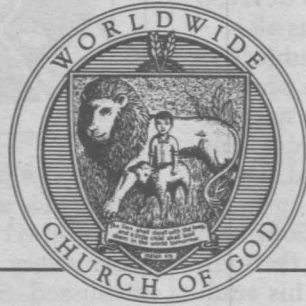


2 In a culture of victimhood: no sin, no weakness, no guilt

3 Work of the saints: Open house conference advances gospel

4 A view from the Garden of Gethsemane

The Worldwide News



VOL. XXII, NO. 5
MARCH 1, 1994

Congratulations to Mexico on registration milestone

By Felipe Neri

MEXICO CITY, Mexico—The Worldwide Church of God was officially registered in Mexico Feb. 11.

The ceremony in the Office of Religious Affairs and Public Worship at the Department of the Interior was no longer than two minutes, but it carries great importance for the Work of God here. The members had been praying for the success of the endeavor since we applied for registration July 13.

Feb. 10 we received notification from Niceforo Guerrero, general director of Religious Affairs of the Department of the Interior, that the registration would be granted. We contacted Lauro Roybal, church pastor and manager of the regional sub-office in Monterrey, Mexico, who relayed the news to evangelist Leon Walker, regional director, who was on a church visit in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Upon receiving the news Mr. Walker came to Mexico City a day earlier than planned. Mr. Roybal also trav-

Felipe Neri pastors the Mexico City, Mexico, congregation.



IT'S OFFICIAL—Displaying registration from the government of Mexico are (from left): Reba and Leon Walker, Paula and Felipe Neri, and Lauro Roybal.

eled to Mexico City, as well as Alfredo Mercado, pastor of the Jalpa de Mendez congregation and the first minister ordained in Mexico, and Pablo Dimakis, pastor of the Chihuahua church and the first employee of the Mexico Office.

Mr. Walker, Mr. Roybal and I were

in contact with Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach regarding the granting of the registration. Because the registration was conferred on such short notice, Mr. Tkach was unable to join us on this occasion.

Those present for the official registration ceremony were Leon and

Reba Walker; Felipe and Paula Neri; Lauro Roybal; Alfredo Mercado; Pablo Dimakis; Javier Flores, associate pastor of the Mexico City church; Alberto Esquivel, Mexico City local church elder; Guadalupe Rodriguez, legal counsel and Church member; Victor Montoya, legal counsel representing Lozano and Associates, who advised us throughout the registration process; and several Church members.

The general director's personal assistant told us: "It is truly a pleasure to share with you these important and special moments for our country.... The registration you will receive will allow you to grow and function legally, which is our wish.... We wish you success in your future evangelistic work."

Mr. Guerrero, general director of Religious Affairs, said: "In the name of the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco Garrido, I am honored to grant registration No. 1358 to the Worldwide Church of God in Mexico as a religious association."

Please ask God to inspire and encourage us to actively evangelize, proclaiming the gospel of Christ to the Mexican people.



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

New evangelistic thrust in Africa

In my last letter, I outlined steps we are taking to focus our approach to preaching the gospel. This will involve building or acquiring church buildings, focusing mass media where our congregations are and providing materials and programs for Bible study, youth development, leadership training, various aspects of personal development and local evangelistic work. Our goal is to work together as the Body of Christ, drawing our strength from him and growing together in him.

Paul described the work of the Body of Christ in Ephesians 4:16: "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." In a healthy body, every part does its particular work for the overall good of the whole body. God distributes spiritual gifts, or special abilities to serve him, to each member as it pleases him. As we learn to recognize and put to use our gifts in God's service, the whole Body will benefit and do its work more effectively.

That brings me to our new evangelistic program in French-speaking Africa. The new program is patterned after the approach the apostle Paul took in spreading the gospel through the Roman Empire. After being sent out by his own congregation in response to the Holy Spirit's command (Acts 13:1-4), Paul personally went where people were (Acts 13:14-16; 14:1), preached the gospel (Acts 13:17-41; 16:31), saw people converted (Acts 13:48; 16:14-15), gathered those whom God called into a congregation (Acts 13:43), instructed them in the faith (Acts 14:21-22; 15:41), chose faithful leaders from among them,

See Personal, page 5

Touching appeal from French-speaking Africa: 'Please don't forget us'

By Randal Dick

Dec. 9 Bernard Andrist, Olivier Carion and I returned to Yaounde, Cameroon, and prepared for a Bible study. The next morning we made the half-day trip back to Douala and rested before the public lecture that evening.

Mr. Andrist is the pastor of French-speaking Africa, and Mr. Carion pastors the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, and Lyon, France, churches.

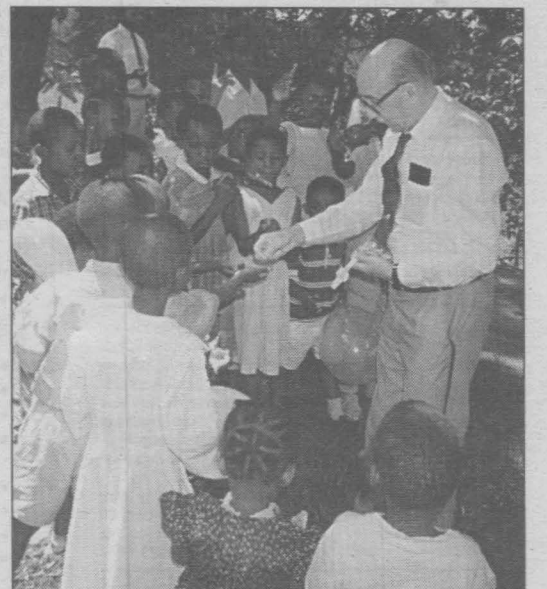
About 55 brethren and children were in attendance in addition to 59 first-time visitors. The lecture was delayed about 20 minutes while Cameroon Television set up its cameras.

Cameroon Television taped the entire event, including the introduction of deacons and leading members, who gave their names and addresses. We invited attendees to contact them if they

would like to know more or fellowship with someone.

Jean Mvondo, a member who has connections in Cameroon media, said that none of the taping would be wasted. He said there are times when material is needed between scheduled programs, and that they would

See Rwanda, page 8



WELCOMING—Minister Bernard Andrist gives chocolate to Rwandan children. [Photo by Randal Dick]

Randal Dick is assistant director of Church Administration International. Coverage of Mr. Dick's trip to French-speaking Africa concludes with this article.

Victim's view: no faults, no sins, no guilt

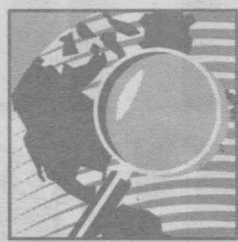
King David of ancient Israel is a towering figure in the Bible, a person of enormous accomplishments in God's service. The close relationship he had with his Creator, and the great strength and joy he derived from it, is an inspiration to us all.

Yet David, like us, was subject to the sinful pulls of the flesh and the mind. The Bible describes a maze of sins he committed concerning Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah (2 Samuel 11 and 12).

God, who sees all our actions and thoughts (Job 34:21), saw through David's attempt to cover up his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah. He sent Nathan the prophet to confront him. Once he saw clearly what he had done, David repented. "I have sinned against the Lord," he said. A full account of his confession is in Psalm 51.

How different this is from the prevailing view in society that wrong or evil acts (one must never, of course, label anything as sin) result not from one's own actions, but from external forces and things (such as poverty) or the actions of other people.

We live in a culture of victimhood. This pervades daytime television. Shows parade alleged victims of every imaginable form of abuse or of bizarre, compulsive behaviors, often labeled diseases, to relieve the burden of personal responsibility.



Worldwatch

GENE H. HOGBERG

An example of this culture of victimhood is a school district employee in Pennsylvania who was late to work every day and was eventually dismissed. Suing to get his job back, he claimed he was not responsible for his tardiness because he suffered from chronic lateness syndrome.

The culture of victimhood has also entered the courtroom, where it threatens to undermine the ideal of justice. Or, as the prophet Isaiah said: "No one calls for justice, no one pleads his case with integrity" (Isaiah 59:4).

In highly publicized jury trials in the United States, we witness those accused of murder or great bodily harm exonerated because juries were convinced the accused were temporarily insane, thus not responsible for the act, or because of allegedly having suffered abuse at the hands of the victims.

"We have come to the logical extension of the culture of victim-

hood," writes Virginia I. Postrel, editor of *Reason* magazine. "The corollary of universal victimhood is universal innocence. No one is guilty, no matter how heinous the crime."

An approach that excuses and justifies one's own weaknesses, faults and sins is extremely detrimental to the development of strong moral character.

"I'm not arguing that all victims are bogus or fake," says Charles J. Sykes, author of *A Nation of Victims*. "But regarding oneself as a victim is not the inevitable response to injustice or setbacks. It has to do with our attitude toward adversity."

"At one time, adversity was seen as a reality to be overcome, not as an excuse or entitlement. Adversity was a challenge—a test—of how we formed our character and values."

As Christians, we are called to overcome all the ungodly influences of this world, as well as our own natural, sinful pulls of the flesh, through

the power of Christ in us (1 John 2:16, Romans 7:18-25).

Contrary to the view of many today, we are responsible for our thoughts and actions, as well as for how we react to trials and temptations. James 1 makes this clear.

The good news is that if we confess our sins, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us. And God "is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:7-9).

We are all the products of inheritance and environment. Some have experienced more negative influences than others. Some have been scarred by undeniable abuse or injustice.

We don't all start out equal. We must not compare ourselves with one another, or judge each other, but look to the standard of perfection, the attitude and character of Jesus Christ. Like Paul, we should be "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13).

Like great heroes of the Bible, it can be said of us that our "weakness was turned to strength" (Hebrews 11:34). For "the Spirit helps in our weakness ... because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26-27). In Christ "we are more than conquerors" (verse 37).

The Worldwide News



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Letters to the Editor

Letters for this section should be addressed to "Letters to the Editor." The editor reserves the right to use letters so addressed in whole or in part, and to include your name and edit the letter for clarity or space. We welcome your comments.

Claiming first love again

Thank you for having the courage and humility to correct our image of God. I did indeed visualize two separate Gods—our Father and Jesus Christ.

I can't claim to totally understand your latest "Personals." However, with God's help, I will grow to understand more as time goes on.

I pray continually that the membership grows in patience as we wait for more revelation from God. I study the Bible more fervently than I have done in several years. I feel the joy of first love again. Hopefully, all share my sentiments.

Rhode Island

The root of love

Thank you so much for the Jan. 4 *Worldwide News*. It was really great. Of special interest to me was the article on page 2, "Give Your Children the Invaluable Gift of Values." I have five daughters and 18 grandchildren.

Through the years I have seen standards deteriorate with a rising cost to young adults and their families.

The following I wrote and gave to my daughters.

A precious burden of parents is to be honorable. You are your children's first exposure to their fellow man. Your performance toward them can affect how they perform toward others for the rest of their lives. Therefore:

- Teach them love
- Teach them fear
- Teach them good government
- Teach them by words what is right in God's eyes
- Teach them what is good by your actions
- Let them feel your protection
- Provide for them
- Act out in your home the commandments of God, because you are God's representative to your family.
- Be like a mimosa tree. It lives from deep roots, and storms do not bother it. It is lush and has beautiful flowers in spring.

It is a shade for all in the summer, yet, neither heat nor cold will disturb its serenity.

Remember, it is never too late to be a true parent, even if the child is far past childhood.

Dorothy M. Fried
Odessa, Missouri

Not slow to fast

Thank you so much for that inspiring and enlightening article on fasting in the Jan. 4 *Worldwide News*. I have been a baptized member since 1968, and that has to be the most helpful and encouraging article I have ever read about fasting. What an eye-opener!

To be totally honest, I had almost stopped

fasting (except for the day of Atonement and an occasional duty fast) because I had come to see I was fasting for all the wrong reasons, and I felt like a hypocrite. Also, I was rather unsure in my mind just what the right reasons were or what kind of fast was truly pleasing to God.

As I started to read each paragraph of your article, the impact of the words began to hit me like a ton of bricks. I started to use a pen and a yellow marker to underline and emphasize all my misconceptions about fasting (and I sure had a lot of them). Then I went on to underline and emphasize all the right reasons for fasting.

Today, I am fasting (perhaps for the first time in my spiritual life) with the right approach and a totally new attitude. I can't tell you the joy I am experiencing. Misconceptions and wrong attitudes can be such a burden in our lives and a real roadblock in Christian growth.

I feel a lot lighter and am hopefully, a little wiser.

New York

"Into All the World..."

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

Proving life is precious

Recently I asked you to pray with me for my youngest sister, who was diagnosed as having cancer. Well! We are living proof that Christ truly does wondrous works through us as his servants.

She has become a positive thinker. She appears to be getting better although the doctors aren't giving her false hopes. She's back to work. Her only woe is losing her hair, about which I might add, she is brave enough to joke about from time to time by lifting her wig and curtseying.

She is not out of the woods yet. However, if cancer is to take her, be it his will, she would be living proof that life is precious. She teaches us to enjoy and savor every minute of our lives together through Christ our Lord.

Owen Sound, Ontario

Like mother, like son

For 25 years, my mom was an active member of this Church. On Aug. 3, she died. Her entire life was a true model of being a Christian. She believed in every word in the Bible and the coming of Christ Jesus, and being

prepared to rise from the grave and meet the Lord of lords. Many times she talked to me about the Word and about Jesus. What it can be like for me if I accepted Christ and followed his ways.

I have accepted Jesus Christ into my heart and mind, and I'm reading the Bible to follow his ways. I really like your approach to putting meaning and vision into the teaching of the Word from the Bible.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Unafraid, because not alone

It was too late for my father to benefit from your magazine. (He died of cancer.) And it has been a tough time for me and my mother afterward, because of the transition period in East Germany. But we're surviving.

There will be problems in the future, too, as my boss is going to lay off a number of employees after using up all possible development aid for the East.

Since I can no longer count on finding another job at my age (especially not in the East), the future is uncertain. And yet I am unafraid, because I know I won't be left alone and that there is someone who will help me in every difficult situation. Your magazine is in a position to point unbelievers toward God—a direction that helps people and makes life seem more worth living.

Germany

Open house conference outlines work of the saints

By Paul Monteith

"Our commission is to spread a cause that began with Jesus Christ," said Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach at the open house conference that took place in Pasadena Feb. 7 and 8.

Our cause or dream is the world tomorrow, the kingdom of God, salvation offered to all. The ministry must prepare members to help them share this dream with others, he said.

Mr. Tkach explained our commission as going beyond a warning message and witness. We are to preach the gospel to all humankind (Mark 16:15); the message is about repentance and forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47); and we are to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

"The Church has a ministry of reconciliation. A good portion of our responsibility is to bring the gospel to the people God is calling, to bring them to Christ," he said.

The gospel should produce belief. The expectation is that it will change lives. This is the goal of evangelizing, which is a zealous effort to spread a cause or to share a dream.

In this century, the Work was built primarily through evangelism. In his early years, Herbert W. Armstrong gave public Bible studies and campaigns. He also preached on radio, through the publications and on television.

"He convinced people to believe in the gospel as much as he did," said Mr. Tkach. "That's what we can accomplish through open house. The action still lies with God. He does the calling, but he uses his servants to declare the gospel."

A tool for evangelism

The conference brought together several headquarters personnel: Randal Dick, Michael Feazell, Victor Kubik, Tom Lapacka, Mr. Tkach and

Joseph Tkach Jr.; ministers from the United States and Canada; and ministers representing Britain, the Caribbean, France, Germany, Mexico and the Philippines.

They were here to discuss the open house program as a tool for evangelism, how to organize open house services and how to prepare Church members.



Tom Lapacka

Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration International, told overseas ministers to capture the principles of open house, to tailor it to the culture in which they live.

Open house services will be conducted by 31 U.S. pastors (50 congregations) in May and 11 Canadian pastors (16 congregations) in November.

To minister is to serve

The open house concept is about preparing members for evangelism. Within the Body of the Church, members receive guidance, hope and the challenge to overcome sin. It's a place where the spiritually strong help the weak. This spiritual nurturing helps prepare for evangelism. For

this to succeed, ministers must prepare their congregations.

"The ministry will be more effective if it trains people to minister," said Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration. "To minister means to serve, and we are all called to the ministry in that sense. All the roles described by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4 exist to nurture the Body, to bring about growth."

Members must have a strong spiritual foundation and be growing in Christ so that God can use them. Everything within the congregation must be geared toward that end because evangelism flows out of a godly life.

"The Church is being called to conformity in Christ," said Michael Feazell, executive assistant to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach. "The Body must attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. This is our goal."

"When worshiping God in spirit and in truth is a major part of our lives we will be able to nurture others and proclaim the gospel. We will be motivated toward active service in love," Mr. Feazell said.

Through Jesus Christ, God has given us the most precious gifts imaginable—salvation and grace—and knowing that others can have these things too should be a powerful motivator to live a life that brings glory to God, he said. Our reflection of Jesus Christ must be such that people are attracted to us.

People helping people

"We work through relational evangelism," said Tom Lapacka, Evangelism Support Services manager. "People may have little or no faith in God, and they may have lost confidence in man, but they appreciate sympathy and helpfulness. They appreciate people feeding the hungry, comforting the sick, clothing the naked. It's all about people working with people. Then as opportunity presents itself

we share our faith with them."

Relational evangelism begins by building genuine friendships. Over time credibility is built. Hopefully people will see something different about us and be inspired to want the same change in themselves. Our credibility gives us the opportunity to tell them what God has done for us.

"There is a great harvest out there. A lot of people need to be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Victor Kubik, assistant director of U.S. Church Administration.

"But first our members need to know what it is they are to do. The job of Church Administration is to support the pastors, and the pastors' job is to educate members about the message and life of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. We all need to live Christianity at a higher level for open house to succeed."

Also speaking at the conference were three ministers who have conducted open house services: Bill Bradford, pastor of the Oakland and San Francisco, California, churches; John Comino, pastor of the Washington, D.C., Central and Arlington and Woodbridge, Virginia, churches; and Don Mears, pastor of the Kelowna, Penticton and Tonasket, British Columbia, churches.

Mr. Bradford addressed the topic of welcoming new people; Mr. Comino the organization of open house; and Mr. Mears the commission and preparing members.

"We all have been called and baptized into the Body of Christ," said Mr. Lapacka at the end of the conference. "We all have been imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit, and we all share the same mission."

"We all, ministers and members, holy people reflecting the holy character of God, firmly anchored in the truth, walking in purity and cleanness of heart, are to be witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the work of the Church."

Treasurer's report: members play vital role

By Steven D. Andrews

I would like to bring you all up to date with where we are financially. Our 1993 income budget was set at 6 percent below 1992's income. Our income for 1993 was 5.9 percent less than in 1992, so we finished on budget with respect to income. Our operating-expense budget was set at 6.4 percent less than our 1992 operating-expense budget, and we finished the

year 1 percent under our expense budget (our operating and capital budgets).

It is important that we hit our budgeted targets as well as we did, because it means we were able to sustain strong cash flow and sound financial standing despite a decline in revenue. The ministers and members played a vital role in helping us stay within our budget. With respect to income, tithes and offerings made it possible for us to do the Work and further the mission of the Church. Thank you for your continued efforts. More details of 1993 results will

appear later this year when we publish the audited Financial Statements in *The Worldwide News*. The audit began in earnest in late February, and the audit report is scheduled to be issued in May.

In 1994 we are projecting income at 8 percent less than 1993, with an expense budget at 9 percent less than our 1993 expense budget. Again, we will all have to pull together to meet these targets.

Our income is 1.5 percent below budget for 1994, and we are currently exceeding our expense budget by about 4.2 percent.

Steven D. Andrews is Church treasurer.

WN now mailed to wider audience

Beginning with this issue *The Worldwide News* will be sent to every household that includes someone regularly attending Church services even if that person is not baptized.

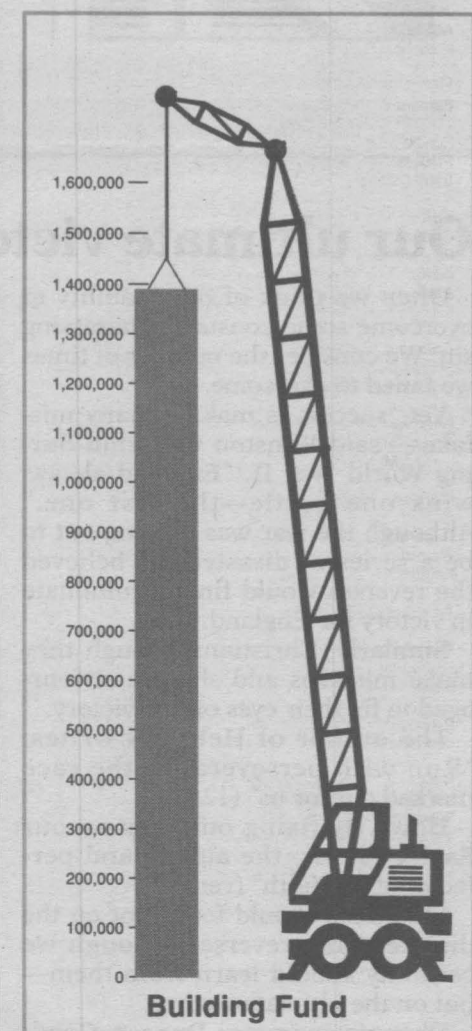
The purpose of this change is to keep everyone who is genuinely interested in the Church abreast of Christian-living principles, doctrinal updates and other newsworthy items.

Pay less tax—or get money back

The Internal Revenue Service provides tax relief through the Earned Income Credit, for low-income workers who are employed or self-employed and have at least one child in their home. The credit is subtracted from the amount of tax you owe, so you end up paying less tax—or even getting money back.

Publication 596, Earned Income Credit, explains all the rules to qualify for and claim the Earned Income Credit and the Advance Earned Income Credit. It is available by calling the Internal Revenue Service at 1-800-829-3676.

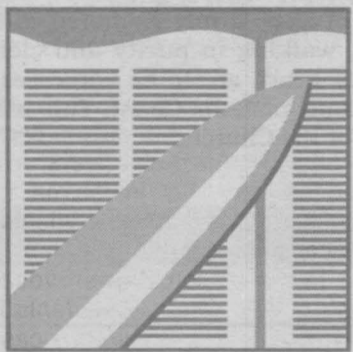
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are open during the filing season to give free one-on-one tax help. Volunteers at these sites can also tell you if you qualify for the Earned Income Credit or Advance Earned Income Credit. For the location of a VITA site, or to ask a question of the IRS, call 1-800-829-1040.



TO THE TOP—As of Feb. 23, individuals and church areas have donated \$1,391,022.72 to the building fund.

IRON SHARPENS IRON

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



Gethsemane: garden prayer of Jesus

By Julie Wilson

When we read the biblical accounts of the last hours of Jesus' life, each of us has our own mental pictures of what took place. His last supper with the 12, the foot-washing described by John, his anguished loneliness as the disciples slept.

The Garden of Gethsemane's message resonates in all our minds. Here Christ sweated so severely, the Gospel account compares his perspiration to drops of blood. Here he reminded himself that his disciples were simply human, that "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Here he contemplated the trial he was about to face.

Place of ascension and resurrection

The significance of the Garden of Gethsemane was brought home to me vividly on a trip to Jerusalem this year. On a warm early spring afternoon, I stood at the traditional spot where Christ appealed to his Father.

The Garden of Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives, was familiar to Christ—quiet and free from the bustle of the city. Jesus prayed there and talked to his disciples there.

Christ knew he would ascend to his Father in heaven from the Mount of Olives after being resurrected (Acts 1). Also, he will return there in all power and glory to bring peace and the fullness of the kingdom of God to the whole world (Zechariah 14:4).

Christ was vividly aware of all that depended upon fulfilling the events to come. His sacrifice was to guarantee eternal life and freedom for all humanity. It was with the most powerful of purposes that he prayed to the Father in heaven: "Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Valley of dry bones

Furthermore, the Garden of Gethsemane overlooks the Kidron Valley,

Julie Wilson is on the British Office editorial staff.

the historic burial place of many Jews, Muslims and Christians. The site is the traditional place of the resurrection mentioned in Ezekiel 37.

A cemetery reminds us we are mortal. That every human life must eventually end this way. Jesus, though, knew that his sacrifice would ensure those graves would one day open, and those in them would be resurrected and offered eternal life.

Without the sacrifice of Christ, the dead would remain so forever. As the apostle Paul was later to say in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22: "For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

So again Christ prayed: "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done" (Matthew 26:42).

The new temple

Across the valley Christ could clearly see the Temple Mount in

Jerusalem, also known as Mount Moriah. Here Abraham had offered up his son in perfect faith to God. Here God had told him he did not want the death of Isaac, but rather provided his own sacrifice. Here the Passover lambs were slaughtered.

Christ also knew that the Temple, so full of life and activity, would soon be destroyed. He had wept over Jerusalem, the city of peace, which so rarely lived up to its name. But he also knew that a new temple and a new Jerusalem would be built in the future.

Christ would have been vividly aware that a spiritual temple would be built in the hearts and minds of those who believed in him, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—the Comforter he had promised to his disciples just hours before.

Even though the physical temple would be laid to ruin, God would have a dwelling place among his people. Jesus prayed a third time, saying the same thing, "Your will be done."

See Garden prayer, page 5

Follow the trail blazed by Jesus Christ

By Ted Johnston

We are on our way toward the spiritual promised land—the coming kingdom of God. And our Savior Jesus Christ urges us forward: "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). Here the word for "author" is *archegos* in Greek. The word carries the meaning of chief leader—trailblazer or pioneer.

Our Christian journey is full of dangers, hardships and tests. There is no other way to the promised land. But Christ knows the territory. He blazed the trail, and he is perfectly qualified to lead us on: "In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God ... should make the author [pathfinder, pioneer] of their salvation perfect through suffering" (Hebrews 2:10).

Christ leads us every step of the way. The journey begins with Passover—Christ started by paying the price of the journey for us in his blood and justifying us. The journey continues in the picture painted by the days of Unleavened Bread—Christ leads us on to save us completely. In this journey, we can be strengthened, knowing we are not alone: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

One of the challenges offered by the days of Unleavened Bread is to examine our responsiveness to our great trailblazer. Do we follow Christ with complete faith, or are we like unresponsive Israel? Christ has made the journey before us, he began the journey for us, he now leads us and he will deliver us all the way to the promised land.

Ted Johnston pastors the Grand Junction and Craig, Colorado, churches.

Our ultimate victory: more than a gold medal

Often we think of our inability to overcome some constantly harassing sin. We consider the number of times we failed to overcome.

Yet "success is making many mistakes," said Winston Churchill during World War II. "England always wins one battle—the last one." Although the war was turning out to be a series of disasters he believed the reverses would finally culminate in victory for England.

Similarly, Christians, though they make mistakes and sin, are encouraged to fix their eyes on the victory.

The author of Hebrews writes: "Run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (12:1).

How? By fixing our eyes on our Savior "Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (verse 2).

Christians should focus not on the disasters and reverses—though we certainly should learn from them—but on the ultimate victory.

Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew knows all about defeat and victory. He "broke the Olympic record in 1976 ... but finished fourth in the

world championships in 1978 after fluffing the opportunity to become the best.... At the Moscow Olympics [in 1980] ... with 25 metres to go [he was in front], 'I thought, "Duncan, if you don't do something, you're going to lose." Suddenly the idea of losing was ridiculous. I touched the end of the pool.... I had done it' " (*The Daily Telegraph*, 1987).

Those who submit their lives to God await a far bigger prize: a crown of eternal gold. "Run in such a way as to get the prize." Do it not as athletes, "to get a crown that will not last; but ... to get a crown that will last forever" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

We don't achieve this victory by ourselves, however. The apostle Paul told the Corinthians: "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

We are conquerors "through him who loved us" he told Christians at

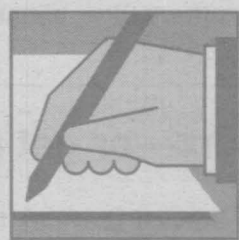
Rome (Romans 8:37).

Victory is assured. Victory is ours, when we fix our eyes on our Savior.

We must put our faith in God, become his slaves, transform our minds by yielding to his will, and

Because of Christ's atoning sacrifice, when we confess our sins God will forgive us.

Our victory lies in Christ. We are called to persevere. Therefore, "hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess,



Just One More Thing

DEXTER FAULKNER

offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1-2).

And if we stumble and sin?

Christ was sacrificed to take away our sins and "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ ... because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:10-14).

for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:23-24).

We are assured that even though we may lose a battle now and then, ultimate victory is ahead.

Victory is ours. Therefore, forget what is behind and strain toward the goal to win the prize that God has called us for (Philippians 3:13-14).

Personal: Africa will be planted and watered

Continued from page 1

entrusting them to God (Acts 14:23), kept a spiritually supportive relationship with them (Acts 15:36; 16:40; 18:23) and reported about their progress to the congregations that had sent him out (Acts 14:26-27; 15:1-4).

Now, as I wrote two issues ago, we all have the ability to share the gospel with people we come to know on a personal level. But to some people, God gives the *gift* of proclaiming the gospel or the *gift* of teaching the commands of Christ.

Following the pattern set down by the apostle Paul, the Church will send ministers who exhibit these gifts to do the work of planting churches in French-speaking Africa. These ministers will enter a community, invite people to come to a meeting and preach the gospel to them.

As God calls people through their preaching and instruction, believers will be baptized and a small congregation will be planted, usually meeting in someone's home at first. In time, local leaders will be ordained who will be able to lead the congregation (Acts 14:23). The "waterer" (1 Corinthians 3:6), who will work in conjunction with the "planter," will be a senior minister from the regional office. He will visit the new congregation on a regular basis, providing encouragement and ongoing instruction and training. Meanwhile, the "planter" will move on to raise up another congregation.

In time, each cluster of congregations in a given area will have a trained local pastor (ordained from among the local membership) supervised by a regional pastor (assigned by the regional office), who will carry on the training and development programs initiated by the "waterer." Each cluster of congregations will

also develop members in evangelism and church planting, who will then continue the process of spreading the gospel outward from their cluster.

This approach does not require the use of mass media as the spearpoint. It only requires the Holy Spirit, faith and lots of prayer and hard work. We will not establish or provide anything that cannot be indigenously carried on. In accordance with the principles in Acts 15, there will be no effort to bring African converts out of their African culture, except where sin is involved. We have to learn to differentiate between what is cultural and what is sinful. Just because something is different from what we are used to as Westerners does not necessarily make it sinful.

Members who remain in touch with their social setting and continue to be a positive influence on their families, friends and social circles are in a much better position to spread the gospel than those who distance themselves from all non-Church relationships. Paul told the Corinthians that he did not intend for them to separate themselves from all the unconverted (1 Corinthians 5:10). He did, however, expect them to stop sinning. There is a difference.

The long-term spiritual strength of a congregation depends in large part on the quality of spiritual instruction and pastoral leadership it is given. For this reason, we will give high priority to training faithful leadership in the new congregations. Paul told Titus to ordain elders in every city (Titus 1:5), and he told Timothy to teach those who would be able to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

The man who will raise up the initial congregations in French-speaking Africa is Bernard Andrist, who has been pastoring members in this region for several years. He is already responsible for having raised up and "watered" most of the congre-

gations we have in French-speaking (or Francophone) Africa. God has made it clear that Mr. Andrist has the gift of proclaiming the gospel and planting churches in this part of the world. Now the Church will use him in this work on a full-time basis.

He will be accompanied by Jacques Brunet, whom he will mentor until Mr. Brunet can continue the work independently. They will be followed by Olivier Carion, currently pastor of the churches in Lyon, France, and Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland. He will be the "waterer," teaching and training leaders in the areas where groups meet together. The major expenses for this program are the salaries and travel expenses of the planters and waterers, as well as expenses for local leaders to gather together for training sessions.

The potential for reaching new people with the good news is virtually unlimited, and it does not depend on mass media (although we, of course, will follow up with appropriate printed materials, etc.).

This acknowledges the fact that God calls people primarily through *personal contact with other Christians*. Also, we are recognizing that God can and does call people within their own culture, and that the gospel spreads most effectively within the cultural context of the people God is calling. As the Holy Spirit leads, we will be planting and watering, and God will give the increase.

The new African churches will have African leaders that God has raised up. Their supervision will be designed to help them maintain doc-

trinal purity and provide them with leadership training in their own area and within their own culture. The churches will develop their own buildings, their own types of fellowship and activities, all in their own time frame and within their own cultural setting. They will learn to apply the law of God to *their* culture, not to Western culture (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Pray for Mr. Andrist, Mr. Brunet, Mr. Carion, French regional director Carn Catherwood and all those who will have a part in this program. God has many people in French-speaking Africa who need the good news. Only God can grant the increase, *which means that the prayers of all the Church are the most important part of this, or any, evangelistic effort!* As this program develops, and God's blessing becomes apparent, we will begin to move into other areas with the same approach. This is big news, and I hope you share my excitement about it!

P.S. Exciting news from Mexico! Leon Walker, regional director of the Spanish-speaking churches, reports that we are now registered as a Church in Mexico (see article page 1). The Mexican Constitution did not permit the registration of churches until now. Registration will make it easier for us to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in an active way. We thank God for this blessing and look forward to even more growth in this area. We have recently been registered in Italy and Portugal, too, and registration is close in several other nations. We will keep you posted.

Canadian Ministerial Transfers

John and Pat Borax to Halifax and Digby, Nova Scotia.

Dave and Val Clark to North Battleford and Kindersley, Saskatchewan.

Gary and Tamara Moore to Edmonton North and South and Evansburg, Alberta.

Al and Dorothy Nordstrom to Evansburg, Alberta (associate).

Bill and Linda Rabey to Ottawa, Ontario.

Ken Webster to Edmonton, Alberta, South (associate).

United States Ministerial Transfers

Maceo and Phoebe Hampton to Milwaukee and West Bend, Wisconsin (associate).

Warren III and Martha Heaton to Great Falls, Helena and Butte, Montana.

Brad and Aletha Mann to San Jose and Aptos, California (assistant).

Art and Wendy Holladay to San Francisco and Oakland, California (trainee).

International

George and Poppy Efthvoulos to Pietersburg, South Africa.

Johannes and Denise De Moei to Doorn and Zwolle, Netherlands (trainee).

United States donation receipts

April 15 is the deadline for filing U.S. tax returns. Annual receipts for 1993 contributions were sent to members in January. Some, however, may need duplicate receipts to complete tax returns.

Any U.S. brethren who need a second annual receipt should call Mail Processing's donation file personnel by using the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444).

MPC will then mail you a duplicate copy. Please allow at least 10 days for the replacement receipt to reach you.

Member named scuba instructor of the year

DES MOINES, Iowa—Tom Henderson, a member here, was named instructor of the year by the National Association of Scuba Diving Schools (NASDS) at a world scuba trade convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, Jan. 12.

Mr. Henderson, who has been teaching scuba diving for 15 years, is responsible for the development of search and rescue teams in Iowa. These teams were instrumental in aiding the public during last year's floods.

Ambassador Foundation supports young African American classical artists

As a part of its continuing relationship with KCET, the public television station for Los Angeles, Ambassador Foundation was host for the awards ceremony for this year's "Emerging African American Performing Artists Awards" Feb. 22 at the Ambassador Auditorium. Initiated last year, this new format for celebrating Black History Month continues to encourage and develop talented young African American performers in the classical arts.

The competition involved three categories in the classical arts—vocal, instrumental and dance—and was open to Los Angeles County students in grades nine through 12. Three prize winners, who each received a cash scholarship of \$1,000, were chosen from open auditions conducted earlier in February. These three, tenor Ryan Paul Smith, pianist Jamemika McLemore and dancer Ramona Morgan, performed at the awards ceremony.

"Participation in the competition is an excellent example of Ambassador Foundation's commitment to supporting young classical artists," commented David Hulme, vice president of Ambassador Foundation. "This event is special in that it promotes young artists from the local community."

British Office changes printers

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Printing of *The Plain Truth* moved from Passmore International to British Printing & Communications Corp. in Milton Keynes in 1993 after the unexpected closure of Passmore's plant in Radlett.

BPCC was chosen after consultation with Publishing Services in Pasadena and a visit from Skip Dunn, print production manager in the United States. Milton Keynes is a 50-minute drive from Church offices here.

Garden prayer

Continued from page 4

Jesus Christ went to the Garden of Gethsemane that night "sorrowful and troubled," but calm and collected as he was betrayed and taken away to trial. Christ prepared for his death in a place appropriate to remind him of the necessity and

purpose of his crucifixion.

As we reflect on the enormity of Christ's sacrifice, we can be thankful and joyful that Christ lives his life in us. Through Christ "we are the temple of the living God. As God has said, 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Announcements

BIRTHS, ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS, ANNIVERSARIES AND OBITUARIES

Births

ADCOCK, Anton and Isabelle (Wahlen) of Cape Town, South Africa, boy, Philippe Paul, Oct. 19, 3.85 kilograms, now 2 boys.

COTTRILL, Alan and Barbara (Eiskant) of Jacksonville, Florida, girl, Alyssa Breanne, Dec. 17, 10:11 a.m., 8 pounds 1 ounce, first child.

DE SOUSA, Martin and Mira (De Rita) of London, Ontario, boy, Jeremiah Martin, Sept. 16, 11:45 a.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

FENCHEL, Matthew and Elisabeth (Hinkle) of Darmstadt, Germany, boy, Garrett Matthew, Nov. 3, 12:05 a.m., 8 pounds 5 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

GETZ, Brian and Carolyn (Gundersen) of Tacoma, Washington, girl, Brittany Marie, Dec. 31, 6:39 p.m., 7 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

HANDAHL, Brad and Leah (Prusinske) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, boy, Perry Austin, Aug. 19, 7 p.m., 8 pounds 9 1/2 ounces, first child.

HARRIS, Kevin and Barbara (Barlow) of Watford, England, girl, Naomi, Nov. 11, 4:40 a.m., 6 pounds 13 ounces, now 1 boy, 3 girls.

HENZEL, Robert and Elaine (Rueter) of North Aurora, Illinois, girl, Alyssa Elaine, Dec. 4, 5:52 p.m., 7 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

JOSEPH, Keith and Lyndianne (Gray) of Boston, Massachusetts, girl, Corinne Yvette, Jan. 11, 10:24 a.m., 8 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

KORANTENG, Israel and Hilda (Donkor) of Accra, Ghana, boy, Israel K., Dec. 24, 8 p.m., 3.8 kilograms, now 3 boys, 3 girls.

LAFFERTY, Chris and Valli (Barney) of Baltimore, Maryland, boy, William Lawrence, Dec. 24, 8:12 a.m., 7 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

LAURETA, Gregorio Jr. and Ligaya (Aman) of Naga, Philippines, boy, George Michael, Sept. 14, 8 pounds, now 1 boy, 3 girls.

MARTIN, Todd and Kim (Brooks) of Cornwall, Ontario, boy, Nathan William Forrest, Aug. 11, 3 a.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, now 3 boys.

McCOY, Cliff and Cheryl (Goodwin) of St. Louis, Missouri, girl, Molly May, Nov. 21, 12:33 a.m., 8 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

McCURRY, Robert Earl and Tammy (Lail) of Marion, North Carolina, boy, Robert Benjamin, Dec. 24, 11:08 a.m., 9 pounds 14 1/4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

MILLER, Jim and Karen (McCormick) of Abbotsford, British Columbia, girl, Sally Dawn, Oct. 7, 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 girls.

MOXLEY, Randy and Ann (Ledingham) of Portland, Oregon, boy, Dylan Randal, Dec. 19, 9:15 a.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, now 2 boys.

PLANGE, Fritz and Lillian (Saah) of Accra, Ghana, girl, Nana Araba, Nov. 30, 8 a.m., 3.3 kilograms, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

RIOS, Daniel and Carolyn (Haraway) of McKinney, Texas, boy, Thomas Lorenzo, Jan. 5, 7:42 p.m., 9 pounds, first child.

STEFANIN, Alain and Jill (Reisdorf) of Bellingham, Washington, girl, Annick Elaine, Nov. 22, 11:27 a.m., 7 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 girls.

TAYLOR, Aaron and Jackie (Mole) of Perth, Australia, girl, Nicole Maree, Jan. 8, 8 p.m., 6 pounds 1 ounce, now 2 girls.

WILLIS, Timothy and Lynn (Shemansky) of Buffalo, New York, boy, Ryan Timothy, Nov. 27, 2:11 p.m., 9 pounds 9 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

Engagements

Rebecca K. Walter of Dallas, Texas, and Joel S. Kolb of Petal, Mississippi, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Rhonda Ann to Randall G. McCoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. William McCoy of Euless, Texas. An April wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hanson of Spokane, Washington, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Danette GeNean to Jeffrey Scott Beebout, son of Richard and Gail Beebout of Phoenix, Arizona. A May 28 wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zuzgo of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Susan to Dempsey Bruton III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey Bruton Jr. of Onancock, Virginia. A May wedding is planned.

Jim and Linda Lee of St. Louis, Missouri, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Melissa to Darrell Solomon of Shreveport, Louisiana. A May 22 wedding in Longview, Texas, is planned.

Susan Loder of Magnolia, New Jersey, and Ralph Dow, formerly of Seward, Alaska, are delighted to announce their engagement.

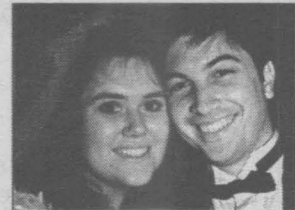
Peter and Barbara Sontag of Appleton, Wisconsin, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sandra M. Lee to Russel Joseph Nikodem, son of Helen Luedeman of Neenah, Wisconsin, and the late Michael T. Nikodem. A May wedding is planned.

David and Yvonne Bonaroti of Palatine, Illinois, are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Audra Dawn to Philip Dominic Raymakers, son of Joop and Mieke Raymakers of Boronia, Australia. A March 13 wedding in the United States is planned.

Weddings



CHARLES & ALYSSA MORRISON
Alyssa Orban, daughter of David and Sandra Orban of Longview, Texas, and Charles Morrison, son of Galen and Corinne Morrison of Rockford, Illinois, were united in marriage July 10. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, a minister in the Rockford church, and the bride's father, Longview pastor. Stacey Davis was matron of honor and David Morrison, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Big Sandy.



SCOTT & SANDRA ERNEST
Sandra Joy Dennison, youngest daughter of Theron Dennison and Margaret Dennison of Exchange, West Virginia, and Scott Paul Ernest, son of Jess and Paula Ernest of Batavia, Ohio, were united in marriage Nov. 13. The ceremony was performed by the groom's father, Cincinnati, Ohio, East pastor. Janice Pinson, sister of the bride, was

matron of honor and Charles Burt was best man. The couple live in Cincinnati.



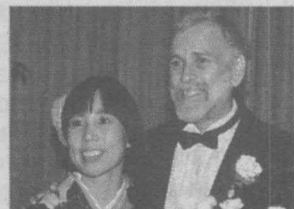
BRADLEY & AMY ENGLAND
Mr. and Mrs. Vince Szymkowiak of Fort Worth, Texas, are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Amy Darlene to Bradley Nathan England, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry England of Steelville, Missouri. The ceremony was performed May 23 by the bride's father, Fort Worth West pastor. Mina Denning was maid of honor, and Jason Selzer was best man. The couple live in Big Sandy.



ERIC & DIANE FRANTZ
Diane Lynette Geiser, daughter of Gilbert and Marilyn Geiser of North Canton, Ohio, and Eric Neal Frantz, son of Mike and Judy Frantz of Springfield, Missouri, were united in marriage Sept. 19. The ceremony was performed by Fred Stevens, a minister in the Pasadena West P.M. church. Karen Geiser was maid of honor, Maryann Stevens was matron of honor and Jason Frantz and Haven Frantz were best men. The couple live in Alhambra, California.



WILLIAM & SHARON SWANSON
Sharon Theresa Baltosser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Edwards of Hendersonville, North Carolina, and Rodney Baltosser of West Unity, Ohio, and William L. Swanson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swanson of Indianapolis, Indiana, were united in marriage May 31. Jennifer Bradford was matron of honor, and Richard Swanson, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Arlington, Texas.



MARK & TAKAKO TAYLOR
Takako Rosenberg and Mark Taylor were united in marriage Nov. 24. The ceremony was performed by Melvin Dahlgren, San Jose and Aptos, California, pastor. The couple live in Fremont, California.



MARK & DARLENE FRANCIOSA
Darlene Rossi, daughter of Eugene and Carolyn Rossi of Fishkill, New York, and Mark Franciosa, son of Emilio and Tina Franciosa of Bronx, New York, were united in marriage June 20. The ceremony was performed by Steve Botha, Manhattan and Westchester, New York, pastor. Josie Lozano was maid of honor, and Stephen Franciosa, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Bronx.



JOHN & DEBORAH HOLLAND
Deborah Elizabeth Butler, daughter of Harold and Donna Butler of Monroe, Louisiana, and John Dennis Holland, son of Nancy Holland of Little Rock, Arkansas, were united in marriage July 18. The ceremony was performed by David Johnson, El Dorado, Arkansas, and Monroe pastor. Barbara Handy was maid of honor, and Matthew Holland was best man. The couple live in West Monroe, Louisiana.



ERIC & MARLA OLSEN

Marla Jane Schuler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Schuler of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Eric Paul Olsen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Olsen Sr. of Millerton, New York, were united in marriage July 5. The ceremony was performed by Victor Kubik, assistant director of U.S. Church Administration. De-Anna Schuler, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Robert Olsen Jr., brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Rhinebeck, New York.



DAVID & LAILA BELL

Laila Patey, daughter of Andrew and Vivienne Patey of Brisbane, Australia, and David Bell, son of Merv and Narelle Bell of Newcastle, Australia, were united in marriage Sept. 19. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, a minister in the Brisbane South church, and the groom's father, a minister in the Newcastle church. Sharen Patey and Andrea Calderas, sisters of the bride, were maid and matron of honor, and Michael Bell, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Brisbane.



STEVEN & CECILY ROSE

Cecily Darice Dettwiler, daughter of Alan and Ailsa Dettwiler of Caloundra, Australia, and Steven John Rose, son of Dennis and Joyce Rose of Bedford, England, were united in marriage Sept. 26. The ceremony was performed by Harry Sullivan, Ballymena, Belfast and Craigavon, Northern Ireland, pastor. Anne Dettwiler, Sharon Webster, Robyn Sherwell and Emma Mynott attended the bride, and Pat McGrath was best man. The couple live near Bedford.



WYATT & TESS CIESIELKA

Tess Walden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Walden of Gainesville, Florida, and Wyatt Ciesielka, son of Phyllis Ciesielka of Converse, Texas, were united in marriage June 13. The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, Gainesville pastor. Audrey Walden, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Phillip Ciesielka, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Gladeview, Texas.

Anniversaries



RON & NORMA McARTHUR

Ron and Norma McArthur of Culbura, Australia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 22. They have two daughters, three sons and 13 grandchildren.



REGINALD & BERNICE JONES

Reginald and Bernice Jones of Lithonia, Georgia, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 12. They have two daughters, Leslie Williams and Shawn Jones; and three grandchildren, Juanita, Wayne and Aaron.

Wayne and Mayme Hendon of Ontario, Oregon, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Nov. 3. They have two daughters, Shirley and Susie; two sons, Rick and Glen; two sons-in-law, Charley Barker and Randy Crum; and five grandchildren.



ED & JEANEEN SHAW

Ed and Jeaneen Shaw of Peace River, Alberta, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 4. They have two sons, three daughters, one daughter-in-law, three sons-in-law, six granddaughters and one grandson.



BRUCE & DONNA BIRD

Bruce and Donna Bird of Tisdale, Saskatchewan, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 27. They have one son, Ryan; and one daughter, Tracy. Mr. Bird is a local church elder in the Tisdale church.



CARL & DORIS COOPER

Carl and Doris Cooper of Austin, Texas, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary July 27. They have two children, Shane and Lori; one daughter-in-law, Jodi; one son-in-law, David West; and three grandchildren, Dylan, Ashley and Chantelle.



JERALD & VINA McLAUGHLIN

Jerald and Vina McLaughlin of Beavercreek, Ohio, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Jan. 8. They have one son, Jerry; two daughters, Joan Bornhorst and Jana Reed; one daughter-in-law, Cathy; two sons-in-law, Bart Bornhorst and Gus Reed; and seven grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin serve as local church elder and deaconess in the Tipp City, Ohio, church.

Daniel and Kathryn Hirschler of Aurora, Missouri, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Aug. 23. They have 12 children, Tim, Jesse, Linda, Vince, Laura, Lisa, David, Lois, Mark, Brian, Wendy and JoLyn; one daughter-in-law, Debbie; four sons-in-law, Bob, Greg, James and Todd; and eight grandchildren.

Daniel and Jeanette Daniels of Youngstown, Ohio, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Dec. 7. They have one son, Daryl; and one daughter, Angela.

Willis "Pete" and Edith Hornbuckle of Grassy, Missouri, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 26. Their celebration party was combined with the wedding reception of their daughter Brenda to Jerry Smith. The Hornbuckles have one son, Clinton; two daughters, Emogene Hutchinson and Brenda Smith; one daughter-in-law, Rhonda; two sons-in-law, Bob Hutchinson and Jerry Smith; one grandson; and two granddaughters.

Anniversaries Made of Gold



GEORGE & LOUISE DUNBAR

George and Louise Dunbar of Lenoir, North Carolina, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary Jan. 31. They have five children, Anna Henderson, David, Roberta Glass, Susan Johnson and Donald (deceased).



RUSSELL & HELEN SISSONS

Russell and Helen Sissons of Wellington, New Zealand, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Dec. 26. They received congratulatory messages from Queen Elizabeth of England, Jim Bolger, prime minister of New Zealand, and Dame Catherine Tizard, governor-general and minister of internal affairs.



HARRY & SHIRLEY SMITH

Harry and Shirley Smith of Smoaks, South Carolina, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 16. Charleston, South Carolina, brethren honored them with cake, roses and gifts. The Smiths serve as deacon and deaconess in the Charleston church. They have five children and 15 grandchildren.

Obituaries



CYNTHIA BRYCE

BRYCE, Cynthia McLohan, 40, of Dallas, Texas, died Nov. 17 after a four year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Jesse; one daughter, Lisa; her mother, Winifred McLohan; three sisters, Patrice Planer, Sandy Hall and Cathy Greve; two brothers, Phil and Greg McLohan; six nephews; and three nieces.

BACKMAN, Alice Denise, 64, of Kensington, Minnesota, died Jan. 6 after a seven year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Edward; four sons; five daughters; and 13 grandchildren.

ZIEHLSDORF, Janet, 74, of Wagga Wagga, Australia, died Dec. 5. She is survived by her husband, Harry; one son, Paul; and one daughter, Wilma.



WILLIAM FRIEDRICH

FRIEDRICH, William "Bill," 84, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, died June 16 of cancer. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Alice; two daughters, Edith Mather and Verna Barth; two sons, Wally and Clifford; 12 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

COLEMAN, Aubrey L., 73, of Coughatta, Louisiana, died Nov. 21. He is survived by his wife, Mildred; one son, Aubrey Guy; four daughters, Judy, Ginger, Kathy and Leigh Ann; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

ERCEG, Barbara Beth, 33, of Perth, Australia, died Dec. 6 of cancer. She is survived by her husband, Michael; and two children, Matthew, 2 1/2, and Eleanor, age 15 months.

HOUGEN, Eva, 87, of Milwaukie, Oregon, died Oct. 29.



ALICE GRAVES

GRAVES, Alice M., 92, of La Habra, California, died Jan. 3. She is survived by three daughters, Lois, Dorothy and Joyce; and one son, Robert.

MATTHEWS, Boyd C., 76, of Akron, Ohio, died Dec. 21. He is survived by one son, three daughters, three grandchildren and one brother.

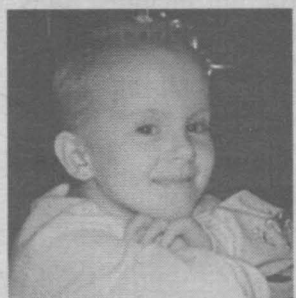
LANG, Lawrence "Larry" Marvin, 43, (deceased).

See Obituaries, page 7

Obituaries

Continued from page 6

of Auburn, Washington, died Jan. 17 after a two year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three daughters, Carrie, Valerie and Veronica; two sisters, Barbara Martin and Judy Hayden; and two brothers, Robin Shaulis and Dick.



SUMMER THACKER

THACKER, Summer Lee, 6, of Sumner, Illinois, died Aug. 16 after a two year battle with cancer. She is survived by her parents, Dale and Melanie; two brothers, Brandon and Lyndon; her paternal grandfather;

her maternal grandparents; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

GOOD, Kevin A., 34, of Cramer, Pennsylvania, died Jan. 29. He is survived by his parents, Roger and Carol; and one sister, Tammy Himes.

TRAYER, Dale, 85, of Youngstown, Ohio, died Oct. 6 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, four daughters and many grandchildren.

BORDEN, Marvin E. Jr., 52, of Omro, Wisconsin, died Dec. 12 of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Alice; his parents; 10 children; and 13 grandchildren.

RYAN, Ada S., 81, of Fulton, Missouri, died Oct. 26. She is survived by two children, Clyde Masters and Frankie Breginski; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

STENBERG, Judith A., 94, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, died Jan. 13. She is survived by several nieces and nephews in Sweden. Her husband, two brothers, one sister and two half brothers preceded her in death.

ELIUK, Mary, 89, of Vegreville, Alberta, died Jan. 1. She is survived by one son and five daughters.

MCNEIL, Walden, 71, of Seffner, Florida, died Jan. 27 of a massive

heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Berneice; two daughters, Joan Smith and Suzanne Odom; two sons, Harry and Walden Buster; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

HAMACHER, Helen, 74, of Sun City Center, Florida, died Jan. 30. She is survived by her husband, Ralph; one son, Roger; one daughter-in-law; two granddaughters; and one great-grandson.



JAMES WILCOXSON

WILCOXSON, James A., 61, of Harrisburg, Missouri, died Dec. 1. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Gloria; three sons, David, Peter and Matthew; one daughter, Sherry; seven grandchildren; five brothers; and two sisters.

Festival Updates

Langkawi, Malaysia

Langkawi, Malaysia, will replace Phuket, Thailand, as a Feast site.

Langkawi, one of a cluster of 99 islands on the northwest coast of the Malaysian peninsula, is rich with greenery, exotic flora and fauna.

Activities include scuba diving, waterskiing, snorkeling, fishing, tennis, golf, duty-free shopping and island-hopping by boat.

All members will be housed at the DeLima Resort, where services will also take place. Temperatures range from 25 to 30 degrees Celsius (77 to 86 Fahrenheit).

Langkawi has an international airport seven kilometers (about four miles) from DeLima Resort with

direct flights from Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Singapore. A rental car is not needed. Public transportation is convenient.

Room rates (single or double occupancy), including breakfast for two, range from M\$75 a day. One U.S. dollar equals M\$2.56.

Six hundred are expected to attend.

Ensenada, Mexico

Ensenada, Mexico, will be a Feast site for the fifth consecutive year. English-speaking members are invited as translations of services from Spanish into English will be provided.

Ensenada is on the Pacific coast 75 miles south of the U.S. border at Tijuana. For any tourist requirements, please see a travel agent.

If you are driving, once you cross the border, follow the sign that reads "Rosarito Ensenada." Bus service is available for about \$5.50 a person at Plaza Viva Tijuana, near the border crossing.

Housing costs will be \$38 a night (tax included). Room occupation is for four adults and up to two children younger than 12. The rooms have two double beds and a small sofa. Average breakfast costs will be about \$6 per person. Lunch or dinner will begin at \$6 per person. These prices are at the hotel we are using for the Feast, but other affordable, nice restaurants are nearby.

Housing reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Those wishing to transfer should obtain an international Festival application form from their pastor.

AC offers Royals basketball and volleyball camps

The Ambassador College Physical Education Department will again sponsor the Royals basketball and volleyball camps this summer on the Big Sandy campus. The basketball camp will be July 19 to 26, and the volleyball camp will be from July 26 to Aug. 2.

About 42 men and 42 women from 15 to 19 years old with advanced athletic skills will be accepted for each camp. Both camps will be conducted by Royals intercollegiate coaches and players. The coaches emphasize the acquisition of advanced skills through individual instruction and

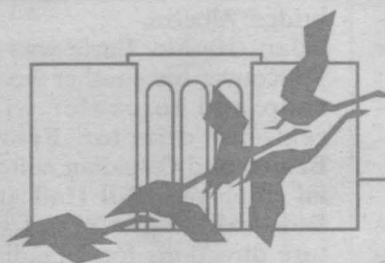
contemporary video techniques in a positive environment stressing excellence in athletics and sportsmanship.

Most of the freshmen who made the men's and women's intercollegiate basketball and volleyball teams this year attended last year's camp. The camps are designed for those with advanced skills (advanced YOU, recreation or varsity high school sports). The cost for each camp is \$250, which includes room, board, uniforms and individual instruction. Those accepted to both camps will pay a discounted price of \$400.

Campers must provide their own

transportation to the Dallas-Fort Worth or Tyler airport, Longview or Tyler bus station, or the Longview train station.

Applications are available from church pastors. Campers need to fill out the application completely, include a \$5 nonrefundable application fee and have the church pastor send it in. The application is due April 1 and tuition must be paid by May 15. Notification of acceptance or denial will be mailed by May 1. If you are interested, contact your minister or call the Physical Education Department at 1-903-636-2090.



Dateline: Ambassador

AN UPDATE OF AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

23 receive degrees at winter commencement

Ten students received associate of arts degrees Dec. 29: **Alison Edalere, Juliana Egedus, Jason Lemke, Crystal Myers, Michelle Nelson, Roxanne Sherrod, Cherie Strain, Jennifer Vargo, Karen Wann and Ben Woodard.**

Thirteen students graduated with bachelor's degrees: **Paola Atallat, Corina Bremer, Jennifer Curry, Gilbert Ekholm, Katrinka Horne, Myriam Keller-Matamala, Thomas Keller, Brigitte Marmier Sprotte, Sarah Rule, Jason Sikes, Leah Tippin, David Toler and Ronald Ware.**

Administrative restructuring

To clarify responsibilities, President **Donald Ward** announced administrative title changes: **William L. Johnson** is associate dean of academic affairs; **Gary Richards** becomes director of student life; and **Bryan Hoyt**

is director of student development. The titles dean of faculty, dean of students and associate dean of students will no longer be used.

"We have a dean of academic affairs in **Dr. Michael Germano** and a dean of student affairs in **Mr. Jeb Egbert**," said Dr. Ward. "The new titles better clarify the responsibilities of each administrator within his respective division," he said.

Foundation projects

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand announced plans to award two annual scholarships to AC volunteers serving on the Thailand project. The scholarships, which can be used to pay for the students' college bills when they return to Texas, are "a thank-you from the royal family for all the years of service we have given," said **Joseph Locke**, vice president of Ambassador Foundation International.

Michael Germano, dean of academic affairs, was

guest speaker for the graduating class at the Worldwide Educational Institute at Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka.

The last students accepted to serve at this project before it closes at the end of this year went to Sri Lanka in January. They are junior **Derick Cluley** and seniors **Christopher Burton** and **Janice Hartness**. Nine AC student volunteers serve in Sri Lanka.

Project students chosen

Joseph W. Tkach, chairman of the board of regents, announced students selected to serve next year in three projects sponsored by the Ambassador Foundation.

For the Jordan project: **Steve Alwine, David Botha, Randall Bradford, Richard Huber, Stefano Marsella, Ted Zoellner, Lisa Cloninger, Jennifer Kosharek, Lillian Knutson, Jennifer Lohr, Sara Sable and Sharon Steward.**

For the Thailand project: **Lonnie Katai, Brent McAlister, Scott McCrady, Ra-**

chelle Clauson, Sandra Galo and Dawn Rabey.

For the Ukraine project: **Scott Nohrenberg, Joe Piotrowski, Craig Shrum, Mikhail Yurkiv, Juliana Egedus, Sasha Veljic, Amy Zutz and Tamara Yurkiv.**

Personnel updates

Two college employees were honored for 25 years of service (1969-94) in forum Feb. 8. **James Kisse**, counselor and assistant professor of psychology, and **Kenneth Weese**, an employee of the Shipping & Receiving Department, both received a plaque and a watch from Dr. Ward.

Byron Griffin has been added to the mathematics faculty this semester. Mr. Griffin formerly served as director of financial aid.

Dr. Ward announced the appointment of **Frank Parsons**, who has headed the Church's Mail Processing Extension Center (MPEC) on campus since 1990, as coordinator of student employ-

ment. Mr. Parsons will assume his new duties after MPEC's operations are transferred to Pasadena. **Roger Widmer** will continue as director of financial aid.

Sports update

In women's basketball, the Lady Royals record as of Feb. 18 was 14 wins and 9 losses. In the national NAIA Division II rankings of Jan. 31, AC freshman **Sharon Treybig** was first in the nation in rebounding with a 15.4 average.

In men's basketball, the Royals record as of Feb. 18 was 4 wins and 21 losses. Senior **Seth Mullady** set a new AC career rebounding record Dec. 23. He surpassed the former career mark of 568 and now has 650 lifetime. Feb. 1 he also broke the AC career scoring record, which formerly stood at 1,115 points. Seth had 1,167 career points with seven games remaining.

In addition, in the national NAIA Division II rankings of Jan. 31, he was seventh in the nation in rebounding with an 11.4 average. For the week of Feb. 6 through 12, Seth was named NAIA Division II player of the week.

Junior forward **Joey Mitchell** was named NAIA Division II southwest regional player of the week for his performances on Jan. 18 and 22.

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Visit requests up 86.4 percent last year

In 1993 Personal Correspondence received 12,238 church visit requests—an 86.4 percent increase over the number received in 1992.

This increase can be attributed to the Church information closings on the telecast, ads on the back cover of *The Plain Truth* and a new card stitched into our booklets offering readers information about the congregation nearest them.

Church to celebrate 25th anniversary

PRINCE GEORGE, British Columbia—Brethren who previously attended the church here are invited to attend its 25th anniversary July 23 and 24. For further information and to arrange housing, please write to **Clyde Critchlow**, RR 7, Site 30, Comp. 9, Prince George, British Columbia, V2N 2J5, or call him at 1-604-963-9739. *Rainer Salomaa.*

Congregations mark anniversaries

KINGSPORT, Tennessee—

The church here met Jan. 15 to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Split sermons were given by **Lambert Greer** and **George Elkins**, ministers who formerly served in the area.

After services members viewed slides of the congregation's history. Each original member received a certificate, and the women received a corsage. A catered meal and dance concluded the celebration. *Gordon S. Widener.*

CORNWALL, Ontario—The church here celebrated its 20th anniversary Dec. 25. Activities included a potluck, dance, a photograph-guessing game and a variety show.

After the variety show pastor **Todd Martin** recognized individuals as being the oldest, the youngest, in the Church the longest, baptized the longest, married the longest, having the most children and attending the most Feasts. *Daniel Maybury.*

Singles events offered in U.S. and Canada

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan—Singles are invited to a Building Bridges weekend at Beaver Creek Bible Camp May 20 to 23. The event begins with a Friday evening Bible study conducted by **George Patrickson** of the Vancouver Office.

Scheduled activities are dancing, hiking, softball, volleyball, a barbecue, a sing-along, horseshoes, a car rally, tennis, hayrides and horseback riding.

Payment of \$75 (Canadian funds only) is due April 5. Make checks or money orders payable to **Carolyn Rein**, and send them to her at 237 Avenue Y North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7L 3K6. Please indicate whether you are male or female, if you would like to go on a hayride, and list any food allergies. For more information call her at 1-306-384-7687. Maps of camp sites will be sent later.

Space is available for 120 people.

BELLEVILLE, Illinois—Singles here invite other singles to a fun and friendship weekend April 30 and May 1. Activities include a dinner and dance Saturday evening and, on Sunday, a continental breakfast and catered picnic. Cost of the weekend is \$22.

Housing is available with brethren or at special rates at the Town House Motel. For additional information contact **Larrie Wiggand** at 1-618-475-2404. Deadline for reservations is April 16.

JACKSON, Tennessee—Singles here invite other singles to the "Biggest Barn Dance This Side of Texas, Part V" April 30 featuring **Marty Yale** and the Fly By Night Band from Ambassador College.

Activities will include a barbecued beef dinner, a mechanical bull ride, dancing and a horsedrawn hayride, and on the next day, horseback riding and an early lunch. For more information call **Jeremy Chandler** at 1-901-427-4218 or write to 1051 Campbell St., Jackson, Tennessee, 38301.

Geneva talks center on service to youths

GENEVA, Switzerland—European YOU coordinators met here Jan. 9 to 13. Representing their regions were **Olivier** and **Susan Carion**, French; **Matthew Fenchel**, German; **Cliff Veal** and **Luciano Cozzi**, Italian; **Hans** and **Denise de Moei**, Dutch; and **Andrew** and **Dana Silcox**, English.

This group of coordinators, representing more than 750 YOU members in 19 European countries, met in Mr. Carion's home. Topics centered on the theme of greater service to youths in Europe through communication at a multiregional level.

Talks covered specific challenges of teens in each

region, fund raising, personal development, summer camps and participation in European sports and activities.

The coordinators had an informal conference telephone call with **Bill Jacobs**, national YOU coordinator for the United States, in Pasadena. Mr. Jacobs discussed the goals and purposes of the new YOU program, and stressed that although the program attracts teenagers, "it is relationships that keep them."

The group left the conference better equipped to apply Pastor General **Joseph W. Tkach's** instruction to unify our approach, improve our skills, draw closer to our young people and expand the scope of YOU. *Dana Silcox.*

SEP in Ghana broadens campers' understanding

KUTUNSE, Ghana—Three teens from Togo joined 67 campers from Ghana for a Summer Educational Program (SEP) Dec. 19 to Jan. 3. Activities included a day trip to Ada and a boat trip on the Ada River.

Frimpong Boateng, the leading heart surgeon in Ghana, presented a lecture on the function of the heart and how to stay healthy. **Gabriel Ojih** gave a forum that helped broaden campers' understanding of different types of music.

A questionnaire distributed during Christian living class asked campers their feelings toward the Church, Church teachings, the ministry and outside pressures.

Sehorh Barbley was named best boy camper, and **Emmanuella Modey** received the best girl camper award. *David Bedford.*

Teens enjoy snow, ice during Austrian winter

SAALBACH, Austria—Fifty-five campers from Austria, Germany and Switzer-

land participated in eight action-packed days at the Winter Educational Program in Saalbach, Austria, Dec. 24 to Jan. 2. Twenty-one staff members led four levels of skiing, ice-skating, swimming and ballroom dancing. The program included daily Bible studies, a film evening and dance.

Because 90,000 skiing accidents occurred in the Alps in the past year—many of which involved teenagers—camp staff emphasized safety.

Campers were encouraged to keep their rooms neat and clean. The youth hostel's cleaning woman commented, "I have worked here for 20 years, but I have never experienced such unusual orderliness and such friendly young people!"

The manager added, "You can tell the difference when young people believe in God." *Frankie Weinberger.*

International PT editor stresses media philosophy at workshop

CALGARY, Alberta—Neil Earle, international editor of *The Plain Truth*, conducted his fourth Canadian writers workshop Jan. 9 at the Marlborough Inn. Mr. Earle covered writing tips, *Plain Truth* philosophy and stressed his hope for more Canadian content in the publications.

Sharing a common interest in writing, the 36 prospective contributors represented a broad range of interests, writing experience and background. Attendees included several published authors, four teens, plus two visitors from Edmonton and Lethbridge, Alberta.

Jan. 10, Mr. Earle was in Vancouver for another workshop and to confer with regional director **Frank Brown** and Canadian editorial employees **Bill Hall** and **Deborah Minke** about future directions for Canadian editorial. *Jon Pearkins.*

Rwandan brethren desire growth, request prayers

Continued from page 1

be taking segments of the sermon and playing them during the week.

Rwanda: Brethren want to grow

After a morning Sabbath service, Dec. 11, we left for Kigali, capital of Rwanda, in East Africa. Rwanda was involved in a civil war until last October. Not everyone agrees that the war is over.

When we got to the hotel, we found it to be the base for a contingent of United Nations troops. Some of the officers confirmed that hostilities in neighboring Burundi could easily spill over into Rwanda and once again embroil the country in war.

We need to pray for a

stronger peace in Rwanda. Our brethren there want to grow. They need peace, and they need to be legally recognized so the Church can carry on a work in Rwanda.

After meeting with the handful of Rwandan brethren on Sunday for a picnic and Bible study, we left. I said farewell to Mr. Andrist and Mr. Carion in Kigali and boarded a flight for Nairobi, Kenya.

I spent one day with pastor James Henderson and his wife, Shirley, before beginning the 26-hour journey to Pasadena.

The one thing that still rings in my ears is the plea made by every group we met: "Please don't forget us." We in

the West have a lot to learn from our brethren in Africa—especially the simplicity of the true religion they practice.



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS—Children in Kigali, Rwanda, gather with Randal Dick from Pasadena. [Photo by Olivier Carion]

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