

The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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MAY 27, 1991

Farm project cultivates hope, boosts member income in Guyana

By Jeff E. Zhorne

PASADENA—Chrisnah Prashad, a deacon in Charity, Guyana, watched inflation whittle away his schoolteacher's salary from the equivalent of US\$200 a year in 1984, to \$120 in 1988, to \$80 today.

Transportation costs account for half of his take-home pay. He travels 18 miles round-trip on a river, five days a week, using his own boat and providing his own gasoline.

"It is even worse for the less fortunate brethren," said Mr. Prashad.

At times, food in Guyana has become so scarce that people in Awarewaunau and surrounding villages have subsisted on green, unripe mangos, said Paul Krautmann, former pastor in Guyana, now serving brethren in Grenada and St. Vincent.

Beating poverty

But even when crops are plentiful, middlemen monopolize pricing and trading. Bananas, for example, cost 8 Guyanese dollars a pound at the market, but only one dollar goes to the farmer. Avocados sell for G\$15 to G\$20 each; the farmer receives G\$2 to G\$3.

(On Feb. 20, only 45 Guyanese dollars were needed to buy one U.S. dollar. Now it takes 123 Guyanese dollars.)

Another problem farmers face is that they have no market for homegrown produce. The nearest market is in Brazil, about two days away by foot.

Guyana, one of the world's poorest countries, is bankrupt. Nothing purchased from outside the country can be paid for with Guyanese dollars. The interest rate on bank loans is more than 30 percent annually.

Food shortages

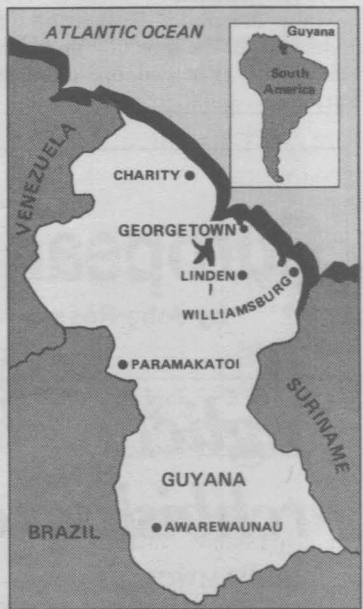
To help the 104 Guyanese members cope with food shortages, inflation and other difficulties, Dale Schurter, pastor of the Nausau, N.Y., church, who has an agricultural background, was asked by Church Administration International to set up a husbandry project called Ambassador Farms Enterprises Ltd. (AFEL).

Mr. Schurter directed agricultural education and research at Ambassador College in Big Sandy from 1965 to 1975, developing and employing regenerative agriculture methods on the College farm.

The AFEL project in Guyana is supervised by Wesley Webster, a resident minister who moved to

Guyana with his wife, Shaaron, in February.

Thanks to the AFEL project, Mr. Prashad and his family hope to rise above poverty on farmland they bought in 1982.



REGENERATION—Out of the jungles of Guyana's interior, the Ambassador Farms site near Linden has cleared areas for growing crops and raising livestock. [Map by Ron Grove]

AFEL gave Mr. Prashad the ways and means of almost doubling production through good soil man-

agement and other techniques in the face of very grave problems.

Farm site

The 2.5-acre Ambassador Farms site is near the city of Linden, about 50 miles south of Georgetown, the capital.

More than 40 varieties of seeds are being grown in trial plots to see which will be the most productive.

Almost two acres have been cleared, with about an acre of that under production. Rototillers and tools have been donated to help cultivate a 40-tree banana orchard and a variety of other crops. A livestock program is also under way.

How AFEL saves money

AFEL acts as a middleman to help brethren. For example, at least 11 families in Georgetown use charcoal for cooking fuel (oil



GUYANESE SMILES—The Ambassador Farms program helps members and families in Georgetown and other regions of Guyana cut costs, increase profits and boost family togetherness. [Photo by Dale Schurter]

and gas are much more expensive).

A 45-pound bag of good charcoal costs G\$35 wholesale in rural areas. In Georgetown it retails for more than G\$200 a bag. Middlemen and delivery costs account for the profit.

But, AFEL vehicles can pick up the charcoal directly and transport it to miniwarehouses. And brethren pay only G\$65 a bag.

God adds the blessing

Steven D. Andrews, the Church's (See GUYANA, page 3)

Christians and Muslims come to blows

Nigerian families seek refuge

By David Stirk

BOREHAMWOOD, England—No members were hurt in battles between Christians and Muslims in the northern Nigerian state of Bauchi.

Twenty members from five families live in Bauchi state. Two Church families (nine people) received sanctuary in military barracks.

They are safe and well, but the

regular Bible study in the Muslim town of Maiduguri has been canceled.

Vast sections of the capital of Bauchi state were burned. The fire stopped short of the home of the only member who lived near the area of conflict.

David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa in the British Office, submitted this report May 10.

Some Muslims want to make Bauchi a Muslim state. Muslims have been encouraged to insist on Sharia law (a Muslim law based on the Koran) throughout Bauchi and eventually all of Nigeria.

Should this situation develop, it would certainly devolve into a bloody civil war.

Prayers for our brethren living in this part of the world would be much appreciated.

Family flees home in Cameroon

PASADENA—Political tensions in the West African republic of Cameroon have forced Jean-Paul Njamta, a deacon in Cameroon, and his family to flee their home for safety.

Mr. Njamta is the branch director of a bank and a well-known member of his community. A group of citizens asked Mr. Njamta to join in a fight for human rights on Pentecost, May 19.

When he refused to join the fight, Mr. Njamta and his family felt it necessary to leave their home and are staying in another town. They are safe, although political skirmishes are also a problem there.

PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Skach

Dear Brethren,

One benefit of a survey we conducted of U.S. and Canadian church pastors was useful feedback concerning the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

After analyzing response and evaluating the program, we have decided to conduct a one-week Refresher instead of the originally planned two-week session, resulting in fewer days that ministers will have to spend away from their children.

Classes will begin and end on Wednesday and include more time for fellowship during the program.

We also plan to institute a program by which special lectures designed for ministers will be videotaped and sent to all full-time ministers. Classes that had been planned for the two-week program will be handled in this way.

This will permit all ministers to receive such information at the same time, yet still provide the opportunity for regular contact with headquarters through the Refresher.

Another important development that we are especially excited about here in Pasadena is the production of an all-new Bible correspondence course.

The new course has been in the idea stage for more than a decade and has actually been on the drawing boards for almost a year. I gave approval to proceed with plans and development after a thorough presentation was given to me in early January by the correspondence course team.

The first lesson of the new course is scheduled to be reviewed and edited in the next few weeks by the Manuscript Review Team (MRT). The MRT, which reports directly to me, was established more than a year ago to review and edit all the doctrinal literature we publish. I look forward to its analysis of this first lesson.

We are planning for the new correspondence course to consist of two levels of 12 lessons each.

Deeper study

Level One of the course will take the student through the entire Bible, six lessons for the Old Testament and six for the New.

INSIDE

Powerful archbishop of Canterbury . . . 2

God's Work in the Caribbean . . . 4

Who will stop world's tribal hatreds?

PASADENA—In Europe, Asia and Africa, major nations are being torn asunder by ethnic, communal and religious strife.

This point was driven home with the assassination May 21 of Rajiv Gandhi, India's former prime minister, who was campaigning for a comeback of his Congress I party.

A saddened U.S. President George Bush said, "I just don't know what the world's coming to."

A common thread to the unrest is a weakening of the power of central governments, allowing long-smoldering rivalries and blood feuds to erupt with renewed fury.

In Europe, tensions between Yugoslavia's two largest groups, the Serbs and the Croats, have risen to dangerous heights, especially in the southwestern portion of Croatia, home to a large Serbian minority.

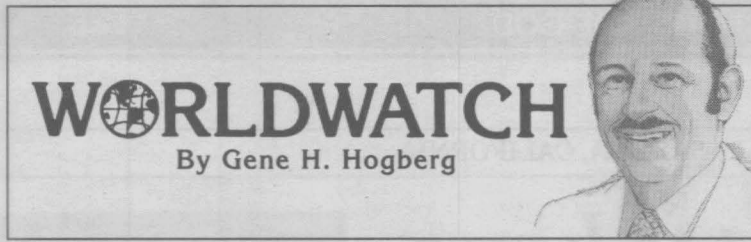
The Croatian republic's government is pushing for a looser Yugoslav federation, if not outright independence. This has caused consternation inside the ethnic Serbian enclave, whose residents want to secede from Croatia and link up with kith-and-kin in the Serbian republic.

This is much easier said than done. There are villages populated by Croats inside the Serbian enclave inside Croatia.

Serbs and Croats use the same language (with different alphabets), but beyond this have little in common.

For the most part, Croats are ardent Roman Catholics, whereas Serbs adhere to the Orthodox faith. Croats and neighboring Slovenes were drawn into the Austro-Hungarian empire; the Serbs, after a long period of independence, fell under the control of the Ottoman Turks.

"As long as the Habsburgs and the Ottomans remained dominant," wrote David Binder in the May 16 *New York Times*, "Serb-Croat animosities remained largely hypothetical." But when these great empires collapsed as a consequence of the First World War, it didn't take long for ethnic tensions to mount.



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

A patchwork kingdom from 1918 until 1941 proved unsuccessful. And the Second World War witnessed unspeakable atrocities between the two communities.

Another opportunity to live together harmoniously came at the end of the war, with the imposition of the strong, centralized government of Josip Broz Tito. Until his death in 1980, Marshall Tito kept a lid on factional disputes. But his attempt to create a Yugoslavian mentality largely failed.

The only question remaining, most analysts believe, is whether the split-up of the country can be achieved without civil war.

The Soviet disunion

In the Soviet Union, the issues are much the same. Again, the most apparent cause behind the escalating strife is the weakening power of the central government.

Some believe the drive for independence on the part of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is unstoppable.

In the Caucasus, the republics of Armenia and Georgia are pursuing their own paths to independence. But the Armenian issue is complicated by the fact that 200,000 Armenians live in an enclave inside neighboring Azerbaijan.

For months, fierce fighting has raged between members of the two communities, tying down troops dispatched from Moscow.

Elsewhere inside the Soviet Union, intercommunal complexities exist, symbolized by the many minority-populated autonomous regions within the nation's 15

republics. None of this leads to a neat sorting out in case the union dissolves.

Strife inside the Soviet Union, reported the May 8 *New York Times*, "testified to the dangerous ethnic passions that have surfaced ... since the lifting of stern Stalinist controls."

India's union threatened

India's 10th national election has been thrown into confusion with the assassination of Mr. Gandhi. The once powerful Congress I Party of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has lost its hold over the electorate. (Mr. Gandhi's mother, Indira, was assassinated in 1984.)

Observers say the biggest danger to the future of Indian democracy now comes from the challenge of the political right, as represented by the Baratiya Janata Party.

The BJP, notes journalist Anthony Spaeth, who lives in New Delhi, "promises special treatment for Hindus in a country with 132 million non-Hindus. If the BJP gains power—or gets close enough to taste it ... Hindu fundamentalism could lurch forward with astonishing speed, as Islamic fundamentalism has in Pakistan."

While India was under outside, meaning British, rule, factional fighting was kept to a minimum.

Hellish communal violence erupted with independence in 1947. Since then, India's political ideology of no religious or class favoritism has been, on the whole, successful. But this could soon come crashing down.

South Africa's agony

The reformist South African gov-

another's attention—the sort of attention that allows for a deep heart-to-heart talk?

We put much time into daily tasks such as keeping the home looking nice, working and preparing food. With these jobs, you don't wait until things get to crisis point to take action. It is obvious when these tasks are neglected. Communication between married couples also needs daily attention, although the results of neglect can be less obvious—for a while.

Time for God

And what about that most precious relationship of all—our relationship with God? The irony is that we can understand our purpose in life, and yet be too busy to pursue it. This is a real case of muddled priorities.

Each of us has been given a bank account filled with time. We must consider our priorities and how to spend our time.

cation in a family are priceless, but to purchase closeness in the family, the precious currency of time must be spent.

Time to be one

The same principle is true of husbands and wives. When a man and woman first meet, there is usually nothing more important than a long talk together. You crave the experience of sharing one another's thoughts.

But after the wedding has taken place, what does it take to get one

Old Testament people of special character were said to walk with God. They spent this precious gift of time with the Creator—an investment with spiritual implications.

The same is true of our families. We shouldn't be part-time members of a family. Life is to be shared fully with them—work, joys, celebrations, sorrow, worship. Love expresses itself in time given.

We all need to check where our most precious of resources is being spent.



Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

Time well spent

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Christ said in Matthew 6:21 (New King James).

You probably know the state of your bank account (for better or worse), but where do you spend your time? Who is the recipient of this, the most precious of your assets?

As members of God's Church, we are not in a simple race against the clock of mortality, because we understand that our life now is one lived on the threshold of eternity.

In this life, however, each of us has been given a bank account filled with time. We must consider our priorities and how to spend our time.

How well do we spend time? We may think that we value certain things highly, but if we take an honest look at how much time we devote to these things, we may be surprised. We all need to take a good look at ourselves and see what our values really are.

How do little ones spell love?

We understand the importance of the next generation, and the vital links between parents and children.

In a busy world, it is easy to

Africa's most famous personalities, heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard, announced his intention to move to Switzerland.

"The violence in the ... townships is unbelievable," says Mr. Barnard, a long-time apartheid opponent. "I'm witnessing the worst atrocities I've seen in my life.... I don't want my 2-year-old son to grow up in such an atmosphere."

Viewing the escalating tragedy of a world slipping out of control, we should be able to see ever more clearly the need for a centralized authority, but not one of man's making, like some of the repressive, totalitarian powers of the past.

The government of the kingdom of God will fairly adjudicate the passion-filled disputes among the nations. It will not be subject to political pressures.

The late Mr. Gandhi told a group of reporters concerning India, "This country needs a government that can function, a government that has a policy, a vision." That is what the whole world needs.

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



Anglican church crowns archbishop of Canterbury

BOREHAMWOOD, England—April 19 was a significant day for the Church of England—the enthronement of the 103rd archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey.

Amid the grandeur of ecclesiastical pomp and circumstance, Dr. Carey solemnly promised to continue the "historical formularies" of the Anglican church.

In an appeal for unity he asked "that we set above our divisions the urgency of witnessing to our nation that there is a God who cares and loves all people."

Dr. Carey is already causing a stir with his straight speaking on many topics. His position as archbishop of Canterbury gives him a powerful platform from which to comment on British life.

As the outgoing archbishop, Robert Runcie, wrote in the preface to an official history of England's ancient archbishopric, "No wise decisions about our future course can be made without such well-researched reflection on our past history."

This historic office has such authority as is conferred by time and tradition. It can be difficult for other countries to grasp just how large a role in history tradition has played in English culture.

This historic English ecclesiastical office began in 596. But Canterbury's origins are in fact Roman Catholic. Pope Gregory sent Augustine from Rome to Kent with the unequivocal support of what he regarded as his apostolic office.

Remember, church and state in Europe are not separate in the American sense. As Edward Carpenter wrote in his book *Cantuar—The Archbishops in Their Office*, "Augustine came from Rome, and thus links up the office of his successors with the Christian Church of near apostolic days and the secular Empire which gave unity to western Europe."

The office has evolved considerably throughout its 1,400 years. Four archbishops have been martyred, usually by the secular authorities. The most famous was Thomas a Becket in the 12th century, executed under

the auspices of Henry II.

Ironically at the time of his election, an ecclesiastical official wrote: "If king and archbishop are linked by affection and cherish one another in friendship, there is no doubt that the times will be happy and the existing gladness and tranquillity of the Church will continue."

"But if ... things should turn out otherwise, crises and confusions, troubles and tumults, damage to property and peril to souls will follow."

Later, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer met his death at the hands of Henry VIII. His long path to the stake was stained by cowardice, but his behavior at the execution itself was heroic.

Let's leave history and look at the present. The diversity of doctrinal attitudes in today's Anglican church makes it difficult to manage. As the lead editorial in *The Daily Mail* suggested, "The majesty of the enthronement of the Archbishop yesterday stood in stark contrast to the decadent state of the church over which he presides."

But where will the Church of England go from here? All churches in Europe face the same obstacle—the specter of secularism.

As the president of the Methodist conference said, "The trouble today is that many people in our society barely know the Christian story."

Preaching the gospel in the North German plain of irreligion (the area from Stockholm to London) is a nightmare.

The new archbishop aims to breathe life into a church that has little personal sway in an increasingly amoral society.

Truly the archbishopric of Canterbury has seen many changes throughout its long history. Today much of Northern Europe has become soulless—dried out by the hot winds of secularism.

The Bible in Europe simply does not have the credibility it has in North America. Bridging the gap from this secular world to the sacred Scriptures requires considerable skill.

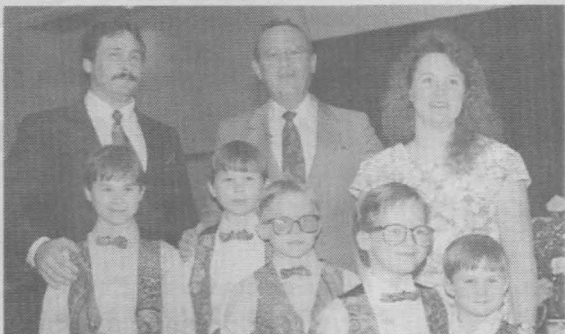
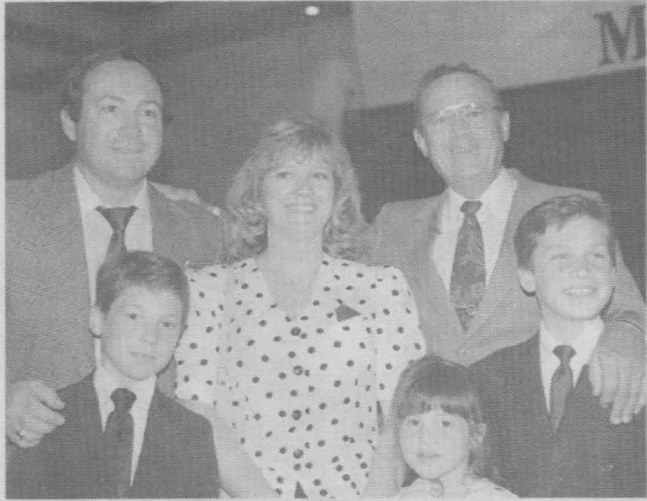
Pastor general visits Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

TRIP OVERVIEW

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 883 brethren May 11 from Appleton, Eagle River, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Wausau and Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Host ministers and wives were Dan and Janice Creed, Eagle River, Wausau and Wisconsin Dells; William and Kathy Miller, Appleton and Green Bay; Paul and Gloria Shumway, LaCrosse; and Mitchell and Linda Knapp, Eagle River and Wausau.

PHOTOS BY JOHN TORGERSON & HAROLD WILLIS



Guyana

(Continued from page 1)
 director of finance and planning, commented on the progress:
 "Guyana is an example of what

God can do when brethren respond to the Holy Spirit and fulfill their calling, and are not concerned with who gets the credit," he said.

"When people give, God adds his portion—a blessing—to ensure success.

How AFEL began

Jan. 2, 1990, Mr. Schurter and Mr. Krautmann flew to Guyana to analyze soil and make soil fertility recommendations.

They met with Prime Minister Hamilton Green and P.L. McKenzie, minister of agriculture.

Initial discussions with Mr. Green and Mr. McKenzie focussed on regenerative agriculture and freshwater shortages, especially in the interior of Guyana.

Mr. Schurter explained that only God can make humus, the organic part of the soil, and that the program is designed to expand on and support what God has created.

The prime minister and minister of agriculture gave full approval for the AFEL project, which at this time primarily benefits Worldwide Church of God congregations.

Soil-testing sites were selected, and samples of peanut and cowpea crops, and lime and avocado orchards were analyzed.

Villages with no roads, no power

Middlemen skimming profits is not a problem in Paramakatoi, an Amerindian village in Guyana's interior. However, because the village has no electricity and no roads, getting goods to market is extremely difficult. Flying goods out by charter aircraft is expensive.

AFEL's success in the Amerindian villages depends on a reliable, low-cost system to transport the crops.

Would a donkey pack train to Brazil be a way to get Amerindians' cowpeas, beans and peanuts to market?

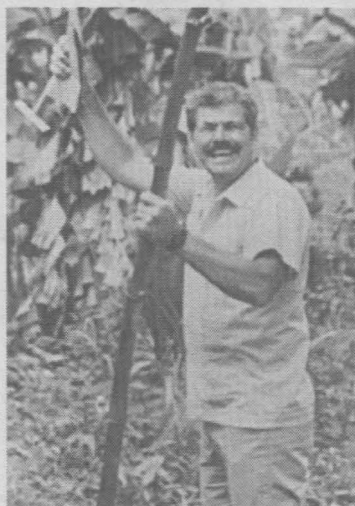
Donkeys are more surefooted than horses over mountain trails. With their small size they can pass through close areas more easily.

They can carry more pound-for-pound, eat less, cost less and can withstand heat better than horses.

With a donkey carrying about 200 pounds of peanuts, which bring G\$40 to G\$45 at market, or cowpeas or beans, perhaps donkeys were the answer. Estimated profits would be one U.S. dollar for each pound of peanuts, or US\$200 for each donkey load.

In Paramakatoi, all goods have to be brought in by humans or animals. Men and women often carry 100 to 140 pounds on their backs, up and down mountain paths, day after day.

"The strength and endurance of



SOIL SAMPLING—Dale Schurter tests growth conditions in Guyana jungle near Charity.

these Amerindians are incredible," Mr. Schurter observed.

Mr. Schurter and Mr. Krautmann met with four members in Paramakatoi. After spending time with them and assessing their needs, they learned that tons of cabbage had rotted beside the airstrip, waiting to be flown to market, because no plane arrived.

The brethren, the village chief and others expressed renewed hope for a better village economy and improved quality of life, thanks to the Church's AFEL project.

Truck transport

When Mr. Krautmann and Mr. Schurter began their fact-finding

mission in 1990, Chrisnah Prashad convinced them of the need for a truck to transport produce, seven tons at a time.

This will help brethren in Georgetown cut their food costs in half, said Mr. Prashad. "The rest of the produce can be sold on the open market to generate additional income, and neighboring farmers could also benefit."

Recommendations were made to Pasadena, and brethren from all over the United States donated funds and equipment including the truck, chain saws, Rototillers, hand tools, seed and soil supplements, an air compressor and Bibles.

When people want to donate to the project, Mr. Schurter jots down their names and phone numbers to contact them as needs arise.

"People's donations have helped make the whole program possible," he said. "It is not self-supporting yet, but we hope it will be within a couple of years."

Contributions to AFEL "reflect the generous outpouring of love by the Church and many, many brethren and friends who willingly help serve the needs of others," Mr. Schurter added.

To obtain financing, the AFEL even offers open stock certificates.

Mr. Schurter stressed the benefits of establishing friendly links

with the government as well as local communities. "We could make ourselves hated instead of loved if we do otherwise. The brethren offer much assistance in maintaining positive relations."

AFEL: seed of growth

As a fledgling program in an ailing country, AFEL could be the seed of growth to help regenerate and infuse new strength into Guyana.

Evangelist Colin Adair, Caribbean regional director, made his first trip to Guyana in March, met brethren and toured an agricultural research area and the AFEL site.

In May the Guyanese government granted the Church nonprofit status, which was a big boost to brethren. Their tithes and offerings are now tax deductible.

Meanwhile, Guyanese members and their families continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor, working together to maximize profits while building strong relationships.

The brethren are very appreciative to have a full-time resident minister and for all the other helps being provided by the Church.

"These things are making the Church in Guyana stronger spiritually, as well as physically," Mr. Schurter said.

"Into all the world..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. This column shows how the *World Tomorrow* telecast and the Church's publications change the lives of subscribers, co-workers and prospective members.

Course states truth plainly

My wife and I are enjoying the correspondence course very much and we are pleased to find that nothing has been taken out of context from the Bible [to] support whatever doctrine [you] wish to propose. It is so good to have the truth plainly stated. We appreciate the effort and research that went into the compilation of this course.

R.V.
 Fort Collins, Colo.

Telecast spiritually enriching

I have enjoyed the *World Tomorrow* broadcasts for the past year. Your programs have been spiritually enriching as well as educational. In the past, I have had the privilege of receiving the *Plain Truth* magazine. They too were morally encouraging.

I ... saw your program on "Sexually Transmissible Diseases." The world should have more television shows concerning this matter. Please send me a copy of STDs. I will use it as a guide in teaching my daughter of the horrors of these diseases.

P.R.
 Lexington, Ky.

The Worldwide News

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FOUNDER:
 Herbert W. Armstrong (1892-1986)

PUBLISHER & EDITOR IN CHIEF:
 Joseph W. Tkach
ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLISHER:
 J. Michael Feazell

MEDIA OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:
 Bernard W. Schnippert
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:
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Managing editor: Thomas C. Hanson; **senior editor:** Sheila Graham; **news editor:** Jeff Zhorne; **associate editor:** Becky Sweat; **copy editor:** Paul Monteith; **Big Sandy correspondent:** David Bensinger; **proofreader:** Peter Moore.

Columns: Gene Hogberg, "Worldwatch"; John Ross Schroeder, "European Diary"; Dexter H. Faulkner, "Just One More Thing."

Regional correspondents: Debbie Minke, Vancouver, B.C.; Eleazar Flores, Manila, Philippines; Aub Warren, Australia and Asia; Frankie Weinberger, Bonn, Germany; Rex Morgan, Auckland, New Zealand; Richard Steinfert, Nieuwegein, Netherlands; David Walker, Spanish Department; Vicki Taylor, Caribbean; Lucy Bloise, Italian Department; Marsha Sabin, French Department; Bryan Mathie and Peter Hawkins, Southern Africa; Irene Wilson, United Kingdom.

Art director: Ronald Grove; **illustrator:** Ken Tunell

Photography: G.A. Belluche Jr.; Charles Feldbush; Hal Finch; Glenda Jackson; Barry Stahl; **photo librarian:** Susan Braman.

Printing coordinators: Skip Dunn and David Bradford.

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Caribbean Office

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

Regional office serves diverse cultures, languages, peoples

By Colin Adair
Regional director

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—The Caribbean region, as defined by the Worldwide Church of God, consists of the English- and Dutch-speaking countries within or around the Caribbean Sea, as well as the Bahamas and Bermuda.

With Bermuda to the north, Barbados to the east, Suriname, South America, to the south and Belize, Central America, to the West, the Caribbean region is an expansive area with more than 30 countries or territories inhabited by more than six million people.

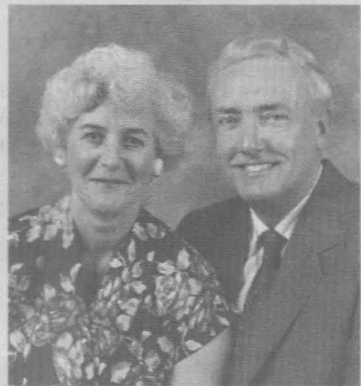
Because each island, or group of islands, is a nation in its own right (with its own currency, political system and culture), administration of the Church in the region is quite complicated.

In addition to serving the English-language needs of these areas, the regional office contends with nine currencies and 14 sets of accounting ledgers.

In addition to 18 churches and seven Bible studies (see map) the regional office serves scattered brethren in Aruba, the British Vir-

gin Islands, Cayman Islands and Suriname.

In 1990 the Church moved the regional office from Puerto Rico to Fort Lauderdale to consolidate the suboffices and centralize the



COLIN & MARGARET ADAIR

administrative work.

Much of the work load is already being handled here. This enables the ministry in the islands to focus more attention on the churches, a responsibility that was becoming more difficult as the work load of the suboffices increased.

The *World Tomorrow* telecast is

shown in the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Grenada and Jamaica. For the foreseeable future, these five television stations will be the sole electronic media effort in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Several stations were canceled in the past few years. A station in Trinidad, TTT-TV, produced so many responses that the Trinidad suboffice could not handle the work load.

Trinidad is the fastest growing church in the region, with visit requests coming in steadily. The church there has doubled in the past five years.

Plain Truth circulation for 1991 was set at 20,000. It is difficult to keep this figure that low even without media efforts. Presently, the



OFFICE STAFF—Employees of the Caribbean Office are (from left) Domingo Negrón, Bryan Weeks, Jerry Ruddlesden, David Laracunte, Vicki Taylor, Kenneth Barker, Colin Adair, regional director, Rick Taylor, Audrey Huntley and Bryan Rogers. [Photo by Julie Rogers]

figure stands at just more than 24,000.

With the combining of *The Plain Truth* and *Good News* we regrettably had to cut off *Plain Truth* subscribers in most of the Caribbean and send the new *Plain*

Truth to former *Good News* subscribers.

However, in our priority nations, Bahamas, Barbados and Bermuda, *Plain Truth* readers were automatically given subscriptions to the (See CARIBBEAN, page 5)

50 brethren let their lights shine in remote village in Guyana interior

By Paul Krautmann

AWAREWAUNAU, Guyana—Three hundred miles inland from Georgetown, the capital of Guyana, near the Brazilian border, lies a sprawling collection of houses made of mud and wood, with thatched roofs.

Paul Krautmann, pastor of the St. George's, Grenada, and Kingstown, St. Vincent, churches, writes about deacon Laurus Alfred and the brethren in a remote part of Guyana.

There are no cars or buses,

there is no electricity and little water. The tree-dotted savanna stretches endlessly in every direction.

Here there is quiet, except for the breeze blowing in the trees, the lowing of cattle and the laughter of children. Here, the stars shine clear and bright and the air is fresh.

Here is a different world—the world of the Wapishiana tribe of Amerindians. And here, in this tiny village in a remote corner of South America, God has called 50 men, women and children who are quietly serving him and let-

ting their lights shine.

It all began with one man and his wife, Laurus and Olive Alfred, with their two children, Ryan and Emily.

They began obeying God after hearing *The World Tomorrow* on Radio Antilles and studying literature sent to them.

In January 1985 they walked 40 miles to the nearest airstrip, where they boarded an airplane to Lethem, the main town in the Rupununi region, about 50 miles away.

There the Alfreds had their first (See VILLAGE, page 5)

INTERNATIONAL DESK

FROM OUR CARIBBEAN OFFICE

Common heritage molds islands of the Caribbean

By Rick Taylor
and Clifford Lewis

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—A common history and identity ties much of the Caribbean region together.

Rick Taylor is Festival coordinator and circulation manager in the Caribbean Office, and Clifford Lewis is a member from Trinidad.

What Christopher Columbus found in the late 1400s and other explorers found later were varied islands of diverse topography, sparsely inhabited by the Carib (hence, the name Caribbean), Arawak and Taino Indians.

Because these lands were thought to be part of the Orient, they also came to be known as the West Indies.

As the Europeans arrived to explore the islands and surrounding mainlands a common heritage was created.

Most Caribbean people descended from West Africans brought as slaves for the sugar industry, or from East Indian indentured servants, European colonists and Far Eastern immigrants.

Though colonized by the British, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch, the countries of the Caribbean were fought over in the struggle to control the West Indies. With some countries changing hands as many as 14 times, the effects of these disputes can be felt today.

One evidence is language. While English is the official language of many countries served

by the regional office, Spanish, Dutch, French patois and papiamentu are the languages of people in some areas.

Struggle for unity

Attempts at unity have suffered because of this history of change. With independence coming to many countries in the mid 1900s, efforts toward political unity have been mainly unsuccessful.

While the benefits of a united Caribbean are evident, individualism and nationalism have far outweighed any genuine desire for regional integration.

The region has had some success with economic unity with the forming of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in 1973.

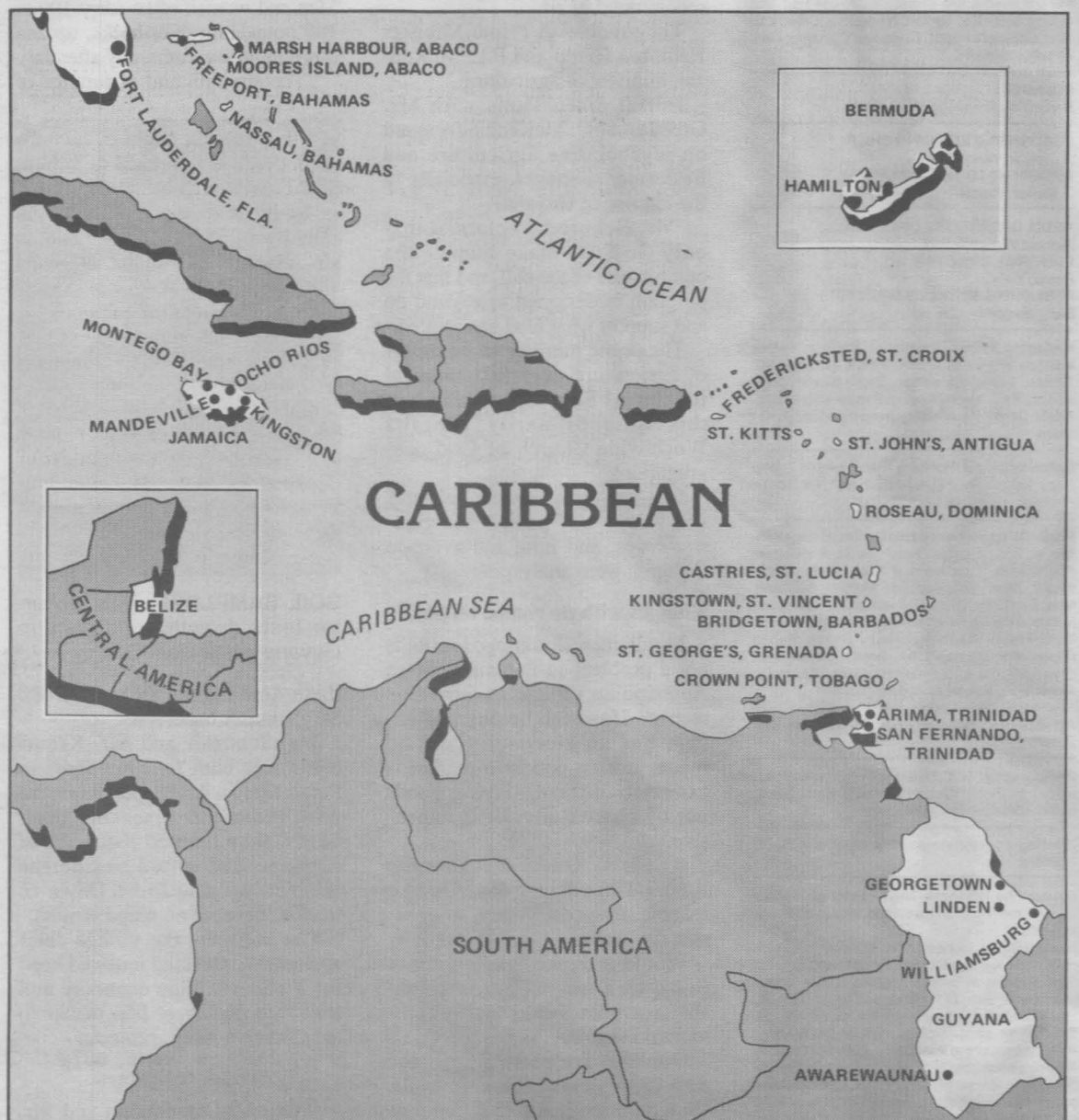
CARICOM preserved an existing free trade area as well as providing a customs union to better harmonize the fiscal policies of its members.

Economic future of the region

For much of this century many Caribbean countries have focused on either commodity production or tourism as the mainstay of their economies.

The Caribbean Basin Initiative with the United States, which began in 1984, has not provided the quick economic boost desired by the Caribbean governments. Nor has CaribCan, a Caribbean-Canadian trade program started in 1986. The dismal results are related to agricultural import restrictions, primarily on sugar and fruits.

While concessions with the United States and Canada in regard (See HERITAGE, page 6)



Churches and Bible studies served by the Caribbean Regional Office

When a minister needs relief Dean Blackwell pitches in

By Becky Sweat

PASADENA—For evangelist Dean Blackwell, a day's notice before leaving on a trip is not unusual. In fact, it happens fairly often.

Mr. Blackwell is, in his words, a "relief pitcher." When a minister has a serious health problem, an accident or some other emergency, it's Mr. Blackwell's job to take off and spend some time with him, helping out in any way he can. That means staying anywhere from a couple days to several weeks or more if the situation is serious.

Unlike evangelist Gerald Waterhouse, whose job is primarily to speak at Sabbath services and Bible studies, Mr. Blackwell's job is focused on helping the minister, or as he puts it, being a "minister's minister." In fact, many of his visits take place on weekdays and don't even include a Sabbath.

Evangelist Joseph W. Tkach Jr., director of U.S. Church Administration, said: "Mr. Blackwell has a special gift of encouragement. He has developed this talent in learning from the many and varied experiences while serving in God's ministry."

"I've known him since I was in third grade and he has always been like an uncle to me. His family orientation toward the people God is calling is appreciated and is a necessary part of the ministry."

Listening, talking, encouraging

Mr. Blackwell does his job in a variety of ways. Sometimes all that's needed is to spend time with the minister talking, listening or sharing encouraging articles and books.

He may go with the minister and his family to a movie, or watch their son pitch at a Little League baseball game. Other times he's needed to temporarily take over some of the pastor's duties.

"Since I know I'm going to be there only a few weeks, any long-standing counseling, like progressive marriage or baptismal counseling, in most cases, the regular minister goes and handles those," said Mr. Blackwell.

"I'll do anointings or general counselings, Spokesman Clubs, Bible studies and things like that. Long-standing counseling wouldn't work with a man who just comes in for a few weeks or a month or two."

Mr. Blackwell said it's a challenge to be prepared for any kind of emergency. "You never know what it's going to be—it could be a health crisis, someone dying or someone who had an automobile accident," he said. "I can't schedule things far in advance because I've learned over the years plans just get changed."

Several years ago, when he and his family were getting ready to leave on a driving trip to Arkansas for the Spring Holy Days, he got a call from Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach.

"He said we needed to go to Kansas instead," Mr. Blackwell explained. "Our car was loaded and we were leaving at sun up the next morning. So instead of going to Arkansas, we went to Kansas. That was four days before Passover."

Not all of his trips are emergencies though. Mr. Blackwell also makes trips to present 25-year anniversary watches and plaques, to do ordinations and to speak at singles weekends and church anniversary celebrations.

"When I get to ordain someone, that's especially a treat and a joy," Mr. Blackwell said. "In some

cases the men I ordain are like my sons because I had them in college at Big Sandy or Pasadena. When I get together with them, it's like resuming an old brotherhood and that is really exciting."

Mr. Blackwell has been doing this job since 1979, when he and his wife, Maxine, moved to Pasadena. "I mentioned to Mr. Armstrong years ago that my wife and I were free to go if he needed us out in an area for a few weeks, a few months, or a few years," said Mr. Blackwell.

"It's always been the same way with Mr. Tkach. He knows if he



DEAN & MAXINE BLACKWELL

needs to call me any time of the day or night to tell me to grab my bags and run to an area, I'm ready to go."

Years of experience

Mr. Blackwell, a native of Kilgore, Tex., graduated from Ambassador College in 1954 and entered the ministry that year.

Between 1954 and 1981, Mr. Blackwell served as pastor in more than a dozen church areas. In 1964 he was ordained an evangelist. His brothers, Tom, Mike and Lowell, also serve in the ministry.

In 1990 Mr. Blackwell spent 224 days away from his home in Pasadena, and attended Sabbath services there just five times. During the past 12 years, he's only spent one Holy Day in Pasadena. The rest of the time he's been out visiting church areas. Last year he visited about 120 ministers.

At least half the time his wife goes with him on his trips. "We thrive well on it. We don't get tired until we get back home from a trip and the adrenaline stops flowing and we unwind," said Mr. Blackwell. "It doesn't hit us when we're out because we're so supercharged with excitement about being with the ministers and the churches and the people."

Because of cultural differences, most of his trips are in the United States. "It would be more natural for someone in Australia to go out and help a man in Australia than it would be for an American to try to go over there," he said. Some of Mr. Blackwell's trips have been overseas, but those have been primarily for Holy Day speaking assignments.

Frequent fliers

Most of the time the Blackwells travel by plane. He has frequent flyer memberships on most of the major airlines, and has built up 160,000 miles on Delta and 55,000 miles on Trans World Airlines.

They've learned when the less-crowded planes take off, which flights have the best connections, when the airport is least busy and how to avoid all the other things that make flying difficult.

Mr. Blackwell said he's had some scares while flying. One time they were concerned about running out of fuel and crashing. The passengers had to put their

heads on their knees, while the flight attendants told them how to prepare for an emergency landing.

"On another flight the pilot actually flew through a storm," said Mr. Blackwell. "Hail was hitting the plane and there was lightning outside our window. The plane was bouncing around like a Ping-Pong ball."

Once at his destination Mr. Blackwell said he usually doesn't rent a car. He's able to spend more time with the ministers if he rides with them rather than drive a separate car. If he's visiting two or more adjacent church areas, he'll have one minister drive him halfway, meet the other minister for lunch, then go back with the second minister in his car.

Most of the time the Blackwells stay at the home of one of the ministers, rather than go to a motel. "It seems to build more brotherliness and of course it helps us get to know them better," said Mr. Blackwell.

"They can feel more at ease to open up and talk with us. I'm able to help in more areas when they feel a personal friendship."

Mr. Blackwell has collected humor cards and books for many years, and enjoys sharing his collection with others. When visiting an area he likes to take ministers to bookstores.

Mr. Blackwell feels that humor



THE FIRST CUT—Evangelist Dean Blackwell cuts the cake at the 25th anniversary of the Midland, Tex., church, while (from left) evangelist Larry Salyer, pastor Don Billingsley and evangelist David Albert look on. [Photo by Hal Finch]

is an important part of his job. "I think when I go out, if I can get the minister's interest in a book or in humor so he can kind of relax, that's good," he said. "You need to be able to unload yourself and put the load on God."

When Mr. Blackwell gives presentations in church areas, he likes to include humor as much as possible.

'Did you hear the one ...'

"People know I'm an aggie [alumnus of Texas A&M University, an agricultural college], so they're always bringing up little mementos of aggie humor, like a Cheerio being an aggie doughnut

seed," said Mr. Blackwell. "I'm always hit up about aggies and usually people try to tell me their best jokes."

When asked what he liked best about his job, Mr. Blackwell replied, "Spending time in the local church areas with the people!" For him, this has always been a dream job.

He remembers telling his students at Ambassador College years ago: "To me, the ideal job would be to go out and spend time in church areas with field ministers, and I'd hoped that could someday be my job. In the last few years, that's exactly what it's been."

Village

(Continued from page 4)

contact with a minister (myself) of the Worldwide Church of God. I baptized them on a second trip to Lethem, Feb. 13, 1986.

For the next several years they quietly lived in Awarewaunau, keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days at home. Only once could they go to Georgetown for the Feast.

Shining example

During the five years since their baptism an interesting thing happened. Others noticed the Alfreds—how they kept the Sabbath, ate only clean meats, were kind and their children were well-behaved.

One by one other people met with the Alfreds in their home, asking Mr. Alfred to read Church literature to them in their Wapishiana language and answer their questions.

The group has grown so large that they are building their own building for meeting on the Sabbath.

Mail is extremely slow here. It can take a letter three to six months to reach Awarewaunau from Georgetown. But, when literature arrives, Mr. Alfred carefully reads it to the little congregation.

From time to time they get sermon tapes, and, if they have batteries, they listen to tapes on a recorder

provided by the church.

Awarewaunau has been without radio or telephone communication with the outside world, dependent on the occasional mail brought in from airstrips whenever aircraft venture to that part of the country.

Now, thanks to the Church, they have a radio that provides communication with the pastor of the church in Georgetown, Wesley Webster.

Vitalis Alfred, Laurus' brother, operates the radio from the church building. It was a big event for the village when the radio was installed and the first contact was made with Georgetown, Sunday, March 10.

At that time a donation was presented to Mr. Alfred from the Church to assist with the purchase of some cows and materials needed for the meeting place, in addition to some farm tools to help them

increase production.

At times, food has become so scarce that the people of Awarewaunau and surrounding villages have subsisted on green, unripe mangos.

There is no market in the area where they can sell their produce, so most people have little or no money to buy necessary items. The nearest market is in Brazil, about two days away by foot.

Through the Church, it is hoped to have the village ox cart repaired (by buying two new car tires and tubes) so that goods can be transported to Brazil.

It was a joyous occasion when, during Sabbath services March 9, Mr. Webster and I ordained Laurus Alfred to be a deacon in God's Church. He now has the extra help through the Holy Spirit to take care of God's people in this isolated corner of Guyana.

Caribbean

(Continued from page 4)

new Plain Truth.

Twelve full-time ministers, two ministerial trainees and six local church elders serve a membership of about 1,520 (as of March 21). Attendance each Sabbath averages 2,650. The Feast of Tabernacles

was conducted at eight sites in 1990 with an attendance of 3,505.

The economic condition in the Caribbean is precarious. Tourism has taken a downturn in the past few years and rising prices have added to the problem.

Europe and 1992 are constantly in the news in the Caribbean. Many islands are worried about their banana exports to the United Kingdom and the open competition that will come with the new Europe.

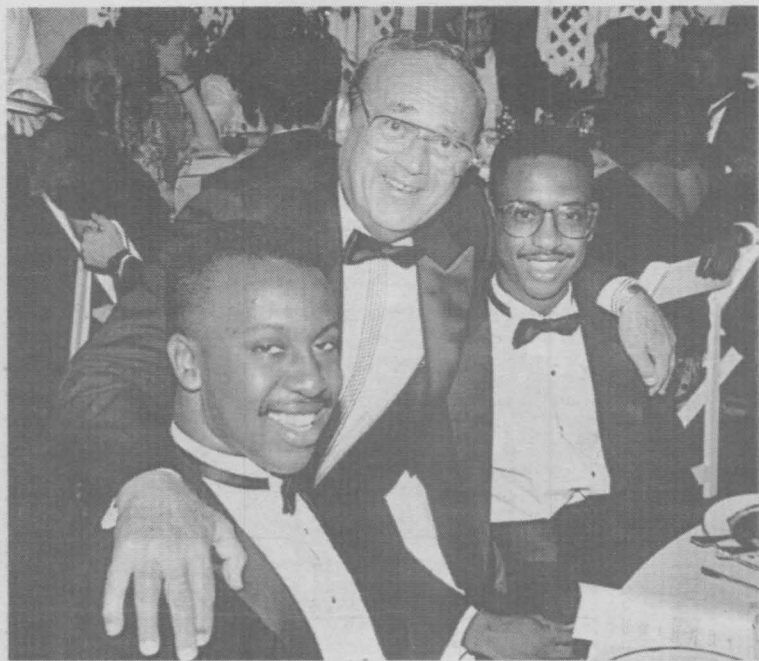
Caribbean prime ministers met in Trinidad to discuss ways to unify the region to present a common trade front. However, vested interest appeared to prevent agreement on greater cooperation.

In the midst of these difficulties the brethren are positive and hopeful. On a trip to Guyana, I was impressed with the attitude of brethren facing extreme hardships as their nation struggles to cope with its difficulties. The same is true throughout most of the Caribbean.

The solutions to be brought by the kingdom of God are very real to the churches here. The brethren's eyes are on that goal as they face daily problems.



GUYANA DEACON—Laurus Alfred, his wife, Olive, and their children Ryan and Emily live in the remote village of Awarewaunau, 300 miles from the Guyanese capital. [Photo by Paul Krautmann]



SENIOR DINNER—Chancellor Joseph W. Tkach chats with Jerome (left) and James Merriweather at the Ambassador College senior dinner May 6. Mr. Tkach was host to 356 seniors, faculty and spouses in the College dining hall. [Photo by Mike Bedford]

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

will support and complement the redirected emphasis of *The World Tomorrow* and *The Plain Truth* and will inspire and motivate students to turn to God.

We have three specific goals in mind: 1) to more effectively serve the main audience of the course—nonmembers of the Worldwide Church of God; 2) to present a unified overview of the teachings of the Bible in layman's language for both members and nonmembers; and 3) to help revitalize the personal Bible study of Church members by providing an organized and exciting approach to the Bible.

Both Level One and Level Two will enable us to provide a deeper understanding of biblical truths more fully understood by the Church in recent years.

Interim course

The current 32-lesson course, which is replete with dated explanations of our teachings and doctrines, has been revised as an interim course of 12 lessons, containing the fundamental doctrines as follows:

Lesson 1: Why Study the Bible in the Space Age?

Lesson 2: World Peace—How It Will Come!

Lesson 3: The Coming Wonderful World Tomorrow!

Lesson 4: What Is "Hell"?

Lesson 5: Will You Go to Heaven?

Lesson 6: Why the Old and New Covenants?

Lesson 7: What is Real Repentance?

Lesson 8: Should You Be Baptized?

Lesson 9: Why We Need the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 10: What Is the Christian Sabbath?

Lesson 11: Why Christians Should Keep God's Holy Days.

Lesson 12: A New Beginning!

When the new course is ready to be launched, we are strongly considering developing the basic text of the revised 12-lesson interim course into a special series of booklets.

We feel that this series of booklets, which would be designed to specifically explain the beliefs and teachings of the Worldwide Church of God, would serve as a useful counsel-

ing tool for the ministry.

Many ministers have long used the correspondence course in this way. We are planning, tentatively, that it would be a distinctive series of 10 to 12 booklets, with its own format and identity, to progressively take a potential member through some of our essential teachings.

The new correspondence course (one title we are considering is "Understanding the Bible") will become a tool that will powerfully witness to those who desperately need to understand the gospel of the kingdom of God. It will effectively serve to help us teach "all things that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20, New King James).

The launch date for "Understanding the Bible" is the fall of 1992. Even though that may seem like a long time from now, I wanted to share some of this planning with all of you now. I hope you share our excitement and enthusiasm over this new project, and will join us in praying for its success.

Caribbean heritage

(Continued from page 4)

to garment manufacturing are improving, the Caribbean has had to rely heavily on a fickle North American tourism industry as its main source of foreign exchange.

European tourists

With a steady decline in North American tourists in the late 1980s, the Caribbean began to woo the European tourist. This growing market has proved quite lucrative to hoteliers and suppliers as Europeans generally spend more time and money than their North American counterparts.

Realizing the dangers of depending upon tourism and commodity production as the sole economic base, some areas of the region have turned to offshore finance as an alternative. The principle areas are Aruba, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Curacao and Montserrat.

However, removal of a tax treaty in Curacao and allegations of banking fraud in Montserrat have severely damaged the offshore financial industry in those two countries. Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands have taken the forefront with aggressive Eurocurrency operations.

In addition the Cayman Islands has boosted its economy by allowing extensive private company

Church names choir directors for U.S. and Canadian Feast sites

PASADENA—The Festival Office announced U.S. special music coordinators (SMC), Festival choir directors (DIR) and children's choir directors (CCD).

Those interested in performing at a Feast site should contact the appropriate person listed below and request copies of the music to be used. Prospective choir members should list the voice part they sing and their experience level.

Instrumental or vocal soloists should contact the special music coordinator for the site that they plan to attend unless an instrumental ensemble is noted separately. Soloists should submit several possible numbers for consideration.

Choir members are expected to know their music before arriving at the Feast site, as rehearsals during the Feast will be sufficient only to tune up the choir for performance.

The two selections for the children's choirs have been made. Details for obtaining copies of the music and an audio tape will be announced by church pastors.

Children wishing to participate should learn the two pieces by heart and prepare to attend a rehearsal at the Feast. They are not required to contact the children's choir director before the Feast. Applicants will receive responses soon afterward.

U.S. sites

Anchorage, Alaska: Doug Hanson (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 5109 Lionheart Dr., Anchorage, Alaska, 99508-2528, telephone 1-907-333-4390.

Big Sandy: Richard Thomas (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 7620 S.W. 147 Ct., Miami, Fla., 33193, telephone 1-305-386-1448.

Biloxi, Miss.: King Finlay (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 2045 Scheetz Church Rd., Quakertown, Pa., 18951, telephone 1-215-538-2115.

Chattanooga, Tenn.: Thomas Hammett (SMC), (DIR), (ensemble), 3107 Elmore Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn., 37415, telephone

1-615-877-7270; Marcia Bonner, (CCD), Route 2, Box 223C, Jerusalem Rd., Jasper, Ga., 30143, telephone 1-404-692-3369.

Corpus Christi, Tex.: Gerald Witte (SMC), Box 844, Friendswood, Tex., 77546, telephone 1-713-992-4330; Neil Lacasse (DIR), 8788 S. Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, Mich., 48827; Joni Anderson (CCD), 13713 Charidges Ct., Houston, Tex., 77034, telephone 1-713-484-0075.

Dayton, Ohio: Mark Graham (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 1490 Roycroft Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107, telephone 1-216-529-1380.

Daytona Beach, Fla.: David Myers (SMC), Box 111, Big Sandy, Tex., 75755, telephone 1-903-636-2185; Steve Myers (DIR) 632 Franklin St., Stevens Point, Wis., 54481, telephone 1-715-341-9130; Donna Myers (CCD) 4700 Olive Rd., Trotwood, Ohio, 45426, telephone 1-513-854-5077; Norm Myers (instrumental ensemble), telephone 1-513-854-5077.

Eugene, Ore.: William Samuelson (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 5028 48th Ave. NE, Seattle, Wash., 98105, telephone 1-206-522-3563.

Jekyll Island, Ga.: Dan Salcedo (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 117 Lohrum Lane, Anaheim, Calif., 92807, telephone 1-714-637-4335.

Hot Springs, Ark.: Ross Jutsum (SMC), Music Department, Box 111, Big Sandy, Tex., 75755, telephone 1-903-636-2170; Pat Henry (DIR), 13 Donnell Dr., North Little Rock, Ark., 72120, telephone 1-501-834-0945; Nancy Griffin (CCD), 6514 W. Main, Jacksonville, Ark., 72076, telephone 1-501-982-5085.

Keystone, Colo.: Craig Coulter (SMC), 18205 E. Loyola Place, Aurora, Colo., 80013, telephone 1-303-766-1519; Byron Griffin (DIR), (CCD), Box 111, Big Sandy, Tex., 75755, telephone 1-903-636-2185.

Kona, Hawaii: David Bilowus (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), Box 111, Big Sandy, Tex., 75755, telephone 1-903-636-2170.

Lexington, Ky.: Al Dennis (SMC), (DIR), 9512 Colgate Way, Hamilton, Ohio, 45011, telephone 1-513-860-2788; Phil Rosenzweig (CCD), 4510 Colerain Ave., Apt. 30, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45223, telephone 1-513-542-9775.

Niagara Falls, N.Y.: Clyde Kilough (SMC), 15 Anne St., Mountain Top, Pa., 18707, telephone 1-717-474-6343; Ted Rounds (DIR), (CCD), 224 Blakeslee Hill Rd., Newfield, N.Y., 14867, telephone (home) 1-607-277-1552, (work) 1-607-274-3427.

Norfolk, Va.: Floyd Satterwhite (SMC), (DIR), Box 561, Mechanicsville, Va., 23111, telephone 1-804-746-7948; Ann Stewart (CCD), Box 12482, Norfolk, Va., 23502, telephone 1-804-461-2421; Floyd Satterwhite Jr. (Youth Opportunities United choir), telephone 1-804-446-7948.

Palm Springs, Calif.: Bob Vitale (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 117 E. Newby Ave., San Gabriel, Calif., 91776, 1-818-288-4130.

Pasadena: Rick Jackson (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91129, telephone 1-818-304-6140.

Pensacola, Fla.: Dennis Pelley (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), (ensemble), 1614 N. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena, Calif., 91103, telephone 1-818-304-6139.

Rapid City, S.D.: Terry Johnson (SMC), 16620 Castelar St., Omaha, Neb., 68130, telephone 1-402-691-8655; Dennis Morris (DIR), 2313 Robbie Ave., Belle-

vue, Neb., 68005, telephone 1-402-291-6908; Carol McCurdy (CCD), 3987 Yellow Pine Dr., Lilburn, Ga., 30247, telephone 1-404-381-6444.

Redding, Calif.: Gregg Hutchison (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 28112 Hardesty Ave., Canyon Country, Calif., 91351, telephone 1-805-251-1587.

St. Petersburg, Fla.: Gary Liebold (SMC), 913 19th St. SW, Largo, Fla., 34640-4348, telephone 1-813-584-6171; Carl Dayhoff (DIR), 1105 S.E. 30th St., Cape Coral, Fla., 33904, telephone 1-813-549-4072; Gary Gooch (CCD), 6547 Mauna Loa Blvd., Sarasota, Fla., 34241, telephone 1-813-377-7450.

Saratoga Springs, N.Y.: Jim Herrick (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 17 Marjorie St., Concord, N.H., 03303, telephone 1-603-225-9391.

Spokane, Wash.: Steve Kakacek (SMC), (DIR), 349 E. 19th, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83404, telephone 1-208-523-0105; Mary Jo Rydholm (CCD), 1512 Lebanon St. SE, Lacey, Wash., 98503, telephone 1-206-438-0318.

Tucson, Ariz.: Gary Pendergraft (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 7230 Lamesa Lane, Memphis, Tenn., 38133, telephone 1-901-385-2023.

Vail, Colo.: John Bass (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), 4620 Greylock S., Boulder, Colo., 80301, telephone 1-303-530-4989.

Wisconsin Dells, Wis.: David Kroll (SMC), (DIR), 6865 N. Burbank Ave., Milwaukee, Wis., 53224, telephone 1-414-353-7970; Ronald Shields (CCD), 903 N. Roosevelt Ave., Oconomowoc, Wis., 53066, telephone 1-414-567-0825.

Caribbean cruise: Steve Schantz (SMC), (DIR), (CCD), Box 3312, Fort Myers, Fla., 33918-3312, telephone 1-813-656-0161.

Canadian sites

Halifax, N.S.: Terry Roth (SMC), 14 Rigolet Crescent, St. John's, Nfld., Canada, A1A 3S2, telephone 1-709-753-1578; Babe Stanley (DIR), HC-77, Box 247, Hancock, Maine, 04640, telephone 1-207-422-6475; Linda Roth (CCD), 14 Rigolet Crescent, St. John's, Nfld., Canada, A1A 3S2, telephone 1-709-753-1578.

Penticton, B.C.: Robert Millman (SMC), 16 Northey Ave., Red Deer, Alta., Canada, T4P 1R4, telephone 1-403-346-8019; Ron Langlo (DIR), 222 Wood Valley Place SW, Calgary, Alta., Canada, T2W 5T8, telephone 1-403-281-2703; Jerry Ozipko (CCD), c/o Robert Millman, 16 Northey Ave., Red Deer, Alta., Canada, T4P 1R4, telephone 1-403-346-8019.

Regina, Sask.: Jim Little (SMC) (CCD), 2624 Shooter Drive E. Apt. I, Regina, Sask., Canada, S4V 1E1, telephone 1-306-789-3220; David Ives (DIR), 24 Kettering St., Winnipeg, Man., Canada, R3R 2A1, telephone 1-204-895-1966.

Sherbrooke, Que.: Charles Mayer (SMC), (DIR), 101 Maison-neuve Dr., Dollard des Ormeaux, Que., Canada, H9B 1K5, telephone 1-514-683-8756.

Victoria, B.C.: David Cheperdak (SMC), 6246 125 St., Surrey, B.C., Canada, V3X 2C8, telephone 1-604-596-4381; Roger Briggs (DIR), c/o Guy Moss, 740 E. 17 St., North Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V7L 2W8, telephone 1-604-988-7999; Betty Kost (CCD), 1662 Georgia View Place, Sidney, B.C., Canada, V8L 4R6, telephone 1-604-655-3144.

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

UPDATE

PORTLAND, Ore.—Forty-one ministers and their wives met here May 7 to 9 for the Northwest regional conference.

Speakers were evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr., director of U.S. Church Administration; evangelist K.J. Stavrinides; Victor Kubik, assistant director of U.S. Church Administration; and Michael Rice, assistant to Mr. Tkach Jr.

☆☆☆

BIG SANDY—Kenneth C. Herrmann, a long-time instructor at Ambassador College, was awarded a plaque and clock April 10 for his years of service to the College. He was named professor emeritus



KENNETH C. HERRMANN

Mr. Herrmann taught a variety of classes including physics, history, German, theology and astronomy. He has also served as registrar and director of admissions.

☆☆☆

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Faced with a failing economy, more than 150 Jamaican brethren and friends attended the second Worldwide Church of God business seminar, "The Christian Business Person in Action," April 24.

The seminar was designed to follow up on last year's theme, "Be the first hired and the last fired."

Charles Fleming, pastor of the churches in Jamaica, enlisted the help of several members who are achievers in their fields to be the guest speakers. Lectures were given on market analysis; tips for starting a small business and examining the risks; business cycles; management skills; and building a customer base.

The seminar also featured panel discussions, allowing the brethren to ask questions and follow up on what was presented.

☆☆☆

MONTREAL, Que.—While residents here are concerned about the separation of Quebec from the rest of Canada, the francophone (French-speaking) and anglophone (English-speaking) brethren in Montreal are becoming more unified than ever, according to Colin Wilkins, Montreal pastor.

Last January, evangelist Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration International, organized the francophone and anglophone congregations under one pastor.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, the 700-plus francophone and 350 anglophone brethren in Montreal had services together.

Morning services were conducted in French, while the anglophone brethren used headphones to listen to the English translation. In the afternoon, the situation was reversed, with the service being conducted in English. Evangelist Gerald Waterhouse gave a slide show and sermon.

Mr. Wilkins said that during the song service brethren sang in their own language. "Since the church here consists of brethren from Italy,

Switzerland, the Ukraine, Greece, Germany and many other areas, every one joined in singing praises to God in his or her own mother tongue—and this without any confusion at all."

☆☆☆

PASADENA—Media Operations launched Professional Development for Secretaries April 10, an in-house program designed to give secretaries and receptionists additional training.

According to Bernard Schnipfert, director of Media Operations, "participants receive practical knowledge they can apply in everyday situations to improve their own work performance." The women will also receive up-to-date information about changes in the secretarial field.

Eileen Wendling, training coordinator for Media Operations, and Joyce Iiams, a senior secretary in Editorial Services, designed the program.

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PASADENA—Youth Opportunities United (YOU) announced gold level winners of Family Bowl '91, the national YOU bowling contest.

Division 1 consisted of teams of family members with various levels of experience. Top teams were Steve, Sue, Steve Jr. and Scott Burgett from the Cleveland, Ohio, West, church; Terry, Cindy, Russell and Christine Finger from the Waukesha, Wis., church; and Dave Sr.,

Darlene, Dave Jr. and Don Buchert, also from Waukesha.

Division 2 players all had previous bowling experience. Gold level teams, all from Waukesha, were Richard and Jason Brown, Bernie DeFere and Mark Martin; Gene and Mark Martin, Marie Braun and John Gilrud; Cindy and Christine Finger, Marie Braun and Jason Brown.

Division 3 teams had one or more players with no bowling experience. Top teams were Dave and Robert DeHart, Ron Ware and Steven Ware from the Fort Smith, Ark., church; Lancer Hicks, Tammie Griswold, Joe Bone and Allison VanCuren from the El Paso, Tex., church; and Ray and Julianne Kaleho, Jeff Broadnax and Janice Overton from Big Sandy.

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FORT PAYNE, Ala.—Georgia Biddle of the Gadsden, Ala., church became 100 years old April 25.

Mrs. Biddle was baptized in 1962 by Carn Catherwood and Dennis Luker in Gaylesville, Ala. For the past few years she has been unable to attend services because of health problems.

When asked what contributed to her longevity, she said, "My father told me to never pick up heavy things without help because I was so small." Mrs. Biddle is less than five feet tall.

Mrs. Biddle has three daughters, Ruby Dawson, Ora Hales and Jewel Jenkins; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

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GADSDEN, Ala.—The church here celebrated its 20th anniversary March 16.

Messages were given by Steve Smith, pastor of the Gadsden church, and Bill Winner, pastor of

TELEVISION STATION UPDATES table with columns: Station/Location, Air Time, Contract Period. Includes New Stations and Renewals.

the Wheeling, W.Va., and Steubenville, Ohio, churches, who pastored the Gadsden church from 1976 to 1983.

Activities included a sit-down dinner, dance and a display of then-and-now photos.

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BIG SANDY—Evangelist Donald Ward, president of Ambassador College, announced student leaders for the 1991-92 school year.

They are Kevin Epps, student body president; Scott Jennings, student body vice president; Phil Herrington, student body sergeant at arms; Amy Harrison, student body secretary; Stan Antas, student body treasurer.

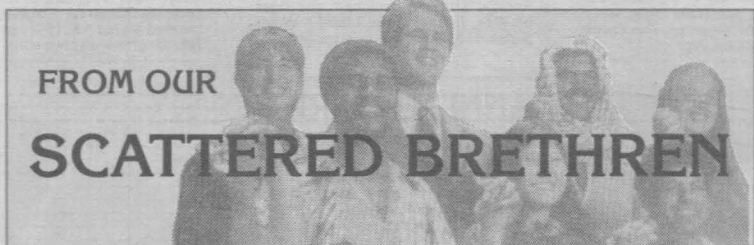
Michael Ward, overall Ambassador Club president; Angela

Quesinberry, overall Women's Club president; Alyssa Orban, overall Women's Club vice president.

Jason Arenburg, senior class president; Paul David Kurts, senior class vice president; Brit Railston, junior class president; Sam Burnett, junior class vice president; Joe Piotrowski, sophomore class president; and Steve Samuels, sophomore class vice president.

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PASADENA—The Festival Office announced that the following sites have reached capacity and no further transfer applications can be accepted: Norfolk, Va., Keystone, Colo., Lexington, Ky., Jacmel, Haiti, and Grand Anse Beach, Grenada.



FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

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

PASADENA—Evangelist Leslie McCullough, regional director in the British Office, and his wife, Marion, visited Malawi for the Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread, according to David Stirk, business manager for East and West Africa.

The McCulloughs visited the church hall in Blantyre as well as addressing the Bible study group in Lilongwe.

They flew to South Africa to observe the last day of Unleavened Bread in Cape Town and the following Sabbath in Johannesburg.

Cameroon

Mr. Stirk traveled to Cameroon in late March. He gave a Bible study to brethren in Yaounde, French Cameroon, and observed the Passover and first day of Unleavened Bread with brethren in Limbe, English Cameroon.

While there, Mr. Stirk met with Bernard Andrist, pastor of the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, and Yaounde congregations.

For the last day of Unleavened Bread Mr. Stirk traveled to Nigeria and then on to Ghana for the following Sabbath.

Travel costs up, attendance down

Attendance at Passover services in East and West Africa was up 3 percent over 1990, but Holy Day attendance was down slightly compared to last year. This is possibly because of the ever-rising cost of transportation. Holy Day

offerings were substantially higher than in 1990.

New office in Ghana

The Church acquired a lease on a house to serve as a new office facility in Ghana. It will also provide accommodations for pastor Alan Tattersall and his wife, Kae.

The new facility has office space downstairs and living quarters upstairs. Besides providing a more pleasant working environment for the office staff it will also improve security, Mr. Stirk said.

The house is in an accessible area, which will enable brethren to visit the office more easily. Its large veranda is suitable for Spokesman and Graduate Club meetings.

Ghana moves toward democracy

In April, the National Committee for Democracy published a document that maps out Ghana's proposed transition from military rule to civilian government.

Ghana has been stable for many years under a military regime and it remains to be seen how the move toward a more democratic system will affect the country.

Lectures in Nigeria

In February three ministers conducted public Bible lectures in areas of Nigeria with active Bible correspondence course students and pending visit requests. About 100 letters were sent out

for each lecture. The ministers spoke to 192 people, including 74 new contacts. One was invited to attend church services.

Minister for Scandinavia

John and Ana Maria Andrews and their two children moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, in April. Mr. Andrews will pastor the congregations in Scandinavia.

Passover in Jamaica

Passover preparations in Kingston, Jamaica, took a surprising turn when a band started warming up in a ballroom adjacent to the one where services were to be conducted, reported Vicki Taylor who works in the Caribbean Regional Office.

It turned out that a press party was scheduled that evening for Regina Bell, a Grammy award nominee. She was scheduled to perform at 8 p.m.

Pastor Charles Fleming told the hotel management that it would be hard not only to concentrate on the Passover service, but that it would be difficult for members to hear what was said.

The management said that they had thought Ms. Bell's promoters had planned a small cocktail party with an orchestra, not a big musical bash.

As brethren arrived for the Passover they prayed for a solution. Before the service began at 7:30 p.m., the band stopped playing and didn't start up again until 9:30 p.m., after the service concluded.

The band had been told that, because of a mix up, Ms. Bell would not be arriving until 10 p.m., so the party took place two hours late.

"The party had problems from the beginning," ran a story in a Kingston newspaper. "For example, local promoters were asked by the management to 'cool it' as the adjacent ballroom had been leased to a special religious group

for Passover services."

Singles in Mexico

One hundred seven singles from Mexico, the United States and Canada attended the International Singles Event in Mexico City March 27 to 31, according to coordinator Rajesh Kripalani.

Activities included a visit to a natural water resort, a visit to a museum and park, formal and folkloric dances.

The singles kept the Passover, the Night to Be Much Observed and the first day of Unleavened Bread with brethren there.

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