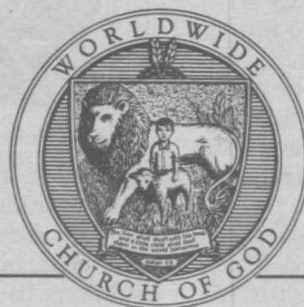


2 End of Richard Nixon's trial-filled but successful life

4 Where is the Church headed?

4 Religious classes help youths see importance of Jesus Christ

# The Worldwide News



VOL. XXII, NO. 11  
MAY 31, 1994



## Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

### Vision for the future

Jesus Christ has led the Church through some dramatic changes—a little more dramatic than some of us may have wanted. It would be simpler to take the path of least resistance and not make waves, but we are obligated to follow Christ as he leads us. Our faith is tested, our commitment to him is tested, our willingness to live by every word of God is tested as we come to understand the Bible more accurately.

Some have asked where we will go next. While Christ does not always reveal in advance where he will lead us, I do have the responsibility to plan according to what Christ has already revealed. So I want to use this opportunity to share with you my vision for the future of the work. I'll give some general goals and then some more specific goals. I have written and spoken about these points before, but I know that repetition is the best form of emphasis.

In general terms, my vision for the future is that the Worldwide Church of God will fully live up to its name—the Church of God. That is, that each and every member of the Church will be a sincere, serving, humble, loving, Christ-led person whose individual light shines and brings glory to Christ and to the Church.

When I emphasize this point, I often quote Matthew 5:13-16. Jesus used plain, down-to-earth language in the Sermon on the Mount. A Christian should be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, doing good deeds that others can see, good deeds that can motivate others to praise and thank God. We should be good examples—assets to our families, our employers, our neighborhoods and our communities. This is an important part of what Christ's Church should be.

A true Christian is not just someone who follows Jesus Christ—a true Christian is also being transformed by Christ! We are born again, born from above—a new creation in Christ—led by the Holy Spirit into new thoughts and new emotions. We are being transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we might be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:2; 8:29).

A Christian is a Christlike person. So my vision for the Church is that we will more fully exemplify the qualities and love of Christ. This is my primary directive for members of the Church. I want us to live up to our calling.

Our lives need to reflect Christ. My vision for the future is that we live up to our calling as children of God, and I want the Church to realize how important that is to God. Christians are to be Christlike people. We are called the Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ.

Our goal is to become more and more like our older Brother, the Head of the Church. In our faith and in our way of life, we are to bring glory to God, our Father. That is what Christ did, and that is what he leads his people to do, also.

### Preaching the gospel

We used to report that Europe was uniting and that Christ would return within "x" number of years. We focused too much attention on predicting the time of the end of the age. Our predictions made exciting articles and preaching.

But our predictions were often wrong, and we sometimes did our warning and predicting in a self-righteous way. We have come to see the need for a more Christlike approach.

Christ preached that he would return, but he did not preach when he would return. He preached about the kingdom of God, but he did not get involved in speculation about setting dates and providing the details of what that kingdom would be like. Instead, he taught people how they might be part of God's kingdom—through repentance, faith and forgiveness, rather than self-righteousness and legalism.

That is the gospel he commissioned his apostles to preach. That is the gospel we see being preached in the book of Acts and in the letters of Paul. The message is about salvation by grace through active faith in Jesus Christ.

See Personal, page 6

## Ukraine: students will learn as well as teach

By Victor Kubik

UKRAINE—May 4 and 5 my wife, Bev, and I made final arrangements for the eight Ambassador students and a high school graduate with five years of Russian to travel this summer to Western Ukraine. They will teach English and assist our Sabbatarian friends with computers, communications and agriculture.

*Victor Kubik is assistant director of Church Administration.*

After attending the European Conference in Megeve, France (see page 5), we flew to Budapest, Hungary. We wanted to experience what it would be like crossing into Ukraine by train so we could let our students know what to expect.

We encountered scheduling difficulties. The three times I have traveled from Budapest to Ukraine, I have yet to be given correct information about train schedules.

In absolute darkness the train crosses the Tisza River from Zahony, Hungary, into Chop, Ukraine, See Ukraine, page 5



SHARING FAITH—Bev and Victor Kubik (fourth and sixth from left) picnic with Sabbatarian leaders and families on the banks of the Tisza River outside Khust.

### Rwanda update: Some members flee homes

KIGALI, Rwanda—This report is from a prospective member in Rwanda. For their safety, we are not mentioning the names of the brethren, according to Randal Dick, assistant director of Church Administration for international areas.

War is still raging here. It appears a number of our members have left Kigali to seek refuge in the countryside. However, the slaughter has also been taking place in the remote areas. Everyone is affected by hunger and risks being killed either by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), bandits or political extremists.

Last Friday, May 6, I visited the deacon and his family, who live in a village near Kigali, and brought them a 100-pound bag of rice. They are surviving as best as they can by eating a few beans and rice. Several neighbors and homeless people have taken refuge in their home.

Groups of armed men roam around, seeking to kill Tutsis. Several of these groups came to the deacon's home, accusing his wife of being of Tutsi descent and accusing him of providing shelter for Tutsis. Somehow, by giving them a little bit of money, the deacon has so far been able to appease them.

I went to see one of the mayors who exercises authority over these groups who seek to kill Tutsis and requested that our deacon and his family be left alone. So far, this seems to have worked.

Another of our members, a teacher, left his home in one of the Kigali suburbs. He could be seeking refuge in the countryside. Two members from Zaire, who are also teachers, have most likely gone back to their country. It appears that buses were made available to expatriates so that they could be driven to the border.

Later today, May 12, I hope to visit the Kigali suburbs where our members live. Mr. Dick said that because Rwanda is in a state of paralysis, the Church cannot offer any assistance to our members there other than to fervently remember them in our prayers.

# Nixon: trial-filled life reaches successful end

Just after Richard Nixon's death, I toured the Nixon Library and his birthplace in Yorba Linda, California. As I paused in respect before the grave of the 37th President of the United States, who died April 22 at age 81, I reflected on the tribute paid to him at his funeral by Henry Kissinger.

"He came into office when the forces of history were moving America from a position of dominance to one of leadership," said Dr. Kissinger, one of Mr. Nixon's closest advisers. "Dominance reflects strength; leadership must be earned. And Richard Nixon earned that leadership role for his country with courage, dedication and skill.

"When he considered our nation's interest at stake," Dr. Kissinger continued, "he dared confrontations [even] in the midst of the worst crisis of his life," referring to the Watergate debacle that cost him the presidency in 1974. "He achieved greatly, and he suffered deeply, but he never gave up."

In office, Mr. Nixon engineered a diplomatic breakthrough to China and pursued what he called a policy of "hardheaded detente" with the former Soviet Union. He had foreseen the emergence of a new world order, with the United States, Western Europe, Japan, the Soviet Union and China destined to become, he said, the "principal axis of history."

The former President's impact on



the Middle East is with us still. Arab armies launched their surprise Yom Kippur offensive Oct. 12, 1973. Israel recovered, but Moscow began sending weapons to Egypt and Syria. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir urgently appealed to the White House for an airlift of arms.

Mr. Nixon rejected advice that, for political reasons, the United States should send only three C-5A plane-loads. "We will not let Israel go down the tubes," he told congressional leaders. He ordered the Pentagon to "send everything that can fly." Thirty C-5As flew 550 missions in an operation far bigger than the 1948 Berlin airlift.

Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev next threatened to send troops into the region. Warning Moscow he would not permit the Mideast to become a superpower battlefield, Mr. Nixon placed U.S. conventional and nuclear forces on alert. Mr. Brezhnev backed down.

The President then reached out to the Arab states. Soon, Egyptian Presi-

dent Anwar Sadat broke ties with Moscow, setting the stage for Egypt's reconciliation with Israel and the peace process under way today.

I saw Mr. Nixon twice, the last time when he spoke at a luncheon in Los Angeles in 1986. He gave a compelling, hourlong discourse on world affairs.

At that time he was well into his final career as respected elder statesman. Sharing insights from private talks with world leaders on his many foreign trips, he briefed presidents, foreign policy leaders and editorial boards of the nation's major news organizations.

Writing occupied much of Mr. Nixon's time after leaving the White House. He authored nine books (an earlier book appeared in 1962), in addition to newspaper and magazine articles.

Their overall theme is that America must not abandon global leadership, but adjust it to a changing world.

While the late President's passion was foreign affairs, he was increasingly

concerned about moral issues at home. He urged Americans to repair their crumbling family structures and recover a sense of personal responsibility.

In his final book, *Beyond Peace*, completed just before his death, he says the challenge now is "to demonstrate that we have the will to lead beyond peace, where our enemy is not some nation abroad but is essentially within ourselves."

In my favorite book of his, *In The Arena*, published in 1990, Mr. Nixon reflected on a host of topics, including family, religion, education, work and wealth, and how to think, read, write, speak and make decisions.

His most important topic deals with overcoming adversity. After his shattering defeat in 1974, Mr. Nixon wrestled with what to do with the rest of his life. The key, he found, "was to live for something more important than your life." He dedicated his remaining years to causes he passionately believed in—peace, freedom and a strong America.

"Put the past behind you," he advised. "Analyze and understand the reasons for your defeat, but do not become obsessed with what was lost. Think instead about what is left to do."

He summarized this approach with: "Remember Lot's wife. Never look back." Wise words we can take to heart on our own, often difficult, Christian journeys.

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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.

### In confidence

It is so exciting to read of how God is working around the world, especially in Mexico and the continent of Africa. We are praying and are confident that God will provide the finances necessary to accomplish what he has inspired.

Thank you for keeping us informed regarding the many changes taking place. We know

any decision you make is preceded by much prayer and counsel. You have our support and prayers daily.

Ira McIntosh  
Paris, Tennessee

### Big things, little by little

I've been a member of the Worldwide Church of God for three years now. Ever since I came into the Church, I've witnessed many changes.

The latest changes about the new understanding of God's attributes are just wonderful, to say the least. It's so exciting because it makes God unlimited and really powerful. Indeed, when we put limitations on God—like

## "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.

### To happier families

I would like to say a million thanks for being so faithful in sending my free *Plain Truth*. It does help me grow spiritually, especially the family column. I'm looking forward to having a more intimate and happier relationship with my husband through the free literature that I am requesting.

May God continue to bless you in your ministry.

Kahului, Hawaii

### God within combats the war without

I am grateful to you for the magazine. I am an advanced level student at St. Patrick's College. I have benefited a lot by reading your *Plain Truth*. Now I am living in the war situation and suffering from many difficulties and hardship in my life.

Many students go to school without having proper meals and clothes. At the same time people are being killed. At this very moment *The Plain Truth* has been helpful

to me. When I start reading this magazine, it helps me to think about God's presence within me.

God has been my help and my protection because he has saved me from difficulties through these years. I really feel God's presence within me. Without him nothing can move or live. This magazine has encouraged me to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Sri Lanka

### A youth shall lead them

I am 12 years old, and what a joy to have been blessed to be led to two special "sisters" of the Worldwide Church of God in Collingwood. Through their mind and actions, they have truly exemplified their love for God through Jesus Christ. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to having a visit in my home.

Receiving *The Plain Truth* and *World Tomorrow* has added to keeping my faith in Christianity as a supplement to daily scripture reading and prayer. It has been my faith in church people that had been faltering until I was led to the Worldwide Church of God. What a blessing! Thank you and may God continue to bless your work.

Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia

giving him form—we can say that God is easier to understand. However, God's attributes are not supposed to be understood in a twinkling of an eye. Otherwise, we're supposing we already know everything about him.

God is so much bigger than we are. He wants to reveal himself to us, but in a little-by-little manner so we won't be overwhelmed with so many questions and confusions. I hope others understand things that way so we all can be united and strengthened and not fall away.

As of now, I still have questions about our new understanding of God's nature, and I pray to God that he will help me understand, because sometimes understanding God's nature is hard to comprehend. I pray also that others would hold on to their faith and be patient as these new truths will be expounded.

Vina Macasero  
Philippines

### When Dad's hugs start again

I would like to inform all of you that my dad just died of pancreatic cancer. He was 59. Your two brochures *Parents Are People Too* and *When a Loved One Dies* that you sent us have really helped my family and me.

Thank you for your dedicated service to us in sharing your message of hope. I truly believe that my daddy was spiritually fed when he died because of the magazines you had provided him. I believe in life after death at Christ's coming.

When that time comes and we see each other again, I'll say once more these words: "I love you, Daddy. Thank you very much for all the wonderful things and love we have shared during our first life on earth."

I hope I can kiss and hug him once more again.

Kalookan, Philippines

### Youth lights her path

Once again, your magazine has shone the light in order to lead a blind and lost young adult to the right path.

I like reading your magazine, and thank God that you are doing such a ministry. I lend your magazines to my friends, especially to my best friend. She enjoys your magazine as well, and looks forward to reading it as much as I.

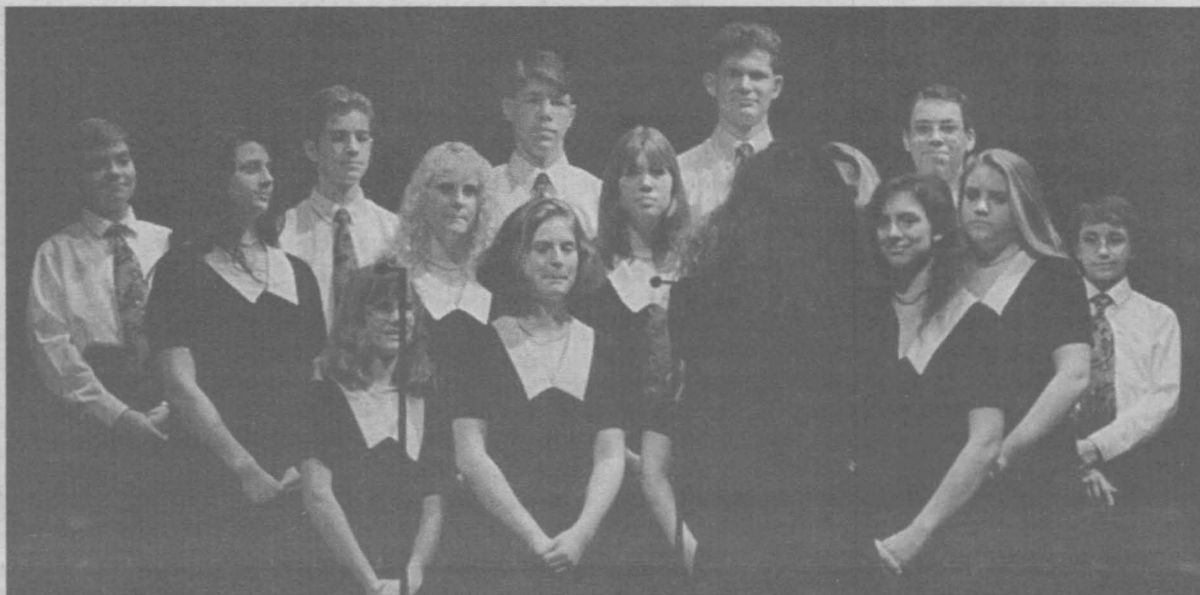
Once again, thank you, and I pray that God will continue to bless you and to bless those who make your ministry possible.

Kingston, Jamaica



# Pastor General visits...

REDDING, CALIFORNIA



**Trip Overview**

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 486 brethren May 7 from Redding, Eureka and Chico, California; and Klamath Falls and Medford, Oregon.

Hosts for the visit were Jim and Barbara Chapman, Redding and Chico; Richard and Michelle Baumgartner, Medford and Klamath Falls; and Wayne Dunlap, Eureka. [Photos by Rena Conway and Cleone Anderson]



## Church aids furniture giveaway to Hathaway Children's Services

**Donations also aid widow, expectant mother and many elderly in need of beds and wardrobes**

"Thank you and the Ambassador Foundation for the wonderful gift of furniture to be used at the residential campus of Hathaway Children's Services," wrote Dennis Laurents, Hathaway president, to Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, April 26.

"We simply could not accomplish what we do without the partnership of individuals and organizations like you."

Hathaway, which provides residential care and treatment for emotionally disturbed, abused and neglected children, received more than 80 pieces of furniture, mainly desks, wardrobes, beds, tables and chairs.

The furniture came from the Veterans Administration medical facility in Los Angeles. Paul Sniffen, an employee of the VA facility and a deacon in the Pasadena West P.M. congregation, notified Church headquarters that furniture was available free if someone would collect it, said

Steve Ellison, Facilities purchasing and contracts manager.

After contacting several organizations to see if they needed furniture, Reese Edmondson from Public Affairs got together 12 Church employees, a Church truck and four rented trucks to move the furniture to headquarters property.

"The furniture had been stored in a VA building the size of three football fields," said Mr. Ellison. "Over two days we moved about 80 percent of the furniture and we hope to make arrangements to pick up the rest."

Besides Hathaway, other organizations that benefited from the furniture were the Hillside Home for Children in Pasadena; Dorcas Outreach in South Central Los Angeles; and a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Los Angeles.

Maria C. Jack, community services director of the Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church, thanked Mr. Tkach in a letter for sharing the furniture.

According to Ms. Jack, the Adventists gave furniture to a widow living in a rat- and roach-infested apartment, a young expectant mother of

three and many elderly people in need of beds and wardrobes, and to The Home For Sober Living. "Already the requests for additional items have been pouring into our department from needy individuals," she commented.

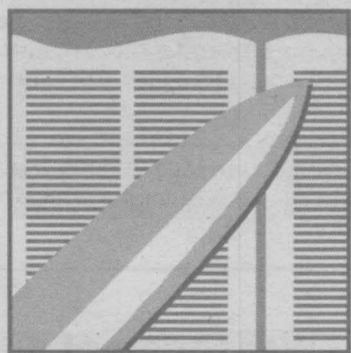
Church employees from four departments participated in this project. Among them were Joe Contreras, John Cooper, Reese Edmondson, Steve Ellison, Jeff Eisen, Neil Kubon, Tim Morgan, Steve Perez, Ray Tucker and Ron Vance.



**CHILDREN BENEFIT**—Steve Ellison (left), Facilities purchasing and contracts manager, and Reese Edmondson (right) of Public Affairs with Gail Guglielmino and Louanne Shahandeh from Hathaway. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

# IRON SHARPENS IRON

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



## Where is the Church headed?

By Joseph Tkach Jr.

**T**he question, Where is the Church headed? is not an unreasonable one. The explanation is that the Church continues in the same direction it always has—fulfilling its commission and toward the fullness of God's kingdom.

In 1993, 12,238 Church visit requests came into the Personal Correspondence Department. They were requests for the address of where we meet. What kind of environment do people find when they visit congregations for the first time?

The congregational environment should be a place of love, acceptance, forgiveness and discipleship. I pray that everyone is energized by the reality that the Church is to preach the gospel.

We are not commissioned merely to prophesy. Rather, we are to "therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The Church is to go for the express purpose of making disciples. The great commission gives us direction. Disciples continue to grow in grace and in knowledge. God works in them to do his will and pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

We are mandated to go, baptize and teach with the goal of discipling, or making and strengthening disciples. We hope that we're all still eager to fulfill God's commission to his Church. We hope no one has lost sight of the truth that this is the way we have always been headed.

Some experience a spiritual identity crisis whenever an error in our interpretation of Scripture is corrected. Such feelings prevent people from understanding our responsibility to God to be consistent and accurate in doctrine. I offer the following criteria to help us diagnose our condition.

*Evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr. is director of Church Administration.*

*Thinking that we are better than everybody else. It is not our job to determine the authenticity of God's calling of everyone who claims to be Christian. We must remember that God is sovereign, and he decides whose prayers he will answer. God works in whomever he wishes. We know God works with us. If he also works with others, let's be thankful, not angry.*

*Unwillingness to acknowledge error in how we interpreted certain verses of Scripture. It seems harder for some than others to admit that the Church made mistakes.*

Nevertheless, 1 John 1:8-10 reminds us of our imperfection: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify

### If we are honest, we are humbled by how much we really don't know.

us from all unrighteousness.... If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives." Let's not forget that we cannot achieve righteousness on our own.

*Unhappiness with the emphasis on the gospel of Christ. It seems that some fall into the category of people described in John 6:55-60. When Christ told them that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood, a group of people claimed this was too difficult a saying. "Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, 'Does this offend you?'" (verse 61).*

Some would reject the emphasis on Christ and label it as protestant. They would rather emphasize the law instead of the lawgiver. They have a relationship with the law and mistake that for a relationship with Christ. They misinterpret this statement as deemphasizing the law or doing away with the law. Such a mindset is a tragedy.

*Mistaking prophecy for the gospel.*

Christ did not give his Church a commission to predict the time of his return, nor to identify the nations to comprise the final beast power of Revelation. Rather, Christ commissioned his people to preach the good news of his identity and that there is no other name by which salvation is available.

Let's not forget what Paul emphasized when he preached. "We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Preaching the gospel is the power of God working in us to will and do his good pleasure. Preaching the gospel and making disciples require us to explain the current relevance of the gospel as well as the future hope it promises. Making disciples means we must teach people to worship God.

And let's never forget that we covenanted our relationship with God when we were baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Whether one comprehends the supradimensional nature of God or not, we were all baptized into the name of one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We don't suddenly have all understanding of doctrine at baptism. As we mature spiritually, God grants us growth in understanding. Most of us can relate to the experience of our late teens or early 20s, when we thought we knew just about everything. As we grew older, we saw that we didn't know it all.

If we are honest, we are humbled by how much we really don't know. While the idealistic optimism of our youth serves its purpose, the humility that comes with age is just as important to our physical growth. Could it be any less important to our spiritual growth?

So, where is the Church headed? In the same direction that we have always been headed—toward conformity to the image of Christ, toward fulfillment of the work Christ gave his Church and toward the fullness of the kingdom of God.

## Australian pastor teaches community's children about Jesus Christ

Religious classes have helped children to see the importance of religion

By Karen Austin

BUNDABERG, Australia—My husband, David, was surprised to see 16 students in his religious instruction class in February, when he arrived at the start of the new school year at Norville Primary.

Last year six Church youths attended the school, including our children, Steve and Richard. But because of moves and graduations, only Richard now attends Norville.

Once assured that the children—unaffiliated with the Worldwide Church of God—were in his class through their parents' choice, he began teaching them about the Bible.

*Karen Austin is the wife of David Austin, who pastors the Bundaberg, Australia, congregation.*

This year's program is centered on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Response from the children and parents has been positive. What has surprised us is that the reputation of the Church is such that parents are now choosing David's program over their own denominations' programs.

David's religious education program began after a talk with the school principal in 1989. I did volunteer work in the school's library, and David was known to the principal because we regularly rented their buildings for services.

The principal, a religious man, asked me why our children did not attend a religious education class at the school. By law in the state of Queensland, all children, regardless of religious faith, have the right to a half hour a week of instruction in their chosen religion during school hours.

I told him we believed it is the parents' responsibility, not just our Church's, to instruct our children about God; and that while we did have a Church program, we did not

have a program for use in schools.

We also preferred not to send our children to other denominations' religious education programs at the school, because we didn't want our children taught things that we as their parents may or may not hold to be true. I said we wanted their religious upbringing to be consistent, and well thought out.

The principal insisted we start a program so that Worldwide Church of God children attending his school could be instructed in their faith.

David prepared lessons based on the Ten Commandments and practical Christian living. The interactive format was five or 10 minutes discussing what was learned the previous week, 15 minutes covering new material and five minutes outlining homework.

Within a few months other parents in our congregation inquired how they could do the same for their children.

David met with principals of other schools about teaching Church members' children. The time required for

this commitment became prohibitive, but we registered several parents as qualified religious instruction leaders in primary schools.

David's program is now being used in nine primary schools to teach children 5 to 12 and by several parents at home. Over the years parents have helped improve the program and formulate lessons and programs for specific needs. Now parents are more conscious of children's religious education.

Having a formal lesson in school has helped children to see religion is important, and they have developed a personal relationship with the minister because of the classes.

The program, which had such humble beginnings, is being recognized by parents as fulfilling a genuine need in their children's religious upbringing, and more are requesting their children be included.

Although much work has already been done, there is obviously much room for growth in the area of teaching Church youths and non-Church youths about the Bible.

# Ukraine: spiritual communication that works

Continued from page 1

where they change the train's wheels to a different gauge. Passengers stay in their "sleeper" cars while a crane picks up each train car to make the change. The loud banging goes on for two hours—between 4 and 6 a.m.

We finally arrived in Transcarpathia and decided that we would not subject our students to the train experience. Instead, we would send them on a flight that leaves Budapest for Uzhgorod, Ukraine, twice a week.

Ivan Urishko and Victor Pavliy, head of Mission Nazareth (the organization we're working with), picked us up at Mukachevo. It was so good seeing them again!

The culture of the Carpathians allows one to see the entire 20th century unfold. Automobiles are alongside gypsies and horse-drawn carts. Some gypsies have become believers and keep the Sabbath.

We stayed with Svetlana Mondich, wife of the Sabbatarian leader, Vasyl Mondich, who was away in Germany (see box, lower right). From Pasadena we brought over a pair of bifocal glasses for one of the pastors near Khust. In Transcarpathia one can get a prescription but not the glasses.

The pastor, Vasyl Tatsuin, was greatly appreciative of the Church's gesture to get him these glasses, contributed by a doctor in Pasadena.

## Communication glitches

One of the first things we accomplished on this trip was setting up reliable computer and voice communications with the world outside Transcarpathia. Telephone service is extremely poor, and you can waste a lot of time trying to get connected.

The quality of telephone lines is atrocious. When you pick up the phone, you hear music and several other conversations and finally, in the muddle, the person you're supposed to be talking to.

After failed attempts to connect a modem, I met the head telephone engineer, who said a new business

line was becoming available. A consortium that includes AT&T and a German and Dutch firm is installing adequate telephone service into Ukraine.

Unfortunately, Khust does not have this service, but an engineer in Uzhgorod told us he would try to install a connector line to the residence where the Ambassador students in Khust would live for the summer.

Victor Pavliy, who was with me all this time, said he enjoyed doing business with me around. He just mentioned the word *Amerikansky*, and people became more civil in how they treated him.

On this phone line we could call Kiev on a clear line at two cents a minute in local currency.

## Forging deeper bonds

On this trip we deepened the relationship with our Sabbatarian friends. They feel extremely comfortable with us and sense our relationship is for real.

They had expressed a fear we might abandon our link with them. They don't want to limit our relationship to working together economically, but stress spiritual cooperation.

We looked at the home that the Sabbatarians found for our Ambassador students to stay in. We were favorably impressed. It has enough rooms for all nine and is owned by Jews who have emigrated to Israel but want to maintain ownership of the house.

A Sabbatarian couple lives in it just so someone occupies it. Since the husband is going to be working in Germany or Czechoslovakia for the summer, the wife will move to her mother's so the house can be rented to our group.

Then we finalized the location where the students will be teaching English. We were given the facilities of the best middle and high school in

the area. Mychaylo Onofrey, the school director, was most congenial and gave us a comprehensive tour.

Through his innovation and resourcefulness, Mr. Onofrey had



**ESTABLISHED ROOTS**—Bev Kubik studies soil with Victor Pavliy. [Photo by Victor Kubik]

done much to build up this school in the face of shortages. It is considered one of the top five high schools in Ukraine.

The school's teachers have a forward-looking spirit and pride in making do with the little they have.

I was particularly impressed by the language labs, workshop and home-making department for younger students. This school was already recommended to us and permission granted by Mayor Kaschuk and the head of the rayon (similar to a county).

We also took soil samples of the ground the Ukrainians use for their gardens and where some seed from Dale Schurter, pastor of the Tipp City, Ohio, church, is planted.

As Bev has gardened for years (except for our time in Pasadena), she

planted sweet corn, beans and potatoes there. They have a test plot, called the American plot, where they can see how our seed is doing. About 700 seed packets were donated by Davenport, Iowa, brethren for planting in new plots the government is giving these people.

## Singing and speaking evangelism

Besides working with education and agriculture in the Ukraine, our students are going to do some evangelistic work in the evenings. They will put on a program of singing and speaking about their personal relationship with God and life in the United States, along with exhortative messages.

The Sabbatarians expect us to do something along this line, and I think it will be good for the students to do so. Our students have already translated some of our hymns from English to Ukrainian to sing in the Sabbatarian churches and in public.

One group our students will be interacting with are at Children of Chernobyl camps scattered throughout the

Carpathians. The government brings children who were in the vicinity of the Chernobyl nuclear radiation accident in 1986 to camps lasting four to six weeks. The Sabbatarians feel our students will be effective in putting on their evangelistic program at the camps.

On the Sabbath we went to Roko-sovo, home to Michael Palchey. We had a Friday night meeting and two services. I spoke about peace—how it begins with Christ as our peace and then expands out to nations finally being at peace with God and one another.

Saturday at midnight we caught the train from Mukachevo back to Budapest and returned to the United States Monday, May 9.

## Wellspring of a common spirit

Henry Sturcke, pastor of the congregations in Stuttgart, Germany, and Basel and Zurich, Switzerland, invited Vasyl Mondich, pastor of the Khust, Ukraine, congregation of Sabbatarians, to speak at services April 30 in Stuttgart.

In a split sermon Mr. Mondich spoke on Isaac's wells, pointing out that Isaac's success hinged on recovering the wells of his father and also digging a new well. He drew a parallel to Christianity—recovering the wells of the fathers (Old Testament law) and going to the new well of living water (Jesus Christ).

Mr. Sturcke spoke about a parallel between Elijah and the 7,000 with our Church today coming into contact with the Ukrainian Christians.

After services Mr. Mondich visited for two hours with Stuttgart brethren through an interpreter. They described him as being energetic, dedicated and highly principled. At a luncheon, discussions continued for several more hours.

The group agreed that our link with the Ukrainian believers is one of a common spirit.

# Doctrinal presentations inspire international conferences

By Henry Sturcke, Julie Wilson and Peter Hawkins

Regional ministerial conferences took place in April and May in Europe, Britain and South Africa. "The venues for these conferences were as beautiful as the attitudes of the ministers and wives who attended," said evangelist Joseph Tkach Jr., director of Church Administration, who attended the conferences with his wife, Tammy.

At each conference, in addition to sessions on the nature of God conducted by evangelist K.J. Stavrinides, participants heard lectures by Mr. Tkach Jr. and Randal Dick, as well as video presentations by Michael Fezell and Greg Albrecht.

## European conference

The fourth annual European regional conference took place April 25 to 28 at les Fermes de Marie in Megeve, in the French Alps.

The 70 participants included all but two of the full-time ministers serving in continental Europe and their wives. Regional directors Carn

Catherwood and his wife, Joyce, and Leon Walker and his wife, Reba, visited from the United States. Other visitors also attended.

Olivier Carion, who pastors the Geneva and Neuchatel, Switzerland, and Lyon, France, churches, was ordained a pastor, and Carmel Gatt of Malta was ordained an elder. Watches for 25 years of service went to Bernard and Colette Audoin and Alfred and Margarethe Hellemann.

After the last session the ministers and wives said good-bye to five couples who are transferring to North America: John and Kristina Karlson, Wade and Kay Fransson, Tony and Malika Gallagher, Joel and Marjolaine Meeker, and Cliff and Connie Veal.

## British conference

The Witney Lodge Hotel in Oxfordshire was host to the British conference May 1 to 5. About 84 attended, including ministers and wives from the United Kingdom, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Malawi.

Also in attendance were Cory and Colene Erickson, who direct the Ambassador Foundation projects in Amman, Jordan.

At the end of the conference Mr. Tkach Jr. ordained David Silcox and David Bedford as pastors and Emanuel Sogbo as a local elder.

## African conference

The African conference took place at Kwa-Maritane ("Place of the Rock"), a hotel near the Pilansberg Game Park, north of Pretoria, May 8 to 12, for 58 ministers and wives from Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Ron Stoddart, pastor of the Cape Town North church, said Dr. Stavrinides "made me appreciate much more the awesome greatness of the God we serve," and that "Mr. Albrecht also made a valuable and needed contribution in regard to being less shallow in Bible study."

Sydney Hull commented: "Dr. Stavrinides was just what was needed at the conference. My understanding increased as the presentation progressed. Mr. Dick's presentation on the great commission filled me with a keen desire to get going in carrying out Mr. Tkach's direction in fulfilling Matthew 28:19-20. This will give God's Church a new vision, a new and much needed impetus."

# Personal: training for greater times to come

Continued from page 1

But some folks just don't get excited about proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ. They think it's boring and bland. Well, to God it's the most important thing in the universe—and it ought to be for his people, too! So my second major vision and directive for the Church is that we preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This is the commission Christ has given us. We find it stated in Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-47 and Acts 26:16-18, but we usually read it in Matthew 28:18-20. We might paraphrase a little to see how this commission ties in with our responsibility to be Christlike persons: "All authority has been given to me," Jesus said, "so I am appointing you to go and preach and make disciples."

Because Jesus has all authority, we are told to encourage others to follow him, to be disciples of him. Just as he went and made disciples within Israel, the apostles were to go and make disciples of all ethnic groups, following his example. The apostles, and the Church, were to be Christlike in their work as well as their way of life. They were to carry on the work he had begun.

After the new disciples were baptized, the apostles were to teach them, just as Christ had taught the apostles. They were to continue the Christlike pattern. And Christ promised to be with us until the end. He is leading us, guiding us. It is his work. He is in us, motivating us to do as he did in making disciples and teaching them.

The Church's part in this commission is to feed the flock by teaching right doctrine. Each member's part is to learn and obey Christ's commands. And one of his most emphasized commands, and not just a suggestion, is that we should love one another (John 13:34). I've mentioned our need to do this many times, and it is implied in my frequent slogan: We are family. And we are not just any family, we are God's family, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

As God's family of Christlike disciples, we should love one another. One practical application of this is that we should pray for one another. That is part of helping each other as we are able. That's love in action—Christianity in action—doing good, especially in the household of faith.

We are to follow Christ's example in praying, because prayer is a vital means of spiritual growth. We are to study Christ's teaching and example so that we might live by every word of God.

The Bible reveals what Christ wants us to be. We are to learn about Jesus' love and compassion, his humility and forgiving nature, his zeal, his courage, his willingness to serve others. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, growing until we become able to teach others, also. The Bible reveals how God is transforming us by the Holy Spirit living within us.

The first part of Christ's commission is an outward focus on evangelism. The second part is a more internal focus on instruction of members. Both are needed as we are led by Jesus Christ to do his work, think his thoughts, do as he would do if he were here. This is our calling as children of God, to be Christlike persons.

## Using media wisely

Now let me get to some specifics. As part of the example we are to set collectively, I envision a church that lives within its means. I do not want to con-

tinually hound members and co-workers for money. I have spent countless hours trimming expenses so the precious tithes and offerings of God's people are put to the most efficient use. We'll never be perfect stewards, but we have to keep trying to improve.

Therefore, I envision a church that uses media wisely, for the best real advantage, to change people's lives, to point them to Christ. We won't use media just to create high numbers. That's why I have made many of the recent media decisions.

As I mentioned several weeks ago, television is a very expensive medium. Most of the other religious TV shows don't have hundreds of churches to support like we do. They spend a lot of air time asking their viewers for money to support the TV program. They are collecting money, but they aren't raising up new churches around the world. They have maybe one church and their program, and that's it.

When it comes to being "experts" on religious evangelism, we virtually are the experts. We've had a broadcast longer than almost anyone else. We have seen how television can be used, how it can be misused, how much it costs and what results it has.

Television creates the appearance of many people repenting and coming to Christ, but it's a misleading impression. When we are on hundreds of stations and in a million homes, some people are going to repent and come to Christ. But at what cost? And could that same amount of money have reached even more people in a different medium?

Television is mostly an advertising and entertainment medium. However, the gospel is serious business, not entertainment. It doesn't matter how many millions watch the TV program. Unless they get on the *Plain Truth* list, they are not attached to us, and we can't really nurture them along toward conversion. So for the most part, we used television as an advertising medium—to put people on the *Plain Truth* list, after which we could teach them much more.

*The World Tomorrow* is a wonderful program. The TV department has done a fantastic job of putting together excellent programs. But the cost of preaching in this way is just more than we can justify. Consider this: Depending on the program, costs range from \$30 to more than \$60 to put someone on the *PT* list from the telecast, and that is just the cost of air time. It doesn't include the cost of producing the program.

Next, consider that only about one out of every one or two thousand people on the *PT* list goes on to become a member. Do some simple math and you will see that it costs many thousands of dollars for the TV program to bring one person into the Church. If that really is the best way to do it, then we are willing to pay the price. But there is a better way. In fact, there are many less expensive ways!

Remember, we are still using television—but we will use it for what it does best: advertising. For example, to add one person to the *PT* list by using our 60-second TV advertisements costs only about \$5—one-eighth the cost of the telecast.

Moreover, to further increase efficiency, we will air the new TV advertisements primarily in areas where we already have churches—so the *Plain Truth* mailing list will be increased where it will do the most good. When people become interested in the Church, they can best be nurtured if they are already near a congregation and near a minister.

For the same reason, we'll also try to focus our print ads in areas that already have churches. Print ads (and direct mail) are also a much cheaper way of reaching people. And personal evangelism adds people almost for free.

Some people have ridiculed the concept of "personal evangelism." Some have called it a dangerous new direction in the way the Church operates. Others have said it's just a new term for something we've always been doing. The latter is closer to the truth, but I want to focus our attention on the term "personal evangelism."

It describes the need for personal involvement in the Church's work, which is evangelism. It is preaching by example, not with megaphones. It is willingness and readiness to give an answer—not confronting strangers with prying questions.

I am grateful that some have understood personal evangelism and have been practicing it for many

**The potential for our local congregations is exciting! We have only now begun to unlock the possibilities. These things are a tall order, but with God's help—and your help—I know we can succeed!**

years. Many friends and relatives of members have come into the Church. But I can confidently state that many of us do not fully understand it. So I caution you not to criticize it prematurely. Don't answer the matter before you've heard it out and clarified what it is and seen how it works.

I expect that Christ will help us grow in this area in the next few years. We have a long way to go in understanding the importance and effect of individual Christians, especially as they are united in a positive effort in local churches. Christ uses his people to do his work, and he does it by transforming them.

Through Christlike people, the gospel will be preached—certainly by example, and sometimes in words, too, as we give sincere answers to those who ask about our faith in Christ. We are the light of the world, and we should not hide ourselves. As we live Christlike lives, people will see, praise God and be encouraged to follow the same example.

Personal evangelism is the least expensive way to preach the gospel, but the price tag is not the primary reason we wish to promote it. The main reason is that personal evangelism is simply the product of a Christlike life—it is the result of a Christlike life—the result of a Christian who has been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ—the fruit of a Christian who has been taught to obey everything Jesus commanded his own disciples.

Therefore, I envision local congregations that are actively involved in preaching the gospel, and not just social clubs that make us feel good about ourselves. This is why I have instituted open houses and other programs geared toward more effective personal and local church evangelism.

This is also why I hope we will be able to build or buy some of our own church buildings.

Local church buildings will be a great benefit to our own members, providing a center of operations and offering a place for frequent activities and meetings. But they will also be helpful in local evangelism, whether for open-house services, Bible studies, marriage seminars or other functions that may be of interest to new people. If a church is going to reach out to the community, it needs a base of operations.

## Unlocking the possibilities

Brethren, the potential for our local congregations is exciting! We have only now begun to unlock the possibilities, and I expect Christ to lead us into more understanding in this area. Not long ago I approved the development of several training programs for our brethren. Some will be about doctrine, some in Christian living, or marriage and family responsibilities, or how to be lights in their community, or how to serve young people and older people.

It will take several more months of work before these programs can even begin, but I have high hopes for them, and I ask you to pray for their successful development and implementation.

We should not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, the book of Hebrews reminds us. Members gather each Sabbath to worship our Creator and Savior—but that's not the only reason we meet together. We are also to "encourage one another" and "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24-25). I would like to see more of this positive influence on one another.

I would like to see more Bible studies. We need to study and discuss and come to a continually better understanding of what God is teaching us through his Word.

We need congregational Bible studies, smaller group studies and individual studies. I hope that *Exploring the Word of God* will help stimulate more study and understanding and faith.

Many more things could be said about what I envision for the Church. I look forward to accreditation of the college. It has been in existence for almost 50 years, but has not yet met this goal. We hope to hear the good news in late June—after much hard work by our college personnel, and after many prayers of our people.

I also look forward to special evangelism projects we are now beginning in various places, like the project in French-speaking Africa I wrote about recently. I could go on, but let me summarize what I envision for the Church. I envision:

- a Church filled with Christlike members—zealous, converted, loving people who live the gospel, who love their neighbors and demonstrate it, who obey the commands of Jesus

- a Church filled with members who are enthusiastic about the gospel of Jesus Christ, who support the Church's efforts to make disciples in all nations

- a Church that has active congregations excitedly involved in local evangelism and setting good examples in their communities

- a Church that uses media wisely to change people's lives—a Church that lives within its means without begging for money.

These things are a tall order, but with God's help—and your help—I know we can succeed! Christ is with us, leading us. And if Christ is for us, who can stand against us? Thank you, brethren, for your prayers and encouragement.



# Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

## Message on Africa gains charitable gift

**John Halford**, a *Plain Truth* senior editor, spoke at the annual dinner of the Society for Urology and Engineering May 14. The society's president, **George R. Nagamatsu**, a *Plain Truth* reader, invited Mr. Halford to speak after he read Mr. Halford's March *Plain Truth* article "Virtual Reality: Creating Your Own Values." Mr. Nagamatsu was also interested in Mr. Halford's observations on AIDS in Africa.

Mr. Halford, who returned in April from a 4½ week visit to Africa, spoke on the spiritual, ethical and moral responsibilities of those making advancements in science and technology.

He said, "We have incredible machines and powerful new technology, but we haven't solved the most basic problems of the human race."

Mr. Halford waived all travel expenses and the honorarium for his speaking engagement, telling Mr. Nagamatsu that he would donate any contributions to African charities.

Expecting at the most only \$250, Mr. Halford was gratified when he received a check for \$2,000.

Mr. Halford said: "In

Africa, orphanages can feed children on as little as pennies a day. Nevertheless, they are always short on funds. Your contribution will be distributed among appropriate charities in East Africa. Two thousand dollars will go a long way." *Susan Stewart.*

## Congregation offers seminar on family

PRETORIA, South Africa—Sabbath morning, May 21, the Pretoria Spokesman and Graduate Clubs conducted a seminar on "The Family as the Basis for a Stable Society."

The conference was the idea of **Johan Retief**, club president, who is also registrar of Vista University.

Two newspaper ads were placed in Friday's edition of the *Pretoria News* and one was aired on Radio Jacaranda. Around 70 people attended the three-hour series, 10 of whom were from the general public.

The conference was divided into three sections, each giving Spokesmen, Graduates and YOU members an opportunity to speak about aspects of the family from a Christian point of view. **John White**, Pretoria pastor, used Psalms 127 and 128 in his keynote address titled "The Family in Three Phases: Marriage, Children and the Empty Nest."

**Lien van Niekerk**, a Christian lecturer from the University of South Africa, gave an insightful and humorous lecture titled "How to Understand Your Parents Without Losing Your Mind."

## Indy to be host for Midwest gala

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—The congregations here invite you to their biennial Midwest regional social July 2 and 3. Evangelist **Stan Bass** will be the guest speaker. Special Sabbath music will be performed by a combined choir and soloist.

A dinner and dance will take place Sunday, July 3, at

the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited to those 14 years old and older. The cost per ticket is \$25. Please send all ticket requests no later than June 28, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to July Social, Box 441711, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46244. Make all checks payable to LCAF—Indy South.

For housing and information call **Albert** or **Marilyn Talison** at 1-317-351-0809 (day) or 1-317-546-1916 (evening). Information about Sabbath services will be provided with ticket requests.

## Dove Awards gives insight into Christian music

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—**Dan Taylor**, research director for *The Plain Truth*, covered Gospel Music Week 1994, the Gospel Music Association's annual convention, and the 25th annual Dove Awards (Christian music's equivalent to the Grammy) April 24 to 28, for an article scheduled for the October *Plain Truth*.

"This article," said Mr. Taylor, "introduces our audience to one facet of Gospel music: Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)."

Though **Amy Grant**, **Steven Curtis Chapman** and **Sandi Patti** are the top names in Gospel music, many other singers and artists offer a wide variety of styles of music. CCM has everything from pop-rock to heavy metal, rap and reggae.

Said Mr. Taylor: "I think it will be a good introduction for those who might want to know what CCM is about, where it's going, some criticisms of the industry and what different artists think about various aspects of their involvement in the Christian music industry."

## Orlando to mark 25th

ORLANDO, Florida—The Orlando church will celebrate its 25th anniversary Aug. 13. **Randal Dick**, for-

mer pastor here, will be the guest speaker. Other ministers who have served in the area will also be present.

Activities will include an afternoon service, followed by a dinner dance that evening. A historical slide show and video presentation will also be featured.

If you would like to attend, please call **Sharon Register** before July 10 at 1-407-331-3767 for information on housing, schedule of activities and cost of the dinner dance. All activities will be within a few miles of Disneyworld/Epcot Center. *Roy G. Demarest.*

## Mississippi turning

**Norman L. Shoaf**, editor of the Church's booklets and a contributing writer for *The Plain Truth*, traveled to southwest Mississippi March 30 through April 6 to do research for articles on race relations.

"Last April, a group of white teenagers burned two black churches in a racist attack," Mr. Shoaf explained. "Outraged members of the community, both white and black, launched an effort to reconstruct both churches, using donated labor and building materials. Volunteers came from several different denominations. Now, a year later, the first church building is nearly complete."

Mr. Shoaf talked to members of the churches that were burned, volunteers in the rebuilding effort and community officials. He was interviewed by the *Enterprise-Journal* newspaper in McComb, Mississippi, for an article that appeared April 8. He also appeared on WAKK radio's Community Focus program April 4.

"Mississippi has suffered a great deal in the past from racial violence and civil rights abuses," said Mr. Shoaf. "I was thankful to see that progressive leaders are continuing the struggle to establish a community based on outgoing concern for neighbors of all races and backgrounds. I was also able to tell those who were interested more about the Worldwide Church of God and our teachings, including our concerns about positive race relations."

"Everyone I spoke with was complimentary about the Church and *The Plain Truth*, and welcomed our involvement in community improvement."

## Montreal English church celebrates quarter century

MONTREAL, Quebec—The Montreal English congregation celebrated its 25th anniversary April 16. Fourteen original members were honored for 25 years of faithful service to the Church.

During services congratulatory messages were read from Montreal's former pastors. **Richard Wilding**, Montreal's original pastor, who

now pastors the Toronto, Ontario, Central church, gave the sermon.

A slide show featured the congregation's early days. Members then enjoyed a meal and a variety show.

## Two friends of Ambassador die

MANILA, Philippines—Two friends of Ambassador **Lauro S. Esteban**, 93, former trial court judge and founder of Araullo University, died March 29, and **Gloria D. Lacson**, 74, president of Wesleyan University, died April 1.

The two university presidents were hosts for then regional director **Colin Adair's** lectures to students on dating and marriage in the mid-1970s.


Judge Esteban's son, **Rolan**, had invited Mr. Adair to speak on keys to teaching moral values before their faculty and paved the way for Mr. Adair to speak to the Cabanatuan Rotary Club and Knights of Columbus. *Virgilio V. Alvaran.*

## Senior citizens group asks minister to speak

ROCHESTER, Minnesota—**Paul Shumway**, pastor of the Rochester and Mankato, Minnesota, churches, spoke to the Senior Citizens Club about prayer on the National Day of Prayer May 5.

The organization has had predominantly Catholic and Protestant speakers in the past, and the chairperson said it would be nice to have a rabbi or a nondenominational minister give the address this year. **Vivien Malcomson**, a member of the organization and a deaconess, suggested Mr. Shumway.

A rabbi was to give the main address, and Mr. Shumway was to give the invocation. However, the rabbi was unable to speak, and the organizer asked Mr. Shumway to step in.

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# Festival Updates

## Post-Feast German tour

Both sites in Germany (Bonndorf and Goslar) are still open and can accept further transfers.

The German Office offers a post-Feast tour of southern Bavaria with a tour of the largest baroque palace in Germany; a tour of Munich; and a visit to the Oktoberfest. Other stops include the Koenigsee (King's lake) for a boat cruise, Salzburg, Austria, and a visit to some of the most beautiful castles in the area.

The cost per person is about \$750 (DM 1270) and includes accommodations for seven nights, breakfast,

several meals, admission fees for the tour attractions as well as transfer from Bonndorf or Goslar to Munich. If you join the tour from another Feast site, the price will be reduced by about \$25.

If you'd like to apply, please contact the Bonn Office Festival Department at Ambassador College, Festival Department, Postfach 1129 D-53001 Bonn, Germany. Or phone 011 (49-228) 98 50 80 or fax 011 (49-228) 98 50 819. You will receive a tour brochure and further details.

## Sites closed

The Baguio, Davao and

Naga, Philippines, and Barbados sites are full and are no longer accepting applications.

## Festival music

The phone number for Ella-Marie Schatz, Festival choir director in Palm Springs, California, is 1-818-240-6656.

The director of the Rapid City, South Dakota, children's choir is Kristi St. Pierre. Her address is 2916 S. 137th St., Omaha, Nebraska, 68144.

The new instrumental ensemble director at Pensacola, Florida, is Norman Myers, 5811 88th Ave., Kenosha, Wisconsin, 53144. His phone number is 1-414-653-0597.