding.

To eliminate pride—this terrible barrier to spiritual progress—we must humble ourselves. Like the publican we must cry out, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (verse 13). When we do, our facade of self-righteousness will crumble as we gain the necessary insight from God's ministry to see ourselves clearly, not in a distorted, self-serving manner.

What about it? Are you going to God in heartfelt prayer and fasting to receive a spirit of humility (Isaiah 66:2)? If so, you will listen with an open mind to your minister. You will receive his words with understanding, not offense. You will lay the foundation for the right spiritual response you need to make.

### Be open and honest

God says, "The heart is deceitful

above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Do you agree? Are you able to admit the way you really are, or do you still hide from your true nature?

Unless you are truthful you will be laying a false foundation. You will be misleading your minister—making it hard for him to get at the core of your difficulties.

Why maintain a facade when it cuts you off from God's help? Why not level with your minister and tell him what is really going on—how you really feel?

Quit trying to protect the "old man" (Ephesians 4:21-23) that should have died at baptism but still wants to live. Share your problems, fears and hopes. Confess your faults (James 5:16). Strive to see how your past has affected the way you are now. Be open and help your minister really get to know you. Reveal what is necessary to get the help you need.

### Apply the counsel

Knowledge is of no value unless you put it to use. These words apply

to ministerial counsel. Unless you have a repentant heart, the valuable words and insights you receive from the ministry will wither on the vine and fail to accomplish their purpose.

James makes this principle clear: We must do more than just see ourselves and God's standards; we must live God's way of life (James 1:23-25).

In the final analysis, this is the only way that your minister can help you—if you put into practice what he tells you to do. Just agreeing with him is not enough. You must act on what he tells you. This is the path to solving your problems and finding true happiness.

As Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). This is what your minister is trying to help you do.

But are you helping your minister help you do it? Remember: Your answer to that question will determine your spiritual growth and happiness!

## Conversion is a lifelong process

# Learning character on a Sunday afternoon

By Jeff Zhorne

With perspiration streaming from my face, I yanked and pulled on the long, dense bamboo roots that formed a seemingly endless tangle underneath my backyard.

As the afternoon blistered on, I saw—to my horror—that the roots continued deeper into the earth than I had thought. I had only been breaking off the surface roots! So down, down, deeper I dug, chasing the stubborn root structures, until two feet of ground lay unearthed.

The tough, sinewy bamboo slowly gave way to bare dirt, in preparation for planting grass. Surely all the bamboo roots had been yanked out.

The following Sunday I trekked out to sow the area with seeds of soon-to-be lush bluegrass. But I was shocked to discover what had hap-

pened in just a week: New little shoots of bamboo had broken through the ground's surface. Again I dug and sweated and mopped my brow.

Months later I resignedly cut fresh bamboo sprigs with a lawnmower, because I gave up trying to totally eliminate the root structure. Bamboo often spreads out 30 feet in all directions, creeping under sidewalks and intertwining in tree roots.

### Yanking out roots

I learned many lessons from the bamboo in my backyard. I'd like to share just two.

First, upon repentance, baptism and receiving of the Holy Spirit, we as Christians think we have left behind our former ways—those habits and attitudes that were rooted in

vanity, jealousy, lust and greed. With time, we all grow in grace and knowledge and become more mature Christians, just as, in time, the bluegrass peeked through the ground in my backyard.

But it's still shocking—the seemingly endless number of wrong thoughts, wrong words and wrong actions that spring up in daily life. Conversion is obviously a lifelong process.

stem the rough edges of your anger—you must yank it out by the roots. And that takes some digging. It takes some spiritual sweat!

### Staying in shape

A second lesson of character I learned in my backyard is related to the first. It concerns the Master Potter, God. Not only must we as Christians be yielded, responsive and malleable as clay molded by Christ's hands, but as Christ is formed in us, we must keep our shape.

As I dug down deep into the earth to wrench out all the bamboo roots, I wondered if any would grow back. Sure enough, although the bluegrass did appear, it was mixed with bamboo growing up with it. Instead of digging and digging until all the bamboo was out, I just did the best I could and let the mower do the rest.

We can't do that in our spiritual lives. We can't remain hopelessly flawed by sin, not having dug down deep into our sinful natures to extract the roots of our carnality. We must be overcoming—digging out all sin—with God's help.

We must ensure that we keep the shape of righteousness as Christ bends and fashions us according to His specifications and purposes. There's not time to slip back into our former ways, unable to maintain "the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

We must not only pull and tug out the roots of sin and carnality—in short, our human nature—but we must be sure to replace them with the firm, life-giving roots of God's Word (Colossians 2:7, Ephesians 3:17).

The parable of the sower in Matthew 13:3-9 proves that living without strong roots in the right place is deadly!

To those who learn these lessons, God promises, "He shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river" (Jeremiah 17:8).

That's how I learned about character on a Sunday afternoon.



Ken Tunell

in the depth of your happiness.

### Show humility

To receive help you must want help. Because this attitude is lacking, some close their minds to counsel. Like the self-righteous Pharisees, they think they are spiritually sufficient; they don't see the depth of their spiritual imperfection.

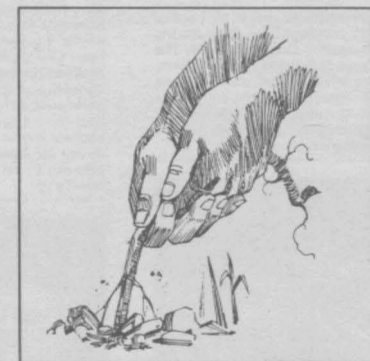
What about you? Are you like the Pharisee in Luke 18:11-12, content with your level of biblical understanding and how well you apply spiritual knowledge? Do you resist your minister's guidance because you think you know better, or because you think you already put his

## BE READY TO GIVE AN ANSWER

### THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

- Jesus begins His 3½-year ministry (Dan. 9:27) with His baptism in October, A.D. 27 (Matt. 3:13-17, John 1:29-34); He is almost 30 years old (Num. 4:35, 39, 43, 47).
- After baptism He fasts for 40 days and 40 nights; Satan tests Him (Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13).
- Jesus calls His first disciples (John 1:35-51) and performs His first miracle (John 2:1-11).
- Passover, A.D. 28—Jesus cleanses the Temple (John 2:13-22).
- John the Baptist is imprisoned late in A.D. 28. Jesus comes into Galilee in late autumn (Mark 1:14, John 4:43-45).
- He explains the Sabbath. The Pharisees plot against Him (Matt. 12:1-14, Luke 6:1-11).
- Jesus names the 12 apostles (Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16).
- He delivers Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7).
- A.D. 29—Jesus goes to Jerusalem about the time of the Feast of Trumpets (John 5:1).
- Disciples are sent to preach the Gospel, heal the sick and cast out demons (Matt. 10:1-42).
- The 12 disciples return; Christ, through a miracle, feeds at least 5,000 followers in winter in

- early A.D. 30 (Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14).
- Passover, A.D. 30 (John 6:4).
- Feast of Tabernacles, A.D. 30—the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-9, Luke 9:28-36). On the Last Great Day Jesus talks about the meaning of the day (John 7:37-39).
- He enters Jerusalem, where He is recognized as the Messiah, and prophesies about the city's fate (Matt. 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19). Later He delivers the Olivet prophecy (Matt. 24:3-25:46).
- Passover, A.D. 31—Jesus institutes the New Testament Passover service. He is betrayed and arrested (Luke 22:7-54, John 13:1-18:13).
- Jesus is crucified on Wednesday, April 25, A.D. 31. He is resurrected Saturday, April 28, A.D. 31 (Matt. 27:15-28:8, Mark 15:6-16:13, Luke 23:13-24:12, John 18:39-20:10).
- After His ascension to the throne of God and His return to earth Sunday morning (compare John 20:17 with Matt. 28:9), Jesus gives His disciples final instructions (Matt. 28:10, 16-20, Mark 16:14-18, Luke 24:13-50, John 20:19-23).
- He ascends to heaven 40 days after His resurrection (Mark 16:19, Luke 24:51, Heb. 10:12).



Ken Tunell

Human minds and bodies, even when regularly motivated to pray, study, fast and meditate, still find occasion to allow sin to flourish.

Just as I thought I had pulled all the bamboo out by the roots, up would shoot tiny sprigs of it—one here, one there. Likewise, how quickly wrong thoughts can produce sins and evil deeds!

The "old man" described in Romans 6 doesn't die immediately, but is crucified (verse 6). That means he dies a slow, grueling death, as God's character gradually becomes formed within us.

Christians must constantly make sure the old man stays dead by digging down deep to root out the sin that so easily besets us. That's difficult. It's so much easier to just lop off the branches of a sin than to get rid of the sin completely. It's also easier to treat only the effect of a problem instead of tackling the cause, too.

Take anger, for instance. Which is harder to do: control your temper in a trying circumstance, or extract anger completely? You can't just



# Pianists take first in Canada's national YOU talent contest

By Michael A. Guidolin

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Carmen Rabey of Victoria, B.C., took first place in the senior division of the 1987 Canadian Youth Opportunities United (YOU) national talent contest Nov. 29. Lonnie Katai of Vancouver placed first in the junior division.

*Michael A. Guidolin is an employee in the Vancouver, B.C., Office.*

Carmen and Lonnie performed piano solos. Carmen played *Prelude in G Minor* by Sergei Rachmaninoff. She received a scholarship to Ambassador College or the Summer Educational Program (SEP). Lonnie performed Rachmaninoff's *Prelude in C Sharp Minor*.

Pianist Karen Hamilton of Brandon, Man., placed second in the senior division, and Dan Schnee of North Battleford, Sask., placed third with a saxophone selection.

In the junior division Laurie Katai, Lonnie's sister, placed second with a piano solo. Pianists Dawn Rabey, Carmen's sister, and Ian Wachowicz of Youngstown, Alta., tied for third.

Judges for the contest were Church members John Dyck, manager of Vancouver's three main theaters, who is responsible for book-

ing artists; Bryon Tossof, who is experienced with keyboards and vocals; and guitarist and vocalist Julie Hope, wife of Daniel Hope, pastor of the Abbotsford, B.C., church. Mr. Hope, who also serves as regional YOU coordinator, was master of ceremonies.

Evangelist Colin Adair, Canadian regional director, presented certificates of participation to all contestants and plaques to those who placed.

Other participants in the senior category were Tammy Rawnsley, Bramalea, Ont.; Rick Little, Prince George, B.C.; Cynthia Rose, Yarmouth, N.S.; Mary Nancekevill, Ingersoll, Ont.; Lynn Maskell, Winterburn, Alta.; and Kelley Asselstine, Edmonton, Alta.

Other participants in the junior division were Susan Bullock, Victoria, B.C.; Lisa Mellott, Edmonton, Alta.; Lonna Slotsve, Saskatoon, Sask.; Sarah Martin, Brampton, Ont.; Shari Hodges, Toronto, Ont.; Robert Brown, Halifax, N.S.; and Elizabeth Gordon, Scarborough, Ont.

Contestants arrived in Vancouver Friday, Nov. 27. They were welcomed by Thomas Ecker, pastor of the Vancouver church, and David Cheperdak, associate pastor. After touring the Vancouver Office, the teens were honored at a reception.

On the Sabbath the contestants, their chaperons, regional YOU coordinators and area ministers ate brunch at a restaurant on Burnaby Mountain. After Sabbath services, dinner was served at the Prow restaurant at Canada Place, part of Expo 86. The group saw a movie titled "The Dream Is Alive," which featured space shuttle missions.

Sunday's activities included dress rehearsals, lunch aboard the S.S. *Beaver* on a harbor cruise and the talent contest.



**WINNING TALENT**—Lonnie Katai (left), first place in the junior division, and Carmen Rabey, first place in the senior division, perform in the 1987 Canadian Youth Opportunities United (YOU) national talent contest. [Photos by Michael A. Guidolin]



**GRADUATION EXERCISES**—Above left: Top graduate Dinesh Watawana, whose mother is a Church member, speaks at graduation exercises of the Waterfield Institute in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. Right photo, from left: Mohan Jayasekera, Colombo, Sri Lanka, pastor; his wife, Nihara; Gamini Dissanayke, a Sri Lankan cabinet minister; his wife; David Baker, school director; his wife, Dorrie; Joseph Locke, a vice president of the Ambassador Foundation; Ellen Escat, administrative assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach; and Julie Stocker, an administrative assistant in Communications & Public Affairs. Below: Ambassador College students and graduates serving on foundation projects in Bangkok, Thailand. From left: Rod Shrader, Chogait Elmore, John Fentress, Monica Shaw, Jonathan McNair (project leader), April Waybright, David Bensinger and Bob Baxter. [Photos by Scott Gjesvold]

## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

God has opened our minds through His Spirit to understand that He has set before us *two ways of life*. One way leads to eternal life. The other way leads to death. One way results in happiness, peace of mind, courage, hope and joy—a generally *positive* frame of mind.

The other results in emotional distress, anxiety, stress, fears, despair, discouragement and hopeless sorrow—a generally *negative* frame of mind.

God commands us to *choose* the better way, the way that leads to life. Yet He knows that "there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). He knows that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

So He established a plan whereby we can *grow*—we can improve, we can develop and progress *toward* perfection, toward sinlessness.

It is the process of conversion, or transformation. It is the process through which God *renews our minds*—our way of thinking—from the natural way of death all humans have chosen, to the *new way*, as defined by His perfect law, which will result in eternal life as His children with His own mind and character. (Romans 12:1-2).

First, the natural consequences of sin, both its inherent torment and affliction, and the final death penalty itself (Romans 6:23), were *paid in our stead* by the vicious beating, crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

Then, upon a complete *change of heart and mind* from our natural human ideas and way of life to *total submission to God's will* in every aspect of our lives, we were baptized.

The baptism ceremony symbolized our urgent desire to leave

the "old man" dead and buried in that watery grave, and to come up as a *new man*, totally committed to living life afresh according to every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God, putting God's will first in all we do or think.

Hands were then laid on us, symbolizing our *unconditional surrender* to God, our *voluntary willingness* to place our lives under His authority and to *submit to His government* in His Church. He then granted us His Holy Spirit.

Through His Spirit, we are made *one* in mind, heart, attitude and purpose with Him and with Jesus Christ. We are also begotten of God as His children and made part of the Body of Christ, the Church of God, making us brethren, along with the other saints, of Jesus Christ the firstborn.

But that is only the beginning! Now comes the rest of our lives. Lives now *dedicated* to growing spiritually, to overcoming sin, to learning more of the knowledge of God and His way. Lives now *led* by the Holy Spirit of God. In summary, lives devoted to *change*—that is to say, REPENTANCE!

God has not called us to examine our spiritual condition only once or twice a year! Of course, we should pay especially close attention to where we stand in God's sight before the Passover and the Day of Atonement, but God's own elect must be examining themselves *DAILY*, brethren! We must be *constantly* vigilant to keep our spiritual lives in order.

Repentance means *change*, but we don't change what we don't *see*. And we won't see what we don't *look for*! And we won't know what to look for unless we are *close to God* in daily prayer and study of His Word.

When we are close to God, we will be able to see where we have fallen short and with His help

strive to change. Rather than having our consciences "seared with a hot iron," our consciences will be keenly sensitive to God's law and His way of life based on love.

We do not *have* to carry around the burden of guilt and frustration that some of us labor under. We can *repent*, and God *does* forgive us. We can start afresh. We can get up and carry on with confidence and a strengthened determination to follow the lead of God's Spirit and the example of Jesus Christ.

But brethren, if our minds are tuned in to this world and its ways more than they are tuned in to God and His ways, *we will not and cannot be growing!*

God has granted us the astounding blessing of being called now, before the rest of humanity, as His firstfruits (James 1:18). We are able to be *freed* from the devastating results of sin. We can have *hope* for the future. We can have full confidence in the mercy and compassion of God.

But we must recognize the need for living continually in an attitude of godly repentance and growth. Jesus Christ is getting every spot and wrinkle out of His Church (Ephesians 5:25-27). It will be ready when He returns. Let's allow Him to work with us! Let's be pliable clay in His hands.

Most of the people around the world who begin 1988 with positive resolutions to improve their lives will fall right back into their old destructive habits and ways within only a few weeks at best. But our commitment, brethren, is not a shallow resolution to be forgotten. It is a *lifetime commitment* backed by the *POWER OF GOD*—one which we can and must renew daily, and one which will result in an *ETERNITY* of as yet indescribable happiness, peace, abundance and fulfillment!

Let us never neglect so great salvation!

## College employee dies after bout with cancer

SPOKANE, Wash.—L. Wayne Merrill, 37, a 14-year employee of the Ambassador College Food Ser-

vice Department, died here Nov. 24. He suffered from hereditary colon cancer, which spread to his liver.

Mr. Merrill served as Food Service director in Big Sandy from 1983 until August, when his illness progressed to the point where he could not work.

Before the Feast Mr. Merrill went to Spokane to receive cancer treatments.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen, and son, John Elijah, 4. He is also survived by his father, Henry A. Merrill Sr.; a brother, Henry A. Jr.; a half-sister, Suzanne Cooper; and a number of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Evangelist Roderick Meredith, deputy chancellor of Big Sandy Ambassador College, officiated at funeral services.



L. WAYNE MERRILL

# NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

## UPDATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach attended the 10th annual Kennedy Center Honors, met U.S. President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan, and toured the Pentagon during a trip here Dec. 5 to 7.

Traveling with Mr. Tkach on the Church's Gulfstream III jet were Arthur Neff, a director of Rand McNally & Co., and his wife, Marvina, guests of Mr. Tkach; Ralph Helge, the Church's legal counsel, and his wife, Ingrid; Michael Rasmussen, executive office aide, and his wife, Juli.

Joining Mr. Tkach's group in the capital were evangelist David Hulme, director of Communications & Public Affairs, and his wife, Robin; Joseph Tkach Jr., assistant director of Church Administration for the United States, and his wife, Tamara; Wayne Shilkret, Performing Arts director, and his assistant, Cindy Josephson; who had flown to Washington by commercial jet Dec. 4.

Dec. 6 the pastor general was host to a luncheon. Guests included Reagan administration officials.

After the luncheon Mr. Tkach and others went to the White House for a reception.

Honored at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that evening were singer Perry Como, actress Bette Davis, entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., violinist Nathan Milstein and choreographer Alwin Nikolais.

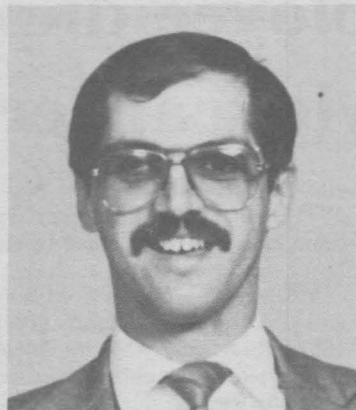
The affair "taught me the lesson that a country without culture and without the arts is truly a shell," Mr. Helge said. "Therefore I had my appreciation renewed for the beautiful arts program instituted by Mr. Herbert Armstrong and which is being continued by Mr. Tkach."

Before returning home Dec. 7, the pastor general toured the Pentagon, a five-building structure in Arlington, Va., which houses the U.S. Department of Defense.

"Traveling with Mr. Tkach is a very educational, enlightening and spiritual experience," said Mr. Neff. "I think I can distill the trip down to that, and I would also emphasize the friendship, as well."

Said Mr. Tkach: "It is always particularly worthwhile to visit Washington, D.C. One can't help but feel a strong sense of inspiration when walking the streets, halls and corridors largely planned by the U.S. founding fathers, men who were led by God to establish this nation."

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CYRILLE RICHARD

PASADENA—Cyrille Richard, serving in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, left Haiti Dec. 17 because "it's a very tense situation there, and practically all of the non-Haitians have been asked to leave the country," reported evangelist Dibar Apartian, French regional director.

Mr. Richard will move to Quebec City, Que., to assist Robert Scott in pastoring the Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres, Que. (French), congregations.

BOREHAMWOOD, England—*Mystery of the Ages (Tidenes Mystery)* is now available in Norwegian, according to Roy Oestensen, regional editor of the Norwegian *Plain Truth (Den Enkle Sannhet)*



ROY OESTENSEN

and translator of the book.

Mr. Oestensen was assisted by Diedrik Zernichow, a local church elder in the Oslo, Norway, church.

The initial printing of the book was 21,000 copies. Advertising will begin in the Norwegian *Plain Truth* in March.

Forty-five pieces of literature are now available in Scandinavian languages, including three books, 31 booklets, six reprint articles and five television brochures.

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PASADENA—The first phase of the *Plain Truth* newsstand blitz program ended in November, ac-

ording to Robert Elliott, newsstand distribution manager. Seven million copies of the magazine were distributed since May.

Distribution was concluded in Seattle, Auburn and Tacoma, Wash.; Sacramento, Garden Grove, Glendale, North Hollywood, Reseda and San Diego, Calif.; and Manhattan, N.Y.

Beginning in January these cities will be replaced by Portland, Ore.; Vancouver, Wash.; Denver, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Newark, Jersey City and Montvale, N.J.; and Suffolk and Nassau, N.Y.

Distribution will continue in San Francisco and Oakland, Calif.; Chicago, Ill.; Washington, D.C.; and Philadelphia, Pa.; as part of phase two until May, 1988, when phase three is scheduled to begin.

Monthly distribution should remain close to one million for 1988, Mr. Elliott said.

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PASADENA—Tony Murphy, assistant chief engineer at Media Services, was named 1988 president of the Society of Television Engineers (STE).

The STE includes top television engineering professionals from the network stations, independent stations and many of the video production houses in the Los Angeles, Calif., area. It meets 10 times a year and serves as a forum for introducing new technology, discussing industry events, sharing ideas and discussing solutions to problems common in the industry, Mr. Murphy said.

The organization was formed in 1940 "to promote the use of television and concern itself with issues pertinent to television at that time in dealing with the Federal Communications Commission," Mr. Murphy said.

The STE founded a national organization, the Television Broadcasters Association, which later merged with a similar group for radio broadcasters to form what is now the National Association of Broadcasters.

Mr. Murphy has been a member of STE since December, 1975. He is serving as secretary-treasurer in 1987.

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PASADENA—Church Administration released the following ordination.

Randolf Martin, a deacon in the Yuma, Ariz., church, was ordained a local church elder on the Sabbath, Nov. 21.

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PASADENA—Michael Guidolin, an employee in the Accounting Department of the Church's Vancouver, B.C., Office, was hired by the Italian Department to set up a computerized accounting system in Italy, according to Carn Catherwood, regional director for the Church in Italy.

Mr. Guidolin, a 1979 Ambassador College graduate, worked for the Accounting Department in Pasadena for four years before being transferred to Vancouver.

Born in Toronto, Ont., to Italian parents, Mr. Guidolin grew up speaking Italian. He also studied the language in high school and college.

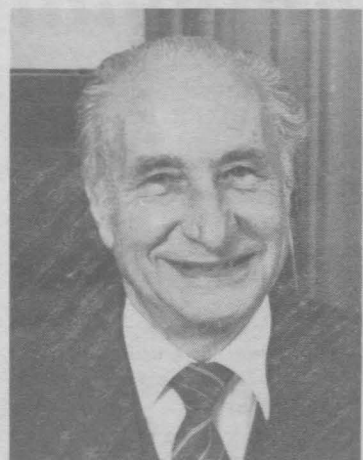
Mr. Guidolin will move to Pasadena in January for training before moving to Italy.

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PASADENA—*Mystery of the Ages* is now available in French. The book *Le Mystere des Siecles* was distributed to French-speaking brethren at the Feast of Taberna-

cles, according to evangelist Dibar Apartian, regional director.

About 1,900 copies were mailed to those who had requested the book and were on a computer waiting list.



DIBAR APARTIAN

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MANILA, Philippines—The booklet, *Saving the Land That Feeds Us—Are There Solutions?*, was mentioned in the Oct. 9 issue of *Agribusiness Weekly*, a Philippine magazine about agriculture and related topics, according to Rodney Matthews, regional director.

"Readers of the magazine were encouraged to order our booklet, which was praised as a positive contribution dealing with an important subject," Mr. Matthews said.

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VANCOUVER, B.C.—Eight hundred sixty-six French WATS (Wide Area Telephone Service) calls were taken by Canadian operators in October, according to evangelist Colin Adair, Canadian regional director.

This number exceeded the previous record of 802 calls in August.

## FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

"That also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

ST. HELIER, Jersey—All seven members and their four children in the Channel Islands live on Jersey, 45 square miles of sandy beaches, colorful woods and fields, ancient castles, German fortifications and rocky cliffs jutting into the English Channel.

The most-southerly of the British Isles, Jersey is about 10 miles from Normandy, on the French coast. Each week brethren gather for Sabbath services in St. Clement, a village on Jersey's southeastern tip.

One Sabbath a month they are visited by David House, pastor of the Bristol, Plymouth and Tiverton, England, and Channel Islands churches; Peter Noon, a local church elder in Southampton, England; or John Shotliff, a local church elder in Reading, England.

Visiting ministers arrive in time to conduct a Bible study the evening before, said Mr. House, coordinator of the St. Helier, Jersey, Festival site in 1987.

Roy Fox is a deacon on Jersey, who with his wife, Jean, "looks after things in my absence," Mr. House added. Mr. Fox owns a sign-writing business with frequent contacts with mainland Britain.

"When Mr. Fox's mother, a long-standing Church member, died a few years ago, it reduced the number of members in Jersey by one," said Mr. House. "But it just happened that I was baptizing a new member 20 minutes after the funeral. So we kept the numbers up."

### German occupation

Mr. Fox's wife and another member, William Laurent, were in

Jersey during the German takeover in World War II. The Channel Islands were the only British territory occupied by the Germans during the war. St. Helier was bombed by the Germans July 1, 1940, and then occupied.

"That last winter of the war they



ISLAND MEMBERS—Channel Islands members live on Jersey, 10 miles from the French coast. Weekly services are conducted in St. Clement. [Map by Ronald Grove]

were desperately short of food," said Mr. House, describing the siege.

Even after D-day (the June 6, 1944, landing of Allied troops in Normandy) Jersey remained under siege.

"They could see the Normandy coast, which was free, only a few miles away," Mr. House related. "But they were under occupation until May 9, 1945," one day after V-E (Victory in Europe) Day.

Today the Channel Islands are

crown dependencies, part of the British Isles but not part of the United Kingdom or Great Britain, according to Mr. House. Although Queen Elizabeth is also queen of the Channel Islands, the isles are self-governing. London looks after defense and foreign affairs.

"But they are very British and very loyal to the crown," said Mr. House.

Since the islands have their own taxation systems—which don't include the value-added tax (VAT)—"Jersey is a tax haven with enormous amounts of money."

There are 25 billion (British, thousand million) pounds (about \$45 billion) on deposit in Jersey banks.

With a population of about 80,000, "that works out to more than half a million dollars per person," said Mr. House. "Of course, that's not owned by the people in Jersey. It's money from all over the world, but it makes Jersey a wealthy place. The standard of living is very high, so it's a nice place for a Feast."

### Jersey members

Besides the Foxes, other members in Jersey include Brian LeBreton (a typical Channel Islands name); his son, David; Colette Brown (whose daughter and two sons have been to the Summer Educational Program); and Jackie Bree.

One of Mr. LeBreton's daughters tapes *The World Tomorrow* from Sky Channel and sends it to the brethren in southwest England. Sky Channel is available to Jersey residents on cable.

In late February the brethren spent a day planting potatoes and raised 100 pounds (about \$180) for the Office Facilities Building fund. "It was back-breaking work, but I think it shows the scattered brethren attitude," said Mr. House.

Later in the year they earned more money for the fund by harvesting the same crops.

He added that most Jersey members visit other areas for the Feast of Tabernacles, "so they can get a change of pace and environment." The Foxes attended the Corpus

Christi, Tex., site this year.

Festival services in St. Helier, where 735 attended this year, took place in Ft. Regent, "which was originally a fort built during the Napoleonic Wars [1801-1815] to protect the city," said Mr. House.

Dominating the harbor atop a great rock hill, Ft. Regent has been converted into a conference and leisure center—"not quite swords into plowshares."

Mr. House said that Festival sites in the past few years have alternated between the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, which is "quieter and less sophisticated."

Mr. House's wife, Valerie, described Jersey as a honeymoon island filled with orchids, carnations, daffodils and strawberries—"a very romantic island."

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